



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Diane Weggen
Department
President

With what's happening in the world as I write this, I'm wondering if Americans would be strong enough – brave enough – virtuous enough – or concerned enough with fellow Americans to stand up to an invading force such as the Ukrainians are doing. How veterans are treated can make a difference in how everyday Americans feel and respond to threats against America's democratic way

of life. Taking time to salute, serve, and celebrate veterans, their families and our communities demonstrates the importance of our country's heroes to the freedoms enjoyed by Americans.

Travels around the state this year have impressed upon me the many ways veterans, families and their communities are honored by American Legion Family members. Service, not self, and mission delivery by American Legion Auxiliary members and units throughout the state have positively influenced **both** patriotism **and** loyalty to Country.

There are many upcoming days designated to recognize those currently serving in the military and to honor the contributions and sacrifices made by their families.

- April is the Month of the Military Child
- May is the month of Military Family Appreciation
- May 6, 2022 is Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- May 21, 2022 is Armed Forces Day

For any of you who turn in hours for "Service to Veterans"



awards, this message is for you. **Caregivers** can now be awarded "Service to Veterans" hours for time spent providing care and assistance to Veterans **within their families** – **IF** they do not receive PROFESSIONAL compensation for doing so. Check out Senior Vice President Linda Coppock's Service to Veterans article for details.

I was privileged to attend the Lincoln Pilgrimage in Springfield, IL February 11-12. We were greeted by national leaders Commander Dillard, President Daudistel and SAL Commander Fox at a reception Friday evening. In addition to the wreath at Lincoln's tomb, I, with Commander Eirich, touched President Lincoln's nose for luck as I continue my term serving as Department President.

The following weekend was another road trip. I joined twelve other Wisconsin ALA members, including two junior members, making us the largest group other than Indiana attending Mission Training in Indianapolis. The focus of the training was on engaging members and connecting with community to increase the number of volunteers working mission programs in support of veterans. The Auxiliary mission will be accomplished when we, The American Legion Family, **both** for God **and** for country, work together, build relationships, care for those who care for others and engage members.

With the pandemic curtailing VA visits, Commander Eirich and I were pleased for our in-person meeting with staff at Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital. Their programs of care for veterans are amazing.

With spring fast approaching, I encourage you to fly your flags and I'd like to leave with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's words: "*Kind hearts are the gardens, Kind thoughts are the roots, Kind words are the flowers, Kind deeds are the fruits. Take care of your garden and keep out the weeds...*"

Fill your hearts with **both** kind words **and** kind deeds.

MEMBERSHIP

Margaret Larson Department Membership Committee

Why am I a member of the world's largest patriotic service organization, The American Legion Auxiliary? Let me tell you how I became a member. My husband and I and our four children moved back to River Falls, WI after 17+ years in the Army. One night we decided to check out the local American Legion chicken fry. While waiting in line to buy our tickets, my husband was asked if he was a member, and guess what happened? That was in 1995.

Fast forward about 7 years ago. While enjoying a cocktail in the Legion bar, I was approached by a friend (member) and asked if I had ever considered running for President. My first thought was "of the United States!?" She proceeded to explain that I would basically run the unit meetings, everything else would be done by other members! I told her the only meetings I had ever run were Girl Scouts and religious education, and they were young children. Never had I ever spoken in front of adults except in school for the occasional book report and then I would sweat profusely, stutter and start to hyperventilate. Who was I kidding? No

way could I be a president and run a meeting. She let me know when the next meeting was and suggested I come check it out for myself. I did indeed go to the next meeting, and this is how it went (many of you will relate to this):

The meeting will now come to order and so on. Next will be elections of officers, nominations for President. My friend stood up and

said my name. All In favor? (everyone) Opposed? (no one). And so it went... I stood there with the "deer in the headlights" look until I realized what had happened. Seven years later I am still the Unit President; a year later I became the County President; this year became 10th District President; and I am on the Membership Committee for the Department.

Do I regret it? Not at all! I have met so many great people, shared what it means to be a member, and the fun of working the programs. I have learned how to speak comfortably in front of large groups, how to present ideas to units and organize events. Being Unit President, and now a District President, has taught me a new sense of listening skills, patience, compassion, integ-

rity, family values and teamwork. Being in the military, I was part of the military family and thought I had lost that. But being a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, I have found a new family which is the American Legion Family. The ALA spirit of Service Not Self is not something you can just turn on and off. It is a lifestyle I will continue for the rest of my life.

