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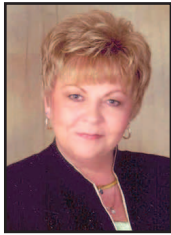
American Legion Auxiliary
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The official publication of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

www.amlegionauxwi.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Diana Sirovina
Department
President

“Working Together”... more than just words!

When I was deciding on a theme for this year, “Working Together” seemed like such a great idea. Individuals

coming together to accomplish goals seemed like such an elementary, simple idea. Members embracing the mission and vision of this organization, working side-by-side, seemed like a concept anyone would easily grasp. To my thinking, every member would take the theme of “working together” as a guide to establish better relations within our organization to move toward better programs for our veterans, active duty military and their families.

So what does “working together” really mean? Is it just some nice words on a page? Is it just a vague concept that does not apply to you? I hope not! I truly hope that every single member will take a moment to remember why she belongs to this great organization. I hope you will

remember that you honor a special veteran with your membership. I hope that everyone will remember that although we are all individuals, we are part of a premier national organization. I hope that members remember that diversity makes us a stronger organization. I hope that we remember that no one person makes this a great organization. I hope that all members remember that civility and discretion are paramount concepts that we all need to respect in every meeting, function and social event. I hope that members will respect experience, while embracing change and new ideas. I hope that they remember that we are here to support The American Legion.

Having said all that, I find it somewhat disheartening to have members come up to me at events, call or send emails about how dysfunctional their groups have become. Is your unit among those that spend more time on in-fighting than working on ways to work with others in your Legion Family to aid our veterans and military? If you think this statement applies to your group, it is not too late

to do something about it! Make that connection with your Post, SAL and Legion Riders. Start with small projects and build better relationships within your units and your Legion Family.

As I have been traveling around the state these past few months, I have seen wonderful examples of “working together.” Units have joined their Posts, SAL’s and Riders to hold joint functions and events. They came together in fundraising efforts that had an amazing impact on the lives of so many veterans. They all pitched in, without ego or rank, to accomplish the mission of our organizations. They found the true meaning of “service not self.” These groups truly know what it means to be The Legion Family. To them, I say “thank you” for all that you do for our veterans and for understanding the concept of “working together.”

Now it’s your turn. See all the good others in the Legion Family have done and make it your New Year’s resolution to find new ways to **Work Together!**

Diana Sirovina
Department President

MEMBERSHIP

Ann Rynes
Dept Membership Chairman
Ph: (608) 604-0350
Email: annies@mwt.net

2013 has begun. What will the new year bring? We survived the “end of the world” so the only way is up after that, right? Have you written down your resolutions? Research says that if we write down that type of information, we are more likely to hold ourselves accountable to follow through. Take a moment to write this down: “I will work together within the Legion family to promote and grow this elite organization.” Not so tough, right? Now comes the follow through! Here are some ways to start your efforts.

- Recognize your members that have reached milestone membership anniversaries – whether it be five, ten, twenty or more years.
- Be mindful of what your members do outside of your meeting hall. If you heard on the radio that one of your members celebrated a special anniversary or they were in-

strumental in the local food pantry drive or that they may have lost someone close, acknowledge that with a card, phone call or when you see them next. They will appreciate that you were aware of what they did outside the organization and will feel more connected to the Legion Family.

- At every meeting, bring up names of members who have not renewed. Ask for volunteers to contact those folks to find out why. Don’t stop if you get the answering machine, make a note of the time you called and try calling at another time. Drop a card in the mail stating that the member is missed at meetings or events. Recently, in the Richland Center Unit, a member’s mother passed and while the Unit sent her cards of condolences and members attended the visitation/funeral, the member was mindful of how much we cared about her and her family. She signed up her three sisters, a daughter, six

grandchildren and two Legion members! And she still feels she hasn’t done enough for our organization.

