

Greetings Auxiliary Members,

As we begin the new year 2023-2024 there are some notes that need to be shared with you.

The first is this is your first Unit Mailing – September.

Changes with the unit mailing are this:

- The unit will not receive a unit mailing **if we have not received your 2023-2024 Unit Officer's list.**
- **Units can receive two copies of the Unit mailing, one paper and one email.**
- Anyone in your unit may request an email copy!
- The website will have not only the unit mailing but all of the new forms and information on the Auxiliary will be available to everyone!

We are hoping that we can cut back on the postage amounts and that is why we are attempting this change and we are expecting to hear from those of you who have issues with the email copies. Please let us know as we want to work with you.

For those of you who do not know that Christy Avant was hired as the new Department Secretary back in March of this year.

ALAMIS – MEMBERSHIP

Have you heard the news; Units can pay their memberships on-line?

Here is the scoop if you are interested. First and foremost, to use the ALAMIS system **your Unit must have a debit or credit card for paying the dues!**

If you have that then you need to request this on a National form thru the Department of Minnesota office. I have enclosed the form in this unit mailing.

There is a fee for this service, and it is billed annually and runs on a calendar year. As of January 1, 2023, the fee structure is going to change to the following:

Unit Full Access (i.e. can pay dues) - \$20.00 per user

Unit write access (address and profile changes only) - \$15.00 per user

Unit view only - \$10.00 per user

****UNITS CAN HAVE UP TO 2 USERS****

District view only - \$10.00

Once again, these prices go into effect January 2023.

Once the form is received in the office, verified, and entered into ALAMIS and is set up you will be sent an email and you will take a tutorial on to use ALAMIS. Once that is completed you are on your way.

You can change your user's by sending in a change form and the annual fee will be billed to you each year by the department office.

Any questions, please feel free to contact the office by phone or email.

THANKS!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 26 – 31st – National Convention – Charlotte, North Carolina
September 4 – Labor Day – Department Office Closed
September 6 – 10 – Legionville Camporee
September 9 – Harvest Rally – Membership – Legionville
September 17 – Budget Meeting – Finance Committee - Legionville
September 23 – ALA Hospital & Home Representative Meeting – Buffalo
October 26-28 – Fall Conference – River's Edge Convention Center – St. Cloud
November 11 – Veteran's Day
November 13 – American Legion Auxiliary Birthday 104
November 23 – 24 – Thanksgiving – Department Office Closed
December 9 – Pearl Harbor Rally – Paynesville
December 25th & 26th – Christmas – Office Closed
January 15 – Martin Luther King Day – Office Closed
February 3 – Sweetheart Rally – Forest Lake
February 19 – President's Day – Office Closed
March 2 – Appreciation Rally - Montgomery
March 12 – The American Legion Birthday 105
March 29 – Good Friday – Office Closed
April 12-13 – Dept Jr Conference – 9th District Hosting
April 15 – Purple Up Day!
April 27 – Department President Testimonial – Melrose American Legion
April 28 – May 2 – National President's Tour
May 27th – Memorial Day – Office Closed
June 9 – 15 – Girls State – Bethel University
July 10 – 13 – Department Convention – Wilmar Conference Center

POSITION OPENING: Department Treasurer

Resumes with cover letters are being accepted for the position of Department Treasurer for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota. Persons who are interested must be an American Legion Auxiliary member or eligible to join.

The Treasurer performs a variety of complex administrative accounting tasks, applying accepted procedures to manage accounting and financial records, to produce financial records and reports and to support the Department Executive Secretary. This is a responsible position and requires initiative and independent judgement to ensure the efficient implementation and completion of all tasks assigned. This is a full-time position and is based in the St. Paul office. This position requires some weekend meetings and may include out of state travel.

Applicants must have a degree in accounting or three years equivalent experience preferably in a nonprofit environment.

Resumes and cover letters should be sent to: Christie Avant, American Legion Auxiliary Department Headquarters 20 W 12th St W, St. Paul, MN 55155 Or emailed to: christie@mnala.org. A job description and application form are available on request.

This position is open until filled.



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Minnesota
2023-2024

Sharon Cross, Department President
September 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

ARE YOU READY TO DANCE INTO THE HEARTS OF VETERANS?

Let's put on our dancing shoes and dance right over to our first membership rally. Department Membership Chairman Jenny Nelson is taking us "Cruising The Sea For Membership." What fun we will have dancing the samba or the mambo as we cruise from island to island. Our target has been acquired. Minnesota's goal is 29,370 members. You do not have to wait for your dues notice to pay your dues. Our first Department membership rally is September 9, 2023, at Legionville Camp 'O Ree and every Unit President and their leadership should be the first to get their dues paid to their Unit membership chairman and get onboard our cruise ship! Bring your camper or stay in the dorms. Can you imagine how great it would be if every member of our great organization brought in just one more member? Every American Legion member, active-duty military and their families are welcome to join us at the rally. Come for a day or come for the weekend. All funds raised help support the Legionville Safety Education Center in Brainerd. The Legionville camp is unique to Minnesota and Camp O' Ree is a Family event.

Save the date! Fall Conference is being planned. Thursday evening October 26 through Saturday October 28th. Let's kick off our Fall Conference with an informative gathering. How will you get there, by plane, train, automobile, motorcycle, or trike? Friday morning join us for the opening session full of information on our programs. Plan on joining us for some fun for Junior and Senior Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, Legionnaires and American Legion Riders on either Thursday or Friday evening. More information to follow. We will finish up Saturday morning, get together for lunch and join the Legionnaires for a joint session in the afternoon. Afterwards you will be tripping the light fantastic as you sashay your way home full of information to share with your Unit members. Remember to bring that new member or even an old member that hasn't attended a Fall Conference in a while.

