



Bi-Monthly Unit Mailing February/March 2025

This mailing includes:

- Greetings from Department President Becky Mueller
- Greetings from Department Headquarters
- ALA in the Know - Interest being a presenter information
- ALA Convention: Resolution instructions & blank form
- Annual Reports reminder flyer
- Constitution & Bylaws article
- Education & M. Louise Wilson Educational Loan Fund articles
- Finance Committee advert
- Junior Activities - 2025 Spring Conference article & registration form
- Membership article
- Membership - 2025 'The Beat Goes On' recruit 1 new member award form
- Membership - 2026 Unit Membership Dues Billing Amounts form
- Membership - 2026 Unit Membership Dues Collection Person form
- Parliamentarian article
- Standing Rules article
- Unit Member of the Year & Salute to Servicemembers Awards info flyer
- Unit Member of the Year award nomination form
- VA&R - Christmas Gift Shop recap
- Dates and Deadlines/Redbook Corrections



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



Greetings from President Becky Mueller...

I trust all of you are keeping warm. It has been a challenge this winter with the cold temperatures, high winds and lack of snow. However, I still think we are living in God's country. Please continue your support of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund as the weather continues to wreak havoc in the South and East and wildfires burn in the West. Your caring and concern is so heartfelt. Thank you for your contributions – At Midwinter we raise over \$1,300.00 for this fund. Thank you.

Midwinter was a great event. It was wonderful to see those of you that could come. Our continued thoughts and prayers go to those that were ill or injured and couldn't be with us. Charles Konsitzke from UW-Madison gave a great presentation and really appreciated your questions and comments. Watch for information about another family that is receiving closure with the return of their loved ones' remains. I know many of you will participate in this homecoming.

In addition, we had workshops on leadership and reporting. Ask your questions – your leaders and officers are here to help you find answers. We always welcome your input. Our Juniors made us proud. It was a great session as they tried to teach us 'old dogs' new tricks – saying the pledge in sign language, folding pocket flags, and stumping us with trivia questions! They also reminded us about taking care of our health and F.A.S.T signs of stroke and heart issues. Essential information! Joanie Dickerson and Dany Thompson invited our \$10,000.00 Samsung scholarship winner from ALA Badger Girl State. What outstanding young women we get to work with.

Thank you for your service projects – I mailed 12 pounds of homemade Valentines to WDVA for distribution. Many of our VA facilities received toiletry donations including – Chippewa Falls, Dayton, King, Minneapolis, Union Grove and Zablocki. You made a difference.

Joyce Endres and I are putting out feelers for those that are interested in exploring Strategic Planning for our department's organization. Please contact either of us for more information or to get on board.

A Joint Testimonial will be held Wednesday, July 16th at the Hyatt Regency in Green Bay. This is the same location as our Department Convention starting the next day. More details will be coming soon.

Like Membership, Reporting is everyone's job! The winner of the Pulsation Pass will be announced on Valentine's Day. Did your unit qualify? Keep working on being 100%. Don't forget you have resources and people available to help you. The same with reporting – we all need to turn in our hours, miles, donations, etc. to our unit Presidents so they can begin working on their reports. We are all responsible for the success of our Mission. Every 'little thing' you do or contribute makes a difference and should be counted. Questions – reach out! Don't forget to enter all the awards available at the department and national level. I have already received some nominations for the Heart of the ALA Award. Looking forward to many more. Check with your chairs on all levels to see what information is needed and the application process. (PS – in my book – you are all WINNERS!)

Continue to send me your invitations to your events – I love celebrating with you. Unfortunately, seven District Spring Conferences are scheduled for the same day. I wish my split personality would allow me to attend all of them – but only one has a driver's license. I hope you understand that my heart is there, and I am positive my department officers will represent me well and that you will welcome them with open arms and hearts.

Let's continue to Serve our Veterans, Military and Each Other from the Depths of our Hearts!

God Bless, Becky Mueller

GREETINGS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

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

ALA BADGER GIRLS STATE

SUPPORT ALABGS

Unit reservation forms were due 1/31/2025 with payments of \$500 per delegate. Please send ASAP if you have not done so already. Anyone who wishes to support the general operations of ALABGS can do so by scanning the QR Code. NOTE: To eliminate the service fee, go to the Donation Summary section, click on the drop-down box by 'Support the 100% free platform we use', select "Other," and enter \$0.00. **100% of your donation will go to ALABGS!**



Volunteers are also needed! Visit www.alabgs.org (About ALABGS) to learn more. Both full and part-time volunteer positions are available.

CANDIDATES FOR DEPARTMENT & NATIONAL OFFICES

Candidates for department or national offices must email their announcement (300-350 words) with a head/shoulder photo to deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org by March 17, 2025, for publication in the April issue of the *Wisconsin*.

Scholarships

APPLICATIONS

All department scholarship applications are due from students to Unit Presidents by March 1st. Unit Presidents should ensure applications are completed correctly and all required attachments are included before signing and forwarding them to Education Chairman Diane Weggen by March 15th. Late applications will not be considered. National scholarships must be submitted online by March 1st. Visit the department website for details.

