

WISCONSIN



December 2024

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

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2025 Membership Totals – 65.18%



District	Goal %
4	76.60%
2	70.30%
3	69.31%
9	68.14%
12	65.52%
6	64.96%
10	63.35%
11	62.06%
8	61.31%
7	58.94%
1	58.24%
5	53.85%

(as of 11/13/2024)

Thank you for all of your hard work with membership! Wisconsin continues to do very well within National and the Central Division. Stay focused on the road ahead. This is the time of the year when we start to concentrate a little bit more on recruiting, while still keeping a pulse on renewals. Recruiting for new members doesn't have to be a struggle – there are many opportunities.

Think of all the non-members who hold events at your post throughout the year. There's a good chance that many of them may be able to join the ALA. Make sure to have applications available and consider marketing opportunities (bathrooms are great places to advertise). There are many poster templates available on the National website. Log into *My Auxiliary Member* portal and go to resources.

Meet with your post commander and compare membership rosters. Look for membership opportunities to help grow the entire American Legion Family. Did a Legionnaire recently have a new granddaughter? Send them a congratulations card with a membership application inside. Ask to attend a Legion meeting and invite the commander to attend your unit meeting. The more exposure you have increases your opportunities. Don't forget... male spouses of veterans can join the ALA as well! You'll find many resources and ideas for recruitment on the ALA Department website *Membership Page*.

CENTRAL DIVISION

As of November 14, 2024

Department	Total	Goal	% of Goal
Iowa	11,562	17,857	64.75%
Wisconsin	10,646	16,514	64.47%
Indiana	21,798	40,119	54.33%
Ohio	18,525	34,719	53.36%
Michigan	15,360	28,792	53.35%
Illinois	10,345	20,083	51.51%
Missouri	4,027	8,114	49.63%
Kansas	4,404	9,189	47.93%
West Virginia	2,306	4,923	46.84%
Total	98,973	180,310	54.89%

Currently there are 485 American Legion posts in our state compared to 345 American Legion Auxiliary units. Right there alone is an opportunity for growth! Is there a post in your area that does not have an auxiliary unit? These posts are lacking the vital services that an Auxiliary can provide to veterans, military members and their families. Learn more about chartering a new unit on the ALA National website under *How to Organize a New Unit*.

Auxiliary units that already have an American Legion post often overlook opportunities for seeking additional members right at their post homes. For every Legionnaire, there's a good possibility of two Auxiliary members (possible spouse and/or daughter/granddaughter).

THE 100% CLUB

Congratulations to the units below who have achieved 100% or better in membership!

#401 Cambria	#25 Odanah
#83 Sheboygan	#21 Kenosha
#348 DeForest	#370 Wild Rose
#410 Fredonia	#208 Rio
#478 Saint Cloud	#520 Vesper
#464 Land O'Lakes	#503 Dane
#107 Mosinee	#233 Waterloo
#227 Spring Valley	#123 Owen
#415 Milwaukee	#65 Two Rivers
#1 Milwaukee	#267 New Auburn
#372 Forestville	#402 Washington Island
#108 Clear Lake	



LEFT: Department 1st VP Amy Luft, CDNVP Rosemarie Hauck, President Becky Mueller. RIGHT: Becky Mueller, Cedarburg Unit 288 Poppy Princess Clara Brissman, and Rosemarie Hauck.

THANK YOU, WISCONSIN!

Central Division National Vice President Rosemarie Hauck conducted her official visit to Wisconsin in October. During her visit, she toured the Poppy Shop at the War Memorial Center, enjoyed a traditional Wisconsin fish fry at Oak Creek Post 434, attended the ALAIN the Know Conference in Cedarburg, and welcomed veterans home from an Honor Flight thanks to arrangements by Amy Luft.

Becky,

I do not know enough words to express my appreciation for the kindness shown to me during my visit to the Department of Wisconsin.

It was good to see old friends yet meet new ones. Please give my thanks to the entire membership of Wisconsin.

