



10TH DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2025



DISTRICT 10 AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring Conference 2025

The 2025 10th District Spring Conference will be held in Prescott on Saturday April 26. Reports will be given on what programs the units have been working. Election of District officers will be held. An informational letter with a registration form will be emailed soon.. Please save the date and plan to attend.

Impact Reports

Spring is Impact Report time!!!

Unit presidents compile all the hours served and money donated by the membership. Every hour, every dollar that the American Legion Auxiliary members invest in the mission, is helping veterans. If you don't know how to complete on Impact Report, please contact your County President or me at (715) 234-5155 or (715) 931-9236. Also, go to: amlegionauxwi.org (click on the 3 bars at top right and go to annual reports). Last year we had 29 of 43 units complete on Impact Report, I would like to see that increase this year!

Badger Girls State

During the past year, ALA Badger Girls State received a change in IRS tax-exempt status And is now a 501(c)(3) organization. Any Legion Family entity that wishes to solicit funds from local corporations or foundations for BGS sponsorship, may apply using the ALABGS EIN (#39-6076509) If a Corporation/Foundation approves your grant request, They should mail a check payable to Wisconsin ALA Badger Girl State, Inc.

And send to: ALA Wisconsin

Atten: Carrie Thrasher

PO Box 140

Portage, WI. 53901-0140

They should also reference the payment is for your unit/post/squadron/Riders number. So, Carrie can match the donation with a reservation form,. Any grant funds that are received without any designated unit will be applied to the ALABGS general fund. If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Dorniak at Department of Wisconsin deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org

Thank -You For Serving!

Thanks to all the Auxiliary & Legion members who came out on December 16th to help wrap Christmas gifts at the Chippewa Veterans Home. (see photos)



Thanks for all you do to serve others!

Mary Townsend -10th District President – Department of Wisconsin

(715) 234-5155 getmet77@hotmail.com



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WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY AT MID-WINTER

Mid-Winter Conference for Auxiliary was held on Saturday January 18th in Appleton. Seven members from the 10th District attended. Some of the days event included: Leadership team presentation, Impact and Narrative reporting, Legislative and more. The Junior members lead by Christine Johnsen did an interactive presentation, where the senior members were able to work on Patch program. We folded pocket flags, learned the Pledge to the Flag in sign language, and tested our knowledge on the U.S. Constitution and more.

A Valentine crafting project was done by some members, and will be distributed to the VA facilities. Members donated many products that were divided up between the VA facilities. Brenda Tryba a dual member from the Chetek Post, helped veterans with the art of Poppy making. Thanks to all who attended and donated items to the veterans. (photos)



10TH DISTRICT ORATORICAL CONTEST AND DEC HELD ON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15

The 10th District American Legion held a DEC Meeting on Saturday February 15, 2025 at the Eau Claire Legion Post for updates from Commander Rita on Mid-Winter and the upcoming Spring Conference.

At 1:00pm the 10th District Oratorical Contest was held with three contestants.

1st Place Hannah Stone, attending North High School in Eau Claire, Grade 10, sponsored by Post 53 Eau Claire

2nd Place (Alternate) Julia Oduor, attending Cumberland High School, Grade 12, sponsored by Post 98 Cumberland

3rd Place William Kistner, attending Menomonie High School, Grade 10, sponsored by Post 207 Elmwood



Pictured left to right:
District Commander Rita Rindahl
Hannah Stone (1st Place Winner)
District Chairman Steve Isensee



Pictured left to right:
District Chairman Steve Isensee
Julia Oduor (2nd Place)
William Kistner (3rd Place)
Hannah Stone (1st Place)
District Commander Rita Rindahl



Pictured Contestants with their families



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BARRON COUNTY ORATORICAL CONTEST

The American Legion Oratorical contest is a speech contest where students write their own 8-10 minute speech on some aspect of the Constitution. Julia Odour of Cumberland took 1st Place in the Barron County Contest on January 15, 2025 and will move onto the District 10 Contest on Saturday February 15, at the Eau Claire Legion Post. Pictured from left to right are Mark Mauer, Americanism Chairman in Barron County, Julia Odour, and Jerry Townsend Barron County Commander.



MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

How are you doing on your membership goals for this year? The goals this year seemed much more attainable, but it looks like some of the units are still struggling somewhat. I would suggest again, that you contact your members who have not yet paid. Perhaps they forgot, or maybe they are facing some sort of difficulty. Talk with the member, to see if you can find a solution. Also, please, please- if you have dues that have not been submitted, send those dues in now! Any one with unpaid status is no longer considered a member, until National receives those dues.