Plans are being made for the Midwinter Auxiliary Luncheon to be held Saturday, January 19th at Ho-Chunk in Wisconsin Dells. We are delighted to have Mary Jo Berning, Central Division National Vice President from the Department of Iowa in attendance. Recognition will be given to a special friend of the Legion Family in acknowledgement of her work to support veterans over the years. Membership certificates and recruiting awards will be given out. Instead of a guest speaker, excerpts from a DVD entitled Alive Day Memories-Home from Iraq will be shown. Bring a tissue!

Best wishes for a successful 2013 from your membership team!

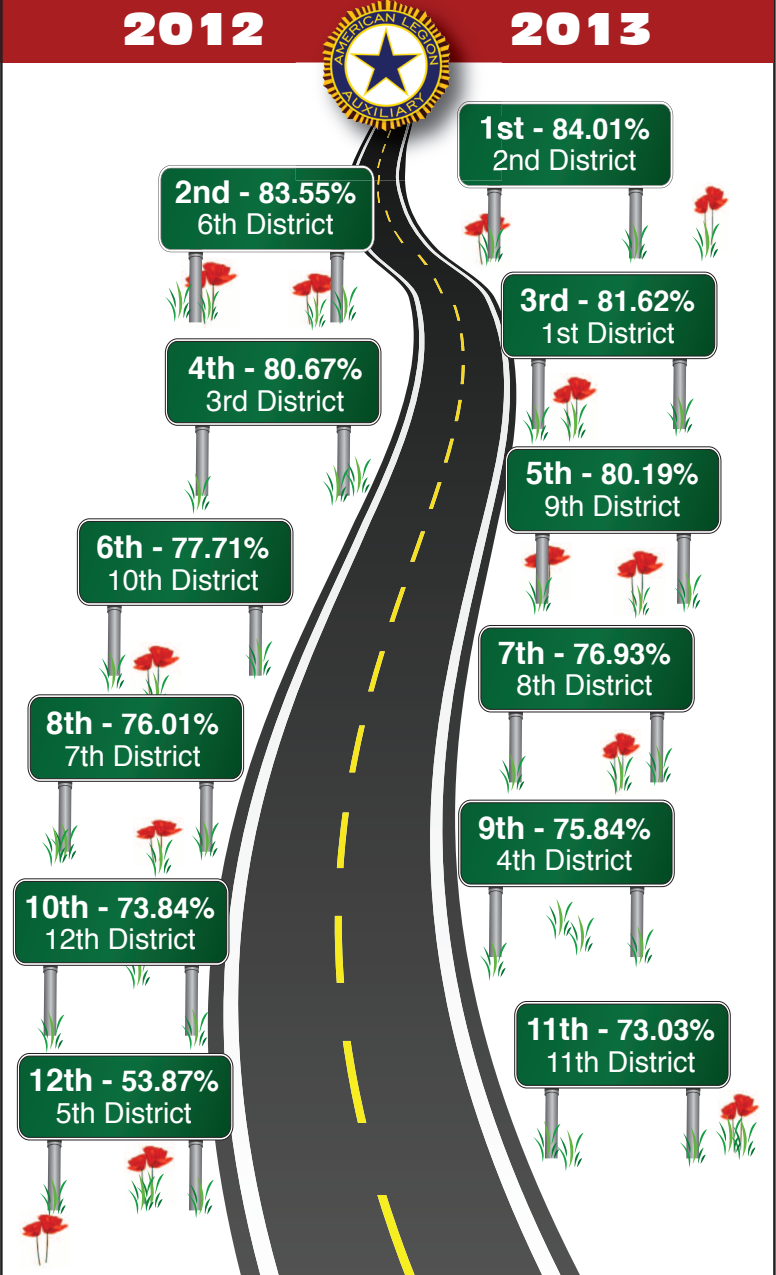
YOUR TEAM:

