



# WISCONSIN



American Legion Auxiliary  
P.O. Box 140  
Portage, WI 53901

alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

The official publication of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

www.amlegionauxwi.org

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**LAURA CALTEUX**  
Department  
President

As I travel to units and districts around the state, I am so impressed with our members and how they are working the programs. They are honoring the sacrifice of those who have served and those who are serving today. This Veterans Day, it was wonderful to see the postings on Facebook of all the units that honored our veterans with dinners and programs, many that included Badger Boys

and Badger Girls. The Strategic Plan is moving forward and Goal 5, 'With The American Legion, Raise Awareness to Build Brand Loyalty' is the goal that we can all work every day. Wearing your Auxiliary branded clothing when you are out in your communities volunteering is the easiest way to work on this goal. And don't forget to always carry a membership application with you so that when you are asked what the American Legion Auxiliary is, you can explain and give them the application.

Our Community Service pro-

gram is tailor made for working on Goal 5. The purpose of the program is to mobilize the American Legion Family, the veteran and military community, and the general public to provide service directed to veterans, active duty military and their families. When preparing to work one of our programs, invite other community groups to work with you on your project. There is a two-fold reason for inviting others to work with you. First, you need help to complete the project that you have planned and asking other groups such as the 4-H, Girl Scouts, Women's Club, etc.,

is a great way to get that help. Second, explaining the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary to those who are volunteering with you is one of the many ways to get new members for our organization.

There is something else that we need to discuss: Goal #2, 'Create a Culture of Goodwill.' The results of the survey taken by almost 9,000 members showed this is one of the most important goals that we need to work on. We need to remember that we should always treat others as we would want to be treated. Be warm and welcoming to other

members and guests at your meetings. Don't spread gossip. And if you hear any, stop the gossip in her tracks. Don't fuel the gossip, just stop listening and change the subject. There is a great article in the November Auxiliary magazine that addresses this subject – check it out! We need to turn around the negativity and make our organization one that everyone would want to be associated with.

I want to wish every member a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

God Bless America and Be The Spark For Our Veterans!

## MEMBERSHIP

**Bonnie Jakubczyk, Chairman**  
Ph: (414) 764-6752

Email: bon6862@yahoo.com

Congratulations to these Units who have sparked their way to the 100% club: Unit 236 Algoma and Unit 316 Sheldon. I hope to see many more units at 100% by December 31, 2015 so that your unit can receive \$100 from National. Remember not to hold onto memberships, they should be processed in a timely manner.

### Keeping the Promise:

December: I promise to honor those who gave their lives to save ours.

Promise Date: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day – December 7, 2015 (60%)

Please share your success stories

with our membership team so that we can share them with others.

Nellie DeBaker, thanks for sparking Unit 236 Algoma:

### Revitalization of Unit 236 Update

Algoma Unit 236 has been in flux for the last couple years. Thanks to Immediate Past Ninth District President Linda Coppock for keeping the unit viable by collecting their dues as it worked to restructure.

Nellie DeBaker, President of Unit 262 and a dual member, has been working to revitalize the unit. Along with Unit 236 President Marge Naze, they have worked diligently at membership recruitment and renewal efforts, assisted with getting unit offi-

cers in place, and setting meetings. As of November 1, 2015, the unit achieved 100% of their 2016 membership goal with 17 members. According to Nellie, prioritization and taking small steps, in addition to communication and teamwork, always gets the job done.

Units that are struggling and would like to breathe new life into their unit should contact their District President or Department Membership Chairman Bonnie Jakubczyk for assistance. Be the Spark for our Veterans!

*Your Membership Team:*  
Bonnie Jakubczyk, Amy Luft,  
Penny Joren, Meghan Helms,  
Andrea Stoltz

## Team Duscheck Update

Our thanks to each district for Team Duscheck Fundraising conducted during the fall conferences and other meetings. 6th District is still busy making and selling felt poppies as an ongoing fundraiser. Start planning now for a creative fundraiser to hold at your district's spring conferences and other American Legion Family meetings and events. A big THANK YOU to each of you for your ongoing support.

