



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Wisconsin

Ninth District

September 2021 Newsletter

Members of the 9th District,

The new year has started...
There are many items to cover

There are many items from Department and other sources I am sharing.

Reminder, to get up to date officer forms, be it County or Unit, to Department and myself; to allow us to keep everyone informed as information becomes available. These forms should be filed with Department yearly, even if your unit does elections less than that.

For the October newsletter, I ask that the units let me know of something they are doing. Hopefully I will hear from all the units in Ninth District from now until the end of September. Maybe it is something coming up or something you have done over the summer months, please jot me a line to let me know. This was suggested at Department Convention to make sure we are remembering all the things we do for our yearly reports in spring. I have heard from 2 already.

Stay Safe and God Bless

Thank you to everyone for all you do for the District and the Veterans! Each one of you are the true strength of our organization.

Marian Brown, Ninth District President

In an effort to make the district newsletters more easily accessible to the general public or members who may be surfing the department website, the newsletters are now under the Dept Officers & District Presidents page: <https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/new-info>.

**** Auxiliary members can renew your 2022 membership. However, keep in mind that the current membership year runs through December 31, 2021. Members who have not paid their 2021 dues must do so before they can pay 2022 dues.**

Members who wish to **RENEW** for 2022 may pay online by logging into the member portal of the national website (www.ALAforVeterans.org) OR by calling National Headquarters at (317) 569-4570, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 am – 3:30 pm Central Time. If members wish to renew through their Units, they can do so by getting it to the Membership Chairman of their Unit.

Just a reminder that **ALL OFFICERS** need to get their dues in as soon as possible for your Unit to be eligible for membership incentives.

** The American Legion Auxiliary Department of WI Membership face book page is up and going again.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1443715935894356>

This is a private Department of Wisconsin membership group so keep inviting all your fellow members to join. Where else can all levels of this organization from everywhere in the state have a forum to share and learn? Here all ideas of what is working and special things your unit are working on are welcome. We all learn from each other. Everyone is raring to get started with the new year and showing our veterans and their families how much we Salute, Serve, Celebrate them.

Thank you,
Andrea Stoltz / Membership Coordinator / 608-745-0124
American Legion Auxiliary Wisconsin State Headquarters

**** Official Family:**

It has been brought to our attention that a scam message is going out disguised as coming from President Diane Weggen. However, the **email address** is not Diane's. Please do NOT respond to the message or any similar messages that ask for gift cards or any other kind of donations. Any legitimate requests for donations would come from department headquarters and would be in the form of checks payable to ALA-WI.

This is happening a lot, so please be aware and double check the actual email address it came from. I had it happen to me awhile back.

** Department Historian Dany Thompson created a short video of many of our Past Department Presidents for the 2021 American Legion Auxiliary Convention. The video also includes clips of PDPs Andrea Page and Rose Wenger, who have passed away since they submitted their recordings.

Please take 14 minutes and view this brief glimpse into the history of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary: <https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/photo-gallery>. (Dept WI PDP History video) and share it with others who may be interested.

** To our Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary and Legion Family,

I have had requests on ways we can support the refugees arriving at Ft. McCoy. At this time, I do not have any information for specific needs. Continue reading for the information I have learned so far. I also have attached information from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) for you to reference and offer assistance.

The following and attached, are the guidelines I recommend to our Units/Counties/Districts/Members/Legion Family that wish to provide support:

In order to streamline the process and donation efforts any interested parties / potential donors should go to the following website: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/refugee/help>

The website has a link to the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) partners embedded and I recommend you look up a partner in your area to see if they have a program in place and what is being requested / needed. You can also reach out the Bureau of Refugee Programs at dcfrefugee@wisconsin.gov or (414) 270-4702.

As best practices I'm suggesting:

1. Choose a Point of Contact for your Unit/organization
2. This individual contact an agency to find out what the needs are before starting
3. Follow the guidance they provide
4. In the event you are collecting items, have a plan to get the items to the location needed
5. Have a backup plan in the event items or not all items are accepted. These might be then donated to a homeless shelter, domestic abuse shelter, etc. near you
6. Remember to record any volunteer hours, donations in kind or monetary donations under National Security for mid-year and/or Year End Reporting

You are welcome to contact me by email or phone. Please put "Refugee Assistance" in the subject line for emails. If I am unable to answer my phone, please leave your name, number I can reach you, your Unit number and mention Refugee Assistance. I will return calls as quickly as I can.

Karen Degner
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin
National Security Chair
kdegner88@gmail.com
920.918.9772



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I received additional information for ways to support the Afghan Refugees at Ft. McCoy. Please share with your Units/members/Legion Family and others that may be interested.

Fort McCoy has coordinated the following resources for those who want to provide assistance to Afghans nationals now here and they have passed on the following message:

There has been an outpouring of support from the local community asking for ways to help the Afghan refugees being welcomed at Ft McCoy. While the American Red Cross is aggressively working to meet the immediate needs of our growing population, there are many things that the local community can do to help.

