

American Legion Auxiliary P.O. Box 140 Portage, WI 53901

alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

The official publication of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

www.amlegionauxwi.org

MEMBERSHIP

Becky Mueller Department Chair clarenceandbecky@aol.com 920-833-6048

'Tis the season to be joyful and thankful! Gnomes are popping up all over the department to work the mission and vision of our organization. Long-term (old) members and those just signing up are joining together to get excited and make a difference to our Veterans, our military, our families, and our communities. Keep up the good work recruiting new and excited members. (We are currently at the top of Central Division membership!)

I thank all of you who already renewed your membership for another year. Your membership chairmen also thank you for getting it done in a timely fashion. Let's have our renewals in by Christmas. Let's give our membership teams a holiday gift of having the bulk of their job done before the new year!

Some units take pride in sending in all their renewals at the same time in one mailing. Please, please don't do this. Send in your renewals as soon as you have some – do you realize that those members who do NOT have their memberships processed by Department after January are not members in good standing and not eligible for the many benefits that come with our membership? It does not matter if the unit membership chair has the renewal – it must be processed by Department to be completed and

counted. Don't do your members a disservice by sitting on their membership dues just for your pride of having it all completed at once. Send them in at least every other week. Stay current on your address updates and transfers, if any. If you have any deceased members send that information in quickly – don't wait until the end of the current reporting year.

FYI – members rejoining after an absence of a few years (or more) are not considered new members. Our membership number stays with us for life! Andrea Stoltz at headquarters or I can assist in finding that number if needed. Don't forget to give these members a new card – you can use the blank cards provided by National – just fill in the name, unit, etc. Once again, use their original membership number. Be sure to inform them of your meeting time and place. By the way, these rejoining members can pay for missed years to keep their years of service intact if they wish, but it is not required to become a current member.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday season. Please be aware that not everyone finds the holidays a good time of the year. Be alert to those who are struggling, not only financially, but also emotionally. BE THE ONE to notice. BE THE ONE to reach out. BE THE ONE to make a difference. May God bless all of you.

P.S. Don't forget to send in your new member entries for the awards and contests. The Auxiliary can participate in Commander Julie's membership challenge also!

2022 Members	ship Rankings
DISTRICT	GOAL %
District 3	71.37%
District 4	67.08%
District 2	66.75%
District 9	66.54%
District 12	66.07%
District 6	64.77%
District 7	61.55%
District 8	60.97%
District 10	60.87%
District 1	54.47%
District 5	51.95%
District 11	50.12%

2023 DAILY SWEEPSTAKES: DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 31



The deadline for mailing 2023 sweepstakes entry forms is December 31, 2022. Daily prizes pay \$15, Sunday prizes pay \$25, and one special day each month pays \$500! If you need additional entry forms, please contact ALA HQ at 608-745-0124. Only original entry forms will be accepted. While a donation is not required to participate in the sweepstakes, proceeds ensure the ALA can continue the mission of serving our Veterans, the military, and their families.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S PARADE OF CHECKS

National President Vickie Koutz will visit Wisconsin during the Midwinter Conference Saturday, January 14, 2023

Bring checks payable to ALA-Wisconsin, earmarked for NP Parade of Checks

To support her special project – supporting chaperones of Veterans attending the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

For those who can't attend Midwinter Conference but wish to participate, please mail checks to ALA-Wisconsin
P.O. Box 140, Portage WI 53901-0140
by January 9, 2023.





MERICAN S AFGIOTA

SAVE THE DATE

May 20, 2023 Romy's Nightingale Black Creek, WI

Joint Testimonial of the American Legion Family

Watch future issues of this newspaper for more information as it becomes available.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Linda Kostka Department Chaplain lkostka@ymail.com 715-209-8135

"O God, our father, the searcher of men's hearts, help us draw near to thee." Fill our hearts in fellowship with cheerful worship to you, O God.

