



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
“We Rise by Lifting Others”**

S'MORE NEWS NO.8 (MUST BE READ AT MEETING)

March 2026

1. The Mid-Winter Conference proved to be a remarkable success. Congratulations to all the award recipients, and heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the event.
2. I will be attending the **Legislative Conference** in Washington, D.C., February 27th – March 4th, 2026, meeting with our representatives discussing the VFW Priority Goals. Commander Ty and I will place a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at **Arlington National Cemetery** on March 1st, 2026.
3. The Voice of Democracy award has increased this year. We were not made aware of this until recently. The fund needs donations if you're able. This will help recoup the deficit of the change. We greatly appreciate your help.
4. Just a reminder, elections need to be held in April with installation in May.
5. **Donations:** Have you made all the suggested donations for this year? Please check the form on our website (vfwauxwi.org) for the list.
6. It is essential to accurately complete your District **Delegates and Alternates form** and ensure it is **approved by vote** during your meeting.
7. At the National Mid-Winter event, we were recognized for our impressive increase in paid membership, which rose from 98% to 100.6% compared to the same period last year. This growth follows the membership training conducted by National in November. Congratulations to everyone involved in this achievement. To achieve growth, we must focus on increasing our current membership numbers, particularly as we work to replace those we have lost. Expanding our membership base is essential for fostering overall growth within the organization.

We have several members and family members facing health challenges at this time. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Many of you have shown significant growth this year. You should be proud of yourself. Keep up the amazing work!

Be the Lighthouse in Someone's Storm as We Rise by Lifting Others.

**Kim McWilliams
24625 103st St
Salem, WI. 53168
815-999-9214
mrsffiemt@gmail.com**



VFW Wisconsin National Home, est 1925

Mission Statement: "The VFW National Home assists military, veterans, and their families with children, by creating a foundation of services and resources to achieve their personal and family goals in order to move forward in a positive, safe and healthy environment."

Our National Home Fall Festival trip will be October 23-25th, 2026 in Eaton Rapids Michigan. Our theme this year will be Hocus Pocus! Department of WI will be hosting the noon meal and games for the children. Lunch menu will be pizza, brats, hot dogs, chips and drinks. Plan to pack some treat bags to hand out to the kids. We will set up and run 6 games for the kids. People and prizes are needed for the game area. More information to come!

Louise Engness, Department National Home Chairman



The "Buddy"® Poppy represents the blood shed by American military service members and reminds us of their sacrifices. In 1924, the VFW registered the name "Buddy"® Poppy with the U.S. Patent Office.

The Winners of the Mid Winter Buddy Poppy contest, Buddy Poppy contest had 19 entries.

First place was 8483 Truax-Longmeire Auxiliary

Second place was 1038 Chippewa Falls Auxiliary

Third place 10262 Plover Auxiliary

Plan your display for the Department convention!

Now is the time to start planning your Auxiliaries Buddy Poppy distribution. Plan dates, get permission to distribute at a location, have plenty of volunteers, smiles and poppies to distribute!

Never refuse anyone a poppy because they are unable to contribute.
A POPPY ON ANYONE'S LAPEL HONORS ALL VETERANS!

Remember that Distribution of buddy poppies should be included in every post, district or department activity, or anything in which you participate! Such as membership drives, patriotic events or even your bingo night or special meals or burger night gatherings!

Remember to take pictures of Buddy Poppy Distribution, most enthusiastic, well-dressed and branded VFW to win! Send Pictures to wagnerla4@gmail.com

Louise Engness, Department Buddy Poppy Chairman

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

**YOU CAN'T STOP THE WAVES,
BUT YOU CAN LEARN TO SURF!**

Sherrie Rosenau

MARCH 2026

REPORTING:

CLOSING OUT THE PROGRAM YEAR

March is a critical month for timely and accurate reporting.

Prompt reporting ensures:

- Auxiliaries receive proper credit for their hard work
- Data is accurately reflected at Department and National levels
- Projects aren't lost or disqualified due to late entries

Remember—delayed reporting often leads to lost recognition, so please submit reports promptly.



