



10TH DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER JUNE 2024



DISTRICT 10 AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I can honestly say, this spring has been very busy for me. I continue to visit units, counties and add in all my family activities. It is great to be able to meet new members and participate in events. Thanks to all units that sent in the Impact Reports and Narratives Reports.

A big shout-out to the Plum City Post/Unit for hosting the Spring Conference. The room set-up and decorations were great! Small towns can do big things and they proved it!! Thanks to all who attended and participated to make the Conference a success!

Conference Highlights:

- 51 Auxiliary Members attended
- 2 Guests
- 16 Auxiliary members were First time attendees
- Department President Maggie Geiger attended and shared words of encouragement.
- Constituent Services Rep. Michael Hanke attended and shared valuable information for veterans' spouses.
- Units brought donations for the VA Facilities – much appreciated
- Donations to the following:
 - \$500 - Chippewa Falls Vets Home for patriotic décor
 - \$500 - Dogs To Dog Tags
 - \$500 - St Croix Habitat Build for a Veteran in River Falls
 - \$100 – Child Welfare Foundation

10th District Red, White and Blue Awards presented at Lunch:



Red Award - Eau Claire Unit #53
Service to veterans/public relations



White Award – Fall Creek Unit #376
Community Service Projects



Blue Award – Cadott Unit #159
Various Memorial Services participation

I appreciate the District staff, Program chairmen, Representatives of the VA Facilities, and County Presidents for your reports and hard work throughout the year!

Mary Townsend – 10th District President



BE THE ONE



10TH DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER JUNE 2024



CUMBERLAND UNIT 98 HAS GONE TO THE DOGS!!

Believvet Canine Service Partners recently visited at a Post/Unit meeting. Believvet provides custom-trained service dogs to disabled veterans helping them lead more independent lives.

Pictured left to right Scott Listberger and dog Ali from Believvet, center Pam Mysicka Unit 98 President and Chris Wetzel Unit 98 member, with her dog Maggie. Chris is fostering Maggie for Believvet, doing some basic training.



CHIPPEWA FALLS VETERANS HOME

The Chippewa Falls Vets Home recreation committee luncheon. From left to right, Sue Hembrook Department 1st Vice President, Nancy Randen CFVH Representative, and Department President Maggie Geiger.



HIGHLIGHT OUR HEROES

Larry Larson – Past 10th District Legion Commander & current Legion Commander of Post 121 River Falls. Larry was born and raised in Baldwin. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1973 right out of High school. He was a recruiter, left recruiting and went overseas to Germany. He retired in 1990 (medical) then went to work for the Post Office. Now retired from the Post Office, he is very active in the American Legion Family, and his community. He is a facilitator for the Wisconsin Legion College and is a great mentor to other Legion officers and members. Larry states that “we have a lot of veterans who are struggling, especially younger veterans. The Gulf War vets are struggling with PTSD, and they need our help. The combat veterans have a tough time adjusting to civilian life. The American Legion provides a comradeship to stay connected”.

Thank you, Larry, for being a mentor and looking after your fellow veterans! We salute Larry!

** If you want to “Highlight a Hero” from your Post, email me their profile! getmet77@hotmail.com

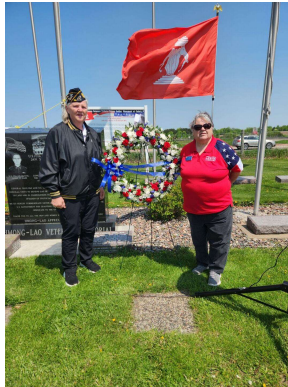


10TH DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER JUNE 2024



HMONG/LAO VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

The Wisconsin Hmong/Lao Veterans Day Ceremony was held on May 14th in Cadott. Left to right Kathy Vandermolen Cadott Legion and Auxiliary member and District President Mary Townsend.



DEPARTMENT CONVENTION DISTRICT PHOTO PROJECT AND CONVENTION INFORMATION

State Conference Photo Project

Department President Maggie Geiger has asked all districts to bring a trifold board to State Convention. They will be on display to show what activities/events were done in each district. Please send me pictures!! List of ideas:

- Holiday events
- Quilts of Valor
- Poppy Drive
- Parades/Community event
- Award presentations

I can not guarantee I will use every photo! **Deadline by June 25th**
Text to (715) 931-9236

Attached with newsletter you will find the Department Convention Registration, Hotel information, and tentative schedule.

AEF – DONATIONS

With the recent spring storms please consider donating to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. This is a national grant assistance program that provides temporary emergency help to eligible members of the Auxiliary and have suffered a setback because of an act of nature or personal crisis. You can find this on the General Fund Donation sheet download from Department of Wisconsin.

When you donate \$100 using the Department General Fund Donation Sheet you receive a beautiful Members Helping Members gold pin.