PENS – PENS – PENS – Back by popular demand! The red pens are in scripted with 'I support the American Legion Auxiliary 2017 National President Diane Duscheck.' They are available through Virginia Kodl and Joyce Endres for \$2 each or three for \$5. We will bring a supply to The American Legion's Midwinter Conference to sell, plus give some to each district fundraising chairman so all members around the state have a chance

to purchase these very nice writing instruments. They make great gifts for member, unit, county or district achievement awards. All proceeds support Diane Duscheck as she moves closer to being elected our American Legion Auxiliary 2017 National President.

Team Duscheck and Team Rohan are pleased to announce "Club 600", a fundraiser for Diane Duscheck for National President and Denise Rohan for National Commander. Only 600 tickets will be sold at \$50 each. We will begin to sell tickets at The American Legion's Midwinter Conference at Ho-Chunk in Wisconsin Dells. The drawing for the winners will take place at The American Legion's fall meetings in October 2016. Prizes to be awarded: \$1000, \$750, \$500, \$250, \$100. Stop by the Midwinter Fundraising booth to purchase a ticket as another opportunity to support both candidates.

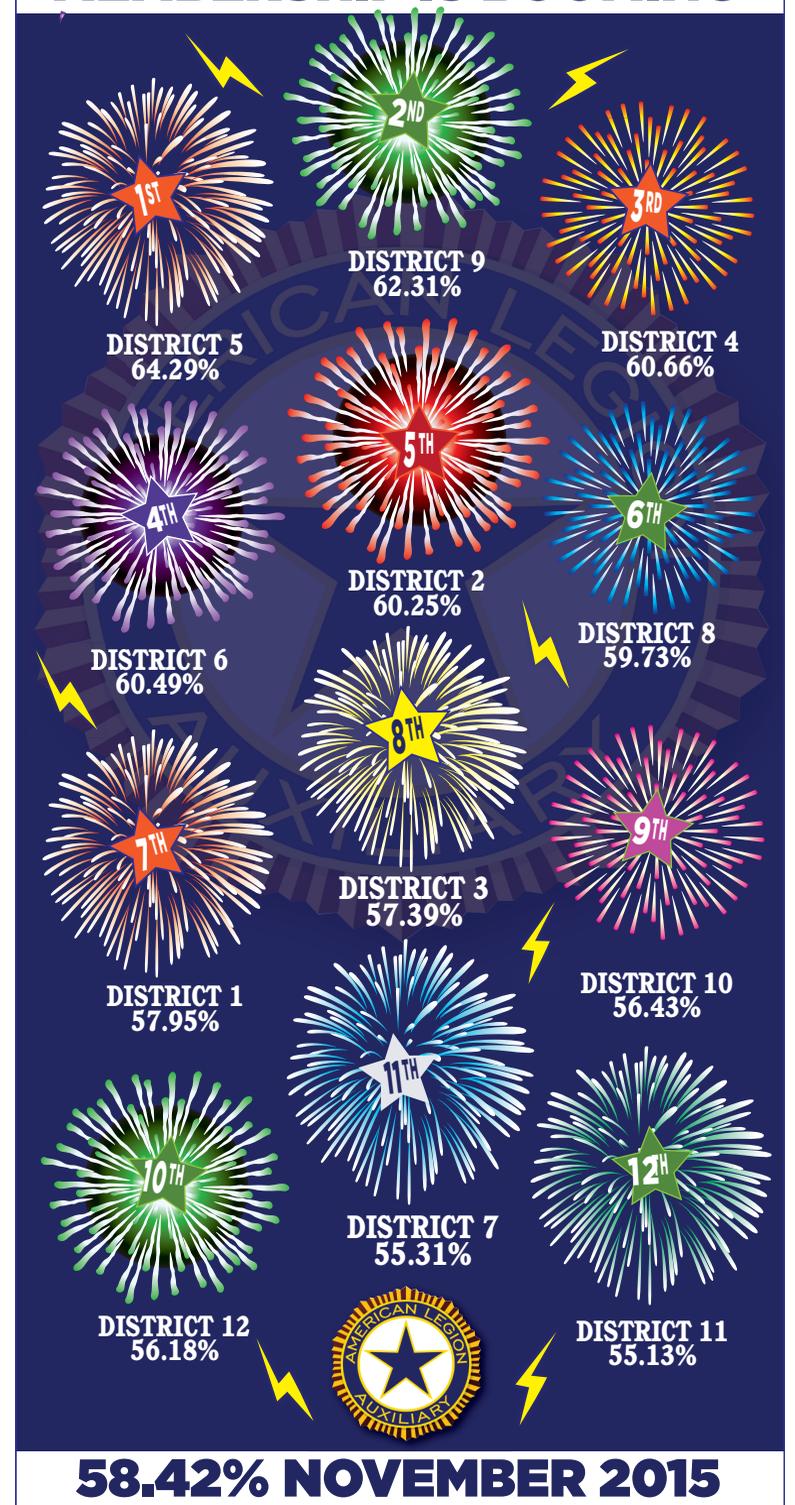
Plan to do your holiday, Christmas and Halloween shopping in July 2016 at the "Team Duscheck and Team Rohan Holiday Boutique." The boutique will be set up all weekend at the 2016 Department Convention in Middleton. Lovely homemade or purchased gifts are being donated to 'stock the store.' Please contact Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan (H: 608-246-9707) or Joyce Endres (608: 221-1763) if you plan to donate any items.

