



WISCONSIN

American Legion Auxiliary
P.O. Box 140
Portage, WI 53901

alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

The official publication of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

www.amlegionauxwi.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



CHAR KIESLING
Department
President

It has been very enjoyable joining in on The American Legion's (TAL) 100th Birthday Celebrations with Department Commander Frank Kostka. Wherever we went we were made to feel welcome and very special guests. Commander Frank talked about TAL history and I did, too, but from a different aspect. I would like to share it with you...

America's largest veterans service organization, The American Legion, is celebrating its 100th year of advocating on behalf of veterans and affecting change throughout America, a remarkable century of service! TAL was formed after WWI in March 1919 in Paris, France. It was then that they held their first caucus under the name of the "American Expeditionary Force." Two months later another caucus was held in St. Louis, Missouri, where the name "The American Legion" was officially adopted. The preamble and the constitution of the organization were approved and on September 16, 1919 the Congress of the United States chartered The American Legion.

As part of TAL Family, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) is proud to support TAL and commemorate their Centennial. Shortly after TAL was

formed, several existing women's organizations wanted to become the official affiliate of TAL. A Legion committee decided to create a new organization made up of the women most closely associated with the men of the Legion. During TAL's 1st Convention, November 10, 1919, members and officials "birthed" a women's auxiliary.

TAL delegates debated on who should be included in the group. At the 2nd Legion convention in September 1920, the delegates sanctioned the Women's Auxiliary. The Legion Committee on the Women's Auxiliary presented some recommendations to the Legion, one being that the women decide upon their own name. The women did just that! At the Auxiliary's first convention in 1921, omitting the word, "women's" thus becoming the AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY!

From the very beginning, the main goal of both organizations has been to aid veterans, military, and their families. The ALA is composed of the grandmothers, mothers, wives, sisters, and direct descendants of nearly 4 million veterans of our wars and conflicts and the current war on terrorism. Many Legion members are also Auxiliary members making their mark in both organizations, such as dual member, PNC Denise Rohan.

TAL should be proud of what the ALA has accomplished in

almost 100 years since its inception. In 2018, the ALA gave out 4,000 scholarships, \$18M was raised and spent on the ALA Girls State program, over \$82M was raised and spent to benefit children, and 5.5M poppies were distributed with nearly \$4.4M raised to benefit over 3M Veterans. 356,000 military families were assisted and \$189M was spent on community service projects alone! The ALA also advocates for veterans' rights, including the GI Bill and the US Department of Veterans Affairs benefits. The ending of homeless men and woman veterans is one of the ALA's priorities, where right here in Wisconsin, THE HOMELESS WOMEN VETERAN'S GRANT was established under PDP Florence Wasley.

Oh, the ALA can still be seen baking pies and cookies at bake sales, serving dinners and pancake breakfasts to our many veterans, as well as sending care packages to deployed troops and writing notes to wounded veterans in our VA hospitals. Our membership makes a difference! DO YOU AGREE? That means that you continue to nurture us and our mission for generations to come. Today there are 2M veterans in over 12,000 posts worldwide. The ALA, with the TAL's help, should have many times more members. Remember you "birthed" us. We need TAL again to help us, to help you, to continue our legacies.

MEMBERSHIP

Diane Weggen, Dept. Chairman
Email: dsweggen@gmail.com
Ph: 715-644-2668

April is Children and Youth month – a perfect time to add junior members to units across districts. TAL, SAL, and ALRA can assist by recommending eligible sisters, daughters, granddaughters and great granddaughters for membership. Step-children are eligible, too. Junior membership dues range from \$5.25 to \$6.00 for a year of opportunities to gain knowledge about veterans and to participate in patriotic activities.

The Countdown to Poppy Day Challenge began on April 1. Which unit, which county, and which district can Recruit, Renew, and Rejoin the most Juniors between April 1 and Poppy Day, May 24, 2019? Members wishing to renew via credit card and no paperwork should call 317-569-4500, Monday-Friday, 7:00 am – 3:30 pm. Just tell the national staff member taking the call that you are from the Department of Wisconsin, your unit number and name. The member-counters will be counting!

