



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Minnesota
2022-2023

Mary Kuperus, Department President

May Unit Mailing

State Veterans Service Bldg. 20 W 12th St #314, St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 224-7634 deptoffice@mnala.org Website: www.mnala.org

Happy June!

Writing this article today on Mother's Day, I want to "THANK" the ten District Presidents (daughters) for their continued service throughout this past Auxiliary year. As we come to the close of our year at the Department Convention, please know that your District Auxiliary members and the Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary are so proud of your accomplishments. I am looking forward to what the future brings to your Auxiliary life.

Thank you to the Units and Posts who hosted the dinners and luncheons during the National President's Tour with National American Legion Auxiliary President Vickie Koutz. The hospitality and food were awesome. President Vickie said she enjoyed her time in Minnesota and that she had fun! She really enjoyed Legionville and seeing deer. (She yelled "deer" and I thought they were going to run in front of my car. I slammed on the brakes. The deer were out in the field. We all had a good laugh about that.) If anyone has pictures of living deer, please send them to me. I am going to make a picture book for her and take it to the National Convention and present it to her. Donations were accepted along the tour for the national president's project which totaled \$1325. Thank you to those who donated.

As this is my last Unit Mailing article as the Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary President, I want to "Thank" all of you for your support, kindness, listening ear, invitations, phone calls, emails, texts, gifts, and cards. This year has been awesome! After driving 20,078.6 miles (so far) I have been from Roseau, to Nashwauk, to Hanska, to Rochester, to Blue Earth and between. I even went to Evansville, Indiana and Springfield, Illinois. So many miles, however many more memories! I enjoyed every minute of it all!

Thank you all for your donations to the Department President's Project. The three new Veterans Homes will have beautiful Meditation Rooms. We can be proud to say, as the American Legion Family, we helped make an awesome place for the residents to spend time in for their spiritual needs. I am anxious to see them when the homes are finally open!

Please make your plans for the Department Convention in July. The American Legion Family convention will be held at Jackpot Junction Casino and Hotel in Redwood Falls, MN on July 13-15th. Information is in the Legionnaire and on our website. Registration forms are available now. The National Convention is August 25-31st in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Thank you to all the volunteers who agreed to be Department Chairman or Committee Members. Fifty-two Auxiliary members agree, when they are called, to either be a program chairman or on a committee. That is a big job to find fifty-two members who are willing to give some of their time for the good of the American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you to all 52 of you plus all those who volunteer at the Fall Conference and Department Convention. Thank you so much to the 2022-2023 Department Program Chairman, District Presidents, and Department Officers. You have made this year very special for me.

Thank you to the three ladies in the Department Office. Thank you, Executive Secretary Christie Avant, Treasurer Cathy Radil, and Administrative Assistant Jocelyn Yasis, for your hard work and support for the members of the Department of Minnesota and especially for whenever I call. Thank you especially to Cathy Radil for working as two people as we went through the hiring process for the Executive Secretary. We all appreciate all the extra hours you put in for those nine months.

Please continue to "Serve and Honor Every Day!" Thank you all so much for everything you do for our veterans, military, and communities.

Mary Kuperus
Department of Minnesota President

Calendar of Events

Sunday – Saturday, June 11th-17th Minnesota Boys and Girls State

Wednesday, June 14th



**National Flag
Day**

June 14



Friday – Saturday, June 23rd – 24th SAL Detachment Conference, Anoka Post 102

Tuesday, July 4th Independence Day



Wednesday, July 12th Finance Committee Meeting & Department Executive Committee Meeting, Jackpot Junction Hotel & Casino

Thursday – Saturday, July 13th-15th Department Convention - Jackpot Junction Hotel & Casino, Hosted by American Legion Family Redwood Falls, MN

Friday-Sunday, August 4th-6th Junior Fun Weekend, Legionville School Patrol Camp



“An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.” Proverbs 12:25.