PPP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Units that want to support the Past Presidents Parley Scholarships designated for students pursuing an education in nursing or health careers should mail a check with the donation form on the department website. Unit donations help ensure this opportunity continues as the need for nurses and healthcare workers becomes even more critical.

ANNUAL REPORTS: Annual Reports were mailed to all units in October and are posted on the department website.

- 1) UNIT YEAR-END IMPACT REPORT – a **numeric** report that the national organization uses to report the Auxiliary's impact to Congress. Every Unit President should submit a Unit Year-End Impact Report to their **District President by April 15th**. District Presidents consolidate/forward the information to Department by May 1st.
- 2) UNIT NARRATIVE REPORTS – **descriptive** reports used to explain a unit's activities. Unit Narrative Reports are due to **department headquarters by April 15th**. Units should mark the programs they worked during the past year on the Unit Narrative Report Summary sheet and submit a narrative report for each of those marked programs. If a unit did not participate in any programs, simply mark "no" for each program and return the summary sheet.

CONTESTS & AWARDS: Contests & Awards information is posted on the department website under each respective program. Questions? Please contact the appropriate program chairmen.

Don't forget to nominate a Unit Member of the Year, Mentor of the Year, and Service Member of the Year for recognition! See the Leadership, PPP, and National Security programs for details for each nomination.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICES

The national organization mailed final membership dues renewal notices in early February. To expedite processing, members may pay the National organization at 317-569-4570 or www.ALAforVeterans.org. If a unit receives dues, they should forward them immediately to Department.

Members who have not paid their 2025 dues are now delinquent and lost all privileges of membership. The Unit may want to pay dues for older members who cannot afford to maintain their membership (honorary life membership).

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Membership Change Forms must be submitted by May 1st for deceased members to be included in the Department Convention Memorial Book.

ALA In the Know 2025

Your

ATTENTION

Please!!

Interested in being on the team of presenters
for **ALA In the Know 2025**?

Interviews and auditions will be held in early spring

Contact Senior Vice President Sue Hembrook
by February 21st for information

Phone: 262-843-4791 or 262-945-9791

Email: genesuehem@wi.rr.com



Department of Wisconsin
2025 American Legion Auxiliary Convention

RESOLUTIONS - INSTRUCTIONS

A resolution is a written, formal motion. If written well, the resolution makes it easier for members to consider the proposal. Importance, length and complexity of the motion, and size and formality of the assembly are major considerations in using resolutions.

A resolution has two sections – the resolving clauses and the reasons. Resolving clauses tell the specifics of the proposal. The main reasons a motion should be adopted are included in the “Whereas” clauses. Neither section should include more clauses than are absolutely necessary. Simple, but specific, is best.

Once the main motion is determined, develop three to five statements to support its adoption. These are the “Whereas” clauses. These points should be the most important and least controversial arguments for the motion. Again, it is important to stay focused on the points that are strictly necessary. Leave other points for the discussion.

When the resolution is finally written, it begins with the “Whereas” clauses and ends with the resolved clauses. *Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised* prescribes the proper format, capitalization and punctuation of a resolution.

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wisconsin Bylaws, Article II, Section 1, requires that:

4. The Department President shall, not less than 30 days prior to the annual department convention, appoint a Resolutions Committee consisting of five members chosen from the delegates.
 - a. Resolutions presented by an individual member must be approved by the unit or district to which the member belongs. Resolutions must be received at Department by June 1. Copies of these resolutions shall be transmitted to units not less than 30 days before department convention.
 - b. Any resolution not approved by a unit or district, or when the district conference is held after June 1, must be approved by the appropriate department chair of the program to which the resolution pertains. The department chair will submit approved resolutions to the Resolutions Committee for consideration.
 - c. The Resolutions Committee will forward any approved resolutions with a financial impact to the Finance Committee for their approval.

Once the Resolutions Committee and other appropriate chairs/committees have acted on all resolutions, the Resolutions Chair will report recommendations to the convention delegates.



RESOLUTION

Submitted by:

Unit Name: _____ City _____ Unit # _____ Dist. # _____

Contact Name: _____ Phone # () _____

Subject: _____ Date: _____

Signature of UNIT President/Secretary: _____ Date: _____

Signature of DISTRICT President/Secretary: _____ Date: _____

Resolution:

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY:

Resolution # _____ Program: _____

Committee Chair Name/Signature:

_____ Date: _____ Approved Rejected Revised

_____ Date: _____ Approved Rejected Revised

_____ Date: _____ Approved Rejected Revised

Convention Action: Approved Rejected Date: _____

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE



- **APRIL 15 – UNIT YEAR-END IMPACT REPORT DUE TO DISTRICT PRESIDENT**
- **APRIL 15 - NARRATIVE REPORT - DUE TO DEPARTMENT HQ**
- **NARRATIVE SUMMARY SHEET IS REQUIRED FROM ALL UNITS**
- **MAY 1 – DISTRICT YEAR-END REPORT DUE TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS**

**ANNUAL REPORT FORMS CAN BE ACCESSED ON THE
ALA WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT WEBSITE:**

www.amlegionauxwi.org

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Diana Sirovina, Chairman
dsirovina@icloud.com



C&B...a little Q&A!!

