

# WISCONSIN

APRIL 2021

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



JOANIE DICKERSON  
Department  
President

Spring has sprung and the birds are singing. All the earth feels fresh and new as the trees put on their new "coats" of leaves and the flowers cover the once brown remnants of last year. With that feeling of renewal, it is time to get out and get busy. April is the Month of the Military Child, which coincides nicely with our Children and Youth program. Families sacrifice SO much

when they have an active-duty service member. The children are sometimes too young to understand why their parent or parents have gone away. Although we cannot bring their loved one home, we can help to ease the stress they may be feeling, even if for only a little while.

As a unit, you may not feel like it is possible to have a gathering to recognize and celebrate our young patriots, but there are other ways to reach out to them. Goodie bags/packs delivered to their homes can be a way of letting them know the Legion Fam-

ily cares and is there to support them.

An alternative to home delivery is a central pick-up point for families to stop by and get the gifts. I am sure many of you have great ideas about how you can get the items to the children. Our children are our future. I know you have heard that many times, but it is true. We must care for and support the most vulnerable through the difficult days of having a parent far away, possibly in harm's way. We need them to grow up to be strong, healthy, active members of their commu-

nities. Knowing there are others nearby that understand and care can help ease the stress of separation.

I know we are all tired of the limitations placed on us as a result of the pandemic but there is hope on the horizon as more people become vaccinated. Vaccination is a personal choice and one that should be respected. As our state loosens the restrictions for gatherings, we will soon have more opportunities to share our message of Service, not self and our story.

Now is the time to make plans

for how we will do that with the resources available to us. Gather those membership applications, fluff the poppies, seek out windows to decorate with displays of our history and mission. Remember to take pictures to share! Life is not as it was a more than a year ago and probably won't be quite a while but there is no time like the present to adjust our course and set sail for increased awareness of who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Our veterans still need us - now more than ever! God Bless.

## MEMBERSHIP

Linda Coppock  
Dept. Chairman  
Email: [beatrice2554@gmail.com](mailto:beatrice2554@gmail.com)  
Ph: 920-982-5811

Hello Spring! The ice is out, so all ships can now set sail again. Are you ready?

Congratulate yourself as Wisconsin has maintained one of the top three membership positions in Central Division. At the end of March, Wisconsin was at 89.28%, behind Iowa at 90.40% and Kansas at 90.72%! And Wisconsin ranked #11 in the national rankings. Hats off to all you magnificent sailors!

By now, all 2021 membership dues should be paid. If you want to maintain your continuous membership, but have not paid your 2021 dues, please do so now! We do not want to lose you.

I want to thank all units that submitted their 2020-2021 Unit Officer forms. By doing this and getting all those leaders paid in a timely fashion, I was relieved

to not get a huge list of officers needing to pay their dues! I also believe this may be the reason we are maintaining a higher percentage in national membership goals. It pays to hold everyone accountable, and I appreciate your prompt replies to those requirements this year. Please continue this practice for the 2021-2022 membership year! (It will be required again.)

In April, National President Nicole Clapp will be holding a Week of Caring and Sharing from April 1-7. This is the time to call members and check that their needs are being taken care of. In Wisconsin, we call these 'Sailor Shout-Outs' in honor of Navy veteran, Department President Joanie. Please be sure to check on members in your unit. We have been social distancing all winter and now with vaccinations and social distancing being less restrictive, you may want to consider making door to door visits if possible.

May will be heading our way soon, so take the opportunity to create May Day Poppy Baskets. With the help of your Junior members, make little May Day baskets with a few poppies and hang them on neighborhood doors. Don't forget to add a membership form and a little message about your unit and activities you may have coming up. What a great way to get out and enjoy the fresh Spring air! If there is concern about Poppy distribution and handing the poppy to someone, place a poppy in a small snack bag and place the bagged poppies in a basket for the public to pick out themselves. This is also a great way for young Junior members to offer the poppy without them handling them. And don't forget to add a little thank you note in each bag!

Although we have always been Anchored in Service, Spring is a great time to Set those Sails for the Future!

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

### OFFICIAL CALL

To the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Convention

Thursday - Sunday, July 15-18, 2021

Madison Marriott West

1313 John Q Hammons Drive, Middleton, WI 53562

### Department Convention

The 100th Annual Department Convention will be called into session at the Madison Marriott West, 1313 John Q Hammons Drive, Middleton, WI 53562 at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, July 16, 2021.

### Purpose

The purpose of the department convention is to elect officers for the 2021-2022 administrative year, elect delegates and alternates to the national convention, amend the department constitution, bylaws and standing rules as needed, receive reports of the department officers and chairmen, recognize outstanding unit achievements and transact business as may be brought before the convention body.

### Representation

Representation in the department convention shall be by unit, in accordance with the provisions of the department constitution.

### Delegates & Alternates

Prior to department convention each unit will receive information showing the total number of paid members as of June 16, 2021 and advising them of the number of delegates the unit is allowed.