Currently anxiety, is at a high level. With all the turmoil in the schools, streets and everyone's world, I feel this verse is so appropriate. Kind words should spread like dandelions this time of year. If that is not happening, please have, a compassionate, understanding mindset that I know each of you have. Kindness is contagious and meant to be spread, unlike so many other contagious health issues, and events happening today in this world.

Prayer Squares are adding up nicely. I am confident each Meditation Room at the three new Veterans homes, will be fully stocked. Thank you for all your donations and hard work for this project.

Prayers need to be lifted for Dee Dee Buckley. She is receiving treatment in Seattle Washington, as her son lives there and able to help with that.

Lori Skallerud, as she has returned to Rochester for more surgery.

Darlene Wondra, as she and her family, have a family member, that was involved in a very serious car accident.

Sympathy cards were sent this month to Dorothy Prax District #3 from Fairfax MN.

Memorial reports and notices of deceased members, have been arriving through USPS. Thank you too those that have responded so far. Our membership is fading with all those deceased members' notices I have received. Let's all do our part to replace those valuable Auxiliary Sisters, so we can carry on for those sisters that were so loyal.

Donna Barbknecht

Chaplain Dept of Minnesota 2022-2023

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention" ~ Oscar Wilde

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

The challenge was made in December to submit a paragraph about events that units were working for the community service program and our members in Minnesota stepped up.

Thank you to every unit that submitted and to all of the district chairman who shared the information with their units.

The winner of the random drawing for units submitting is Alana Kuznia of the Argyle Unit 353 in the 9th District. Congratulations to 3rd District Community Service chairman Joanne Joachim who had the most submitted for the challenge! I will have both of your prizes at department convention in July.

Our members working the Community Service program



WE ♥ OUR VOLUNTEERS

Robin Dorf ~ Chairman

**CALL FOR THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Department of Minnesota**

The 103rd Annual Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota, is hereby called to be held in Morton, Minnesota July 13, 14 and 15, 2023, for the purpose of:

1. Electing Department Officers
2. Considering any amendments which may be proposed for Unit, District, and Department Constitutions
3. Electing delegates and alternates to the National Convention.
4. Receiving reports of Department Officers, National Committeewoman, District Presidents, and Chairmen of Department Committees.
5. The transaction of such other business as may be brought before the Convention in conformity with the provisions of the National and Department Constitutions.

REPRESENTATION: (Article VI, Unit Bylaws) "Each Unit shall be entitled to two delegates at the Department Convention one of whom shall be the Unit President, plus one additional delegate for each 50 members or major fraction thereof whose dues have been received by the Department Treasurer 30 days prior to the meeting of the Convention for which they are elected. Each Unit shall elect its delegates. In addition, each Unit shall elect alternate delegates to serve in the absence of delegates. The delegates shall serve in the order elected before any alternate delegates and then the alternate delegates shall serve in the order elected."
(Example: Units which have membership of 10 to 25 are entitled to 2 delegates, Membership of 26 to 75, 3 delegates; 76 to 125, 4 delegates, etc.)

The vote of each Unit shall be equal to the total number of delegates to which the Unit is entitled, provided there is a delegate from the Unit present to cast the vote. Alternates will have power to vote only in the absence of the delegate.

"To be eligible to candidacy for office or delegate to convention, a member must be a member in good standing." (Article VIII, Unit Bylaws.)

EXPENSES: The Convention expenses of Unit delegates must be borne by their Unit or by the delegates themselves unless they are Department Chairmen or members of the Department Committees,

CREDENTIALS: Two (2) delegate and two (2) alternate cards we be mailed to the Unit Secretary, June 12th. Additional delegate and alternate cars will be available for pick up at the Department Convention. The outgoing Unit President is the Chairman of your Unit's delegation. If she will not be attending the delegation she should elect a chairman of the delegation. It is best to have this done before the delegates leave home.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES: All delegates and alternates shall be elected at a regular Unit meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

WATCH THE DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK PAGE AND THE LEGIONNAIRE FOR DETAILS regarding Convention plans.

