



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
S'MORE News



NO. 10 (MUST BE READ AT MEETING)

MAY/JUNE 2026

1. MEMBERSHIP: All of you have been working so hard on membership and I deeply appreciate that. We are getting so close to reaching our goals! As of this writing, WISCONSIN is in second place in the Big Ten Conference. We are now 90 members away from reaching 100% for our CURRENT membership and 101.05% In our PAID membership. If your auxiliary needs help with your membership, please reach out. Remember, Poppy drives are NOT just for collecting donations. Engage with your communities and promote and recruit during this time.
2. INSTALLATION OF NEWLY ELECTED AUXILIARY OFFICERS: Please install your officers this month, and even if you enter the info into Malta, please send a copy to our Dept. Secretary Faith Elford. Please verify that all information is accurate.
3. DONATIONS: Have you made all of the suggested donations for this year? Please check the form that was included in the S'MORE News at the beginning of the year. It is also on our website www.vfwauxwi.org. Click on Resources at the top of the page and then Treasurer.
4. MEMORIAL DAY is May 25th. Please take a moment to honor and remember our fallen service members.
5. Our convention is coming up soon! We will be at the Holiday Inn, Rothchild, WI, from June 10th to 13th. Our banquet theme is Military Ball. The registration form was included in the April S'MORE News. Registration is due by May 22nd, there is a late fee of \$5.00. Remember, we are celebrating our 100th anniversary. Come out and celebrate with us.
6. Elections for the department will soon take place at the convention. If you are interested in joining our leadership team and would like further details, please reach out to us. Several candidates have submitted letters introducing themselves, and if you wish to do the same, kindly send your letter to our department Secretary, Faith Elford, at your earliest convenience so she can distribute it to everyone.
7. A parade of flags is scheduled to take place right after the Council of Administration meetings on Wednesday, June 10th, 2026, at 2:15 PM. Participation is encouraged, so please ensure your presence and be ready to line up accordingly. Our Americanism Chairman, Sally Lamers, will provide instructions on where to position yourself.
8. As I conclude my term as President in this final edition of S'More News, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for the privilege of serving you all. The connections I have built during this time have been incredibly fulfilling, and I appreciate the valuable experiences that have accompanied this role. This year, our department has made impressive strides, and I commend everyone for their hard work and dedication.

Please continue to "Be the Lighthouse in Someone's Storm as We Rise by Lifting Others".

Loyally,

Kim McWilliams
Department of WI President
815-999-9214
mrsffiemt@gmail.com



To be a part of this great organizations history, make arrangements as soon as possible to represent your Auxiliary at the “Department of WI 100th Convention Parade of Flags” June 10-Holiday Inn Rothschild, WI.

Be in the hallway of the meeting room to get a flag and YOU too will OPEN THE CONVENTION!

I will email more info



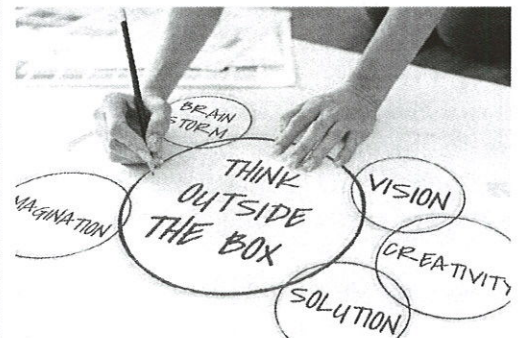
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Patriotic Instructor/Americanism
MAY/JUNE 2026 Bulletin
Sally Lamers
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This is the time of year where we reflect on the things we accomplished and plan goals for next year.

We take the time to pat ourselves on the back before we push up our sleeves and get to work once again for our veterans.

Try to figure out a unique way to reach a different youth group as well as remain a connection to those you mentored in the past.



End of Year Reports have started coming in and I truly believe we will have done an outstanding job proving PATRIOTISM is our passion. *Thank you for all you do!* 

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, 2027 in Eaton Rapids Michigan.

