



### Happy Valentine's Day

Greetings Auxiliary Members!

Hopefully our Wisconsin groundhog, Jimmy, was correct when he did not see his shadow and we will be having an early spring. I am sure that everyone is hoping for that to happen.

We are trying to attain a 100% membership for our unit. Vi Kaun has worked very hard to attain this. She has contacted everyone to make sure they have paid their dues. We are still short of 100% and are looking for new members. If you know of anyone that would like to join the largest female volunteer or-

ganization, please invite them. Vi will gladly send them an application and a list of the various perks that go along with membership.

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, we are teaming up with our Legion and SAL to distribute poppies at Miller Park. This is also our normal Poppy Weekend, so please mark your calendars. We will need all the volunteers that are available. The Legion members are also trying to procure a group of tickets so that anyone wishing to attend the game can do so. They would like if everyone could sit together and maybe even get special pric-

ing, details to follow. Also, our District 4 Spring Conference is on Saturday May 8, at Clifford's Supper Club in Hales Corners. Please plan on attending this event as it is always a fun and informative time.

As always please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or concerns.

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### Children & Youth ...and Scholarships

Our project for *Box Tops for Education* and *Campbell's Soup labels* is an on-going project. Please bring your items to any unit meeting or place them in the box in the east entry of the Post. Thank you to everyone that has participated in the project this year.



Scholarship forms are now available! The Department website [www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org) has complete information and all the forms that are needed to apply. Anyone that is interested in applying for these scholarships must submit their completed application to Education Chairman Diana Sirovina by March 1st.

### UNIT OFFICERS:

- ◆ **President:**  
Sue Hembrook
- ◆ **1st Vice President:**  
Nancy Wang
- ◆ **2nd Vice President:**  
Ruth Predith
- ◆ **Historian:**  
April Kollmorgen
- ◆ **Chaplain:**  
Shirley Scott
- ◆ **Secretary:**  
Joan Kroll
- ◆ **Treasurer:**  
Audrey McClain
- ◆ **Parliamentarian:**  
Diana Sirovina
- ◆ **Sergeant-at-Arms:**  
Mary Ann Kaebisch
- ◆ **Asst Sgt-at-Arms:**  
Dolores Miksic



### UPCOMING DATES:

- |               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| Feb Meeting   | Tues 2/16 |
| GW Luncheon   | Mon 2/15  |
| 4th District  | Sat. 2/27 |
| March Meeting | Tues 3/16 |
| Vets Luncheon | Mon 3/29  |

*February is Americanism month*

During Americanism month where we stop to remember what it means to be an American, it is also important to talk about the symbol of our freedoms, The American Flag.

More than 200 years ago, on June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress established a national flag for the United States of America. With 13 stars and stripes depicting the states, the flag had three colors: Red, representing hardiness and courage; White, representing purity and innocence; and Blue, representing vigilance and justice.

Because the Continental Congress did not specify the arrangement of the stars or the direction of the stripes, there was much confusion. There was an array of local, state and even homemade Stars and Stripes being flown in the United States for many years. It wasn't until 1912 that the flag

was assured a uniform appearance, when President Taft signed an executive order prescribing the size, shape and positioning of the flag's components.

Today, our American Flag is a the most recognized and respected symbol freedom, justice and liberty on the face of the planet.



Remember to teach our youth the importance of saluting our flag by placing their right hand over their heart when it passes by or when reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. This is our way of showing respect to flag that is our symbol of freedom.

Please join us in Congratulating Americanism Youth Conference winner Samantha Zager, who attended Badger Girls State last June through our Unit.

By submitting an essay discussing "Civic Education and Why its Important to me", Samantha was in the running and later chosen as one of the winners.

The Americanism Youth Conference at Freedoms Foundation takes place at Valley Forge March 4-7, 2010.

Focusing on discussions about current issues facing the United States, sessions and seminars approach these issues from a historical and global perspective. The program allows students to explore constitutional law and government with their own interpersonal skills.



"THE  
CONSTITUTION  
ONLY GIVES  
PEOPLE THE  
RIGHT TO  
PURSUE  
HAPPINESS,  
YOU HAVE TO  
CATCH IT  
YOURSELF"

BENJAMIN  
FRANKLIN

*National Convention is coming to Milwaukee*

Members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion will be converging on Milwaukee late in August to attend their respective conventions. National Convention Chairman Diana Sirovina is looking for volunteers to be pages, greeters, guides and a lot more. If you are inter-

ested, please contact Diana for a Volunteer Application. Volunteers are needed for duties at the Midwest Center and the Hyatt Regency downtown and will be required to stand for long periods of time (sorry no sitting jobs this time). If you can volunteer for a morning, an afternoon, a day or the entire event, it will be

an experience you will remember for a long time.