Q: Do you know where your Constitution & Bylaws are?

A: If you answered no to this question, you just might have a problem!

Q: Do you know what information is in your Constitution or Bylaws?

A: If you don't or you are not sure, now would probably be a great time to get familiar with them! You might be surprised at all the valuable information they contain!

Q: Have you made any changes to your documents that were approved at National Convention?

A: The last few years have produced significant changes, such as now just two war eras (per the Legion Act), wives to spouses, and removing great-granddaughters and direct descendants, to name a few. Current documents should contain all of these and more.

Q: Do your documents still contain phrases such as: "Organization of women" or "the world's largest women's patriotic service organization"?

A: As of 2019, the membership eligibility changed to "spouses". Remember too that all references to "her" or "she," etc., should also be changed to gender neutral, like "they" or "them," or refer to "the president," etc. This one will take a little effort, but it's important change and needs to be done.

EXAMPLES OF WHAT YOUR CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS SHOULD CONTAIN:

This is an example of what a unit Constitution should contain. However, it is just a GUIDE. Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, (RONR) provides guidance on the items to include:

Article I: NAME of the organization,

Article II: NATURE — The purpose of the organization,

Article III: MEMBERS — Membership; classes of membership and eligibility. (This is one area you *can* copy directly from the national C&B, using the footnote pattern.)

Article IV: OFFICERS — List of all officers.

Article V: EXECUTIVE BOARD — Composition, duties and powers, meetings and quorum.

Article VI: AMENDMENTS — Advance notice of amendments, how it is to be given, approval vote needed.

This is an example of what a unit Bylaws should contain. Again, refer to RONR for more details:

ARTICLE I: ELECTION OF OFFICERS— Detailed information on nomination and election process, term of office, removal from office, filling a vacancy, limitations on holding office

ARTICLE II: DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS—Officer duties and responsibilities.

ARTICLE III: STANDING COMMITTEES—List of committees and how chairs are appointed.

ARTICLE IV: DISCIPLINE—How improper conduct by a member is handled.

ARTICLE V: ELECTRONIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS—How they are handled.

ARTICLE VI: PARLIAMENTARY RULING—In the ALA we use the most current edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS—Advanced notice of amendments, how it is to be given, approval vote needed.

ARTICLE VIII: AUTHORITY: Vested in the National documents and not in conflict.

Keeping your documents up to date needs to be a priority. So, one last question:

Q: Has your unit done an annual review of your Constitution & Bylaws?

A: Reviewing your Constitution & Bylaws each year will keep your unit running smoothly. Don't wait, update!! And, if you need assistance or a template to follow, don't hesitate to reach out to the email listed at the top of this page!



EDUCATION PROGRAM

Diane Weggen, Department Chairman
dsweggen@gmail.com

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

NOW is the time to complete and submit scholarship applications. **Applicants are encouraged to apply for every scholarship for which they are eligible.**

NOTE: Copies of DD214 are required. Please **black out the SSN on copies** before attaching to the scholarship applications.

The **National scholarships**—Children of Warriors, Non-Traditional Student, Spirit of Youth and Member Loyalty—are available from the national website www.legion-aux.org/Scholarships. National scholarship applications are due on March 1, 2025. To qualify, applications must be submitted electronically by **10:59 pm on March 1, 2025**.

If saving the application for one of the National ALA scholarships to complete later, know that attachments (letters of recommendation, transcripts, copies, etc.) will not be saved. Attachments must be re-attached to the completed application then submitted to National. Applications will be disqualified if all rules are not exactly followed.

National ALA sponsored a Webinar clarifying criteria for the 2025 ALA Scholarships. The webinar was recorded and is now posted on the ALA Academy webpage for members to access. Sign into the national website, select “meetings/trainings” and under “online” select “ALA Academy.”

ALA-Dept. of WI will award twenty-two (22) one-thousand-dollar (\$1,000) scholarships. Applications are **due to unit presidents by March 1st**. Unit presidents or their representative are asked to review submitted applications to be sure the applicant has filled out everything completely and has followed all of the rules and guidelines required by the scholarships, then be sure to sign it. **After signing, unit presidents** submit ALA- Dept. of WI scholarship applications to Dept. Education Chr. by **March 15, 2025**.

Rather than just counting on the school counselors, teachers, or administrators to disseminate scholarship information, why not offer to join them in a meeting with students and/or their parents? Why not host a scholarship informational meeting at the Post? Or maybe even assist with the scholarship application process??

One of the best ways for “Serving our Veterans, Military and Each Other from the Depths of our Hearts” is working the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary’s Education Program.

Which components of the ALA Education Program has your Unit or members participated in or are promoting?

