



# 8<sup>th</sup> District Newsletter



## President's Message

Hello Everyone!

Congratulations to Mosinee, Wild Rose and Vesper for being a 100% Unit for 2025! Tigerton only needs 1 more renewal and Caroline and Wisconsin Rapids only needs 2 renewals for 100%. Keep up the good work everyone! Officers make sure you get your memberships in.

I am looking for members for a nomination committee to put together a suggested slate of officers for the election that will be taking place at the Spring Conference. I have one committee member from the Wausau Unit, but need at least two more committee members from other parts of the District. If you are interested or would like more information on what's expected, please reach out to me.

Spring Conference will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup> in Wautoma and is being sponsored by the Waushara County Units - Wautoma, Wild Rose and Hancock-Coloma. Registration form is included with this newsletter. More information on the tickets for the raffle drawing will be included in an upcoming newsletter. Names of members that have passed since the last Spring Conference should be sent to the District Chaplain - Ruth Henkelman ([rrrhenk35@gmail.com](mailto:rrrhenk35@gmail.com)). Unit History Books will be judged at the conference. Please bring your completed books along to the district conference. The coversheet and rules will be included in a future newsletter.

There are several college scholarships available through Auxiliary at both the Department and National levels. The deadline for National scholarship applications is March 1st, 2025 and the deadline for the Department scholarship applications is March 15th. Please read more about the scholarship opportunities on the department website (<https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/scholarships>).

Please share this information with your members so they can pass it along to their family members and family members of veterans.

## 8<sup>th</sup> District Officers

President: Linda Tryczak  
[tryczak.l@gmail.com](mailto:tryczak.l@gmail.com)  
Cellphone: (715) 212-7515  
Home Phone: (715) 848-2686

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Fran Bender

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Lorrie Barber

Secretary: Amanda Szalewski

Treasurer: Sarah Stiff

Chaplain: Ruth Henkelman

Historian: Penny Peeters

Parliamentarian: Diane Kranig

**Mark your Calendars!!**

**District Spring Conference**  
**April 26<sup>th</sup>**

**World War II Building**  
**Wautoma**

Year-end reporting is coming up. Members need to submit their year end reports to their Unit president by April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Unit Impact Report should be sent to me by April 15<sup>th</sup>. You can either email me a copy of the report or mail it to me directly – 807 S 9<sup>th</sup> Ave, Wausau WI 54401. All program narrative reports should be sent to Department Headquarters by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

A reminder to all Units, if any Unit has any upcoming events that they would like included in this newsletter, please let me know!

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me either by phone or email. Thank you for all you do!

Linda Tryczak

## 5 Ways to Keep your Members

1. Give rebate vouchers for early renewals. Instead of giving a discount for early renewals, try giving a rebate. When you ask your members to pay the full amount at renewal time, tell them that the unit will send them a rebate voucher as a reward if they renew early. The voucher would have a monetary value or be on the form of a certificate good for a certain amount of credit when the member participates in a unit function or social activity.
2. Send a checklist entitled “What’s your reason for not renewing?” Send a survey that lists the most common reasons for dropping out to those people who have recently dropped their memberships and ask them to check off the reasons that apply to them. Be prepared to follow up and address each of the reasons. While a written form is not as effective as actually talking to these members, it does give the unit one more chance to reinforce the value of membership and to personalize the next contact.
3. Have the President send a pre-renewal letter on his/her letterhead a few weeks BEFORE the renewal is sent. Tell of the great year you had, and how they are looking forward to working with the member again next year. This usually done to remind members of all of the value they received during the past year and to tell them what they can expect in the future. By sending the report or letter prior to the renewal notice, you alert members that the renewal is coming and raise their anticipation level and their need to respond. This usually raises the number of early renewals. Having the letter on your unit stationery adds to the credibility of the message and increases the chances it will be opened promptly.
4. Have a retention committee – give it goals! There is a need for member involvement in the recruiting process and there should also be member involvement in the retention process. Your unit should have either a separate retention committee or a retention subcommittee of your membership committee. The retention committee needs to have goals and a plan of action with very definite steps that can be taken to raise the unit’s retention rate. The retention committee should be assigned to develop these steps and undertake them.
5. List names of non-renewals at leadership meetings. Have a “10 Most Wanted Renewals” list. Select 10 non-renewed members for each meeting and assign members at that meeting to contact those lapsed members. This shows your lapsed members that the unit still cares about them and it draws your current members into the membership retention process.