## SETTING A COURSE FOR THE FUTURE



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

**Becky Mueller**  
**Department Chaplain**  
**Email: clarenceandbecky@aol.com**  
**Ph: 920-833-6048**

*"And God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."*  
*1 Peter 5:10*

It has been over a year since the pandemic hit. Oh, how our world has changed. Praise God we are coming to the end of the long, dark tunnel. It is coming ever closer; our time to return to 'normal' as we perceive it. We have suffered sickness and loss. We have suffered disruption and turmoil. We have suffered isolation and loneliness.

But we have survived! Our organization has developed new ways to fulfill our mission. We have come together via phone, email, text, zoom, facetime, and US mail. Now is the time for us to reemerge; like a butterfly leaving the cocoon behind. We will be better, stronger, and more beautiful than ever!

By the grace of God, we faced our fears and are ready to burst forth in love and service. While we continue to practice safety measures, we are finding opportunities to serve our veterans, military, their families, and our communities in new and improved ways. We have developed a better understanding of others' pain and suffering. We have become more able to 'think outside the box.' God's grace has sustained us. Praise God!

Remember the nation of Israel returning from exile. They were forced from their normalcy by forces beyond their control. Their world was also turned upside down. But God lead them back home to the Promised Land. God is doing the same for us. My prayer is that you will see the hand of God in your life.

My prayer to God is that He will make His presence felt in each of our lives and give us grace and mercy to walk in His light and follow His path. God open our hearts to accept your love so we can go forth and love others. Open our eyes to see others. Open our ears to hear their cries. Open our hands to serve. May God's grace and mercy rain down on you so abundantly that you are washed away in the flood of His love. Amen

### ***There is a Balm in Gilead*** *(Afro-American spiritual)*

*REFRAIN: There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole; there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul.*

*Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain. But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. (REFRAIN)*

*Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend, and if you look for knowledge he'll ne'er refuse to lend. (REFRAIN)*

*If you can't preach like Peter, if you can't pray like Paul, just tell the love of Jesus, and say he died for all. (REFRAIN)*

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

As we reflect on the past 12 months since the coronavirus changed our lives and the way we conduct day-to-day activities, I am thankful for the American Legion Auxiliary. Despite the challenges, our members have continued to support our veterans, service members, and their families. We may not have had personal contact with those being cared for in the VA hospitals and veterans' homes, but I know prayers were said to keep them safe and donations were made to provide for some basic needs. Donations were down approximately 65% as compared to the previous year, but I am hopeful that units will conduct poppy distributions in 2021 to raise the money needed to continue the work of the American Legion Auxiliary.

May is traditionally Poppy Month...but poppies can be distributed all year long. As vaccinations and herd immunity become more effective in thwarting COVID-19, units are encouraged to resume poppy distributions. The process may look different than previous years, but we need to remind the public about the significance of the memorial poppy and the sacrifices made by so many veterans for the freedoms we en-

joy today. If poppies cannot be distributed during Memorial Day, consider Flag Day in June, Independence Day in July, summer-time community celebrations, or Veterans Day in November! Some units have been very successful by mailing poppies to their members and local community leaders and simply asking for a donation in return.

Units and posts must submit 20% of their profits to Department as soon as possible after poppy distributions. Department uses the 20% profits to support the VA hospitals in Milwaukee, Madison, Tomah, Minneapolis and Iron Mountain; the Veterans Homes in Chippewa Falls, King, and Union Grove; Dayton Care Center in Kenosha; and Camp American Legion. Poppy profits also fund scholarships, grants to homeless women veterans, the Veterans Creative Arts Festival, and emergency assistance to veterans and active-duty military personnel. Units and posts may use the balance of poppy profits for the direct benefit of a veteran or service member where a medical or financial need is evident. Thank you to everyone who supports the Auxiliary's Poppy Program!

Do you want to learn more about the Auxiliary? An ALA in the Know Conference is being held at the Legion's Midwinter Conference in May at Ho-Chunk Hotel & Convention Center on May 8, 2021. Please

attend if interested. A reservation form is available on the department website. ALA in the Know Conferences are also being planned for this Fall, so watch for more information as details are finalized.

As a reminder, 2022 membership cards and rosters will be mailed to units after department convention. Anyone who has not yet renewed their 2021 membership should do so now as your membership has lapsed and you are no longer a member, nor do you have any rights or privileges of membership until the dues are paid.

The 100th ALA Department Convention is scheduled for July 15-18, 2021 at Madison Marriott West in Middleton. Some changes have been implemented out of consideration for our members' health. CDC safety recommendations will be followed as much as possible, including social distancing, wearing masks, using hand sanitizer, etc. PDP Berne Baer will be our honored guest with a special tribute to her on Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 3:00 pm in the Auxiliary convention hall. National President Nicole Clapp will be conducting her official visit to Wisconsin during convention and a parade of checks will be held in her honor following PDP Berne's program. Convention details are posted on the department website and highlighted information is published in this issue of the Wisconsin. We hope to see you there!

## GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

### CHILDREN & YOUTH

**Kitty Larkin**  
**Department Chairman**  
**Ph: 262-649-3399**  
**Email: kittysltr@wi.rr.com**

The Children & Youth program emphasizes protecting, caring for and supporting our children and youth, particularly those of veterans and military families. This helps to support the integrity of the family home while maintaining all needs of children including physical, spiritual, emotional and educational. While this is one of the four pillars of The American Legion

(TAL), you can work with other organizations and agencies for children, avoiding duplication of existing programs.

Each ALA Unit should have a Children & Youth Chairman helping to achieve the two primary goals of the Children & Youth Program within the local community: 1) care and protection of children of veterans; and 2) improved conditions for all children. By working in close cooperation with TAL, great financial aid can be established.

Continued financial strides can be made

through the established use of piggy banks for loose change or green bills. At monthly meetings or fundraisers, have a pig available with a suggested amount of the donation, i.e., 5 cents for each child or grandchild in your family; a penny for each year you've been married, or two cents for each year you've been a member of the ALA. Be creative and think of unique ways to pass the piggy bank around. Cash is always an acceptable method of support.

Remember today's youth are our leaders of tomorrow.

### ALA BADGER GIRL STATE

**Danyelle Thompson**  
**Department Chairman**  
**Email: alabgs.chairman@gmail.com**

The ALA Badger Girls State Committee made the extremely difficult decision to cancel the 2021 session. We know there are many people, from delegates to units to counselors, who are disappointed. This decision was not made lightly, but after talking with UW-Oshkosh and other stakeholders, we felt that for the safety of everyone involved we could not bring people together in person. We also looked at virtual options, but there were many factors that we could not account for – including lack of internet in rural areas, and that most students would be "Zoom Fatigued" by June after having a virtual school year in many areas.

However, we plan on going full speed ahead for 2022! So, what does this mean for you? It means that all of us will have to work a little bit harder to get next year's junior class excited for ALABGS. Without the previous years' delegates to come back and talk about their experience, we will have to put in extra effort to work with the schools and counselors to promote this program as the premiere leadership experience in the state of Wisconsin.

Please stay in touch with school counselors and have interested students take a look at our website- [www.alabgs.org](http://www.alabgs.org). We have a video that explains what ALABGS is, and sections that show previous sessions' photos, the daily newspaper, and other things to help them get excited. We look forward to seeing everyone in June 2022!



## VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

**Mary Petrie**  
**Department Chairman**  
**Ph: 920-261-8161**  
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Recall your last trip to the grocery or hardware store. Strolling past the aisles, did you notice FREEDOM listed on an aisle sign? Have you placed an order for freedom on the internet? It's pretty safe to say that the answer to those questions is NO! It just doesn't work that way. Freedom doesn't jump off the shelf into your cart or come delivered to your door in a neatly wrapped package.

The service and sacrifice of courageous men and women secured our freedom. Although we think of our veterans as heroes, and rightly so, ask a veteran what defines a

hero. The answer is usually something like this, 'Those who gave their all.'

Memorial Day is a day of remembrance often filled with emotion, especially for those who lost a loved one or a good friend. Yet, it is also a day of thankfulness...our flag proudly waves, we are free to gather to pay tribute to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, and we have been gifted with privileges beyond measure.

This day of remembrance is observed in various ways. If we were standing in Arlington Cemetery, we would most likely hear a prelude from the United States Marine Corp band and view a full honor wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, accompanied by a meaningful address, usually delivered by the

President. Nearly 300,000 flags annually stand proud in the seemingly endless rows of headstones and at the bottom of about 7,000 niche rows. This tradition, known as "Flags in" started in 1948. Each flag is inserted into the ground and is exactly one foot length from the headstone's base. The 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment handles this tradition and patrols 24 hours a day during the weekend, ensuring that each flag remains standing.

Tossing a wreath or flowers into the water has been a longstanding tradition to remember those who lost their lives at sea. The American flag hangs at half-staff until noon, then is raised to the top. Since 2000, when Congress passed legislation, all Americans are encouraged to pause for a

National Moment of Remembrance at 3:00 pm local time.

Hometown USA pre-Memorial Day tradition includes flags placed on veterans' graves and ALA poppy distributions. On Memorial Day, veterans' organizations join in parades and ceremonies, strains of patriotic music waft through the air, a 21-gun salute shatters the silence, and the 24 notes of Taps resound...

*Day is done, gone the sun,  
 From the hills from the lake,  
 from the skies.*

*All is well, safely rest. God is nigh.*

However Memorial Day is observed, let us never forget the ultimate sacrifice in freedom's name. Today...tomorrow...always...we remember...

## POPPY PROGRAM

**Diane Steinert**  
**Department Chairman**  
**Ph: 920-573-1846**  
**Email: djdmsteinert@gmail.com**

National Poppy Day® is Friday, May 28 this year! Wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nation's uniform. National Poppy Day® was established in 2017 when The American Legion asked Congress to pass House Simple Resolution 309 to designate the Friday before Memorial Day as National Poppy Day.