Remember when recruiting to submit a F.L.A.M.E entry for EVERY NEW 2019 member (Junior or Senior) recruited. TAL, SAL, and ALRA members are also eligible to submit F.L.A.M.E entries. Twelve \$50 winners will be picked at random. Entry forms must be received at Department no later than May 31, 2019. With increased membership, the F.L.A.M.E. will blaze in Wisconsin and the goals of "Serving our Heroes" will be reached.

One of the best ways to build membership is to make the community aware of unit and American Legion Family activities and

accomplishments. People like to be a part of something good. If it's difficult to get articles into the newspaper, write letters to the editor for the editorial page.

Annual Impact Reports are due this month. After compiling the number of hours volunteered and dollars spent for veterans, military, families and the community, share this information with members and the public. Most members really have no idea of all that is done to benefit veterans, children and youth and the community by their unit and post.

Write an article for the newspaper using Impact Report numbers, showing what has been done during the past year and include Poppy Day information. If the article is not printed, write a letter to the editor with that information. What better way, other than involving them in some of the activities or events, to show the public what is being done for their benefit!

When speaking about growing the Auxiliary and making change, President Char says, "We need to engage future generations, such as our Juniors, American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State alumni and younger members. FUN is certainly part of the equation. Our biggest change needs to be our ATTITUDE! If we can make our organization become more attractive, engaging, and fun, we will grow and most importantly... we will be "KINDLING THE FLAME" for our VETERANS, MILITARY, AND THEIR FAMILIES!"

2019 MEMBERSHIP TEAM

Chairman Diane Weggen
Virginia Kodl, Linda Kostka
Kallee LeCloux, Junior Member;
Andrea Stoltz, Headquarters Staff

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPT. OF WISCONSIN ALA IN THE KNOW CONFERENCE

All members are encouraged to attend a 2019 ALA In The Know Conference. Cost is \$25.00 per person. Fee includes continental breakfast, light lunch, and program materials. Sessions will include information on a variety of topics and Auxiliary programs. Registration form is posted on the department website, www.amlegionauxwi.org.



CONFERENCE DATES

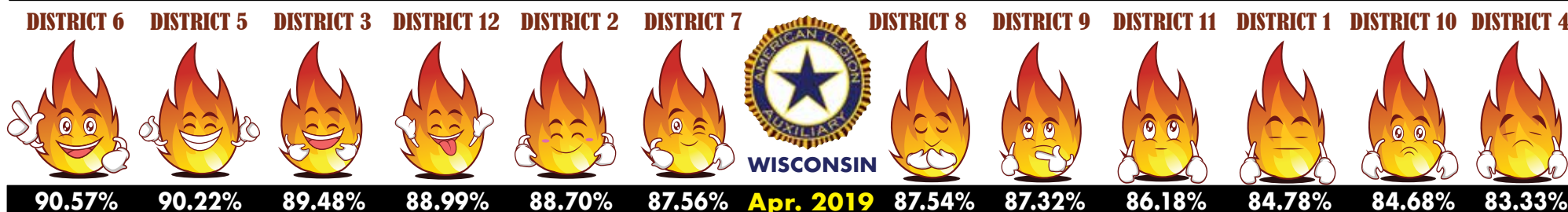
- 09/28/19: American Legion Post #70, Oshkosh
- 09/28/19: American Legion Post #121, River Falls
- 10/05/19: The Woods Dining & Spirits, Crivitz
- 10/05/19: American Legion Post #288, Cedarburg
- 10/12/19: American Legion Post #209, Orfordville
- 10/12/19: Cambria Fire Department Hall, Cambria

MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION

CONGRATULATIONS to 8th District for starting up a new unit: MANAWA #226 in Waupaca County!

CONGRATULATIONS to the three counties (Adams, Douglas, and Waushara) and the 62 units that reached or exceeded 100%! We have 26 units within one member of reaching 100%, and 89 units within three members of reaching 100%. Let's ignite those flames and make 100% happen!

KINDLE THE FLAME



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Becky Mueller
Department Chaplain
Email: clarenceandbecky@aol.com
Ph: 920-833-6048

Num. 9:2 "Let the children of Israel keep the Passover at its appointed time."

Matt. 28:5 "He is not here; for He is risen."

Matt. 27:3-5 "Then Judas was remorseful... saying I have sinned...departed and went and hanged himself."