## Unit Updates – Wittenberg Unit 502

Wittenberg American Legion Post 502 and the Auxiliary celebrated the holidays with a dinner catered by Lisa's Lakeside in December 2024. We also celebrated Mary Beversdorf 25 plus years as Auxiliary President. Dawn Kyhos, newly elected President honored Mary with a blanket with her name and auxiliary logo for her many years of service. Mary served above and beyond her duty. She will remain an active member of the organization.



### Program Chairman

Legislative: Kay Grosskopf

Juniors: OPEN

VA&R: OPEN

Americanism: Betty Blume

Membership: Fran Bender

Children & Youth: OPEN

Poppy: Sarah Stiff

Fundraising: Betty Blume

Please let me know if interested in any of these open positions.

### Attachments

Poppy Program Newsletter Blurb  
Poppy Poster Coversheet  
Poppy Poster Contest Rules  
Spring Conference Registration Form  
Member Impact Report  
Unit Impact Report

### Upcoming Events / Dates

Spring Conference – April 26<sup>th</sup> in Wautoma

## 2025 Poppy Poster Submission Directions

You may have noticed a change in the Poppy Poster Submission requirements last year that caused a little confusion.

Here are the current contest procedures.

There is NO DISTRICT CONTEST. **ONE** Unit Winner for each class your unit has entries should be submitted directly to the Department Chair, Deanna Farley.

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION TO DEPARTMENT IS MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

Please refer to the Poppy poster contest rules found on Nationals website

[Poppy Poster Contest Rules.pdf](#)

[Poppy Program](#) (cover sheet can be found here)

And you must utilize the cover sheet for every entry. If your unit winner has been found not to follow the guidelines of the National contest, it will not be considered at the Department level.

I will be serving as the District 8 Poppy Chair for the remainder of this term. If you have any questions about the poster contest, feel free to reach out to me, or contact Deanna Farley, Department Poppy Chair.

Sarah Stiff, District 8 Poppy Chair.



## POPPY POSTER CONTEST COVER SHEET

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors a Poppy Poster Contest for students in grades 2-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into seven classes. One award in each of the seven classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund. National winners will be posted at [www.ALforVeterans.org](http://www.ALforVeterans.org) after national convention.

### Poster Classes:

Class	Grade Level
I	2 and 3
II	4 and 5
III	6 and 7
IV	8 and 9
V	10 and 11
VI	12
VII	Students with special needs

### IMPORTANT:

On the back of each winning Poppy Poster submitted to Department, print legibly **IN INK** the class in which the entry is submitted; the name, address, age and grade of the contestant and "Department of Wisconsin."

Class competing in: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring ALA unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Due date for student to return to ALA unit: \_\_\_\_\_

### ➤ To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

City/State of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Signature of Unit Poppy Chairman/President: \_\_\_\_\_

**Unit Winner due to Department on March 15, 2025**

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

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

Department winner due to National Americanism Division Chairman by June 1, 2025

## **Poppy Poster Contest Rules**

Units shall sponsor contests in local schools. When schools do not conduct activities, other youth groups — including Junior members — may participate under direct supervision of the unit.

### **Contest Classes**

- Class I: Grades 2 and 3
- Class II: Grades 4 and 5
- Class III: Grades 6 and 7
- Class IV: Grades 8 and 9
- Class V: Grades 10 and 11
- Class VI: Grade 12
- Class VII: Students with special needs defined as:
  - a. Those in special education classes.
  - b. A student recommended for special education classes but who has not been admitted due to a waiting list or various other factors.
  - c. A child identified as having a disability, but not in a special education class due to lack of facilities; identification contingent upon discretion of school officials.