**MARY KUPERUS
Department President**

**CHRISTIE AVANT
Department Secretary**



American Legion Auxiliary

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

June 2023

To: Unit Presidents

Re: Department Convention

The table below indicates the number of delegates and alternates to which your Unit is entitled for the annual Department Convention to be held at the Jackpot Junction Casino and Conference Center in Morton, MN July 13-15, 2023.

Unit Membership	Number of Delegates	Number of Alternates
10 to 25	2	2
26 to 75	3	3
76 to 125	4	4
126 to 175	5	5
175 to 225	6	6
226 to 275	7	7
276 to 325	8	8
326 to 375	9	9
376 to 425	10	10
426 to 475	11	11
476 to 525	12	12
526 to 575	13	13
576 to 625	14	14
626 to 675	15	15
676 to 725	16	16

Two delegate and two alternate Credential cards are enclosed. If your Unit is entitled to more than two delegates and two alternates, **please contact the Department Office for additional cards.**

Make sure the location and number of your Unit and District is on your Credential Card. Each delegate or alternate must show her Credential Card when she registers. This card **must be** signed by the Unit Secretary and should be carried by the delegate or alternate at the Convention in Morton. All delegates **must** present their Credential card in order to receive a ballot to vote.

Christie Avant
Department Secretary

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota

State Veterans Service Bldg. - 20 W. 12th St. Suite #314 – St. Paul, MN 55155 | P: (651) 224-7634 | F: ((651) 224-5243 | (888) 217-9598
deptoffice@mnala.org | Website: www.mnala.org



2023 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Please join us at 103rd Department Convention being held July 13-15, 2023 at Jackpot Junction, Morton, MN.

Prior to the Convention, the Department Executive Committee will meet on Wednesday, July 12th at 1:00 pm in the Tatanka III room of the convention center.

Auxiliary District Caucuses will take place on both Thursday and Friday mornings at 8:15 am. The convention sessions will begin at 9:15 am.

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Pre-Convention Department Executive Meeting	1:00 pm	Tatanka III
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Thursday, July 13, 2022

District Caucuses	8:15 am	Various locations
Convention Session	9:15 am	Grand Eagle Ballroom
Joint Memorial Service	11:15 am	Dacotah Exposition Center
Convention Committee Meetings	2:00 pm	Various locations

Friday, July 14, 2022

District Caucuses	8:15 am	Various locations
Convention Session	9:15 am	Grand Eagle Ballroom
Past Department Presidents Luncheon	11:30 am	
Convention Reconvenes	1:30 pm	Grand Eagle Ballroom

Saturday, July 15, 2022

Convention Session	9:00 am	Grand Eagle Ballroom
Election of 2023-2024 Officers & Delegates to National Convention	10:25 am	Grand Eagle Ballroom
Installation of 2023-2024 Officers	11:00 am	Grand Eagle Ballroom

The following members have been endorsed for Department office:

- Department President – Sharon Thiemecke, Bemidji Unit #14
- Department 1st Vice President – Judy Ackerman, Northrup Unit #522
- Department 2nd Vice President – Robin Dorf, Monticello Unit 260

Nominations will be on Thursday morning. When there is more than one candidate nominated, elections will take place by balloting. There will also be nominations for delegates at-large to the National Convention.

Please remember to bring your entries for the Poppy Contest. All entries must be at the convention by 9 a.m. on Thursday, July 13th. Tables will be set up in the display area for the entries. Winners will be announced during the Poppy report on Friday.

It's not too late to register!