Happy Easter and Happy Passover! This season is celebrated in Christian and Jewish faiths to remember the power of God over darkness and evil. The Jewish nation was set free from Pharaoh and slavery. Christians were set free from sin and punishment. This is a time for rejoicing. We have special food, clothing, songs and traditions.

Unfortunately, like Judas, many can't or don't join in the celebration. They only see the loneliness, darkness, despair, rejection and the absence of hope. Sometimes their feelings of helplessness lead them to the conclusion that the world would be better off without them. They can't see any options or opportunities.

In our society today, one of the largest groups dealing with depression, mental health issues and thoughts of suicide is our service members and veterans. The statistics are disturbing. The causes are numerous and hard to define. The answers are not easy. Each person is different; each situation is different; each solution is different.

This is a challenge that we must accept. We need to be on the front line to fight for these brave men and women who can't fight on their own anymore. We need to pray for them and seek ways to offer hope and comfort. We need to pray for the help-line operators, counselors, health care professionals, families, and others who deal with this on a daily basis. We need to be alert and active. We need to become part of the solution – offering hope and compassion. Most of us are not trained to intervene in a crisis, but we can provide resources to those who may be in need. Let them know about the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (press 1). This confidential helpline is open to veterans and their families. Or chat on-line at VeteransCrisisLine.net or by text to 838255. Don't overlook contacting your local service officer or VA facility.

Prayer Warriors, we are needed – pray in general for the crisis and in particular for those who are in crisis. Be alert to changes in behavior and becoming isolated. Be open to the family members. Listen, really listen. Don't be afraid to take action. Show compassion and caring. Be the light at the end of the tunnel. And, if it's you that is in crisis – talk to someone, seek help and have your own Passover or Easter morning. God bless you.

Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the tempter's power; Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour, Turn not from his griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Early hasten to the tomb, where they laid his breathless clay; all is solitude and gloom. Who has taken him away? Christ is risen! He meets our eyes; Savior, teach us so to rise.

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Bonnie Dorniak
Executive Secretary/Treasurer
Ph: 608-745-0124
Email: deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org
Website: www.amlegionauxwi.org

May is Poppy Month...but don't forget that you can distribute poppies all year long! All Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) poppies are hand-made by veterans. As you distribute poppies, please pause a moment to appreciate the veteran who made them. Our veteran poppy makers put in significant time and effort to successfully produce enough flowers to fill orders from Wisconsin units and posts as well as orders from other states.

Units and posts must submit 20% of their profits to Department as soon as possible after poppy distributions have been completed. The Poppy Fact Sheet posted on the Auxiliary website defines how poppy funds can be used in compliance with American Legion Resolution No. 20.

At the department level, poppy profits enable the ALA to support the VA hospitals in Milwaukee, Madison, Tomah, Minneapolis and Iron Mountain, the Veterans Homes in Chippewa Falls, King, and Union Grove, Dayton Care Center in

Kenosha, and Camp American Legion. Poppy profits also fund scholarships for deserving students, grants to homeless women veterans, the Veterans Creative Arts Festival, and emergency assistance to veterans and active duty military personnel. Additionally, units and posts use the balance of poppy funds to support veterans' causes in their local communities. Thank you to everyone who supports this valuable ALA program!

2019 Poppy Order Forms should be available in August. Orders are processed on a first-come, first-serve basis until the poppies are gone, so Wisconsin units and posts are encouraged to submit orders by the December deadline to ensure they get the poppies they need. This year many units and posts submitted their orders long after the deadline, which made it difficult to manage the production schedule and meet everyone's needs in a timely manner and late orders run the risk of not being filled.

The 99th ALA Department Convention will be held at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton from July 18-21, 2019. Resolutions approved by units and districts must be received at Department by June 1st. Unit delegate

and alternate forms will be sent to units 30 days prior to convention and must be returned to Department by July 1st. National President Kathy Dungan will be conducting her official visit to Wisconsin during convention. Units and members are encouraged to participate in a parade of checks in her honor, with all proceeds benefiting Wisconsin's Homeless Women Veterans Grant Fund. Convention details are posted on the department website and highlighted information is published in this issue of the Wisconsin. One of the biggest changes is that installation of 2019-2020 Department Officers and District Presidents will take place on Saturday afternoon, July 20th.

