



# 10<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER JUNE 2024



## DISTRICT 10 AUXILIARY PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

This year’s State Convention in Appleton was very eventful. From making new friends, getting more ideas, to celebrating accomplishments of units throughout the state. On display was the 10<sup>th</sup> District picture board, with photos of unit activities and places visited. I am past the one-year mark of being the District President. It has been rewarding and challenging. I look forward to the next year with excitement. I plan to continue the “Highlight Our Hero’s” campaign, and the Red, White and Blue awards. I hope to connect with more units and learn of your activities. Please remember to invite me to unit meetings, fundraisers, parades, award presentations etc. Thank you all for the things you do daily to honor and support our veterans. Thanks to the district staff, county president’s chairman and reps for your kindness and support. “Individually we are one drop, but together we are an ocean” (unknown)

**Unit Officers Forms:** Please complete and return the Unit Officers Form to the Department of Wisconsin. These need to be completed even if your units’ officers did not change. Form included as an attachment.

Mary Townsend – 10<sup>th</sup> District President

## DISTRICT 10 LEGION COMMANDER’S MESSAGE

Greetings to my Legion family.

This year has gone by really fast, but we certainly have made some strides. The 10th District has accomplished some very important goals this past year. Our A&G Testing and our Oratorical Contest participation has dramatically increased allowing for more scholarships to be put in the hands of our youth. More of our Post have sponsored teams this year for our new Softball Program, giving our female athletes some time to shine in the spotlight. Another example is we have consistently placed as one of the top four districts in the Department’s membership goals for 2023/2024. Witness to that is the National Achievement Award signed by National Commander Daniel Seehafer along with a yellow ribbon for our District Flag. It was presented in my name as District Commander at The July Department Convention, but clearly this was made possible by all the efforts and hard work of every single Post working alongside their Auxiliaries and SAL Squadrons. A big thank you to all who made that possible.

I am very proud of my entire District. You take care of so many veterans and families and their local areas by performing Buddy Checks and promoting the “Be The One” National program. Your positive presence in so many communities of Northwestern Wisconsin is truly noteworthy. I look forward to my last year of continuing my mission to “Communicate to Succeed“, and propelling The Mighty 10th District to even Higher Heights!

Loyally,  
Commander Rita Rindahl, 10th District

## CHIPPEWA VALLEY VETERAN BENEFITS FAIR

Thursday September 19, 2024, from 11:00am – 6:00pm a Veterans Benefits Fair will be held at:

National Guard Amory, 1730 North Lane, Eau Claire, 54703

It is a common misconception that veteran benefits are exclusively for combat veterans, those injured in service, or active-duty veterans. In reality, these benefits may also be available for eligible veterans of peacetime, the National Guard, and the reserves.

We understand that navigating the application process for VA benefits can be overwhelming. Our County Veterans Service Offices can assist you every step of the way. We encourage you to attend the Benefits Fair to learn more.

Adam Kohls office is hosting the Benefits Fair September 19th and has extended an opportunity for the 10th District to have a Booth. Raffle Baskets are being accepted as Door Prizes for this event.



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## HIGHLIGHT OUR HEROES

Major Mike Roelse Ret. From Cumberland Post 98. Mike served 28 years in the U.S. Army and the Army Reserve, retiring at the rank of Major. As an enlisted soldier Mike was a combat medic and a helicopter crew chief. After, becoming an officer, Mike commanded a Forward Surgical Element. He was deployed many times, to Afghanistan in 2009 and 2010. During his deployment in Afghanistan Mike was severely injured, requiring 22 surgeries. Mike was awarded the combat action badge, and numerous awards for meritorious service during combat operations, in a hostile environment.

We salute Mike!

If you want to highlight a veteran from your Post or your family, please send the details to: [getmet77@hotmail.com](mailto:getmet77@hotmail.com) -

Tell a veteran's story!

## DISTRICT 10 FALL DEC/CONFERENCE

The information regarding Fall DEC/Conference has been emailed out. If you didn't receive the details, please let me know. Fall DEC/Conference will be held on Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup> in Chetek. Some tentative topics to be covered are. "Be The One", Americanism-Essay Contest, Public Relations, and more.

Please try to have at least one unit member attend, I would appreciate that greatly!

## DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BECKY MUELLER

President Becky's theme this year is to continue to emphasize the mission of providing service, support, encouragement, acceptance, and love to our Heroes – both veterans and those currently serving but with the inclusion of all the family members.