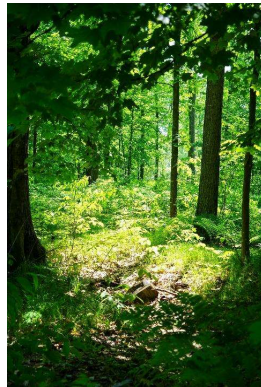
10TH DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER JUNE 2024



CAMP VICTORY

I would like to talk about a place that I have found that has become my “me” place. I started going to Camp Victory about a year ago. I went out to take pictures and see what it was all about. Camp Victory is a place where veterans can go for archery hunts for deer and turkey, retreats for service organizations for veteran’s issues. Well, for me, someone who is not a hunter (I can’t sit till that long), I fell in love with the pure beauty of the place. It has become a place for me to go and ground myself when I need to spend some time with nature and just get out and walk around. They have 4 miles of groomed trails and are working on more. I have enjoyed going out and participating in some of the events that they have had like the photography weekend, tapping of maple trees and processing of the syrup (they sale the syrup that is made), the open house and one my trips was a day trip for veterans from Kline Hall. In so many ways it is a place of peace for anyone that comes out. I have been enjoying going out and taking pictures of things I find on the trails. Some of it is just looking around and finding something that is different and taking a picture. I loved watching the seasons change as I went on my adventures at the camp. I would love to invite all of you out to the camp and look around to see what they are all about. Many new things are in the works for the camp with hunting and fishing but also with the sustainment of the plants that are grown at camp. It is hard for me to put into words what I have received in the volunteer work I have done there and watching it grow into something more. I would love for you to look for yourself. You can see what Camp Victory is at their Facebook page at Camp Victory and Camp Victory, Inc. or their website at <https://campvictoryinc.org/> I have included a few pictures from my adventures over the last year.

Chrys Porter





10TH DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER JUNE 2024



CAMP AMERICAN LEGION DONATION AUXILIARY DONATION

Camp American Legion has been blessed to have such a great Legion Family. The Wisconsin Auxiliary has always been there to support camp in all of our efforts to serve our Veterans. The most recent example of this, is the donation of a new John Deere riding lawn mower, a utility trailer, and a new Kawasaki Mule to Camp. This is a wonderful donation and replaces some of our old outdated equipment



10th DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

The membership report contains both wonderful news and some less than stellar news. My report and awards are based upon the report which was sent to me on May 28th. I know that some of you have renewed and or recruited new members since that date, and that is wonderful—keep signing up those members, so Balto can move up in the pack! As of May 28th, Balto and the Tenth District are still trudging along in 10th Place. We are now 367 members short of our goal this year. Let's see if we can propel Balto to the front of the pack by Flag Day, and help mush him to victory!

I want to recognize the following units for achieving or exceeding their membership goals: Eleva leads the way, with 132.14% WOW! Cornell jumped into 2nd place, at 109.09%. Independence, Osseo, River Falls and Brackett have also met, or exceeded their membership goals. Congratulations to all of you! Also, congratulations to Independence on winning one of the \$100 Poppy Day awards! I will also mention the following, who are within striking distance of their goals: Spring Valley, Somerset, Glenwood City, each needing 3 or less members to attain their goal. There are a number of you who are less than 10 away from 100%! Trempealeau County is 9 away from being a 100% County—great job! Membership Article is attached.

For God and Country,

Teresa Steinke, Membership Chair, Tenth District, Department of WI

UP COMING EVENTS

June 9-15, 2024	Badger Boys State – UW Eau Claire
June 16-24, 2024	Badger Girls State – UW Oshkosh
July 10-14, 2024	Department Convention – Appleton, WI
August 23-29, 2024	National Convention – New Orleans Louisiana
September 14, 2024	ALA in the Know – Cumberland – Post #98
September 21, 2024	10 th District DEC and Fall Conference in Chetek
September 28, 2024	ALA in the Know – Gillette – St John’s Lutheran Church
October 5, 2024	ALA in the Know – Greendale – Post #416

Next Newsletter will be August 2024 – Deadline for articles and pictures will be July 29, 2024.

To submit articles and events for the 10th District Family Newsletter send to: Teresa Isensee tisensee2173@gmail.com

Are you relying on only your Membership Chair to work on membership in your Auxiliary? Membership should be a team effort! There are several things that YOU can do to help your auxiliary reach their membership goal every year. Make a list of unpaid members who have not paid for the past two years — and contact each person, preferably in person, or by phone if you cannot visit with them in person. After chatting with them for a few minutes, bring the conversation to the topic of the American Legion Auxiliary. Talk about the reasons YOU are a member, and the benefits of membership—then ask them to join you in the important mission of the American Legion Auxiliary! You could also put up ALA posters in various public places. The posters should include membership eligibility criteria, a local contact name and phone number or email.

Do you have a city celebration? How about your County Fair or Dairy Breakfast? Perhaps even a City wide thrift sale—any time you will have a large group of people gathering in your town. Ask permission to set up a Membership Table. Keep it simple, but eye catching at the same time. Use materials from the Department to recruit potential members. Have a good supply of “Why You Should Belong”, which explains the 4 Pillars, to inspire the Veterans! To catch the eye of the children, have several “Symbols of America Activity Books”, as well as American Legion Family Membership brochures, so you can recruit the entire family!

Have a Membership Picnic in August. Try to renew and recruit members at this picnic. Remember, today's younger Veterans are still raising their children, and they are looking for ways the whole family can spend time together! Be creative. Find ways to make these events enjoyable. You might be pleasantly surprised by the results when you add a little fun. Signing up new members is a must for the entire American Legion family. It's a wise idea for Legionnaires, Sons, and Auxiliary members to recruit for one another. There is strength in numbers, and this can be an opportunity to involve everyone in the Legion family! Growing the Legion Family will continue to be a priority in the years ahead. The good news is that recruiting for the entire Legion Family is not as difficult as you may think!