



10TH DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2023



ALA 10TH DISTRICT CHAPLAIN JEAN ERLEWINE MESSAGE

As the joy of the season is upon us may we celebrate this advent with an open heart
and anticipate the birth of Jesus this Christmas season.

A big thank you for all the prayers and cards sent to the Townsend family
during their granddaughter's surgery and for support as they help her heal it was greatly appreciated
Father may the reason for the season bless each and everyone that love you

and may they find the joy the Christmas gives us

Amen

DISTRICT 10 AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From Thanks:

It was so exciting to see on social media, the many pictures of Veterans Day events. The communities, units and schools through out the district stepped up to honor and thank our veterans!

To Giving:

Many units are spending down funds as the year comes to a close. Remember, Department President Maggie Geiger's special project "Dog To Dog Tags". For more ideas about giving funds, go to Department of Wisconsin website www.amlegionauxwi.org and click on forms for General Fund donations or Poppy Fund donations.

"Toys For Tots" is a great way to give to a deserving child.

Give your time ideas!

- Serve at a Holiday meal in your community
- Be a bell ringer for the Salvation Army
- Participate in "Wreaths Across America" on Saturday December 16th

Thank -you for being a member in the greatest patriotic organization!

May you and your family have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!!

For God and Country

Mary Townsend – 10th District President

*** Attention Unit Presidents ***

- Poppy order deadline is December 15th
- Badger Girl State registration form and fee are due by January 31st
- District dues, \$15.00 per unit due January 31st
- The 2023-2024 Year end reports have been mailed by Department of Wisconsin. These reports are due in the spring. Please let me know if you did not receive them. They include Impact & Narratives.

Mary Townsend - 10th District President

(715) 234-5155 email: getmet77@hotmail.com



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Want to P.E.P. up your meetings?

What is P.E.P? Program Engagement Plans. The P.E.P. gives you detailed information on All Auxiliary programs. Find your P.E.P. at www.amlegionauxwi.org click on programs. Then, each month focus on one program! This is a great way for new members to learn About the different Auxiliary programs!

NOTES FROM DISTRICT COMMANDER RITA

Wreaths across American Sponsorship

Select either

- Kings Valley Church Cemetery
- Osseo Cemetery
- South Beef River Church Cemetery
- Thompson Valley Cemetery

Send to \$17 (make checks payable to VFW Post 8514) per Wreath with cemetery selection to:
VFW POST 8514, 13213 Thomas Street, Osseo, WI 54758

Along with Sponsor Name and email address.

10th DISTRICT TAL DEC MEETING

There will be a 10th District American Legion DEC Meeting on Saturday January 6, 2024 at 11:00am at the River Falls Post 121, prior to the Oratorical contest at 1:00pm.

10TH DISTRICT ORATORICAL CONTEST

The District Oratorical contest will be held on Saturday January 6, 2024 at 1:00pm. County Commanders please contact Steve Isensee at sisensee1954@gmail.com or 715-563-3179 to let him know if you have a Contestant, have your contestants arrive by 12:30 to check in.

Reminder only one contestant per County.

HIGHLIGHT OUR HEROES

We are honored to highlight Barron Post 212 Commander Greg Roth. Commander Greg served in the U.S. Marines for 30 years. He participated in Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Iraqi Freedom. He is also very active with the Barron VFW and in his community. For the past 25 years he has coordinated the “Toys For Tot’s” program in Barron & Washburn counties.

Thank you for your service Commander Greg!

NATIONAL SECURITY MESSAGE FROM ALA DISTRICT CHAIRMAN CHRYS PORTER

National Security is a program to maintain and promote a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families. There are a variety of ways that you can promote this program, you may find more ways at <https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/nationalsecurity>. They have a few veteran award recognition programs that are for enlisted personnel that are currently serving, for each branch of service. So, if you have someone that is currently service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corp, Air Force, Space Force and/or National Guard /Reserves, think about nominating them for this award to recognized at a National Convention. Looking for military discounts check this link out <https://www.retailmenot.com/blog/military-and-veterans-day-discounts.html#restaurant>. You never know where your next deal will come from.

Chrys Porter



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**EDUCATION MESSAGE FROM
ALA DISTRICT CHAIRMAN CHRYS PORTER**

So with the new year approaching something to be mindful about is getting the word out about our scholarship programs that have a Mach 1 dead line. This is a great opportunity for students to receive funds to help them further their education. I was our department chairman a few years ago and it was a pleasure to award these scholarships to the children in our communities and our units. You can check them out at <https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/scholarships>. Just a reminder some of the scholarship the student does not have to be a member, and some are open to both male and female students. I know a lot of our units do some sort of support in school supply drives but it's not a bad thing to keep requesting supplies and do a donation in January when the semester changes as there is always a need for supplies. I have gotten a lot of great deals on supplies after school started that I have almost filled the box in our unit for a donation in January. Share with us what your unit did so that we can see the different ways we are supporting our schools. It's not to late to start planning something to do for Teacher Appreciation Week May 6-10, 2024. Let us know how you celebrate the teachers in your community.