This year, I would like us to try to identify and locate the families of the almost 1,800 MIA/POWs in Wisconsin. The UW-Madison MIA/POW Recovery and Identification Project works to recover, identify, and repatriate MIA US service members by conducting field excavations and research assistance to those families. We will learn more about them throughout my term of office. On a local level, we need to reach out to these families and let them know we have not forgotten; nor will we forget, the service and sacrifice they have made. We need to give them a safe place to remember their loved ones; to speak about their experiences and pain; and to honor the service and sacrifice made by these men and women. We know the horrors of war, the waiting for news, the loss that is part of sacrifice and service. Reach out to them – let them know they are not alone and that we care and love them. They are part of the family.

My second project is the Auxiliary Emergency Fund – the only fund set up exclusively for Auxiliary members. Started in Wisconsin, this fund continues to offer hope, love, and financial support to auxiliary members in good standing for at least three years. My goal is to raise \$1.00 for every American Legion family member in the Department. Send your donations to Department Headquarters directly to be included in the goal. Those contributing \$100.00 or more will receive a special recognition pin. Thank you for your support. I have included a Count your Blessings poem that can be used in your fundraising efforts.





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## BARRON COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

Gerald Townsend was installed to the office of County Commander in June. On June 29<sup>th</sup> the Barron County all Veterans Color Guard did a Flag Raising at the Hungry Hollow event.

Barron County will be hosting an all-Veteran Picnic on Sunday September 15 at the Pioneer Village Museum. Program start at 11:00 A.M. and the meal at noon. We are proud to have the Fall Conference in Barron County, on Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup> at Chetek Post 179.



## CHIPPEWA FALLS VETERANS HOME

Around 2013 , after the Chippewa Falls Veterans Home was opened a recreational committee was formed from all branches of the service to support the veterans. One of the projects was to change the slope on the patio to make it a usable space. Through the years many ideas were presented, and a name was chosen as the Patriots Pavilion. Money was raised, \$300,000 plus to make it the beautiful place it is today. American Legion Auxiliary Department Past President Diane Weggen (2021-2022) made this her special project.

A Dedication Ceremony was held on June 25<sup>th</sup>, with Diane cutting the ribbon (see photo). Several veterans had the honor of using the pavilion for the first time. If your Post/Unit wishes to donate to the Veterans Home, donations can be sent directly to the Recreation Committee. CFWHRC.INC 2175e. Park Ave. Chippewa Falls WI. 54729 Atten: Rec Committee. The recreation committee is always getting suggestions from the veterans' home on ways we can help.

This fall there will be a Veterans Ball that the committee will support. Thank you for helping and supporting our veterans.

Other dignitaries from the Legion Auxiliary attending the dedication were (see photo) from left to right Department of Wisconsin Auxiliary President Maggie Geiger, Past National Auxiliary President Diane Duscheck and Past Department President Diane Weggen. 2<sup>nd</sup> picture – Diane cutting the ribbon.





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## WISCONSIN FARM TECHNOLOGY DAYS

This year the Farm Technology Days will be held on August 13-15 in Cadott, (24105 County Hwy S), Hosted at Close Farms & Country Fest, On Tuesday Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> there will be an opening ceremony at 9:00 A.M. This will feature veteran organizations “posting colors”. If your Legion Post/Unit is interested in participating, please contact Rick or Katheryn at [rickathy57@gmail.com](mailto:rickathy57@gmail.com)

General admission is \$15.00 adult – 12 and under free. Purchase tickets online and save!

Visit the website at 2024 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days for information about this event.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

Jocelyn Townsend is a little firecracker at the age of three. In October of 2023, while taking pictures for her birthday, her mom noticed something unusual about the photos. There was a white glow in her right eye. After a consultation with a specialist in Hudson, Wisconsin, Jocelyn was immediately referred to an eye specialist at the University of Minnesota. After tests and an MRI it was determined that Jocelyn had Retinoblastoma, an early childhood eye cancer. After learning of the heartbreaking news, the family had to make a quick decision. The cancer had progressed quickly, and with fear that it could spread beyond the eye, the decision was made to remove her eye. After weeks of recovery, she was fitted with an artificial eye. As you can tell by the picture, she has made the adjustment just fine, and still is a little firecracker! She loves her ALF Dog!

Carter Callow age 6 was born with Hydrocephalus. Day 2 of his life they placed a shunt in his head to drain the fluid. During his first year, he has had 13 different surgeries or medical procedures. When he was about 3 years old, the doctors at Children’s of Minnesota performed a skull reduction surgery. This was an 8 hr. surgery and groundbreaking. Usually this procedure would be 2 major surgeries, but with 2 doctors working on each side, they did it in one day. They did discover that during the surgery, he suffered a minor stroke. This set him back about 5 weeks. Finally, his parents saw him smile again and play with his favorite toy. Carter struggles with seizures, and a multitude of other medical issues on an ongoing basis. He just can’t seem to get a break. Please keep him in your prayers. He also received an ALF dog.