- Ann Rynes, 608-604-0350, annies@mwt.net;
- Berne Baer, 920-680-0308, twobaers2009@gmail.com;
- April Kollmorgen, 360-362-2803, aekollmorgen@comcast.net

TAKE THE HIGH ROAD

2012

2013



JANUARY 2013
Total Membership: 78.80%

Unit 329 Gives the Gift of Christmas Joy



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 329 in Briggsville distributed Christmas fruit baskets and poinsettias to the elderly in the community and in nursing homes. Pictured (left to right): Loretta Hundley, Sue Bailey, Sharon Ives, Mary Adams and Barbra McFaul. Special appreciation is extended to Jannan and Gary Stevens who made the deliveries.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Bonnie Jakubczyk
Department Chaplain
Music Chairman
Ph: (414) 764-6752
Email: bon6862@yahoo.com

As we start the New Year, reflect on what has been done for the American Legion Auxiliary and look ahead to what can be done for our programs before our year ends. Hopefully Units are busy preparing prayer books and will send me prayers for Department President Diana's prayer book.

PRAYER

Lord, please keep our country under your protection. We ask for your guidance to ensure peace and goodwill to others, and let us continue to strive to bring peace to the world. Please protect our service men and women, and may we continue to work together to spread your word and live each day to its fullest. For all this we give you Thanks, O Lord.

Amen

MUSIC

With everything that is going on in this world I thought it was time for a healing song.

FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS

Words by Fred Kaan (1965),
Music by John Hughes (1907)

For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord, for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords. To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom, from despair your world release, that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace. Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned: pride of status, race or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan. In our common quest for justice may we hallow brief life's span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind; for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind; that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

*WORKING TOGETHER
 FOR GOD AND COUNTRY*



GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Bonnie Dorniak
Executive Secretary/Treasurer
Ph: (608) 745-0124
Email: deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org
www.amlegionauxwi.org

Welcome to 2013! May the year ahead bring peace, health and happiness!

Several people have inquired about attending the official visits to the VA facilities. The purpose of these visits is to give the Commander and President the opportunity to inspect each VA facility, meet with the hospital director to discuss specific needs that the Legion Family can provide to the veterans, and to review issues they should address with Legislators during the Washington DC Conference. In order to make the official visits effective, we try to minimize the number of people participating. Members interested in scheduling an individual tour should contact the hospital representative to make arrangements.

National Headquarters mailed second renewal notices to anyone whose dues were not processed at department by

mid-December. If you feel you received a notice in error, please verify with your Unit Membership Chairman that your dues were forwarded to department. Until your payment is processed at headquarters, your membership is considered delinquent.

Contest & Awards information was sent to Unit Presidents in December. Questions? Please contact the appropriate program chairman.

Members should report their activities relative to the annual reports to their Unit President by April 1st. Unit presidents must consolidate this information and submit their Unit Annual Report to their district president by April 15th. District presidents must report to department by April 30th.

Check out the ALABGS website (www.badgergirlsstate.org) for up-to-date information on the 2013 Badger Girls State session.

Information from department headquarters and chairmen is sent to unit presidents to share with their members each month.

This information is also posted on the department website (under Unit Mailings) for anyone who wishes to read the information on their own.

The American Legion Auxiliary has more than \$25,000 in scholarships available at the state and national levels. Scholarship applications may be obtained from your unit president, high schools or from the ALA website. Scholarship applications are due in March! See directions on each scholarship for specific details.

If you have not submitted your Poppy Order for 2013, please do so ASAP. If you placed an order last year but haven't sent your 20% poppy profit to department, your order will be delayed until this is paid.

Many units still have not paid their 2012/2013 bonding fees. Please contact Linda at department headquarters to check if your unit is current. Invoices for 2013/2014 will be issued in May. Twenty-six units have not cashed the PUFL checks which were issued on November 2nd. Please do so as soon as possible.