In reviewing the year end reports the question 'Did you promote the VFW National Home this year' is often, not always, marked no. I'd like to see all reports noted as yes! This is a valuable resource for two reasons. First for all our veterans, single, married or with children, who may need some community support! Take time to review the VFW National Home website to see who is eligible and get the word out to someone who may need a needle in a haystack! Commander Mike has completed recent updates of the infrastructure of the Home community, has worked with staff to revise the programs and staff have work tirelessly to support each and every veteran and family member to achieve their goals! Secondly, by promoting the VFW National Home this will create interest in supporting their efforts. The year-end reports show some Auxiliaries giving support with their first annual membership or donation- Congratulations! I challenge all to be sure to have a life membership for your auxiliary, this will help support all the needs at the Home. Online there is also a list of needs for you to review and donate, or to purchase to take on the trip and deliver to the Home in person.

Talking about a trip. The National Home trip will remain a bus trip with two overnights. The bus trip is a great way to cultivate our camaraderie with fellow VFW members and last year we had time to talk with the VFW commander, VFW president and many line officers that went on the trip. We have usually spent our nights at the hotel along with our partners for the weekend, the Missouri VFW. Come and make new friends!

Keep an ear out for the fundraiser for the VFW National Home trip. The funds will help defray the cost of the Bus. The District 9 VFW Riders Group is sponsoring the fundraiser, more to come!

Our theme this year will be Hocus Pocus! We start Saturday morning attending the Annual Meeting, with the National Home tour afterwards. Department of WI will be hosting the noon meal and games for the children. See you on the bus October 23-25, 2027!

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.

Plan your display for the Department convention! We had 19 entries for the Mid-Winter Buddy Poppy contest with anniversary poppies! Many great displays! I hope you are displaying yours during your Buddy Poppy Drives.

Get your Auxiliaries Buddy Poppy distribution into full swing! Remember to show your colors and share all the events your Auxiliary has participate in and hopefully recruit new members to the VFW!

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

Louise Engness, Department Buddy Poppy Chairman



May WI Veterans Assistance

To all our WI Auxiliaries who donated to WI Veterans Assistance I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. Our WI Veterans received help because of you! Your donations helped many vets with lots of things. I can't stress this enough - our WI Veterans.

Remember to earmark WI Veterans Assistance not Unmet Needs. I will have a total as soon as my VFW Chair gets it to me for Department Convention.

Mary Lou Duerr Chairman
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Marshfield, WI 54449



EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

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

Sherrie Rosenau

MAY/JUNE 2026

CONGRATULATIONS!

By now your Auxiliaries have held their elections for officers and they will be installed in May. Congratulations!

- Now is the time to appoint your Program Chairmen and secretary for next year.
- Are you unsure of your duties for the upcoming year? Check out Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation: <https://malta.vfwauxiliary.org/MemberResources/Download/868>
- If you aren't currently using Malta, please log in here: <https://malta.vfwauxiliary.org/> and create an account. There is so much useful information there.
- Do you know you can access a copy of the current Podium Book here: <https://malta.vfwauxiliary.org/MemberResources/Download/1148>

LET'S END THIS YEAR STRONG!

Even though the year is winding down, our work is never done. We need to continue to grow our membership as well. **Recruit, Retain, Revitalize!** We've done such a good job this year so let's keep it up!

MENTORING

Mentoring strengthens our organization by sharing knowledge, building confidence, and inspiring future leaders.

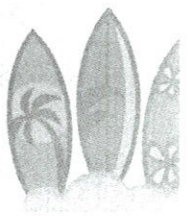
Through positive guidance and example, experienced members help new and continuing Auxiliaries grow in leadership skills, deepen their commitment to veterans, and feel valued as part of our mission.

A strong mentoring culture ensures continuity, preserves our traditions, and empowers every member to serve with purpose, pride, and dedication.

THANK YOU!

This will be my last bulletin for the 2025-2026 year. It was such a pleasure working with all of you. Thank you to those that stepped up with struggling auxiliaries to help them get back to a healthy status. Remember, you can always contact the Department with any questions or needs or suggestions. We are here to assist you!

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



Department Of Wisconsin S'more News
Hospital Report
May 2026

This year is quickly disappearing. Thank you to all Auxiliaries that turned in their end of the year reports to me and a special thank you to all of the many volunteers and the hours that you volunteered throughout the year!