Increase our admiration for honest dealing and clean thinking. Guard against irrelevance and kindle our hearts in friendship. Also, soften our hearts with sympathy for those who are suffering. Pray for our elected leaders to include the military and law enforcement. All this we ask in your Holy Name Lord, Amen.

O Lord, I call to you: come quickly to me. Hear my voice when I call to you. May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice. ~ Psalm 141:1-2

As a reminder, please send your Chaplain's Book in for judging. Also, please send prayers for President Linda's Prayer Book that I will be assembling for her.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The American Legion Auxiliary headquarters office will be closed Thursday, December 22 at noon until Tuesday, December 27, 2022 and Monday, January 2, 2023 for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. May the holiday season bring you the gifts of joy, peace, love and hope in the year ahead.

ALA Headquarters Staff Bonnie, Linda, Carrie, and Andrea

2022-2023 PAST PRESIDENT PARLEY (PPP) DUES

PPP Dues are \$5 per member.
Dues should be submitted
to Department using
the PPP Dues Form.

- Make check payable to:
 ALA-Past Presidents Parley
- Complete PPP Dues & Donation form (www.amlegionauxwi.org > Forms > PPP Dues & Scholarship Donation Sheet)
- Mail check and form to:

ALA Headquarters P.O. Box 140 Portage WI 53901

PPP cards will be mailed by PPP Chairman Bonnie Jakubczyk

> Questions? Please contact Bonnie Jakubczyk at bon6862@yahoo.com

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Bonnie Dorniak Executive Secretary/Treasurer 608-745-0124 deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org www.amlegionauxwi.org

The American Legion Auxiliary will be conducting a training session at TAL Midwinter Conference on Saturday, January 14, 2023, which the entire Legion Family is invited to attend. There will also be a special session for ALA Junior members and young SALs. Anyone interested in attending the Midwinter Conference must register (\$20 for reservations made before January 1, 2023 or \$25 after that). Registration and housing forms are on the Legion website at www.wilegion.org.

National President Vickie Koutz will also be conducting her official visit to Wisconsin during the Midwinter Conference. A Parade of Checks will be held in her honor on Saturday, January 14, 2023, with proceeds going to her special project – supporting the chaperones of Veterans participating in the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Checks should be made payable to ALA-Wisconsin and earmarked for NP Parade of Checks. For those who wish to participate but are unable to attend Midwinter, please mail checks to ALA-Wisconsin, PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901-0140.

The national organization will mail the final 2023 dues renewal notices on February 1, 2023. The mail list will be pulled January 3, so please pay

your membership dues as soon as possible to avoid receiving a renewal notice. If you receive a renewal notice but believe your dues were paid, you should contact your Unit Membership Chairman to ensure they were submitted to department. Dues are not considered "paid" until they have been *processed by Department Headquarters*. The February renewal notices will instruct members to send their dues directly to Department Headquarters so members do not lose any benefits. Members may also pay dues to their Unit or use a debit/credit card to pay online (www.ALAforVeterans.org) or by phone at 317-569-4570, Monday through Friday from 7:00 am – 3:30 pm (Central Time).

American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State (ALABGS) is scheduled from June 18-23, 2023. The reservation fee of \$400/delegate is due by January 31, 2023. If your Unit has decided it will no longer participate in the Girls State program, please notify Carrie Thrasher at department headquarters and your school before the school starts its selection process!

Unit Annual Year-End Report forms were mailed to all unit presidents in October. Members are reminded to track their volunteer hours and money spent to support Auxiliary programs to ensure they are included in the Unit's totals. Every Unit should submit a report by April 15, 2023 and acknowledge their members for all the hard work accomplished throughout the year. Department program chairmen use the information to prepare their annual reports for the national organization. Department Presi-

dent Linda Coppock may also review the Unit Year-End Reports to select Units for recognition at department convention.

Members are encouraged to become more familiar with the information posted on the department website, such as the 2022-2023 Red Book and bi-monthly unit mailings (on the *More* tab); District Presidents' Newsletters (*Dept Officers/Dist Presidents* tab); ALA program action plans (*Dept Chrmn/Action Plans* tab); current membership reports (*Membership* tab); and updated donation forms (*Forms* tab).

