



Department of Wisconsin
Ninth District

Sue Keyzers, President

1025 N Main Street, Seymour, WI 54165

920 246 9044 suekeyzers.ala@gmail.com



Serving our Veterans, Military and Each Other from the Depths of our Hearts
President Becky Mueller

Happy Holidays!

November has slipped by and now we are well into December and my newsletter is running late again. November seemed like a short month to me and I am sure most of you will agree. With Thanksgiving so late in the month it seems that Christmas and New Years are right around the corner. And that means that memberships are **due by Dec 31st**. Please remind your members that if their membership is not paid by the end of the year, they are not eligible for any Auxiliary benefits until the membership is paid. Send your membership renewals in **as soon as you receive them**.

DEPARTMENT UNIT MAILINGS

I will be attaching the December/January Unit mailing from the Department website. If you have not downloaded it, please read this mailing. There are several very important articles in this mailing. Check out the 2024-2025 Service to Veterans Award entry form and the 2025 Midwinter registration form. This year's Midwinter has several informative programs, including an interactive Unit Reporting section, information about ALABGS and a look at the Junior Patch Program put on by the Juniors themselves. There are also several articles written by Department Program Chairpersons.

POPPIES

If you have not already ordered your poppies for 2025, please do so now. Poppy orders are due by December 15th, and there will be a \$25.00 to \$50.00 service charge for ordering after December 15th, depending on how many you need to order.

CONTESTS

I hope you have all contracted your schools about the Poppy Poster and Americanism Essay Contest. This year the Poppy Posters will be sent to Department Poppy Chairman, Deanna Farley at W14870 Kimball Lane, Silver Cliff WI 54104. More information will be coming. Please watch both the Department Unit Mailings and my newsletter.

ALABGS

I received this email from Bonnie at Department Headquarters. Even if you are not sending a girl to ALABGS this year, please consider making a Tax-Deductible donation to the program. ALA Badger Girls State is one of Wisconsin's premier programs that provides a week-long government and leadership conference for young women in their junior year of high school. Are you considering year-end charitable giving options? If so, ALABGS is a 501c(3) organization and you can make a tax-deductible donation copying and pasting link in your browser: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/support-american-legion-auxiliary-badger-girls-state-3>. If you have any problems, please let me know.

Thank you in advance for supporting our mission. Please share this with everyone within your reach of distribution and encourage them to contribute. Anything from \$1 to \$1,000 is greatly appreciated and will have a huge impact on the hundreds of young women who attend ALABGS

CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

I never gave much thought to what the Christmas Gift shop did. I thought that it was gifts for the Veterans. But no, it is so much more. The gift they obtain are for the veterans who are hospitalized to give to their families. They can not get out to shop on their own, so the gift shop angels come to them. They can order off a list gifts for their families. These gifts are ordered from Amazon and shipped to Diana Sirovina, who patiently sorts and gets them ready for shipping. On December 1st President Becky and I went to the Brookfield clubhouse and helped wrap each gift individually and then they were mailed out. We helped 265 Veterans with 800 gifts.

INCENTIVES

Our incentive program is working well. White Lake Unit 524 was the October winner with 88.24%. They meet at the White Lake Community Center on the 1st Thursday of the month at 3:30 in the afternoon. I was able to join them for their meeting on Nov 7th and presented them with 2 checks. One to the Unit and one to White Lake Food Pantry for their School Kids program.



Unit officers accepting checks.



Members of the White Lake Unit at their Meeting on November 7th, 2024



Pam Buettner and Emilie Brown presenting our check to the Food Pantry

MEMBERSHIP

Finally, there is membership. As the end of the year comes close, I am asking that all units check the attached unit membership report dated December 10th. We have 4 units now have reached the 100% incentive goal. We have 5 units that are over 90% and 5 units that are over 85%. Please check where your unit is in the standings. Our next incentive will be Dec 29th for 100%. **Please send your membership renewal money in as soon as possible.** I (my husband) will pick the winner whenever Department can get me a list.

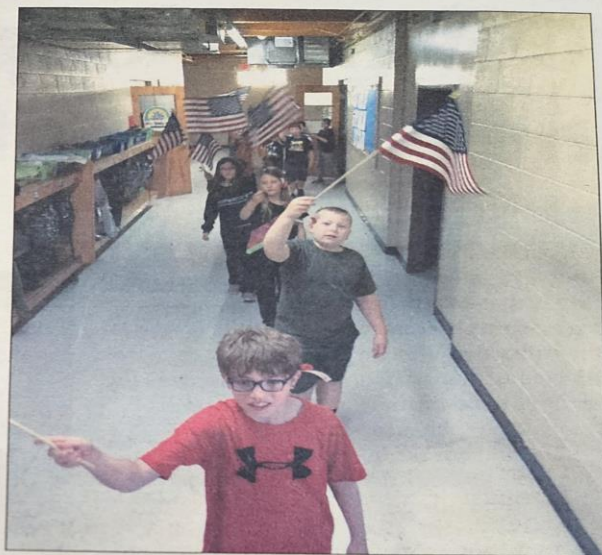
White Lake also sent in a newspaper article. This is an example of what I would like every unit to send in. It does not need to be a newspaper article though, a photo of what you are doing would be great.

TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2024 | A5



JONITA SCHUMAN/CONTRIBUTED

White Lake students place American flags.



JONITA SCHUMAN/CONTRIBUTED

White Lake students parade the halls

White Lake elementary students receive visit from American Legion Auxiliary

CONTRIBUTED

Thursday, White Lake School 3K-3rd grade classrooms had a visit from Pam Buettner, Myra Oatman, and Georgia Heistad, members of the local

American Legion Auxiliary.

They spoke with students about the meaning of Memorial Day and how it is meant to honor fallen veterans. Students also

learned how veterans make paper poppies that are then used to raise funds for current veterans. Lastly, the ladies handed each child a small flag, and spoke about the proper way

to handle the American flag. The students then parade down the hallway and out the school's front door before placing the flags in front of the building for the holiday weekend.



**To my friends
that I am honored to have in my
life. May the season warm your
soul, bring love to your heart and
bless you with everything
this life has to offer.**

inspire *Positive* IP
soul sensations SS

FROM THE NATIONAL CENTRAL CHAIR OF THE AMERICANISM PROGRAM

NATIONAL PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE DAY



National Pledge of Allegiance Day is celebrated on December 28 to commemorate the adoption of the Pledge of Allegiance into the United States Flag Code by Congress in 1945. The Pledge of Allegiance, originally written by Francis Bellamy in 1892, has undergone several changes, including the addition of the words "under God" in 1954 during the Cold War. The day serves as a reminder of the patriotic values and principles that the Pledge represents, such as liberty, justice, and unity. It also highlights the historical significance of the Pledge in American culture and its role in fostering national unity and patriotism.

For many of us, the Pledge of Allegiance was something we knew by heart and recited each morning in school. With our right hands over our hearts and our eyes cast upward at the flag on the wall, we were taught to show our patriotism.

The first iteration of a patriotic Pledge of Allegiance was penned in 1885 by Civil war veteran Colonel George Balch, but it shares almost no similarities to the Pledge of Allegiance many of us learned in grade school! It wasn't until 1892 that Francis Bellamy, an editor at the children's magazine "The Youth's Companion", was asked to write a patriotic verse to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Columbus touching down on the continent that the official original version of the Pledge was written.

Bellamy, who was both a former Baptist minister and a Christian socialist, was inspired by the French concepts of "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity" while writing the Pledge. What he came up with is like what is recited in schools today, excluding the phrase "under God" — but we'll get around to explaining that.

Continue - Over the late 1800s and early 1900s, the pledge was widely adopted in schools, and Balch's Pledge was dropped. Small tweaks were made in the text, but the meaning remained unchanged. For example, today we say, "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America," which wasn't always the case! The National Flag Conference added the phrase "of the United States of America" in 1923 and 1924.

Congress formally adopted the Pledge in 1942, declaring that it should be recited with one's right hand over one's heart.