PRESIDENT DIANE WEGGEN'S TESTIMONIAL SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022

Hosted by ALA Cecil Tormey Unit 118
at Holy Family Hall
136 East 3rd Avenue
Stanley, WI 54768

5:30 pm – Cocktails
6:30 pm – Dinner, program to follow

Reservation Deadline: May 20, 2022
Cost: \$30.00 – includes two drink tickets plus meal served buffet style
Send check payable to: Virginia Kodl,
N15109 Fisher Avenue, Thorp, WI 54771

Housing at AmeriVu Inn & Suites, -Stanley: 715-644-3332
(Note: Phone number listed was incorrect in the February issue)
Room block under "Diane Weggen"

2022 MEMBERSHIP RANKINGS

District 12 (93.40%)

District 2 (92.72%)

District 5 (92.57%)

District 3 (92.31%)

District 6 (91.37%)

District 1 (90.49%)

District 4 (90.27%)

District 10 (89.56%)

District 8 (89.55%)

District 7 (89.19%)

District 9 (88.45%)

District 11 (83.81%)



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Donna Jensen
 Department Chaplain
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Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. ~ Deuteronomy 32:2

Happy Spring! Most people are glad when the winter season ends and Spring arrives with warmer weather, longer hours of daylight and regrowth of the flowers, grass and trees. This is a way God reminds us to be hopeful and anticipate new beginnings.

Have you been feeling low during the cold, dark days of winter? Are you waiting for the warm sun and promises of Spring? God promises us that he will send the sun and rain to wake the earth and plants in Spring. We need to keep the faith that Spring will come to the earth and to our lives and our hearts. "Hope springs eternal" is a popular saying, shortened from "hope springs eternal in the human breast," a quote from *An Essay on Man* (1734) by Alexander Pope.

Spring is a season for hope and growth. When we plant a seed in the garden, we have hope that a plant will grow from that tiny seed. We also have hope that sunshine and rain will nourish and grow that seed into a plant for us to enjoy and harvest. God has hope that we will grow and flourish and enjoy all the blessings he has sent to us. In turn, it is our responsibility to share the gifts we have been given with others. Many of us do this by volunteering through the American Legion Family, our church and other organizations. Remember to spread joy and hope to others every day, with a positive attitude and by living as the plants, flowers and trees – grow and share your gifts from God.

I am happy to let everyone know that many of you have sent me prayers and inspirational items for President Diane Weggen's Prayer Book. There is still room for many, many more in the book and I am asking again for more people to contribute to this important memorial of her busy year as our Auxiliary President. You can send by email to (djensen20@gmail.com) or mail to me at: 6936 N 86th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53224.

Please join me in thanking God for sending Spring and may "hope spring eternal" in your heart as we continue to salute, serve, and celebrate active-duty military, veterans and their families.

"You Are My Sunshine"

*Words and music by: Jimmy Davis
 and Charles Mitchell*

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine.
 You make me happy when skies are gray.
 You'll never know dear how much I love you.
 Please don't take my sunshine away.

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Bonnie Dorniak
 Executive Secretary/Treasurer
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May 27, 2022 is National Poppy Day... but poppies can be distributed all year long! This is a great time to remind the public about the significance of the memorial poppy and the sacrifices made by so many veterans for the freedoms we enjoy today. If poppies cannot be distributed during Memorial Day, consider Flag Day in June, Independence Day in July, summertime community celebrations, or Veterans Day in November! Some units have been very successful by mailing poppies to their members and local community leaders and simply asking for a donation in return.

Units and posts must submit 20% of their poppy profits to ALA Headquarters as soon as possible after poppy distributions. The profits 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, grants to homeless women veterans, the Veterans Creative Arts Festival, and emergency assistance to veterans and active-duty military personnel. Units and posts may use the balance of poppy profits for the direct benefit of a veteran or service member where a medical or financial need is evident. Thank you to everyone who supports the Auxiliary's Poppy Program!

The 2022 ALA Department Convention is scheduled for July 14-17, 2022 at the KI Convention Center/Hyatt Regency in Green Bay. A recognition program will be held on Thursday, July 14 at 3:00 pm including a Tribute to Honored PDP Diane Kranig, 2021-2022 district membership awards, and a Parade of Checks for National President Kathy Daudistel. Checks should be made payable to "ALA-Wisconsin." Donations will be forwarded to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation. Since District Caucuses at convention

have been discontinued, **convention will be called to order on Friday, July 15 at 9:30 a.m.** Please note this important time change and we hope to see you there! See the department website for complete convention details.

The 2022 National Convention will be held in Milwaukee from August 26-31, 2022. What a great opportunity to experience a national convention in our own backyard! More information will be provided in the next issue of this newspaper or visit the department website as information becomes available.

As a reminder, 2023 membership cards and rosters will be mailed to units after department convention. Anyone who has not yet renewed their 2022 membership should do so now as your membership has lapsed and you are no longer considered a "member," nor do you have any rights or privileges of membership until the dues are paid.

Do you want to learn more about the Auxiliary? ALA in the Know Conferences are being planned for this Fall, so watch for more information as details are finalized.

LEGISLATIVE

Joanie Dickerson
 Department Chairman
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The purpose of our ALA Legislative program is to support the legislative agenda of The American Legion (TAL). On March 8, National Commander Paul Dillard testified before a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs where he outlined the issues in most need of their attention. You can view his testimony on TAL's website <https://www.legion.org/legislative>.

