



WISCONSIN



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

www.amlegionauxwi.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Joyce E. Endres
Department
President

As we spend time with family and friends during this holiday season **'Pass It On' and share your blessings** with veterans, active military and their families.

On Veterans Day, the country honored those who sacrificed so much to preserve and protect our freedom. As a part of our 'service not self' mission, ALA members are **proud to honor and serve veterans every day.**

National ALA President Nancy-Brown Park "Passed It On" throughout her official visit to Wisconsin. On Friday, as the keynote speaker at the DeForest High School Veterans Day Program, she asked four students to talk about 'What Veterans Day meant to them' and honored another student, Sam Madsen, who just joined the military.

Next, Middleton VA Hospital Representative Rose Wenger lead us on a tour of this amazing facility. Friday evening, all American Legion Family Leaders, many Department Officers and members joined us for dinner hosted by Verona Unit 385. President Nancy's greetings, the 'The America's White Table' reading and Junior President Caitlin Rosemeyer's Blue Pinky Challenge were highlights of the event. On Saturday we participated in Milwaukee's 50th Anniversary Veterans Day Parade to honor those who served. PDC Leo and I joined Zablocki VA Hospital Representative Bonnie Jakubczyk and volunteers

to distribute 'Thank You for Serving' envelopes to veterans. We closed President Nancy's visit enjoying dinner with American Legion Family members at Greendale Post 416.

The Junior Fall Conference held at the Chippewa Falls VA Center was **energizing!** Junior members, Honorary Department Junior Officers, and Auxiliary members wore their 'Gems of Service' BLING! Two veterans shared insightful and heartbreaking war time stories. Juniors participated in a meeting, leadership exercises, BINGO and accepted the 'Blue Pinky Challenge.'

We share your blessings when we engage our youth and participate in community events. By reaching out to our community and other service organizations we increase awareness of **why we serve our great nation's heroes every day.**

As we close this year, discuss what you as a member and unit accomplished this year. Document these activities in mid-year and annual reports. Plan activities for the new year together!

Be ever mindful of what we have and stop worrying about what we don't have. Many members are facing the loss of a loved one, health, financial, and personal challenges. Share Your Life by reaching out to members with your prayers, kind words, phone calls, cards, e-mails and/or visits.

SHARE YOUR SMILE, your beaming face will light up their life and yours. Have a blessed holiday and New Year.

Joyce Endres
Department President

MEMBERSHIP

Laura Calteux
Department Membership Chairman

Share Your Life, Share Your Legacy, Pass it On!

Membership is the lifeblood of the American Legion Auxiliary. In order to survive as an organization, we need to focus on all the good that we do for our veterans and our communities. Keeping track of the hours and dollars so that we can report that information to Congress is very important. Utilizing that information to recruit new members and rejoin old members will make your job easier. Please share the following results (from the 231 units that submitted a 2012-2013 Unit Year-End Report) when talking to a prospective member of the American Legion Family:

- Volunteer hours served: 189,029
- Dollars raised or spent on veterans and military families: \$714,716
- Value of in kind donations: \$72,896
- Number of veterans assisted: 31,962
- Poppies purchased for distribution: 474,509
- Poppy dollars raised: \$256,334
- Scholarships awarded: 177 totaling \$59,795

We need to let everyone know what we do each and every day for our veterans. Volunteering at our VA hospitals, bringing our veterans to our Post homes for dinner or bingo, taking them fishing, sending toiletries and baked goods to our hospitals and outreach facilities; the list goes on and on. I bet your friends and neighbors would be

interested in knowing what we do and why we make a difference.

But first you need to let them know who we are. Let your pride show by wearing Auxiliary clothing or a pin with the picture of the veteran you are honoring with your membership – and always have an application with you! You never know when you are going to need it. You can also use social media to get your unit's name out there. Set up a Facebook page for your unit or go on Twitter. Don't forget about good old fashioned news media, such as the newspaper, television and radio stations. Any way that you can promote this great organization is a way to recruit new members and rejoin old members.