OFFICIAL CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION

A registration fee of \$15.00 for each person attending, whether a delegate, alternate or a guest, must accompany this form. Make your check payable to "American Legion Post 38" with Dept. Convention written on the memo line. No credit cards will be accepted. Please mail this form with your check to: Redwood Falls Post 38, P.O. Box 354, Redwood Falls, MN 56283. **Registration after July 1st will be \$18.00.**

Legion _____ SAL _____

Auxiliary _____

District # _____ Post/Squad/Unit # _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Delegate _____ Alternate _____

Guest _____

Delegate at-Large (Auxiliary)

(As a Past Department President or member of the Department Executive Committee)
(Please check one of the above)

If additional pre-registrations accompany this request, this pre-registration form should be photocopied for each person. The \$15.00 registration fee must be enclosed for each person.

Please do not use this registration blank for more than one person.

Room reservations can be made directly with the hotel, ask for the American Legion block.
Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel
39375 County Rd 24, Morton, MN 56270
(800) 946-2274



Greetings: Spring has finally sprung. History reports have come in, but our history continues.

A special thank you to each of the units that submitted their Senior History, Junior History, and/or applied for Department Awards for the 2022-2023 year.

First of all I would like to commend all of the Minnesota units that I received reports from:

District 1 – Glenville and Wykoff

District 2 – Slayton, Minnesota Lake, Lake Crystal, and Lismore

District 3- Faribault, New Prague, Chaska, Hutchinson, Forest Lake, Elysian, Mahtomedi,

District 4- None

District 5 -None

District 6 – Little Falls, Melrose, Elk River, Hackensack, Park Rapids, St Stephen, Sauk Rapids, Browerville, Blackduck, Waite Park, Cold Spring, St Augusta, and Nisswa.

District 7 – Browns Valley, Cosmos, Mariette, Willmar, Hillman, Clarkfield, Villard, Evansville, Kerkhoven, Sacred Heart, Brandon, Elbow Lake, Eden Valley, St Leo, Millerville, New London, Spicer, and Chokio.

District 8 – None

District 9 – Detroit Lakes, Crookston, Roseau, Warren, Fisher, Argyle, Middle River, and Karlstad.

District 10 – Anoka, Sandstone, Monticello, Fridley, Coon Rapids, and St Michael.

Also, I would like to commend the following for all of their assistance: Brenda Collins, 6th District History Chairperson and Wanda Seidler, 7th District ALA President.

Department Awards to be awarded at Minnesota Department Convention:

Betty Gartner Plaque- Unit with the most outstanding Senior History.

Stickley Gifford Plaque- Junior Group with the most outstanding Junior history.

District Historian Plaque- District Historian with the most outstanding District History.

Women's History Activity Award- Unit/District with the most outstanding Senior activity to celebrate "Women's History" in the month of March.

Should you have any questions, just give me a ring or text.

Margee Keller, 301 Maple St, Crookston Mn 56716

margeekeller@hotmail.com, PH 218.349-4566



ANNOUNCING . . .

**Minnesota's 14th Annual
Junior Fun Weekend**

A fun weekend for Junior members of the Department of Minnesota to get together for some fun and to learn more about the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Friday thru Sunday, August 4-6, 2023

**Legionville School Patrol Camp
(on Long Lake, near Brainerd, MN)**

**Cost will be \$25.00 per person
if paperwork & payment is received
no later than July 17, 2023**

**\$30.00 fee for all reservations received
after July 17th
(meals & snacks included)**

- ❖ **Open to all Juniors and their Advisors/Chaperones**
- ❖ **Everyone attending must pre-register and prepay**
- ❖ **Limited to 1 Senior member for every 4 Junior Members unless space is available**