(1) Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse, WI has launched a campaign to provide Afghanistan refugee assistance. They are accepting donations at 3710 East Avenue South in La Crosse and also have a gift registry set up through Amazon Smile where donors can purchase needed items and have them shipped directly. <https://cclse.org/afghanistan-refugee-assistance>

(2) Team Rubicon has also partnered with the American Red Cross to coordinate local volunteers and donors throughout the WI community to improve the wellbeing of our Afghan guests. More information about Team Rubicon and how to volunteer is available on the web at <https://teamrubiconusa.org/volunteer/>

(3) The American Red Cross has over 50 personnel on the ground at Ft McCoy to provide critical care and help to our Afghan guests. Your financial gifts will help the American Red Cross continue to fund efforts to help the people affected by this crisis. <https://www.redcross.org/donate/donation.html/>

** With all the flooding and Disasters in the United States right now. It may be a good time to donate to the AEF Fund.

Disaster can strike at any time. Whether it's a hurricane, house fire, the loss of a job, an unexpected medical emergency, and so many other possibilities, the results are devastating. That is why the Auxiliary Emergency Fund has become so important to the American Legion Auxiliary. Whenever Auxiliary members need assistance, the AEF is ready to help.

Unfortunately, being ready to help whenever there's trouble comes at a price. Since Jan. 1, the AEF has awarded over \$50,000 in grant funds to Auxiliary members in need, and this has taken its toll. The AEF needs your help so that it can continue meeting the needs of ALA members in crisis.

Please, [donate now to the AEF](#). Whether it's assistance with paying overdue bills or helping to rebuild a house that collapsed from a tornado, with your help, the AEF can continue preventing the suffering of Auxiliary members!

** Per the National, the Unit Guide has been updated.

The primary changes are:

- the updated membership eligibility that went into effect after the 2019 National Convention as a result of the LEGION Act and inclusion of male spouses
- gender neutral language to be inclusive of male spouses
- icons highlight important info for the unit
- the online version includes **clickable links** to referenced webpages or Facebook group pages.

Hard copies will be available to order through Emblem Sales.

** FROM: "IN THE KNOW" May 2021

Here is the information regarding "virtual meetings" which should be added to your Unit's Constitution and Bylaws.

The general executive power and direction of affairs of the District shall except as herein otherwise provided, be vested in a District Executive Board. The time and place for a convention/conference shall be fixed by the Executive Board. In the event where conditions are indicative of the undesirability of holding a regularly scheduled annual in-person conference, the District Executive Board may decide to postpone or cancel the conference or may decide to conduct the conference via an electronic platform that allows for all delegates in attendance to hear each other simultaneously and participate during the meeting. All members shall be notified of the decision in a manner determined by the District Executive Board. The District Executive Board will consist of the following members: the immediate Past District President, all District officers, committee chairmen, and committee members and County Council Presidents.

Make any changes you would need to for it to fit for your Unit.

** The Bimonthly Unit Mailing (August/September 2021) has been posted on the department website: https://14a9de73-63e9-4067-b841-aff16bed4f39.filesusr.com/ugd/8bea47_0e4307ce4d8d473384c02da076ff8799.pdf. Those who signed up to have a paper copy mailed to them should receive it in the next week or two. Please share this information with anyone who may be interested.

** Reminder: The American Legion owns the names and trademarks of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA). The ALA is entrusted by The American Legion with protecting the name and official marks of the ALA. **Written permission is needed to use the ALA emblem on any printed products that are not purchased through Legion Emblem Sales.** Request forms are available on the department website: https://14a9de73-63e9-4067-b841-aff16bed4f39.filesusr.com/ugd/8bea47_1983041bb49d4518b4f9b7bc2c584da7.pdf. Requests for approval must include a description of the product, quantity to be ordered, name of the vendor/manufacturer, and vendor contact information. Completed approval request forms should be emailed to me (deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org) so I can obtain permission from National Headquarters.

NOTE: Permission is given for one-time use only. Each time an item is reordered, permission must be requested again.

To ensure trademark regulations are not violated, please share this message with any Legion Family members who are interested in or are currently printing the ALA emblem on products.

** Please join the American Legion Family at the Third Annual Celebration of Freedom Event at Department Headquarters (2930 American Legion Drive, Portage, WI) on Friday, September 24 and Saturday, September 25, 2021.

This year's event will feature New York's 9/11 Never Forget Mobile Exhibit, appropriate for the 20th Anniversary of that tragic event; a blood drive; live entertainment; food and drink; obstacle course; Corn Hole Tournament and more! Click on the link to "day's festivities" below for complete information and register a team for the Corn Hole Tournament. Come join the celebration!!! Join PDC Rynes 'Rhino' for the 2021 Corn Hole Tournament for some fun competition prior to the evening entertainment. You can do [FTX 2021](#) in the morning and enjoy all the [DAYS FESTIVITIES](#) the rest of the day!

American Legion Post 66 Chili Fest

The American Legion Post 66 Annual Chili Fest is September 25th, 2021 at the Silver Cliff Memorial Park. The event is from 11:00 AM to 4:00PM. The public is invited to try all of the different Chili and Soup variations available! There will be a Trophy Soup Contest to find out who's is the best! For more info contact Post 66 Cmdr. Ed Maeder at 715-856-6450 or Unit 66 Pres. Dee Farley at 715-757-3922. All Chili Fest Proceeds support the American Legion Post 66 and Auxiliary Unit 66 Scholarship Fund.

Dee Farley, President
ALA Unit 66 Athelstane/Silver Cliff