All of the team members of both committees thank you for your ongoing and strong support. Wisconsin is so proud of our strong leaders and proud of each member of The American Legion Family for service to God and Country.

*Joyce E. Endres, Chairman*



## CREATE A SPARK MEMBERSHIP IS BOOMING



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

**Diane Weggen**  
 Department Chaplain/Music Chairman  
 Ph: 715-644-2668  
 Email: [dsweggen@centurytel.net](mailto:dsweggen@centurytel.net)

I was privileged to attend the national American Legion Auxiliary's Mission Training in Minneapolis. This was the second Mission Training I've attended. I would definitely recommend that all of you attend one if you are ever able to—they are great. The trainings always remind us of the importance of what we are doing as we volunteer hours and give dollars for our veterans and active-duty military and their families.

One segment of the 2015 training focused on creating a culture of goodwill. Kindness is the birth of kindness. Kindness encompasses a spirit of goodwill, positive attitudes, trust and respect. To build a culture of goodwill, we need to have an open mind, accepting heart, be open and honest, listen, and honor confidentiality.

John 3:18-19, *Little children, let us love in deed and in truth and not merely talk about it. This is our way of knowing we are committed to the truth and are at peace before Him...*

Once again we are called to act with love and kindness to all whom we meet. With our belief in God and country, it makes sense that the American Legion Family focus on creating a culture of goodwill.

*Heavenly Father,*

*as we "energize our programs and be a spark for our veterans,"*

*bleed all our officers and members.*

*Give us the strength to be understanding, compassionate, and knowledgeable while we work the mission of this great organization.*

*And it is only with Your help that we will be able to accomplish our aims, goals, and purposes.*

*Please help us to remember the true meaning and*

*to practice the American Legion Auxiliary motto*

*"Service, Not Self."*

*We ask this in Your name*

*as we work to*

*Keep the Promise*

*Made to our Veterans. Amen.*

I know this hymn has been in this column in the past, however, I feel it has an important meaning once again for all of us throughout the holidays and beyond. If we could only keep the "holiday spirit" throughout the entire year!

### Let There Be Peace on Earth

(Jill Jackson Miller and Sy Miller, 1955)

Let there be peace on earth  
 And let it begin with me.

Let there be peace on earth  
 The peace that was meant to be.

With God as our Father  
 Brothers all are we.

Let me walk with my brother  
 In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me  
 Let this be the moment now.

With every step I take  
 Let this be my solemn vow.

To take each moment  
 And live each moment

With peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth,  
 And let it begin with me.

God bless you and your family and friends as you celebrate Christmas. Take up the challenge of personally promoting goodwill.



## GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

**Bonnie Dorniak**  
 Executive Secretary/Treasurer  
 Ph: (608) 745-0124  
 Email: [deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org](mailto:deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org)  
 Website: [www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org)

MERRY CHRISTMAS from the Auxiliary Headquarters Staff – Linda, Carrie, Andrea and Bonnie! As we approach the holiday season, please remember our military service men and women who are separated from their loved ones. Continue to pray for their safe return and support their families during their absence.