At this point, the best way to get those dues submitted quickly is to call National and pay the dues using a **debit** or **credit** card. Call 317-569-4570 Monday-Friday 7 am to 3:30 pm Eastern Time. This is also an option for our units to submit dues for the members throughout the year. Save postage and pay dues for your members as soon as they pay you.

I am proud of the following units who have reached or surpassed their 100% goal: **Alma, Chippewa Falls, New Auburn, Brackett, Spring Valley, Hammond and Eleva**. There are several others who are so close to that 100% goal! Keep sending in those dues, and let's get our Mighty Tenth District to 100%!

If there is anything that I can do to help, please let me know-I am here to help you!

For God and Country,

Teresa Steinke, Membership Chair, Tenth District Department of Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Do you have a member in your unit exemplify the values and ideals of the Auxiliary and whose accomplishments significantly impact the program work in their units? Requirements: Has not held an elected or an appointment position above the Unit Level, and has paid their 2025 Membership Dues. Activities must have been in the 2024-2025 Administrative Years.

Then send in a 1,000 word or less document describing the accomplishments and activities. Pictures can be emailed to me, but not part of the 1,000 word essay. Form found at:

https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/files/ugd/8bea47_88795647e46b41f883053f18d32743a7.pdf

Teresa Isensee

Dept Leadership Chairman



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MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN

The purpose of the Americanism program is to inspire, recognize, and perpetuate responsible citizenship through education and acts of patriotism, as well as raise awareness and increase appreciation of the price paid for our fundamental freedoms. The program includes increasing flag etiquette awareness in communities, awareness and participation in youth activities that promote proper respect for our flag and loyalty to our country, and promoting Auxiliary participation in The American Legion Americanism programs.

Units should be active right now in promoting ALA Badger Girls State, the Americanism Essay Contest, Americanism in schools, Veterans in Community Schools, and study of the U.S. Constitution. I have attachments for the Americanism Contest Criteria and Scoring Rubric as well as the Submission Form.

We should also actively participate in observations of patriotic holidays, scouting, 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.

If you have any questions or need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me!

For God and Country,
Teresa Steinke. Americanism Chair

ST CROIX COUNTY AUXILIARY NEWS

The St. Croix County Legion Family participated in sending care packages to troops. These packages were sent to the 128th Infantry Battalion from New Richmond, recently deployed to Kuwait. The packages included monetary donations and goods, for 125 troops. Legion Family members and community dropped off items at the Wilson Legion Post, then taken to the St. Croix Veteran Service Officer, Phillip Landgraf to be boxed and sent. St. Croix County ALA President Elsie Obermueller was instrumental in promoting this project. Units participating were: Sommerset #111, New Richmond # 80, Woodville #301, and Wilson # 330. (1st photo below)

On Sunday February 2nd, District President Mary Townsend participated in a Four Chaplain Service with the St. Croix County Legion Family. The service was held at Knapp United Methodist Church. St. Croix County ALA President Elsie Obermueller and Chaplain Don Hogenson from the Wilson Post also participated in the candle lighting service. The Four Chaplains were stationed on board the USAT Dorchester, on February 3rd, 1943, the ship was torpedoed and sank within 20 minutes. Amid the chaos the Four Chaplains helped the troops get to lifeboats and handed out lifejackets. When there were no more lifejackets, they gave up their jackets to save others lives. In 1988, the US Congress established Four Chaplains Day to honor the chaplains and their values. A recent article in the ALA Magazine, (November 2024 page 4) a story about one of the chaplains, 1st Lt. George L. Fox was given full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in September 2024. (2nd photo below)





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MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT HISTORIAN

History request - please if anyone has pictures of President Mary attending an event at your post please send me a copy of that picture so I can work on a history book for President Mary any questions please email me and I will email you back here is me email address. jean.erlewine@gmail.com

Thank you Jean

CANIDATE FOR DISTRICT 10 THE AMERICAN LEGION COMMANDER

Past Department Vice Commander Harry P. Bauer respectfully requests your support in his candidacy for the office of District 10 Commander. He has the support from his Post and Chippewa County. Harry has the support of his wife, Patsy, son Robert, daughter Patricia and two grandkids Brendan and Jax. He is a Veteran of the U.S. Air Force. Retired as a Master Sergeant after 36 years of service. He is an American Legion PUFL member, has 11 Continuous Membership Years and is a member of Post 77. He served as a Commander at the Post, County and District Levels and is a Past Department Vice Commander serving two terms.