May God continue to bless and keep you as you travel for the betterment of Veterans, Military and their families. ~ Rosemarie

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Article shared by Brenda Tryba, Dual Member of Post/Unit 179.

Submitted by Margaret Larson, Past 10th District President.

Do you know me? It amuses me to think how the ALA spends so much time looking for new members - when I was there all the time. Do you even remember me?

I'm the person who came to every meeting and volunteer activity, but nobody paid attention to me. I tried several times to be friendly but everyone seemed to have their own friends to talk to. I sat among some unfamiliar faces several times, but they didn't pay much attention to me. In fact, they looked at me like I should not be sitting at their table.

When I joined the ALA, I hoped the Unit President would ask me to volunteer on one of the committees. I wanted to volunteer, to somehow participate and contribute. I would have washed dishes if I had been asked. But no one did.

Finally, because of illness, I missed a meeting. The next month no one asked me where I had been. I guess it didn't matter very much whether I was there or not. So, when the next event came, I just stayed home.

Do you know me? You might say I am a good person. I hold a responsible job. I love God, my community and my country.

Do you know who else I am? I'm the member who will probably never again participate in a unit activity. And someday soon, I'll wonder what reason I have to renew my membership in the ALA.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The ALA Staff wish everyone a very joyous and peaceful holiday season. Please keep our troops and their families in your prayers, especially those separated by deployment.

~Bonnie D., Linda, Carrie, Andrea, Sue and Bonnie J.~

The ALA HQ office will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Poppy Shop operations will resume after the New Year.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Donna Jensen
 Department Chaplain
 djensen20@gmail.com
 414-303-6186

“And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”
 — Colossians 3:14

Charity: Love of God and men; an act or feeling of generosity; the giving of aid to the poor; an institution engaged in relief of the poor; leniency in judging others.

These are dictionary definitions of charity. For some, it could mean making contributions to a cause they believe in, either giving time or money. For some, it could mean giving someone a “break” when judging them, a “second chance.” For others, it could mean directly doing something to help someone in need. What does it mean to you?

During this holiday season, there is much focus on giving gifts to each other. Do you give gifts without expecting something in return? Gifts are a wonderful expression of love and charity, but I believe the most important things we can give are not “things”, but giving of ourselves, without expecting anything in return. This can be giving your time to help someone. It could be making a call (Buddy Checks), spending time with someone, taking someone to an appointment or event, or helping a caregiver.

Many members of the American Legion Family are great at living the true meaning of charity by volunteering and giving of both their time and money to help others. This is not limited to, but focused on veterans, active-duty military, their families and communities, giving from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you all!

Music:

“Give A Little Bit”

– by Richard Davies & Roger Hodgson

Oh, give a little bit of your love to me, I'll give a little bit of my love to you.

There's so much that we need to share, so send a smile and show you care.

Request:

Please help me make a very special Prayer Book for President Becky Mueller this year by sending me prayers, poems and inspirational pieces. They can be original or from another source; something that touches or inspires you. Please give the author, person sending and their Unit and District. They can be sent to me by email (djensen20@gmail.com) or mail to: Donna Jensen, 6936 N. 86th St., Milwaukee, WI 53224.

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

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

Reminder: Poppy orders are due by December 15, 2024. Orders received after that date will incur an additional processing fee.

The ALA will be hosting a session at the Legion's Midwinter Conference in Appleton on Saturday, January 18, 2025. The session will include leadership and report writing workshops, a junior activities demonstration, ALA Badger Girls State information, legislative update, strategic planning discussion, and service projects. Please bring socks, full-size shampoos, conditioners, body lotions, mouthwashes, and supplies to make Valentine's Day cards for the Wisconsin Veterans Homes. There will also be a presentation from the

UW MIA Recovery & Identification Project for the entire Legion Family on Saturday afternoon. Anyone interested in attending the Midwinter Conference must register through The American Legion (\$25 before January 2 or \$30 after that).