I know that I have said it each time I gave you a bulletin, but volunteers are needed and that means "YOU". Please consider the joy you give at a VA Hospital or Nursing Home while helping to take them to their appointments, playing bingo or just sitting with them, writing letters for them, taking them for walks (strolls with wheelchairs). I know there isn't a hospital or nursing home in or near every town, but as an individual or combined as an auxiliary there are sewing opportunities (making bibs, wheelchair blankets, blankets for their beds, fidget boards (for those with dementia or dexterity problems). There are many opportunities available. Just ask a hospital volunteer that you know.

I hope to see many of you at the Department Convention in June and would like to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you again to all the VAVS Representatives at each of the facilities and all of the volunteers.

Hospital Chairman

Laurie Coffin

Laurie2bk@gmail.com



National Scholarships
May/June Bulletin

With convention approaching, I would like to thank you all for submitting your year-end reports and to let you know how much I appreciate what you do in your communities to promote scholarships for our youth. Please continue your efforts to promote our programs and to include as many youths as possible. We will finish the scholarship year with invitations to our top 3 artists and first place 3-D creator at a luncheon to honor them. I look forward to meeting them and hope you all will as well.

Thank you for a wonderful year.

Marge Southworth

National Scholarships Chairman

Department Jr. Vice President



**Lillian Campbell Medical Scholarship
Year in Review 2025-2026**

The Lillian Campbell Medical Scholarship continues to support students pursuing careers in the medical field while honoring the legacy of Lillian Campbell and the mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

Throughout this program year, extensive efforts were made to promote the scholarship and increase awareness across the Department. Through flyers, outreach to Auxiliaries, and community promotion, members worked to ensure that qualified students were aware of this valuable opportunity before the April 1ST application deadline.

As a result of strong promotion and support from our members, the Lillian Campbell Medical Scholarship Program successfully reached **\$10,000 in available scholarship funds** to assist deserving students pursuing careers in the healthcare field. The scholarship supports students entering many areas of the medical profession, including nursing, pharmacy, physician assistant programs, medical technology, physical and occupational therapy, dental programs, radiology, and paramedic training and continuing education. As of April 1, 2026, twelve applications have been received.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of WI Auxiliary remains committed to supporting education and investing in the future of healthcare through this meaningful program. Sincere appreciation is extended to all Auxiliaries and members who assisted in promoting the scholarship and helping make this year a success.

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“WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS”

“Where Faith Meets Service”

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Goss
Lillian Campbell Medical Scholarship Chairman



KEEP ON CRUISIN'



FLASH NEWS!

IMPORTANT!

FLASH NEWS!

IMPORTANT!

I am going to do the same challenge for May that President McWilliams did in April. Any Auxiliary that submits a membership application in May will be entered into a drawing for \$50.00 for that Auxiliary. Our April showers will bring those May flowers so let's grow our Auxiliary "gardens" and show growth this year by ending it being over 100% in CURRENT MEMBERS! We can do it!!! We have two months left and spring is a great time to get out there and make a difference.


KEEP ON CRUISIN'! Our "member"ship doesn't dock until June 30th. We have all the way to the end of our year, JUNE 30th, to recruit, retain, or reinstate a member so keep sailing along. Talk to your Post members and remind them that as Commander Ty says, "the Auxiliary is a force multiplier," and their families can make a difference by joining with us in the Auxiliary. Also, remember the rules changed a decade ago and the pool of potential members increased. So don't just focus on your current members and their families but reach out to the families of those members we have lost and encourage them to honor the service of their loved one by following in their footsteps and continuing to provide "Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes!"