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin successfully reached the first National milestone of 55% by Veterans Day. Did your unit? The next National milestone is 70% by February 14th – but let's work hard and hit 100% by December 31st!

I want to remind you that your dues are due now. Members who haven't paid yet, have received a dues reminder from the National organization and probably a reminder from the unit. We want to get all of our renewals in by the end of the year so that units can concentrate on working our programs. When we can focus on our programs, the new members will come.

YOUR TEAM:
Laura Calteux, Chairman
Berne Baer, UD & R
Ruth Mengsol, UD & R
Morgan Johnsen, Junior Member

NATIONAL PRESIDENT VISITS WISCONSIN



American Legion Auxiliary National President Nancy Brown-Park greeted and personally thanked each veteran for his service at the DeForest Veterans Day Program. See more highlights of the ALA Presidents visit to Wisconsin on page 4.

How Do You Promote The Auxiliary in Your Community?

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 391 in Fremont hosted their 46th Annual Chili Supper in November. The chili supper has become a tradition many residents in Fremont and the surrounding area attend. It is a way to meet and greet new people, learn about the Auxiliary and enjoy homemade food at the same time.

Proceeds are used to support scholarships, the veterans at Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State and several community activities.

The Unit extends its appreciation to the area merchants who donated items for the supper and raffle and to those who attended and made this year's event a huge success.

Emma Looker and Alexa Lederhaus, 4th graders at Fremont Elementary from Girl

Scout Troop Number 2572, assisted with distributing poppies at their Veterans Day Program. American Legion Auxiliary Unit 391 appreciates the girls' volunteerism and persistence in distributing all the poppies. After the program, Emma and Alexa went from classroom to classroom and offered the remaining poppies to the teachers!

The Unit looks forward to working with these fine young women in the future.

SHARE YOUR LIFE **SHARE YOUR LEGACY**

DISTRICT 2 DISTRICT 3 DISTRICT 1 DISTRICT 12 DISTRICT 8 DISTRICT 9 DISTRICT 4 DISTRICT 6 DISTRICT 11 DISTRICT 5 DISTRICT 10 DISTRICT 7

NOVEMBER 2013

72.66% 70.57% 67.05% 66.62% 66.25% 65.28% **65.80%** 64.48% 64.12% 62.86% 61.51% 60.79% 59.69%

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Char Kiesling
Department Chaplain
Music Chairman
Ph: (920) 725-0121
Email: charbabyrn@yahoo.com

The month of November leads us to focus on the many blessings in our lives and for the many freedoms we enjoy every day. We thank and praise our Lord that He has blessed our country with strong and brave men and women who gave up family and friends and even their lives to protect those freedoms. On Thanksgiving Day we will enjoy our turkey and pumpkin pie and give thanks for our bounty and the closeness of family. Let us not forget to include a THANK YOU to that Veteran in our midst and those servicemen and women far from home that continue to need our thoughts and prayers and our many thanks. Veterans Day gives us a special opportunity to thank our Veterans and support them in return for what they have given us...the "Land of the Free and Home of the Brave."

PRAYER

Almighty God, we acknowledge with thanks that all we have and enjoy is a gift from your gracious hand. We come before you today in heartfelt appreciation for our nation and its people.

Amen

MUSIC

FOR THE FRUIT OF HIS CREATION

For the fruit of his creation, Thanks be to God.

For his gifts to ev'ry nation, Thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, Future needs in earth's safe-keeping, Thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.

In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.

In our world-wide task of caring, for the hungry and despairing, In the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, Thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit, Thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, Most of all that love has found us, Thanks be to God.



GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Bonnie Dorniak
Executive Secretary/Treasurer
Ph: (608) 745-0124

Email: deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org

If you plan to attend The American Legion Midwinter Conference, don't miss the Auxiliary Luncheon on Saturday, January 18th. Central Division National Vice President Donna Ray will attend as a guest speaker. Advance reservations (\$15.00) are required by December 31st. The registration form was in the November Unit Mailing, the last issue of the *Wisconsin* and is posted on the department website.

National Headquarters is scheduled to mail second renewal notices on January 15th. If you paid your dues, please verify with your Unit Membership Chairman that she forwarded your dues to Department so you don't receive a notice unnecessarily. NOTE: Dues are not considered "paid" until they have been processed by Department Headquarters. Unit Membership Chairmen are reminded not to hold onto dues. Members failing to pay their 2014 dues by January 31st shall be classed as delinquent and suspended from all membership privileges, including the right to vote on Unit business, hold office, or receive member benefits. Auxiliary members whose dues have not been processed by Department are not considered to be members in "good standing" and are not entitled to an Auxiliary Memorial Service or grave marker should the member pass away before the Unit forwards the dues to Department.

Department and National scholarship applications were sent to Unit Presidents in October and will be mailed to high schools in early December. Encourage all eligible students to apply for these scholarships. If you know of any home schoolers in your area, please inform them of our scholarship opportunities as well.

American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State (ALABGS) session will be held at UW-Oshkosh June 15-20, 2014. Reservations forms have been sent to all Units. The \$240 delegate fee is due by January 28, 2014. Wisconsin high schools have been notified

to contact their local Auxiliary Unit so that every eligible girl who wants to attend ALABGS has the opportunity to do so. If your Unit has decided they can no longer participate in the Girls State program, please notify headquarters and your school immediately – before they start their selection process!

Contest & Awards packets have been mailed. Please review this information at your next Unit meeting.

The Unit Year-End Reports (Impact Report and Narrative Event Report) were mailed in mid-November and are available on the Department website. The Department President reviews these reports to select units for recognition at Department Convention. Don't miss your opportunity to be acknowledged for all your hard work during the year!

As we approach the holiday season, please remember our military service men and women who are serving abroad, continue to pray for their safe return, and support their families during their absence. Pray for peace in the year ahead...



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Florence Wasley
Department Chairman
Ph: 608-935-3527

Email: tuskman@mhtc.net

When you hear or read the words Community Service what comes to your mind? Hopefully, you start out thinking, my community! What can I, as an American Legion Auxiliary Family member that belongs to a Unit, do?

Our most important emphasis in community service is to organize, plan and deliver services that will benefit Veterans, the military and their families. In doing this, hopefully we can and will involve the American Legion Family, general population of our community, Veterans, and members of the military community.

After Unit members have planned events, the next step is to get the information out to

the public through newspapers, telephone calls, websites and posters – Junior members are good at creating posters (perhaps check their spelling). If at all possible wear patriotic clothing to raise public awareness. We need public/community awareness so involve other community organizations. Show them we need them to help our young and old Veterans and their families. Members from other organizations probably have or know veterans that we as ALA family may not know about (have membership blanks with you!).

Upcoming luncheons, chili suppers, spaghetti suppers – these are all good opportunities to get the public invited. Blood drives, food pantry, shelters, volunteering at libraries and schools, job fairs, senior citizen homes and projects, organizing a food drive could be ways that we as ALA mem-

bers help make our communities a better place to live. At the same time we benefit our Veterans and families.

This year many Units are trying the Walk, Run, and Roll (wheels that roll) activities. Visit the national website for available resources: www.alaforveterans.org/programs/communityservice.

There are several National Days of Service: December 7th is National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, January 20th is Martin Luther King Day, and April 6-12 is National Volunteer Week.

Members, I would appreciate if you would email me at tuskman@mhtc.net by December 14, 2013 to inform me of the projects you have done or are planning to do. I can use these ideas for my mid-year reports.

Service, Not Self, for Veterans!



VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Virginia Kodl
Department Chairman
715-669-5432

We have started the annual hospital inspections and President Joyce is presenting money for requested gifts at each facility on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Middleton Memorial VAMC, Madison:
 up to \$2,000 for the purchase of four laptops for use in the transplant area

Zablocki Memorial VAMC, Milwaukee:
 \$1,200 for the purchase of a Tri-Wg Mat Table Top for the Rehabilitation Extended and Community Care area and \$800 for a shuffle board table in the Spinal Cord Unit

VA Great Lakes Health Care System, Tomah: \$1,100 for the purchase of a foosball table for the new outdoor courtyard and \$500 for aviary maintenance

Wisconsin Veterans Home, Chippewa Falls:
 \$500 for the purchase of bean bag toss games, fishing poles, tackle and needle nose pliers

Wisconsin Veterans Home, King:
 \$1,000 for the purchase of iPod Shuffles for use in the Music Therapy Department

Wisconsin Veterans Home, Union Grove:
 \$1,500 for the purchase of a flat screen TV and an Apple iPad

Kenosha Outreach
 \$500 for the purchase of a portable table top ice maker and a popcorn wagon

Oscar G. Johnson USVAMC, Iron Mountain:
 \$500 for the purchase of an Equinox Wind Sculpture

Minneapolis VA Health Care System:
 \$500 for patient needs

Camp American Legion:
 \$3,500 for the purchase and delivery of an industrial ice machine

Thank you Auxiliary members for your generosity!

Please continue to send funds to support our homeless or potentially homeless veterans but especially for women veterans. We receive requests weekly to help women veterans with security deposits, rent, furniture, clothing, etc.

Even though we focus on women veterans, we need to take care of all veterans, especially those in our own communities. Offer to take them to appointments, cook them a meal, or visit with them while their primary caregiver takes time for themselves. If the VA facility near you is hosting a stand

down, offer to assist with time and donations. Don't forget to get involved with local homeless shelters.

My hope is to increase donations to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Use the sleeve designed by the National Organization that fits on a Pringles can to solicit funds from the community. How about taking up a collection at your unit meetings with the funds earmarked for the Creative Arts Festival?

Camp American Legion extended its programs to host special weeks for women veterans and families of "fallen veterans." Camp has also become more involved with the Wisconsin National Guard and Reserve. Please continue sending donations to Department Headquarters so the ALA can support the veterans that use this facility.

Many ALA programs support our returning service men and women: donations to the Fisher House, "Salute to Hospitalized Veterans" programs, and volunteering at the VA facilities or outreach clinics. Continue all of your hard work through Home and Field Service.

If you have questions about any of our programs, please call me. May you and our veterans have a very blessed Christmas and a healthy New Year. Continue being "Gems of Service."

CALENDAR FUNDRAISER WINNERS OCTOBER 2013

1	15.00	07286	Lorlene Pulver	Verona
2	15.00	09308	Teresa Miller	Portage
3	15.00	11508	Shirley Verbrigghe	Janesville
4	15.00	47293	Melanie Hoag	Dresser
5	15.00	02754	Sharon Ruhe	Lake Wales FL
6	25.00	19938	Karen Dietz	Hartland
7	15.00	36133	Kim LaCasse	Cadott
8	15.00	46656	Delores Anderson	Rosholt
9	15.00	09308	Teresa Miller	Portage
10	15.00	37051	Cecilia Sromek	Thorp
11	15.00	19120	Nelda Wyss	Juneau
12	15.00	42902	Scott Ploof	Little Falls MN
13	25.00	44059	Linda Kasper	Eagle River
14	15.00	35882	Bev Higgin	Grantsburg
15	15.00	09387	Helen Mueller	Portage
16	15.00	34000	Julie Hansen	Oconto Falls
17	15.00	45035	Ellen Dunham	Lake Tomahawk
18	15.00	01647	Virginia Kemper	Wauwatosa
19	15.00	45484	Mona Fl anum	New Richmond
20	25.00	02562	Brianna Turner	Hebron KY
21	15.00	26362	Marcella Schmitz	Germantown
22	15.00	40330	Burnetta Weber	Elmwood
23	15.00	48210	Emily Widlake	Ripon
24	15.00	06409	Edward Fox	Wisconsin Dells
25	15.00	15753	Carol Peters	Watertown
26	15.00	27873	Andrew Blasky	St Louis MO
27	25.00	16032	Terri Schlimgen	Barneveld
28	15.00	40179	Patricia Sonnenburg	Tomah
29	15.00	05706	Genevieve McCarthy	Fox Lake
30	15.00	35953	Betty Lutz	Shell Lake
31	500.00	17874	Joan Peterson	Avoca