The national organization will mail the final 2025 dues renewal notices on February 1st to anyone whose dues have not been paid by December 31. If you receive a renewal notice but thought your dues were paid, please 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 to ensure they are processed in a timely manner. Members may also pay dues to their unit or use a debit/credit card to pay online (www.ALForVeterans.org) or by phone at 317-569-4570, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State (ALABGS) will be held June 15-20, 2025. The reservation fee of \$500/delegate is due by January 31, 2025. As prices for everything have escalated over the last few years, so has the cost to run the program. For those who want to do more, please check out the many volunteer opportunities at www.alabgs.org. Thank you to everyone who supports ALABGS!

Unit Annual Year-End Report forms were mailed to unit presidents in October. Members are reminded to track their volunteer hours and money spent in support of ALA programs to ensure they are included in the unit's totals. Every unit should submit a report by April 15, 2025 and acknowledge their members for all the hard work accomplished throughout the year. Department program chairmen use this information to prepare their annual reports for the national organization and the impact numbers are reported to Congress.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Dr. Christine Johnsen
 Department Chairman
 cmj102@aol.com
 715-203-2015

Morgan Johnsen
 Department Vice Chairman

Please encourage your Juniors to attend a National Junior meeting! The Central Division meeting is in Des Moines, Iowa, on January 25. Bring your Juniors to participate, while you attend Mission Training. New for this year, **young SAL members can attend**, too! Junior and SAL attendees must be ages 8-17 and must have a chaperone to sign the attendee in/out of the meeting. Cost is \$70 which includes lunch and a t-shirt. You can register at <https://www.legion-aux.org/meetings/national-junior-meetings/>.

Department Juniors kicked off the year with a fantastic Fall Conference at King Veterans Home on October 12. Over 20 Junior and Senior Auxiliary members started the day by playing Bingo with the residents. Friendship bracelet prizes were a big hit for all! After a business meeting and elections, everyone buckled down to make dozens of tray favors for King residents for both the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The Juniors also began planning a special presentation they will be giving at the Midwinter Conference on Saturday, January 18. Honorary Department Junior Officers were also elected, and they will hold their title through the Junior Spring Conference in 2025.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions (or ideas!) about Junior activities.

HONORARY DEPARTMENT JUNIOR OFFICERS

President	Lindsey Stiff	Unit 6	District 8
Vice President	Virginia Calteux	Unit 416	District 4
Secretary	Everly Blader	Unit 317	District 8
Chaplain	Maddie Drewek	Unit 416	District 4
Sergeant at Arms	Shine Dickerson	Unit 482	District 3
Sergeant at Arms	Luna Lee	Unit 482	District 3



Pictured (l-r): Maddie Drewek, Junior Activities Vice Chairman Morgan Johnsen, Shine Dickerson, Virginia Calteux, Department President Rebecca Mueller, Lindsey Stiff, Junior Activities Chairman Christine Johnsen, Luna Lee, Allison Quist. Not pictured, Everly Blader.



POPPY REMINDER!

2025 Poppy Orders are due by **December 15, 2024**.
 Orders received after December 15 will incur an additional processing fee.

ALABGS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Are you an ALA Badger Girls State Alumna?

If so, please send a short biography (300-350 words) about your journey since attending ALABGS to deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org by January 20, 2025. We would love to share your story as we have space available. Tell us how ALABGS impacted your life – the friendships you made, careers you chose, and what you're doing today. Please send a high-resolution photo in jpg format to include in the Spotlight.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Joyce E. Endres
Department Chairman
ljendres@charter.net
608-221-1763

"We cannot always build the future of our youth but we can build our youth for the future." ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt.

When I read this quote it says to me, this is what the ALA Children and Youth (C&Y) program is about!

ALA C&Y promotes programs that protect, care for and support children and youth, especially those of our military and veterans. Work collaboratively with the American Legion Family to make an even bigger difference. Every dollar and hour donated is well spent!

The top four focus areas requested by National Headquarters for the 2024-25 year include:

1. Good Deed Award: *Watch for children's good deeds. Submit nominations.*
2. Youth Hero Award: *One award submitted to date. Submit more nominations.*
3. Public Relations and Positive Image Proclamation: *Participate in WI PR Chats to learn how.*
4. The American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation.