Contest & Awards packets were mailed to unit presidents in mid-November and are posted on the Department website. Please review this information at your next unit meeting to see which contests your unit might qualify to enter and win.

Unit Presidents should watch the mail for the Unit Annual Reports which will be mailed soon. Program chairmen use the information to prepare their annual reports for the national organization. Department President Laura Calteux will also review the year-end reports to select units for recognition at Department Convention. Don't

miss your opportunity to be acknowledged for all the hard work you accomplished during the year!

National Headquarters is scheduled to mail renewal notices on January 15th. The mail list is pulled in early December so if you believe you get a notice in error, please verify with your Unit Membership Chairman that she forwarded your dues to Department. Dues are not considered "paid" until they have been **processed by Department Headquarters.**

The January renewal notices will instruct members to send their dues to Department rather than to their unit. This change in policy was approved by the Department Finance Committee in an effort to ensure members' dues are processed in a timely fashion, guaranteeing continuous membership and benefits. Members may also pay their dues online through the secured Members Only section of the national website: [www.ALforVeterans.org](http://www.ALforVeterans.org).

Members failing to pay their 2016 dues by January 31st shall be classed as delinquent and suspended from all membership

privileges, including the right to vote on unit business, hold office, or receive member benefits. Since these members are not considered in "good standing," they also are not entitled to an Auxiliary memorial service or grave marker should they pass away before the unit forwards the dues to Department. Don't delay – pay your dues today. For those who have already done so, THANK YOU!

Units are reminded that if they achieve 100% of their 2016 membership goal by 12/31/15, they will receive \$100 from the national organization. What an incentive to send those memberships in now!

American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State (ALABGS) session will be held at UW-Oshkosh from June 19-24, 2016. The reservation fee of \$250/delegate is due by January 29, 2016. Please send your reservations in as soon as possible so registration information can be sent to the high school. If your unit has decided they can no longer participate in the Girls State program, please immediately notify headquarters and your school – before the school starts their selection process.



## POPPY PROGRAM

**Judy Kuta, Chairman**  
 Ph: (262)-377-8613  
 Email: [ronkarmy@aol.com](mailto:ronkarmy@aol.com)

The Poppy Program was designed to promote and educate people about the history of the poppy and to make them aware of the sacrifices of our veterans. The poppy became a symbol of the sacrifices of lives and represented the hope that none had died in vain.

Do you know the history of the poppy? Do you share it with your community so that everyone becomes aware of the sacrifices made by our veterans? Do you share "In Flanders Fields" with your schools and community?

In 1918 after reading the Flanders Fields poem, Moina Michael vowed to teach the lesson and to wear a red poppy in memory of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. She lobbied The American Legion to have veterans assemble poppies for distribution as a way of meeting their need for financial and occupational assistance. The poppy was made the official memorial flower of The American

Legion in 1920 and the American Legion Auxiliary in 1921. The poppy program was made one of our national programs in 1924 and continues to be one of the most promoted programs to this day.

Most units distribute poppies during the month of May but any month can be a poppy distribution month. Many units shared the poppy story and distributed poppies during their Veterans Day celebrations. Veterans Day activities are shown on television, talked about on the radio and written about in newspapers in most communities. Asking people to wear a poppy for a veteran becomes a successful activity during this time.

There are so many ways to spread the poppy story and to make the people in your community aware of its meaning.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Unit 288 has a Gold Star Mother's Banquet every year. Sprays of flowers decorate the tables and poppies surround the names of the lost as part of this presentation.

- The Poppy Princesses from Unit 83

and Unit 355 welcome veterans home from the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight. They give them a poppy and thank them for their service.

- Unit 70 put up a display at their local library. They told the poppy story and shared the history.

- Unit 355 made poppy boutonnières and corsages for the veterans that attended the annual Veterans Day Dinner.

- Unit 118 submitted a newspaper article explaining the poppy history and where and when poppies would be distributed in their community.

- Unit 321 used Legionnaires to help them distribute poppies at Miller Park. A Junior member was invited to go along, too.