14th Annual Junior Fun Weekend

- Who:** All Junior members and their Advisor/Chaperones
Registration is on a first-come, first serve basis
All Junior members ages 3 – 18 are invited
You do not have to be from an active Junior group
Advisor/chaperones to Junior ratio is 1:3
1 – 3 Juniors = 1 advisor/chaperone
4 – 6 Juniors = 2 advisors/chaperones
If you have any questions, please call Sharon Thiemecke 218-209-1124 or email sharon.6thdistala@yahoo.com or Sally Strasser 612-791-9208 or email slstrass@hotmail.com.
- What:** A weekend for junior members from throughout the State of Minnesota to get together for some fun and to learn more about the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. This will be an organized program which will be coordinated by the Department Junior Activities Chairman and American Legion Auxiliary volunteers.
- When:** Friday, August 4, 2023 through Sunday, August 6, 2023
Check-in Friday, August 4th from 5 – 8 p.m. *No early arrivals on the property this year*
Dinner will be served after 6 p.m.
Check-out Sunday, August 6th by 11:00 a.m.
- Where:** Legionville near Brainerd, Minnesota (see attached map)
- Cost:** \$25.00 per person (includes meals, snacks & activities)
Paperwork & Fees must be received in the Department Office no later than Monday, July 17, 2023. All registrations received after July 17th will be \$30.00.
No refunds will be issued.
- Send to:** American Legion Auxiliary
State Veterans Services Building
20 West 12th St. #314
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

To participate, complete the attached registration form and send the names of participants along with the \$25.00 fee per person as noted on the form. Again, the registration fee covers the cost of all meals, snacks & activities.

Each participating Junior member will be required to bring the attached permission form with them when they check in. Unit Senior Advisors and/or chaperones will have primary responsibility and supervision of all Junior members that they bring and will be expected to assist as needed with activities.

There will be a nurse on the premises to assist with minor boo-boos!

2023 Department Junior Fun Weekend Registration August 4-6, 2023

Unit Name: _____ Unit No: _____
Location: _____ District No: _____
Number of Juniors: _____ Number of Seniors: _____

Amount enclosed at \$25.00 per person: \$ _____
\$30.00 if rec'd after July 17, 2022

Make checks payable to American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota
Remit to: American Legion Auxiliary, State Veterans Service Building, 20 W 12th St. #314, St. Paul, MN 55155

Advisor/Chaperone Information (Print or type)

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Cell #: _____
Email: _____

Emergency Contact name & Phone #: _____ Relationship: _____

Areas where I would be interested in helping:

Junior Member Participants (Ages 3-18)

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

(Please make copies of this page for additional names)

WHAT TO BRING

Bring with you:

Permission form & Media Release Form
Copy of Health Insurance card
Water Bottle (labeled with participant's name)
Pillow – Bedding or Sleeping Bag
Toiletries – toothpaste, tooth brush, towels, face cloth, soap, shampoo, comb/brush
Swimwear, shorts, shirts, pants, sweatshirt or sweater, jeans, jacket, socks, pajamas
2 pairs of shoes (Tennis & flip flops)
Sunscreen
Insect repellent
Flashlight (optional)
Poncho, rain coat or umbrella
Instructions for or about any medicines you take to be given by the nurse
Kindle, e-Reader, laptop or iPod/ iPad (definitely Not Required- use your judgement!)
Plenty of enthusiasm, good attitude and a willingness to make new friends!

Please Note:

The Juniors will be engaged in a variety of activities, some of which may include electronic devices. Although we are allowing them to bring them along, they will be asked to refrain from using their electronic devices while we are doing other activities. Please be sure they are clearly marked with the owner's name.

Medications:

If your child is on any prescription medication, please send the medication in its original container. Be sure it is clearly marked from your pharmacy, with the medication name and administration directions.

Please do not send over-the-counter medications unless deemed necessary. OTC meds must be in their original containers with the medication label clearly displayed and labeled with your child's name.

Reminder – to be turned in upon your daughter's arrival:

The signed parent's waiver
A copy of your daughter's health insurance

PLEASE MAKE A COPY OF THIS FOR EACH PARTICIPANT

Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary

State Veterans Services Building

20 West 12th St. Room #314

St. Paul, MN 55155

PARENTS WAIVER

This form **MUST** be brought with each Junior Member
and turned in upon their arrival at

Junior Fun Weekend

August 4-6, 2023

The undersigned parent(s) or guardian of:

(Junior Member)

(Address/City/State/Zip Code)

In consideration of the instructions, activities and training to be given to our (my) daughter, a Junior member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota, at the Junior Fun Weekend to be held at the Legionville School Safety Patrol Camp at North Long Lake in Brainerd, Minnesota, August 4-6, 2023, does hereby release and discharge the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota, its officers, agents, instructors and employees from any and all claims that may occur by reason of any illness, injury or accident incurred or suffered by said daughter while in attendance, while traveling to/from attending or participating in said Junior Fun Weekend no matter how caused or occasioned.