UPDATE:

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT

It's not too late to make your donation to the President's Special Project - CAMPFIRE FOR COURAGE. It is to sponsor PTSD Retreats for Veterans & Spouses at The Highgrounds. Our goal is to sponsor 100 veterans/spouses and currently we are at 78! We are so close. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

PREPARING FOR ELECTIONS:

APRIL IS COMING

Auxiliary elections must be completed by April 30, and March is the perfect month to prepare.

Consider using this time to:

- Identify officers for the coming year
- Review job responsibilities
- Encourage new leaders to step forward
- Confirm delegate and alternate eligibility

After elections, remember that your Installation Report must be submitted by June 30.

Strong leadership grows from early planning, mentoring, and open conversations.

LOOKING AHEAD:

WELCOMING THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

We are honored to welcome National President Lois Callahan to Wisconsin April 7-9, 2026. Let's make sure she has a great time visiting with our members and touring the great state of Wisconsin!

**REMEMBER: WE RISE BY LIFTING
OTHERS FROM SEA TO SHINING
SEA, HONORING
VETERANS WHO KEEP US FREE!**



Veterans.of.Foreign.Wars
Department.of.WI
National.Scholarships.→.March2026

As this report comes out, we have just concluded awards to our essay winners at Mid-Winter. Now you all should be collecting pieces of art from area youth for the 3-dimensional art and Young American Creative Art. The deadline is March 31st to have them at your auxiliary.

As our year is winding down, remember to get your year end reports sent in by April 1st. The auxiliary who participates the most with their post in promoting this program will receive an award at convention. Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen participation awards are closed but you still have time to win one for art.

If you have any questions, I am available, call, text or email.

“From Sea to Shining Sea, Honoring Veterans who Keep us Free” as “We Rise by Lifting Others”.

Marge Southworth
Chairman, National Scholarships
Dmsouth2228@yahoo.com or 715.551.3487

**Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Wisconsin
Hospital
March 2026**

The year is going by way to fast.

I hope that you all had wonderful and healthy holidays.

I am asking that if you haven't made your donations to the Hospital Program or Hospital Projects to please do so at your next monthly meeting. Your donations help all of our hospitals, Veterans Homes and Representatives.

Thank you to all of the Auxiliaries who donated baby items, gift cards or checks for the Baby Shower in Tomah that was held the end of January (actually as I write this it hasn't been held yet!) I will have pictures to share later on our website and at Mid-Winter.

If you haven't signed up to start volunteering please think about it. It can be for an hour or more, depending on your schedule.

That is all for now. Thank you for all you do for our Veterans and their families!

Laura Coffin
Laurie2bk@gmail.com
608-792-1422

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin
Application for Department Hospital Charms 2025-2026**

Please list the names of all sisters/brothers that completed volunteer projects of any kind for this year. 50 hours or more for any VA Medical and/or Non-medical facility, nursing home, Rehab, CBOC, etc., from April 1, 2025-March 31, 2026. The Auxiliary Hospital Chairman is to fill out the form and have it signed by the Auxiliary President. This is for Auxiliary only. VA Reps will order charms for their Volunteers.

Return by April 1, 2026 to: Laurie Coffin
Department Hospital Chairman
503 South L Street
Sparta, Wisconsin 54656

Auxiliary # _____ Auxiliary Name # _____ Dist. # _____

Volunteer Names	Hours (50 or more)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

(use back side for more volunteers)

Auxiliary President: _____

Auxiliary Hospital Chairman _____

Chairman Phone # _____

MARCH 2026 LEGISLATIVE



Did You Know?

The 2026 Legislative Priorities focus on 6 major policy areas:

- Budget
- Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
- Education, Employment, and Transition Assistance
- National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA
- Health Care
- Military Readiness

The best way to ensure our veterans have access to the programs and resources they have earned is to let your legislators know what bills the VFW has supported and encourage the passage of those bills into law.