Now is the time for you to be inviting your schools to participate in the Poppy Poster Contest. Rules will be found on the Department website under the Poppy Plan of Action.

Rules for the Miss Poppy Contest will be found there too.

Please report to me on your activity.



## PUBLIC RELATIONS

**Danie Wilson, Department Chairman**  
 Phone: (920) 207 3487  
 Email: [daniewilson@charter.net](mailto:daniewilson@charter.net)

As you are 'Keeping the Promise' and 'Being a Spark for our Veterans' this holiday season, keep your Public Relations Team in mind and send us pictures, newspaper clippings, agendas, Facebook screen prints, flyers and posters announcing your events. Especially highlight all activities where President Laura is a shining spark. We would like all Wisconsin units to be represented in President Laura's Public Relations memory book capturing how units promoted the Auxiliary during her term.

Keeping members informed encourages involvement and promotes an energized atmosphere. Good PR is priceless! Present the American Legion Family image to the public by inviting the Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion and the Legion Riders to be present and par-

ticipate in Auxiliary events. Also invite community involvement when working our programs and volunteer to assist other organizations with their functions and wear your American Legion Auxiliary 'Branding.' Then we are working the Strategic Plan with the ultimate goal of attaining one million members by our centennial year 2019.

The Introductory Pitch is often the key element in making a first impression on a potential new member. Send your best 30-second pitch and be featured in future newsletters, and then apply for the Member Award in the Plan of Action.

In the Public Relations Plan of Action, there is a list of questions formulated by National to be included in your mid-year narrative report due December 15th, 2015. The first question 'How many units have a website and or Facebook page?'

If you are unsure how to create a Face-

book page for your unit or wonder if a Facebook Group would be better, contact Danyelle Thompson at [danyelle.thompson@gmail.com](mailto:danyelle.thompson@gmail.com) for a copy of 'How to create a Facebook Page for your Unit/How to Create Facebook Group.'

On the National website, [www.ALforVeterans.org](http://www.ALforVeterans.org), there are Guidelines for Website Development and Best Practices. Christine Johnson ([cmj102@aol.com](mailto:cmj102@aol.com)) is your go-to person for website questions.

Review the Plan of Action to learn about the various awards and their requirements. Set your goals to be an award recipient at Department Convention in 2016. Remember to include the award cover sheet when you submit materials for an award.

Wishing our military, their families, our veterans and each of you a Joyous and Blessed Christmas Season. God Bless America!

## WORKING THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSION!



*Plymouth American Legion Auxiliary Unit 243 Junior member Evvie Kaczkowski and 2015 Poppy Princess distributed Poppies to returning Honor Flight Veterans on October 24, 2015. She is the daughter of Tony and Beckie Kaczkowski of Pewaukee and granddaughter of Konrad and Ann Kaczkowski, members of Plymouth Ladewig-Zinkgraf American Legion Post and Unit 243.*

## GIFT TO OSCAR G. JOHNSON USVA MEDICAL CENTER



*President Laura Calteux presented a \$500.00 check to Jim Rice, Medical Center Director (left), and Cliff Smith, Associate Medical Center Director (right), during the American Legion Family's official visit to Oscar G. Johnson USVAMC in Iron Mountain. This donation was given on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary to be used towards the purchase of flowers in the veterans' relaxation garden (after the snow melts of course!).*

## Thank You!

My sincere thanks for the prayers, cards, and kind thoughts at a time when even a hug is appreciated. My daughter, Christy Amour DeFord, was enrolled at 2 weeks, Wisconsin Miss Poppy in 1962-1963, and a proud American Legion Auxiliary member of 66 years!

After a 2 month fight with cancer, Christy lost the battle. She died on September 16, 2015 – my 95th birthday. A day I shall never forget.

*Anita M. Kapp  
Past Department President  
1982-1983*

## \$100 UNIT AWARDS!

Units that reach 100% of their membership goal by December 31, 2015, will receive \$100 from the national organization to be used for mission outreach and/or membership efforts. Because of the Christmas holiday, dues should be forwarded to Department by December 23rd to ensure they are processed before the end of the year to qualify for the award.

