



10TH DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2026



GREETINGS FROM 10TH DISTRICT COMMANDER

"Greetings My Beloved 10th District, we have had a busy year so far. Having just completed the Department of Wisconsin American Legions 107th convention we have the honor of representing you and watching the changing of the guard. The dignity I witnessed of those running for Department of Wisconsin commander and the other roles was an example set in how to conduct ourselves not only on the stage but in our quiet moments of victory and defeat. The class and grace I witnessed from Leadership not only those who won in their campaigns but also those who did not remind me again of how great a purpose and mission we hold and you never know who is watching you.

Sharing the message of what the American Legion fosters in the hearts of people still is as new to me as it was my first time coming to a legion meeting, together we are stronger. That does not mean that we agree on everything or think the same way, it means in all our differences we are united in purpose and that makes us unstoppable.

Congratulations to those posts who worked so hard for their 100% membership and awards. Your team work and sacrifice of time, talent and purpose has been awe inspiring, to those posts that often feel like they may not have achieved those things, think about the great things you did achieve. The checking on your comrades, the funerals you attended for grieving families, the heart felt and diligence to duty in your accepted roles of leadership and stewardship. The milestones of retention and building new connections and working together for the great purpose of our communities and posts. IT is by small and simple things that great things come to pass.

I have had the privilege and honor of watching the Oratorical contests, the Badger Boys state and other programs and ways that posts and counties come together. What glorious seeds of the future you are sewing in this time of preparation for the next generations to follow in your footsteps. This Progress has not come without a cost, and growth from our comfort zones. To see change you must be willing to be the change that is needed. There are many places for everyone in this Organization and each person has something they joined the legion for. Mine was I missed with a fierce ache in my soul my comrades, that I was without family and roots and the American Legion fostered and took me in. I have grown so much more than I thought possible in learning and experiencing the fullness that The American Legion stands for.

I am looking forward to and as a team we are planning for our fall conference In Osseo September 26,2026. I look forward to being with you all and hearing what has been happening in your areas.

Thank you so much for all of your hard work, humor, and dedication. You inspire and teach me daily God Bless, comfort, strengthen and speed you on your ways for what you stand in need of.

Felicia M Decker 10th District Commander of the American Legion

GREETINGS FROM 10TH DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Hello American Legion Auxiliary & American Legion Family!

I am beginning my message to everyone in the Tenth District with remarks about the devastating EF-3 tornado that decimated Menasha, Appleton and the surrounding area on July 27th. Fortunately, there were no lives lost nor were there any reports of major injuries to my knowledge. "Stuff" can be replaced, lives cannot. However, in the case of the residents who were affected by this destructive storm, there will be massive needs as they pick up the pieces of their shattered lives. The cleanup alone will be a daunting task, which will likely take thousands of man hours. There are many volunteers currently on the ground, assisting in this clean up. From neighbors helping neighbors, as well as community, civic and faith-based organizations which have descended upon that area to assist, that cleanup has begun. If you want to help, I recommend that you contact someone who is currently there, such as one of the local American Legion posts, Ninth District leadership, Samaritan's Purse or the Red Cross to find out what the current needs are, I am quite certain those things could be very fluid, with changes in those needs daily. In the meantime, I would also ask that you pray for every person who has been affected by this tragedy.

For God and Country,

Teresa Steinke

President, Tenth District - American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wisconsin

m: 715-828-7462 | email: teresa.steinke_CMX@yahoo.com



10TH DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2026



“WINGS OF HONOR: HELPING OUR HEROES TAKE FLIGHT.”



President Amy's Theme and Project: It seems that many in the Tenth District certainly are poised for takeoff, as we wrap up President Sue's year in which we saw her theme of “Honor and Support our Veterans” rise to levels that were truly epic—and we now begin President Amy's year, in which we will ramp it up even more, as we help our Veterans take flight, with the **“Wings of Honor: Helping Our Heroes Take Flight.”** in which we will encourage all of our older veterans, who have not yet taken their Honor Flights to Washington DC, to sign up for a flight from one of our 5 Honor Flight Hubs here in Wisconsin! We will be presenting more information about this at the Fall Conference. However, you do not need to wait until then to encourage our veterans to sign up for Honor Flights, for more information please click the following link: www.wisconsinhonorflight.org

President Amy's goal is to help raise funds for Wisconsin's Honor Flight hubs with an emphasis in reaching out to veterans who have not yet had the opportunity to experience this life-changing journey, and to assist them with the process of signing up to take their flight. **NOTE:** Use the 2026-2027 Poppy Fund Suggested Donations Form – Poppy money can be used for this project.

