



**Department of Wisconsin  
Ninth District  
Sue Keyzers, President**  
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**AMERICAN  
LEGION  
AUXILIARY**

*Honor our Country, Support our Veterans*  
Sue Hembrook

## *Happy New Year!*

I hope all of you have had a wonderful holiday season! Now comes winter. Not all of our units meet in winter, but we should all be working our mission. Now is the time when people do not get out as much and we need to make sure that our members are healthy and safe by making our poppy calls. Call, text or email every member in your units.

## **MIDWINTER CONFERENCE**

Hopefully you will all be able to be at the Midwinter Conference. If you have not registered yet, you can do so the day of the event. This year instead of bringing toiletries they are going to have a parade of checks so that they can buy specifically what the VA's and state homes need.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

The 9<sup>th</sup> District Spring Conference will be in Brown County at The Woods Golf Course in Green Bay on April 11th. This will be a joint meeting between the Legion and Auxiliary. More information and registration forms will be included in the February newsletter. It would be really great if we could have a representative from each unit there to support the district. We will be asking each unit to bring a board with pictures and a few details about how they are working the missions of the Auxiliary. I would like to be able to take a few pictures off of the boards to be included in the one that I will need to take to the Department convention in July.

This is an election year, so we will be looking for someone to step forward to be 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. There is a 4-year leaning time, when you will be mentored in what the job will be. You would need some computer skills, but it would not make any difference where you live. I looked it up and we have had presidents from at least 23 units from all over the district. I am hoping that someone will step forward to help the organization. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call me or one of the Past Presidents of the District.

**Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs** the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) is once again collecting Valentine's Day Cards. If you wish to participate, please ensure that you mail your cards by January 31, so WDVA receives them in time to distribute on February 14. Do not include candy, food, or snacks due to allergies or dietary restrictions.

Cards may be sent to:

**Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs**

**Attn: Veteran Valentines**

**PO Box 7843**

**Madison, WI 53707-7843**

**Attn: Veteran Valentines**

**PO Box 7843**

**Madison, WI 53707-7843**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The membership incentive for October won by Coleman unit 280. I visited with them at their meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, and they even fed me and my husband, who is my driver. They are a wonderful group of ladies who are working the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. I presented them with 2 checks. One for their unit and one for the Hungry Kids fund at the school.



Picture taken at the Crandon December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

I have pulled the winners for November (95%) and December (100%). There were 4 units who hit the 95% goal in November. They were Washington Island, Coleman, Keweenaw, and Crandon and Crandon was pulled out of the hat. There were 3 units who hit the 100% goal for the December incentive. There were Coleman, Keweenaw and Crandon. Crandon

was again pulled out of the hat. They are at 188.89%. I am going to get up there to present them with their checks when the weather permits.

## **ALABGS**

If you are considering sending a girl to ALABGS, the reservation needs to be in to Department by January 31st. You do not need to have the girls picked yet. You can get a full refund up until April 15 or you can donate the spot to another candidate if you can not fill the reservation. They are also looking for donations for small items.

## **AMERICANISM**

This is a reminder to take the essay information to the schools so that they have time to do the essays. March 15<sup>th</sup> is the due date for the essays. See attachment.

## **POPPY**

9<sup>th</sup> District Poppy Chairman Linda Coppock shares important Poppy Program dates and deadlines.

Kathleen (Kathy) Grom Department Poppy Chairman

8151 S Waring Drive, oak Creek, WI 53154

414.331.0302 [kathy.grom@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.grom@gmail.com)

### **DEADLINES/IMPORTANT DATES: 2026**

**April 1:** Most Outstanding Unit Poppy Program, submit completed Poppy Award Cover Sheet with narrative for judging to the Department Chairman Kathy Grom.

**May 1:** Units select one winning Poppy Poster from each class and forward posters to the Department Chairman Kathy Grom (complete [Poppy Poster cover form](#); completed Poppy Poster cover form **must** be included).

**May 1:** Units select one Little Miss Poppy and forward her nomination to the Department Chairman Kathy Grom (complete [Little Miss Poppy Department Nomination Award form](#)).