Units are encouraged to submit nominations

for the Good Deed and Youth Hero Awards. Watch for nominations through schools, churches, girl/boy scouts, and social media. Awards are presented all year to recognize the heroism and helpfulness of youths under the age of 18.

- **Good Deed Award Eligibility:** The youth must have donated time and/or money for a worthy cause and served as a great example of community service.
- **Youth Hero Award Eligibility:** The individual must have demonstrated a physical act of valor and served as an inspirational role model for the organization and the community.
- **Submit unit nominations** using the online form on the national website and notify the Department Chairman of the submission.

The American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation (CWF) contributes to the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual welfare of children and youth through dissemination of knowledge about research, studies, surveys, projects, or by supporting programs and activities benefiting the welfare of children and youth. Contributions may be made using a General Fund Suggested Donation form.

Veterans & Family Assistance Fund: Donations are used to assist dependent children of Wisconsin veterans. Contributions may be taken from the Poppy and/or the General Fund.

BOWLING

Jenni Syftestad
Bowling Chairman/Tournament Mgr.
608-845-7857
syftes@chorus.net

If you are once-a-year bowler, dust off that bowling ball and join us in Madison for a fun-filled weekend at the annual American Legion Auxiliary's 9-pin Bowling Tournament on April 12-13.

Verona Unit 385 will host this year's tournament at Ten Pin Bowling Lanes. The registration form and tournament details will be mailed to teams that have bowled in our tournaments, will be in the December unit mailing, and posted on the website. Please register a team today! Entry forms are due to Bowling Chairman/Tournament Manager Jenni

Syftestad no later than March 15, 2025. Questions? Contact Jenni at home or email, please put WALASBA Tournament in the subject line of email messages.

Encourage your unit to form a bowling team – you can mix with other units in your area but make sure all entry forms are mailed at the same time. To be eligible for this tournament, each bowlers' 2025 membership dues must be paid and recorded at department headquarters. Entry forms will not be accepted until all bowlers' dues are received at headquarters.

Have you ever thought about sponsoring an Auxiliary bowling tournament? This tournament is a great fundraiser for units. Get your Post to help out – make it an American Legion Family event. The 2026 tournament will be in Wausau.

The WALASBA Committee hope to see you in Madison in April.

WISCONSIN ALA STATE BOWLING ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL 9-PIN TAP TOURNAMENT
APRIL 12 & 13, 2025





Ten Pin Bowling Lane
 6285 Nesbitt Road
 Madison, WI 53719
 608-845-1010
 Hosted by Unit 385 – Verona

CONTACT INFORMATION
 Jenni Syftestad
 Tournament Manager
 syftes@chorus.net

EVENTS	SQUAD TIMES	
Double – Singles	Saturday, 11 am or 2 pm	Entry Closing Date ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MARCH 15, 2025
Team (4-Person)	Sunday, 9 am	
All Events		


MILWAUKEE COUNTY CONFERENCE OF UNITS
 Invites all Legion Family Members and Guests



The 96th Annual George Washington Luncheon
Presidents Day
Monday, February 17, 2025

Meyers Family Restaurant
4260 S 76th Street, Greenfield, WI

Social Hour: 11 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 8, 2025
 Detach here and return lower portion

GEORGE WASHINGTON LUNCHEON REGISTRATION

UNIT NAME & NUMBER _____

NAME OF EACH PERSON ATTENDING: Auxiliary, Legion, SAL, Guest

UNIT CONTACT & PHONE _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: # OF RESERVATIONS _____ X \$30.00 = _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MCCU
 SEND TO: Laura Calteux, 7012 W Squire Ave, Greenfield, WI 53220
Reservation deadline: FEBRUARY 8, 2025 —NO WALKINS!!

2025 ALA DAILY SWEEPSTAKES

2025 Daily Sweepstakes entry forms have been mailed. If you want additional entry forms, please call department headquarters. Only original entry forms will be accepted.

Daily prizes are \$15. Sunday prizes are \$25. One \$500 prize each month.