Toxic exposure in the Gulf, the need for Buddy Checks, citizenship for U.S. Veteran immigrants, VA medical care for female veterans, GI Bill benefits for reservists and national guard members, U.S. Coast Guard pay in times of government shutdowns, and VA access for all World War II veterans are issues Commander Dillard touched on in his testimony.

We, as members of the American Legion Auxiliary, have a duty

to support the efforts of the Legion in getting legislation passed that will address these concerns. Letter writing, phone calls, emails and personal visits are all ways in which we can reach out to our legislators and make our voices heard. The collective voice of the American Legion Family speaks loud and clear that our veterans have served for the safety and security of our nation and deserve to be cared for in the best way possible.

The Legion website makes it very easy to communicate via their Legislative Action Center. With a few clicks of your computer keys, you can send a message to members of Congress and let them know our veterans are important to you. Unsure how to access it? Check out a video that explains how on the ALA Department website by clicking on "Program Info" in the top banner and selecting "Legislative" in the drop-down menu. This will take you to a page with a video demonstrating how to access the Action Center. This page also has the latest information from TAL's National Legislative Division.

Now is the time for all of us to make the Legislative Program a priority because our Veterans should ALWAYS be a priority!

POPPY PROGRAM

Marla Knuettel
 Department Chairman
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'The purpose of the Poppy Program is to honor veterans for their service and sacrifice by promoting circulation of the poppy, educating all people of the poppy's history, and the significant financial benefit realized by our nation's veterans as a result of its distribution.'

If you don't know it by now, the poppy is a perennial – when you consider that it may be used, crafted, promoted, displayed, shared and distributed YEAR-ROUND! All members are probably involved in cultivating the poppy program just by wearing the poppy, knowing and sharing its history, making that corsage or producing a poster, participating in the Memorial Day distribu-

tion, buying the Poppy contest giveaways from Emblem Sales, and so much more. Hopefully every unit showcased these activities in their Poppy narratives.

Now it is time to think about National Poppy Day on Friday, May 27. For those units that do their distribution during Memorial Day weekend, the poppies have been purchased, the sites confirmed, and the public relations begun with a radio or TV spot planned. What about a social media heads-up for friends and family? How about a visit to your city government with the proclamation and a thank you for their support of veterans?

If you were able to check out the Auxiliary and Legion Poppy sites at both Department and National levels, you might have seen the challenge from National Poppy Chair, Sallie Rossman, on having a poppy in every veteran's window. Much like the Blue Star

routine in recognizing active military, the poppy recognizes the sacrifice of all veterans. A couple of mid-year reports mentioned plans for storefront displays with large poppies honoring all community veterans. Many more spoke of expanding last year's efforts to reach more people, bring in more revenue, and find new ways to help their veterans.

Good luck to all during this spring reawakening from COVID and to the germinating of the poppy at all levels. Thank you, Lt. Col. John McCrae, for writing the poem, 'In Flanders Fields' (1915), which paid tribute to the human sacrifices of World War I. Thank you, Moira Michael, for taking the symbolism of that poem and starting the poppy tradition in the United States. Finally, thank you American Legion Auxiliary members, for embracing the Poppy story and utilizing it in fulfilling our mission to honor and care for our nation's veterans!

VA&R — SERVICE TO VETERANS

Linda Coppock
Department Chairman
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Service to Veterans is a component of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation program which promotes the American Legion Auxiliary mission to support The American Legion programs and to enhance the lives of veterans, service members and their families. The focus is specifically on direct service to any veteran who is not related to the Auxiliary member who is providing the service. A 50-hour pin for service to veterans is given to members and additional hour bars can be added for future hours of service.

This year we also asked: How did the units and/or members provide support to caregivers and/or military families? National President

Kathy Daudistel is promoting the hours of care a caregiver performs to be included in the "Service To Veterans Volunteer Award" allowing the caregiver that lives with the veteran ten hours of service a week. If they do NOT live with the Veteran relative then they may be awarded five hours a week. It is the responsibility of the caregiver to report these hours to their units and departments. The "Service To Veterans Volunteer Award" form is due by April 15, 2022. All pins and bars will be awarded no later than the end of August 2022.

Memorial Day is the day we set aside to reflect on the sacrifices so many soldiers have made. They deserve the utmost respect possible, and may we never forget the freedoms they allow us to have.

Salute those who have passed, **Serve** those whom we still can, and **Celebrate** all of them for the time they gave...

Mike Rohan
Department Chairman
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As we celebrate spring's arrival, our attention turns to our veterans and their sacrifices for our freedom. American Legion Auxiliary National President Kathy Daudistel has reminded us that the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary includes honoring the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families. One way we can honor that sacrifice is to recognize these unsung heroes and help to make sure they have the resources and support they need to take care of their veterans. Many of you are already doing this important work without even thinking about it.

We have all been working hard for our veterans through this pandemic. Some of you put on your masks, filled your purse/pockets with wipes and hand sanitizer, and engaged with our veterans in their homes and nursing homes. **Thank you, you are awesome!** Don't forget to report what you are doing on your Impact Report and Unit Narrative Report. As we move closer to the end of this pandemic, it is time to put the mission of The American Legion Auxiliary back into your calendar because our veterans need us more now than ever before.

