

Department of Wisconsin
District Eleven
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December / January

■ **Warm Greetings.** May the miracle of this blessed season fill your heart with peace, love, and happiness. And may the New Year bring every joy as you continue to work the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. As we enjoy holiday gatherings with our American Legion family let's focus on the reason for these great patriotic organizations. Let us relish our gifts of freedom and American blessings bought at such great a price. Thank you, Veterans!

■ **Membership:** Congratulations Unit #25 Odanah on winning the \$100 "Checking our Pulse Award" for October. I know many members of District 7's Unit #123. That Unit won the \$100 award for November. Each District in the Department of Wisconsin is working hard on membership. We are all encouraged to get **2025 membership paid before January 2025**. Which Unit in our "illustrious eleventh" District will be next to reach 100 percent?

■ **Successful Fall Conference:** Appreciation and admiration to Kennan Unit #362 for hosting the 11th District Fall Conference in October. What an amazing group and a beautiful venue! We all made new friendships and came away with fresh ideas for serving our Veterans and communities. Units in attendance shared highlights through words and **pictures** on their Unit trifold boards. **Please send me** your Unit pictures and event news for the District Trifold Board that I'm working on.

■ **Successful Veterans Day Celebrations:** Colors were advanced and posted. Then, as each military branch's march was played by the band, Veterans in attendance stood for their branch while a student carried the military branch flag around the gymnasium before placing it in the flag base on stage. Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, and **Space Force** flags were all placed. 2024 Badger Boy and Badger Girl delegates spoke on their experiences last June, and thanked Veterans for defending our republic form of government that they studied about and are grasping a true appreciation for. Guest speakers told of mental and psychological scars of battle. They related ideals of "Be the One" initiative to the students, civilians, and military audience. Students of every age made and presented cards of thanks to Veterans. Buglers played Taps. The colors were retired. Veterans enjoyed a special meal. Some students ate a meal with Veterans while interviewing them with prepared questions to learn more about Veterans. These are just a few of the things that happened in some of our Eleventh District communities on this special day of honor for our American heroes.

■ **Updating Documents:** Does your Unit take a look at your Constitution and Bylaws and your Standing Rules periodically? What is the date listed on your documents? Is it time to update or amend? This should be done annually or at least every two years. During our District Fall Conference a committee was formed to examine the District Eleven Documents. This committee will be meeting to update these documents. The Constitution and Bylaws must comply with National and Department documents. The Standing Rules shall reflect our District's specific situations. We look forward to this committee's report and recommendations at the District Eleven Spring Conference.



****Reporting:** Are you actively tracking your volunteer hours and donations in preparation for the Year-End Impact Numbers Report? Unit members need to give their tracking sheet to the Unit president by April 1st. Unit presidents need to total the member numbers and get the Unit report to me by April 15th. Then, I tabulate our District numbers and send on the report. Eventually, our numbers end up before Congress to help legislate benefits for our Veterans. See the Annual Reports tab on the ALA website. www.amlegionauxwi.org

Public Relations: The purpose of Public Relations is to work collaboratively with all levels of the organization to create, implement and support a proactive communications network and positively project the American Legion Auxiliary's image to the general public while advancing our mission and goals through a variety of materials and resources available to departments and units online. Does your Unit have an effective PR program and chairman? How does your Unit communicate with the community and with Unit and Post members? Nancy Schultz of Butternut Unit #272 has volunteered to serve as the 11th District's PR chairman. Thank you, Nancy.

District facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/263103390765112>

We look forward to Nancy's report at our Spring Conference.

2025 Midwinter Conference: January 16-19, 2025, Hilton Paper Valley, Appleton, WI.

The Auxiliary's special session will be on Saturday, January 18th. Fun & informational.

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Leadership & Report Writing Workshop

Junior Activities Patch Program

American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State presentation

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Veterans' Needs Collection project

Valentines Card Service project

Legislative & Strategic Planning Brainstorming

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

UW MIA Recovery & Identification Project - guest speaker

You need to register for this Conference. The Registration form is available on the website:

www.amlegionauxwi.org **OR** register online at the Legion website: wilegion.org

The fee is \$25 if you register prior to January 2, 2025. The fee is \$30 per person after January 2, 2025.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Appleton at the Midwinter Conference. It will be FUN.