ALA IN THE KNOW 2026 SESSIONS

Registration deadline for any of the In the Know Conferences is August 12th! On Saturday, September 19, Eau Claire Unit #53 will be hosting one of the ALAITSK Sessions. There will be several new items and a great deal of wonderful ideas and training included. Registration will begin at 8 am and the Conference at 9 am. Bring your questions and suggestions—and let's fill the room!! **Registration form is attached to the newsletter**--one form per person. \$25.00 fee, which includes all materials, a light continental breakfast and lunch.



PAID UP FOR LIFE



ONE TICKET. A LIFETIME OF MEMBERSHIP.

You could be the lucky winner of a

PAID UP FOR LIFE (PUFL) MEMBERSHIP

★★★ in the American Legion Auxiliary! ★★★



THE BENEFITS OF A PUFL MEMBERSHIP:

- ✓ Forever in “good standing” status to receive benefits
- ✓ Never pay annual dues again
- ✓ Locked in – never increases in price
- ✓ No worrying about dues reminders
- ✓ Continued support of our mission
- ✓ Peace of mind for you & your family



RAFFLE TIMELINE:

Raffle runs through July 2027.
Drawing at 2027 Department Convention.



WHO CAN PARTICIPATE:

Open to the entire American Legion Family – American Legion Auxiliary, The American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, and Legion Riders. Purchase a ticket for yourself or a special American Legion Auxiliary member.



HOW TO GET YOUR TICKET:

Each district president has been provided a bundle of tickets to sell to units within their district. To purchase a ticket, contact your District President or Department President, Amy Luft, directly!
(amyluft@gmail.com)

★★★ SUPPORT OUR MISSION. WIN A LIFETIME. ★★★



10TH DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2026



MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT 10 CHAIRMEN

We are once again at that time of year when we start renewing our memberships. Paying our dues as early as possible and recruiting new members can help you and your unit to win some of the membership awards that are available this year.

The theme for our awards this year is "Wings of Honor-Helping our Heroes Take Flight"

Individual awards include - Entry forms for any of these awards must be turned in PRIOR to May 28, 2027.

- The **"Carry On Award"** which will earn you a luggage tag for recruiting a new member for the 2027 membership year. Only one luggage tag per recruiter.
- The **"Frequent Flyer Recruiting Award"** will earn a cash prize for the top three recruiters. First place wins \$100, second wins \$75 and third wins \$ 25.
- The **"Recruit/Rejoin 10 Award"** earns you a special gift selected by the 2027 National Membership Chairman for recruiting/rejoining 10 junior and/or senior members for the 2027 membership year. Rejoins must not have paid membership dues since 2023 or earlier.

Unit Awards include - Prepare for Take-Off Awards - Membership dues must be at Department Headquarters Prior to the goal date and their Unit Officer Form submitted to Department with all listed officer's dues paid to be eligible.

- One unit that reaches 75% by September 30, 2026 will be awarded \$100
- One unit that reaches 85% by October 31 2026 will be awarded \$150
- One unit that reaches 95% by November 30, 2026 will be awarded \$200
- One unit will be awarded \$250 for reaching 100% by December 31, 2026
- Units reaching 100% by May 28, 2027 will receive a Department issued citation. Ribbons will NOT be distributed this year
- Units reaching 100% by January 31, 2027 will receive a special gift from the National president

One winner picked at random will to receive the **"Final Destination Award"** which includes one paid room for a two-night stay in the convention hotel, recognition on stage during convention, and two passes for the Commander's party on Saturday night for the 2027 Department Convention. There will be only ONE entry for each Unit that reaches 100% by December 31, 2026. All Award entry forms are available on the Department website www.amlegionauxwi.org.

Unit Officer Form: Please remember your 2026-2027 Unit Officer form to Department, even if your officers remain the same, in order to be considered for any Membership Award drawings.

These are some great awards, and it has been made easier to submit memberships now that any officer from your Unit President to your Unit Secretary can sign off on membership forms as long as they verify eligibility. Carrying membership forms wherever you go can also speed up the process, especially if you meet someone who is eligible while you're out. Help your unit membership Chairman with these phone calls and visits!

If you need help with membership, please reach out to our membership team and we will help you!

Rhiana LeMere
District 10 Membership Chairmen
email: squishyrl@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE NEWS FROM DISTRICT 10 CHAIRMEN

The Department of Wisconsin Legislative 250 challenge is in the record books. All districts were challenged to make contact with elected officials. The total contacts for the 10th District were 425. The top two districts were District 6 and District 10. We received a certificate of congratulations at the State Convention. Thanks to all those who participated! Please continue to make those contacts and advocate for our veterans and military. Remember there is a Primary Election for Wisconsin on August 11th – get out and vote!