If not cashed within 90 days, the check will be voided without any notification sent to you. If it's after 90 days call our office. We are open Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm. Phone: 608-745-0124.

2014 CALENDAR FUNDRAISER

Entry forms for the 2014 ALA Calendar Fundraiser are due 12/31/13 for a chance to win.

Over \$12,000 in Cash Prizes!

At least one \$500 winner each month!

- 365 Winners -

For Additional Entry Forms contact Headquarters at 866-664-3863

HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS

Virginia Kodl
Department VA&R Chairman
715-669-5432

It is necessary that we continue to provide volunteers to help serve the hospitalized veterans at our established facilities: Middleton Memorial VA Medical Center in Madison, VA Great Lakes Health Care System in Tomah, Zablocki Memorial VA Medical Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin Veterans Home in King, Wisconsin Veterans Home in Union Grove, Wisconsin Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls, Kenosha Outreach, Oscar G.

Johnson USVA Medical Center in Iron Mountain and the Minneapolis USVA Medical Center.

There has been and continues to be a great need for volunteers. With so many veterans returning from the war – both in Iraq and Afghanistan – and with so many of our current volunteers aging and unable to continue volunteering, we need you to step up to the plate and help. Do you live close to one of the facilities? Ask your family, your friends, or someone from your community to volunteer with you. Let's increase the number of volunteers

who take care of those that gave so much to keep us safe. There is some preparation to become a hospital volunteer but each facility's volunteer service department will be able to give you that information.

If you have never had the opportunity to tour one of the facilities it would be rewarding for you to see. The Veterans are so grateful for a visit – they break into a smile and offer a few words. Contact the American Legion Auxiliary Hospital Representative at each facility to arrange a tour.

Unit 391 Honors Veterans and Military

Members of the American Legion Family at Post 391 in Fremont hosted the Annual Veterans Day Celebration at the Legion Clubhouse to honor the men and women who served in the Armed Forces. During the program, the Commander read a poem written by a student from the Fremont Grade School, the Adjutant explained the meaning of the POW/MIA Ceremony and the American Legion Auxiliary provided an update on their activities. Music was provided by Billy Solberg.

George Bloom of Wautoma, age 94, was the oldest Veteran in attendance. He served in

Germany, France and England during WWII. George was pre-

sented a hand-carved bear in honor of his nickname, "Big Bear."



George Bloom of Wautoma

COMMEMORATIVE PLATES AVAILABLE

Past Department President Reta Bohnsack has several commemorative plates available for anyone who would

like them. Her collection includes National Convention plates from Denver (1961), Washington DC (1966) and

Honolulu (1973), The American Legion 50th Anniversary Plate (1919-1969), American Legion Auxiliary 50th Anniversary Plate (1919-1969), Pearl Behrend's Poppy cup and saucer (1987-1988) and National President's Plates for 1979-1980, 1980-1981, 1981-1982, 1982-1983, 1983-1984, 1984-1985, and 1985-1986.

Anyone interested in any or all of the collection should contact Reta at 262-763-6483.

Reta suggests a donation be sent to Auxiliary Headquarters, designated to Fisher House-Milwaukee or the Department President's special project, in exchange for the plates.