Chris Porter

**MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE FROM
ALA DISTRICT CHAIRMAN TERESA STEINKE**

Greetings to all members of the Mighty Tenth District! First, I do want to congratulate everyone who has paid their 2024 dues already. You are helping Balt, as he pushes forward in the Great American Dog Race. He is mushing along the trail, and has moved up slightly, into 7th place-but I know he can do better! Please do not hold those dues-send them into Department as soon as you receive them!! As I said, Balto and our District team, which includes every unit membership chair, is currently in 7th place, with 59.15% of our memberships paid. First place is the Twelfth District with 67.58%. That means we need to get mushing, so we can overtake those sled dogs who are currently racing toward that finish line a little stronger than Balto is doing. One suggestion I would have for you is to work on your Poppy Calls! Contact your members, let them know about your unit's activities, ask them how they are doing and remind them that they are important members of your unit. Invite them to an upcoming meeting or other activity that your unit will be conducting. Are you going to be having a unit Christmas party? Make sure you let them know when and where you will be celebrating the holiday. It is so important to make everyone feel welcomed and included! While you are talking about your activities, remind them that their membership expires soon and ask them when they will be sending dues to your membership chair. If you need help with collecting those dues, perhaps you could enlist some other members to assist you. Let us all mush on toward the goal of 100% membership! If I can be of any assistance, please let me know. I am willing to help in any way that I can.

For God and Country, Teresa Steinke, Tenth District Membership Chair

**CHILREN & YOUTH MESSAGE FROM
ALA DISTRICT CHAIRMAN MARGARET LARSON**

The purpose of the C&Y program is to protect, care for and support children and youth, particularly those of veterans' families and military families. My main donation focuses on the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) which was established in 1954. The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation was developed as a repository of funds from individuals who wished to contribute to the betterment of children in this country. Our foremost philanthropic priority is to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth by aiding progress in the field of child welfare through dissemination of knowledge about research, studies, surveys, projects, or by supporting programs and activities benefiting the welfare of children and youth. Not all American children grow up inside the comfortable definition of normal childhood developments. For thousands, each day is a challenge marked by pain, prayer and perseverance. Many of these children require specialized care. To overcome their obstacles, they need help from you and The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. I have received three donations that qualified for the CWF banner. (form attached) If you decide to give to this worthy cause, please send me a copy of your donation form, so I can track who donates. Awards will be given to the highest donation.

Margaret Larson, Tenth District Children & Youth Chairman



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AMERICANISM UPDATES FROM ALA DISTRICT CHAIRMAN TERESA STEINKE

Hello everyone, I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving! We have so many blessings here in the United States that many times we forget to count those blessings. Thanksgiving is an ideal time to reflect on all we have, and to give thanks for our lives here!

I am so excited about the American Legion Auxiliary’s Americanism program. The purpose of this program is to inspire, recognize, and perpetuate responsible citizenship through education and acts of patriotism, as well as raise awareness and increase appreciation of the price paid for our fundamental freedoms. Our program includes increasing flag etiquette awareness in communities, awareness and participation in youth activities that promote proper respect for our flag and loyalty to our country, and promoting Auxiliary participation in The American Legion Americanism programs. At this time of the year, our units should be active in promoting ALA Badger Girls State, the Americanism Essay Contest, and study of the U.S. Constitution. Units are urged to participate and assist with The American Legion programs such as Badger Boys State and the American Legion Oratorical Contest. We can also assist with American Legion Baseball and American Legion Softball, the Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy, and Junior Shooting sports.

If you need any additional information about any of these activities, please let me know, I will help you find the information that you need. Let me know how your unit is participating in the Americanism program!

For God and Country,
Teresa Steinke, Americanism Chair

COMMUNITY SERVICE MESSAGE FROM DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN SANDY MACK

It is wonderful to see the many Legion Posts in the district hosting “family friendly” events. Listed below are some Halloween events.

- Bay City Unit 357 held a party with games and treats
- River Falls Unit 121 had their first “trunk or treat” event
- Somerset Unit 111 held a “Boo Bash” with many activity stations and treat bags for all who attended! They also had a community food drive. SAL members provided hot dogs, chips and punch!



Many Posts are planning events with Santa. When you have a community event, make sure to write a narrative to be sent with spring reports. Also, send one copy to 10th District Community Service chairman Maria Konop at: markodalbi@gmail.com The Department of Wisconsin Community service chairman – Sandy Mack Is asking for photos of your community events for a collage, Email photos to: smack@amfam.com



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RIVER FALLS UNIT 121 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AND RIVER DAZZLE PARADE



2023-2024 UNIT OFFICER FORMS

Please send in your Unit Officer Form as soon as possible.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO GO FOR QUESTIONS?

If you have questions, issues or problems, contact your leaders as listed:

- County President
- District Staff
- Department Staff

If you need any contact information, check in the Red Book (each Unit President should have received one) or check on the Auxiliary Website www.amlegionauxwi.org or please let District President Mary know!

Mary Townsend – 10th District President
Department of Wisconsin
getmet77@hotmail.com
(715) 234-5155

UP COMING EVENTS

January 6, 2024	10 th District Oratorical Contest at Post #121 River Falls at 1:00pm
January 6, 2024	10 th District TAL DEC at Post 121 River Falls at 11:00am
January 6, 2024	10 th District Oratorical Contest at Post #121 River Falls at 1:00pm
January 18-21, 2024	TAL Midwinter Conference, LaCrosse, WI ALA will have a “Fun Session” – from 9:00 to 1:00pm Tie Blankets, Socks of Love and Round Table discussions.
April 27, 2024	10 th District Spring Conference at Plum City – more details to follow

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