As the first long weekend of the summer, Me-

morial Day is traditionally filled with barbecues and outdoor activities – but it is first and foremost a very somber holiday intended to honor our nation's fallen heroes.

Growing up in a small town in Kentucky, one of seven sons and one daughter of a US Navy veteran who served during WWII and Korea, we honored those who served and gave their lives for our country every Memorial Day. My mother would decorate both the inside and outside of our house with red, white, and blue in honor of my dad's navy buddies who did not make it home from their service. She flew an American flag in honor of her brother, a US Marine who never made it home.

Memorial Day is a day filled with emotion as we remember family, friends, neighbors, and battle buddies who are no longer with us. Nevertheless, it is also a day of thanks – thankfulness for the freedoms we enjoy because of the sacrifices our soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen made that we can never repay.

My family, then and now, has their traditions for observing Memorial Day as do many of you and your families. This year consider taking a walk through your local veterans' cemetery. Brush up on your Memorial Day knowledge. Learn about Gold Star Families in honor of Memorial Day. Watch the National Memorial Day parade.

While we can never repay that loss, we can promise that we will never forget the ultimate sacrifice made for our freedom.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Mary Krutz
Department Chairman
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It is Spring, and in the American Legion Family this means April and Children & Youth Month. Did you know that according to American Association of School Superintendents Association 2019 publication, approximately two million military children have experienced a parental deployment since 2001? Eighty percent of military children attend public schools. One third of these children show psychosocial behaviors such as being anxious, worrying often, and crying more frequently. This makes our job even more important.

A.L.F. dogs can bring comfort to scared and lonely children. "I'm a Hero 2" stickers are easy to make with a printer and Avery round labels #8293 1-1/2". Organize a Purple Up Day during a Legion Family event. Do not forget to take pic-

tures and post on your social media account. Let us show our military children that we are proud of their contributions to our nation and world!

Please continue to recognize our youth through the Good Deed and Youth Hero Awards. New this year is the Youth Caregiver Award. Unlike the Good Deed and Youth Hero awards, you do not have to send in nominations for this award. The ALA Youth Caregiver Certificate can be downloaded from the department website (www.amlegionauxwi.org > Program Info > Children & Youth), completed, and presented to any worthy young person under 18 years old who has demonstrated caregiving to another and did not get paid for their work. The recipients of these youth awards do not have to be children of military.

Thank you for working our mission making a difference in our world. I look forward to reading your narrative reports that are due to Department Headquarters by April 15. And as always, if you have any question, please contact me.

UNIT 19: YOUTH HERO AWARD — ADALYNN CHMIELEWSKI



Washington County President **Mary Montag**, District 2 President **Amy Luft**, and Hartford Unit 019 President **Sally Wagner** (not pictured) presented **Adalynn Chmielewski** with the American Legion Auxiliary Youth Hero Award and Medal.

Five-year-old Adalynn Chmielewski saved her mother's life in the Fall of 2021. Her mom had fallen, and Adalynn asked if she was ok. Her mom could not get up so Adalynn used her mom's cell phone to call dad at work. She called several times and left a message saying mom can't get up and to come home quickly. When her dad saw her messages, he called 911 and went home. Adalynn's mother, Chelsey, was taken to the hospital immediately. The doctor said she had had a stroke and could have died. Chelsey is alive today because of Adalynn's quick reaction.

HONORING PDP DIANE KRANIG (2006-2007)

Diane Kranig is a lifelong member of Berens Scribner Unit 6 of Stevens Point and served as Department President in 2006-2007. The theme of her year was "Circle of Service," a reminder that the American Legion Auxiliary needs to continue to fulfill the promises made to our veterans and their families.

Diane is eligible for membership through the Korean War service of her deceased father, Jerome Kranig. She was brought up in the American Legion and Auxiliary Family with her mother, Past National President Barbara, serving as role model and mentor by default. Always participating in Junior activities and conferences, Diane was Wisconsin Miss Poppy while a sophomore in high school. There was not a Father's Day that was not spent at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King for the annual Pilgrimage.

The special project she selected was Breast Cancer Awareness and raising funds for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, a cause she continues to support. BCRF currently funds researchers at medical institutions in the United States and in 15 countries worldwide. The Fall Informational Forum in 2006 was held in Stevens Point with a change of format, allowing each attendee to hear from more program chairmen. This may have been the inspiration for the current ALA in the Know!

Prior to becoming Department President, Diane served as Department Officer, including Senior Vice President and Vice President, and many Department Chairmanships. Follow-



PDP Diane Kranig

ing her year as Department President, she served as Wisconsin's National Executive Committeewoman. She has also served the Eighth District as President, as well as other offices and chairmanships on that level. At present, she is serving as District Parliamentarian and Bylaws Chairman.

In her home unit, Diane has served in every capacity and remains active as a chairman and officer. She can be found working Poppy Day, any unit fundraiser, or the Annual

Bowling for Veterans.