### **Poppy Poster Requirements**

1. Each poster shall have a fitting slogan not to exceed 10 words. Articles “a”, “and,” “an”, “the” are not to be counted as words. The words “buddy” and “buy” cannot be used.
2. The words “American Legion Auxiliary” must be used in the design of the poster and will not be counted in the 10-word count.
3. Each poster must include a red poppy.
4. The department shall determine the closing date of the unit contest. The poster shall be on 11x14” poster board. (Drawing paper will not be accepted).
5. The United States flag may be used as long as there are no infractions of the flag code.
6. Posters will be judged using the following criteria:
  - 50% - poster appeal (layout, message, originality)
  - 40% - artistic ability (design and color)
  - 10% - neatness
7. Media used shall be watercolors, crayons, powder or oil paint, handmade paper cutouts, ink or textures, acrylics, pencils, and markers.
8. Written in ink on the back of the poster (not attached) shall be the class in which the entry is submitted, the name, address, age, and grade of the contestant and the name of the department.
9. Submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary. Through submission of artwork, contestants and their legal guardians grant non-exclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted and agree to have their names and artwork published for commercial use without additional compensation or permission.

10. The poster shall be the work of only one individual.
11. The label "In Memoriam" from the veteran-made poppy may not be used.

### **Poppy Poster Contest Judging and Awards**

1. Each department shall establish its own procedure for judging.
2. A citation will be given for the most outstanding poster in each classification within the five divisions.
3. Unit members should follow deadlines and process for the department. All department entries are due to the division chairman by June 1.
4. While ALA representatives will do their best to return all posters, it is not guaranteed. We recommend participants take a picture or scan their poster for their records.
5. Submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary. Through submission of artwork, contestants and their legal guardians grant nonexclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted and agree to have their names and artwork published for commercial use without additional compensation or permission.



**8<sup>th</sup> District American Legion Auxiliary  
Spring Conference  
Registration**

**Saturday April 26, 2025**

WWII Building  
440 W Main Street  
Wautoma, WI 54982

Registration will be from 8:00 – 9:00. Light Breakfast will be served.

Conference will begin at 9:15 am with lunch being served at noon.

Conference will re-convene following lunch.

Cost: \$20.00 (\$3.00 Registration/ \$17.00 Lunch)

**Registration should be returned by April 12<sup>th</sup>**

Return this portion -----

Checks should be made payable to ALA Unit 317

Number of people registered \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ from Unit# \_\_\_\_\_

List names below:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Mail to:  
Katherine Miller  
W5087 Blackhawk Road  
Wild Rose WI 54984



## 2024-2025

# MEMBER YEAR-END IMPACT NUMBERS REPORT

(This tool can be used by members to assist the Unit President in completing the Unit Year-End Impact Report. Information can be transferred from the Member Tracking Worksheet, per the line numbers referenced below.)

**MEMBERS SHOULD SEND COMPLETED REPORT TO UNIT PRESIDENT NO LATER THAN APRIL 1, 2025.**

I am a member of Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_ Department: Wisconsin

My name \_\_\_\_\_

Here is what I did in the 12 months from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

1. **My ALA Service for Veterans/Active-Duty/Reserve Military** (Examples: shopping for and preparing care packages for deployed troops, helping wounded warriors or elderly veterans at home, providing transportation, military send-off and welcome-home events, parades, projects for homeless veterans, activities related to distributing poppies, recording veteran histories, raising money for the Veterans Creative Arts Festival, fundraising events that benefit veterans (such as Walk, Run & Roll), assisting with veterans hiring fairs, advocating for The American Legion legislative agenda that supports veterans and the military)

Line 1 Hours I volunteered: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2 Dollars I personally spent/donated: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Line 3 Number of veterans / military I assisted: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 4 Number of "Veterans in Community Schools" presentations I facilitated: \_\_\_\_\_

2. **My ALA Service for Military Families:** (Examples: *programs for military and veterans' children*, helping Family Support Groups, supporting adopt-a-military-family projects, military spouse hiring fairs, organizing and delivering hero packs, providing child care for military activities, distributing Blue Star Banners)

Line 5 Hours I volunteered: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 6 Dollars I personally spent/donated: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Line 7 Number of military families I served: \_\_\_\_\_

3. **My ALA Service for Youth** (Examples: Junior Activities, classroom and patriotic activities for children, camps open to all children, raising funds for or promoting Legion Family activities like ALA Badger Girls State)

Line 8 Hours I volunteered for ALA Badger Girls State: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 9 Hours I volunteered for all other Legion Family youth activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 10 Dollars I personally spent on goods for youth activities (parties, backpacks): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Line 11 My direct cash aid to help a needy child: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Line 12 Number of children / youths I served: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 13 Dollars I donated to all other child service charities (ex: Make a Wish, St. Jude's): \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Do not include donations to American Legion funds – these are reported by the Legion)