New resources are available to help you promote your American Legion Family National Poppy Day events and activities – whether they are virtual or in person this year. Visit [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) for new banners and posters. ALA members will need to login to the member portal to access the templates.

May is our busiest time for poppy distribution and this is an excellent opportunity for unit members to promote the poppy and its importance to honor those who sacrificed so much to keep our nation safe and to continue the legacy of "the Poppy Lady" for the next 100 years.

Making the poppy visible in your community will help to share the story. Distribute poppies throughout your community with the help of your American Legion Family, try to get everyone involved. Wear your ALA branded apparel and poppy accessories. Know the poppy story. Share the history and the poem "In Flanders Fields." Have support materials to share – poppy bookmarks, poppy fund fact sheets, poppy poster, etc.

Does your unit sponsor a Poppy Poster Contest? Posters submitted for Department citations are due May 1, 2021 and one winner in each classification will be sent on to Central Division for further competition. Each Unit Chairman should allow ample time to have posters judged at your District level as applicable.

As we near the end of our reporting year, I look forward to hearing and seeing the many ways your Unit has promoted the Poppy Program. Annual narrative reports are due to Department April 15, 2021. Photos and newspaper articles are greatly appreciated. I look forward to hearing from all of you!

## LEGISLATIVE

**Char Kiesling**  
**Department Chairman**  
**Email: char.kiesling@gmail.com**

I would like to remind everyone to read my legislative page on the department website. Click on "MORE" and Legislative will be there to click on! I have written to my ALA members every month, for two years faithfully, but have never received ONE comment on the site. This is information that we need to have to intelligently contact our congressmen on issues vital to the welfare of our veterans. Please take a look and consider supporting important legislation by writing to your representatives and/or senators. I have included a list on my February/March Legislative page. Also included are The American Legion bills for the 117th Congress you need to address.

Again, I remind you that the Auxiliary follows the Legion's Legislative Agenda. We do not advocate for every bill that concerns veterans as TAL reviews all bills closely and makes sure they are in the best interest of veterans and service members. Go to: [www.legion.org/legislative](http://www.legion.org/legislative) to access the Commander's Testimony, Legislative handbook, Legislative Action Center and much more. [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov) is a great place to look up bills and determine if your elected official is a sponsor/cosponsor of a specific bill. It will let you know when the bill was passed and signed into law.

Your work to assist legislation getting passed is truly appreciated and vital. It is an important mission for our veterans, service members, and their families that are often forgotten as also a part of our MISSION!

## ALA DEPARTMENT CONVENTION HONORED GUEST BERNADINE "BERNE" BAER

**Teresa Isensee**  
**PPP Dept. Chairman**  
**Ph: 715-667-3528**  
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**tisensee2173@gmail.com**  
 Past Department President Bernadine "Berne" Baer will be the honored guest at the 2021 Department Convention at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton, July 15-18, 2021. Due to COVID-19 concerns there will be no PPP Recognition Dinner, but a special program will be held on Thursday, July 15th at 3:00 pm in the Auxiliary convention hall to pay tribute to Honored PDP Berne Baer. Please join us to honor her.



**BERNADINE "BERNE" BAER**  
 Past Department  
 President (2005-2006)

administrative year. Her Department Commander was Ted Duckworth. Berne has been a counselor at American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State and served on the committee for several years, in addition to serving as chairman of several Department Committees.

Berne's theme was "Embrace Our Veterans" and her special project was to help families of deployed soldiers. Her pin was a bear holding the state of Wisconsin, the Auxiliary symbol and the years 05 and 06 on his paws.

Please join me in thanking Berne for her years of service to the American Legion Auxiliary by attending the Tribute Program.

NOTE: After the Tribute to PDP Berne Baer, membership awards will be presented to District Presidents/Membership Chairmen and Auxiliary members will have the opportunity to meet National President Nicole Clapp and participate in a Parade of Checks in her honor.



## AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND IMPORTANT CHANGES!

A new policy was passed by the National Executive Committee regarding the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF). Units and departments are no longer required to sign or approve AEF applications prior to ALA National

Headquarters receiving them. AEF applications are available at <https://www.legion-aux.org/aeef>. Questions? Please contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 or [AEF@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:AEF@ALAforVeterans.org).



## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN 2021-2022 CANDIDATES



### CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT - DIANE WEGGEN

Diane Weggen announces her candidacy for the office of ALA Department of Wisconsin President. Her goal will be to increase American Legion Family involvement and membership to better deliver the Auxiliary mission to serve veterans, military, their families and communities.

As a Gold Star sister and 38-year

Paid-Up-For-Life American Legion Auxiliary member, Diane joined through the service of her brother Jerry, a Navy pilot who lost his life on a training mission during the Vietnam War. From a family of veterans—late husband Donald served in the National Guard; brothers Bob, Army and Tom, Air Force; son James and daughter-in-law Jennifer, Navy; and grandson Nick, Air Force – Diane has a vested interest in serving veterans.

