



Department of Wisconsin
American Legion Auxiliary
2nd District Newsletter



October 2021

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Amy's Angle....

Reciting the Preamble is a pretty common practice at most unit meetings. Some units even recite the Mission statement. But how many of you recite the Vision statement?

*The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while **becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community** providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.*

Those are pretty powerful words! While the Mission statement tells what we do, the Vision statement tells our goal and how we're going to get there. I love the sentence about *becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community*. Think about the ALA being the premier group that everyone wants to be a part of - the heart of every community! Our organization stands out amongst other service groups nationwide. Remember that statement when you are recruiting and talking to others about joining our organization.

Make sure that you always carry a membership application with you. The new membership forms are now available from Department. Please discard any old forms that and start using the new ones immediately as they list the correct membership eligibility requirements.

We still have a few units that are at 0% for membership. 😞 Our goal is no goose-eggs – which means that **each unit must have at least one paid member by October 29**. Unit President's should be the first to set the example by having their membership in good standing. There are many membership incentives that your unit can qualify for which means a chance for free money! You are only hurting your unit's chances by holding off and waiting for National to send out notices. We will also not qualify for a District award as unit officers' dues must be paid to be eligible. Don't wait, pick up the phone *today* and renew!

Follow our Vision statement by shaping a positive future for our organization. Our veterans, military, their families and our community are counting on you.

Blessings~

Amy

Salute, Serve, Celebrate

CHAPLAIN

Lois Levenhagen, 2nd District Chaplain

You are the Chaplain for your unit ... now what? Believe it or not, there is more you can do than just an opening and closing prayer at your unit meetings. You may:

- Be responsible for all invocations, benediction and memorial services for deceased members at official meetings. If you can't attend then appoint someone in your place.
- Assist with draping the Charter and/or performing a Memorial Service if needed (see Manual of Ceremonies for detailed steps)
- Assist with funeral services if requested by the family.
- Organize any flowers and/or grave marker needed for the funeral.
- Visit members and Veterans in nursing homes or hospitals and/or member shut-ins.
- Send at least one prayer or devotional to the Department chaplain and National chaplain for their prayer books. Consider sending a copy to the district Chaplain as well!
- Create a unit Prayer Book. Ask members to each contribute a prayer and/or poem. Be creative!

Your unit guidelines may indicate that the Chaplain is the one to provide and promote the emotional and spiritual support by sending cards to members or member's family such as sympathy, get well, etc. In addition, you may be the one to send cards to members and Veterans on special holidays and/or occasions if stated in your guidelines.

Reminder that notification of deceased members must be made by your Membership Chairman by completing the "Member Data Form" and sending it to Department.

Some helpful resources that will help guide you are:

- Unit Guide Book
- Guidelines for National Chaplain of the American Legion Auxiliary.
- National Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules of the American Legion Auxiliary.
- Chaplain's Prayer Book of the American Legion Auxiliary.

For additional information go to www.ALForVeterans.org under Chaplain.

If you are a County and/or District Chaplain you may be requested to hold a memorial service at your annual meetings.

A Chaplain's report must be completed at the end of the year with all year-end reporting. There are many awards and citations that you may qualify for as well. Check the Action Plan on the Department website for details.

Most importantly, it's important to keep your prayers diversified because of all faiths and cultures – be non-denominational. Pray for our leaders and the job that they are doing for our organization. In it, you'll find this role very rewarding.



Our Veterans, Military, their Families & Our Community

HISTORIAN

Judy Kuta & Cathy Brunnquell, 2nd District Co-Chairs

A unit's history is not just about what activities it did, it's also about the people who made up the unit as well. It's interesting to learn why people came together to charter a unit.

- When was your unit chartered?
- Who were the ladies and what was their association?
- Where were the first meetings held?
- What kind of events were held?
- What's the meaning behind your Post name?
- What kinds of historical items are housed in your unit or post home?

Write your unit history with pride, as a written history will be an inspiration to the future leaders of the unit. The unit history is the story of members, activities and accomplishments written in a simple and concise manner. If you want to build a better future, do not lose sight of the past. The history of your unit is important to document. It is always a good reference for your unit to remember how certain events or activities have been done.

And, what your unit is doing today, becomes tomorrow's history. Please don't forget to forward your newsletters and activity information to us so that we can help document our District's history as well. Forward items to either:

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Grafton, WI 53024
cathykb65@gmail.com

or

Judy Kuta
815 Washington Street #223
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We look forward to seeing all the great things your units are doing for our veterans. Record today, for tomorrow it will be history.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Angie Dedlow, 2nd District Chair

Is your post or unit hosting a Trunk-n-Treat event, Halloween party or a fun community event for children in October? Add the ALA coloring book to your mix of fun giveaways! This is also a great item to distribute to your local grade schools. Add a sticker on the back with your unit information and you've got branding recognition!

The coloring book is in stock now and can be purchased through Emblem Sales – quantity of 50 for only \$.25 each. Don't get spooked without them.... order yours today!



[Halloween Coloring Book - American Legion Flag & Emblem](#) or call Emblem Sales at 888-453-4466.