One of the more significant changes occurred in 1954 when President Eisenhower asked Congress to add the controversial phrase "under God" to the text. This was an effort to differentiate the American way in communist times. There has also been great debate over whether schools should require children to recite the pledge — even before the religious addition. One 1940 ruling, which compelled children to say the pledge, was quickly overturned by a 1943 ruling. There were significant challenges to the mandatory pledge in the 1930s and 1940s, as they found it to be a form of idolatry and went against their religious beliefs.

In 2004, there was a ruling that children did not have to stand for the pledge. This followed a 2002 Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals case in which an atheist, whose daughter would soon start school, argued that the pledge was an unconstitutional endorsement of monotheism. Between 2006 and 2015, there have been over 5 significant court cases challenging- or somehow related to the phrase "under God" — the most recent 2015 ruling stated that the phrase did not violate any atheist rights. (research google)

2024-2025 LEADING THE WAY



HOW TO OBSERVE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE DAY

1. Learning history
2. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Celebrate Pledge of Allegiance Day
4. Post #Pledge of Allegiance Day on social media

WHY PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE DAY IS IMPORTANT

1. It's patriotic

There's no better way to reaffirm your love for your country than taking the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge is meant to make Americans proud of our land and people, so celebrating Pledge of Allegiance day is truly patriotic!

2. It's a part of our history

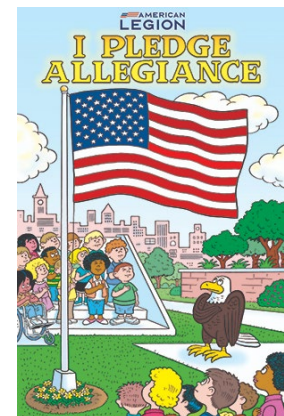
The Pledge of Allegiance had a difficult journey in history to arrive where it is today. Researching the Pledge's metamorphosis throughout distinct eras of history gives insight into America's background — it's worth a bit of reading.

3. It honors people who serve the country

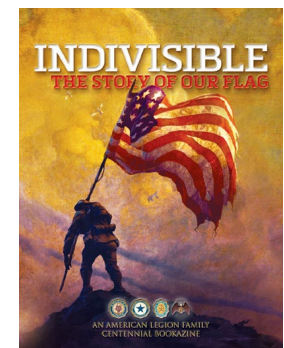
From government officials to military members, many people who selflessly serve our nation feel honored to hear people reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. It's a way to thank them for their sacrifices!



Our Country's Flag Comic Book
History, significance, and proper treatment
of U.S. flag
Item #: 755.300



Pledge of Allegiance Comic Book
16 pages of activities & stories
Item #: 755.302



Indivisible - The Story of Our Flag
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!
Item #: 755.915

All available on Emblem Sales

Chairman – Christine Trahan
(Department of Texas)

Vice-Chairman – Julia Moore
(Department of Illinois)

Central Division – Mary Sypherd
(Department of Iowa)

Eastern Division – Bonnie Lamson
(Department of Maryland)

Northwestern Division – Vicki Ozenbaugh
(Department of Nebraska)

Southern Division – Bonita Robey
(Department of Kentucky)

Western Division – Dorothy Hazen
(Department of New Mexico)



**“I pledge allegiance to the Flag
of the United States of
America and to the Republic
for which it stands, one Nation
under God, indivisible, with
liberty and justice for all.”**



Pledge of Allegiance Day on December 28th commemorates the date Congress adopted the "The Pledge" into the United States Flag Code.

Pledge of Allegiance Day Challenge

Examples

- Share your photos on our "National Americanism Page"
 - Share a photo reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at your Unit meeting
 - Share a photo of our youth reciting the Pledge of Allegiance
 - Share a photo reciting the Pledge of Allegiance Department/National meeting
 - Share a photo of yourself reciting the Pledge of Allegiance
 - Be Creative
-
- The best overall creative photo will receive a certificate from your National Americanism Committee Team
 - One winner from each Division
 - Include your - Name, Unit Number, Division, Department
 - The winner will be notified via private message for your mailing address
 - All photos will be posted on Pledge of Allegiance Day
 - Winners will be announced December 28, 2024



5 Reasons To Have An American Legion Auxiliary Accident Insurance Plan

1 message

The American Legion Auxiliary on behalf of AMWNS Group Benefits <development@legion-aux.org>
To: suekeyzers.ala@gmail.com

Thu, Nov 21, 2024



Having trouble viewing this email? [View in browser](#)

5 reasons to have an American Legion Auxiliary Accident Insurance Plan



Accidents can happen.



Cash benefits.

Pays benefits directly to you, or to whomever you choose.



You cannot be turned down for coverage

No medical exams. No health questions.



No reduction in benefits due to age.

Your benefit amounts do not change, no matter your age or your health.



Automatically increasing coverage.

Benefits **increase annually** through your first 6 years of membership at **no extra cost to you.**

[Learn More](#)



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This is an insurance advertisement.

Accident Form Series includes GBD-1000, GBD-1300, or state equivalent.

This email was sent by:

Amwins Group Benefits
Member Benefit Provider for the American Legion Auxiliary
PO Box 152501
Irving, TX 75015-9802

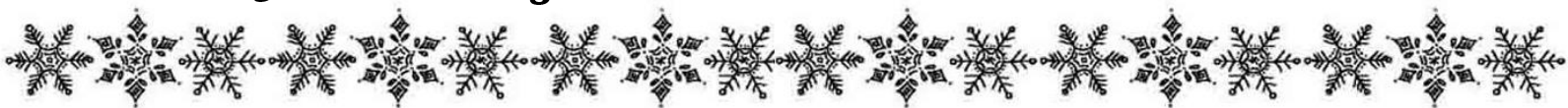
We respect your right to privacy — [view](#)



December 2024 / January 2025

This mailing includes:

- **President Becky Mueller's message**
- **Holiday Greetings from Department staff**
- **Greetings from Department Headquarters**
- **990-N form filing form**
- **ALA In The Know' hosting requirements info & request for proposal form**
- **ALA Badger Girls State flyer**
- **ALA Badger Girls State Benefactor donation form**
- **ALA Emblem use form**
- **Americanism article**
- **Americanism Essay Contest entry form**
- **Americanism - Scoring rubric sheet**
- **WALASBA entry form, flyer, housing info & hosting requirements**
- **Chaplain's article**
- **Children & Youth article**
- **Community Service article**
- **Finance Committee advert**
- **George Washington Luncheon reservation form**
- **Membership article**
- **2024-2025 Service to Veterans awards entry form**
- **Redbook Corrections/Dates & Deadlines**
- **2025 Midwinter registration form**



American Legion Auxiliary Mission Statement:

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.

The Monthly Unit Mailing is posted on the Wisconsin Department website under the Unit Mailing link.

www.amlegionauxwi.org


DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

Message from President Becky Mueller...



Holiday Greetings! My prayer for you is a wonderful season of God's Blessings! You have continued to work the mission and vision of our organization to the best of your abilities and on behalf of the entire Department of Wisconsin I thank you. Our Veterans thank you! Our Military thank you! Our communities thank you! Be sure to thank each other for the loving goodness they have bestowed on you.

Our calendar year is ending – and my term of office is half over. Hard to believe. Thank you for the opportunities you have given me to see you in action. I have seen the best of you. I look forward to what the next months have to offer us.

I am starting my 'official' hospital visits. It is amazing and so heartwarming what you do daily to brighten the lives of those using our VA facilities. In so many ways you assist them and their families. You do make a difference!

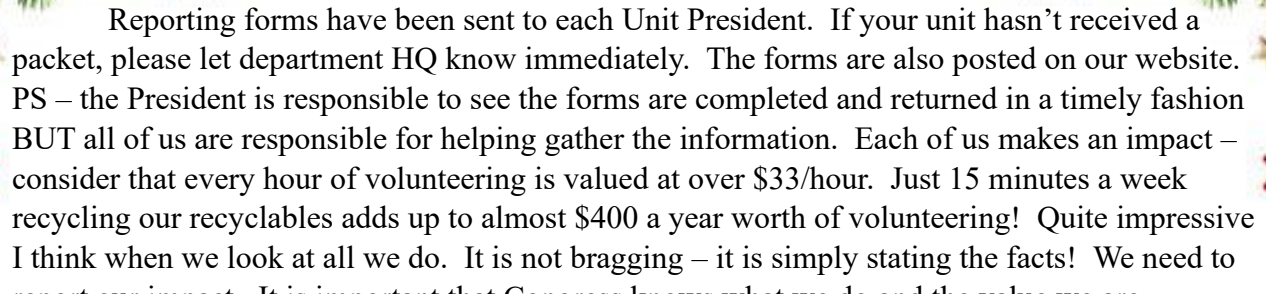
Christmas Gift shop has expanded because of your generosity and the demanding work of those doing the 'hands on' to fill a void in so many lives. They can fully participate in the gift giving season through your love and caring.