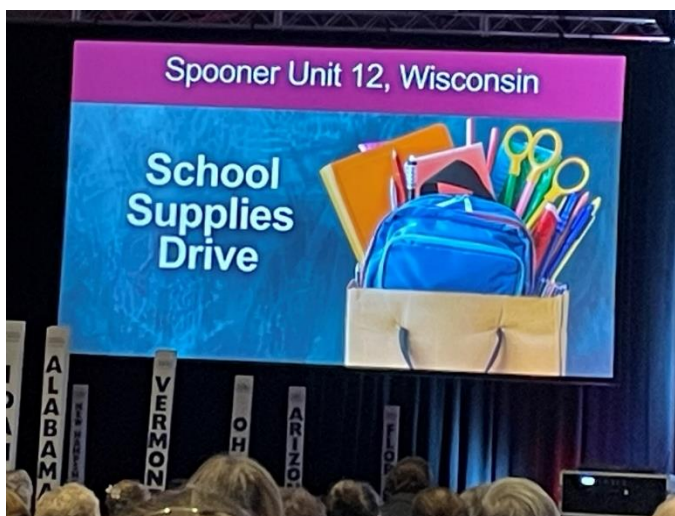
Components include the following:

1. Department of WI and/or Unit Scholarships Info
2. M. Louise Wilson Educational Loan Fund Info
3. Veterans in Community Schools/Classrooms
4. Give 10 to Education
5. Recognizing the local school systems: Teachers Appreciation Week (May 5-9, 2025) and American Education Week (Nov. 18-22, 2025)
6. Educating members about the ALA Emergency Fund, Be the One, or ALA Foundation Veterans Project Fund
7. ALA Education program Facebook group

This beginning of the second semester is a great time to Give 10 to Education, especially if not done at the beginning of the school year. Also, with the Americanism Essay Contest on the horizon, why not promote Veterans in the Classroom to share their thoughts about freedom and what America the Beautiful means to them. Plan something for celebrating Military Children in April and honoring teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Please send pictures to dsweggen@gmail.com if you have any related to your Education Program endeavors this year!

Who knows? The pictures may end up on the big screen at National ALA Convention in Tampa Bay, FL. Here are two pictures which appeared on the big screen in New Orleans on August 26.





M. Louise Wilson Educational Loan Fund

“Serving... Each Other from the Depths of our Hearts”

Diane Weggen, Education/MLW Educational Loan Fund Chairman

dsweggen@gmail.com

One hundred years ago on February 4, 1925, the Executive Committee of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin, established the M. Louise Wilson Educational Loan Fund. This Fund, with the sum of \$200.00, was established to aid women veterans and female members of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary in attaining a higher education.

Currently, this Educational Loan Fund offers interest-free loans of \$800 annually, renewable for up to five years for a total loan limit of \$4,000 available to women enrolled in college on a full-time basis. Repayment starts within six months after graduation or withdrawal from a full-time academic program with minimum payments of \$50 per month.

Since 1925, the maintenance and growth of the fund has been entirely dependent upon the repayment of loans and voluntary contributions from units and friends of the American Legion Auxiliary. No other department in the American Legion Auxiliary has this program.

As of the end of December, twenty-one units from eight districts and one person donated to the M. Louise Wilson Educational Fund during this Auxiliary program year. Five of the twenty-one units are from District 10. Thanks to all the units who have donated and congratulations to District 10 units.

With 344 units in the ALA Department of WI, 323 have not donated. With only a \$10 donation from each of those units, the MLW fund would receive an infusion of \$3,230.

Help keep the M. Louise Wilson Educational Fund a viable part of Wisconsin's ALA Education Program **for another 100 years** with a donation from the unit, county and/or district. It took **one giving person thinking of others** 100 years ago to make this program a reality.

Checks for M. Louise Wilson donations are payable to **ALA-MLW Loan Fund** and mailed to ALA-Wisconsin, PO Box 140, Portage, WI 53901.

Thank you for supporting this great benefit for members.



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.





JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Dr. Christine Johnsen, Department Chairman

Email: cmj102@aol.com ♦ Cell: 715-203-2015

Morgan Johnsen, Junior Activities Vice-Chairman

Eight Department Junior members had the fantastic opportunity to demonstrate their leadership skills and share what they are learning about the American Legion Family, during a presentation to Auxiliary Seniors at the Mid-Winter Conference in Appleton on January 18. Great work Juniors!!

We are going to keep the excitement going with a **Department of Wisconsin Junior Activities Spring Conference at Camp American Legion!!** It will be held on the weekend of April 4 to April 6. In addition to the business meeting on Saturday, we are able to stay overnight at Camp for the weekend! All overnights will be sleeping indoors in the main lodge or in one of two cabins that will be open for us. Activities will depend on the weather, but we anticipate assisting Camp with several veteran service projects, completing several Patch activities, games, songs, and campfires, just to name a few.

The main conference will be on Saturday, April 5, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm in the main lodge. This will include the business meeting, election and installation of Honorary Department Junior officers, lunch, and a Camp American Legion Service activity.