Mary Townsend- 10th District Legislative Chairman



10TH DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2026



DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP TEAM MESSAGE

Let's get membership off the ground, and soaring throughout the 10th District! As part the Department Membership Team, I will be sharing ideas in each newsletter.

Renewal Idea: Divide your unit members into 3 or 4 teams by alphabet. Have a contest to see which team can get their renewals in first. Give them a deadline date of September 30th. Encourage them to work together, make calls, send text, and remind each other to renew! Give the winning team a small prize, candy, a bookmark etc.

Recruitment Idea: When you're on social media, and see someone post a photo of a veteran in their family, don't just click the like button. Contact them by private message, thank them for their veteran's service and inform the about becoming a Legion Family member! For more information contact me:

Mary Townsend, Committee Member
Department Membership Team
email: getmet77@hotmail.com



President Amy giving flight instructions to the 2026-2027 Department Officers, 2026-2027 District Presidents, and the 2026-2027 Department and District Membership Team.

In 2021, the American Legion Auxiliary National headquarters entered a formal partnership with Honor Flight Network to support their mission of celebrating America's veterans by inviting them to share a special day of honor at our nation's memorials that were built in their honor.

With the use of poppy funds, we can support this initiative by raising money for our local Wisconsin hubs. Please forward your donations to department using the Poppy Fund Suggested Donation Form (do not send any funds directly to the Honor Flight hubs). Or send your check to department made payable to ALA Department of WI and note Honor Flight in the memo section.

Unit Officer Form: Please remember your 2026-2027 Unit Officer form to Department, even if your officers remain the same, in order to be considered for any Membership Award drawings.

LEGION NEWS/BACKETT AMERICAN LEGION POST 550

The Brackett American Legion will be leading the harvest fest parade in Cleghorn, Wisconsin, on **Saturday September 12th. Lineup is at 11 AM.** We will be joined by the American Legion Riders. We will also have a float. Brackett is sending an invite to other organizations to help with leading the parade.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

EFFECTIVE AUGUST 2026, MAILED COPIES OF THE UNIT MAILING WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE VIA SUBSCRIPTION (6 ISSUES FOR \$25, JUNE 2026-JUNE 2027).

Members who wish to receive a paper copy via US Mail must submit a subscription form and \$25 to department headquarters (available on the unit mailing webpage). Unit mailings will continue to be posted on the department website by the 10th of every other month – free for anyone to access!



10TH DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2026



BARRON COUNTY NEWS

The **Barron County Legion** color guard has been busy at different events. In June they posted colors at Hungry Hallow, and in July, raising the flag at the Barron County Fair. Legion members also provided rides around the fairgrounds.



The **Cumberland Unit #98** conducted a “I Spy – You Fly” Americanism Project in June – July. They encouraged local business to show their patriotic spirit, by flying the American flag for Flag Day through July 4th. Eleven members help present 32 certificates to businesses within a 5-mile radius of Cumberland.



“Bunting and Bows” Project: Cynthia Saylor **Rice Lake Unit #87** President stands proudly by the units 250 bows placed on a fence outside the Post. This project was to celebrate America’s 250 birthday in July.



PAST PRESIDENTS’ PARLEY (PPP)

Have you served as a President at the unit, county, district, or department level? If so, you are eligible to join the Past Presidents’ Parley! Membership in the PPP is \$7.00 annually and funds THREE SCHOLARSHIPS each year in the nursing and health career fields. Past Presidents at all levels are also encouraged to help develop and mentor new leaders. A PPP Dues & Donations form is included with the newsletter. Questions? Contact PPP Chairman Linda Coppock at lindacoppock@sbcglobal.net or 920-851-5811.



10TH DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2026



HIGHLIGHT OUR HERO'S

Name: Henry Ebensperger
Legion Post: Plum City Post 365
Military Branch: Army
Years of Service: 5 years
Rank: Technical Sergeant
Military Occupation: WWII European Theater
Places Served: Battle of the Bulge

Henry Ebensperger served in the United States Army during WWII, achieving the rank of Technical Sergeant. Ebensperger initially joined the Army Air Corp with nearly a blind right eye. He was given the choice of a medical discharge or eye surgery. He chose surgery. In the summer of 1944, he was sent overseas as a First Scout with three weeks of infantry training.