[\(Little Miss Poppy National Nomination award form\)](#)

(completed Little Miss Poppy **Department** Nomination Award form **must** be included for WI Contest, use National form for National Contest).

## **National Poppy Day 2026: May 22 (always the Friday before Memorial Day)**

To be considered for a **National Unit Award**, the unit must submit its entry on the National website (<https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>).

If you have any questions, please contact either Kathy or Linda.

## **LEGISLATIVE**

Happy New Year!

Ready to make your resolutions? Let me suggest a couple that are easy to do and the results are far-reaching. First make sure you are signed up to vote – check your registration status at [myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov) if you have any questions. They can tell you what elections are taking place in your location, where to cast your ballot and even sign you up for an absentee ballot if necessary.

Secondly, sign up for Action Alerts and the Grassroots newsletter if you haven't already. If you are an active member – make a resolution to send your email action alerts multiple times each week. You can send them out every 24 hours. Some make it a routine with their morning coffee and email check-in.

Thirdly, continue to educate yourself about the candidate and issues. This is an election year in Wisconsin – our first Primary election is February 17<sup>th</sup>. This ballot will contain the non-partisan races including Supreme Court Judges, local city, township, and county officials and school boards. The General Election for these races will be April 7<sup>th</sup>. Be informed and show up at the polls.

The Wisconsin Fall Primary will be held August 11<sup>th</sup> with the General Election on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. A new Governor will be elected along with all state representatives, odd-numbers state Senators and all 8 U.S. House Representatives. Especially important that we are aware of who they are and what they stand for.

Wisconsin consistently is in the top 5 of the nation for sending Action Alerts. Keep up the excellent work. Our focus is to advocate for our veterans and military – doing so improves the quality of life for everyone. Keep honoring their service and sacrifice by being that voice!

Reminder to please send in your legislative contacts on national, statewide, and local levels. The winner of the first quarter challenge will be announced January 15<sup>th</sup> – just in time for Midwinter. See you there!

*Becky Mueller*

**ALAITK**

ALA in the Know is once again looking for units to host their program. I am attaching an information and application form. As you know if there is an ALAITK in 9<sup>th</sup> District we would not have a fall District Meeting. Please look over the material and consider if your unit would like to host.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

I am attaching the Department Chairman Community service newsletter.



## COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR

This time of year, everyone is setting goals for the start of the new year. What about setting a goal for your unit? One idea is to participate and sign up for the **AMERICAN LEGION USA 250 CHALLENGE.**

This challenge provides several opportunities in Physical Fitness, Wellness and of course COMMUNITY SERVICE.

Here are some ideas that your unit can participate in:

Gather 250 food donations for a food pantry.

Provide 250 clothing items to a homeless shelter.

Write 250 cards to nursing home residents.

Here is how to register for the challenge:

[https://www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/usa250/challenge.](https://www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/usa250/challenge)

You can also register as an individual which doubles the impact.

Here's to a successful New Year working Community Service.

Linda Tryczak

Department of Wisconsin/Community Service Chairman



## **AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST**

The Americanism Essay Contest was created to teach students the value of patriotism and what it means to be an American. Thousands of students participate in the program each year. It helps them learn about patriotism plus promotes a lifelong respect of our flag and country.

Each year's essay contest has a different theme. All students in grades 3 thru 12 can enter the contest. As they are writing their essay, they will also discover more about the fundamental rights and freedoms we enjoy today. It can give them better insights into what our Veterans have done for us in the past and for what they are still doing for us today.

**This year's Americanism Essay Contest Theme:  
"Celebrating America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday and the Veterans who Fought for Our Freedom."**

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, is the due date for all entries to the Department of Wisconsin Americanism Essay Contest. Grade levels are divided into six classes. The department chair will submit one winner from each class to go on to the divisional competition.

Each winner on the National level will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Word Requirement:</b>
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level

The decision of the judges shall be final. Use the essay checklist and make sure you complete the 2026 essay cover sheet. The name and signature of the teacher may be signed by the parent for home school students or by the unit president if the essay was a project for our Junior Members.

