



10TH DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2025



DISTRICT 10 AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings American Legion Family! Wow, what a whirlwind of activity the past few months have been! Since we last met for the Spring Conference, I have been quite busy-wrapping up my year as your Tenth District First Vice President and Membership Chair, Department of Wisconsin Membership committee member, along with my local, District and Department activities, as well as trying to pack things so we can move into our new home, there has not been a lot of grass growing under my feet. One of the most exciting events was, of course, the Department Convention held in Green Bay a couple of weeks ago, in which I was blessed to be ratified by the Department of Wisconsin and officially installed as your new Tenth District President. I would like to thank all of you for placing your trust in me to help guide our Tenth District Auxiliary in accomplishing the goals of this great organization for the next two years.

During the Department Convention, we listened to reports from the various Chairs, all of whom sang the praises of our members throughout the great state of Wisconsin. The Units of the Tenth District came away with many awards, which I will have the honor of presenting, at our Fall Conference, to the very well accomplished units who earned these accolades. Please plan to attend our Fall Conference on Saturday, September 27th in Alma. There will be more information on the Conference in this newsletter.

We heard from Jay Bowen, from Colorado, the leading candidate for National Commander, who spoke of the importance of the American Legion Family. In his words, "Everything is Legion Family". He said the American Legion members have great ideas for fundraising and promoting, but terrible in actually executing those ideas. On the other hand, the Auxiliary is fantastic at putting those ideas into action. Therefore, it is absolutely vital that they work together to make things happen! He stressed the importance of serving wherever and whenever there is a need that "Be the One" is no longer just a theme, but it is now the Legion's #1 mission. The new theme is "Be Part of the Solution" - That we will either be part of the problem or part of the solution. So, choose to be part of the solution! I will have more remarks about the Department Convention, along with those awards to be presented, at the Fall Conference in Alma, so please plan to be there!

Our new slate of Department of Wisconsin officers are as follows:

Department President Sue Hembrook

Senior Vice President Amy Luft

First Vice President Christina Petranovich

Second Vice President Betty Stone

Historian Christine Johnsen

Chaplain Sandy Mack

National Executive Committee Woman Maggie Geiger

The New Department Commander is Nathan Bond, who also stressed the importance of the entire American Legion Family truly working together. We are stronger together - when we work together toward the goals of service to and for our veterans and our communities!

President Sue's theme for this year is "Honor our Country - Support our Veterans". As a part of the Tenth District American Legion Family, the American Legion Auxiliary needs to work with our American Legion Post, our SAL and our Legion Riders toward that goal. We will give suggestions and be open to hearing from each of you on ways that you are putting into action "The American Legion Family", as we do just that-Honor Our Country - Support Our Veterans!

The new membership theme is related to National Parks-the Tenth District has "Yellowstone National Park". There will be more to come on that from our new Tenth District Membership Chair, Rhianna LeMere. But as a quick heads up, there will be fabulous opportunities for your unit to get in on drawings for \$100, beginning September 15-so get started on collecting the dues for next year. Please do not wait, you absolutely can start collecting those dues now! Let's be as reliable and consistent as "Old Faithful" get those memberships paid for the Mighty Tenth to win some nice rewards for our units!



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One final message from me: One of my goals is to encourage Mentorship in our District, Counties and individual Units. I think that it is imperative that we are encouraging our younger members to become more involved in the American Legion Auxiliary. I know that one of the standard reasons that many of those younger members say that they cannot take any type of leadership role in the organization is their work schedule and even more importantly, their family. Let's think about what we can do to make our events more family friendly, so we can truly make things an American Legion Family event and thereby making it more enticing for those younger members to join in the fun!

I hope to see you in Cumberland on September 20th for the ALA In the Know and at the District Fall Conference in Alma on September 27th.

**For God and Country,
Teresa Steinke, President
Tenth District Department of Wisconsin
American Legion Auxiliary
Phone: 715-828-7462 email: teresa.steinke_cmx@yahoo.com**

DISTRICT 10 LEGION COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings to the 10th District Family,

I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome. For the outpouring of support I have received since this mantle has been placed on my shoulders, and the honor and privilege it is to serve in a greater capacity my Legion family. How much I have appreciated and witnessed the deeds of quiet heroes and giving hearts that worked with tireless endeavors, from our legionnaires, Our Auxiliary, our Legion riders and our Sons of the American Legion.