Sign up for **Action Corps** (www.vfw.org/JoinActionCorps) and **Voter Voice** (www.votervoicenet.net/VFVWI/home)

vfw.org/JoinActionCorps



THERE'S STILL TIME FOR YOUR AUXILIARY TO SUBMIT AN ENTRY TO WIN A 2025-26 NATIONAL PROGRAM AWARD –

Did your auxiliary host a fun activity to promote the 2025-26 Legislative Priorities? A “Meet the Legislator” event? Puzzle or game night to advocate? Social media campaign? Voter registration drive? **ENTRIES ARE DUE MARCH 31, 2026 – use the following form and get your legislative efforts recognized at National!**

GET INFORMED. GET INVOLVED.

“We Rise By Lifting Others”

Gail Bensen, gsbbensen@gmail.com

(518) 209-8362 (talk/text)



Legislative National Program Awards 2025-2026 Entry Form

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event to create thank-you notes and cards to veterans that include links to VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or VFW Priority Goals.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event to create thank-you notes and cards to veterans that include links to VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or VFW Priority Goals.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

VFW Auxiliaries must send this completed entry form to the Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging.

VFW Auxiliary Name: _____

VFW Auxiliary No: _____ Department of: _____

Describe the activity and/or event to create thank-you notes and cards to veterans that include links to VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or VFW Priority Goals. (e.g., flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, e-newsletters, handouts, photos, links to videos, etc.)

The Department Legislative Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to National Legislative Amy Jo Lett by April 30, 2026 for judging.

Department Legislative Chairman: _____

Signature

Date: _____

Forms sent to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will not be processed or forwarded.



WE'RE ON OUR WAY

Charlene Cobb
Membership Chairman
March 2026

Spring is on its way and we are in the finishing stretch of our program year. Let's finish strong with our membership goals! It's not too late to reach out and bring new members in or throw a life preserver to those that have swum away in the past.

Our VFW Auxiliary Eligibility the relatives listed Veteran is eligible to join the includes step and adopted and half-siblings, grandparents considered the same as the



Wheel is a great tool. Any of surrounding a VFW eligible VFW Auxiliary. This also parents, children, siblings and grandchildren; they are biological relatives.

As of the 15th of February, we only needed 101 for our current total to be the same as last year. At a minimum, for us to have growth this year we need 180 new or reinstated members to reach 7500 for the year and 280 to have 102%+ in membership and earn \$400.00 for the Department. This QR code will take you to the Membership information on the National website. If you scroll down, you will be able to get our fact sheet, membership application and brochure.



Spring is coming, get out and find those members, so we can create a beautiful bouquet for our Auxiliaries and our Department. Remember to:

REINSTATE – RECRUIT – REVITALIZE – RETAIN

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

March 2026

VFW Auxiliary – Department of Wisconsin

Patty Jansky, Chairman / pajansky@charter.net



DUE DATES ARE APPROACHING – DON'T MISS THEM!



IS COMING!



- **Illustrating America** patriotic artwork and entry forms are due to your local Auxiliary by **March 31st**. Send in your Auxiliary's first-place winner in each grade division (K-2, 3-5, and 6-8) to me for Department judging by **April 15th**. You should try to complete your local judging ASAP so that your winning entries reach me on time. Our mail or UPS deliveries sometimes take longer to arrive than we think. We don't want to miss any of our great student artwork!
- **The National Youth Activities Award for Auxiliaries** is for the *"Most creative and/or unique activity and/or event of the VFW Auxiliary working with a youth group."* This Auxiliary award application is due to me by **March 31st**.
- Please mail or email (if applicable) your entries to me:
Patty Jansky, 12758 43rd Ave.
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
715-723-0408 / 715-497-4066
pajansky@charter.net

*Questions?
Give me a call!*

Youth Activities Awards for Auxiliaries – Department of Wisconsin

1. Outstanding Recognition of Youth with "Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans" Citations, Individual "Patriotic Youth Awards", "Youth Acts of Kindness" Certificates, and "Random Act of Patriotism" (R.A.P.) Cards – \$5.00
2. Outstanding Participation in "Illustrating America" – \$5.00
3. Outstanding Participation in "Patriotism through Literacy" – \$5.00
4. Outstanding "Reading Buddy" Activity or Event – \$5.00

Will YOUR Auxiliary earn one of these awards at our June Convention?