An area of special interest to Diane during her years of service was to the American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State program. She served as a staff member for 25 years and was Chairman of the Girls State Committee for several years. She also had the opportunity to serve on the National Girls State Committee and traveled to Washington, DC as a staff member for Girls Nation.

Diane retired in 2018 after a 34-year career at Sentry Insurance in Stevens Point, with her final job there as Senior Quality Assurance Specialist in the IT Department. She remains involved in community theater and serves as a poll worker for the city. She enjoys quilting and playing trivia. Currently, she can be found removing the wallpaper in her kitchen.

Diane has been supported throughout her Auxiliary service by her husband Ken Sankey; their two daughters – Genevieve, and her husband Ben Brandl, and Giselle, and husband Eric Zahn; and grandson Oliver Brandl.

CANDIDATES

LINDA COPPOCK FOR DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

With the support of her family and friends, Linda Coppock has been endorsed by Shiocton Unit 512, Outagamie County Council and the Noble 9th District as a candidate for 2022-2023 Department President for the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin.

Linda became a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Shiocton Unit 512 at the age of 6 through the Navy service of her stepfather, Earl Burton. Linda has been an active Auxiliary member ever since. Linda is also a Paid Up for Life member. Linda has served the ALA in many capacities over the years. She has been an officer and/or a chairman for her Unit, County, District and now the Department of Wisconsin.

Linda and her husband Gary, a Vietnam Navy veteran, have raised three daughters – Jennifer Gardner, an Air Force veteran and dual member; Michelle Bellile; and Suzanne Heuer; and one son, Lt. Col. Stephen B. Olk of the US Army Reserves. Of their ten grand-

**Linda Coppock**

children, the two oldest grandsons, Chasen and Trevor Gardner are Marines! They also have two great-granddaughters, who, with their ALA membership, make up the 6th generation of Unit Auxiliary members at Shiocton Unit 512!

Serving as a Department officer these past few years, Linda has enjoyed the opportunity to meet and talk with many unit members. As a presenter for the ALA In the Know, her interaction made her realize working and communicating with unit members is key to maintaining the integrity of our organization for years to come. Linda has become aware of the struggles that units are having in retaining and/or gaining members to help accomplish their goals while continuing to support our veterans, active military, their families and the Auxiliary mission. Even though we had to observe social distancing, members continued to find creative ways to support the mission of the ALA. We need to continue to believe in what we do and once you believe, it will happen! It is her belief that all members are important and even the smallest attempt by any member to work the ALA mission is a worthy attempt in helping our veterans.

REBECCA (BECKY) MUELLER FOR 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

I am excited and humbled to announce my candidacy for the office of ALA Department of Wisconsin First Vice President. I have appreciated the opportunity to serve you for the past few years as a Department officer and chairperson.

I gain my eligibility from multiple sources: my husband Clarence's service in the Army during the Vietnam era, my deceased first husband Richard Young's service as a Marine in Vietnam, and my deceased father's service in the Army.

My membership is with Krause-Kraft-Mueller Unit 106, Seymour since 2007. I served as Unit Secretary and President and continue to serve on many committees and projects. I served as the Ninth District President. I still serve on committees and wherever needed on the Unit, County, District and Department levels.

The ALA in The Know events are very special to me. This has been a wonderful opportunity to gain knowledge about our organization and to learn from each of you. I

**Rebecca (Becky) Mueller**

learned so much as I traveled the state and met so many of you. Experiencing the care and compassion that you exhibit to your Legion family and beyond has been such a blessing. It is a joy to celebrate all that we have done and to look forward to all our future endeavors together.

The United Methodist Church has certified me as a Lay Speaker and I serve on many committees and occasionally lead the services at my home church, New Life UMC, Seymour.

For God and Country defines my calling and passion. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve this organization and, most importantly, you, as we navigate together through the changes and challenges that are before us. Our mission is before us and

I feel I can bring fresh insights and ideas to the table as we move into our second century of service to our veterans, our military, their families (us) and our communities.

Thank you for your consideration and support. God Bless You and the USA.

MAGGIE GEIGER FOR DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

I am excited and honored to announce my candidacy for the office of Senior Vice President for the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin.

I have proudly served in various capacities and chairmanships on the Unit, County, and District levels including Sergeant at Arms, Chaplain, 2nd and 1st Vice President and President. Some special projects are co-founding Sweat4Vets; working with the VSO on "To Whom Honor is Due" Dinner honoring veterans, in conjunction with Concordia University, and facilitating a WWII veteran secure his Honorary College Degree.

I am eligible for membership through my father, Herbert "Buck" Masters, a WWII veteran, and am a 17-year Paid Up for Life (PUFL) member. I have attended leadership trainings with the American Legion Auxiliary, ALA Mission Training and the American Legion College, served as co-chair and presented ALA in the Know conferences, served on the ALA Strategic Planning Team, Americanism Chair, ALABGS, Poppy Chairman, and Historian.