Looking for a last-minute holiday gift? Give the gift of ALA lifetime membership!!! PUFL applications can be found on the *Membership* tab of the department website and should be mailed directly to national headquarters. Please contact Linda Cason at department headquarters for details. Since the national organization is raising dues by \$6 effective with the 2024 membership year, now would be a great time to purchase a PUFL membership!

During this holiday season, please remember the military members who are separated from their loved ones, continue to pray for their safe return, and support their families during their absence.

ALA Headquarters will be closed from noon on Thursday, December 22 through Monday, December 26 for the Christmas holiday and Monday, January 2, 2023 for the New Year's holiday. We wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season and a happy 2023!

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Mary Petrie Department Chairman 920-261-8161 mmrtpetrie@charter.net

"I continue to believe that if children are given the necessary tools to succeed, they will succeed beyond their wildest dreams!" – David Vitter, Former U.S. Senator

As President Linda Coppock said, "Believe!" To believe is to succeed in making a difference in a child's life.

Did you know?...

Over the years, JCPenney offered free haircuts for children, promoting its mission: helping people live better, which also helped stretch family budgets. Since 1999, the chain has funded hundreds of after-school programs and contributed millions of dollars to programs run by YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, 4-H, and United Way-funded agencies. Check their website for details on **kids zone**, which is offered the 2nd Saturday of every month (**www.jcpenney.com**, scroll down and click Newsroom).

ALDI partners with 501c3 nonprofits, including K-12 schools and faith-based organizations, benefitting children in the community through its Cares Community Grants. ALDI has a longstanding partnership with Feeding America, recognizing that lack of healthy food has serious implications on a child's physical, emotional, and mental health (www.aldi.us, scroll down and click Community).

The Home Depot hosts free Kids Workshops (in store/pick up) the first Saturday of the month

from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Partnering with Discovery Education, they built Science Fair Central and help STEAM-power classrooms and homes across the country. Students receive tools to take projects to the next level, preparing for future careers. Ten million K-12 students participate in science fairs and STEAM events annually (www.homedepot.com/kids).

Georgia-Pacific's Adoption Assistance Program is part of its benefit package, providing financial assistance for employees building a family through adoption.

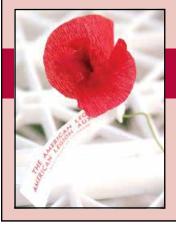
These are a few options to enhance the lives of our children.

This year's Children & Youth focus is supporting the SAL on Operation A.L.F. and strengthening the Child Welfare Foundation through donations. A.L.F. is a great way to support military children when a parent deploys. Created to provide comfort, the soft, cuddly puppy does just that! Klinger, a horse, and his story can be enjoyed by kids of all ages. Check the SAL website (www.wisal.org) for specifics.

Whether recycling a tried-and-true C&Y project or applying your imagination to a new venture, record everything! Doing so as you go will make reporting a breeze.

Remember! The Youth Hero, Youth Caregiver, and Good Deed awards are presented year -round, so be on the lookout for potential recipients.

Per Lady Bird Johnson, "Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them." Our children are our future. Showing we believe in them, boosting confidence, and sharing tools to succeed will not only allow them to dream, but succeed beyond their wildest dreams.



POPPY SHOP

ORDER DEADLINE DECEMBER 15, 2022

Poppy orders will be processed in the order received and shipped as soon as they can be filled. Orders received after the new year may not be able to be processed or filled in time to meet your scheduled distribution dates.

DON'T DELAY - ORDER TODAY!

MISSION IN ACTION: UNIT 38 SUPPORTS KING VETERANS HOME



Appleton Unit 38 delivered brand new clothing for the members at King Veterans Home. The clothing was donated by JCPenney Appleton, thanks to the efforts of Cathy Wilbur. Pictured: Cathy Wilbur, Lori Bishop, Debra Ragen, and Rose Heinz.

