



# 4TH DISTRICT NEWS

Department of Wisconsin | American Legion Auxiliary

## Mark Your Calendars!

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Please consider attending these American Legion Auxiliary and Legion Family Events!

February 2, 2025:  
Four Chaplains Memorial Service

February 17, 2025  
George Washington Luncheon

March 9, 2025  
4th District Bowling Tournament

June 15-20, 2025:  
Badger Girls State

June 27-29, 2025:  
Cruise for a Cause (ALRA)

July 16-20, 2025:  
Department of Wisconsin Convention - Green Bay, WI

August 22-28, 2025  
National Convention - Tampa Bay, FL



## Midwinter Conference

The American Legion is holding the 101st Midwinter Conference at the Hilton Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, WI January 16-19, 2025. The Midwinter Conference will have a joint session where we will hear from the UW-Madison MIA Recovery & Identification Project.

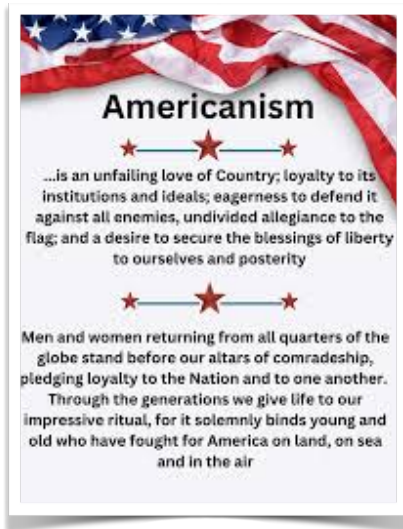
### ALA Training Session

The American Legion Auxiliary Session will include a Leadership & Report Writing Workshop, a Junior Activities demonstration, ALA Badger Girls State information, legislative update, strategic planning discussion, and service projects.

Please bring supplies to make Valentine's Day cards. We are also collecting socks, full-size shampoos, conditioners, body lotions, and mouthwashes to donate to the Wisconsin Veterans Homes.

Please click this link for more information <https://wilegion.org/midwinter> . The registration forms can be found on the website as well as information regarding available hotels.

Please consider attending this great event.



## Americanism

*Submitted by Donna Jensen*

The Americanism Essay Contest deadlines are coming up in a few months. If you have not done it yet, now is the time to contact students in your Unit and schools to let them know about this contest, the prizes available, the criteria to enter and the deadlines. If you don't enter, you can't win.

This year's topic is: **"What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?"**

There are 6 levels:

- I – grades 3-4      150-250 words
- II grades 5-6      250-300 words
- III grades 7-8      350-400 words
- IV grades 9-10      450-500 words
- V grades 11-12      450-500 words
- VI students with special needs:

word count should correspond with student's grade level.

One award in each of the six 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.

The Unit winner is due to the Department Chairman, Diane Burkhalter by March 15, 2025. It must contain the cover sheet "Americanism Essay Contest 2025 Submission Form" which can be found on the Department of Wisconsin website ([amlegionwiaux.org](http://amlegionwiaux.org)) under the Americanism Program. Please have several people review before submitting to make sure everything is completed correctly.

**Unfortunately, every year there are submissions that are not able to be considered due to incorrect and/or incomplete information. Do not let your candidate's hard work be disqualified because of this type of error!**

If you have questions, please contact me or Americanism Department Chairman Diane Burkhalter: ([burkhalterdl@gmail.com](mailto:burkhalterdl@gmail.com)).

Donna Jensen  
American Chairman – 4<sup>th</sup> District  
[djensen20@gmail.com](mailto:djensen20@gmail.com)

## Four Chaplains 82nd Memorial Service

Please join us for the Four Chaplains Memorial Service on February 2, 2025 at 1 pm. It will be held in the Zablocki V.A. Chapel with fellowship following the service. ALL are welcome to attend. Please see the enclosed flyer for more information and share it with your unit membership. Thank you.



## Badger Girls State

ALABGS will be held this year June 15 - 20 at the UW-Oshkosh campus.

2025 ALABGS reservations are \$500 per delegate. Payment is due January 31, 2025. Sponsors should contact schools now and work with the high school through the selection process.