Thank you for continuing to reach out to our MIA/POW families. We cannot let them be forgotten. Don't forget we have Charles from UW-Madison speaking at Midwinter. The team's presentation will be sure to touch your heart and encourage you in your efforts.

Donations continue to roll in for the AEF. Thank you and say a prayer of thanks that we have a vehicle to help others and that those natural disasters have missed most of us. You again make a difference – not only monetary but by your willingness to help other Auxiliary members that we will never meet – but they are part of our family and that's what we do – we help our American Legion family.

Continue to send in your membership dues – we need the numbers to increase our reporting impact and influence on our nation. Many hands make light work, and we have a lot of work to do. Deadlines are approaching for our Pulsation Pass Award – looking forward to you being our guests at the Convention in July.

Speaking of Convention – this year I will be awarding 10 "HEART OF THE ALA AWARDS". Every unit and county are eligible if you have your 2024-2025 officer form sent in. I am looking for those units or counties working to highlight the Heart of our organization. Judging will be based on how the Unit worked the entire mission and vision of our organization, involving the entire Legion family – TAL, SAL, ALRA, and the ALA if possible. The winners will have exercised imagination in strengthening their unit and community. Multiple programs should be implemented to highlight all aspects of the ALA. (Note: this is not necessarily just one event but could be the entire year of activities.)



Reporting forms have been sent to each Unit President. If your unit hasn't received a packet, please let department HQ know immediately. The forms are also posted on our website. PS – the President is responsible to see the forms are completed and returned in a timely fashion BUT all of us are responsible for helping gather the information. Each of us makes an impact – consider that every hour of volunteering is valued at over \$33/hour. Just 15 minutes a week recycling our recyclables adds up to almost \$400 a year worth of volunteering! Quite impressive I think when we look at all we do. It is not bragging – it is simply stating the facts! We need to report our impact. It is important that Congress knows what we do and the value we are providing which otherwise would not be done. Our actions speak as loud as our words. Continue advocating for our veterans, military, and each other. We all benefit.

Looking forward to seeing you at Midwinter – remember you can attend the Legion and SAL sessions and learn, ask questions, and support the entire Legion family. Register through the Legion office. On Saturday we will have a full day. Plan to arrive at 9:00 a.m. to get started.

- Sessions on Leadership and Reporting – bring your questions and comments.
- Junior Members will educate us on their programs.
- Joanie and Dany will be present to answer your questions and concerns about our ALABGS program and 'new' opportunities for supporting the delegates and counselors.
- In the afternoon we will have the opportunity to make Valentine Day cards for King, Dayton, Chippewa Falls, and Union Grove residents. Materials will be available but feel free to share your crafting ideas
- Don't forget your donations of socks and full-size toiletries also.
- Patriotic and Legion family PIN exchange. Share your duplicates and no longer wanted pins etc. to give in exchange for what you want or need. Free!
- During the afternoon, some breakout sessions will be held on the Legislative program and the possibility of forming a Strategic Plan for our future.
- Chairpersons have been asked to set up a display and make materials available for you – along with an opportunity to ask your questions in person.
- At 3:30 p.m. we will have a joint session with the entire Legion family for the UW-Madison MIA RIP presentation.
- Stay for the Commander's party that evening! It is sure to be a fun time.

Don't forget to send your questions for the PDPs to answer from their vast experience. No question is dumb, and we all have questions.

Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukkah. Merry Christmas. Happy New Year.

You continue to bless me each day with the love and care you exhibit. Continue to Serve our Veterans, Military, and each other from the depths of your hearts.

God Bless each of you,
Becky Mueller





Merry Christmas

&

Happy New Year

*May your heart and home be filled
with all the joys the season brings.*

Merry Christmas to you & your family.

May the New Year

Be full of love, joy and peace.

Best Wishes from your department officers and staff



GREETINGS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin
Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Bonnie Dorniak
www.amlegionauxwi.org ~ deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org ~ 608-745-0124

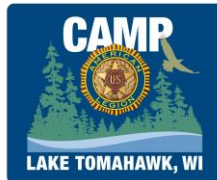
REMINDER: POPPY ORDERS ARE DUE DECEMBER 15th.

ORDERS RECEIVED AFTER THAT WILL INCUR AN ADDITIONAL PROCESSING FEE.



HELP WANTED!

Any member with appropriate experience may apply to serve on the Department Finance Committee. Candidates need to have accounting, finance, budgeting, auditing or other relevant experience to be considered. Qualified candidates should submit a resume to deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org by April 11, 2025. They will then be contacted by the Department Senior VP for a telephone interview and notified after a selection has been made. The successful appointee will serve a 3-year term (July 2025-July 2028).



Units interested in donating items to Camp American Legion are encouraged to purchase Arm & Hammer laundry soap from their Amazon wish list: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1E4GRD70KLOJ7?ref=wl_share.

The item will ship directly to Camp for your convenience!

2025 DUES RENEWALS:

- ♥ Units should forward dues collected from members to department as soon as received.
- ♥ The national organization will mail a renewal notice in February to members whose dues are not processed by department by the end of December.
- ♥ The renewal notice will instruct members to remit their dues directly to department. Units will receive their portion of dues via direct deposit.
- ♥ Units may want to personally contact each unpaid member as a friendly reminder or send them a dues renewal postcard to encourage them to pay their 2025 dues before they are delinquent. Postcards can be ordered from department using the Membership Supplies Order Form.

TAL MIDWINTER CONFERENCE – ALA SESSION: The American Legion Auxiliary is holding a training session at TAL's Midwinter Conference on January 18, 2025, in Appleton. Anyone interested in attending must register through The American Legion and mark the Auxiliary session. Visit (www.wilegion.org) for details. The ALA session will include a Leadership & Report Writing Workshop, a Junior Activities demonstration, ALA Badger Girls State information, legislative update, strategic planning discussion, and service projects. Please bring supplies to make Valentine's Day cards, socks, full-size shampoos, conditioners, body lotions, mouthwashes, etc. to donate to the Wisconsin Veterans Homes. There will also be presentation from the UW MIA Recovery & Identification Project for the entire Legion Family on Saturday afternoon!

ALA BADGER GIRLS STATE (ALABGS): 2025 ALABGS reservations of \$500 per delegate are due January 31, 2025. Sponsors should contact their schools now and work with the high school through the selection process. Sponsors are also encouraged to use the Memo of Understanding (MOU) that was included in the information packet they received in November. The MOU stipulates that parents will repay the sponsor if the delegate withdraws from the ALABGS program after the refund date of April 15th or does not complete the session. It is the sponsor's responsibility to enforce the MOU if they wish to recover any of the reservation fee.

Volunteers are needed for the 2025 ALABGS Session. Anyone interested in helping for the week or even a few days should contact Chairman Danyelle Thompson at alabgs.chairman@gmail.com. A list of opportunities is posted at www.alabgs.org.

ANNUAL REPORTS: 2024-2025 Annual Report forms were mailed to all Unit Presidents in October and are posted on the department website in fillable format. As a reminder, reports are due April 15, 2025.

ALTERNATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTION: The 2025 National Convention will be held in Tampa Bay, Florida from August 23-28, 2025. Members interested in serving as an alternate to national convention should contact their District President. The nomination selection process is determined by each district, possibly at their spring or fall conferences. Names of nominees must be sent to Department Headquarters as soon as selected but no later than June 1st.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE DEPARTMENT STAFF!

The ALA HQ office will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.