AWARDS



THE RIBBONS OF OUR SUCCESS

Charlene Cobb
Achievement Awards Chairman
March 2026

A reminder the Achievement Awards paperwork needs to be sent to me by May 1st along with your narrative. I would prefer it in an email (ckcand2k9@yahoo.com) with "Achievement Award and Auxiliary or District number" in the Subject line. If you choose to mail it my address is: Charlene Cobb, PO Box 600, Darien, WI 53114. Please allow at least ten days for it to reach me as it is a small Post Office and the mail goes through the city nearby.

I have adjusted the line item under Program Participation Goals to include a monetary donation to the department ear-marked "Poker Run" as a means to collect those bonus points. Additionally, if any of your members attended or do attend the virtual trainings, please notate that for me in your narrative as there will be credit given for that also. I will need to know the number, name and any position in the Auxiliary or District that they hold.

Work on the all-important membership points and let's bring this home for our Department and Organization. The ultimate goal is 102%+ from last year's total.

Be proud of the work you do in your communities, let's recognize and celebrate our collective accomplishments. It takes us all to complete our mission – Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes and the VFW's – No One Does More for Veterans!

Reminder: You can find the 2025-26 Achievement Awards Form on the VFW Auxiliary of WI website at <https://vfwauxwi.org> under Programs/Achievement Awards or under Programs/Year End Reports 2025-2026

LILLIAN CAMPBELL SCHOLARSHIP

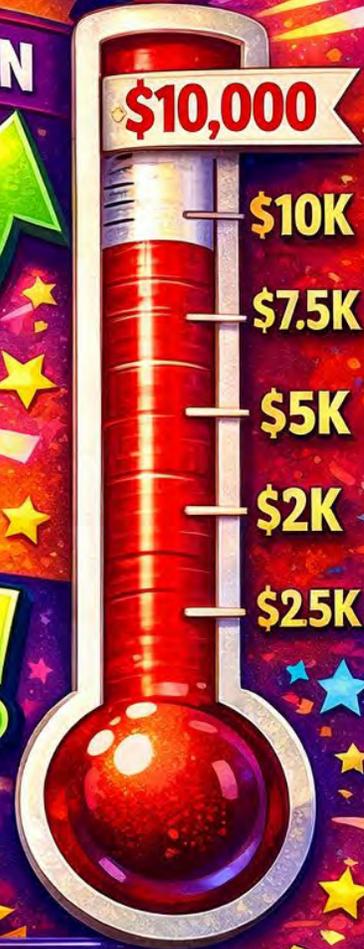
HAS ALMOST REACHED AN

**ALL TIME
HIGH!**

MY GOAL IS

\$10,000!

AND I NEED YOUR HELP!



SUPPORT THE LCMS FUND

Help continue Lillian's legacy. Your donation empowers students to achieve their dreams in the medical field.

✉ Mail Donations (Earmarked LCMS) To:
Lenore Otto, Dept. WI Treasurer
1383 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Oconomowoc, WI 53066



Lillian Campbell Medical Scholarship

Apply Now • Inspire Care • Change Lives

In memory of Lillian Campbell, we are investing in the future of healthcare by supporting students dedicated to making a difference. Together, we can nurture the healers of tomorrow right here in our community.



APPLICATION DEADLINE:

APRIL 1, 2026

Empowering the next generation professionals in Wisconsin.

Scholarship Awards:

 **Three \$2,000 Scholarships - Medical Fields**

 **Two \$750 Scholarships - Paramedic Program**

Application Information:

Apply online at www.vfwauxwi.org
under Programs / Lillian Campbell.

Submit Applications To:

Kimberly Goss
Dept. Chairman/Lillian Campbell
W1334 Serum Rd
Alma, WI 54610
715-946-3285 · kimberly.gossdistrict9aux.wi@gmail.com

Eligible Programs Include:

- Nursing
- Physician Assistant
- Medical & Surgical Technology
- Physical & Occupational Therapy
- Dental · Radiology
- Veterinary Medicine & More

Support the LCMS Fund

Help us continue Lillian's legacy by supporting future medical professionals!