LEGISLATIVE

Joan Chwala
Legislative Chairman
Ph: (715) 668-5661
Email: ctr68552@centurytel.net

Be an Advocate for Veterans!

Utilize the "Letters to the Editor" in your newspapers! As a member of the Legion Family you can show your support for veterans right from your own home. It is not necessary to have a formal legislative program in your post, squadron, or unit. Make it a priority to search out the positive things that are available for our veterans and publicize them through a letter to the editor in a local paper. The following is a partial list of some ideas

to use. You can make an impact in 2013!

1. Encourage others to contact their legislators and inform them that Tri-Care benefits for our military families should not be included in proposed budget cuts.
2. Be active in publicizing veterans' job fairs and stand downs because a jobless veteran needs our help to meet with potential employers who are willing to hire veterans first.
3. Wisconsin's current budget fully restores the Wisconsin GI Bill and was expanded and clarified to include distance learning and online courses. An educated veteran will have a better

choice of jobs.

4. Encourage members of your community to be advocates for needy veterans by accessing the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs website and utilizing the links to help that are available.
5. Visit the American Legion Legislative Action Center at <http://legion.capwix.com/legion/issues/bills> to see what your Wisconsin delegates to the Washington Conference will be discussing with our legislators. Make your own phone calls to these legislators to join your voice with ours on the Hill Walks.



NATIONAL SECURITY

Karen Degner
Department Chairman
Ph: (920) 892-6139
Cell: (920) 918-9772
Email: mdegner@wi.rr.com

Although May sounds so far away, it's not too early to begin planning for events to observe National Military Appreciation month. Armed Forces Day is the third Saturday in May, followed by Memorial Day. Some suggestions for events and activities include:

- Donate to the Wounded Warrior Proj-

ect or Fisher House.

- Donate unused hotel points or airline miles to assist wounded warriors and their families.
- Contact Family Readiness Groups to see if you can help the families of deployed service members.
- Ask your local public library if you could set up a display of military articles that your Post members or friends might want to share. Include poppies and the poppy story in the display.
- Work with your Post to hold Veterans

in the Classroom programs during May.

- Interview active duty military for an article in your newsletter or invite them to speak at one of your meetings.
- Invite a veteran to be a special guest at your Memorial Day events.
- When you see a veteran or active duty service member, remember to thank them for their service.

To learn more, go to:
<http://www.nmam.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS & DEADLINES

7th District Spring Conference March 23, 2013 Sparta Legion Post ALA Badger Girls State Committee Meeting April 6, 2013 Department Headquarters Portage, WI 8th District Spring Conference April 13, 2013 Contact: Penny Joren Wisconsin Veterans Home King, WI	1st District Spring Conference April 20, 2013 Contact: Emma Chism (262) 877-9498 Unit 544 989 Legion Drive Twin Lakes, WI 3rd District Spring Conference April 20, 2013 (tentative) Contact: Joanie Dickerson Darlington Post Home	6th District Spring Conference April 20, 2013 Contact: Char Kiesling Briggsville Unit 329 10th District Spring Conference April 20, 2013 Contact: Sue Vorwald River Falls, WI Commander Jensen's and President Sirovina's Joint Testimonial April 27, 2013 Klemmer's Banquet Hall West Allis, WI	2nd District Spring Conference April 27, 2013 Contact: Shirley Krier Jefferson County 4th District Spring Conference May 4, 2013 Contact: Sue Hembrook Post 537 9159 W Beloit Rd Milwaukee, WI	9th District Spring Conference May 11, 2013 Contact: Linda Coppock Kimberly Municipal Complex 515 W. Kimberly Avenue Kimberly, WI 12th District Spring Conference June 1, 2013 Location to be determined
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Official Visits to Veterans Facilities

Commander Wayne Jensen and President Diana Sirovina are conducting their official visits to the Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMC) and Veterans Homes. They will meet with the facility directors to discuss specific needs that the Legion Family can provide for the veterans and issues that should be addressed with legislators during the Washington DC Conference. During each visit, the President presents a gift on behalf of

the American Legion Auxiliary based on special requests from the facilities. The following recommendations were approved by the Executive Board for presentation by President Diana:

- Oscar G. Johnson VAMC (Iron Mountain, MI): \$500 for the purchase of clothes for newborns.
- Dayton Residential Facility (Kenosha): \$500 for the purchase of a laptop computer.
- Wisconsin Veterans Home

(King): \$1,000 for the purchase of cordless headphones for residents to use when watching television in double rooms or common areas.