## *The story of the Four Chaplains*

Known as the Four Chaplains, Alex Goode, George Fox, Clark Poling and John Washington were four United States Army chaplains who gave their lives to save other soldiers during the sinking of the USS *Dorchester* during World War II.

Here is their story:

It was the evening of Feb. 2, 1943, and the U.S.S. *Dorchester* was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 service men, merchant seamen and civilian workers.

Once a luxury coastal liner, the 5,649-ton vessel had been converted into an Army transport ship. The *Dorchester*, one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy, was moving steadily across the icy waters from Newfoundland toward an American base in Greenland. SG-19 was escorted by Coast Guard Cutters Tampa, Escanaba and Comanche.

On Feb. 3, at 12:55 a.m., a periscope broke the chilly Atlantic waters. Through the cross hairs, an officer aboard the German submarine U-223 spotted the *Dorchester*.

The U-223 approached the convoy on the surface, and after identifying and targeting the ship, he gave orders to fire the torpedoes, a fan of three were fired. The one that hit was decisive--and deadly--striking the starboard side, amid ship, far below the water line.

The ship's Captain, Hans J. Danielsen, alerted that the *Dorchester* was taking water rapidly and sinking, gave the order to abandon ship. In less than 20 minutes, the *Dorchester* would slip beneath the Atlantic's icy waters.

Aboard the *Dorchester*, panic and chaos had set in. The blast had killed scores of men, and many more were seriously wounded. Others, stunned by the explosion were groping in the darkness. Those sleeping without clothing rushed topside where they were confronted first by a blast of icy Arctic air and then by the knowledge that death awaited.

Men jumped from the ship into lifeboats, overcrowding them to the point of capsizing, according to eyewitnesses. Other rafts, tossed into the Atlantic, drifted away before soldiers could get in them.

Through the pandemonium, according to those present, four Army chaplains brought hope in despair and light in darkness. Those chaplains were Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed.

Quickly and quietly, the four chaplains spread out among the soldiers. There they tried to calm the frightened, tend the wounded and guide the

disoriented toward safety. By this time, most of the men were topside, and the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight.

When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men.

When giving their life jackets, Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew; Father Washington did not call out for a Catholic; nor did the Reverends Fox and Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to the next man in line.

As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains--arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers.

Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. *Dorchester*, 672 died, leaving 230 survivors. When the news reached American shores, the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and heroic conduct of the four chaplains.

A one-time only posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961.



Alex D Goode



George L Fox



Clark V Poling



John P Washington



## Community Service Hours

Vi Kaun: 2 hours greeter, 2½ hours money counter, 2 hour communion set up, 2 hours cutting coupons, 5 hours calling sick friends, 10 hours Condo Association Christmas Party

Veronica Garvey: 14 hours clipping coupons, 2 hours baking for Church

Joan Kroll: 4½ hours shopping for a friend

Shirley Scott: 1 hour donating blood, 22 hours knitting for Church

Debbie Lynch: 20 hours greeter at church, 2 hours ticket taker for concert, 4 hours cutting coupons, 3 hours signing cards, 2 hours food server at Church, 2 hours cleaner at Church,

Marilyn Reese: 36 hours knitting hats & scarves for church

Corinne Christensen: 12 hours Milwaukee County Zoo

## Human Concerns

Thinking of you cards were sent to: Marion Nickel, Jane Corbett, Doris Benedict, Audrey Lukaszewicz, Dolores Miller, Mary Peiffer, Josephine Ewert, Betty Smith, Rae Kinn and Sara Maes

Get well cards were sent to: Delores Harris and Lorraine Henningfeld

Sympathy cards were sent to: Delores Bauza, Mildred Wing family, Joyce Ertel, Ellamay Bajanen, Susan Middlestead, Sandra Kaebisch and Trish Wischer

## Membership

We currently have 206 members paid for 2010. We need a total of 226 to be 100% for the 10th year in a row! If you know if anyone with eligibility, please ask them to be a part of the largest women's patriotic organization in the world!



## Gateway to Services: Resources for Military Families

Do you know a military family in need of free lawn care and landscaping? How about a deployed service member who could use temporary foster care for their pet? Wondering where to find scholarships for military spouses or pro bono legal aid for veterans? Looking for ways to help military children cope with a parent's deployment?

These are just a few of the more than 100 resources you'll find on the brand new *Gateway to Services* on the American Legion Auxiliary's website.

For more information and to view services, please visit:

<http://www.legion-aux.org/AboutUs/GatewaytoServices/index.aspx>

TREATS FOR FEBRUARY: MARY ANN KAEBISCH & PAULA WARZALA



If you have not received this newsletter electronically and would like to - please send me an email.

Happy Valentines Day!

Unit Public Relations Chairman:  
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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**  
[WWW.HATODD537AUX.ORG](http://WWW.HATODD537AUX.ORG)