Lenore Otto

Department of Wisconsin Treasurer
1383 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS

SUPPORT THE WISCONSIN VFW NEWS

Regular and accessible communication
to our membership is essential
to achieving our goal to

“MAKE IT COUNT”

and we take our mission very seriously.

**WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN ALL STAY
ON THE SAME PAGE THIS YEAR!**

PLEASE TAKE ACTION TODAY!



**Thank You
Veterans**

WI VFW NEWS BOOSTER

This program is for individuals, Posts, Auxiliaries, Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) and other non-profit organizations who wish to support the WI VFW NEWS on an ongoing basis. All donations will be applied directly to the preparation, production and distribution of the Official Publication of the Dept. of Wisconsin Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Supporters at all levels will be recognized in at least two issues of the NEWS (September and May) and the list will also updated and maintained permanently on the State Website. Note: A separate program for Business Boosters is being established by our Corporate Sponsorship Committee and will be available early next year.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| \$50 – FRIEND | \$100 – SUPPORTER |
| \$250 – CHAMPION | \$500 – ADVOCATE |
| \$1,000 – INNOVATOR | \$2,500 – GUARDIAN |
| \$5,000+ - VISIONARY | |

Thank you for your generous support of the WI VFW NEWS!

Name (Individual/Post/Aux/etc.) _____
(as you would like it to appear in the NEWS)

Address _____

City, ST Zip _____ Phone _____

Select BOOSTER LEVEL:

_____ \$50 Friend _____ \$100 Supporter _____ \$250 Champion _____ \$500 Advocate

_____ \$1,000 Innovator _____ \$2,500 Guardian _____ \$5,000+ Visionary

Please make check payable to VFW Dept. of WI, earmarked “NEWS Booster” and mail to:

NEWS BOOSTER
VFW of Wisconsin
PO Box 6128, Monona, WI 53716-0128

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin
March S'more News
Ways and Means**

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

I would like to start by thanking those who participated in the Paint and Sip Event. I hope all had a great time. Congratulations to the Scooter winner: Art Huessig for San Diego, CA.

The Countdown to a Hundred Calendar raffles were given out at Mid-Winter. Please make sure your auxiliary has received them from your district President. Please share with your friends and families.

Keep working on the fundraising initiative, known as "Fill the Boot." This should be actively promoted within your community to support the Ways and Means program. By doing so, you not only contribute to the department Auxiliary's efforts but also enhance the visibility of your Auxiliary within your community. If you feel you cannot place the boot in your community, think about other alternatives to fundraisers or make a donation from your auxiliary.



If you have any ideas or suggestions, please reach out to our team as we are always looking for new great ways to raise funds. This is the year of thinking outside the box and finding new ways to help our organization.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR OUR VETERANS AND THIS ORGANIZATION

“WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS”

“FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA HONORING VETERANS WHO KEEP US FREE”

The Way and Means Team

Jennifer, Aimee, Lerline and Barbara

Jmauritz922@gmail.com

fancysbags12@gmail.com

rohaas4@gmail.com

stillmanb@att.net



DOWNLOAD THE YEAR END REPORTS NOW

There have been some changes and corrections made to a few of the Year End Reports that were posted on our website last month. Hopefully you have not downloaded them yet. Also, the Instruction Sheet is now available.

Remember, the reports must be completed and sent to your District President by **April 1st**. so now is the time to print out the forms and work with your members on filling them out at your March meeting.

You can find the 2025-2026 Year End Reports on our Department website: www.vfwauxwi.org under **Programs – Year End Reports 2025-2026** is the top title on the Drop-down menu.

I am also going to send the Year-End Reports packet to you in a separate email, along with the Achievement Awards packet.

Secretary Training

I will be sending out emails with the link to the Zoom Secretarial Training to all Secretaries and Presidents the week of February 23rd. If you do not see an email with the link by February 25th, please check your junk or spam email folders or contact me for a new email. You can email me at: secretary@vfwauxwi.org

As stated last month, the training will include:

1. What's in your minutes book?
2. What goes into your minutes?
3. Secretary's role in an Audit.
4. Delegate Forms – who, what, where and especially Why.
5. Any other questions you may have.