I acknowledge that neither basic accident and health insurance or personal property insurance is provided by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota, in connection with the Junior Fun Weekend and that the provision of such insurance is my own personal responsibility. I (we) understand the responsibility of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota, ends at the close of Junior Fun Weekend on Sunday, August 6, 2023.

In case of emergency, contact information is:

Name of parent(s) _____

(Address/City/State/Zip Code)

Telephone Number on Weekend _____ Cell Phone _____

(Print Parent or Guardians Name)

Date Signed: _____

(Parents or Guardian Signature)

Please complete the back side of this form as well
(Please make copies of and fill out both front and back for additional Junior members)

ALLERGIES AND MEDICATIONS

Does your daughter have any allergies? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please explain? _____

If this is a food allergy, please email Sally Strasser slstrass@hotmail.com, so we can plan accordingly for meals.

MEDICATIONS: Please send the medication with your daughter in its original container, clearly marked from your pharmacy with the medication name and directions for its use. Be certain your child's name is on the medication.

Name of medication my daughter is on _____

Does your daughter have any physical restrictions? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please explain? _____



American Legion Auxiliary

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

Media Release Consent Form

1. I, the undersigned, hereby authorize American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota to photograph me, take motion pictures of me, take video footage of me, and/or make electronic sound recordings of me (herein referred to as photographic or electronic reproductions) as well as use my name and likeness.
2. I authorize the use of any such photographic or electronic reproductions and my name and likeness for any purpose, including, but not limited to, educational and other public media as may be deemed appropriate by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota. I understand that I may be identifiable from such photographic or electronic reproductions for non-profit public purposes.
3. I understand that I will not be compensated financially for such uses.

Print Name _____
Title _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
Email Address _____

PARENTAL CONSENT

I certify that I am the parent and/or guardian of the individual above, _____, a minor under the age of eighteen years. I hereby agree to assume legal responsibility for his/her authorization referred to in this General Media Release.

Signature of Applicant's Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Address of Parent/Guardian (if different) _____ Cell Phone Number _____

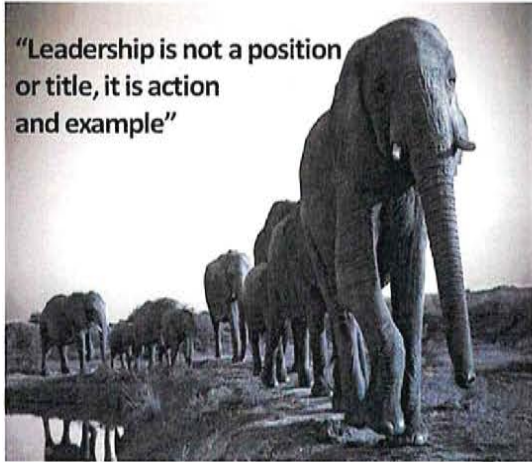
City, State, Zip Code _____ Email Address _____

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota

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LEADERSHIP

Elections are being held at all levels of Auxiliary, that means new members in Leadership roles, I read an article by Trish Ward when she was National Leadership Chairman. The following is one paragraph from it that illustrates what a leader is -



Taking first steps to becoming an effective leader requires patience and commitment. Set the stage for good conduct by embracing the concept of compassionate leadership. Compassionate leadership is a thought discipline embraced by modern leaders who desire to treat their team members with a greater sense of caring, kindness, and consideration for the human condition. Compassionate leaders urge a greater level of team engagement, value building, robust and trusting relationships at all levels, and inspire collaboration and

commitment. Caring about the team with sensitivity and sincerity will enable you and your members to have fewer conflicts and better outcomes in projects and activities.