To provide flexibility for Juniors that may have additional school, sports, or family obligations, participants can choose to stay one or both nights or only attend the Saturday business meeting. Please indicate these details on the registration form. Overnight campers should arrive *no earlier* than 5:00 pm on Friday, April 4, and everyone must depart Camp by 12:00 noon on Sunday, April 6.

Registration fee for the Conference is \$5. All meals, from the evening meal on Friday through breakfast on Sunday, are \$5 per person. Registration forms must be received by **March 10, 2025**. Additional information, including what to bring, will be sent to all registrants by email, and will be posted on the ALA Wisconsin website at www.amlegionauxwi.org/junioractivities, as it becomes available. An order form for Junior T-shirts will also be on the website. The cost is \$10 per shirt.

Please reach out to Christine Johnsen at cmj102@aol.com, or call or text at 715-203-2015, with any questions. In the spirit of *Serving Veterans, the Military, and Each Other from the Depths of our Heart*, we look forward to seeing many Juniors at the Department of Wisconsin Junior Activities Spring Conference!



**DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
 SPRING JUNIOR CONFERENCE**
 Camp American Legion
 8529 County D
 Lake Tomahawk, WI 54539



Friday, April 4, 5:00 pm – Sunday, April 6, 2024, 12:00 noon

Your Junior Spring Conference main event will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2024, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Camp American Legion. This will include the business meeting, election and installation of Honorary Department Junior Officers, lunch, and a Camp American Legion service activity. In the spirit of *Serving Veterans, the Military, and Each Other from the Depths of our Heart*, we also have the opportunity to stay overnight at Camp for the weekend, to participate in additional veteran service projects, Patch projects, games, campfires, and so much more!

Registration fee for the Conference is \$5. All meals, from the evening meal on Friday through breakfast on Sunday, are \$5 per person. Additional information will be sent by email to registrants and will be available on the ALA Wisconsin website at www.amlegionauxwi.org/junioractivities.

If you have any questions, please call or text Christine Johnsen at 715-203-2015, or email at cmj102@aol.com.

2025 JUNIOR AUXILIARY SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Registration must be received by **March 10, 2025**

Form submitted by (please print clearly):

Name: _____ District#: _____ Unit#: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

NAME / UNIT #	Grade	First time attendee? (Yes/No)	Junior member	Senior member	Overnight Friday (Yes/No)	Attending Saturday Meeting (Yes/No)	Overnight Saturday (Yes/No)	Registration & Meals \$10.00
Totals								\$

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

**Please send registration form with check payable to American Legion Auxiliary to:
 Christine Johnsen 159991 Granite Rd., Wausau, WI 54403**



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

MEMBERSHIP TEAM

Department Chair:

Amy Luft
amyjlluft@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

Our strongest marketing tool is you – our members!



Potential members are much more likely to join if they hear from people they know. Offering a referral program at your unit can make a big difference. It's one of the best ways to recruit new members and the stats prove it:

- 92% of prospects trust referrals that are made from people they know
- Members who are referred have a 37% higher retention rate
- Referral members are 30% more likely to actually join

A member referral program can be as simple as recognizing the recruiter in a newsletter or on social media to providing a small prize (candy, flowers, gift card). Units can establish their own rules and should include them in their unit guidelines. Member referral programs are a win-win-win for everyone! The recruiter wins by receiving recognition or prize, your unit wins by receiving a new member and the new member wins by joining the best organization ever!

"Checking Our Pulse" Award Winners



Sheboygan #83 - District 2

Obtained 75% by September 15

Odanah #25 – District 11

Obtained 85% by October 15

Owen #123 – District 7

Obtained 95% by November 15

Wild Rose #370 – District 8

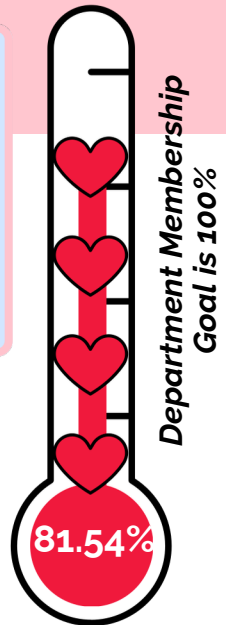
Obtained 100% by December 15

2025 THE BEAT GOES ON

Sign up a new 2025 member or rejoining expired Auxiliary senior or junior member (with the last paid year of 2023 or prior) and receive the ALA Wisconsin pin. TAL & SAL members are eligible too!



Has your unit celebrated a membership milestone? Have you hosted a membership drive or promoted membership at a recent event? Your unit can be showcased at the Department Convention! Send your pictures to:
amyjlluft@gmail.com



Welcome to our newest members!