If you cannot make it on your designated night, but could join on another night, let me know after you receive your invitation.

District 1 – 4: Tuesday, March 10 – 6:30 PM

District 6-8: Wednesday, March 11-6:30 PM

District 9-11: Monday, March 16 – 6:30 PM

Potential Secretaries are also welcome! So if you know of someone in your Auxiliary that might be the next secretary-give them the link, too. Hope to see you on Zoom!

Faith Elford PDP, Dept. Secretary

DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO DISTRICT MEETING
VFW AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

AUX. NAME: _____ NO.: _____ CITY: _____ DIST NO.: _____

AUXILIARY SECRETARY: Immediately following your election of Delegates and Alternates to the **DISTRICT** Meeting, to be held in the Spring of 2026, please complete this form. It is **YOUR** duty to mail this form to your **DISTRICT SECRETARY**. (NAMES AND ADDRESSES ON BACK OF THIS FORM)

Delegates and Alternates to the District Meeting shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Auxiliary held not less than ten (10) days prior to the District Meeting; one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for each fifteen (15) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Auxiliary at the time of the election of Delegates. Sec. 302, page 33 of the 2026 Bylaws.

Date of Election _____ Number of Members dues paid on date of election _____

This is to certify that the Delegates and Alternates listed below have been duly elected to represent our Auxiliary at the 2026 District Meeting.

DELEGATES	Attending	ALTERNATES	Attending
1. _____	Yes No	1. _____	Yes No
2. _____	Yes No	2. _____	Yes No
3. _____	Yes No	3. _____	Yes No
4. _____	Yes No	4. _____	Yes No
5. _____	Yes No	5. _____	Yes No
6. _____	Yes No	6. _____	Yes No
7. _____	Yes No	7. _____	Yes No
8. _____	Yes No	8. _____	Yes No
9. _____	Yes No	9. _____	Yes No
10. _____	Yes No	10. _____	Yes No
11. _____	Yes No	11. _____	Yes No
12. _____	Yes No	12. _____	Yes No

 (Auxiliary President)

 (Auxiliary Secretary)

 (Address)

 (Address)

 (City, State & Zip Code)

 (City, State & Zip Code)

(Auxiliary Seal Here)

DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO DISTRICT CONVENTION
VFW AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

AUXILIARY SECRETARY: Immediately following election of Delegates and Alternates to the **DISTRICT** Convention, to be held in the Spring of 2026, please complete this form and it is **YOUR** duty to mail this form to your **DISTRICT SECRETARY.**

District Secretary Names and Addresses:

*District 1: Dept Secretary Faith Elford, 1414 Montclair Place, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

District 2: Lenore Otto, N62w37856 Wadebridge Rd., Oconomowoc WI 53066-1729

*District 3: Dept Secretary Faith Elford, 1414 Montclair Place, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

District 4: Susan Koehler, 8040 S 20th St., Oak Creek, WI 53154

*District 6: Dept Secretary Faith Elford, 1414 Montclair Place, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

District 7: Aimee Viljevac, 204 E. Riverside Ave., Merrill, WI 54452

District 8: Judy Borg, 250 W Highland Park Ave, Apt. 720, Appleton, WI 54911

District 9: Patty Jansky, 12758 43rd Ave., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

*District 10: Dept Secretary Faith Elford, 1414 Montclair Place, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

District 11: Kathryn M. Schmitz, 24447 Lambeth Rd., Cashton, WI 54619

***FOR THOSE OF YOU WITHOUT DISTRICT REPRESENTATION AT THE TIME OF THIS PRINTING, PLEASE DO STILL ELECT YOUR DELEGATES AND SEND IN THE FORM TO THE DEPARTMENT SECRETARY. DELEGATE FORMS ARE GOOD FOR A FULL YEAR AND YOU DON'T KNOW IF YOUR DELEGATES MAY BECOME NECESSARY WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR.**