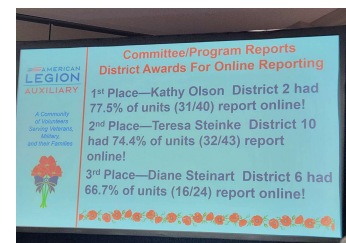
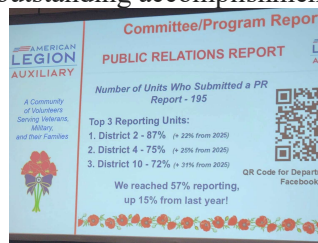
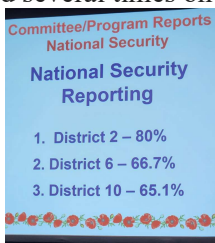
In early December 1944 Ebensperger found himself digging foxholes in the Ardennes forest, which is in Belgium. In an interview from 1999, Ebensperger said his infantry company had 23 miles to defend, and that they were so spread out that you couldn't see the next guy in the foxhole. US Army patrols observed and reported large amounts of German infantry and armored units moving towards the American front, but upper command ignored the reports. Intense combat ensued when German forces attacked the already thinly spread American Army on 16 December 1944. Ebensperger said that wave after wave of German infantry assaulted the American front lines. Ebensperger and the forty-two men under his command fought fiercely to avoid being overrun by the German onslaught. Ebensperger recalled in the 1999 interview that he was bothered by the fact that he was more than likely shooting and killing his German relatives. American Army commanders thought that much of the American front had been either captured or killed in the first few days of the battle, but they were mistaken. Ebensperger and his men were not only able to slow the initial German attack but were able to join other American units to continue the fight. The Battle of the Bulge lasted approximately 41 days. The American forces were victorious while the German army suffered heavy losses that could not be replaced.

Ebensperger mentioned the proudest decoration he earned was the Combat Infantry badge which had been lost over time. Years later, Plum City native Patricia Spindler, who was at the time was a Master Sergeant in the US Army, was able to obtain a new Combat Infantry badge for Ebensperger.

We are honored to recognize Henry Ebensperger and thank him and his entire family for his service to our country.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

President Teresa Steinke - would like to thank everyone who attended our Department Convention in Appleton from July 16 to July 19. In addition to reports and awards, the delegates approved changes to the Constitution and By Laws, as well as Standing Rules. The Delegates also approved an increase of \$6.00 in Dues for Senior Members, effective in 2028. I will give my full report about Department Convention, along with presenting several awards during our Fall Conference. District 10 was displayed several times on the screen for outstanding accomplishments:





10TH DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2026



DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS



President Amy Luft – A paid up for Life member of Unit 355 Grafton, honoring her late father Robert Akright, a WWII Army Veteran

“Wings of Honor: Helping Our Heroes Take Flight”

2026-2027 Department Officers

From left to right

Sgt-At-Arms Kathy Grom, NEC Maggie Geiger, 2nd Vice President Christine Johnsen, 1st Vice President Betty Stone, Senior Vice President Christina Petranovich, Historian Sandy Mack, Chaplain Donna Jensen, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bonnie Dorniak and Sgt-At-Arms Jan Williams



2026-2027 District Presidents

Top Row from left to right

District 7 Jesse Elmhorst, District 8 Kay Grosskopf, District 9 LuAnn James, District 10 Teresa Steinke, District 11 Barb Bell, District 12 Barbara McDaniel

Bottom Row from left to right

District 1 Sherri Curzi, District 2 Kathy Olson, District 3 Shelley Drager, District 4 Pat Ehleiter, District 5 Linda Bartell, and District 6 Diane Steinert



LEGION POST 181 DURAND NEWS

Donation to local school for Arbor Day Event

Pictured Left to Right:

**Bryan Bauer- Middle School
Student Advisor**

**Sarah Sabelko- Middle School
Principal**

**Gary Sweeney- Commander
American Legion Post 181**



**Donation to the Durand
Fire Department
towards a ceremonial flag**



On June 3, 2026 the Durand Post 181 held a Flag Retirement Ceremony



10TH DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2026



Who shops on Amazon – when you order select either DONATE TO ALA-WI or DONATE TO ALABGS and 1.5% or your total sale will automatically be paid to the ALA you selected on a quarterly basis. Donate to ALA-WI or ALABGS

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 15	Barron County VSO Veterans Outreach at Northwood Tech College in Rice Lake – 9:00 am to 3:00pm
August 28-Sept 3	National Convention – Louisville KY
September 12	Harvest Fest – Cleghorn WI parade – lineup at 11:00am
September 12	ALA in the Know – Seymour – New Life United Methodist Church
September 20	Barron County All Veterans Picnic at Pioneer Village in Cameron – starts at 11:00am
September 19	ALA in the Know – Eau Claire Legion Post 53
September 26	ALA in the Know – Verona Legion Post 385
September 26	10 th District American Legion Family Conference in Osseo
October 3	ALA in the Know – Park

Deadline for articles and pictures will be September 27, 2026

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