



FIFTH DISTRICT NEWS AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY/DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

July/August 2024

District Officers:

President-Linda Bartell
bartell@sbcglobal.net
414-899-7479

Vice President-Vernadine Williams

Treasurer-Elaine Forster

Chaplain-Louise Brown

Sgt at Arms-Calena McKnight



Dates To Remember:

August 24, National Convention in New Orleans

September 8, 2024 ALA County Picnic-see details attached

Summer is 2/3rds over, hope you all have enjoyed it so far and make the best of the next month.

2024 Department Convention:

Was held in Appleton in July. It was fun and entertaining.

Our new Department President is Becky Mueller.

Her theme is Serving From The Heart.

Her project for the coming year is to have units donate to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund to serve other ALA members that might be in need.

The Fund provides temporary assistance to eligible Auxiliary members during times of financial crisis, weather related emergencies and educational training.

Her simple request is to donate \$1 per member, but I believe you will do better as this is an important Fund to donate to. As an aside, we have had one of our members in our District that needed a grant from this Fund and it saved them from losing their house.

If your Unit or any of your members wish to donate to this important fund, please use the GENERAL FUND donation form, which is attached.



Membership renewals for 2025:

Just a reminder, all renewal dues are to be paid no later than 12/31/24 for 2025.

All officers are to have their dues paid by September, earlier if possible. This has always been a rule.

National sends out the invoices in mid-September.

What has been encouraged is that Units send out invoices on their own, right after Department Convention in July.

If members pay NOW and is sent in to Department, it saves National from sending out an invoice and it saves the organization money.

I have been doing this for my own Unit for the past several years. It feels so good to have everyone paid long before end of year.

Note: there is a template for this.

As 5th district only has 6 units, **I (Linda) would be more than willing to generate invoices for each unit in early August.** I am setting up a short meeting with each President to see if they would like me to do this. All the Unit needs to do is address the envelopes, stamps and mail them.

American Legion Auxiliary-Department of Wisconsin Milwaukee Conference of Units Picnic:

There is an invitation to this **1st** annual picnic on Sunday, September 8, 2024. It is being sponsored by our ALA County Officers. Each Unit President should have received a copy of the invite to share with your Unit members. I believe it is a \$10 fee.

Four Chaplains Ceremony at the Zablocki V.A. in February:

This has been a Fifth District Event that we have sponsored for many years. But when Covid hit, this Ceremony was not allowed for people to come into Zablocki.

I spoke to Julia Brand, Chaplain, as we have had many questions as to when it would start again, and Julia and I will be working to re-establish this and it will include District 1, 4, and 5.

Reminders:

Please make sure you have filled out the 2024 – 2025 Unit Officers form. It is in the latest Unit Mailing, or can be found online or let me know and I will get you a copy.

If you have not yet reviewed your Constitution and Bylaws for your Unit, please do so. There have been some minor changes as to Pronouns, just look at the Department Cons/Bylaws to match those little changes. And if you need to change any of your Bylaws. Send these to Diana Sirovinia for approval.

Just checking to see if you made your Budget for 2024 as this is how you determine how and where you will be spending your monies.

Lastly, I will make this short. Reminder, your Post does not dictate what you do or spend your ALA monies. Do not let any Post member speak to dropping their or your Charters and merge with other Posts/Units without the proper procedures are taken which are quite extensive. I say this as I just found out a Post member did this without Officers knowledge to merge with another Unit and was a signer on the Post checking account and took some money with him to the other Post. I was stunned when I heard this that no Commanders, Department, District was made aware of this at the time.

If there is anything that I (Linda) can do to help your Unit in any manner, please contact me.

Linda Bartell

2024-2025 GENERAL FUND SUGGESTED DONATIONS

Unit CITY location _____

Unit # _____

Date _____

Please note that some programs have been removed so funding can be used to support programs with the greatest need.

If you still want to donate to former programs, please contact our office for their address.

\$ _____ (4801) **Dept President's Special Project - National Auxiliary Emergency Fund** – This fund was established with money originally donated by Helen Colby Small of Wisconsin. The fund provides temporary assistance to eligible Auxiliary members during times of financial crisis, weather related emergencies and educational training.

\$ _____ (4830) **Support Military Families** - This fund will be used to assist families of active-duty military personnel.

\$ _____ (4837) **General Fund Donation** – To reduce the deficit in the department's general fund and enable headquarters to continue programs that support the Auxiliary's mission.

\$ _____ (4420) **VA&R Program Support** – Additional donations for general support of VA&R Programs.

\$ _____ (4484) **C&Y Program Support** – Additional donation for general support of C&Y Programs.

\$ _____ (4843) **National ALA Foundation Endowment Fund** – The ALA Foundation assists in carrying out the educational, charitable, and other exempt purposes of the Auxiliary by raising funds for and providing support to Auxiliary programs. Donations to the ALA Foundation are used to support our mission, secure our legacy and heritage of *Service Not Self*, and ultimately enhances the quality of life for future generations of veterans, military, and their families.

If this is a memorial gift, please provide the family's contact information so an acknowledgement can be sent to them:

In Memory of: _____

Send Acknowledgement to: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

\$ _____ (4804) **National Child Welfare Foundation** – The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation contributes to the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual welfare of children and youth through dissemination of knowledge about research, studies, surveys, projects, or by supporting programs and activities benefiting the welfare of children and youth.

\$ _____ **TOTAL ENCLOSED (Checks cannot be accepted 90 days beyond date of check)**

Make check payable to: ALA-WI (only one check is necessary)

DO NOT send your donations directly to these programs.

A \$25.00 fee will be charged for any check returned by the bank.