Two married children, daughter Kathy in California and son James in Virginia, and five grandchildren comprise Diane's family supporting her Auxiliary work. Cecil Tormey ALA Unit 118, Clark County ALA Council and District 7 endorse Diane for the office of Department President.

In addition to serving as unit, county and district president, Diane has held other American Legion Auxiliary offices and chairmanships, has worked the

week at ALA Badger Girls State, and was a committee member for the 2010 National ALA Convention held in Milwaukee. She is currently the Department Senior Vice President and Service to Veterans Chairman.

Taking civic leadership roles, Diane serves as a certified volunteer at the Wisconsin Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls, a member of Chippewa Veterans Home Recreation Committee, treasurer of Otter Lake Booster Club, active mem-

ber of All Saints Parish, group leader of Holy Family PCCW, committee member for the Thorp Junior Achievement program and Partners with Our Lady of Victory Hospital in Stanley.

A firm believer in 'Service, not self,' Diane is passionate about The American Legion Family and volunteering for veterans. Diane Weggen will enthusiastically and diligently work to serve and lead the American Legion Auxiliary as Department President.



### CANDIDATE FOR SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT - LINDA COPPOCK

Linda Coppock has been endorsed by her Unit 512, Outagamie County Council and the Noble 9th District, along with the support of her family and friends, as a candidate for the 2021-2022 Department Senior Vice President for the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin.

2021 is the year Linda became a 60-

year member of the American Legion Auxiliary! Through the service of her stepfather, Earl Burton, Linda has been an active Auxiliary member since she joined at the age of 6. She is also a Paid Up for Life member. Linda has served the ALA in many capacities over the years. She has been an officer and/or a chairman for her Unit, County, District and now the Department of Wisconsin. She recently revitalized the Junior members of her Shiocton Unit 512

and finds working with these young members and their SAL siblings very rewarding. (They are our future!)

Linda and husband of 31 years, Gary, a Vietnam Navy veteran, have raised three daughters, Jennifer Gardner (a dual member), Michelle Bellile and Suzanne Heuer and son, Lt. Col. Stephen B. Olk of the US Army Reserves. Of their ten grandchildren, the two oldest grandsons are Marines! They also have two great granddaughters, who,

with their ALA membership, are 6th generation Auxiliary members!

Serving as your Department Membership Chairman for the past two years, Linda has become even more aware of the struggles that units are having to retain and/or gain members to accomplish their goals while continuing to support our veterans, active military, their families, and the Auxiliary mission. Since the shutdown of activity due to social distancing with

the onset of the COVID-19 virus, working closely with units became the biggest challenge. Many creative ways of communication were needed to help unit leaders stay in touch with their members while they continued working on membership goals. New guidelines were created, but it proved to be a great incentive. Linda looks forward to working with members into the next year, along with the responsibilities of being your Senior Vice President!



### CANDIDATE FOR 1ST VICE PRESIDENT - MAGGIE GEIGER

I am honored to announce my candidacy for the office of ALA Department of Wisconsin First Vice President. I am a proud member of Unit 288, Cedarburg. My eligibility is through my father, Buck, a WWII veteran and PULF member. I belong to an American Legion Family including my husband, children and grandchildren.

I have served in various capacities on the Unit, County, and District levels including President, 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms and various chairmanships. Some special projects are co-founding Sweat4Vets; working with the VSO on "To Whom Honor is Due" Dinner honoring veterans in conjunction with Concordia College, and facilitating a WWII veteran to secure his Honorary College Degree.

On the Department level, I have co-

chaired ALA in the Know conferences, served on the Membership Team, member of ALA Strategic Planning Team, Americanism Chairman, member of the ALABGS Executive Board, Poppy Chairman, and Historian.

My passion is for our nation's heroes, promoting ALA programs and its mission; serving God and Country with ALA members from Wisconsin is a privilege. It has been amazing to hear what members who continued working

the ALA mission this past year have accomplished. Members did whatever they could to pitch in help wherever help was needed. It will be exciting to get back to being able to have unit meetings, work events, promote our organization within our communities, and gain new members. We need every member to help at whatever level they can so the needs of our veterans, military and their families are being met, making their lives better one day

at a time. I salute our ALA members - we know how to get things done!

Brian and I are members of Crossway North Shore Campus, Milwaukee Curling Club and lifetime members of Ozaukee County Historical Society. I have been blessed to serve as Department of Wisconsin 2nd Vice President this past year and ask for your continued prayers and support as I offer myself as candidate for Department of Wisconsin 1st Vice President.



### CANDIDATE FOR 2ND VICE PRESIDENT - REBECCA (BECKY) MUELLER

I am excited and humbled to announce my candidacy for the office of ALA Department of Wisconsin Second Vice President. I appreciated the opportunity to serve you for the past three years as Department Chaplain. Experiencing the care and compassion that you exhibit to your Legion family and beyond has been such a blessing. I especially appreciate those that have taken the time and energy to give me such positive

feedback. All of you have been and continue to be a blessing to me.