MAIL TO:

ALA-DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
ATTN: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/TREASURER
P. O. BOX 140
PORTAGE, WI 53901-0140
FAX: 608-745-1947
Email: deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org



DO YOU NEED HELP FILING THE 990-N (E-POSTCARD)?

If your unit/county/district’s tax-exempt status has not been revoked AND your tax filing is current, but you need help filing the 990N income tax report, please submit the following information to Department Headquarters. The Department Secretary will file the IRS 990N e-Postcard based on the information provided.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN) _____

Legal Name of Unit/County/District _____

Complete Address where Unit mail is being sent:

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Contact Information for Principal Officer (president, vice president, secretary or treasurer)

Name _____ Title: _____

Address _____

City, State Zip: _____

Confirmation that Unit/County/District’s annual gross receipts are \$50,000 or less:

I agree that _____
(Legal Name of Unit/County/District) (Unit #)

did not receive more than \$50,000 during the last tax year and I give Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary, Executive Secretary/Treasurer permission to file IRS 990-N (e-Postcard) on our behalf.

Signature of Officer

Printed Name of Officer

DATE: _____ Contact Phone Number _____

REQUIREMENTS FOR UNIT HOSTING ALA IN THE KNOW

PROPOSED DATES FOR 2025 ALAITK:

September 13, September 20, September 27 and October 4 or October 11, 2025

Hello Unit Officers and Members

The ALA In The Know committee is starting to plan the program for the 2025 training sessions. Requirements for Units hosting ALA In The Know are listed below. If you applied to host last season, please consider submitting a proposal again. It would be very nice if we could get four or more sections of the state. We feel it is important for all members to have the opportunity to attend without having to travel long distances.

Training topics under consideration so far are:

Zoom etiquette, Email etiquette, meeting procedures, use of available training on computer and training introduction for new members. You can help this year's program by submitting topic suggestions you would like presented when applying to host.

Send suggestions and applications to: Attn: Sue Hembrook, PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901 or deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org

Requirements:

1. No charge to the Auxiliary for use of the facility
2. Seating at tables for minimum of 35 – please state capacity on Request for Proposal
3. Hall set up by 7:00 a.m. on day of event; access available until 4:00 p.m.
4. Two microphones with working speaker system and extra batteries
5. Working WIFI and password available
6. Screen or plain light-colored wall to project presentations
7. Extension cords, duct tape
8. Tables for program chairmen displays
9. Handicap Accessible
10. Free Parking
11. No other event in the facility that would interfere with this presentation
12. Water station or pitchers of water and glasses on all tables, including head table

Other information:

1. Registration is 8-9 a.m. We will need 2 to 3 of your members to assist with registration (note name tags and registration list provided by Department on day of the event.)
2. We need 2 to 3 of your members to assist presenters in welcoming guests and final presentation set-up
3. Presentation begins at 9 a.m. and should conclude around 3:30 p.m., with a break for lunch
4. Unit will be given \$15 per person attending to cover morning refreshments and lunch with beverages
5. Flexibility in scheduling lunch is appreciated. Shorter lunch break means a possible earlier dismissal of event.
6. Final count for those attending will be given to the host unit 2 weeks prior to the event
7. Payment for food will be given to the host unit on day of event
8. The unit will NOT be allowed any fundraisers or donation jars for coffee, etc



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL—ALA IN THE KNOW 2025

- 1. Which dates are you available to host?
 September 13 September 20 September 27 October 4 October 11
- 2. Complete name and street address of facility: _____

- 3. Maximum capacity of room when set in a classroom setting, all facing forward _____
- 4. Is the building and room handicap accessible? Yes No
- 5. Is there free on-site parking available? Yes No
- 6. Is there a podium with microphone available? Yes No
- 7. Is there a hand-held remote microphone available? Yes No
- 8. Is there a large screen or plain wall available to show presentation? Yes No
- 9. Is there working WIFI available with password? Yes No
- 10. List any hotels close by with contact information if possible: _____

Contact:

Name: _____

Unit No. _____ Unit Name _____ District _____

Email: _____

Phone (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

RETURN COMPLETED FORM BY FEBRUARY 28, 2025, TO

ATTN: SUE HEMBROOK, PO BOX 140, PORTAGE WI 53901 or

deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org

 AMERICAN
LEGION

AUXILIARY

Badger
Girls State

JUNE 15-20, 2025
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
OSHKOSH



Open To All Eligible High School Junior Girls
Learn And Put Into Practice State Government
Strengthen Your Leadership Skills

A Unique Educational & Scholarship Opportunity
A Chance To Meet Awesome Girls From Around WI



Contact your School Counselor or visit the
ALA Badger Girls State website: www.alabgs.org





AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
BADGER GIRLS STATE
BENEFACTORS
Deadline: April 1, 2025



Thank you so much for becoming an ALA Badger Girls State Benefactor! Our program is successful because of our amazing sponsors and benefactors.

Please select the item(s) you wish to support with your benefactor donation. Many donations are required to meet all of these needs. If more money is received than is necessary to purchase the selected item, ALABGS reserves the right to designate your donation to another item where financial support is needed. Donations are needed no later than April 1, 2025 to purchase the items in time for our Girls State session.

- ALABGS Ink Pens (\$10)
Medical Supplies (\$25)
Delegate Campaign Materials (\$20)
Counselor Costs (\$50)
Badge Holders (\$20)
Delegate Shirts (\$100)
Lanyards (\$25)
Staff Shirts (\$100)
City Supplies (\$25)
General Support (\$)
County Supplies (\$25)
TOTAL DONATION: \$

Mail the benefactor form by 4/1/2025 with check payable to "ALABGS" to:

ALA Badger Girls State
PO Box 140
Portage, WI 53901-0140

Contact Name: Unit #: District #:

Email: Phone: ()

ALABGS Benefactors will be recognized on the ALABGS website and Citizens Manual.

NOTE: Delegate sponsorships (\$500) must be submitted using a sponsor reservation form.



American Legion Auxiliary

In the Spirit of Service Not Self for Veterans, God and Country

Approval Request – American Legion Auxiliary Emblem Use

The American Legion owns the names and trademarks of the American Legion Auxiliary. The American Legion Auxiliary is entrusted by The American Legion with protecting the name and official marks of the ALA. Use of the emblem must be approved by American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters. If approval is granted, it is a one-time, limited use. The following information must be completed in full and **submitted to your department secretary.**

Requesting Member Name & Unit & Email:

Manufacturer/Vendor Name:

Vendor Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Vendor Contact Email:

Type of Product(s) Emblem is to be used on:

Intended use:

Exact Quantity of Item(s) to be Ordered*:

**Ordering new quantities requires a new authorization.*

***A sample, photo, link to your website or vendor mark-up of the
American Legion Auxiliary emblem use must be attached.***

Department Secretary Signature

State

Date

Department Secretary: submit completed form to emblem@ALAforVeterans.org



Americanism

Diane Burkhalter Department Chair

burkhalterdl@gmail.com ♦ 262-284-6873

As I pondered what to write, I kept coming back to our Preamble- "...to foster and perpetuate a 100% Americanism." What is Americanism exactly? Americanism is attachment or allegiance to the traditions, interests and ideals of the U.S. (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 2023). Reflecting on the words "100% Americanism" truly indicates that our efforts will always be continuously ongoing.

Although this seems a bit overwhelming at first, I take this opportunity to suggest- not really.

One important avenue we can put our effort into is our children and youth. They **are** our future. There are so many ways we can make connections with our children and youth.

If your unit has Education and Americanism Committees, work together to make connections with your schools, homeschooling parents, the local library, and clubs in your area. Units that do not have these committees, ask for volunteers within your unit who would like to contact schools and other groups to develop programs together with them.

When you plan events with your Legion Family that are family oriented have a variety of the materials for the various ages that the *Flag & Emblem* has to offer.

During our first Zoom meeting for the Americanism Committee, we were asked to inform our units the importance of utilizing the materials from the "Star Spangled Kids Kits" which can be purchased from the *Flag & Emblem*. At family events, you can have scavenger hunts, riddles and games that focus on American history, traditions, Constitution, etc. Educating our youth can be interactive, fun and exciting!