UNIT 317 CELEBRATES MEMBERS!



Joyce Klinger, a member of Wolman-Minskey American Legion **Auxiliary Unit 317** of Wautoma. celebrated 75 years of continuous membership. Joyce was presented with a certificate commemorating this milestone at the **Waushara County** Council Meeting. Joyce has held numerous offices for many years at both the unit and county levels. Pictured: Joyce Klinger and Delores Bruch, Unit 317 President.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Kay Grosskopf Department Chairman kkgros44@gmailcom

Welcome to "Cram as much as we can into the next four weeks" season! Yes, there are concerts, shopping, gift wrapping, children's programs at school and church, work gatherings and family get-togethers, tree trimming, house decorating (be careful on ladders), baking, meals, and the list seems endless. This in addition to our already busy daily lives.

Our activities may include ringing bells, collecting for food pantries, prepping and serving holiday meals at shelters, caroling to those not able to get to concerts and church, or helping a neighbor, friend or Veteran with their holiday preparations.

Then there are the countless appeals for our donations. Be careful! Choose wisely. Try using Charity Navigator (www.charitynavigator.org) to confirm how the entity uses your gifts. One entity you don't have to check is the American Legion Auxiliary! There is a plethora of programs that can use your support such as ALA Badger Girls State, AEF, VA&R, and numerous scholarships.

But all your Community Service doesn't have to stop in four weeks! New Year's follows the wonderful Christmas giving season and New Year's is famous for resolutions. Why not resolve to do a little more for the community where you live? Several ideas listed above can easily continue throughout the year. Make a resolution to spend an hour a week helping a neighbor (especially a Veteran neighbor), work or financially support a food pantry, visit a veterans home, or help at school. We just finished an election and we hear how they need poll workers. Sign up for the next one! The need for blood is critical. Save a life – or five. Give blood or have your Unit host a blood drive. The list goes on.

This is the season where you see "Believe" in many places. I Believe the ALA is capable of great things. I have seen it in action. I've heard about it in conversations at meetings and conferences. Wow! But I also Believe we can do more. If one more Unit holds a blood drive. If one more Unit would help a Veteran, neighbor, or friend. If one more Unit has a bake sale and sends proceeds to AEF or supports a scholarship. Think of the difference we can make.

Of course, whatever you do, record your hours, donations, and mileage. I can't believe I'm saying this, but I want to be looking at hundreds of Unit reports in April. Let's show Congress who we are and why we matter.

In the spirit of service, not self, we advocate for our Veterans, active military, and their families.





SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022 ALA DAILY SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

September 2022

1	\$15	Nathan Kuenkel	Eau Claire
-	, -		
2	\$15	Eddie Belfeuil	Winneconne
3	\$15	Elizabeth Deitelhoff	Richland Center
4	\$25	Linda Ogarek	Plainfield IL
5	\$15	Carol Reinhardt	Juneau
6	\$15	Dorothy Kresheck	Hartford
7	\$15	Barbara Cwikla	Withee
8	\$15	Charlene DeBruin	Boyd
9	\$15	Judy Brendemuehl	Horicon
10	\$15	Amanda Szalewski	Wausau
11	\$25	Donald MacDonald	Madison
12	\$15	Carol Simonar	Luxemburg
13	\$15	Irene Morse	Wonewoc
14	\$15	Bonnie Petrick	New Lisbon
15	\$15	Pauline Dimpfl	Barneveld
16	\$15	Elizabeth Summers	Kenosha
17	\$15	Joann Ryan	Kittitas WA
18	\$500	Carrie Hall	Racine
19	\$15	Rosemary Schroeder	Wausau
20	\$15	Janet Moertl	Winter
21	\$15	Victoria Busch	Pulaski
22	\$15	Ellen O'Brion	Rio
23	\$15	Rita Menge	Montello
24	\$15	Karen Klein	Brussels
25	\$25	Avis Evenson	West Salem
26	\$15	Yvonne McCormick	Delafield
27	\$15	Karen Schmitt	Brookfield
28	\$15	Carol Astolpa	Cudahy
29	\$15	Lisa Bruch	Butternut
30	\$15	Charleen Barutha	Kewaskum
	Ţ		