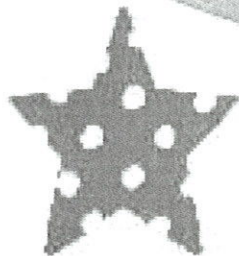
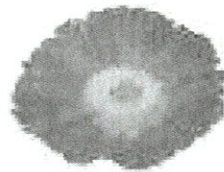
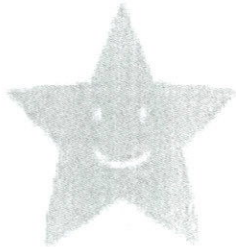
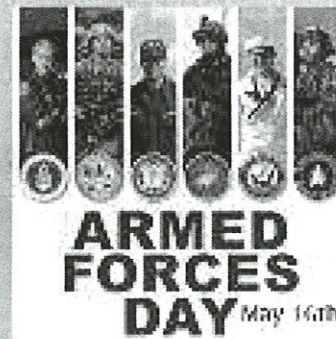
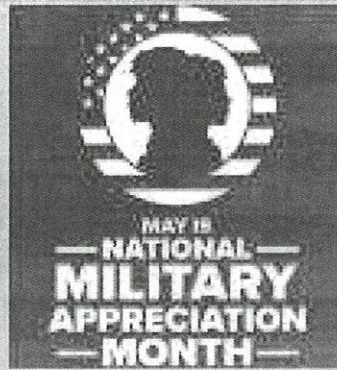




KEEP ON CRUISIN' – let's end the year with more current members than we started the year with. We are so close to starting our 2nd century with an increase in membership that stops the downward spiral. We can do it. Just **KEEP ON CRUISIN'!!!**

Charlene K Cobb
Membership Chairman

Membership teaser - several years ago I took an Alaskan cruise and at one of the stops we got on a train and went into Canada. It reminded me of when I was a little girl and my grandparents took me on my first train ride. It was fun to look out and see all the different sights along the way. Stay tuned for more later.

 **Veterans
Crisis Line**
DIAL 988 then PRESS 1



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin
Veterans and Family Support
April Bulletin 2026 www.vfwauxwi.org

Jody McKinney studebaker1971@gmail.com - Veterans and Family Support Chairman

Our National Ambassador's theme for 2025-2026 "A rising tide lifts all veterans to success!"

Our Department Presidents theme is "We rise by lifting others!"

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

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

First, I want to thank everyone for your support throughout this year. Your dedication truly makes a difference. If you have not yet mailed in your **Fill the Boot** funds, please send an Auxiliary's check to Lenore. The deadline is **May 1st**.

The **Calendar Raffle** deadline is **May 15, 2026**. These were to be turned in at your Spring Meeting to your department representative. If you still have tickets, please get them to Lenore before the deadline. Please remember these **cannot be mailed** per our raffle license. If you need help getting your tickets to Lenore, please reach out to **Jennifer Mauritz at 715-383-8628** before **May 7th**.

Please help us finish the year strong by supporting the **Ways and Means table** at the State Convention in Rothschild from **June 10th–13th**. We will have gift cards, take-home Paint and Sip kits, 50/50 raffles, and more. Be sure to stop by and check it out.

Thank you for supporting these efforts and for helping us make a meaningful impact in our communities.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our entire team for your hard work and dedication. We could not have accomplished everything we did this year without each one of you.

If you see **Aimee, Lerline, or Barbara**, please take a moment to thank them for their outstanding contributions. Their efforts have made a meaningful difference, and they truly deserve recognition.

“WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS”