I gained my eligibility from my husband Clarence's service in the Army during the Vietnam era. I also am eligible from the service of my deceased first husband, Richard Young, a Marine in Vietnam. My deceased father was an Army veteran who would now have been eligible to join this organization because of the LEGION Act.

I joined Krause-Kraft-Mueller Unit 106 in Seymour in 2007. Since then, I have served as Unit Secretary and

President (4-year term), on many committees, and assisted in many projects. I was the Noble Ninth District President for two years and still serve wherever needed on the Unit, County, District and Department levels.

The ALA in the Know events are very special to me. For the past two years I had the privilege of co-chairing with Maggie Geiger. This was a wonderful opportunity to learn about our organization and from each of you. Meeting you and hearing of your accomplishments and concerns

have been highlights during my years as a presenter and now as chairman. Membership Chairman Linda Coppock offered me the honor of serving on her team. I truly appreciated the chance to meet and talk to so many of you.

The United Methodist Church has certified me as a Lay Speaker. I occasionally lead the services at my home church, New Life UMC, Seymour. I am the Lay Leader for two sites and serve on multiple committees. I am especially drawn to missions and serving others.

'For God and Country' defines my calling and passion. I appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve this organization and, most importantly, you, as we navigate through the changes and challenges that are before us. I feel I can bring fresh insights and ideas as we move into our second century of service to our veterans, our military, their families (us) and our communities.

Thank you for your consideration and support. God bless you and the USA.



**CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN - SUE HEMBROOK**

Sue Hembrook announces her candidacy for ALA Department of Wisconsin Historian. Her journey in the Auxiliary began 18 years ago at the unit level. In addition to chairing many committees she served as President of the Unit for four years. She also was the 4th District President and President of the Milwaukee County Conference of Units. On the

department level she has served as Education Chairman, Strategic Planning Group Co-Leader, Director of Hospital Volunteers, Representative at the Dayton Care Center and Poppy Shop Supervisor. She was also appointed to positions at the National level: 2015-2016 National Legislative Committee, 2016-2017 National Central Division Education Chairman, 2018-2019 National Poppy Committee and currently National Central Division Children & Youth Chairman.

Sue is eligible for membership through the service of her late father, Norton Kaiser, a WWII Army veteran and that of her husband, Gene, a Vietnam era Air Force Veteran. She has four children and nine grandchildren, all of whom are members of the Legion Family. Sue's son Joe is a member of the Air Force; son-in-law Jeremy is serving actively in the Navy; and her daughter-in-law is a Marine veteran. Sue's grandson Jonathan is eagerly awaiting his place in military life. At

the age of 15, he is a member of the Sea Cadets, a Navy Program, and Air Force JROTC at the high school he attends. Every branch of the military is covered by one family member or another, with the exception of the Coast Guard.

Sue and her husband of 47 years are members of St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church in Franklin, WI. She has been involved in that faith community with their school, parish council and many other fundraising events sponsored by the Church and School.

Sue's dedication to this organization and our veterans has been steadfast. She supports the VA's wholeheartedly, as they supported her family when her father contracted MS and he was admitted to a study being done at the time by the Milwaukee VA. She knows that her Dad had a much better and longer life due to the care given him and also appreciates the support given to the family. Sue will dedicate herself to doing her best at providing an accurate history of the upcoming Auxiliary year.



**CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN - AIMEE KORGER**

Aimee Korger is proud to announce her candidacy for ALA Department of Wisconsin Historian. Aimee is an active dual member holding a DEC position in both the American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion. The Korger Family are all in the American Legion Family. Her daughter is a junior member of

her unit, her son a member of the Sons of the American Legion, and after the historical change in membership eligibility her husband proudly joined the American Legion Auxiliary.

Aimee is looking forward to accurately recording the history for the Department of Wisconsin. She has only been a member since 2016, but since joining, has been very active and is always looking to learn more and share about the American Legion Auxiliary.

After fulfilling her duties for the last three years as the 10th District President and as her Unit's president, she is ready to move forward. She is the Unit Membership Chair and ALA Badger Girls State Chair. In the past, and when it resumes, she dedicates her time as an ALABGS counselor at the weeklong event in June. Aimee is always thinking about education as she is a substitute teacher and an after-school teacher for her local

school district. She is also active in her community by serving on the City Council, a role that includes being a member of multiple boards and committees. Aimee is also involved in The American Legion, serving on the Fundraising Committee. This committee is right up her alley as it allows her to put her fundraising ideas to work and she can spread her social butterfly wings as she promotes the organizations. Aimee has shown in

the past years that her organizational skills and the ability to prioritize will make her an excellent candidate for Department Historian.

Aimee has an approved endorsement at her Unit, County, and the District DEC levels. Aimee is asking for your support in her candidacy as Department Historian for the 2021-2022 administrative year.



**CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN - DONNA JENSEN**

Donna Jensen humbly announces her candidacy for the office of ALA Department of Wisconsin Chaplain. She is a Paid Up For Life member of the American Legion Auxiliary and her eligibility is through her brother who served in the Air Force and her husband, Past Department Commander Wayne Jensen, who served in the Navy during the Vietnam era as well as the Navy Reserve, Coast

Guard Reserve and Air Force Reserve for a total of 28 years.