My passion is for our nation's heroes, promoting ALA programs and its mission, serving God and country with ALA members from Wisconsin is a privilege. Serving this last year as your Department Membership Chairman, I have gained more appreciation and recognize the love, compassion and struggles our ALA members/units have, how hard unit members work to retain and gain members, while working the programs and mission of the Auxiliary. Members are not just volunteers, but a family working

**Maggie Geiger**

together to make the lives of our American heroes better one day at a time. We need to continue showing each other kindness, working closely with our American Legion Family while mentoring, embracing new ideas from our members while reaching out to our youth and communities, so we can continue to meet the needs of our veterans, military and their families, together.

Maggie and her husband Brian of 46 years are members of Crossroads Church, Milwaukee Curling Club, and lifetime members of Ozaukee County Historical Society. Proud mother of son Patrick, daughter-in-law Jackie, daughter Katie, son-in-law Michael, grandsons Gabriel, Emre, Hoban, and granddaughter Theodora, are all members of the American Legion Family.

It has been an honor and blessing to serve as Department 1st Vice President and I ask for your continued prayers and support as I offer myself as candidate for Department Senior Vice President.

SUE HEMBROOK FOR DEPARTMENT 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Sue Hembrook wishes to announce her candidacy for Department 2nd Vice President. Her journey in the American Legion Auxiliary began 19 years ago at the unit level. In addition to chairing many committees in her unit, she served as President of the Unit for four years. Sue also was the 4th District President and President of the Milwaukee County Conference of Units. On the department level, she has served as Education Chairman, Strategic Planning Group Co-Leader, Director of Hospital Volunteers, Representative at the Dayton Care Center, and Poppy Shop Supervisor. Sue

was also appointed to positions at the National level: 2015-2016 National Legislative Committee, 2016-2017 National Education Central Division Chairman, 2018-2019 National Poppy Committee, 2019-2021 National Central Division Children & Youth Chairman, and currently National Central Division VA&R Chairman.

She is eligible for membership through the service of her late father Norton Kaiser, a WWII Army veteran, and that of her husband Gene, a Vietnam era Air Force Veteran. She has four children and nine grandchildren all of whom are members of the

Legion Family. Her son Joe is currently a member of the Air Force and son-in-law Jeremy is actively serving in the Navy. Her grandson Jonathan is eagerly awaiting his place in military life. At the age of 16, he is currently a member of the Sea Cadets, a Navy Program and Air Force JROTC at the high school he attends. Every branch of the military, except for the Coast Guard, is covered by one family member or another.

Sue and her husband of 48 years are members of St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church in Franklin, Wisconsin. She has been involved in that faith

community with their school, parish council, and many fundraising events sponsored by the church and school.

Her dedication to this organization and our veterans has been steadfast. She supports the VA's wholeheartedly as they supported her family when her father contracted MS and was admitted to a study being done at the time by the Milwaukee VA. Sue knows that her dad had a much better and longer life due to the care given him and also the support given to the family. She will dedicate herself by doing her best to support this organization and our veterans.

**Sue Hembrook**

CANDIDATES

KAREN RUNK FOR HISTORIAN

A 14-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Karen Runk is eligible for membership through the service of her youngest brother who is currently on active duty, and that of her late father following the adoption of the Legion Act.



Karen Runk

Karen has served in Leadership positions since returning to Wisconsin in 2015. She is an active member of Kerl-Endres-Brannan Unit 245 of Cross Plains, currently serving as Unit President; Dane County President; a member of the Department Leadership Committee; and is the Military Families Chairman for District 3. She is past Unit 245

Vice President and District 3 Leadership Chairman.

Service to others has been a lifelong passion which she demonstrated through coaching, and as a longtime member of the Girl Scouts. She is one of Wisconsin's first to receive the highest achievement in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award. The Gold Award is the Girl Scout equivalent of the Boy Scouts' Eagle Scout.

Karen's mother, siblings, four nieces and great-niece are all members of the American Legion Family. She has been endorsed by her unit, county and district. Being a part of this organization has been a blessing and she hopes to continue to honor our veterans by serving as your next Department Historian.

LINDA KOSTKA FOR CHAPLAIN

My name is Linda Kostka, PUFL member of Kelly Johnson Unit 90 in Ashland, and Past District 11 President. Both my unit and district have endorsed me for the position of Department Chaplain. I served as Chaplain for District 11 and VFW District 10. I served on Department committees for Bowling, Membership, Public Relations and was Fundraising Chairman. I also served as Department and National Sergeant-at-Arms. My community involvement includes membership in Grace Bible Fellowship Church, Red Hat Society, VFW Auxiliary, and various other organizations with activities supporting the community. My husband and I have enjoyed attending many Department and National Conventions. With your support I would love to have this opportunity to continue serving God, country and our Auxiliary.



Linda Kostka

My eligibility is through my father, husband, and son. I joined Unit 90 in 2002. Thank you to everyone for mentoring me. With their willing hearts and great wisdom, I learned how our Auxiliary programs help our youth and veterans alike.