Volunteers are needed for the 2025 ALABGS session. Anyone interested in helping for the week or even a few days should contact Chairman Danyelle Thompson at [alabgs.chairman@gmail.com](mailto:alabgs.chairman@gmail.com). A list of opportunities is posted at [www.alabgs.org](http://www.alabgs.org).

## Children & Youth

*Submitted by Patty Griswold*

Now that the holidays are over, and spring will hopefully be here before we know it, let's take time to make some plans to honor our Children & Youth, for the reality is, that they will be the future leaders of our country!

April is the "**Month of the Military Child**" bringing attention to providing, caring for and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans and military families. April gives us the opportunity to "Purple Up" for military children by wearing purple clothing.

Some of the other ways to support and honor our children and youth are these programs such as:

- Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2
- Youth Hero & Good Deeds Awards
- ALA Scholarships
- Jr. Activities Patch Program
- Badger Girls State

Another layer of the C&Y program is being in relationship with:

- Big Brothers-Big Sisters of America
- American Legion Child Welfare Fund
- Boys & Girls Club of America

We must also remember that by raising awareness and identifying the needs of homeless children can be accomplished by connecting with:

- Faith based organizations
- Schools
- Local food pantries

Donations of time/or money to a worthy cause make a difference for groups like:

- Care packages for the troops overseas
- Coat collections for homeless shelters
- Canned food drive
- Volunteering at Special Olympics

This article is a reminder of how our units could honor and bring attention to how precious our Children & Youth are and the contributions they can make to our country.





## Flag & Emblem Sales

The new 2025 Flag & Emblem Sales catalog is now available. Here is a link to the online version of the catalog: <https://emblem.legion.org/>

# Membership

*Submitted by Bonnie Jakubczyk*



## Congratulations to Units 415 & 537 for having 100%!

Fourth District is in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 87.87% and we need only 57 more for 100% Now is the time to contact you members and check in on them.

Wisconsin has been holding steady in 3<sup>rd</sup> but this week we have slipped another spot to 4<sup>th</sup> place nationally. Central Division remains in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with Wisconsin still in 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The PULSATION PASS AWARD = 1 winner picked at random on February 14, 2025, will receive: 2 paid registrations, 1 paid room for a 2-night stay in the convention hotel, recognition on stage during convention, and 2 passes to the Commander's party on Saturday night for the 2025 Department Convention.

In lieu of 100% ribbons this year, each unit that is at/above 100% by 12/31/24 will receive 2 entries into the PULSATION PASS AWARD and each unit that is at/above 100% by 1/31/25 will receive one entry.

### News from Department

December 31st all members should have been paid

**ESPECIALLY all Officers/Chairmen AND Honorary Life Members (HLM's)** in your unit.

If you are not paid you are not a member until your dues are processed through Department or National.

December 31st all remaining 2025 unpaid seniors will receive a 2<sup>nd</sup> renewal notice mailed from National February 2<sup>nd</sup> with the remit to being Department Headquarters. Members may continue to pay their dues via credit/debit to the national call line 317-569-4570 Mon. - Fri. 7:00 am - 3:30 pm, through the national website, or pay their unit.



## A Healing Wish...

Past Department President Diane Weggen had hip surgery recently. After complications from the anesthesia, the surgery went well and she is recuperating at home. Please consider sending her your well wishes for a full and fast recovery.

Cards of encouragement can be sent to:

Diane Weggen  
16266 361st Street  
Stanley, WI 54768

## Legislative

*Submitted by Bonnie Jakubczyk*

If you have not signed up for Legislative alerts by the American Legion, please do so.

The link to sign up is: <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>

Here you will be able to sign up for the Grassroots newsletter. You can find copies of newsletters on our Legislative program information on our Department website: <https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/legislative>.

The American Legion Dispatch newsletter will be sent twice monthly to better serve members of the American Legion Family with timely and informative news on programs, training, events, and other pressing items. Please share with members of your units, posts, and squadrons how to sign up for the Dispatch. They can visit [www.legion.org/newsletters](http://www.legion.org/newsletters) and click on Digital Dispatch.

