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.....Sandy's Corner.....

Happy Labor Day, I hope you took some time out of your busy routine to enjoy some fun time with family, and friends.

It was great to see all that attended the National Convention in New Orleans. If you have never attended a National Convention, I highly recommend it. Congratulations to our 2024-2025, National President Trish Ward.

Congratulations to Mary Petrie, Department of Wisconsin Historian, which received the Toomey Award for Best Department History at the 2024 National Convention. Wahoo, way to go Mary. A glimpse of the Honor Flight was projected by Department 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Amy Luft during Past President Lisa's report.

I look forward to seeing you on September 7<sup>th</sup> at the Beaver Dam Post, for both learning, teaching and fun.

October 5<sup>th</sup> is ALA-in-the-Know which is being held at the Cedarburg Post.

November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> District is holding a Suicide Awareness Class, at the Mayville post. This class is very informative and touching. BE THE ONE whether it is a veteran, family member, or friend. Do you know the warning signs? Open to all 2<sup>nd</sup> District Legion Family members & public. Limited seating is available.

Friendly reminder when responding to a mass mailing DO NOT REPLY ALL. Only reply to the person you want to see it.

Thank you all for serving our mission  
*Make sure you check out my last page* 😊.



REMEMBER the fallen... HONOR those who serve  
TEACH our children the value of freedom.  
For God and Country-God Bless America  
"Together We Can Make a Difference."



**2nd District VA&R September 2024**

**Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of the Mighty Second District. This year I will again be working with the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative.**

**This is the 4th year that we have helped the veterans that are receiving help from the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative.**

**The theme of my project this year will be helping and honoring our male Veterans. I would also like to help our female veterans and with any other project/area they will feel needs attention.**

**The mission of the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative is to help homeless and at-risk veterans.**

**The deadline for sending checks will be November 15th.  
and the deadline for purchasing gifts will be Dec. 1st**

**The deadline for all donations is early so that all items can be delivered to Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative and ready for the veterans before the holidays. Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative also has a food pantry that always needs items.**

**For Units now don't have the time to shop, checks can be made payable to  
ALA 2nd District  
and mailed to: Mary Montag, 726 Jean Ct., Allenton, Wi 53002.**

**If your Unit will be purchasing gifts you can contact me at: 262-377-5026 or [shirleykrier43@gmail.com](mailto:shirleykrier43@gmail.com), and I will make arrangements to pick up the items.**

**Thank you in advance for your contribution to this District project.**

**Shirley Krier  
2nd District VA&R Chairman**



## Membership - We are a Team!

This is the beginning of a new Auxiliary year with new leadership at all levels. National, Department, District, Counties and Units. New leadership brings new, ideas and suggestions as how we, as a team, can perpetuate new growth within our, organization.

The American Legion Auxiliary was founded to support the American Legion's mission to assist veterans, military, and their families at home and abroad. The many programs provide opportunities for the members to successfully meet the mission goals.

Membership, however, also provides opportunities for members to develop leadership skills, gain experience in organizing events, and engage in public, speaking. These activities can be personally fulfilling and help members in various, aspects of their personal and professional lives. Attend ALA in the Know or view, the training videos online at your convenience. Knowledge is power!

Another valuable benefit of being part of the American Legion Auxiliary Team is it brings together like-minded individuals who share the commitment of serving, veterans and their families. This connection creates a sense of camaraderie and belonging to fostering friendships. New members can be found in the circles of friends, family and community. Sharing the American Legion Auxiliary flier, with contact information could be a recruiting tool.

Each member brings a unique set of skills and strengths to the table with fresh, perspectives giving your teammates a new way to look at 'the usual' things.

Recently Linda Tome, Membership Committee member, wrote an article on the ABC's of a team member. I would like to share a quote from that article. "Being a valuable team member means you can offer a trait that others don't have, allowing, you to fill the blanks where they are lacking. Teams work best when different, individuals bring different skills to the table, making the group a powerful unit that, can tackle any problem that may arise." Vinny Galiano

Membership goals for 2025 have been distributed. Growth in the ALA is important! Renewing and acquiring new members is part of the Americanism spirit, and it is exciting to see new members. Let's utilize our team skills to finish 2024 strong then meet and exceed our goals in 2025!

2nd District Membership Chair-Danie Wilson

*Americanism...* Mary Petrie, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Chair – [mmrtpetrie@charter.net](mailto:mmrtpetrie@charter.net)



Is there anything more patriotic than serving one's country? If you saw the segment "In the Company of Heroes" premier during the recent Olympics, offering a view of Normandy, you know that through a special program, WWII veterans were flown overseas to relive, remember, and reconnect with those who have become their families. The same honor and respect these French families showed the veterans, was also shown by the veterans as they paid their respects at the gravesites of those they left behind so long ago.

Now in their 90s and 100s, many of our heroes were only 18 and 19, had never been away from home, and in their wildest dreams could not have imagined the journey they lived to share.

The episode was bittersweet – bringing tears to your eyes, pulling heart strings, and fueling a patriotic fire!

Americanism is on one of the four pillars of The American Legion. Units should be promoting Flag Day, Americanism in schools, Veterans in Community Schools, study of the U.S. Constitution, ALA Badger Girls State, scouting, the Americanism Essay Contest, observance of patriotic holidays, and history of the Pledge of Allegiance. Units are urged to participate and assist with The American Legion programs such as American Legion Baseball, American Legion Softball, Badger Boys State, the Oratorical Contest, Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy, and Junior Shooting Sports. *A Unit need not do all. Simply pick one or several!*

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> District Postcard Project continues...**As members drive around town, have them note *houses* displaying the American flag, pull over to jot down the address; then *report* it to your Unit's Americanism Chairman or form a committee to handle this project. Be sure to keep an ongoing list so only one card is sent to a *residence*. Mail a thank you postcard. Keep it brief and to the point, signing off with American Legion Auxiliary and your Unit name and number.

***Sample:***

Dear Patriotic Citizen,

Thank you for proudly displaying the American flag. Long may she wave!

American Legion Auxiliary Pitterle-Beaudoin Unit189

While observing flags, you might also note any that should be repaired/replaced. The American Legion Flag & Emblem catalog offers flag replacement postcards at [www.emblem.legion.org](http://www.emblem.legion.org). The postcard is anonymous and has a well-written note. Item 735.200 is 60-cents each or take advantage of the special pricing of 25 cards at 50-cents apiece for only \$12.50. While perusing the catalog, why not check out some of the patriotic items you could gift students?

To compile a contact list, I've asked the County Presidents to connect with their Units for the names and email addresses (with attached form) of the Americanism Chairmen. If there is none, then the contact info for a designated member or the President would be appreciated. These should be returned no later than September 5<sup>th</sup>.

***Reporting runs from April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025.***

***If you haven't already done so, start tracking hours, monetary & in-kind donations, and activities.***

***It will be a much easier and quicker task when Year-End Reports roll around!***

***Reminder: Programs sometimes overlap. REPORT IN ONLY ONE!***

I'm looking forward to sharing more with you at the September 7<sup>th</sup> Leadership Meeting in Beaver Dam!

# 2024 National Convention-New Orleans



