



8th 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 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 26th in Wautoma and is being sponsored by the Waushara County Units - Wautoma, Wild Rose and Hancock-Coloma. Registration form will be in the February newsletter, along with tickets for the raffle drawing. Names of members that have passed since the last Spring Conference should be sent to the District Chaplain - Ruth Henkelman (rrrhenk35@gmail.com). Unit History Books will be judged at the conference. Please bring your completed books along to 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.

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

8th District Officers

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

1st Vice President: Fran Bender

2nd 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 26th

World War II Building
Wautoma

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. Hold a new member reception at Conventions. Whenever you unit, district or department sponsors a meeting or educational program, use that opportunity to invite members to attend a special reception. These receptions are usually held prior to the start of the convention or educational program. In addition to talking about the Auxiliary, and learning about the expectations of the newer members, it is also a chance to explain how to get the most out of their participation in the event.
2. Give new members a special ribbon to wear. Identifying newer members does several positive things. It lets the new members feel special and it reinforces for them the fact that joining was a good idea since there are others who have the same designation. Most importantly, it allows Auxiliary leaders to spot new members and try to make them feel welcome.
3. Use groups of volunteers for renewal phone-a-thons. This project not only helps your renewal efforts, but it makes the callers feel more like an important part of your Unit.
4. Make sponsors or recruiters responsible for the first renewal, too. If your unit has a sponsorship program where the recruiters are known, contact the recruiters at renewal time and let them know they new members they brought in during the past year are about to receive renewal notices. Ask that the recruiters call their recruits to let them know they are looking forward to having them with the unit again next year. It reminds the recruiter about his or her efforts, and keeps those efforts from being wasted if the members they sponsored drop out a short time after joining.
5. Give discounts or perks for early renewal. One of the hard parts of retention is trying to figure out who among those who are late renewing is really a potential non-renewing member who is just putting their renewal off. One way to help resolve this problem is to give some sort of small discount or perk for members who renew early. Your unit's financial managers need to work out the appropriate discount and accounting methods, but having the early renewal money if interest-bearing accounts may more than offset any discount given. In addition to the financial rewards for your unit, there is the main benefit of being able to identify the unit's likely drops earlier in the renewal process.

Unit Updates – Fremont Unit 391

Post 391 in Fremont is hosting Pizza Night the last Monday in January, February and March. Serving begins at 4:30pm and goes until the pizza is gone. Dine in or carry out. Call (920) 446-3616 to order ahead. The bar will be open. Pizza choices and prices are not finalized at this time.

American Legion Post 391 Fremont – 322 Waupace St Fremont

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.

Upcoming Events / Dates

Spring Conference – April 26th in Wautoma

Attachments

Poppy Program Newsletter Blurb

Poppy Poster Coversheet

Poppy Poster Contest Rules

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 15TH, 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.ALAforVeterans.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.