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

The Way and Means Team

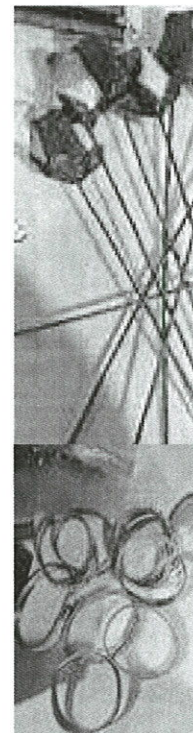
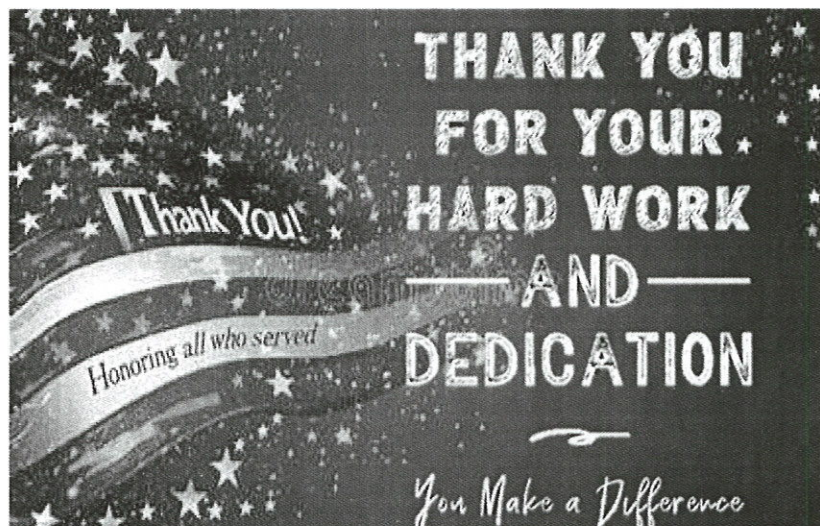
Jennifer, Aimee, Lerline and Barbara

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stillmanb@att.net



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

May / June 2026

VFW Auxiliary – Department of Wisconsin
Patty Jansky, Chairman / pajansky@charter.net



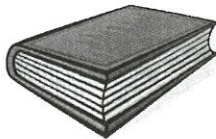
WE'RE NOT FINISHED YET!

Even though our *Illustrating America* contest has met its deadline and our Program Year is drawing to a close, our Auxiliaries should keep reaching out to our youth. Working with our boys and girls is a year-round venture that benefits us all. Today's youth are the future of our Auxiliary. These upcoming leaders will be the ones who keep our light shining and continue to make a difference in the lives of our military and veterans.



SPRING INTO SUMMER

With the warmer weather here, what are some things your Auxiliary can do with our kids? There is a need for coaches, umpires, referees, etc. for youth sports teams. Your Auxiliary could also offer to sponsor a team. In turn, you can encourage these youth and their families to participate in patriotic and veteran related projects. This is the season when veterans and elderly neighbors may need help with starting their gardens, planting flowers or cleaning up their yards. Also, why not invite your local youth to celebrate with you the many special days coming up, such as Loyalty Day, Mother's Day, Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Father's Day and July 4th. Keep sharing the love of books through our **Patriotism Through Literacy** or **Reading Buddies Programs**. Many libraries offer summer reading programs – check them out! Remember to show youth that we appreciate their kindness, patriotism and love for our veterans by giving them one of our Youth Activities Awards. Getting children involved in our Auxiliary projects is a wonderful way to spend time with them and show them what our Auxiliary is all about. It's a winning situation for us all!



As our Program Year winds down, I would like to thank again our Auxiliaries for continuing to promote our Youth Activities Program. Your support is greatly appreciated and truly serves our youth, veterans, and communities!

THANK YOU!!

MAY / JUNE 2026 LEGISLATIVE



Summertime is here - time to go to the fair! Many local representatives, as well as some from the U.S. Congress, spend time at county fairs, Memorial Day parades, summer concerts, and more. These are great opportunities to meet them face-to-face and have a few minutes to talk with them about VFW Legislative Priorities – and while you're at it, hand

them a brochure! Need more copies? Login in to **MALTA** and go to Member Resources -> Legislative – scroll down to the bottom of that page and select **VFW Priority Goals** – the printable brochure is there.

Congress will be taking summer breaks – time for representatives to come back to their home districts. Check individual websites for contact information for them not only in Washington, DC, but also back home in Wisconsin.

Take time to celebrate the **250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence this July 4th**. The United States is a young country by comparison to many in Europe, Asia, and Africa. Our history contains periods of great injustices, and we are still not perfect; however, we continue to strive to right past wrongs and move forward with fairness and freedom for all. That is what our veterans have and always will fight for, and why we, as members of the VFW Auxiliary, will always support them. We truly do “rise by lifting others” and that is worth celebrating.



Have a wonderful summer! Enjoy the natural beauty and festive energy that is Wisconsin.

“We Rise By Lifting Others”
Gail Bensen, gsbbensen@gmail.com
(518) 209-8362 (talk/text)