If you have not yet reached out to the various youth groups, consider contacting them regarding the Americanism Essay Contest. The essay form and rubric are on the Department website. Please remember that your unit reads and evaluates all submitted essays and selects the **top one** in each category. These are the only essays you would send to the Department Chairman by March 15th. The Americanism Committee then reads and evaluates all the essays received selecting the **top one** in each category.

These essays are then sent to the division chairman by April 15th. I know that the committee is looking forward to reading what our children and youth have to say, and we hope you all consider participating in this wonderful opportunity we offer our children and youth. Also, this is a great way to make connections within your community

At Midwinter, I look forward to meeting with all of you to not only answer any questions you may have, share ideas and brainstorm, and assist you in any way.

Please send me any pictures or ideas you have. I would love to share the numerous ways we foster and perpetuate a "100% Americanism". Feel free to contact me any time.



AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST 2025 SUBMISSION FORM

Essay Title: What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?”

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.ALAforVeterans.org after Convention.

Materials and Guidelines: The contest shall include six classes.

Word Requirement: All words on the essay page/pages count. If students are required to include a title or other class information, please put this on a separate title page

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	Defined as student’s reading level being 2 or more years below 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 Parent/Teacher:

*Student name: _____ Grade level: _____

*Address: _____

*City/State/Zip: _____

Parent’s Email Address: _____

Parent’s Phone #: _____ Word Count: _____

School Name: _____

School city/state: _____

Teacher’s name: _____

Teacher’s signature: _____

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, 2025

Department: WI Signature of Department Chairman: _____

Send to: Diane Burkhalter, 409 Briarwood Lane, Port Washington WI 53074

Department winner due to National Americanism Division Chairman by April 15, 2025

Americanism Essay Criteria and Rubric

35 Points- Theme Development: This would involve answering the who, what, where, when and why about the theme. Essays should relate to the writer's personal experiences.

35 Points- Clarity of Ideas: Essays should have an easy to understand format or organization with correct spelling and grammar usage. The ideas or points are clearly expressed. The reader should have a clear understanding of the writer's explanation of the theme.

30 Points- Knowledge or Understanding of the Question: The writer shows an understanding of the key words in the question. (This assists the writer with the task of staying on the topic or the question.)

SCORING RUBRIC

35 Points- Theme Development:

- 25 Points- The writer answers the who, what, where, when and why about them.
- 10 Points- The writer provides personal experiences that relate to the topic.

35 Points- Clarity of Ideas:

- 25 Points- The essays should have an easy to understand format or organization so that the reader understands the writer's explanation of the theme. The ideas or points are clearly expressed.
* Grades 5 and up should have an introduction, smooth transitions between ideas and a conclusion.
- 5 Points- The writer uses correct spelling.
- 5 Points-The writer uses correct grammar.

30 Points- Knowledge or Understanding of the Question:

- 30 Points- The writer shows an understanding of the key words in the question. (This assists the writer with the task of staying on the topic or question.)

WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY STATE BOWLING ASSOCIATION

23rd NINE PIN TAP TOURNAMENT (49th ANNUAL TOURNAMENT)

Entry # _____

Date: _____

April 12 & 13, 2025 (ONE WEEKEND ONLY)

100% Prize Fee Returned
75% Handicap – 200 Scratch

Ten Pin Bowling Lanes
6285 Nesbitt Road
Madison WI 53719
608-845-1010

ENTRY CLOSING DATE – Postmarked by MARCH 15, 2025

Mail entries to: Jenni Syftestad
205 Thompson Street, Verona WI 53593

The bowlers listed below enter the specified contest(s) at the annual WALASBA Tournament and hereby agree to comply in all respects with the rules of said tournament. The individual members are bona fide 2025 members of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary. When two or more teams are inter-bowling for doubles partners, please be sure to send your entries together. **WALASBA IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING SUBSTITUTES!**

Team Name: _____

Unit/City/Location: _____

Unit #: _____

Indicate what Events bowler is entering:

Team: (Will bowl on Sunday)

Team per person = \$31.00

- | | | |
|----------|---------|--------|
| 1. _____ | ___ YES | ___ NO |
| 2. _____ | ___ YES | ___ NO |
| 3. _____ | ___ YES | ___ NO |
| 4. _____ | ___ YES | ___ NO |

Doubles and Singles will bowl on Saturday (please indicate your desired time) and Teams will bowl on Sunday.

Double/Singles

Saturday, April 12 11am

Saturday, April 12 2pm

Team

Sunday, April 13 9am

Doubles and Singles: (Will bowl on Saturday)

Doubles = \$31

Singles = \$31

**All Events (if you want to enter all Events)
\$3.00 Per Person**

- | | | | | | | |
|----------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| 1. _____ | ___ YES | ___ NO | ___ YES | ___ NO | ___ YES | ___ NO |
| 2. _____ | ___ YES | ___ NO | ___ YES | ___ NO | ___ YES | ___ NO |
| 1. _____ | ___ YES | ___ NO | ___ YES | ___ NO | ___ YES | ___ NO |
| 2. _____ | ___ YES | ___ NO | ___ YES | ___ NO | ___ YES | ___ NO |

Bowling	\$11.25
Prize	\$11.25
Expense	<u>\$8.50</u>
Total	\$31.00
Per Person per Event	

Please complete fields (who receives mail)

Captain: _____

Ph: _____

Complete Address: _____

(City/State/Zip)

Email: _____

OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

TEAM _____ DBLS _____ SINGLES _____

ALL EVENTS _____ TOTAL PAID _____

WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY STATE BOWLING ASSOCIATION
TOURNAMENT RULES – READ CAREFULLY

1. All senior members of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary, holding 2025 membership card are eligible to enter the tournament under the below rules.
2. New bowlers enter the tournament with an average of 145 women and 165 men.
3. Entrants allowed bowling only once per event.
4. Everyone **MUST** bowl when scheduled.
5. Entries must be accompanied by full amount of fees, \$31.00 per bowler, per event. The entry fees cannot be refunded after the entry and fees have been received. Hostess city entrants will be given dates and times requested, **if possible**; otherwise the tournament manager will assign dates and times. **NO** hostess city entries will be refunded.
6. No entries shall be accepted after the entry closing date. **NO EXCEPTIONS**
7. All events are optional and may be entered for a \$3.00 fee. Paid all events are not transferable unless the substitute replaces original entrant in all three events.
8. If a team has only 3 bowlers, only 3 scores can be used. **NO** blind score will be used.
9. This tournament will be conducted on a handicap basis of 75% of the difference between each entrant's average and 200 pins.
10. **If a substitution is made in the doubles event the substitute must take the place of the bowler she is replacing. NO rearranging of partners will be permitted in the doubles.**
11. A sub shall be allowed, if one is available, in case of disability after a game has started, in team and doubles only. Only the actual score of the frames bowled shall count if a sub is not available.
12. Bowlers entered in all three events will be so scheduled to permit them to complete competition within two days, unless they are doubled with someone who is bowling on another four-person team at some other time, which prevents scheduling of these participants on same convenient dates.
13. Teams will bowl all three games on their scheduled pair of lanes. Doubles and Singles events will be bowled on another pair of lanes.
14. Every bowler entered in the individual events must have at least one ball for their personal use. No sharing balls with other bowlers. (House balls are acceptable.)
15. If a bowler is absent by the scheduled time and does not arrive by the end of the 4th frame of the 1st game, absent bowler shall forfeit the first game, but is eligible to bowl 2nd and 3rd game if arrival prior to the start of the 2nd game.
16. First place Champions and last place Champions will receive individual certificates and pins.
17. Cash prizes will be determined upon completion of tournament, based on funds received.
18. **NO SMOKING OR DRINKING WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE BOWLERS SEATING AREA.**
19. Make sure you are watching for your turn to bowl and keep the games going. There are other shifts for Auxiliary bowling and possible league bowling scheduled after our tournament.