The last day to enter is December 31, 2024. Official sweepstakes rules are posted on the department website.

Although a donation is not required, the money raised allows the ALA to maintain programs that benefit our Veterans, the military, their families, and our communities – so donations are greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ALREADY RESPONDED.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sandy Mack
 Department Chair
 smack0555@gmail.com

The purpose of the Community Service program is to mobilize the American Legion Family, the veteran and military community, and the general population of the community to provide services directed to veterans, active-duty service members, and their families.

This program includes development, implementation and monitoring of community service activities that promote economic security and assists veterans, active-duty service members and their families, and homeless veterans while positioning the ALA as a one stop shop organization to assist them in meeting their needs. Auxiliary units should encourage the public to assist in this endeavor.

December brings a time when friends and family unite. You could ring bells at your local stores; shop for the elderly; deliver meals on wheels; organize craft fairs, food/clothing/toy drives; offer gift wrapping; or hold a chili dump or cookie sale.

January – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, observed on the third Monday of January, this is a federal holiday to honor the life and legacy of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. who brought hope and healing to America. Martin Luther King Jr. was the leader of the civil rights movement making the way for equality for both men and women of color. This day is also known as the “National Day of Service.” This is a time for people to give back to their communities.

National Day of Service Opportunities are out there every day and everywhere, to provide community service.

Volunteer to help a neighbor, have an operation “Warm Coat” drive, invite the local TV stations and newspaper to your events. Work at a food bank, help in building homes for Habitat for Humanity. No matter what you do or when you do it you are always appreciated for your kindness.

Remember to track your hours!

ALA UNIT 243: CHILI ANYONE?

CHILI ANYONE? — Members of ALA Unit 243 in Plymouth held a Chili Benefit with raffles and baked goods, which raised \$1,322 in funds for Veterans.



ALA UNIT 501: HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 501 in Madison made 100 washcloth bags filled with 14 personal items, a Poppy, an American Flag, and a double heart cut out with the phrase “ServingHeart to Heart” printed on them. Angie Nickles, President of Madison Stand Down, chaired this event and was extremely thankful for ALA Unit 501’s donations and support. The Stand Down included a breakfast and resource booths manned by advisors from different agencies to assist Veterans.



INDIVIDUAL AWARD NOMINATIONS

Do you know someone who deserves special recognition?
 Consider one of these opportunities:

Unit Member of the Year:

- Due to Leadership Chair Teresa Isensee by March 15, 2025.
- Recognizes those serving at the unit level who exemplify the values and ideals of the ALA and whose accomplishments significantly impact the program work in their units. It is open to senior members in good standing who are not in a leadership role higher than unit president.
- See Leadership program for details.

Junior Member of the Year:

- Due to Junior Activities Chair Christine Johnsen by March 15, 2025.
- Recognizes a Junior member who is at least in 8th grade or 8th-grade equivalent who actively participates in ALA Junior activities.
- See Junior Activities program for details.

Mentor of the Year:

- Due to Past Presidents Parley (PPP) Chair Joanie Dickerson by May 15, 2025.
- Recognizes a member who takes personal interest in the future leaders of this organization, supports the American Legion Family, has a history of being involved at multiple levels of the organization, and leads by example.
- See the PPP program for details.

Salute to Servicemember:

- Due to NHQ by June 1, 2024 (online application).
- Recognizes an enlisted servicemember currently serving in the US Armed Forces. One servicemember from each branch will be invited to attend the 2025 National Convention in Tampa Bay, Florida. The nominating form, along with all supporting documentation, must be submitted online by June 1, 2025.
- See the National Security program for details.

ALA UNIT 26: HONORING OUR VETERANS

Kim Shanks, Tami Kufner, Karole Bertram-Carroll and Kathy Kienow, members of ALA Unit 26 in Baraboo, presented lap quilts to 36-year Army Veteran Philip Wedeking and Marine Corps Veteran Richard Harrison.