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

## JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

**Lorrie Barber**  
Department Chairman  
H: (715) 343-1947  
Email: [Lorrie.barber@gmail.com](mailto:Lorrie.barber@gmail.com)

Department of Wisconsin Junior members met at Fall Informational Forum in Eau Claire to participate in "Junior Wizard Training." The girls were sorted into four houses in Harry Potter style by the infamous sorting hat. The Juniors learned spells and ventured into the membership luncheon to cast spells on the Senior Auxiliary members to help them "energize" our programs and become "SPARKS" for our Veterans. They were treated to pizza, lightning bolt cookies and chocolate frogs for lunch before they spent the afternoon learning about the American Legion Auxiliary programs and fulfilling requirements for the patch program. They have a new oath for the year. They "solemnly swore

to be Sparks for Veterans." They were visited frequently by senior members who wanted in on some of the fun. I want to thank all the senior members who helped with the workshop. It took many hands to put this together and make it a big success.

The Juniors will be having a Winter Conference in Stevens Point on Sunday, January 31, 2016. They will be "Bowling for Veterans." The event will be held at Point Bowl with registration beginning at 10:00 am and bowling at 11:00 am. The cost of bowling is \$10.00 and lunch is available for \$5.00. For Juniors that bring in \$20.00 in pledges, the bowling is free. The pledges will help fund a donation to Homeless Women Veterans on behalf of the Juniors. There will be lots of prizes and fun. The registration form and more information went out in the unit mailing.

The registration form and pledge sheet are also available on the department website. Check out the unit mailing for complete details. Senior members are encouraged to participate as well.

Junior Honorary President Katarina Petranovich has made assisting local Veterans and active military and their families her project for this year. She has suggested sending boxes to the troops, helping with holiday food baskets, and volunteering to help a deployed soldier's family in any way needed. Please send me reports of what your Unit's Junior group is doing to help with this project.

Mid-year reports should be sent to me by December 15, 2015 so I can pass on the information. Send me an email about what your Juniors are doing. Attach pictures, too, if you have them. I look forward to seeing what our "Junior SPARKS" are up to!

## EDUCATION

**Kelli Mades**  
Department Chairman  
PH: 608-385-6693  
kelli\_mades@yahoo.com

There has been a change in the Education program that I thought everyone should be aware of since it goes into effect immediately. "Veterans in the Classroom" will be called Veterans in Community Schools.

The reasoning behind the change is that The American Legion Committee on Youth Education renamed this program "Veterans in Community Schools" at their fall meeting. It was intended that a renewed effort be taken by departments to revamp a consistent and ongoing partnership between posts/units and their community school systems.

Here are a few helpful hints on putting together "Veterans in Community Schools" activities:

- Get your unit members and Legionnaires excited about the program, and encourage them to participate.
- Contact your local school(s) with your idea, and offer to organize a program for a class, grade level, or student-body assembly.
- Work with the school to develop a plan for the program that will be beneficial to their students (i.e., Q&A and discussions with students, flag program, Americanism topics, the Pledge of Allegiance, 23-minute video "America's Veterans," etc.).
- Be professional. Remember that everyone is representing The American Legion Family.
- Before going to the school,

make sure everyone knows their roles. Go through a list of potential questions and talking points with the veterans in advance so everyone feels at ease.

• Promote the event through local media and via social media accounts.

• Wear your American Legion Auxiliary apparel when you visit the schools. Promote brand recognition!

• After the program, be sure to follow up with the veterans and schools with thank you notes. Everyone loves to be thanked.

If we all work together with our Legion Families and do a "Veterans in Community Schools" program, we will enhance respect for the sacrifices of our military heroes among schoolchildren. **Let's do it now!!**

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Karen Degner**  
Department Chairman  
Cell: 920-918-9772  
Email: [kdegner88@gmail.com](mailto:kdegner88@gmail.com)

What is the Community Service program? It promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's visibility within our communities through our commitment to community, state and nation. We show our communities that we are engaged and work together and with other organizations to better our communities.

When you have a program scheduled in your community, invite other organizations to help you achieve your goals. Wear your American Legion Auxiliary clothing whenever and wherev-

er you are volunteering in your communities so that everyone knows who we are and will ask what we do.