October 2022							
1	\$15	Louise Reed	Montello				
2	\$25	Kody Dickerson	Bloomington				
3	\$15	Beverly Dragosh	Pembine				
4	\$15	Sally Loper	Waukesha				
5	\$15	John Stanek	Muscoda				
6	\$15	Edward & Carol O'Neill	Washington Island				
7	\$15	Patty Freeberg	Menomonee Falls				
8	\$15	Margery Derby	Tomahawk				
9	\$25	Monica Hinrichs	Cottage Grove				
10	\$15	Beverly Dzienkowski	Cadott				
11	\$15	Carol Gilbertson	Beldenville				
12	\$15	Jayne Larson	Muskego				
13	\$500	Linda Carney	Beaver Dam				
14	\$15	Diana Ader	Menasha				
15	\$15	Mary Marchese	Port Washington				
16	\$25	Joann Scribbins	Richland Center				
17	\$15	Wyatt Erickson	Shiocton				
18	\$15	Lynn Cutter	Bedminster NJ				
19	\$15	Beth & Randy Gonstead	Menomonee Falls				
20	\$15	Rory Andersen	Auburn CA				
21	\$15	Dianna Smith	Delavan				
22	\$15	Linda Kastel	La Crosse				
23	\$25	Yvonne Friday	Weyauwega				
24	\$15	Pauline Teser	Salem				
25	\$15	Richard Cooper	Hixton				
26	\$15	Ted & Cheryl Eisner	Rib Lake				
27	\$15	Sheila Schultz	Cross Plains				
28	\$15	Dawn Linke	Waupun				
29	\$15	Kerry Strupp	Fond du Lac				
30	\$25	Patricia Katalinick	Chilton				
31	\$15	Ellen Hayes	Independence				
		<u> </u>					

NATIONAL SECURITY

Karen Degner **Department Chairman** 920-918-9772 kdegner88@gmail.com

Our National President is working to bring awareness to our POW/MIAs. This is an important aspect of our National Security program. Units can participate with a moment of remembrance or a POW/ MIA chair at meetings. Be sure to include this in your annual report.

Servicemember of the Year is now included in the National Security program. To nominate an enlisted service member currently serving in the Armed Forces, you can

find more information as well as the nomination form at: https://member.legion-aux. org/salute-to-servicemembers-award.

April is the Month of the Military Child. "Purple Up! For Military Kids" is every April 15. Wearing purple on this day, shows your support and thanks military children for their strength and sacrifices. May is the month of Military Family Appreciation, Military Spouse Appreciation Day is the Friday before Mother's Day, and Armed Forces Day is the Saturday before Memorial Day. These are the designated days to recognize all of those serving our country. Supporting blood drives by donating blood or volunteering at a blood drive is also a part those currently serving and their families!

of National Security. There is always a need for blood donations.

Coupons for overseas commissaries are appreciated by those serving and living overseas at various locations. Information on how to send coupons and locations accepting them are on the department website: https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/ program-info.

If your Unit is interested in being a resource for currently serving military and families when needs come up (thinking of gas/food gift cards) feel free to contact me for additional information.

Thank you for all you do to support

MILWAUKEE COUNTY CONFERENCE OF UNITS

Invites all Legion Family Members and Guests

The 94th Annual George Washington Luncheon



Presidents Day Monday, February 20, 2023 **Meyer's Family Restaurant** 4260 S 76th Street, Greenfield, WI

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



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

For information contact Laura Calteux, 414-379-2943 Deadline for reservations is February 7, 2023

UNIT NAME & NUMBER			
NAME OF EACH PERSON ATTENDING: AU	uxiliary, Legion, SAL, Guest		
UNIT CONTACT & PHONE			
UNIT CONTACT & LITONE			

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

Reservation deadline: FEBRUARY 7, 2023—NO WALK-INS!!