CAPTAINS

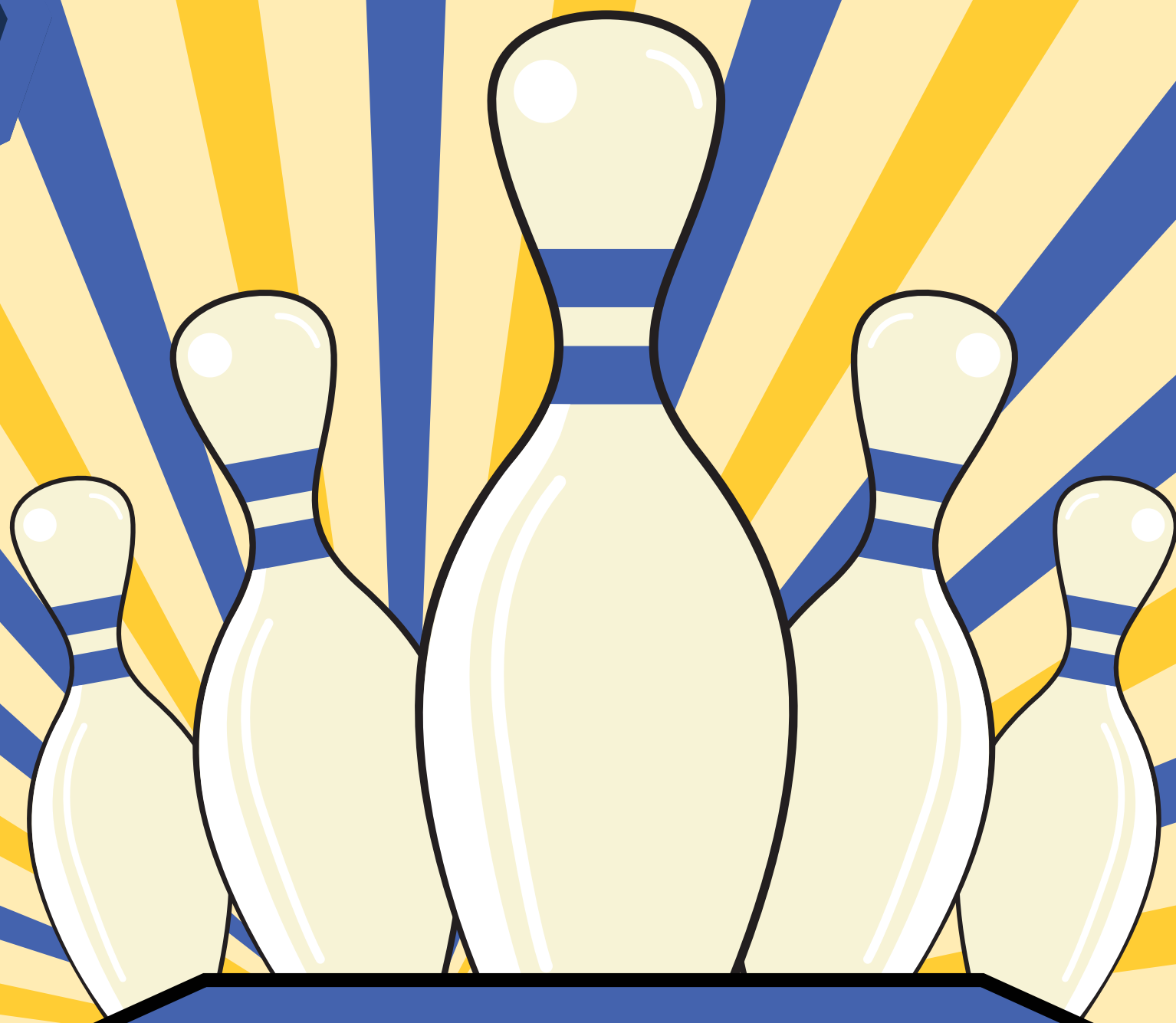
1. Captains must check in and verify lineups **45 minutes** prior to starting time. **Registration will CLOSE 30 minutes before squad time. This is all necessary due to last minute changes. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.**
2. When substitutes not registered on entry blank are used, captains shall report same to Tournament Manager before entering contest and present 2025 American Legion Auxiliary membership card of substitute.
3. There must be a TEAM CAPTAIN FOR EACH TEAM.

CONDUCT OF ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

This tournament shall be conducted as a form of social enjoyment for all Senior members of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary.

ENTRY FORMS MAY BE PHOTOCOPIED BUT NOT REPRODUCED IN ANY OTHER WAY!

**12 & 13
APRIL**



WALASBA
BOWLING
Tournament

Join us for a weekend of bowling, delicious food and beverages and great company.



**More information contact:
Tournament Director
Jenni Syftestad at
syftes@chorus.net**



**Ten Pin Bowling Lanes
6285 Nesbitt Road
Madison WI 53719**

***Doubles & Singles are scheduled to bowl on
Saturday, April 12 at 11 am & 2pm
Teams will bowl on Sunday, April 13 at 9:00 am***

Closing entry date - March 15, 2025



2025 April 12 & 13 WALASBA Hotel Information

Country Inn & Suites – This Hotel is right next to Ten Pin

6275 Nesbitt Road – Madison

608-270-1900

Double Queens - \$119.00

Block of rooms available under **ALA Bowling** until **March 14, 2025**

Booking Link Full URL: www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/UK34V0



➤ These two Hotels on West Verona Avenue are a block from the Legion Post (207 Legion Street) Across street is Paddy Mac's Bar and Restaurant and Linen & Clove – a home décor shoppe.

Fairfield Inn

613 West Verona Avenue - Verona

608-845-3000

1 - King - \$98.00

2 - Queens - \$98.00

Block of rooms available under: ALA Bowling until **March 14, 2025**



Holiday Inn & Express

515 West Verona Avenue - Verona

608-497-4500

1 - King - \$135.00 w/o tax per night

2 - Queens - \$155.00 w/o tax per night

Block of rooms available under: ALA Bowling Tournament until **March 20, 2025**



We are seeking bids for the 2026 WALABA Tournament



WOULD YOUR UNIT LIKE TO HOST A BOWLING TOURNAMENT

REQUIREMENTS FOR HOSTING BOWLING TOURNAMENT

1. Submit bid to WALASBA Chairman/ Tournament Manager – Jenni Syftestad, syftes@chorus.net.
2. Include the following information in bid:
 - a. Name of bowling establishment you have contacted and checked out.
List name of contact person and phone number at the lanes.
 - b. Number of lanes available (at least 16 required).
 - c. Do they have automatic scoring?
 - d. Name of Unit, County or District hosting event.
 - e. Name, address and phone number of host chairman.
 - f. List of housing nearby, with rates, phone numbers and map of area.
(This can be submitted once your bid has been accepted)
3. Have Sgt-at-Arms available with Unit Colors if Department doesn't provide theirs.

This is an excellent fundraising opportunity – ask the Post for assistance. Raffles, crafts and 50/50 are very popular or whatever you want to do to raise money. The more the Unit works, the more profits you reap.

The Post may even want to have a Saturday evening dinner.

Jenni Syftestad, Tournament Manager
Ph: 608-845-7857



CHAPLAIN'S ARTICLE

Donna Jensen, Dept. Chaplain
djensen20@gmail.com • 414-303-6186

“And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”

Colossians 3:14

Charity: Love of God and men; an act or feeling of generosity; the giving of aid to the poor; an institution engaged in relief of the poor; leniency in judging others.

These are dictionary definitions of charity. For some, it could mean making contributions to a cause they believe in, either giving time or money. For some, it could mean giving someone a “break” when judging them, a “second chance.” For others, it could mean directly doing something to help someone in need. What does it mean to you?

During this holiday season, there is much focus on giving gifts to each other. Do you give gifts without expecting something in return? Gifts are a wonderful expression of love and charity, but I believe the most important thing we can give are not “things” but giving of ourselves, without expecting anything in return. This can be giving of your time to help someone. It could be making a call (Buddy Checks), spending time with someone, taking someone to an appointment or event, or helping a caregiver.

Many members of the American Legion Family are great at living the true meaning of charity by volunteering and giving of both their time and money to help others. This is not limited to but focused on veterans, active-duty military, their families and communities, giving from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you all!

Music:

“Give A Little Bit” – by *Richard Davies & Roger Hodgson*

Oh, give a little bit of your love to me, I'll give a little bit of my love to you.

There's so much that we need to share, so send a smile and show you care.

