



4th District News

2024 August



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN



The Department Convention Recap

The Wisconsin Department Convention was held in July at the Paper Valley Hotel & Conference Center in Appleton. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow with our American Legion family.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of you who attended and have continued to support the American Legion Auxiliary in all you do. Your generosity and dedication allows us to serve our Veterans in so many ways.

Our outgoing president, Maggie Geiger asked all the district presidents to decorate a hat with items that represent the things our units did over the course of the last year.

I chose to make the hat from patriotic fabrics and add photos from our events attached to stars. After all, you are all stars for all you do to make us successful!

As you can see from the photo, Maggie wore the hat as she spoke about our district's successes. It was fun to hear about the things other districts did as well and I hope we can capitalize on some of their ideas. Yes, I do mean steal some of those ideas!

And as we say thank you and good-bye to Maggie's year as Department President we enjoyed her creativity in creating a version of a dog sled race to encourage us all to keep our membership goals a priority. And we appreciated her commitment to us all.

Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of those we serve. Again, thank you for your continued support.

Enjoy this month's newsletter!

Kathy Geom

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Articles

Committee
Reports

Event
Information

Save the Dates

Opportunities

Thanks

Exciting New Membership Award Opportunities

Checking Our Pulse Awards

Units that reach the percentage below by the goal date will be placed into a random drawing to win \$100

- 75% - September 15
- 85% - October 15
- 95% - November 15
- 100% - December 15

The Beat Goes On Award

Recruit a NEW or rejoin an EXPIRED member for 2025 and receive the Department President's pin.

Pulsation Pass Award

Units reaching 100% by December 31 will receive two entries (one entry if 100% by January 31).

One lucky winner will win an all-access Department Convention Pass including:

- Two-unit members paid convention registrations
- Two-night hotel accommodation (one room)
- Unit recognition from stage at convention
- Two free passes to the Commanders' Party

Unit Officer form must be submitted and listed officers paid to qualify for any awards

Congratulations Becky Mueller!

2024-2025 PRESIDENT'S THEME & SPECIAL PROJECT

President Becky Mueller's theme is "Serving our Veterans, Military and Each Other from the Depths of Our Hearts."

She has two special projects:

1) Raising awareness of Wisconsin's 1,800 POW/MIAs. The UW MIA Recovery and Identification Project is working to find and identify missing U.S. military personnel. Reach out to families that may still be waiting for closure – let them know we care and encourage them to submit DNA samples to aid in the identification of recovered remains.

2) Collecting donations to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund to serve other ALA members. President Becky's goal is to raise \$1 per member. Donations may be made using the General Fund Suggested Donation Sheet.



Children & Youth

Soon, summer will be winding down, meaning our children and youth will be heading back to school. Look in your life and remember how life was when you were in school. Most of us spent our days playing ball, going swimming or riding our bikes all over town. Today's youth are faced with many social pressures. Now days, families are dealing with many more issues including drug use, TV shows with swearing, indecencies and violence. Cell phones are being used for bullying and etc.

Survival could depend on the quality of care, education and training that we as parents, grand parents and citizens provide for young people of today. As you know, there are many critical issues facing the young people of today. Child porn, drug use and child sexual exploitation to name a few.

The ALA Children and Youth program provides care and strives to improve conditions for all children, preserving the family unit and to address the needs of their physical, spiritual and educational areas of their lives.

Our C&Y program has 3 main guide lines.

1. To strengthen the family unit
2. Work with quality organizations that provide services for children
3. Provide communities with well rounded programs that meet the needs of young people

How can our units contribute to this vital program? A couple of ideas to get your unit started are to contribute to TAL Child Welfare Foundation or through an organization like Boys and Girls Club. Locally, school supplies donations to our schools are appreciated.

Have fun working this program with our fun loving children and youth!

Membership

Please continue to collect 2024 dues as we start the 2025 membership year. Hopefully all units have sent in their 2024-25 Unit Officers form to Department, and your officers are paid. If not please do so since we are not able to win any membership awards if the form is not in and your officer's dues are not paid. Even if your officers remain the same the officers' form must be sent in every year.

District 4 Membership Goals

Goals are based on total
2023 paid as of 12/31/23 + 1

UNIT	CITY	GOAL
18	Milwaukee	19
27	South Milwaukee	54
120	West Allis	22
299	Hales Corners	14
415	Milwaukee	13
416	Greendale	107
434	Oak Creek	156
537	Milwaukee	85
Total District 4 Goal		470

ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO PAY THEIR DUES ONLINE OR OVER THE PHONE It's FAST, EASY, AND ACCURATE!

You can renew by mailing a check, go online at www.legion-aux.org

OVER THE PHONE - Call National direct @ (317) 569-4570 (Mon. – Fri. 7:00 am – 3:30 pm) National will now be taking member's dues payments over the phone via debit or credit card. You will speak to a real person. A member may pay for several people at a time; perfect for the grandparents that pay for several members. Once either payment has been accepted the member(s) will be sent a confirmation notice and NATIONAL WILL SEND THEM A VALID NATIONAL AUTHORIZED MEMBERSHIP CARD. It is up to your discretion if you choose to send them a unit card.

No more waiting on checks or the mail. Units are notified WEEKLY of their members that pay by either method or you can use your ALA MIS access to view them.

I believe we can reach 100% by working together!

Your Membership Team is here to help.