All winning entries from each school or organization should be sent to the Department of Wisconsin Americanism Chairman Deanna Farley at the following address:

Deanna Farley  
W14870 Kimball Lane  
Silver Cliff, WI 54104



**AUXILIARY**  
Department of Wisconsin

## AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST 2026 SUBMISSION FORM

**Essay Title:** "Celebrating America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday and the Veterans who Fought for our Freedom."

**Department:** 1st place winning entry in each class will receive \$50 from Department and will be forwarded to Central Division for further competition. 2nd place winning entry in each class will receive \$25 from Department and 3rd thru 5th place winning entries in each class will receive \$10.

**National:** One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund. National winners will be posted at [www.ALforVeterans.org](http://www.ALforVeterans.org) after Convention.

**Materials and Guidelines:** The contest shall include six classes.

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement:
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level

**Essay Checklist:**

Class competing in \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsoring ALA Unit \_\_\_\_\_  
 Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class  
 Completed essay coversheet as first page of essay  
 Word count of essay \_\_\_\_\_  
 Due date for student to return to ALA Unit \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Note: Checks are sent directly to awarded students. Please print student's name and mailing address clearly.**

**To be completed by the student and parent/guardian:**

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade level: \_\_\_\_\_ Word Count: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (City/State/Zip): \_\_\_\_\_

Student or Parent/Guardian Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's name: \_\_\_\_\_

School (City/State/Zip): \_\_\_\_\_

**Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered):**

Sponsoring Unit City location & number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

**Unit Winner due to Department Chairman on March 15, 2026**

**Department: WI Signature of Department Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Send to: Deanna Farley, W14870 Kimball Lane, Silver Cliff WI 54104**



Department of Wisconsin

## ALA In The Know 2026 Hosting Requirements

**2026 PROPOSED DATES: SEPTEMBER 12 • SEPTEMBER 19 • SEPTEMBER 26**

Three ALA In The Know educational programs will be held in the fall of 2026. Locations will be considered throughout the state to host these training sessions. Units interested in hosting should complete the attached form and return it to ALAITK Vice Chair: Sandy Mack, 1204 Wisconsin St., Adell, WI 53001 **no later than February 28, 2026**. Locations selected will be contacted by April 1, 2026. Any questions call or text 262-388-9816 or e-mail [smack0555@gmail.com](mailto:smack0555@gmail.com).

### Requirements:

1. No charge to the Department for use of the facility.
2. Seating at tables, with capacity for minimum of 50.
3. Access to facility by 7:30 am on day of event until 4:00 pm.
4. Two microphones with working speaker system along with extra batteries.
5. Wi-fi with available password.
6. Large screen or plain white wall to project presentations.
7. Extension cords, duct tape.
8. Tables for program displays.
9. Head table for presenters with podium.
10. Handicap accessible facility.
11. Other possible events in the facility cannot interfere with the session.
12. Water station or pitchers of water and glasses on all tables, including head table.

### Additional Information:

- Registration is 8:00-9:00 am. Hosting unit will provide members to assist with registration. (Name tags and registration list provided by Department).
- Presentation begins at 9:00 am. and should conclude no later than 3:00 pm.
- Hosting unit receives \$15 per attendee to cover morning refreshments and lunch along with beverages.
- Final attendee number will be provided to the hosting unit two weeks prior to the event.
- Payment provided to hosting unit day of event.
- The unit is not allowed any fundraisers or donation jars for coffee, etc.



## ALA In The Know 2026 Hosting Request Form

Date Requesting:  September 12       September 19       September 26

Name & address of facility where session will be held:

Maximum capacity of room when set in classroom setting (facing forward) \_\_\_\_\_

Is the building handicap accessible?  Yes  No

Free on-site parking available?  Yes  No

Podium with a microphone available?  Yes  No

Additional hand-held microphone available?  Yes  No

Large screen or plain wall available to show presentation?  Yes  No

Is WIFI available with a password?  Yes  No

*(Please Print Legibly)*

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Name & #: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return completed form by FEBRUARY 28, 2026 to:**

Sandy Mack, 1204 Wisconsin St., Adell, WI 53001 or

email: [smack0555@gmail.com](mailto:smack0555@gmail.com)