Request:

Please help me make a very special Prayer Book for President Becky Mueller this year by sending me prayers, poems and inspirational pieces. They can be original or from another source; something that touches or inspires you. Please give the author, person sending and their Unit and District. They can be sent to me by email (djensen20@gmail.com) or mail to: Donna Jensen, 6936 N, 86th St., Milwaukee, WI 53224.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH AND CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION

Joyce E. Endres, Chair ♦ ljendres@charter.net

**Although it receives special emphasis during the month of April,
the ALA Children and Youth (C&Y) Program is a year-round activity.**

If we could see the world through the eyes of a child, would we see more magic in everything? With the eye of a child, rather than our own, would we be more curious, more open to change and new adventures, be more amazed at life's goodness, and ask with interest to discover new things, and learn different answers. Would we make friends more easily and have more compassion?

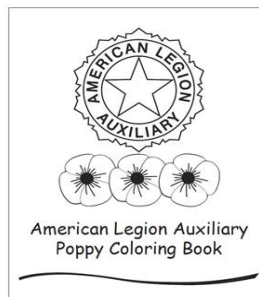
When you work your Children and Youth Program, try to see the world through the eyes of the children and youth you plan to serve. Think about what best fits their needs, rather than what we think they are. Ask the children what they prefer, to discover new ways to fulfill the ALA mission.

DONATE: School supplies/backpack; Toys for Tots; Ronald McDonald/Fischer House, Deployed veterans; VA; Sponsor ALABGS Delegates; Fisher House; Girl Scouts; etc.

SPONSOR ALABGS delegate(s) – **VOLUNTEER** Community Children Events - **MENTOR**

ALA COLORING BOOKS: Poppy and America the Beautiful Coloring books are a great way to promote our Auxiliary any time of the year, especially while distributing poppies or during C&Y special emphasis month of April.

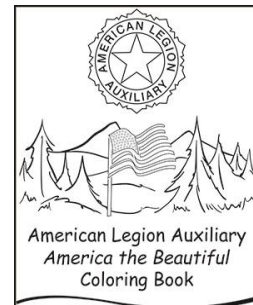
The ALA Coloring Books are available for purchase or to download! The books are available from Emblem Sales or to download from the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary website at www.amlegionauxwi.org under resources on the Children & Youth program page.



[Poppy Coloring Book](#)

8 Pages Item #355.301

\$.30 each or → Buy 50 for \$0.25/each



[America The Beautiful Coloring Book](#)

8 pages - Item #355.302

\$.30 each or → Buy 50 for \$0.25/each

The AL Child Welfare Foundation is now called the Child Well-Being Foundation.

The American Legion CWF board of directors changed the name of the foundation to one that encompasses the overall needs of the whole child and all aspects of their physical, emotional, mental and spiritual wellbeing. The Child Well-Being Foundation will still use the acronym CWF and continue to provide grants to nonprofits for projects that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of children.

CWF is one of four priorities for the 2024-2025 C&Y Program. Please send Unit/Member donations to Department Headquarters to help support this program. THANK YOU.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sandy Mack, Department Chairman

smack0555@gmail.com or 262-388-9816

With the Christmas season approaching you can find several ways to give back to our veterans and families in need. Volunteer at a homeless shelter, hold a holiday meal for the homeless, educate individuals about hunger, give a gift that gives back, send warm holiday wishes to a family facing hunger. Adopt a family in your area that is in need or ring the bells for the Salvation Army. Make your favorite cookies and donate them to a nursing home.

Sometimes, simple acts of kindness are the best ways to spread cheer! Next time you pull up at a fast-food joint, give an extra \$5 to use towards the purchase of the person in the vehicle behind you, maybe they would do the same. Handwrite cards to a veteran, give that person who has your back a small gift or handwritten note for thanking them for their support.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is observed on the 3rd Monday of January every year. This is a federal holiday to "honor" the life and legacy of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, who brought hope and healing to America.

This day is also known as the "National Day of Service." This is a time for you to give back to your communities.

Community Service activities are:

- Volunteer to help a neighbor.
- Have an operation "Warm Coat" drive. Invite the local TV stations and newspaper.
- Help in building homes for Habitat for Humanity.
- Adopt a road/clean-up.
- Volunteer at an animal shelter.
- Read a book at your local elementary school.

Giving back is the key to building, connecting, sustainable and healthy communities. Not only is giving back good for our society, but it is also good for our soul.

Please call or e-mail me with any questions. If you have any pictures showing your unit providing Community Service, I would appreciate you sending me a copy.

***"Together We Can Make a Difference"
For God and Country***



Department Finance Committee

Department Bylaws allow *any* member with appropriate experience to serve on the Department Finance Committee. Additional members on the Finance Committee include the Alternate National Executive Committeewoman and the Office Policy Committee Chairman.

The Department Vice Presidents, with input from the Department President and the Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer, will appoint one member annually to serve for a three-year term on the Finance Committee.

Candidates for this position need to have experience in accounting, finance, budgeting, auditing or other relevant experience to be considered. A resume highlighting this experience must be submitted to Department Headquarters by April 11, 2025. Resumes may be sent via email (preferred) to deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org or mailed to ALA-Wisconsin, Attn: Dept Executive Secretary-Treasurer, PO Box 140, Portage, WI 53901-0140.

Candidates to be considered will be contacted by the appointment committee for a telephone interview and subsequently will be notified by e-mail once a decision has been reached.



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

The 96th Annual George Washington Luncheon



Presidents Day
Monday, February 17, 2025
Meyers Family Restaurant
4260 S 76th Street, Greenfield, WI

Social Hour: 11:00 AM
Opening Ceremonies: 11:45 AM
Lunch: Noon
Cost is \$30.00 per person



**Come and celebrate our first President - George Washington
our Veterans and the American Legion Auxiliary**

For information contact Laura Calteux, 414-379-2943

Deadline for reservations is February 8, 2025
Detach here and return lower portion

GEORGE WASHINGTON LUNCHEON REGISTRATION

UNIT NAME & NUMBER _____

NAME OF EACH PERSON ATTENDING: Auxiliary, Legion, SAL, Guest

UNIT CONTACT & PHONE _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: # OF RESERVATIONS _____ **X \$30.00 =** _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MCCU
SEND TO: Laura Calteux, 7012 W Squire Ave, Greenfield, WI 53220
Reservation deadline: FEBRUARY 8, 2025 —NO WALK-INS!!



Serving our Veterans, Military, and Each Other From the Depths of Our Hearts

Bi-monthly Unit Mailing
December 2024

MEMBERSHIP TEAM

Department Chair:

Amy Luft
amyjluft@gmail.com
414-651-7300

Committee Members:

Teresa Steinke
teresa.steinke_cmx@yahoo.com
715-828-7462

Diane Zwiers

dzwiers7280@gmail.com
920-378-1786

Program Coordinator

Andrea Stoltz
alawi@amlegionauxwi.org
608-745-0124

*It's the gift that
keeps on giving!*



Just like the “Jelly of the Month Club”, membership to the American Legion Auxiliary provides benefits and advantages that can be enjoyed all year long. Renewing your membership and keeping it current allows you such things as:

- Support to our veterans and military
- Chances to give back to the community
- Access to member benefits (discounts, insurance, prescriptions)
- Opportunities for continuous education
- Pride in belonging to the largest patriotic organization
- Life long friendships and comradery

*New members can enjoy
these benefits too!*

Successful recruitment includes keeping the spirit alive and talking about our organization – a lot. Make sure that you:

- Always carry an application (or two) with you
- Share your story
- Provide your contact information and/or business card
- Obtain the potential new member’s contact information
- Follow-up. Invite them to a meeting and/or event.

*Are you looking
for that special
holiday gift?*

Why not gift a membership renewal or a new membership to someone? Family members can even pitch in together and pay for a PUFL membership for a loved one.