#309 Kendall
#29 Kewaunee
#476 Loomis
#74 Oconto
#224 Alma
#550 Brackett
#459 Eleva
#59 Stoughton
#440 Clinton

#77 Chippewa Falls
#102 Walworth
#399 Okauchee
#537 Milwaukee
#126 Brillion
#129 Black River Fls
#424 Mercer
#237 Footville
#482 Bagley

#433 Barneveld
#128 Stockbridge
#40 Bangor
#432 Hammond
#305 Johnson Creek
#142 Blanchardville
#454 Mt Calvary
#320 Humbird
#483 Allenton
#82 Port Washington

#362 Kennan
#229 Mt Hope
#340 Berlin
#477 Saint Nazianz
#532 Fifield
#346 Centuria
#451 Boulder Junction
#113 Mt. Horeb
#547 Lublin
#455 Milwaukee



2025 THE BEAT GOES ON

Recruit 1 New Member Award Entry Form

Serving our Veterans, Military and each other from the Depths of our Hearts

Sign up a **NEW 2025 OR REJOINING EXPIRED Auxiliary** senior or junior with the last paid year of 2023 or prior and receive this pin.



Only one entry per recruiter.

TAL and SAL members that recruit a **NEW 2025 OR REJOINING EXPIRED AUXILIARY** member with the last paid year of 2023 or prior are also eligible.

TRANSFERRING MEMBERS DO NOT COUNT.

Entry forms must be received at Department *PRIOR* to May 30, 2025.

Unit Post Squadron # _____ District # _____

Recruiter's Name: _____

Recruiter's **MAILING** Address: _____

City / State / Zip _____

NAME OF NEW or EXPIRED 2025 Senior or Junior Auxiliary member

Submit this completed form to: ALA Dept. of WI
PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901
Fax: 608-745-1947 / Email: alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

THIS FORM MAY BE DUPLICATED and is available @ www.amlegionauxwi.org under the Programs/Membership tab

2026 Unit Membership Dues Billing Amounts

THIS IS NOT A BILL. DO NOT SEND MONEY

Unit City Location _____ Unit # _____ Dist. # _____

This form must be returned by EVERY unit no later than April 4, 2025.

Available in fillable format on the Department website www.amlegionauxwi.org / Programs / Membership

The amounts listed below will be the amount EACH Senior and Junior will be billed for 2026.

How much will your unit be collecting **PER EACH** Senior/Junior for 2026 membership dues?

The MINIMUM amount required to be collected for 2026 is **\$34.00 per senior** and **\$5.25 per junior**.

Senior Dues \$34.00 + _____ = \$
(Ntl. \$18)+(Dept. \$16) + Unit Portion = Total PER **EACH** Senior

(Senior dues rates = anyone 18 years old as of January 1, 2026 / Year of Birth 2007)

Junior Dues \$5.25 + _____ = \$
(Ntl. \$2.75+Dept. \$2.50) + Unit Portion = Total PER **EACH** Junior

(Junior dues rates = anyone under 18 years old as of January 1, 2026 / Year of Birth 2007)

*If your unit collects only the minimum fill in \$34.00 for **total dues per senior** box and \$5.25 **total dues per junior** box.*

I understand that the amounts listed above will be what EACH of your members will be billed for 2026 membership dues.

Signature of person completing this form

Date

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
PO Box 140 – Portage WI 53901
Phone: 608-745-0124 – Fax: 608-745-1947 – email: alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

2026 Unit Membership Dues Collection Person

Unit City Location _____ Unit # _____ Dist. # _____

This form must be returned by EVERY unit no later than May 30, 2025.

Available in fillable format on the Department website www.amlegionauxwi.org / Programs / Membership

Who & Where are your unit members supposed to send their 2026 dues to?

This person and address will receive all 2026 membership materials AND be printed on each Renewal Notice as the person and **MAILING** address your unit members are to send their 2026 dues to.

_____		_____	
NAME of person collecting dues		(MANDATORY) Member ID number	
Is this a personal address? <input type="checkbox"/>	OR	Is this a Unit/Post address? <input type="checkbox"/>	

Mailing Address (street OR PO Box – not both)			

City/State/Zip			
Phone # () _____		Email _____	

I understand that the above name and address will be printed on all 2026 Membership Renewal Notices National will be sending out.

Signature of person completing this form

Date

Effective Meetings

Diane Kranig, Parliamentarian
dianeqltr@hotmail.com



Having an effective, well run meeting begins with the President, not the Parliamentarian. It is the goal of the Parliamentarian is to be seen and not heard. So how do the President and the Parliamentarian work together to make both of these things happen.

Communication is the key.

First, the President must remember they are the presiding officer of the meeting. It is up to them to set the agenda *in advance* of the meeting so that all involved know what topics will be covered.

The President should discuss with the Parliamentarian any agenda items they may be unsure of handling, before the meeting. Is there going to be an election? Will there be a vote on Bylaws or Standing Rules? Will there be a budget proposal? All of these things require special discussion and motions not used at every meeting.

Next, the President should follow meeting protocol and the agenda. Open the meeting and take roll call. Appoint a secretary if needed. If a quorum is required, make certain there are enough members present.

Finally, if there is an issue during the meeting, the President may ask the Parliamentarian for advice. The advice should be given, and the President can accept or reject this advice and continue with the meeting accordingly. The Parliamentarian should NOT take over and run the meeting.