ALA UNIT 522: HUBERTUS FUNDRAISER

Goetz Saint Louis ALA Unit 522 in Hubertus held their first Auxiliary pancake breakfast, followed by a Packer Party, and raised over \$1,200. Festivities included a bake sale, Bloody Mary bar and orange/cranberry mimosas. They served pancakes (and gluten-free pancakes!), sausage, scrambled eggs and beverages to more than 100 people. Kris Vesche was the event chairman and members worked or donated baked goods.



SEPTEMBER 2024 DAILY SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Day	Prize	Winner	City
1	\$25	Crystal Dow	Durand
2	\$15	Derrick Bunkelman	De Pere
3	\$15	Dena Adamson	Plymouth
4	\$15	Barbara Grosenick	Brookfield
5	\$15	Elsie Murphy	Barneveld
6	\$15	Bonnie Schmidt	Sun Prairie
7	\$15	Nancy Winters	Reedsburg
8	\$25	Gary Zuehlke	Fremont
9	\$15	Mary Uchtyl	Onalaska
10	\$15	Tammi Alexander	Montello
11	\$15	Sue Zmuda	Loretta
12	\$15	Susan Geisler	Lawton, OK
13	\$15	Marjorie Herbenson	Eleva
14	\$15	Gale Crist	Mayville
15	\$25	Donovan Helke	Mosinee
16	\$15	Judy Brendemuehl	Horicon
17	\$15	Edith Rohrbeck	Sheboygan Falls
18	\$500	Karen Klunck	Sheboygan
19	\$15	Nancy Fields	Marion
20	\$15	Debbie Tracy	Kaukauna
21	\$15	Doris Filter	Oconto
22	\$25	Vickie Looker	Withee
23	\$15	Rita Steffen	St. Nazianz
24	\$15	Miriam Barr	Lyons, IL
25	\$15	Carol Dorn	Prescott
26	\$15	Jennifer Thomas	Appleton
27	\$15	Clara Laufenberg	Sparta
28	\$15	Sherry Wallace	Ladysmith
29	\$25	Anne Marie Wenten	Grafton
30	\$15	Bonnie Kabus	Independence

OCTOBER 2024 DAILY SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Day	Prize	Winner	City
1	\$15	Margaret Cypher	Stetsonville
2	\$15	Marge Carmody	Clintonville
3	\$15	Yvonne Clemens	Dane
4	\$15	Bernadine Grundy	Minocqua
5	\$15	Heather Treptow	Kimberly
6	\$25	Wendy Larson	Webster
7	\$15	Rick Thoma	Neillsville
8	\$15	Genevieve Syftestad	Verona
9	\$15	Darcy Dwiszcz	La Valle
10	\$15	Colleen Kreil	Watertown
11	\$15	Janet Spaude	Shiocton
12	\$15	Kathy Peterson	Sparta
13	\$500	Gill Orth	Cameron
14	\$15	Karon Kuykendall	Boscobel
15	\$15	Sylvia Cross	Milwaukee
16	\$15	Kathleen Hines	Benton
17	\$15	Jamie Brantner	Eau Claire
18	\$15	Mia Beck	Stoughton
19	\$15	Dawn Morris	Belleville
20	\$25	Terry Casper	Hartland
21	\$15	Bernie Heindl	Land O'Lakes
22	\$15	Joann Slaney-Tennant	Richland Center
23	\$15	Amy Singer	Park Falls
24	\$15	Roxi Maier	Sauk City
25	\$15	Janet Birnschein	Port Washington
26	\$15	Delores Bruch	Hancock
27	\$25	Terry Stiner	Mondovi
28	\$15	Faith Elford	Fort Atkinson
29	\$15	Patricia Anderson	Sun Prairie
30	\$15	Madelyn Shea	Fox Lake
31	\$15	Kay McMahon	Willowbrook, IL

ALA UNIT 333: COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sun Prairie American Legion Post 333 Commander Tina Petersen, a dual member, and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 333 President, Charlene Pulham, volunteered at the Sun Prairie Fire Department Open House.