“Checking Our Pulse” Award Winners

Sheboygan Unit #83 - District 2

Obtained 75% by September 15

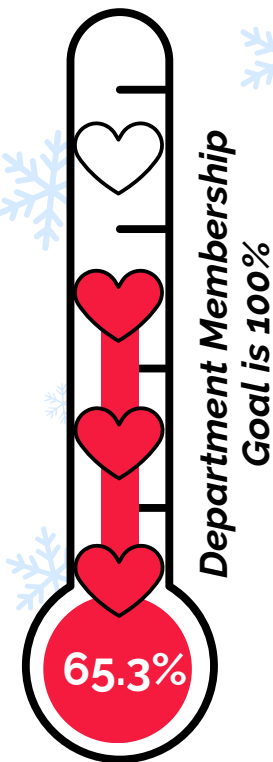
Odanah Unit #25 – District 11

Obtained 85% by October 15

Owen Unit #123 – District 7

Obtained 95% by November 15

December 15 will be our last “Checking Our Pulse” award winner. One lucky unit will be picked at random to win \$100 if at 100% membership.



#401 Cambria

#25 Odanah

#348 DeForest

#415 Milwaukee

#123 Owen

#372 Forestville

#370 Wild Rose

#478 Saint Cloud

#520 Vesper

#503 Dane

#165 Two Rivers

#107 Mosinee

#233 Waterloo

#227 Spring Valley

#208 Rio

#1 Milwaukee

#267 New Auburn

#83 Sheboygan

#410 Fredonia

#464 Land O Lakes

#21 Kenosha

#108 Clear Lake

#402 Washington Isl



DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

2024-2025 SERVICE TO VETERANS AWARDS ENTRY FORM

This is not part of the annual reports, it is for award purposes only.

DO NOT LIST COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER HOURS

Please mail this completed form by APRIL 15, 2025 to:
ALA-Wisconsin, Attn: Andrea Stoltz, PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901
Fax: 608-745-1947 - Email: alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

Awards will be mailed to the contact person/address listed below around October 31st

Service to Veteran pins are awarded as such: upon reaching 50 hours you will receive a Service to Veterans pin. After that, attachable hour bars are awarded for 100, 300, 500, and 1,000 hours. After reaching 1,000 hours, the award increments are increased by 1,000 (i.e., 2,000; 3,000; 4,000 up to 20,000 hours). After 20,000 hours, increments increase to 5,000 hours (i.e., 25,000; 30,000; 35,000). A Lifetime Service to Veterans pin is awarded after 35,000 hours. It is very important to report hours every year as hours accrue so the appropriate award can be distributed.

Note: In 2021-2022 reportable hours allowed for caregivers of veteran family members was changed IF the caregiver does not receive professional compensation for doing so:

- If you are a caregiver of a veteran who lives with you, you may claim 10 hours per week.
➤ If you are a caregiver of a veteran who does not live with you (i.e., nursing home), you may claim 5 hours per week.

Unit City Location: _____ Unit# _____

Date: _____ District# _____

EXAMPLES OF COUNTABLE VOLUNTEER SERVICE TO VETERANS HOURS

Service to Veterans is volunteer service that directly benefits a veteran outside a VA facility. These hours should not be reported under any other program (i.e., Community Service, National Security, etc.). Some examples of qualifying service are listed below:

- Help elderly veterans at home (cleaning, yard work, etc.)
• Provide transportation for a veteran
• Offer to run errands for a caregiver or sit with a veteran while the caregiver runs errands
• Assist with veterans' job fairs by organizing or working at an informational table
• Volunteer at Camp American Legion
• Donate/Raise money for the Veterans Creative Arts Festival
• Volunteer for the Veterans Creative Arts Festival
• Make tray favors for veterans in nursing homes on patriotic holidays
• Give gifts and cards to veterans in nursing homes
• Make tie blankets or afghans for veterans
• Make Quilts of Valor
• Create and donate items from VA&R pattern book
• Shop for and prepare care packages for home-bound veterans
• Buy school supplies, host a baby shower, or send care packages to veterans' children who are headed to college

Only CURRENT members are eligible for this award. List members on the back of this form in ALPHABETICAL order by last name (MEMBER ID# REQUIRED). Do not separate or otherwise distinguish juniors from seniors. Use additional sheets if needed. **DO NOT LIST COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER HOURS**

Please list the contact person in case of questions and the person / address the awards should be mailed to. Awards are mailed to the address below for distribution to the members.

Person completing this form _____

Mailing Address _____

Contact Phone # () _____ E-Mail _____



Red Book Corrections

- *Pg. 9 Add Mary Mueller as Buffalo-Pepin County President. Teresa Isensee will remain as Chippewa County President. Remove Mary Townsend as Buffalo-Pepin & Chippewa County President
- Pg. 8 Add Natalia Genovesi-King as PR Committee mbr– 414-839-0454 / kinggenovesi@gmail.com
Remove Zondra Morris
- Pg. 9 Add Cheryl Kruschke as Sheboygan County President
- Pg. 9 Add Karen Abler as Fond du Lac County President
Email: karen.abler50@gmail.com / 414-313-1435
- Pg. 10 Add Denise Belongia as King W VH Deputy
- Pg. 10 Add Mary Fawcett as Tomah VAMC Deputy – 701 Kavanaugh Street, Elroy WI 53929.
Email: mardi@comantenna.com / 608-547-3266
- Pg. 17 Donna Jensen – street # should be 6936 – Address is 6936 N. 86th Street, Milwaukee WI 53224
- Pg. 18 Contact info for Victoria Laitsch Luebke (Waukesha County President)
508 S Rochester Street Unit F, Mukwonago WI 53149 / 262-363-5272 / victorial@wi.rr.com

*updated 10/14/2024

DATES & DEADLINES

Last updated 11/12/2024

(subject to change)

2025		
Jan 25, 2025	ALA Mission Training & Nat'l Junior Meetings	Des Moines, IA
Feb 1, 2025	ALA Mission Training & Nat'l Junior Meetings	Las Vegas, NV
Feb 1, 2025	ALA Mission Training & Nat'l Junior Meetings	Boston, MA
Apr 11 & 12, 2025	WALASBA Tournament	Fitchburg, WI – hosted by Unit 385
Apr 26, 2024	1 st District Spring Conference	American Legion Post 95, Delavan, WI
Apr 26, 2025	2 nd District Spring Conference	American Legion Post #69, Mayville, WI
Apr 26, 2025	3 rd District Spring Conference	American Legion Post #84, Monroe, WI
Apr 26, 2025	6 th District Spring Conference	TBD
May 3, 2025	9 th District Spring Conference	TBD
June 14, 2025	Camp's 100 th Anniversary Celebration	Camp American Legion, Lake Tomahawk, WI
June 15–20, 2025	ALA Badger Girls State	UW–Oshkosh, Oshkosh, WI
July 2025	Legion Family Department Convention	Green Bay, WI
Aug 2025	Legion Family National Convention	Tampa Bay, FL
FUTURE EVENTS		
July 2026	Legion Family Department Convention	Appleton, WI
Aug 2026	Legion Family National Convention	Louisville, KY

2025 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

JANUARY 16-19, 2025

HILTON PAPER VALLEY

333 WEST COLLEGE AVENUE ~ APPLETON, WI 54911

REGISTRATION FORM

Pre-register for The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin 2025 Midwinter Conference by returning this registration form and \$25.00 per person (1 person per registration form) to Department Headquarters by January 2, 2025, and **save \$5.00!** Registrations received after January 2, 2025, will be \$30.00 per person. Or register online at wilegion.org.

(Please type or print clearly in order for your badge to be printed correctly- List your name how you wish it to be printed on your badge)

NAME _____ MEMBER ID # _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____ DISTRICT _____ POST _____ UNIT _____ SQUADRON _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

ITEM	NO	PRICE	TOTAL
Registration Fee (only one per form)		\$25.00	
Reg. Fee After 1/2/25 (only one per form)		\$30.00	
Celebrate Your Heritage Banquet		\$40.00 <i>(RSVP By January 2, 2025)</i>	
Check Here if you are attending the Auxiliary Session on Saturday, January 18, 2025. (Must pay the Registration fee to enter)			
Total Enclosed			

Make check payable to The American Legion, or Enter Credit Card Information Below

Cash Check # _____

OR

Name on Card _____ Card Type _____ Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ Sec. Code _____

Return to:
The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin
Attn: Midwinter
P.O. Box 388
Portage, WI 53901
or email to angie@wilegion.org