More information on Leadership can be found on the National web site (alaforveterans.org). under the Leadership program. While you are there why not take the Senior Leadership Basics Course. It is a good way to learn about the American Legion Auxiliary.

Thank You! Thank You! To each of you that have served in a Leadership role this last year, because of your leadership you have had a very successful year. I read all the reports I received, Wow!, each of you have done so much throughout the year.

Congratulations to the winners of the awards, these will be announced at the Department Convention in July.

Raleen Tolzmann

Department Leadership Chairman

“Mighty Minnesota Membership”

Units we still have time to get membership in for this year. Cut is not unit July 4th 2023. Its time to take one more look at the members that have not renewed! We still need to look back over the list of the covid years, that is when we lost members due to the shut down or our Legion Post buildings.

Its time for a post card! Here's a sample:

Dear Unit Member,

In looking through our records we find that we haven't received your Unit Auxiliary membership of \$ dues for the 2022-2023 year.

We just want to remind you that your dues enable us to continue our programs regarding serving those whom have so bravely served us. Today, more than ever, some of our military are returning from war with many wounds, both mentally and physically and we want to continue to do our part to make their lives and their family's lives as easy as possible.

We would appreciate you continuing to show your support to all veterans.

Please mail your check to: fill in your unit information.

A Big THANK YOU to all for attending the four rallies and working together as a Legion Family September Patriot Rally up north at Legionville asking for district to be at 40%. December was the Pearl Harbor Rally working to get to 75%. February was the Sweetheart Rally asking district to get to 80%. April was the Appreciation Rally asking for 85%. Working hard to get to 100% by July 4th.

Sandy Wersal

Membership Chairman



The 10 district chairman worked very hard this year, getting members for the state of Minnesota.

Thank You



Mighty Minnesota Membership

DISTRICT	# of Units	Goal	Period Gain	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year 5/11/2022	Difference from Last Year
One	48	3,810	6	3,324	87.24%	3470	146
Two	72	3,833	14	3,329	86.85%	3511	182
Three	46	3,797	17	3,430	90.33%	3526	96
Four	7	570	4	477	83.68%	494	17
Five	7	515	2	417	80.97%	446	29
Six	62	4,991	13	4,392	88.00%	4623	231
Seven	57	2,938	16	2,574	87.61%	2779	205
Eight	23	1,237	7	1082	87.47%	1108	26
Nine	47	3,305	7	2,898	87.69%	2991	93
Ten	43	3,758	37	3,182	84.67%	3419	237
1982 Dept	1	203	4	240	118.23%	186	-54
District Totals:	413	28,957	127	25,345	87.53%	26553	1,208
Group 1 (Even)	207	14,389	75	12,462	86.61%	13,155	693
<i>Judy Ackerman</i>							
Group 2 (Odd)	205	14,365	48	12,643	88.01%	13,212	569

Sharon Thiemecke

RANKINGS

1st	90.33%	District #3	
2nd	88.00%	District #6	
3rd	87.69%	District #9	
4th	87.61%	District #7	
5th	87.47%	District #8	
6th	87.24%	District #1	
7th	86.85%	District #2	
8th	84.67%	District #10	
9th	83.68%	District #4	
10th	80.97%	District #5	



NATIONAL SECURITY

The American Legion Auxiliary members can do so much for our Military and their families. We, as members can bring awareness to our communities by what we do. Truly, we all can make a difference.

Here are just a few suggestions:

Sponsor Disaster Training, First Aid or CPR classes. Invite the Police, Fire and Rescue to talk to members of the community.

Sponsor a Red Cross Blood Drive, provide lunch for the red Cross workers and volunteers and/or donate blood.