- Middleton Memorial VAMC (Madison): \$2,000 for the purchase of computers, software, and printers for epileptic and head injury patients.
- Zablocki Memorial VAMC (Milwaukee): \$1,000 for the purchase of a table-top popcorn machine and refrigerator for the recreation room in Building 123.
- Minneapolis VA Health Care System (Minneapolis): \$500 to support the Community Resource Referral Center program for homeless veterans.
- VA Great Lakes Health Care System (Tomah): \$1,600 for six months of aviary maintenance.
- Wisconsin Veterans Home (Union Grove): Up to \$1,400 to purchase wall-mounted televisions in Boland Hall.

These gifts were possible due to the generosity of Auxiliary units and members throughout the state.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS!



The official visit to Zablocki Memorial VA Medical Center included a brief stop at the Poppy Shop, where Commander Wayne Jensen proudly displays the poppy he made. Pictured (left to right): President Diana Sirovina, Commander Jensen, Poppy Shop Co-Supervisor Shirley Meyer and Veteran Poppy Maker Dale.

Middleton VA Medical Center Visit

Commander Wayne Jensen and President Diana Sirovina conducted their official visit to Middleton Memorial VA Medical Center in December. President Diana presented the hospital director with a check to purchase computer equipment. She also presented a certificate of recognition to Esther Nimmow of ALA Unit 151, who has volunteered more than 20,000 hours at the VA Hospital!



Pictured, left to right: (seated) Department President Diana Sirovina, Middleton VA Hospital Director Judy McKee, 4th District President Sue Hembrook; (standing) Hospital Volunteer Esther Nimmow, Middleton Hospital Representative Rose Wenger, VA&R Chairman Virginia Kodl.

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

Pat Ziarnik
Department Chairman

With winter upon us, you may know a member who has exhausted all other means of assistance when a crisis hits. There is a fund available for American Legion Auxiliary members of

three years or more, who could use our help for heat, food, shelter, or education. Perhaps this Auxiliary member is too timid or proud to come forward for help. Seek her out and be the one to get her on the track for assistance from the American Legion Auxil-

ary Emergency Fund. The maximum amount available is \$2,400. This might be just the assistance she needs to see her way clear. All the forms and instructions are available on the national website or may be obtained through Department Headquarters.

WALASBA Bowling Tournament

Gail Faust
Department Chairman

Mark your calendars! Spring is coming and the dates of April 6 & 7 and April 13 & 14 are the dates of the Annual 9-Pin American Legion Auxiliary Bowling Tournament. This tournament is for YOU, the American Legion Auxiliary Member. This is the time to get out and see old friends, as well as make a new one, or two or twenty! Waunakee Unit 360 is hosting this year's tournament at the Waun-a-Bowl.

A registration form will be sent to each team captain participating in last year's tournament, will be included in the Unit mailing, and will be posted on the Department website. Please note, the starting time on both Saturdays has changed to 11:00 am (previously started at noon) and the second shift will start at 2:00 p.m. (not 3:00 pm). This is to accommodate league bowling schedules.

Please contact your Unit President if you are interested in getting a team together. Eligibility for this tournament includes having a current Wisconsin Auxiliary card and being over 18 years of age. This is not a sanctioned league, so bowling in a league is not a prerequisite to participate. Also, if you are interested but don't have a team or just want to be a substitute, notify Tournament Manager Anna Graham of the dates and events you are interested in bowling (team,

singles, doubles, all events) – be specific. Then your name will be available for that weekend or if a team is in need of someone.