WALASBA 9-PIN TAP TOURNAMENT SLATED APRIL 15-16

Units, Counties and Districts are encouraged to participate in the 2023 WALASBA 9-Pin Tap Tournament on April 15-16, 2023. This year's tournament will be hosted by Waunakee Unit 360 and held at Schwoegler's Park Towne Lanes in Madison. This is a 36-lane house so everyone will bowl the same weekend. Doubles and Singles will be bowled on Saturday and Teams will bowl on Sunday.

DEADLINE TO ENTER IS MARCH 15, 2023. Enter a team today! Invite members from other Units to put a team of four together. Last year four ladies made up a team from two different Units and took home the winnings! This could be your team! Questions? Please contact Jenni Syftestad, Chairman/Tournament Manager, at syftes@chorus.net.

UNIT 121 RECOGNIZES MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

Fletcher-Pechacek, Unit 121, River Falls held a Sunday brunch for their 50+ yr. members. 10 members out of 18 were presented with a certificate, a great brunch made and served by Auxiliary members and they got to take home a fresh flower arrangement! These ladies may not be as active as they once were, but they still ROCK the Auxiliary. From left-right, front row: Betty Swenson (65) Marie Deja (50) Olive Mulholland (65) Marlys Karras (50), back row: Alice Hanson (60) Betty Merriman (50) Mary Finkleson (55) Judy Johnson (50) Berneita Wienki (50) Hazel Fern (50). Betty Swenson still makes most of our monthly meetings, and Marie Deja and Judy Johnson helps in our bingo canteen twice a month.



WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY STATE BOWLING ASSOCIATION 21st Nine Pin Tap Tournament (47th Annual Tournament)

April 15 & 16, 2023

100% Prize Fee Returned 75% Handicap – 200 Scratch Schwoegler's Park Towne Lanes 444 Grand Canyon Drive Madison WI 53719

See Department website (www.amlegionauxwi.org) for tournament rules

ENTRY CLOSING DATE - Postmarked by MARCH 15, 2023

Date:

Mail entries to: Jenni Syftestad

Entry # ____

205 Thompson Street, Verona WI 53593

The bowlers listed below enter the specified contest(s) at the annual WALASBA Tournament and hereby agree to comply in all respects with the rules of said tournament. The individual members are bona fide 2023 members of the <u>Wisconsin</u> American Legion Auxiliary. When two or more teams are inter-bowling for doubles partners, please be sure to send your entries together. **WALASBA** IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING SUBSTITUTES!

n Name: Unit/City/Location:			:			Unit #:			
dicate what Events bowler is entering:									
eam: (Will bowl on Sunday)	Team per per	son = \$21.00							
	Yes	No	Doubles and singles will bowl on Saturday (please indicate your desired time) and Teams will bowl on Sunday.						
·	YES	No	□ Sa	☐ Saturday, April 15 ☐		□ 11am or □ 2pm □		Double/Singles	
	YES	No		☐ Sunday, April 16		o	Team		
	YES	No					ream		
oubles and Singles: (Will bowl on Saturday)	Doubles = \$21		Singles = \$21		All Events (if you want to enter all Events) \$3.00 Per Person				
	Yes	No	YES		YES		Bowling	\$8.00	
			YES _		YES		Prize Expense	\$6.00 \$7.00	
	YES	No	YES _	No	YES	No	Total	\$21.00	
	YES	N o	Yes No		YES No		Per Person per Event		
e complete fields (who receives mail)									
tain:	Ph:				OFFICIAL USE ONLY:				
nplete Address:					TEAM_	DBLS	SII	NGLES	
(City/State/Zip)				ALL EVI	ALL EVENTS TOTAL PAID				

(Revised 11-2022)

Linda Coppock Department President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone celebrates all Veterans as they deserve to be honored, not just once a year in November, but every day! Their service and sacrifice are what gives us the opportunity

to be members of this great organization! The American Legion Auxiliary flourished while fulfilling the needs of Veterans upon their return from combat. The ALA grew in membership as they served the needs of our Veterans, active military, and their families.