Margaret Larson – Chairman





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## DISTRICT CONVENTION AWARDS AND PICTURES

Congratulations to the following units of the 10<sup>th</sup> District for awards/certificates/recognition at the State Convention. Keep up the great work serving our veterans and communities!

- River Falls Unit #121: Department of Wisconsin Excellence Award/10<sup>th</sup> District Outstanding Unit Award
- River Falls Unit #121 Certificate of Merit 2<sup>nd</sup> Place History Book
- River Falls Unit #121 Community Service Certificate
- River Falls Unit #121 Children & Youth – “Tools For Schools”
- Alma Unit #224 Education Award – Veterans in Community Schools



## MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE FROM ALA DISTRICT CHAIRMAN TERESA STEINKE

Wow! The last couple of weeks certainly have been hot, hot, HOT! So have some of our unit membership chairs and County President's phone lines! They have really been working to encourage those members who have not yet renewed their 2024 memberships yet! Yes, there is still time to get those members dues paid—their memberships have not lapsed—YET. If any of those members happen to be great granddaughters, there is still time to get them renewed so they can maintain their membership. Remember, if their membership lapses, they will not be allowed to reinstate under the great grandparent. The only way they could rejoin is if there is a different, closer relative under whom they could join.

In addition to still working on getting 2024 memberships submitted, National has also now opened the 2025 membership year. That means we can now also begin submitting 2025 renewals! Quick tip: if you are still trying to collect 2024 dues, suggest to the member that they could also pay their 2025 dues right away, so they don't have to worry about dues until next year. This will also get your unit a good head start on the 2025 year, and perhaps qualify for one of the membership goal drawings! Speaking of which—please make sure you submit your officer sheet to Department, and make sure all of your officers have paid their 2025 dues or you will not qualify.

I hope you are enjoying these “dog days” of summer. It would be a great time to have a Legion Family Picnic, and 2025 Membership Kick-off. Have a contest to see which Legion Family organization can get to 100% or better first—or maybe have that contest with a neighboring Post/Unit/Squadron—how about a county wide contest? Get creative!

As always, if you have any questions, or need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

For God and Country,  
Teresa Steinke, Membership Chair, Tenth District Department of Wisconsin



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## AMERICANISM MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN TERESA STEINKE

The start of school is just around the corner. Have you discussed the Americanism Essay Contest yet? I hope every unit has plans to promote the contest in your local elementary, middle and/or high school. I would suggest that you make contact with teachers as soon as possible and ask them if they would be willing to work this essay contest into their class curriculum. Keep an eye out for the topic for this year on our department website: <https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/programs> and choose Americanism.

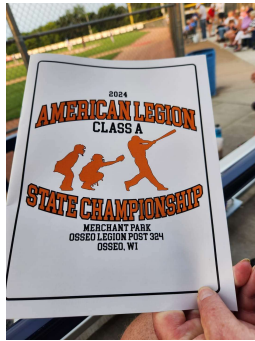
All information will be posted there as soon as it is available.

If you have any questions, or need any additional information, please contact me. I am available to help!

For God and Country,  
Teresa Steinke, Americanism Chair, Tenth District Department of Wisconsin

## AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

10th District President came to visit during the Class A baseball tournament held in Osseo hosted by Osseo American Legion Post 324. The Auxiliary members were hard at work running 50/50 raffles at each of 4 games. This will help our Unit greatly and the attendees at each game were very generous



## ALA 10<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT CHAPLAIN JEAN ERLEWINE MESSAGE

One of the most valuable gifts in life is having a loyal friend BE THE ONE who is a valuable loyal friend to a veteran.

Heavenly Father  
we thank you for giving us all this rain this spring  
we ask that you continue to bless us as we prepare our gardens  
and enrich us with an abundance of nourishment this fall

## UP COMING EVENTS

August 23-29, 2024	National Convention – New Orleans Louisiana
September 14, 2024	ALA in the Know – Cumberland – Post #98
September 15, 2024	Barron County All Veterans Picnic, Pioneer Village Museum 11:00 am program and Lunch at Noon.
September 19, 2024	Chippewa Valley Veterans Benefits Fair, National Guard Amory, 1730 North Lane, Eau Claire, WI 54703 11:00am – 6:00pm
September 21, 2024	10 <sup>th</sup> District DEC and Fall Conference in Chetek
September 28, 2024	ALA in the Know – Gillette – St John’s Lutheran Church
October 5, 2024	ALA in the Know – Cedarburg – Unit #288

**Next Newsletter will be October 2024 – Deadline for articles and pictures will be September 29, 2024**

**To submit articles and events for the 10<sup>th</sup> District Family Newsletter send to: Teresa Isensee [tisensee2173@gmail.com](mailto:tisensee2173@gmail.com)**