Please plan to attend one of the 2019 ALA in the Know Conferences planned this fall. Dates and locations are listed in this issue so please "save the date." The conference reservation form is available on the department website.

As a reminder, 2020 membership cards and rosters will be mailed after department convention to units, so they can start collecting dues at that time. However, any member who has not yet renewed her 2019 membership is encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

April Kollmorgen
Department Chairman
Ph: 360-362-2803
Email: aekollmorgen@comcast.net

Year End reports are coming up fast! Don't forget to send in your report and include some information on how you promoted the American Legion Auxiliary throughout the year. Describe how you used social media, if applicable. Show me any local news articles your Unit was mentioned in. Describe your relationship with the local media and if keeping in touch with them throughout the year helped get more favorable press coverage. Tell me how your Unit members participated in or helped with branding the American Legion Auxiliary in your communities. Have members been wearing their ALA apparel? Has

anyone used the business card template available on the department website for handing out at events and in the community? How about showing off your Veterans? Have you participated in our special project this year? Have you posted or shown photos of the special veterans in your life? If you used these photos during an event, what was the response like? Tell me everything!

I hope you have all had a successful year promoting our amazing organization. Please continue your efforts over the spring and summer months and report on those happenings next year!

As this year winds down, I wanted to leave you with these thoughts. Remember why you joined this incredible organization. Every one of us has a special veteran in our lives that

brought us here. Seeing the photos of those special veterans throughout the year has been very special to this PR team. Remember when you first joined the ALA, like me, you were probably drawn to the "Service, not Self" beliefs of our volunteers and have a special place in your heart for all veterans, not just those close to you. We do what we do not because we have to, but because we want to. We want to enrich the lives of those veterans and their families that gave so much for us. Always remember, even as life gets busy and events get chaotic, that it is more than just another event or another meeting. Everything we do in the ALA has the power to help a veteran. Never stop doing the little things that can make a big difference. Thank you! April & Ashley, Your PR Team

American Legion Auxiliary Department President Char Kiesling

Cordially invites you to attend her
Testimonial on June 1st, 2019



at LaSure's Banquet Hall, 3125 S. Washburg St., Oshkosh
 Cocktails at 5:30pm. Dinner at 6:30pm.

There will be a duet plated dinner with music and dancing.

The cost is \$28.00/ person



A block of rooms has been reserved at the

Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham, 3105 S Washburn St., Oshkosh, WI 54904

Reservations can be made by calling 920-303-1133 and use group name 'Testimonial for Char'

RSVP by returning the reservation form with payment no later than May 15th, 2019

Name(s) of Attendees: _____

Number Attending: _____ at \$28.00 / person Total enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Charlayne Kiesling

Submit form and payment no later than May 15th, 2019 to: Mary Souther, 1508 Lakeshore Drive, Menasha, WI 54952

"Kindle the Flame of service for our veterans, military and their families"

CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICE: DUE 5/6/19

Any candidate for Department or National office must email her announcement and head/shoulder photo to Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bonnie Dorniak (deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org) by Monday, May 6th for publication in the Wisconsin.

ALA DEPARTMENT CONVENTION HONORED GUEST ANDREA PAGE

Past Department President, Andrea Page (2004-2005) will be the honored guest at the 2019 Department Convention at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton. Everyone is invited to dinner at the Verona Post on July 18th at 5:30 pm. After the District Presidents are recognized and membership awards presented, a tribute to Andrea Page will be presented reflecting on her year as Department President. Advance reservations are required. See registration form.

Andrea Page moved to West Salem in 1982 with her husband, Gerry Van Oss, and son, Corey Krigsvold. They stopped down at the West Salem American Legion Post #51 and were all quickly signed up as members. Andrea served her unit as Membership Chairman, Junior Chairman, Treasurer and President. She also served as County President and is currently Coun-



ANDREA PAGE
Past Department President ('04-'05)

ty Secretary. She is always busy in the 7th District having served as President twice, Membership Chairman many times, Junior Chairman a few times and is currently District Secretary. Andrea's chairmanships at the Department level included Juniors, Education, Leadership, Americanism (her favorite!), Membership, and Hospital Volunteers to name a few. She was an American Legion Aux-

iliary Badger Girls State Counselor for 25+ years. Andrea was a First Responder for 12 years with a few as President. Andrea's theme was "Catch the Spirit." Her president's pin was a red, white and blue hot air balloon - reaching the heights of 100% membership. Her favorite phrase was "Let's work hard, so we can play hard." Pat Smith was her membership chairman. Oh, the stories that could be heard about their travels throughout the state!