Members who are present may ask for a "Point of Parliamentary Procedure" if they feel that the President has incorrectly handled a matter or has not followed the Bylaws or Standing Rules. The Parliamentarian responds to such questions.

As you can see, the President, Parliamentarian, all of the officers and the members must communicate to make a meeting run smoothly.



According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, Kids Definition, the word *Unique* is defined as: Being one of its kind. Your units Standing Rules are exactly that; Unique to unit XYZ!

Constitution & Bylaws define your organization, while Standing Rules, simply put, goes into the details of your unit, this is what makes your unit *unique*.

My unit might meet 24 times in a calendar year, while yours may only meet 5 times a year, this is what makes units unique, while still working the ALA Mission

Here are just a few examples of items that can be listed or perhaps need to be listed in your unit's Standing Rules.

- Date/time/location/time of meetings in a calendar year, can meetings be held electronically as an alternative for an in-person meeting
- Membership dues for senior and junior members
- Donations: which ones are done each year
- When is an audit performed, and by whom
- Programs: do they have a budget or how does an event chair get a budget for an event
- Does the unit pay for further education/leadership/convention meetings for members? If so, what is the expectations of those attending the meeting, reporting back to the unit, etc.
- How do members get reimbursed?
- Elections, how often, when etc.
- Nominating committee, who appoints, when are the appointments made?

When you have more detailed explanations, members will have fewer questions. Remember Standing Rules can be changed with a majority vote at any regular meeting, unless it is stated otherwise in your bylaws.

Take the time to review your units' governing documents, they are vital to your unit, if they are reviewed on a yearly basis, the reviewing process is easier and less time-consuming.

On the last page of your Standing Rules document a simple statement should be added.

- See statement sample below
- List the date of the meeting the unit's Standing Rules were approved, and signatures of those who chaired the committee, such as the Constitution & Bylaws, or Standing Rules committee. The president's or the secretary's signature should also be included.

These Standing Rules may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at any regularly scheduled meeting, or if notice has been given, by a majority vote.

Date approved: _____ by Unit President: _____
(Date) (Name)

Unit Secretary: _____
(Name)

These Standing Rules were approved for filing on _____, by
(Date)

Standing Rules Department Chairman _____
(Name)

Revised, Approved and Accepted at Unit Meeting _____
(Date)

Unit President: _____ Unit Secretary: _____
(Name) (Name)



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

UNIT MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Unit Member of the Year recognizes those serving at the unit level who exemplify the values and ideals of the Auxiliary and whose accomplishments significantly impact the program work in their units. The Nomination form can be downloaded from the Department of Wisconsin website at amlegionauxwi.org/leadership and are due to the Leadership Chairman by **March 15, 2025**.

Requirements:

- Open to senior members in good standing who are not in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than unit president.
- Accomplishments and activities must be achieved during the 2024-2025 ALA Year. You may add other relevant information, as needed.
- Units must submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less describing the nominee's accomplishments and activities together with the nominee's name and address.

A Unit Member of the Year from each department will be recognized annually at the American Legion Auxiliary Department and National Conventions.

SALUTE TO SERVICEMEMBERS AWARD

Established in 2003, this award honors one enlisted servicemember (pay grade E1-E9) from each branch of service (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Space Force) as well as the National Guard/Reserve.

Requirements:

- The nominating person submits a narrative discussing the reason for the nomination.
 - <https://www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers-Award-Form>
- A picture of the servicemember (preferably official Department of Defense photograph),
- Endorsement from a member of their command group must be included.
- The nominating form, along with all supporting documentation, must be completed and submitted by **June 1, 2025, 5:00 PM EDT**.

The servicemember will be invited to speak to the general assembly of the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention as a guest of the American Legion Auxiliary. If operational requirements prevent the servicemember's attendance at National Convention then other arrangements for their presentation to the general assembly will be made.

LEADERSHIP

Teresa Isensee, Dept Chrm
tisensee2173@gmail.com

715-577-5259

Unit Member of the Year Award

NATIONAL SECURITY

Karen Runk Dept Chrm
kmrunk4@gmail.com

608-415-2001

Salute to Servicemembers Award



Department of Wisconsin

UNIT MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Unit Member of the Year recognizes those serving at the unit level who exemplify the values and ideals of the Auxiliary and whose accomplishments significantly impact the program work in their units.

A Unit Member of the Year from each department will be recognized annually at the American Legion Auxiliary Department and National Conventions.

Requirements:

1. Open to senior members in good standing who are not in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than unit president.
2. Accomplishments and activities must be achieved during the 2024-2025 ALA Year. You may add other relevant information, as needed.
3. Units must submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less describing the nominee's accomplishments and activities together with the nominee's name and address.