Jim Johnson
Department
Commander

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

As I write this article, we are amid Veterans Day Activities. What a great time to be a Veteran. Wisconsin surely celebrated their Veterans at the Governor's Veteran's reception, communitywide celebrations, American Legion Posts, schools both large and small, Veteran's Homes and nursing homes. All these events celebrated your service to our great nation. Now that is pretty darn awesome!

We also just finished with the election of a President, with that comes uncertainty. We should feel confident that regardless of who holds office at the state or federal level, The American Legion will remain steadfast in the commitment to defend Veteran's rights and benefits. We will ensure that our service and sacrifice will always be honored and protected.

Hopefully you were able to spend time with family and friends during the Thanks-

giving season and you are looking forward to embracing the upcoming holiday season. Wishing you and yours Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and a joyful Hanukkah. As you embrace the magic of your faith, let your convictions guide you in serving our fellow Veterans, their families, and our communities. For God and Country.

Be The One is service to our fellow Veterans. Your Wisconsin American Legion is working toward becoming a resource for Veterans that call 988 and 211. Our purpose will be to take calls from Veterans that have been cleared through 988 as not suicidal. These are Veterans that just need to talk with someone, someone to hear them without judgement. We will be asking the Wisconsin American Legion Family to step up to Be The One for these Veterans. One aspect of this volunteer opportunity includes training. This will provide us with the tools to equip us to help these Veterans. A first step in the training process will occur at Midwinter. We will have two training sessions

on the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale with the addition of roleplay training. If you are interested in the organization and delivery of this service, please reach out to adjutant@wilegion.org. We have set up a fund called "Be The One for Wisconsin" to provide support for our programs and services that directly impact Veteran wellness.

Our Wisconsin American Legion website has information on all of our programs, Legion College, our manuals, upcoming events, membership, awards, and even a directory of Department Officers and Department Committees. Check out wilegion.org.

I'm looking forward to seeing our American Legion Family at our Midwinter celebration! Join us as we kick off the celebration on our 2.2 for the Twenty-two Be The One walk on January 16 at 3 p.m. Please be sure to check out the schedule and I'm confident you will find something that interests you. Until then, stay safe, stay strong and help us make Wisconsin Legion Strong!



Becky Mueller
2024-2025
Department
President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let's make everyday Veterans Day! The events I heard about or attended were wonderful. It was so good to be part of letting our Veterans know how much we appreciate their service and sacrifice. It is amazing how many of them are still so committed to our communities, state and nation as their service continues. For God and Country is a way of life for The American Legion Family!

Continue to reach out to each other as the holidays approach. It is so easy to get caught up in the planning, decorating and festivities that we forget that the holidays are not happy events for everyone. The sense of loss and grief is intensified. The financial struggles loom larger. Despair, disappointment and depression are present in the midst of the decorations and carols. Remember to check on each other – BE THE ONE!

Midwinter Conference is fast approaching. Auxiliary members are welcome to attend all the sessions throughout the event – Legion, SAL, or Auxiliary. Don't forget to send in your registration! Hope to see you there – my plan is to learn more about the Legion, SAL, and the Auxiliary. Really looking forward to our sessions on Saturday!

Plans are underway for a joint Testimonial dinner again this year. Details will be forthcoming. It is so nice to celebrate the accomplishments of the entire Legion FAMILY together!

VA facility visits are scheduled for the next months. I'm excited to bring greetings and gifts on your behalf. I want to thank our hospital volunteers personally for your dedication and commitment to making a difference to our veterans, military and their family members during their treatments and residencies in these facilities. You make a difference whether in person or by your donations and support. This is our mission.

I am excited about the poppy poster and essay contests already underway. Our children and youth are amazing. Watch for details about the expanding Christmas Gift Shop!

Thank you all for your continued service and support as we work together to Serve our Veterans, Military and Each Other from the Depths of our Hearts.

May God bless each one of you.



Allen Watry
SAL Detachment
Commander

SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER

First, I would like to send out a Belated Veterans Day "THANK YOU" to all Veterans. We would not have the freedoms we have if it was not for our Veterans and their service to our Nation. Please know the Sons of The American Legion are thankful for all you have done for our country, and we are at the ready to support the Legion and all their programs.