I admire all the time and talents that have come before me. The wisdom of my elders and the wise and tender hands of our women and men who have walked a path forward through all generations of time. I have watched those hands bring hope to the hopeless, Friendship and belonging where there was none before. I have witnessed the rallying together for a cause in the funds raised and the lives changed by the everyday acts of what those hands can do with a heart and mind full of purpose. They have given the final salute at the graves, they have comforted the widow, lifted a fellow comrade from darkness, Fed the hungry with spiritual nourishment as well as physical, and brought home and hearth to our gatherings to those that have no home and no family until they came home to our American Legions. Above all I have seen the reverence for our POW/MIA, for our beloved flag. All spokes in a wheel that help our county and district posts operate and continue forward the mission for which we were first created.

I would implore you as we go forward to honor and respect one another, to set aside our differences to continue to honor people's names in public and in private so that we may rededicate ourselves to what is written into the very fabric of our preamble. I would admonish you to take it line by line as sometimes the repetitive nature of a task tends to dull these powerful words that are written, that drew me into the legion. Our preamble is as beautiful to me as our pledge of allegiance.

In closing I would like to challenge you to errands of angels: these small and simple gestures from writing a letter, sharing a meal, help with what you can and are able the names that come to mind at the start or eve of your day. Names of people that may stand in need of you. Support one another in your community activities across the district. I would ask you to continue to be an example and be seen as you never know the impact and influence you have for good to those who watch.

When they first came to find me I was a stranger in these parts 2013, and the legion knocked on my door, said they wanted me to be a part of them, gave me a hat and a Tie so that I would belong right away. Those rough around the edge's gents, with contagious humor quietly taught me hope. That after the ravages of war I could build a good life and gave me a purpose again. Think about your Legion story and share it with one another. My utmost gratitude for all that you do, both seen and unseen, what you do makes a difference.

**Respectfully,
10th Commander Felicia M. Decker**



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THANK YOU FROM PAST DISTRICT PRESIDENT

I would like to thank God for His continued leading and guidance along this wonderful journey! I thank my family for their support, and to my husband Jerry for being my “uber driver”/photographer. I would like to thank my Legion Family for their support and kindness. Thank-you to the district officers and each DEC member, for your help and dedicated work to our mission. To every unit president and members who welcomed me, I thank you! I feel blessed to have talked with many unit presidents, to connect with them and learn about the unit activities of this district.

We are truly the Mighty 10th District!!! My prayer for the 10th District Legion Family is that we keep the focus on supporting, advocating, and honoring our veterans and military. That we would work together to achieve this goal. That we would respect all members, show kindness when we are able, and to help mentor one another. May God bless each of you & God bless the Legion Family!

Mary Townsend – Past 10th District President

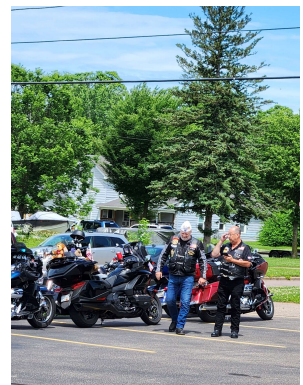
MEMBERSHIP AWARDED TO CYNTHIA SAYLOR

Congratulations to Cynthia Saylor of Rice Lake Unit # 87 for receiving the National Recruit 10 Award. (photo) Cynthia at right is congratulated by Past District President Mary Townsend on left.



LEGION RIDERS – CRUISE FOR A CAUSE, ‘BE THE ONE FOR WISCONSIN – 25’

The Legion Riders including Commander Jim Johnson, Detachment Commander Allen Watry, President Becky Mueller and Senior Vice President Sue Hembrook cruised into Eau Claire Post #53 on Sunday June 29th raising funds for “Cruise for a Cause”, below are some pictures.





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YOUTH GOOD DEED AWARD

The Cumberland American Legion Auxiliary Unit # 98 presented Holly Hargrave with a National Good Deed Award on June 10th. Holly helped raise over \$27,000.00 to the Lexi Anderson heart transplant fund. Holly donated her proceeds, from the sale of her 4-H lamb at the Barron County Fair livestock auction. The lamb was auctioned four times and each time the profits were donated to the transplant fund. Congratulations Holly, and God bless you for your act of kindness!



DISTRICT CHILDREN & YOUTH CHAIRPERSON – MARGARET LARSON

The purpose of the Children & Youth program is to protect, care for and support Children & Youth, particularly those of Veterans and Military families. There are many programs and activities that contribute to the physical, mental and emotional health and wellness of our youth.

In past newsletters, I have written about presenting the “Hero Award” and the “Good Deed Award” with pictures. These are two of our more prominent awards that can be presented throughout the year. But did you know there is also a “Proud Parent of a Military Child” honor button that can be presented to children of our servicemembers who suffer when a parent is deployed.