Bonnie Jakubczyk
bon6862@yahoo.com
414 531-7890

Legislative News

The American Legion Auxiliary supports the legislative priorities adopted by The American Legion. The American Legion's Legislative Division in Washington, D.C., keeps abreast of current legislation related to veterans' benefits, national security, and children and youth. Auxiliary members are encouraged to subscribe to the Legion's legislative ebulletins to keep the Legion Family aware of legislative issues and the official positions of The American Legion on those issues.

Every unit should appoint a Legislative Chair and subscribe to The American Legion Dispatch and encourage as many members as possible to subscribe. The Dispatch is published monthly by the National American Legion and is available online at www.legion.org/dispatch.

To sign up go to the [Legislative Center: www.legion.org/legislative/action](http://www.legion.org/legislative/action)

Another site to check is Action Center:
www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home

The Auxiliary has a Facebook page:<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALALegislative>

Members should write to their legislators when asked to put special emphasis on a subject and keep track of the correspondence and any replies for your annual report. Responses help The American Legion national headquarters determine congressional opinion on veterans' issues.

This is easy to do and you will make a difference for our veterans and their families.

Save the Date...

The 4th District Fall Conference will be held on October 26th at the War Memorial Center in downtown Milwaukee.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to see the new Poppy Shop and explore all the the War Memorial Center has to offer.



Look for more information in the near future!

Upcoming Events

National Convention - August 26th - 28th - New Orleans

ALA in the Know - September 4th - Cumberland

ALA in the Know - September 28th - Gillett

ALA in the Know - October 5th - Cedarburg

Juniors Fall Conference - October 12th - King

4th District Fall Conference - October 26th - Milwaukee

Education

Purpose: The purpose of the Education Committee is to promote quality education for children—especially for military children—and adults.

How we promote quality education is up to our members, and units, but there are many ways to do it. Summer and Fall are great times to start and using the Give 10 to Education is one easy way. Set up a basket or barrel at your Post home and ask for donations. Once you have those donations, call a local school and let them know you have something to donate and when you do, remember to get a picture.

Letting our high schools know what scholarships we have is another way. Watch for something to come with regards to this at our Fall Conference.

Do some leg work now to know who your high school counselors are at your local high school.

Don't forget to support the teachers in your area. Teachers Appreciation Week is May 5-9, 2025. Do something nice for the teachers and aides. Send doughnuts, or bagels, maybe apples for the teachers!

More to come on Education!!!

Juniors

Purpose: The purpose of the Junior Activities Committee is to inspire active participation in members aged 17 and under so they become engaging, productive members who will want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership into adulthood.

Getting your Juniors involved with your unit is as easy as asking them to help! They are ready and willing to work at functions, do tray favors, or just visit with veterans and learn their stories. Ask them to a meeting and have them lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Ask them to help at a fundraiser, there are so many ways they can be involved.

For those that have Juniors out of state, have them work the Patch Program. They learn so many things and learn why they are members of this great organization. Go to the Department website and look for the Patch Program pages and get them started today!



MCCU (Milwaukee County Conference of Units)

Come join the fun!

MCCU is hosting the 1st Annual Legion Family Picnic to be held Sunday, September 8, 2024 at Legion Post 434 in Oak Creek.

We want to invite all Legion Family members to attend, to have some fun, get to know each other better and to serve veterans.

It will take place from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the outside picnic area (inside hall if it rains) and the cost is \$10.00.

The RSVP deadline is August 29.

Please plan to be there and see the attached flyer (on the next page) for all the details.

Donna Jensen
MCCU President
Milwaukee County

Hosted by The American Legion Auxiliary Milwaukee County Conference of Units

First Annual LEGION FAMILY PICNIC

th

Sunday September 8 from 10am – 2pm at
American Legion Post 434 – Outdoor Picnic Area
9327 South Shepherd Avenue
Oak Creek, WI 53154

Join us for a wonderful opportunity to get to know fellow ALA members and their families. We will also be creating thank you notes to deliver to our Veterans currently in VA facilities. If you have any cards you would like to donate for this project please bring along. MCCU will provide the main dish of burgers & brats, drinks and paper goods – please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Cost: \$10.00 per person - check made payable to MCCU

Please mail check with RSVP slip to Laura Calteux at
7012 West Squire Avenue, Greenfield, WI 53220 by August 29th

Please detach and return with check

Name:		
Phone Number:		
Unit:	Post:	District:
Please state what side or dessert you wish to bring:		
Total # Attending:		x \$10.00 each = Total \$
Please list additional names and phone numbers of attendees on back of sheet		

A Jingle About Auxiliary Life...

COUNT OUR BLESSINGS FOR AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

Let's start with our own families - a penny for each child we hold dear.
Precious grandchildren should be worth a nickel I fear, and for those special great grandchildren
throw in a dime.

Let's give our spouses their due –
we'll drop in 2 cents for you.

For all the generations before and those to come –
how can we do less for them than to give some?

How about putting in a coin for each Veteran in our lives – they gave their all for us!

How about a nickel for the one that gave us membership in the BEST Patriotic Organization in the
World.

Drop in a penny to show you belong – 2 cents if you aren't current on your dues.

Not wearing your pin – put a coin in.

Officers – drop something in for the honor and privilege of serving.

Not an officer – give a dime for not serving this time.

A penny for each decade of life – or if still in your first century of time – just drop in a dime
that will be fine.

Those sitting among friends – how about a penny for each one of them.

Tomorrow is Sunday – put something in the plate if because of a Veteran you can worship at your
choice of place.

How many drove – how many rode – drop in something for being free to come & go.

So many blessings, we just named a few.

If you are abundantly blessed drop in a few.

To be part of a blessing and not a curse – drop in the coins hiding in your purse.

Thank you for reading!

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