Traveling for all 20 years of Frank's Air Force career has brought me to another level of understanding as to why we spouses are important to our veterans. Living in another country was an exciting experience leaving us with a lifetime of memories. Being stationed overseas also gave us an appreciation of our United States citizenship with its freedom of speech, religion, property ownership, and a process to elect our leaders without fear of death. When Frank received his discharge papers, the Colonel gave me my own discharge papers, what a delightful surprise. We have four children, fifteen grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, and two great-grandsons on the way.

I'm a proud American and Auxiliary member and if you elect me as your Department Chaplain, I will do my very best to represent our organization. Thank you for your consideration. May God bless you and our country.

IN MEMORIAM: PDP VIRGINIA FAUST (1995-1996)

Past Department President Virginia "Ginny" Faust (1995-1996) passed away on Sunday, January 30, 2022, at the age of 93.

She was a Paid Up For Life member of Kerl-Endres-Brannan Unit 245 in Cross Plains. Ginny is survived by her four children: Allen (Janet) Faust, Ronald (Gail) Faust, Sandra Faust (Wayne Buschmann), and Sons of the American Legion Past National Commander David Faust and his wife Cheri, along with eight grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, other family members, and friends. Her husband, Raymond Faust, whose service in the United States Marine Corps gave Ginny her eligibility to join the Auxiliary, preceded her in death in 1999.

ed her in death in 1999.

Ginny was a lifelong member of St. Francis Xavier Parish, an active Girl Scout leader, and a vital part of Cross Plains Unit 245 by mentoring younger members up until the time of her passing. She served as an ALA Badger Girls State Counselor for over 15 years, volunteered for the William S. Middleton VA Hospital for 17 years, and was the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wisconsin President in 1995-1996. Her theme was "Be a Shoe In - Step Forward Wisconsin."

Ginny Faust will be missed by many, but we will continue to step forward and carry on the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary in her memory.



PDP Virginia Faust

2022 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION GENERAL INFORMATION

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN 2022 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION Thursday-Sunday, July 14-17, 2022 • KI Convention Center/Hyatt Regency, 333 Main Street, Green Bay, WI 54301

Location: The 2022 Department Convention will be held at the KI Convention Center/Hyatt Regency in Green Bay and called into session at 9:30 am on Friday, July 15, 2022.

Housing: Housing has been arranged at the following hotels until the deadlines listed or when the room blocks are filled, whichever comes first:

Hyatt Regency
333 Main Street
Green Bay, WI 54301
920-432-1234
Group: AM Legion
Cut off June 22, 2022

Hampton Inn
(attached to the Conv. Center)
Reservations call 770-299-2095
Thursday-Saturday (7/14-7/16)
Group: WI American Legion
Cut off June 14, 2022

Tundra Lodge (Waterpark Hotel)
Reservations call 877-886-3725
Thurs & Friday only (7/14-7/15)
Group: American Legion
Cut off June 17, 2022

Registration: \$25 per person by July 11, 2022 or \$30 at convention.

National Convention Alternates: Since ALA District Caucuses have been discontinued, districts may nominate alternates to National Convention, with the selection process determined at the discretion of the district. Names of nominees shall be sent to Department Headquarters as soon as selected, but no later than July 1. Elections will be held on Saturday, July 16 at 9 am.

DEPARTMENT TO HOST BASKET RAFFLE CONVENTION FUNDRAISER

As we Salute our Veterans, we will Serve together raising funds to further the efforts of our American Legion Auxiliary and President Diane Weggen's special project: **The Chippewa Veterans Home Courtyard.**

I am asking every Unit to please donate a Raffle Basket with a minimum value of \$30. Please display a card stating everything in the basket, as well as your Unit and District numbers. Make sure all baskets are wrapped in cellophane. If an individual would also like to donate, please follow the same instructions.

Different baskets will be raffled off every day of the convention (Thursday, July 14 through Saturday, July 16 at 10 am). Last year at the end of the convention, we auctioned off several baskets. It was really fun, and we earned even more money! This year we will Celebrate the close of convention with another auction!

Please do not hesitate to call or email with any questions.

Thank you ALL so very much!

Sue Turowski, Department Fundraising Chair
sueturowski@hotmail.com or 262-389-4644

SALUTE, SERVE, CELEBRATE!



SERVE - Saukville Unit 470 Mission in Action: The Landt-Thiel Legion Family held its annual Joint Potluck and Awards Night. The Auxiliary presented donations to several community organizations and Camp American Legion. Pictured (l-r): Lee Roundy, TAL Finance Director, Past Commander Denise Jamrozy, Camp Director Jim Klement, and Mary Ellen Race, Unit 470 President.

SALUTE, SERVE, CELEBRATE!

SERVE – Mondovi Unit 154 Mission in Action: Mondovi Unit 154 has focused on making holidays brighter for families who have fallen on hard times at Christmas for more than six decades. Generations of ALA family members organize and distribute gifts, typically serving 85 to 135 children from 30 to 50 families each year. Local businesses, churches, other civic organizations, individuals, and Legion Family members donate money, time, and gift-wrapping talent to shop and fulfill children's wishes on the Wish Tree. Thank you, Unit 154, for your years of service!