Donna has been active in the American Legion Auxiliary for 11 years serving as Secretary, Historian and District President in the 4th District, and Sergeant-at-Arms for Milwaukee County. She has been Chairman of several Department Committees including Fundraising and Children & Youth, and a member of the Leadership Committee for two years. She has also volunteered at ALA Badger Girls State and plans to continue her involvement

when it is safe to hold session again.

It was a great honor to volunteer during the two American Legion National Conventions held in Milwaukee in 2000 and 2010. Donna was a driver for the ALA National President and TAL National Adjutant as well as serving on pre-convention activities. She is also planning to volunteer at National Convention held in Milwaukee in 2022 and has been appointed as the driver for the National ALA Secretary.

She has been a member of St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Milwaukee

for 48 years and has volunteered for many committees and activities there, including singing in the choir for 29 years. Her faith, family and service to others are very important to her.

Donna and Wayne celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in November 2020 and have two daughters, Wendy and Sheila, and two granddaughters, Ivy and Fiona who are all members of the American Legion Family and belong to the Milwaukee Police Post/Unit 415. She retired from Travelers Insurance in 2010 where she

worked for 25 years holding various jobs starting in a clerical position and advancing through various claim handling positions. Her goal during retirement was to be able to devote more time to volunteering.

Donna's candidacy for Department Chaplain is endorsed by the 4th District and Milwaukee County. She has the support of her family to pursue this new opportunity and asks for your support to humbly serve the Legion Family.



**CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEPERSON - BONNIE JAKUBCZYK**

Bonnie Jakubczyk announces her candidacy for the position of National Executive Committeeperson, representing the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin. Bonnie is a 41-year member of Oelschlaeger-Dallmann Unit 434 in Oak Creek. Her eligibility for

the Auxiliary is through the Army service of her late father Raymond, the Air Force service of her husband Dan, and her son Dennis who is currently in the Air Force Reserves.

Bonnie has held many offices at the Unit, County, District, Department, and National levels. On the Department level, she is currently the Hospital Representative for Zablocki VAMC and serving on the Leadership Com-

mittee. She has served as Department Chaplain, Department Historian and worked her way up to Department President. She served on Standard Officer Curriculum Training subcommittee, Constitution and Bylaws, Resolutions, ALA Badger Girls State, and Membership committees. She has attended the National Learning and Listening Conference, Department Leadership Conference, Department

Leadership National Conference, Mission Training, along with numerous State and National Conventions. She has served as the Central Division VA & R Chairman and is currently the Central Division Girls Nation Chairman.

The position of National Executive Committeeperson is important to our Department and our members, by expressing our mission, accomplish-

ments, and goals. The NEC is the link to make sure the ALA keeps moving forward. She takes this position very seriously, and believes we need to work responsibly so that we can continue for the next 100 years.

Bonnie is married with two children and two granddaughters. All are members of the American Legion Family. Bonnie has been endorsed by her unit, county and district.



**CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL CHAPLAIN - REBECCA (BECKY) MUELLER**

I am truly blessed with the opportunity to find and follow my passion through the American Legion Auxiliary. God has led my path, guiding, and protecting me along the way. I have become a lay speaker at my church and worked with multiple ministries including Bible studies and missions. In 2007 I joined the

American Legion Auxiliary to further develop my desire to serve others and to talk about the goodness of God and how God wants to be up close and personal with each one of us. Each time we recite our preamble, we are proclaiming God's sovereign reign over our country and organization. For God, I feel lead to tell our members about the love that surrounds them. We do our mission out of love for God and for our great country. We serve our vet-

erans, military, families, and communities out of that love. I want to remind and reaffirm that God loves each one of us also.

I have experienced that love in all types of situations. I have been discouraged, disappointed, frustrated, sunk into depression, and overwhelmed by caregiver responsibilities, but I have also experienced joy and been at the mountaintop! I have searched for God and not found Him until I allowed Him to find me

in the hole I was in. God has sent angels with human form to comfort and guide me. I feel called to bring that message to others. I feel that serving as National Chaplain is my vehicle and God will be with me in the driver's seat.

My message is simple. We are all created in the image of God and are fearfully and wonderfully made. We are to know that God deeply and dearly loves each of us as a unique and beautiful creation of His. We

are each His best work! I want to help others to feel, see, taste, touch and know God as so very real and present in us. Then we can continue our mission to love each other, to serve each other, to be the very best we are capable of from the love that begins from our inside out.

I humbly ask for your prayers and support as I pursue election as your ALA National Chaplain. Thank you and God bless.