After being active in the Junior program, Andrea created a "badge" for the girls as they reached the goals set for each individual phase they studied in the Junior program. She remains steadfast in her assistance with the Juniors whenever possible. She believes that if time is spent with the Juniors, they will remember those things as they become adults.



2018-19 DISTRICT PRESIDENTS' RECOGNITION DINNER AND TRIBUTE TO HONORED PDP ANDREA PAGE (2004-05)

When: Thursday, July 18, 2019 at 5:30 pm
 Where: Verona American Legion Post
 207 Legion Street, Verona, Wisconsin
 Cost: \$20.00 per person (advance purchase only)
 Deadline: Friday, June 28, 2019
 Late reservations cannot be accepted, and refunds will not be issued.



A dinner in honor of the 2018-2019 District Presidents and Honored PDP Andrea Page will be held on Thursday, July 18, 2019 at 5:30 pm. The District Presidents will be recognized for their efforts during the past year and membership awards will be presented. The evening's festivities will conclude with a tribute to Past Department President Andrea Page. The entire Legion Family is encouraged to attend these celebrations.

Buffet dinner will include tri-tip roast, baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, coleslaw, pasta salad, rolls and dessert. A cash bar will be available. Admission is by advance ticket purchase only. Reservations must be received by Friday, June 28, 2019. Space is limited to the first 150 reservations.

RESERVATIONS FOR DISTRICT PRESIDENTS' RECOGNITION DINNER
 Thursday, July 18, 2019 at 5:30 pm
 Cost: \$20.00 by June 28, 2019

Make Check payable to: ALA-Wisconsin Mail to: ALA-Wisconsin, PO Box 140, Portage, WI 53901-0140

A \$25.00 fee will be charged for any check returned by the bank.

Unit # _____ District _____ Contact Name: _____
 Contact Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____
 Reservation Fee \$20.00 x Number of Tickets: _____ = \$ _____ (TOTAL DUE)

Name on Ticket (print clearly)	Name on Ticket (print clearly)
1)	6)
2)	7)
3)	8)
4)	9)
5)	10)

99TH ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin



July 18-21, 2019
Madison Marriott West
 1313 John Q. Hammons Dr, Middleton, WI 53562

Registration

The convention registration form is posted on the department website. Preregistration is \$25. Registrations after July 15, 2019 will be \$30.

Housing

Members attending Department Convention may contact the Madison Marriott West at 608-831-2000 to make reservations and should indicate they are attending the Legion Family Convention. Alternate housing options are listed on the website.

Memorial Book

Names of deceased members that are sent to Department Headquarters via Member Data Forms by May 1, 2019 will appear in the Joint Memorial Service Program.

Highlighted Events

Thursday, July 18th: All registered members are invited to attend the pre-convention meetings as follows: Finance (1:45 pm), Department Executive Board (3:00 pm), and Past Presidents Parley Business Meeting (4:00 pm).

Thursday, July 18th @ 5:30pm: Recognition Dinner for 2018-2019 District Presidents and Honored Past Department President Andrea Page at the Verona Legion Post. See reservation form for details.

Friday, July 19th at 9:00am: Delegates and Alternates are required to attend their respective District Caucus; however, all registered members are welcome.

Friday, July 19th: Parade of Checks with National President Kathy Dungan. Since her special focus is women veterans, donations will be directed to the Wisconsin Homeless Women Veterans Grant program. Checks should be made payable to "ALA-Wisconsin."

Saturday, July 20th: All delegates must be registered by 8:00 am and seated with their District by 9:00 am to be eligible for voting.

Saturday, July 20th: Installation of 2019-2020 Department Officers and District Presidents will be conducted at the close of the convention session on Saturday afternoon, followed by a receiving line.

Sunday, July 21st at 9:30am: Post-convention Department Executive Board meeting with 2019-2020 Department Officers and District Presidents. All members are welcome to attend.