There are some specific days that we want to volunteer in our communities. One that is coming up in January is the Martin Luther King (MLK) Day of Service. On January 18, 2016, thousands of people will be volunteering in their communities to honor Dr. King's legacy through service. You can get more information on MLK Day of Service by going to: [www.mlkday.gov](http://www.mlkday.gov). You can find programs in your community that you can participate in, or if you already have a program set up, you can register

it on the website.

By volunteering on MLK Day of Service, you are helping to bring us closer to his vision of a beloved community.

Please remember to keep track of your programs and hours volunteered and send in a year-end report. Send in an entry for one of the Community Service awards. Check the department website for deadlines and the cover sheet for your entries. If you have any questions, or need help with a program you are planning, please don't hesitate to call or email me. I know that you are very involved in your communities, so let me know what you are doing!



**MISSION:** In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

# Wisconsin Strategic Planning Committee

**Joyce E. Endres**  
**Department Chairman**  
**Home: 605-221-1763**

**Email: ljendres@charter.net**  
 "Create an Internal Culture of Goodwill" is Goal 2 of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Strategic Centennial Plan. I share this quote from Cinderella to encourage all of us to be kind and to remind us to put service before self. "When there is kindness, there is goodness. When there is goodness, there is magic"... Ella's mother.

Magic occurred on October 30, 2015 when the ALA Department Finance Committee, Strategic Planning Implementation Team and some Goal 4 Strategic Plan

Team members met to further develop the ALA's strategic direction. First, we developed plans to seamlessly move from one annual statewide Fall Informational Forum to four to six annual training sessions around the state. Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan will provide an update early next year after decisions are finalized.

Second, we used this face-to-face meeting to assess, realign and prioritize the Wisconsin Strategic Plan. The result was a realignment and prioritization of Wisconsin strategies and initiatives. The entire Strategic Planning Committee is in the process of reviewing results so we can finalize initiative priorities to

move approved strategic plan initiatives forward.

The Strategic Plan of Action is currently on the ALA department website at [www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org).

Additional Strategic Planning information will be added to the website to keep the Strategic Planning Committee informed and allow Auxiliary members to access this information. Watch for these updates on the website.

Magic is in the air with all the good deeds Auxiliary members serve each day. We thank you for sharing your American Legion Auxiliary magic over the holiday season and throughout each ALA year.



## MILWAUKEE COUNTY CONFERENCE OF UNITS Invites all Legion Family Members and Guests

### The 90th Annual George Washington Luncheon

**President's Day**  
**Monday, February 15, 2016**

Klemmer's Banquet Center  
 10401 W Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee WI

Social Hour - 10:30 am  
 Opening Ceremonies - 11:45 am  
 Lunch - 12:00 noon  
 Cost - \$20.00 per person

For information contact Diana Sirovina, 414-321-1479

**Reservation deadline:**  
**FEBRUARY 5, 2016 - NO EXCEPTIONS!!**  
 Detach here and return lower portion

### George Washington Luncheon Registration

Make checks payable to: MCCU  
 Send to: Diana Sirovina,  
 9428 W Eden Pl, Milwaukee, WI 53228-1410

Unit Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Contact & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME OF EACH PERSON ATTENDING:  
 AUXILIARY, LEGION, SAL, GUEST**

Please Note: Tables will be assigned, 8 people per table—no exceptions. If you are registering more than 8 people, please list who will be sitting together

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Enclosed:**

**Number of Reservations** \_\_\_\_\_ **X \$20.00** \_\_\_\_\_

## Merry Christmas, My Friend

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,  
 In a one bedroom house made of plaster & stone.  
 I had come down the chimney, with presents to give  
 and to see just who in this home did live

As I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,  
 no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.  
 No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand.  
 On the wall hung pictures of a far distant land.

With medals and badges, awards of all kind,  
 a sobering thought soon came to my mind.  
 For this house was different, unlike any I'd seen.  
 This was the home of a U.S. Marine.

I'd heard stories about them, I had to see more,  
 so I walked down the hall and pushed open the door.  
 And there he lay sleeping, silent, alone,  
 Curled up on the floor in his one-bedroom home.