Throughout the decades, Veterans' needs may have changed but the mission remains the same – to honor and support those who serve, to enhance the lives of the Veterans. active military members and their families, both at home and abroad.

December is Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Month. I want to give a "shoutout" to all the hospital representatives and their deputies for continuing to volunteer as ALA members have for years. Most volunteers are finally getting back into the VA facilities and are excited to continue their service. The pandemic did not stop units, counties, and districts from continuing to promote the program. Some continued to fill various VA facilities' requests. Baby showers were held. Clothing and personal items were collected, not just for the VA facilities, but also for homeless men and women Veterans

ALA members even remembered the children of active military. Units and counties are called upon to bake cookies for the family farewell parties for deploying soldiers. I had the opportunity to attend a deployment event this past fall and it was a very moving experience, something I won't forget. It reminded me why Auxiliary members do what they do and do it so well. ALA members have big hearts and do amazing things! I am proud to be the ALA representative for this year!

January is National Security and Legislative Month. In regard to National Security, always be prepared to help your active military and their families. There are many aspects to VA&R, but the one thing that tugs at my heart is the unexpected deployment of our active military. It reminds me how fragile life can be, but to see the strength in those it affects directly is nothing short of amazing. They "Believe" in what needs to be done. They have my utmost respect!

Legislation is an ongoing feat. Pay attention to information circulated that has a direct effect on our Veterans. It is our duty, our mission, to advocate for them. When asked, write your congressmen to support the needs of our Veterans.

It's hard to "Believe" we are halfway through the year! But it makes me smile to see we are doing a great job at Getting New & Old Members Excited!

Have a great Holiday Season and Happy New Year!



David Fuller SAL Detachment Commander

★★★ SAL DETACHMENT ★★★ COMMANDER

Gentlemen,

I am happy to report to you that we are on the same pace as last year as far as membership. This is a good sign because we advanced the curve

from previous years, however, we would like to accelerate our membership efforts so that we can top 105% at an earlier date. If we can do that, we will be able to concentrate on a few other issues that we need to address so let's get out and reach our membership goals early.

One of the tools that each of the District and Detachment Vice Commanders use as well as all the Legion Family is your Squadron Contact Information Form. This form lets us all know who the officers are for each Squadron and how to contact them. This form should be filed by the Squadron Adjutant each year. If you need help filing this report, please contact any Detachment or District Officer and they will be happy to help you. Also look for help from your Post. The Post is your sponsor and they will also be willing to help and it is to their benefit to help. What you do reflects directly on your Post. Be an asset to them, help them, be stronger together.

Another very important form to file is the C.S.R. The Consolidated Squadron Report form is a is an accounting of what your Squadron has accomplished or what you

have been part of over the past year. The volunteer hours that you put into whatever event you do have a dollar amount attached to it. When the report is filed, the hours are converted to dollars and they are both reported to National. When National completes this report, it is then handed to Congress. Congress in turn sees what the SONS do for our Veterans as well as the full Legion Family. Four years ago, we had 52% of the Squadrons reporting, during the COVID years that amount fell to 20%. Last year we had 32% of the Squadrons report, the total value of those that reported was\$ 1,404,363. Just think what that number would be if every Squadron filed their report, over \$4,000,000. If all you do is hold a monthly meeting and 5 people are there that is 60 hours a year if the meeting only lasts an hour.

For the last year and a half, we have been offering training for any interested Squadrons. We will and have come to you and done the training that you have asked for. PLEASE contact us if you need help, we have a VERY dedicated group of Detachment and District Officers that are more than willing to help. Also, when you attend MidWinter, you will find training available for these forms and much more.