4. **My Service Representing the ALA in My Community** (Examples: blood drives, walks/runs, food pantries)

Line 14 Total number of hours for any service not included in Sections 1 through 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 15 Total dollars spent for any service not included in Sections 1 through 3: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

5. **Mileage**

Line 16 Miles driven in providing my above ALA service (**not** for attending regular meetings): \_\_\_\_\_

**CONGRATULATIONS--YOU DID IT! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO  
AND FOR REPORTING YOUR SERVICE!**

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin  
**2024-2025**  
**UNIT YEAR-END IMPACT NUMBERS REPORT**

**UNIT PRESIDENTS SHOULD SEND COMPLETED REPORT TO DISTRICT PRESIDENT BY APRIL 15, 2025.**

Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_ # of Members that Reported: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Unit President \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name (if other than president) \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Here is what our unit did in the 12 months from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025:**

**1. Our ALA Service for Veterans/Active-Duty/Reserve Military**

	<b>Service for Veterans/Military</b>	<b>Obtain Total From</b>	<b>Member</b> +	<b>Unit</b> =	<b>Total</b>
Line 1	Total hours members volunteered	Member Form Line 1		N/A	
Line 2	Total dollars spent	Member Form Line 2	\$	\$	\$
Line 3	Total # of veterans/military assisted	Member Form Line 3			
Line 4	Total # of "Veterans in Community Schools" presentations facilitated	Member Form Line 4			
Line 5	Value of in-kind donations received*	<b>Unit Records</b>	N/A	\$	\$
Line 6	# of poppies or poppy items distributed	<b>Unit Records</b>	N/A		
Line 7	Dollars raised from poppies	<b>Unit Records</b>	N/A	\$	\$

\*Estimated cash value of non-cash donations from **NON-MEMBERS** of goods (like paper goods, clothing) or services (like pro-bono CPA services from a local firm)

**2. Our ALA Service for Military Families**

	<b>Service for Military Families</b>	<b>Obtain Total From</b>	<b>Member</b> +	<b>Unit</b> =	<b>Total</b>
Line 8	Total hours members volunteered	Member Form Line 5		N/A	
Line 9	Total dollars spent	Member Form Line 6	\$	\$	\$
Line 10	Number of military families served	Member Form Line 7			

**3. Our ALA Service for Youth**

	<b>Service for Children &amp; Youth</b>	<b>Obtain Total From</b>	<b>Member</b> +	<b>Unit</b> =	<b>Total</b>
Line 11	Total hours for ALA Badger Girls State	Member Form Line 8		N/A	
Line 12	Dollars spent for ALA Badger Girls State	<b>Unit Records</b>	N/A	\$	\$
Line 13	Total hours for other Legion Family youth activities	Member Form Line 9		N/A	
Line 14	Dollars spent on goods for youth activities	Member Form Line 10	\$	\$	\$
Line 15	Dollar amount of direct cash aid to help a needy child	Member Form Line 11	\$	\$	\$
Line 16	All other <b>UNIT</b> expenses (parties, dinners, paper goods, trophies)	<b>Unit Records</b>	N/A	\$	\$
Line 17	Total number of children / youths served	Member Form Line 12			
Line 18	Donations to all other child service charities	Member Form Line 13	\$	\$	\$

**4. Our Service Representing the ALA in Our Community**

	For any service not included in Sections 1-3	Obtain Total From	Member +	Unit =	Total
Line 19	Total number of hours	Member Form Line 14		N/A	
Line 20	Total dollars spent	Member Form Line 15	\$	\$	\$

**5. Mileage**

		Obtain Total From	Total
Line 21	Total miles driven in providing ALA service (do not count mileage to attend regular meetings)	Member Form Line 16	

**6. Scholarships Presented/Awarded by Our Unit**

	Scholarships	Obtain from	Total
Line 22	Number of unit scholarships presented/awarded	Unit Records	
Line 23	Total dollar amount of unit scholarships	Unit Records	\$
Line 24	Total dollar amount donated to department scholarships	Unit Records	\$

**CONGRATULATIONS---YOU DID IT! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO AND FOR REPORTING YOUR UNIT'S IMPACT!**