As part of the Post's Memorial or Veterans Day Observance include The Empty Chair Ceremony to remember our Nation's POW'S and MIA'S. Present the Military Child's Table to bring awareness to community members of the Children's sacrifices. Include our Junior members in both ceremonies.

Wear RED (Remember Everyone Deployed) on Friday's.

Be there for our Soldiers to honor them when being deployed or welcoming them home.

Present Blue Star Banners to those who have family members in the military. Banners can be purchased through Emblem Sales.

Send coupons, food and other supplies to servicemen. Don't forget about Shipthrifty to minimize the cost of postage. Remember their families at home by helping in whatever they may need whether it is babysitting, fixing them a meal, mowing the lawn or just being a good friend with a listening ear.

Donate to the Serviceman's Center and the USO.

Purchase a couple copies of the book, AMERICA'S WHITE TABLE, and donate to the Elementary School and the local library. This story, about a veteran that has not come home after a war, visually paints a picture that children can understand and will increase their appreciation for how expensive freedom is. The book can be ordered on Amazon for about \$16.

Continue to pray and do whatever you can for our Military (and their families) as they do what they can to keep the freedoms we enjoy each day.

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Minnesota
LuAnn Marschel, National Security Chairman



2022-2023 Scholarship Winners

Department Scholarship Winners:

Norah E. Foreman Fergus Falls, MN submitted via ALA Unit 30, District 9

Patrick Douglas Aurora, MN submitted via ALA Unit 241, District 8

Andrew N. Duclose Grasston, MN submitted via ALA Unit 51, District 10

Brooke Allen Dexter, MN submitted via ALA Unit 146, District 1

Carter Benda Slayton, MN submitted via ALA Unit 64, District 2

Past President's Parley Scholarship Winners:

Sydney Bortrager Trimont, MN submitted via ALA Unit 373, District 2

Madison Aakhus Bigfork, MN submitted by ALA Unit 182, District 8

Scholarships forwarded on to the Northwest Division & National:

Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship:

Emily Suess Big Lake, MN submitted via ALA Unit 260, District 10

Non-Traditional Scholarship:

Valerie Wagner Waubay, SD submitted via ALA Unit 263, District 2

Spirit of Youth Scholarship:

Raina E. Roemhildt St. Peter, MN submitted via ALA Unit 37, District 3

Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship:

Lucas Martin Excelsior, MN



Poppies by Linda Kelly

Our year is coming to an end. Our districts are getting ready to hold their District Meeting and we are all looking forward to our Department Convention at Jackpot Junction in July.

I hope that you are preparing for our two poppy contests at the Department Convention. As a reminder, we will have two contests. One is to create something “wearable” with poppies. The second challenge is to create something using President Mary’s theme: “*Serve & Honor Every Day*” I look forward to seeing your creations. Don’t forget to put your name, Unit number, District number and location on a card inside an envelope to put near your entry.

I recently sent letters to several television stations throughout the state. I tried very carefully to send to at least one station that all units can watch. I asked them to hand out the poppies I enclosed to their employees, both in front of and behind the cameras. I suggested that those in front of the camera wear them and explain why they are wearing them. Please let me know if you see our dear poppy on the air.

I thank all of you for your participation this year with the poppy program. I hope that all of you have enjoyed using poppies throughout the year, as much as I have.

MEMBERSHIP PACKETS FOR 2023-2024

Membership packets will be available for pickup at the Department Convention. Units need to contact the Department Office prior to convention to have your Unit’s packet brought to convention. All packets ordered will be available for pickup in the Department Convention Office Thursday and Friday. Please, call 651-224-7634 or email christie@mnala.org to order your Unit’s Membership Packet. All other packets will be mailed out after the convention.

UNIT OFFICER LISTS 2023-2024

Unit officer lists were due in the Department office by June 1st. If you have not submitted yours, please email them immediately to deptoffice@mnala.org.

These lists are important as we develop our mailing list for the upcoming Auxiliary year. Your unit will not receive your membership card packet until we have a current list. This list is required each year even if you are keeping the same officers.