See the Program Schedule as posted on the department website for a detailed listing of other activities planned during convention.
www.amlegionauxwi.org

7TH DISTRICT HOSTING A LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

ALL ALA members are invited to attend.

June 22, 2019

Where: American Legion Post 51 West Salem, WI

Cost: \$15 (Includes registration, all training materials, lunch and dessert)

Questions: Call Nikki Vidal 608-385-1838



64TH ANNUAL LEGION FAMILY KING PILGRIMAGE FATHER'S DAY, JUNE 16TH

The 64th King Day Pilgrimage will be held on Sunday, June 16th at the Wisconsin Veterans Home in King, Wisconsin. The Legion Family from across the state, as well as their guests, are invited to visit King and participate in a picnic with members of the Veterans Home. The general public is also invited and encouraged to attend.

10:00 AM-1:00 PM: Musical entertainment by the KNX Band will be provided on the bandstand.

10:30 AM: A delicious chicken dinner will be served by ALA Unit 161. Cost per meal is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under. Meal tickets can be purchased on the day of the event.

1:00 PM: The traditional American Legion King Day Parade starting at Olson Hall.



Formal American Legion program on the bandstand immediately following the Parade.

IF YOU WISH TO HELP SPONSOR THE BROILED CHICKEN DINNER FOR KING MEMBERS:
Please send a check payable to ALA Unit 161 to:
Nancy Neuroth, N2710 Lind Lane, Waupaca, WI 54981

WINNERS



MARCH 2019 CALENDAR FUNDRAISER

1	15.00	Mary Thompson	Star Prairie
2	15.00	Teck Breunig	Sun Prairie
3	25.00	Dorothy Goodman	Stanley
4	15.00	Mary Feranec	Phillips
5	15.00	Nancy Hein	Lake Mills
6	15.00	Sherri Scholten	Glenbeulah
7	15.00	Pattie Kruse	Kewaunee
8	15.00	JoAnn Schneider	New Holstein
9	15.00	Dorothy Tate	Brookfield
10	25.00	Grace Mergen	Prairie du Chien
11	15.00	Marie Wall	Greenleaf
12	15.00	Lawrence Mueller	Three Lakes
13	15.00	Patty Goulette	Bay City
14	15.00	Frances Fechter	West Bend
15	15.00	Thea Aspenson	Westby
16	15.00	Brenda Anderson	West Allis
17	500.00	Judith Wilken	Seymour
18	15.00	Dianne Campapell	La Crosse
19	15.00	Michele Schmitz	Port Washington
20	15.00	Lynda Hagen	Hixton
21	15.00	Dolores Bodmer	Appleton
22	15.00	Patricia Brindza	Caledonia
23	15.00	Stephanie Bowne	La Crosse
24	25.00	Lilli Weis	Unity
25	15.00	Marge Nachreiner	Sauk City
26	15.00	Kathy Schroeder	Colorado Springs CO
27	15.00	Marian Henningfield	Union Grove
28	15.00	Marie Deja	River Falls
29	15.00	Ellen Obrion	Rio
30	15.00	The Bunkelman Family	Suamico
31	25.00	Jane Spears	Bruce

MISSION IN ACTION: WELCOME HOME VETERANS!



Dept. President Char Kiesling is pictured with the Neenah-Menasha Honor Guard Squad at the Welcome Home Celebration for 52 Vietnam veterans who traveled back to Vietnam. They returned on Saturday, March 9th at the Menasha High school to a cheering and amazing crowd of over 3,000. At last, the real welcome home they deserved!



Welcome Home Old Glory Honor Flight...the first flight in the U.S. to return to Vietnam for 52 deserving Veterans. President Char Kiesling and Neenah Unit 33 member Mary Koslowski were thrilled to participate.

BARABOO UNIT 26



Members of Baraboo Unit 26 are proud to support ALA Programs. Pictured (back row: L to R): Connie Schultz, Jean Stopper, Barb Rabuck, Penny Cannegieter, Rosemary Ferdon. (Front row: L to R): Edna Hart, Nancy Boyer, Linda Higbee, Kathy Kienow, Elizabeth Rundio, Kim Shanks.

ALA BADGER GIRLS STATE ORIENTATIONS

Units should encourage their ALA Badger Girls State delegates to attend an orientation in their area. Please visit the website for the current list of orientations: www.alabgs.org.