# 2021 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

American Legion Auxiliary-Department of Wisconsin  
100th Annual Department Convention



Madison Marriott West  
1313 John Q Hammons Drive  
Middleton, WI 53562



## THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021

11:00 am – 5:00 pm	Auxiliary Registration
12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Department Fundraiser
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Legion Family Joint Executive Committees Luncheon <i>(by invitation only)</i>
3:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Recognition Program (Auxiliary Convention Hall)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honored PDP Berne Baer</li> <li>• District Membership Awards</li> <li>• National President Nicole Clapp-Meet &amp; Greet/Parade of Checks*</li> </ul>

## FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2021

7:00 am – 5:00 pm	Auxiliary Registration
7:00 am – 5:00 pm	Department Fundraiser
9:00 am – 9:45 am	District Caucuses
10:30 am – 5:00 pm	Convention Session

## SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2021

7:00 am – 8:00 am	Auxiliary Registration
7:00 am – 10:00 am	Department Fundraiser
8:00 am – 4:30 pm	Convention Session
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:00 am - Elections</li> <li>• Installation of 2021-2022 Department Officers and District Presidents</li> <li>• Adjournment of 2021 Convention</li> <li>• Reception Line for 2021-2022 Department Officers &amp; District Presidents</li> </ul>
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Church Services
7:00 pm	Saturday Evening Event: Entertainment by West on 12 <i>(Legion Family invited to attend; ticket purchase required)</i>

## SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021

8:00 am	Joint Legion and Auxiliary Memorial Service
9:30 am	Auxiliary Department Executive Board Meeting

\*Checks should be payable to "ALA-Wisconsin" and will benefit the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

## PRESIDENT'S PRAYER BOOK

I am so proud of our members in remaining steadfast in your faith during these challenging times. I have heard many stories of how members worked together to stay in touch with each other and continue to work our mission.

Have you enriched your prayer life? Are there devotionals that have touched you in a particular way? Did you rediscover favorite bible passages or stories? Share these moments with President Joanie by sending your

prayers and comments to be included in her Prayer Book. Did you relax by coloring pictures, writing a devotional, having a conference call prayer – send these to be included in the Prayer Book!

Submissions should include the submitter's name and contact information and be sent to Department Chaplain Becky Mueller at [clarenceandbecky@aol.com](mailto:clarenceandbecky@aol.com) or N7737 Miller Road, Black Creek, WI 54106 by May 31, 2021.

## BASKET RAFFLE FOR CONVENTION FUNDRAISER

Fundraising is a major source of financial support for our ALA programs. Donate a Raffle Basket worth \$25 or more with a card stating everything in the basket, your Unit # and District #. If donating as an individual, also include your name. Please enclose basket in a cellophane bag

and bring to the convention raffle tables. Different sets of baskets will be raffled daily (Thursday, 7/15/2021 through Saturday, 7/17/2021, ending at 10:00 am).

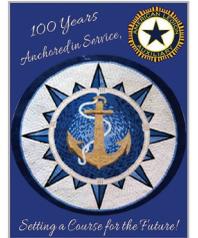
Questions? Contact Department Fundraising Chairman Vicki Flynn at [vickiflynn52@yahoo.com](mailto:vickiflynn52@yahoo.com).

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY LISCUM BROTHERS UNIT 482

Cordially Invites You to a Testimonial Dinner in Honor of  
**DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT JOANIE DICKERSON**

**When:** June 5, 2021  
**Where:** Huckleberrys Restaurant  
1916 S. Marquette Road  
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821

**Time:** Cocktails at 5:30pm  
Dinner at 6:30pm



**Dinner will be served buffet style with live music to follow. Cost is \$26.00 per person. RSVP by returning the bottom half of this form with payment by May 17, 2021.**

Name(s) of Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$26.00 each

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Liscum Bros. Unit 482  
Submit form and payment no later than May 18, 2021 to:  
American Legion Auxillary Unit 482, PO Box 48, Bagley, WI 53801



## A MEMBER FOR THE DEPARTMENT FINANCE COMMITTEE

Per Department Bylaws, any member with appropriate experience may serve on the Department Finance Committee. Each year, the Department Vice Presidents will appoint one member from qualified applicants to serve for a three-year term.

Interested candidates should submit a resume highlighting their skills in accounting, finance, budgeting, auditing or

other relevant experience by April 15, 2021.

Resumes should be sent to [deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org](mailto:deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org) or mailed to ALA-Wisconsin, Attn: Dept Executive Secretary-Treasurer, PO Box 140, Portage, WI 53901-0140.

Candidates under consideration will be contacted by the appointment committee to schedule telephone interviews.



The veterans residing at the Dayton Care Center were truly appreciative of the generosity of all who made or donated masks to help provide for their safety. Being quarantined has not been easy for the residents, as they have had to isolate in their rooms with little or no interaction with the other residents. This, plus an adequate supply of masks, has kept the facility essentially free of the virus. They had a few mild cases but for the most part continue to be COVID free.

The various designs were truly appreciated and made mask wearing a lot more tolerable. Due to your generosity, they were able to switch out their masks for washing and sanitizing on a regular basis. Also, every time they wore one, they knew they were not alone during this time and that people were in fact thinking of them and their safety.

Thank you,  
Sue Hembrook  
Dayton Care Center Representative