SALUTE – American Legion Post 139 contributed \$1,500 to the ALA Badger Girls State program. This generous donation will enable three young women the opportunity to attend the 2022 ALABGS session. Thank you for your support! Pictured (l-r): Department Secretary Bonnie Dorniak, Post 139 Commander Michael Burt, and Department Commander Greg Eirich.

CELEBRATE – Beaver Dam Unit 146 Honored Two Centenarian Auxiliary Members. This past year two members of ALA Unit 146 in Beaver Dam celebrated their 100th Birthdays. Because of COVID, the unit was not able to do a big celebration, but they visited and presented each of them with a plant, their membership cards, poppy facemask, and a certificate of their years of membership with Unit 146.



Pictured with Inez are Karen Maleck, Unit 146 Secretary, and Lois Levenhagen.

CELEBRATE – INEZ MCMILLAN was born on September 20, 1921. After graduating from UW-Madison Nursing School in 1944, she joined the US Army Nurse Corps and served in England, France, and Germany before being honorably discharged as a 1st Lieutenant in 1946. Inez was a dual member of American Legion Post and Auxiliary 146 and AMVETS. She was a charter member of the Women's Memorial in Washington, DC. Inez treasured her Badger Honor Flight experience and especially appreciated the WWII and women's memorials. Inez enjoyed distributing poppies every year. Inez passed away December 14, 2021.



SALUTE – Molly Pitcher Award: Department National Security Chairman Karen Degner of Unit 243 in Plymouth was awarded the Molly Pitcher Award by the United States Field Artillery Association in recognition of her significant volunteer contributions to the Field Artillery Community. The award is named after an Artillery wife, Mary Hays McCauly (nicknamed Molly Pitcher), who supported her husband's military unit during the Battle of Monmouth on June 28, 1778. Karen is pictured with her husband, SSG Mark Degner, Wisconsin Army National Guard.



Lois Levenhagen, Unit 146 Membership and Treasurer, is pictured with Pearl.

CELEBRATE – PEARL LIMBERG was born February 2, 1921. She moved to Beaver Dam in 3rd grade and still lives in her own home with the help of her daughter Kathy, who assists with meals and cleaning. Pearl met her husband, Robert Limberg, on a blind date in 1937 and they married two years later. Bob served in the National Guard out of Waupun for four years as a medic and was then drafted to serve during World War II. Bob was a member of John E. Miller American Legion Post 146, so Pearl joined the ALA in 1968. She distributed poppies and helped with many other little projects.

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin
2022 American Legion Auxiliary
Department Convention
KI Convention Center/Hyatt Regency
333 Main Street, Green Bay, WI 54301**

2022 OFFICIAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE

(subject to change)

Thursday, July 14, 2022

- 10 am – 11 am Registration Setup
- 11 am – 5 pm Registration
- 12 pm – 5 pm Fundraiser Raffle
- 2 pm – 4:30 pm Headquarters Office/Supplies/Exhibits
- 1 pm – 2:30 pm Legion Family Joint Executive Committees Luncheon
- 2 pm Tellers, Credential Chairman & Judges of Election meeting
- 2:30 pm Resolutions Committee Meeting, if necessary
- 3 pm – 5 pm Recognition Program
 - Honored PDP Diane Kranig
 - District Membership Awards
 - Introduction/Remarks – National President Kathy Daudistel
- 5 pm – 6 pm National President Kathy Daudistel Meet & Greet/Parade of Checks
- 6:30 pm Past Department Presidents Dinner *(by invitation only)*

Friday, July 15, 2022

- 7 am – 5 pm Registration
- 7:30 am – 5 pm Headquarters Office/Supplies/Exhibits
- 8 am – 5 pm Fundraiser Raffle
- 8 am – 8:45 am Flag Rehearsal
- 9 am – 9:15 am Processional Line-Up**
- 9:15 am Processional
- 9:30 am – 4 pm Convention Session
- 4 pm Past Presidents Parley Business Meeting

Saturday, July 16, 2022

- 7 am – 8 am Registration
- 7:30 am – 11 am Headquarters Office/Supplies/Exhibits
- 8 am – 12 pm Fundraiser Raffle
- 8 am – 4:30 pm Convention Session
 - 9 am – VOTING (Convention doors will be closed during voting)
 - Convention reconvenes immediately following voting
 - Judges of Elections, Credential Chair, Dept Tellers – vote counting
 - Flag Recessional
 - **Installation of 2022-2023 Department Officers and District Presidents**
 - Adjournment of 2022 Convention
 - Reception Line for 2022-2023 Department Officers and District Presidents
- 5 pm – 6 pm Church Services
- 6:30 pm Joint Memorial Service Practice
- 7 pm – 11:00 pm Saturday Evening Entertainment
(Legion Family invited to attend; ticket purchase required w/Registration)

Sunday, July 17, 2022

- 8 am Joint Legion and Auxiliary Memorial Service
- 9:30 am Department Executive Board Meeting