There is also “Operation A.L.F.” (American Legion Family) that hands out a puppy to children who are hospitalized for a serious medical issue, children of deployed parents, or just need a soft cuddly companion to help them cope with difficult times in their lives.

Below I presented three A.L.F. puppies to three boys who have Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

For more information on C&Y programs go to: www.amlegionaux.org. Click on PROGRAMS and scroll to the “Children & Youth” box.





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HIGHLIGHT OUR HERO'S

Brenda Tryba is a dual member of the Chetek Post/Auxiliary Unit #179. Brenda served six years in the U.S. Navy. After Boot Camp and A- School she selected the USS Jason (repair tender) as her duty station. The USS Jason was home ported in Hawaii, but was underway, so they flew her out to meet the ship. She was an OM3- Opticalman rate and was stationed aboard the USS Jason for 4 years 3 months. She deployed on 4 West PAC tours and visited Diego Garcia, the Philippines, Thailand, Hong Kong, Hawaii and Guam. She commented that her adventures were unforgettable!

Medals/ Ribbons/Commendations:

Good Conduct Award, Sharpshooter Ribbon for .45 Caliber Pistol, Sharpshooter Naval Rifle (M 14) Ribbon, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Surface Warfare Medal, and 2 letters of Commendation. Also, a ribbon for Going Above and Beyond the call of duty, given by Post #27, for helping contain a fire at her neighbor's garage. Brenda moved to the Chetek area 5 years ago and connected to the Legion Family. She is also a member of VFW Post 10330, Amvets Post 25 and Catholic War Vets. She is a trainer for Poppy makers, and the Captain of the Barron County Color Guard. She was awarded Veteran of the Year from Post # 27 South Milwaukee in 2019, Legionnaire of the Year in 2024 from the Chetek Post #179 and a Quilt of Valor from the Haugen Unit #540.

We salute Brenda!



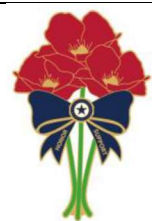
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION NEWS

2025-2026 PRESIDENT'S THEME & SPECIAL PROJECT

President Sue Hembrook's theme is.

"Honor Our Country, Support Our Veterans."

She has selected Camp American Legion as her special project. Donations may be made using the Poppy Fund Suggested Donation Sheet included in the August Unit mailing



10TH DISTRICT AWARDS AT DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Presidents Heart of the ALA Award – Cumberland Unit 98 and Independence Unit 186
Americanism Certificate of Recognition – Independence Unit 186
Children & Youth Certificate of Recognition – River Falls Unit 121
Children & Youth – Youth Hero Award – Owen Beierman sponsored by Rivers Falls Unit 121
Education Certificate of Recognition – Fall Creek Unit 376 and District 10
Unit Member of the Year – Stephanie Benson Chippewa Falls Unit 77
National Security Certificate of Recognition – Somerset Unit 111
Past President's Parley – Mentor of the Year – Teresa Isensee Unit 326



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MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Did your Unit send in the 2025-2026 Unit Officer Form? (Form is attached)

Department Junior Fall Conference in Union Grove WI (Form is attached)

American Legion Auxiliary Chairperson Natalia will hold PR (Public Relations) Chats on selected Wednesdays from 6:30pm – 8:00pm – a great way to learn about Sharing your Story, Branding and many other great PR Tools. (see Attached)

POPPY ORDERS DUE DECEMBER 15, 2025 – go to August Unit Mailing or the Poppy Program Section on the Department Website to get the Order forms.

AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION NEWS

Congratulations to 2025-2026 Department Vice Commanders – Larry Larson Post 121 River Falls and Rita Rindahl Post 324 Osseo.

**GREAT LEADERS ARE NOT
THE BEST AT
EVERYTHING. THEY FIND
PEOPLE WHO ARE THE
BEST AT DIFFERENT
THINGS AND GET THEM
ALL ON THE SAME TEAM.**

UP COMING EVENTS

August 25-27, 2025	National Convention – Tampa Bay Florida
September 13, 2025	ALA in the Know – Beaver Dam Post 146
September 20, 2025	ALA in the Know – Cumberland Legion Post
September 24, 2025	Department Public Relations Zoom Chat with Chairperson Natalia
September 27, 2025	10 th District Fall Conference in Alma
September 27, 2025	ALA in the Know – Stoughton Post 59
October 4, 2025	ALA in the Know – Loyal Post 175
October 11, 2025	Department Junior Fall Conference in Union Grove
November 17-21, 2025	American Education Week

Next Newsletter will be October 2025 – Deadline for articles and pictures will be September 30, 2025

To submit articles and events for the 10th District Family Newsletter send to: Teresa Isensee tisensee2173@gmail.com