Please read the entry form carefully. Only the Unit Membership Chairman and/or President are designated to sign the form. Team Captains - It is your responsibility to replace absent bowlers. The Bowling Committee or the host Unit will not be responsible for finding replacement bowlers.

Be sure to have your entries to the Tournament Manager prior to the deadline. Entry forms should be mailed to: Anna Graham, Tournament Manager, 41 Crescent Street #11, Mazomanie, WI 53560. Questions? Please contact Anna at 608-225-8579 or agraham092802@yahoo.com.

All the Bowling Committee Members, as well as myself and Anna, hope to see you in Waunakee in April!!!



Veteran Thanks You for Your Support!

The Auxiliary received the following note from one of the many veterans we have helped this year.

The Auxiliary paid Jamie's past due mortgage and past due fuel oil bill through President Diana's Special Project - Homeless Female Veterans Grant Fund. Jamie is working very closely with her County Veteran Service Officer to find full time employment so she

can support her children and maintain her independence.

Please support President Diana's Special Project so the Auxiliary can continue to assist other deserving veterans when needed. Financial contributions may be sent to department headquarters with a Poppy Fund Suggested Donation Sheet, indicating the donation is for #4456-the Homeless Female Veterans Grant Fund.

Dear Women of the Auxiliary,

You have no idea how much your gifts mean to me. This holiday season has been one of the hardest & stressful months we had in a long time and your generosity has made all the difference to me and my boys.

I find it a great struggle to be a single parent and a college student at my age, but with the help of a lot of good people, I will persevere.

*God Bless You All,
Jamie*

RECRUIT 1

YEA! More than 500 new Auxiliary members have been recruited for 2013. However, headquarters has only received requests from about 100 recruiters for the Recruit 1 award pins. If you have not ordered your "Take the High Road" recruiter's pin, please order yours today using the form below. (Hurry, while supplies last!) National Recruit 1 and Silver Brigade award forms are available at www.amlegionauxwi.org.

2013 Take the High Road New Member Recruiter Award Entry Form

Sign up **1** new 2013 SENIOR or **2** new 2013 JUNIOR AUXILIARY members and receive a 2013 *Take the High Road* pin.
(Transferred members do not count as NEW members.)



ONLY 1 AWARD PER YEAR PER RECRUITER

The RECRUITER may belong to the ALA / TAL / SAL or ALR.
(Order your pin now. Supplies are limited.)

Please Print Clearly

Recruiter: _____ Unit #: _____ Dist.# _____

Recruiter's Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

NAME(S) OF NEW 2013 AUXILIARY MEMBER(S):

Senior: _____

OR Junior: _____ Junior: _____

(Please allow 4-6 weeks for verification and processing of new member.)

Mail this completed form to:
American Legion Auxiliary
PO Box 140
Portage WI 53901
Fax 608-745-1947
EMAIL: alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

Wreaths Across America Honors Veterans at King

On Saturday, December 15th, nearly 100 veterans and members of the community came to King Wisconsin in the cold rain to honor veterans during the holiday season as part of the annual Wreaths Across America Day.

Wreaths were placed on nearly 400 of the 6,500 graves at the Veterans cemetery at King dedicated to Wisconsin veterans and their spouses. State Representative Kevin Petersen and BG Scott D. Legwold of the WI National Guard spoke at a short ceremony timed to coincide with a similar ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington

National Cemetery, 700 other veterans memorials and cemeteries across the United States, and at 24 cemeteries dedicated to American service members on foreign soil.

Seven ceremonial wreaths were placed to remember all soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who served, honor their sacrifices, and teach our younger generations about the high cost of our freedoms. The wreaths representing the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, and POW/MIA were placed during the ceremony.