He seemed so gentle, his face so serene,  
 Not how I pictured a U.S. Marine.  
 Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read?  
 Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?

His head was clean-shaven, his weathered face tan.  
 I soon understood, this was more than a man.  
 For I realized the families that I saw that night,  
 owed their lives to these men, who were willing to fight.

Soon around the Nation, the children would play,  
 And grown-ups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day.  
 They all enjoyed freedom, each month and all year,  
 because of Marines like this one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,  
 on a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.  
 Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye.  
 I dropped to my knees and I started to cry.

He must have awoken, for I heard a rough voice,  
 "Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice  
 I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more.  
 My life is my God, my country, my Corps."

With that he rolled over, drifted off into sleep,  
 I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.  
 I watched him for hours, so silent and still.  
 I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill.

So I took off my jacket, the one made of red,  
 and covered this Marine from his toes to his head.  
 Then I put on his T-shirt of scarlet and gold,  
 with an eagle, globe and anchor emblazoned so bold.

And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with pride,  
 and for one shining moment, I was Marine Corps deep inside.  
 I didn't want to leave him so quiet in the night,  
 this guardian of honor so willing to fight.

But half asleep he rolled over, and in a voice clean and pure,  
 said "Carry on, Santa, it's Christmas Day, all secure."  
 One look at my watch and I knew he was right,  
 Merry Christmas my friend, Semper Fi and goodnight.

*By former Corporal James M. Schmidt (1986)*

## NATIONAL SECURITY

In the August unit mailing for September meetings, National Security Chairman Barbara McDaniel referenced a service project to support USO Wisconsin at the Milwaukee airport. Since then, department headquarters has received several calls regarding the project. The following information is provided for clarification:

**USO Support Project:** It was suggested that each District take one month starting in October (1st District take October, 2nd District take November, 3rd District take December, etc.) and challenge their units to collect candy bars, powdered drink mixes and cookies for distribution by USO Wisconsin in Milwaukee. All units can collect the three requested items for two weeks and then in the third week send the collections to USO Wisconsin, Inc at 750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive #407, Milwaukee WI 53202.

Thank you to everyone for your inquiries and dedication to supporting our military, veterans and their families – especially as they travel during the holiday season!

## CALENDAR FUNDRAISER WINNERS

### OCTOBER 2015

1	15.00	58201	Janet Beuthin	Green Lake
2	15.00	62584	Carol Huber	Milwaukee
3	15.00	29116	Marlene Seubert	Marathon
4	25.00	56549	Dena Grinder	Reedsburg
5	15.00	58437	Patricia Dusterhoft	Green Lake
6	15.00	42957	Diane Brown	Richland Center
7	15.00	33518	MaryAnn Casey	Eau Claire
8	15.00	33570	Kaye Olson	Eau Claire
9	15.00	27776	Katelyn Berken	Little Chute
10	15.00	63980	Connie Kohls	Lowell
11	25.00	59415	Cathy Kerns	Arlington VA
12	500.00	58067	Patty Blumer	Verona
13	15.00	51719	Arllys Zellmer	Janesville
14	15.00	65992	Evelyn Hoegger	Sheboygan Falls
15	15.00	65368	Dr. Gloria Krumrai	Pulaski
16	15.00	67121	Candace Hartwick	Baraboo
17	15.00	54341	Betty Schurman	Lancaster
18	25.00	70080	Mary Roberts	Maiden Rock
19	15.00	38576	Beryl Anderson	Stockholm
20	15.00	47916	Pamela Mayer	Oconomowoc
21	15.00	59113	Sharon Vollendorf	Fond du Lac
22	15.00	59317	Lillian Schmitz	Fond du Lac
23	15.00	28251	Elaine Estel	Luxemburg
24	15.00	35577	Joy Bever	Wilton
25	25.00	69996	Arlene Dahl	Blair
26	15.00	43674	Teresa Morois	Fort Atkinson
27	15.00	62437	Elizabeth Rasmussen	Milwaukee
28	15.00	60504	Marie King	Great Falls MT
29	15.00	43279	Kenneth Seston	Sun Prairie
30	15.00	40041	Patricia Buechel	Malone
31	15.00	37881	Diane Weggen	Stanley