He currently serves as a Chippewa County Adjutant and Finance Officer. He has served on the Department Membership Committee, Vice Chairman of the Department Hospital Committee and as a DEC Liaison on the Department VA & R Committee. Currently serves as the Chairman on the Department Children and Youth Committee. He is a graduate of the Wisconsin American Legion College (WALC), current President of the WALC Alumni Association. He is a WALC Senior Instructor and acts as a mentor to the American Legion Family. Harry is the current Chairman of the Chippewa Veterans Home Recreation Committee, Inc. He is also a volunteer at the Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls. Harry is an active member of the Chippewa Falls Patriotic Council and currently serves as the Honor Guard Commander.

Fellow Legionnaires, he would appreciate your vote at the District 10 Spring Conference. “It’s not about me, it’s about we.”

POPPY POSTER CONTEST

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. The Unit winning Poppy Poster must be sent to Department Chairman by March 15, 2025.

See form at: https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/_files/ugd/8bea47_b1f7bd6f85d6447fbc3a7c4c375bd7f6.pdf

PRAYER FROM DISTRICT CHAPLAIN JEAN

Heavenly Father
as we continue to do the work of serving our Veterans and their families
let us find the joy that you give us each day to be the
one that they may need in their lives as they may need.
Amen

UP COMING EVENTS

March 1, 2025	10 th District ALA DEC meeting at 1:00pm at the Bloomer Legion Post, 1206 Veterans Memorial Drive
April 26, 2025	10 th District Legion Family Spring Conference in Prescott – ALA Registration forms to be send at a later time.
June 15-20, 2025	Badger Girls State

Next Newsletter will be April 2025 – Deadline for articles and pictures will be March 30, 2025

To submit articles and events for the 10th District Family Newsletter send to: Teresa Isensee tisensee2173@gmail.com



AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST 2025 SUBMISSION FORM

Essay Title: What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?”

Department: 1st place winning entry in each class will receive \$50 from Department and will be forwarded to Central Division for further competition. 2nd place winning entry in each class will receive \$25 from Department and 3rd thru 5th place winning entries in each class will receive \$10.

National: 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. National winners will be posted at www.ALAforVeterans.org after Convention.

Materials and Guidelines: The contest shall include six classes.

Word Requirement: All words on the essay page/pages count. If students are required to include a title or other class information, please put this on a separate title page

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Defined as student’s reading level being 2 or more years below grade level

Essay Checklist:

- Class competing in _____
- Sponsoring ALA Unit _____
- Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- Completed essay coversheet as first page of essay
- Word count of essay _____
- Due date for student to return to ALA Unit _____

***Note: Checks are sent directly to awarded students. Please print student’s name and mailing address clearly.**

To be completed by the Parent/Teacher:

*Student name: _____ Grade level: _____

*Address: _____

*City/State/Zip: _____

Parent’s Email Address: _____

Parent’s Phone #: _____ Word Count: _____

School Name: _____

School city/state: _____

Teacher’s name: _____

Teacher’s signature: _____

Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered):
Sponsoring Unit City location & number: _____
Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: _____

Unit Winner due to Department Chairman on March 15, 2025

Department: WI Signature of Department Chairman: _____

Send to: Diane Burkhalter, 409 Briarwood Lane, Port Washington WI 53074

Department winner due to National Americanism Division Chairman by April 15, 2025

Americanism Essay Criteria and Rubric

35 Points- Theme Development: This would involve answering the who, what, where, when and why about the theme. Essays should relate to the writer's personal experiences.

35 Points- Clarity of Ideas: Essays should have an easy to understand format or organization with correct spelling and grammar usage. The ideas or points are clearly expressed. The reader should have a clear understanding of the writer's explanation of the theme.

30 Points- Knowledge or Understanding of the Question: The writer shows an understanding of the key words in the question. (This assists the writer with the task of staying on the topic or the question.)

SCORING RUBRIC

35 Points- Theme Development:

- 25 Points- The writer answers the who, what, where, when and why about them.
- 10 Points- The writer provides personal experiences that relate to the topic.

35 Points- Clarity of Ideas:

- 25 Points- The essays should have an easy to understand format or organization so that the reader understands the writer's explanation of the theme. The ideas or points are clearly expressed.
* Grades 5 and up should have an introduction, smooth transitions between ideas and a conclusion.
- 5 Points- The writer uses correct spelling.
- 5 Points-The writer uses correct grammar.

30 Points- Knowledge or Understanding of the Question:

- 30 Points- The writer shows an understanding of the key words in the question. (This assists the writer with the task of staying on the topic or question.)