One very important program of the Legion Family is "Be The One". On Nov. 9 I had the opportunity to participate in a R.A.C.E. Training session. This session was hosted by the Auxiliary 2nd District and Mayville Unit 69. This was a very enlightening training session which has provided me with new tools and perspectives on how to help others in crisis. I would encourage everyone to find the time to participate in one of these training sessions. It will be well worth your while.

As we look to close this calendar year, just a couple reminders for Squadrons and their members. Please continue to process memberships for the 2025 Season. The 2025 Membership drive is off to a great start, but we have many members who have not

renewed yet. Ideally everyone is renewed before the end of 2024 so there is not a break in their membership and/or memberships benefits as we move into the new year. Also, it is never too early to start working on Consolidated Squadron Reports and preparing for Spring Elections.

Also, please encourage your members to attend the Midwinter Conference in Appleton, Wisconsin the weekend of January 16. There are multiple training sessions being held, all are open to any Legion Family Member. This year will include a Training Session specifically about the SAL called "How to Manage a Squadron". This will cover topics including yearly reports, elections, finances, and interactions with Posts/Units. You can find much more information about the 2025 Midwinter Conference at www.wilegion.org.

Finally, as I wrap this up, I ask that we watch out for each other during this upcoming busy and likely stressful holiday season. Let's all help each other stay focused on Family/Friends and Self Care during the next couple months. Please keep up the Buddy Checks and please take care of yourself. I hope to see you at the Midwinter Conference the weekend of January 16.



Corey Doehrmann
State Director
American Legion
Riders Association

LEGION RIDERS

The American Legion Riders Association (ALRA) of Wisconsin had our quarterly membership meeting on Saturday, November 2 at Weiske-Farrell American Legion Post 351 in Montello, WI. We had special guest American Legion Auxiliary Department President Becky Mueller who shared her priorities and projects for the year. It was great to hear from her. Membership in the ALRA of WI stands at 735. To join the ALRA of WI you must meet three requirements: be a member of the American Legion Family in Wisconsin, have a motorcycle endorsement on your driver's license, and own a motorcycle of at least 500cc. Spouses meet the motorcycle endorsement and ownership requirements through their spouse.

Also shared was information about the WI Legion Riders-Cruise for a Cause, 'Be the One for Wisconsin-25'. This three-day motorcycle fundraising ride will be held on June 27-29, 2025. It will start in Port Washington and end in Marshfield. The purpose of the ride is threefold: raise awareness, raise money for training/equipment and to send veterans to Camp American Legion. The Legion Riders are promoting this event; however, it is Legion Family affair with Commander Johnson, President Mueller, Commander Watry and Director Doehrmann participating. More information will be coming out about how Legion posts, Auxiliary units and Sons squadrons can get involved.

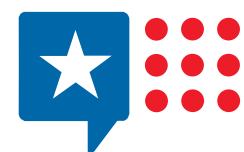
The ALRA of WI also had a District Directors Conference on November 4 via zoom. State Directors, District Directors and Assistant Directors met to ensure we all operate with the same guidelines and expectations. It also gave us the opportunity to collaborate on how

to improve some of our reporting. These will likely become an annual event and could evolve into in person.

Like most of the Legion Family, many Legion Rider districts will be planning get together over the holiday season to spend social time to stay in touch. Planning for next year's events will start in earnest in January-February so that by the time the riding season starts all the preparations are complete. If you have a community parade or event that you would like the Legion Riders to support, please reach out to me or visit <https://wilegion.org/riders/> to find the right contact for your area.

If you have any questions about the ALRA of WI don't hesitate to contact me: Corey Doehrmann/State Director, cell 262-305-0305 or email at alrawi.director@gmail.com. Our next meeting will be February 1 at Grassman-Sowle-Larsen-Senz American Legion Post 201 in Tomah, WI.

Veterans Crisis Line



DIAL 988
then **PRESS 1**