As we begin to enter our busy hunting and holiday seasons, please remember to be safe and I hope we see you all at MidWinter.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



Julie Muhle Department Commander

article finds everyone doing well. In many of my travels, I am often asked, "How do we get younger members to sign up?" It isn't a secret. In fact, we have many Posts that are doing just that.

How? First, they are reaching out to their members on a regular basis - Buddy Checks. Buddy Checks do more than just someone checking in to say hi. They show your members that you think about them. You could be the only person who checks on a member. Imagine the joy you bring to that member by asking how they are doing. Buddy Checks can also roll into the Be The One program.

The next things these Posts are doing are programs. Our programs have something for everyone! Younger Veterans often have younger children. We have a variety of scholarship oppor-

Greetings! I hope this tunities. There is also oratorical, baseball, softball, Boys State, WALLECA, etc. Your Post can sponsor a baseball or softball team for a very reasonable price. You can talk to them about Camp American Legion where they can take their family for a getaway at no cost to them.

> I had a member tell me once that he was asked by a potential recruit why he should join. He said he told that person so we can be 100% so we can go before Congress and the President. While he was right on both instances, a potentially new member doesn't get this nor do they probably care. When talking with potential new members, remember that people don't buy what you do, they buy why you do it. Be ready to explain your why. Why are you a member? Why should someone join your Post?

> To learn more about our programs or download materials, go to www.legion.org/publications or wilegion.org/programs.

* * * LEGION RIDERS * * *

LEGION RIDERS PROVIDE



Randy Timms State Secretary American Legion Riders Association

NUMEROUS SERVICES FOR POSTS This is the Mission Statement for the American Legion Riders – "To partic-

ipate in parades and other

ceremonies that are in keeping with the aims and purposes of the American Legion. To promote motorcycle safety. To provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share the same interests. To use our association to promote and support the programs of the American Legion. the community and other motorcycle organizations".

A District made the decision to attend various County Committee meetings to introduce Post Commanders to the Riders, During several of those, we were surprised the Posts didn't realize how the Riders could help them and we're excited that new relationships are growing! Some of what we shared included providing funeral escorts with military flags, creating a static line for events (such as the Silent March), standing casket guard, the most obvious - parades, helping with meals/cooking/ serving, assisting Posts with Color Guard duties, creating events at the Post to bring greater awareness – IE: Car & Bike Shows, and more.

Many of our members have enrolled in Accident Scene Management training to provide more immediate assistance when necessary. Some have included CPR training to further their skills. When doing a ride – like the "Back To Basics Tour" fundraising event for Camp American Legion, we utilize Road Guards that provide a superior level of safety to minimize issues of concern. And we make every effort to retary, at rtimms@twc.com or at 262-441-1692.

include medical personnel to triage as needed.

The Riders LOVE to ride! No secret there, I'm sure. But what we love, even more, is to ride with a purpose. In the case of the Legion Riders, that purpose will focus on our Mission Statement. As an example, in just the past 10 days, I know of two Veterans who passed away just in my area. Legion Riders from multiple Districts came together to pay their respects and provide a motorized color guard escort from the funeral homes to the cemeteries. We were blessed to do it. The families were blessed to know people they'd never met, cared enough for their loved one, to attend and display the flag from their branch of service, paying tribute to their dedication to our country.

And, I'd be remiss if I didn't briefly mention the Back To Basics Tour! In July the Riders will once again take to the highways to accept donations for Camp American Legion. We have elected to dedicate all monies donated to the interior renovation of the Camps Recreation Building. This room is underutilized due to its worsening condition, and we'd love to see Veterans and their families enjoying the games and relaxation it will once again provide. We are in the process of finalizing the Posts we will visit and the routes we will take, so stayed tuned!

For more information about the Legion Riders, or to get more details about becoming a Rider, contact either: Ray "Godfather" Pasbrig, President, at rpasbrig3@wi.rr.com or at 262-853-4929, or, Randy "Music Man" Timms, Sec-