CALENDAR FUNDRAISER WINNERS



DECEMBER 2012



15.00	24929	Marjorie Shores	St Croix Falls
25.00	04529	Betty Salverson	McFarland
15.00	16987	Jeff Krail	Wisconsin Rapids
15.00	17197	Kay McMahon	Willowbrook IL
15.00	53367	Lee Daigle	Tomahawk
15.00	44860	Janice Geil	Germantown
500.00	06331	Barbara Wittmann	Brillion
15.00	24929	Marjorie Shores	St Croix Falls
25.00	38003	Doris Kroll	Hokah MN
15.00	12031	Josephine Ninfo	West Allis
15.00	33584	Lois Knope	Stevens Point
15.00	29984	Ida Feltman	New London
15.00	44817	Joan Buechel	Elkhart Lake
15.00	45968	Ruth Breske	Lake Tomahawk
15.00	20127	Rose Mary Gsell	Westfield
25.00	16089	Rochelle Mayr	Fitchburg
15.00	24827	Dawn Laundry	Inver Grove Heights MN
15.00	07345	Alice Peters	Kimberly
15.00	18927	Helen Muto	River Falls
15.00	19643	Ellen O'Brion	Rio
15.00	43185	Fern Kodl	Thorp
15.00	26119	Mike Birling	Seymour
25.00	26966	Carol Olsen	Hawkins
15.00	29250	Clara Baumann	Appleton
15.00	05901	Vicky Pelletter	Oregon
15.00	31729	Marian Nernberger	Medford
15.00	13712	Marlene Freitag	Belleville
15.00	27707	LeAnn Anderson	Antioch IL
15.00	03802	Lorraine Kohlman	St Cloud
25.00	19714	Naoma Livingston	Twin Lakes
15.00	05382	Audrey Weber	Oconomowoc

If not cashed within 90 days, the check will be voided without any notification sent to you. If it's after 90 days call our office. We are open Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm. Phone: 608-745-0124.

News from William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital-Madison

Wonderful things continue to happen in Madison! In December, Commander Wayne Jensen and President Diana Sirovina conducted their official visit to the VA in Madison. Esther Nimmow of Unit 151 was recognized for volunteering more than 20,000 hours (since 1975!) and President Diana presented a check for \$2,000 to the Epilepsy Department for laptop computers for the patients. These veterans are usually confined to their rooms for the duration of their hospitalization and the laptops will offer them the opportunity to maintain communication with family and friends in other states.

The American Legion Family is very involved at our VA facility. Members of Madison Unit 501 came through with flying colors by making, filling and distributing Christmas stockings for our veter-

ans. The patients appreciated the thoughtfulness and effort that accomplished this task. It reminded the veterans that many still care and remember the sacrifices they made for their country.

We try to give new clean blankets, afghans, quilts or lap robes to all our patients at least twice a month, depending on supply. We thank the many ladies who sew, knot and crochet to make this possible. Any donations that are not used at the Madison VA are sent to a VA where they can be used.

We have increased our involvement with female veterans by supplying things we often take for granted – personal hygiene articles and necessary items used on a daily basis. We have also purchased baby items for new mothers and the Auxiliary provides heart and lung pillows for transplant patients and will soon be offering liver pil-

lows. Many volunteers sort, fold, and seal approximately 1,000 letters each month to notify veterans of upcoming appointments.

Anyone who sends cards for holidays throughout the year must send them at least two weeks prior to the holiday to allow time for us to sort and distribute them. Remember: for safety reasons, no glitter or glued pieces may be used. The Pharmacy also uses some of the cards to include with prescriptions that are mailed out. Pharmacy cards must be smaller so they can be packaged easily.

I truly want to THANK ALL OF YOU for your continued support and donations for our veterans – our HEROES! We all know, "Freedom is not free." Thank you, good health, and God bless America.

ALA Hospital Representative,
Rose Wenger