Nominating Department: Department of Wisconsin	
Department Leadership Chairman Name: Teresa Isensee Address: PO Box 145, Boyd WI 54726 Email: tisensee2173@gmail.com Telephone Number: 715-577-5259 (c)	
<u>Nominee Information</u>	
Name:	
Complete Mailing Address:	
Email:	
Ph#	
Nominee's Unit Name and Number:	
Form must be completed and submitted to Department Leadership Chairman, Teresa Isensee by March 15, 2025	Teresa Isensee PO Box 145 Boyd, WI 54726 715-667-3528 (h) ♦ 414-531-7890 (c) tisensee2173@gmail.com

Attach narrative of 1,000 words or less describing the nominee's 2024-2025 accomplishments and activities.



Christmas Gift Shop 2024

Planning for our annual Christmas Gift Shop begins in early September when the weather is warm and sunny, and no one is thinking much about a holiday three months away. But creating a memorable event for our veterans in long-term care facilities does take some time. Facilities need to be contacted, gifts selected, orders received, gifts wrapped! Sounds pretty simple, but in truth, there is a little more to it!

Selecting gifts for family members of all ages can be a challenge. Browsing Amazon is always fun, but when we are on a mission to find the perfect gifts for family members of all ages, and stay on budget, it becomes a bit of a challenge. We try to find unique and interesting items, as well as some practical ones. Once the gifts are chosen, a colorful catalog is created for the veterans to select their gifts.

This year, for the first time, we were able to expand our program. Through the generosity of our members, we were able to reach out to two additional care facilities, the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King and the Dayton Care Center in Kenosha, to provide those veterans with the opportunity to select gifts for their families. In addition, we continued to provide the program to the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove and four different areas at the Zablocki VAMC in Milwaukee.

Then it was time to collect the orders. As we visited with the veterans when we helped them select their gifts, we could tell by the smiles on their faces that this program means so much to them. Some veterans told us about their loved ones, while others were just happy to have someone visit them for a little while. Without a doubt, the program made a difference for these veterans and their families. When the ordering was complete at all four of the veteran care facilities, we had gift requests from **265** veterans. This was more than double the number of veterans we reached in the past!

Wrapping day was another great adventure! Members from near and far came together on a rather chilly Sunday morning to wrap the **834** gifts that would make their way to the families of our veterans in long-term care facilities. Brookfield Unit 449 graciously hosted the event again. Gifts were wrapped with great care and in record time! Packages were labeled and the Brookfield Post Office picked them up that very day!



Each year for Christmas Gift Shop is a new and exciting experience! This year was certainly no exception! We know that no matter how much time and effort goes into the program, the amount of joy that it brings to our veterans and their families is well worth it. This year our Christmas Gift Shop program, once again, was very successful. The important thing to note is that without your generous donations none of this would be possible. Thank you for supporting this great program!

Diana Sirovina
dsirovina@icloud.com
414-881-9581



Linda Bartell
bartell@gmail.com
414-427-0238

Red Book Corrections

- Pg. 8 Add Natalia Genovesi-King as PR Committee mbr– 414-839-0454 / kinggenovesi@gmail.com
Remove Zondra Morris
- Pg. 9 Add Donna Smith as Winnebago County President. Remove Sandy Hinkle
- Pg. 9 Add Cheryl Kruschke as Sheboygan County President
*4213 Moening Rd., Sheboygan WI 53081. 303-621-4752 • crkruschke@aol.com
- Pg. 9 Add Karen Abler as Fond du Lac County President
Email: karen.abler50@gmail.com / 414-313-1435
- 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. 10 Add Denise Belongia as King WVH 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 12/17/2025

DATES & DEADLINES

Last updated 2/3/2025

(subject to change)

2025		
Apr 4–6, 2025	Junior Spring Conference	Camp American Legion, Lake Tomahawk, WI
Apr 11 & 12, 2025	WALASBA Tournament	Fitchburg, WI – hosted by Unit 385
Apr 19, 2025	7 th District Spring Conferenc	American Legion Post #201, Tomah, WI
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	American Legion Post #70, Oshkosh, WI
Apr 26, 2025	8 th District Spring Conference	World War II Building, Wautoma, WI
Apr 26, 2025	10 th District Spring Conference	Prescott Food Pantry, Prescott WI
Apr 26, 2025	11 th District Spring Conference	Fifield Fire Station, Fifield, WI
May 3, 2025	9 th District Spring Conference	Colonial House Supper Club, Kaukauna, WI
May 3, 2025	12 th District Spring Conference	Sheldon Community Center, Sheldon, WI
May 10, 2025	4 th & 5 th Joint District Spring Conference	American Legion Post #434, Oak Creek, WI
May 31, 2025	Orientation for 2025–2026 District Presidents and Department Chairmen	Department HQ, Portage, WI
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 17–20, 2025	Legion Family Department Convention	Green Bay, WI
Aug 23–28, 2025	Legion Family National Convention	Tampa Bay, FL
Sep 27, 2025	Legion Family Celebration of Freedom	Golf Outing/Car Show, Portage, WI
2026		
July 16–19, 2026	Legion Family Department Convention	Appleton, WI
Aug 28–Sep 3, 2026	Legion Family National Convention	Louisville, KY