POPPY ORDERS

Several posts and units have not reported their 2013 poppy profits to department headquarters. These reports must be received before 2014 poppy orders will be processed. The Poppy Shop is processing orders for 2014 so send your orders in at your earliest convenience.

ALA NATIONAL PRESIDENT VISITS WISCONSIN... Highlights and Photos

National President Nancy Brown-Park enjoyed her visit to Wisconsin and thanked everyone who donated money towards her special project. The Wisconsin Legion Family contributed more than \$1,000 to support the ALAF Veteran Projects Fund, which is available to departments and units to help with the special needs of veterans and their families.



Honorary Junior President Caitlin Rosemeyer asked Nancy to demonstrate her support for the Juniors' Anti-Bullying Campaign by painting her right pinky blue. But the challenge didn't stop there! Caitlin proceeded to gain the support of Dept. President Joyce Endres, Dept. Commander Ken Rynes and many other Auxiliary members in attendance at the event. After smudging the nail polish before it could dry, the Commander eagerly had his pinky repainted.



Nancy Brown-Park visited with members of the DeForest Auxiliary Unit at the Veterans Day program. Pictured: Joyce Endres, Darlene Scafe, Mary Hankins, Nancy Brown-Park, Jean Payne, Alvina Phillips and Kathy Disch.



Department officers in attendance at the Verona Dinner: Diana Sirovina, Bonnie Jakubczyk, Caitlin Rosemeyer, Nancy Brown-Park, Joyce Endres, Char Kiesling, Teresa Isensee, Bonnie Dorniak and Shannon Churchill.



Department officers and chairmen in attendance at Greendale Post Dinner, back row: Sue Hembrook, Bonnie Jakubczyk, Violet Feldmann, Diane Duscheck, Kitty Larkin, Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan, Diana Sirovina. Front row: Donna Jensen, Joyce Endres, Nancy Brown-Park, Chris Ertl, Beth Puddy.



ALA Hospital Representative Rose Wenger conducted a very informative tour of the Middleton Memorial VA Hospital. Front row: Nancy Brown-Park, Bonnie Dorniak, Andrea Page, Virginia Kodl. Back row: ALA Hospital Representative Rose Wenger, Anna Rosemeyer, Pat Smith, Caitlin Rosemeyer, Diane Weggen, Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan and Joyce Endres.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

MIDWINTER LUNCHEON

Saturday
January 18, 2014
12:00 Noon – 2:00 pm
(Doors Open at 11:45 am)

Reservations due
December 31, 2013

Ho-Chunk Hotel & Convention Center

UNIT 288 HOSTS SPA DAY FOR LADY VETERANS

In conjunction with the Auxiliary's mission to honor the sacrifice of our veterans, Peter Wollner Unit 288 in Cedarburg sponsored a Spa Day for the women veterans living at Zablocki VA Medical Center

Domiciliary. The Domiciliary is a place for women veterans to stay while recovering from mental health issues that developed during active duty and helps them reintegrate back into society. Tres Jolie Solace

provided hair styling and nail polishing along with a gift bag to thank the ladies for their service to our country. Unit 288 also presented each veteran with a gift bag holding a robe, footwear, and special treat.

THANK YOU to the following organizations for making this special day possible: Tres Jolie Solace, Omega Tool, Inc. of Menomonee Falls, Laura Burke-American Family Insurance of Port Washington, Ma-

chine Tool Maintenance of Cedarburg, and Beerntsen's Confectionary of Cedarburg. Pictures provided by Deb Kranitz/News Graphic photographer.



Natosha Taylor accepts a gift bag from Legion Auxiliary member Maggie Gieger



After a great day at Trés Jolie Solace in Thiensville, the veterans prepare for the ride home



Trés Jolie stylist Samantha Gingrich finishes up Army vet Alyssa Krueger's new style