



2021-2022 Officers

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6:00 PM Meetings: 2nd Thursday
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Visit our Facebook Page...
American Legion Auxiliary #189

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Dear Members,

Where has the year gone? Not long ago we were enjoying summer-like days. Fall has arrived, temperatures are dipping, and the holidays are just around the corner. It has been nearly two years since Covid made its appearance, affecting our lives as never before. Yet, we have remained strong, altering where necessary; continuing to carry out the ALA Mission. Together, we are making a difference!



On the Calendar...

Halloween: The parade returned and with Mother Nature's cooperation, it was a pleasant Fall day with more participants. Our Legion Family combined efforts, treating costumed children, with members of the Honor Guard assuring a safe parade route. Fun for all!

Veterans Day: Thursday, November 11th – Keck's window display will again honor/remember our area veterans and those currently serving. Set-up will take place in the afternoon on the 6th and remain until the 12th. Stop by!

Proceeds will benefit Quilters on the Rock. This local group crafts beautiful quilts to donate to veterans. The proceeds will provide funding for material and other supplies.

Bake Sale & Mini-Craft Fair: Saturday, November 20th – 10 AM – 3 PM
Lindberg's By the River – If you're interested in donating homemade baked goods &/or handmade crafts for the event, please let me know so we can plan a great shopping experience. As usual, package and price so it's ready to go. Set-up will happen Friday, November 19th at 4:30 PM. Items can be dropped off then, as we're also offering baked goods from 5:00 – 7:00 that night. Drop in and stay for a great fish fry! We'll be there Saturday morning at 9:30, so items can be dropped off then as well.

Christmas at the Theater: Saturday, December 5th – Towne Cinema
\$3 tickets for all! Legion Family kids and those with a parent currently serving are free. An adult is required to stay with the child(ren). Concession stand specials will be offered. This year's new movie debuts around Thanksgiving and will be featured for this event. Disney's **Encanto**, is set in Columbia and focuses on the Madrigals. Encanto bestows talents to its children – except for Mirabel. Join us to see what happens! Doors open at 9:30 AM, with the movie shown at 10:00, followed by goody bags for the kids! You don't have to have a child to attend. Kids at heart are welcome!

An RSVP is required by November 30th. Call 920-261-8161 or e-mail mmrtpetrie@charter.net. If leaving a message or e-mailing, please include the number of children, whether they are Legion Family, those of military currently serving, *or* public if you're inviting friends outside the Legion Family, and the number of adults.

Unit Christmas Party: Friday, December 10th – Lindberg's By the River
5:30 PM Cocktail/Social Hour – 6:00 PM Dinner – Cost \$12 – Members decided on a two-piece fish fry, which includes coffee, a sweet treat, tax, and tip. Joey has reserved the Tea Room for us, so we'll have our own space.





President Diane's theme... *Salute, Serve, Celebrate our veterans, military, their families and our communities.*

Diane and our National President, Kathy Daudistel, encourage us to take care of ourselves. We don't always think about being caregivers because we're often caring for family, but we can't help others if we don't take care of ourselves.

Did you know that a recent Rand Corp. military caregiver research study noted that there are about 5.5 million military and veteran caregivers in the U.S.? Many of these are Auxiliary members!

Updates...

Please contact the Secretary or me with address, phone, and/or e-mail changes to assure up-to-date files.

50/50 Raffle: Could you use a little after-Christmas cash? If so, you'll want to get in on the Unit's raffle. Tickets are \$5 each and a winner will be drawn in January. If you'd like to sell tickets, that can be arranged. They will be available at the November meeting and at the Bake Sale/Craft Fair.

Supporting Veterans, Military & Their Families through... Poppy Distribution - Troop Homecoming Events and Send-Offs - Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service - Service to Veterans Volunteers - Christmas Gift Shop - Troop Care Packages - POW/MIA Remembrances - Blue Star Banners – Stand Downs

We'll be playing Bingo after dinner, so bring \$7 to \$10 worth of Christmas-wrapped gifts for prizes. **An RVSP is required. Contact me by December 2nd.** You can pre-pay by sending me a check (808 E. Cady St., Watertown 53094) or wait until that night. Checks should be written to ALA Unit 189. Our treasurer will then write a check for the group. We are foregoing the December meeting for a night of Christmas fun!

Membership...

Unit 189 membership stands at 50%. If you haven't paid your 2022 dues yet, why not take care of it now? Seniors are \$30 and Juniors are only \$6. Renewing now will assure continuous years of membership and perks. With the holidays fast approaching, consider gifting a membership.

Renewals can be paid at the November meeting, by contacting National directly at 317-569-4570 (Monday – Friday: 7 AM – 3:30 PM), or by visiting www.alaforveterans.org, where you can print out your membership card. Be sure to have your member ID number handy. (It's on your card.) If paying multiple dues at a time, call to do so. Visa, Mastercard, & Discover credit/debit cards are accepted.

Units are eligible for monetary awards throughout the year, and your prompt renewal allows us to toss our hat in the ring. Should we reach 100% by Veteran's Day, we'll be included in a \$100 drawing. Throughout the year, a member signing a new member (Junior or Senior) could win \$75!

Good news! We will be welcoming a new member soon. Remember...*I have a little gift for the first three signing a new member!*

We **Salute** those who served and are currently serving., we **Serve** through program participation, and now we can **Celebrate!**

Wisconsin is currently in 2nd place nationally, first in Central Division (this covers 10 states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, West Virginia, & Wisconsin), and 2nd in 2nd District! Way to go, ladies!!!

Also...Wisconsin was awarded the Best VA&R Program in Central Division. Five awards are presented – one in each division. Thanks for all you do for our veterans! Whether crafting, donating, or simply remaining a card-carrying member, you helped earn this award. One member does make a difference!

I hope you'll join us for some or all of the events.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

Stay well!

In Service Not Self,

Mary Petrie, Unit 189 President