Here is the link for the 12/20/24 Grassroots newsletter, the next one will be January 10<sup>th</sup>:

[https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/files/ugd/8bea47\\_bf459fb5722d434fac9fc14ecdd88b67.pdf](https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/files/ugd/8bea47_bf459fb5722d434fac9fc14ecdd88b67.pdf)

Once you are signed up you will receive alerts to contact your elected officials. It is super easy to send to them. Their names will appear and then you click on them and the message that is included. You can add to the message before you send it.

### **Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Legislative Program for Central Division:**

April 1: All unit entries must be submitted to the department chairman by April 1st using the entry form in the Legislative Program Engagement Plan.



## The War Memorial

Some of the ladies from the 4th District got the opportunity to decorate the Christmas trees at the War Memorial Center in downtown Milwaukee. Thank you to everyone who came down to help. It was great fun!

## VA & Rehab

*Submitted by Pat Ehleiter*

I know we all are following the fires in California.

I spoke to a VA&R contact in California. She was overwhelmed and all she could tell me is they are in total chaos. The biggest problem now will be finding Veterans and their families and taking care of their needs.

I will keep contact with her and keep you informed as to how we can help.

Please keep them in your prayers.



## MCCU

*Submitted by Donna Jensen, President ALA Milwaukee County Conference of Units*

**COME ONE – COME ALL!** The entire Legion Family is invited to attend the George Washington Luncheon held on President's Day, Monday, February 17, 2025. A copy of the flyer is attached to this newsletter. Make your plans to attend by filling out the information and sending it to MCCU Treasurer, Laura Calteux by the deadline of February 8, 2025.

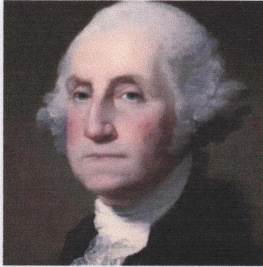
This is a fun social event with food served family style at Meyer's Family Restaurant, 4260 S 76<sup>th</sup> Street, Greenfield, WI. We were able to keep the price at \$30.00, the same as last year.

There will be a 50/50 raffle and raffle baskets. **Every Unit is asked to bring a raffle basket or gift card with a value of at least \$30.00.**

See you there!

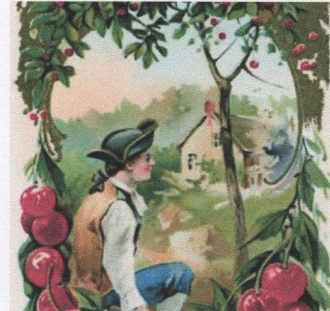
MILWAUKEE COUNTY CONFERENCE OF UNITS  
Invites all Legion Family Members and Guests

### The 96th Annual George Washington Luncheon



Presidents Day  
Monday, February 17, 2025  
Meyers Family Restaurant  
4260 S 76th Street, Greenfield, WI

Social Hour: 11:00 AM  
Opening Ceremonies: 11:45 AM  
Lunch: Noon  
Cost is \$30.00 per person



Come and celebrate our first President - George Washington  
our Veterans and the American Legion Auxiliary

For information contact Laura Calteux, 414-379-2943

Deadline for reservations is February 8, 2025

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#### GEORGE WASHINGTON LUNCHEON REGISTRATION

UNIT NAME & NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF EACH PERSON ATTENDING: Auxiliary, Legion, SAL, Guest

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

UNIT CONTACT & PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: # OF RESERVATIONS \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MCCU

SEND TO: Laura Calteux, 7012 W Squire Ave, Greenfield, WI 53220

Reservation deadline: **FEBRUARY 8, 2025 —NO WALK-INS!!**

**Four Chaplains 82<sup>nd</sup> Memorial Service**

**Sunday**

**February 2, 2025 at 1pm**

**Zablocki V.A. Chapel**

**5000 W National Avenue**

**Milwaukee, WI**

**Hospitality Directly After the Service**

**No charge-No Need to Bring Anything**

**Lt. George L. Fox**



**Methodist**

**Lt. John P. Washington**



**Roman Catholic**

**Lt. Clark V. Poling**



**Reformed Church**

**Lt. Alexander D. Goode**



**Jewish**

**In America**

**All American Legion Veterans, any Veteran, American Legion Auxiliary, and family are welcome to attend this Solemn Service.**