Here's a little peek into our travels so far. Junior Fun Weekend at Legionville was very well attended. Everyone had a lot of fun mixed with learning. They listened to each other share what they do in their meetings. How they help in their communities and what they do for the veterans. They learned about Believet and flag folding from Department Honorary Junior

President Taylor. They had icebreaker time to get to know each other, an afternoon swimming, fun meals, games, snacks and smores by the campfire.

Were you ever lucky enough to take part in escorting, setting up or just able to see the American Veterans Traveling Tribute Vietnam Wall and Cost of Freedom as it travels and is displayed in Minnesota? What a humbling experience. A big thank you goes out to Legionnaire Randy Olson for being my escort on his trike as we participated in the escort for the AVTT Vietnam Wall. Almost 70 motorcycles and trikes along with the police, fire, ambulance, a WWII Willis jeep, and others in cars escorted the wall from Fulda to Slayton, Minnesota. We participated in the set up along with the local football team and girls volleyball team that also volunteered their time to help. Commander Paul Hassing and I were treated like royalty by our hosts from the 2nd District. The wall was all packed up and moved to the Eagles Healing Nest by August 23rd. If my trike is up and running at that time, then I will have ridden with that escort also.

The Commander and I were invited to participate in the Lino Lakes parade. Such a fun, well organized community event and again we were treated royally. What a beautiful Minnesota day for a parade. August finished off with the National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. Minnesota did well and you will hear more on that at our Fall Conference in October. Anyone who joined the pre-convention committee meetings heard firsthand from our National officers.

Department President
Sharon Cross

“Dancing into the Hearts of Veterans”



Sharon's Project:

– President Sharon has chosen the purchasing of two players piano's, one for Bemidji and another for Montevideo as the Preston Veterans home already has a piano. She is hoping to raise \$18,000 for each piano and any funds over and above the cost of the pianos will go to the Preston Veteran's home.

AMERICANISM



What is Americanism?

According to the 1925 Americanism Commission of the American Legion - "Americanism is a term of vast, significance. In its large conception, it embraces every phase of an individual's relation to the community, state, and nation."

American Commission of 1930 – "Primarily, Americanism begins in the home. Only when one understands and appreciates and shows willingness to preserve the ideals and traditions of American home life at his own fireside will he fully discharge his obligations as a citizen."

Americanism Defined in the Americanism Handbook of the Sons of the American Legion:

Americanism is the love of America; loyalty to her institutions as the best yet devised by man to secure life, liberty, individual dignity, and happiness; and the willingness to defend our country and flag against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

It is a vital, active, living force. Americanism means peace, strength, the will, and the courage to live as free men in a free land. It means a friendly hand to people everywhere who respect our institutions and our thinking. It is not a word; it is a cause, a way of life – the best way of life ever known – a challenge and a hope in this world.

Americanism is an ideal of loyal patriotism, religious tolerance, righteous freedom, fearless courage, honest integrity, abiding faith in the commanding destiny of the United States, and a fathomless love for the principles that led our forefathers to found this country. It is complete and unqualified loyalty to the ideals of government as set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. It is respect for, and ready obedience to, duly constituted authority and the laws of the land. It is freedom without license, religion without bigotry, charity without bias, and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty for our nation and for our posterity.

What does the American Legion Auxiliary say?

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit Guide says the purpose of the national Americanism program is to promote patriotism and responsible citizenship. The Americanism work of the Auxiliary includes all activities that strengthen American ideals and uphold the principles of democracy. The security of America lies in citizens who have a true understanding, love for those ideals and principles upon which the nation was founded, and a willingness to perform these duties even at great personal sacrifice. The work of the Americanism program is educationally based and divided into three phases: work with youth, work with adults, and work within the community. All matters about the flag or patriotic education are rightly classified as Americanism activities.

As an American Legion Auxiliary member, how would you answer the following question?

"What kind of an American am I?"

Let us show how we, as American Legion Auxiliary members, are proud of our patriotism. We can do this by remembering or honoring our fellow Americans on the following patriotic days in September.

Patriots Day – September 11

In the United States, Patriot Day occurs on September 11 of each year in memory of the people killed in the September 11 attacks of the year 2001.

Those we lost September 11, 2001, will forever hold a cherished place in our hearts and in the history of our nation. By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001, (Public Law 107-89), Congress authorized the President to designate September 11 of each year as “Patriot Day” to perpetuate the memory of those who perished in the attack on America, and to pursue peace and justice in the world and security at home. Appropriate ceremonies and activities include a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 a.m. EDT, remembrance services and candlelight vigils. Flags should be flown at half-staff on Patriot Day.

POW/MIA Recognition Day – September 15

POW/MIA Recognition Day honors the commitments and the sacrifices made by our nation’s prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. National POW/MIA Recognition Day is one of the six days specified by law on which the black POW/MIA flag shall be flown over federal facilities and cemeteries, post offices and military installations. By custom, it is on the third Friday in September.

US Constitution Day – September 17

This day commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787 by 39 delegates to the Constitutional Convention. This document established the framework of our government and the rights and freedoms that “We the People” enjoy today. In 1940, Congress designated the third Sunday in May as “I am an American Day.” In 1944, “I am an American Day” was promoted by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. On February 29, 1952, Congress moved “I am an American Day” observation to September 17 and renamed it “Citizenship Day.” In 2004, Congress renamed the holiday “Constitution Day and Citizenship Day” and mandated that all publicly-funded educational institutions and all federal agencies provide educational programming on the history of the American Constitution on this day.

Gold Star Mother’s/Family’s Day – September 24

Gold Star Mother’s/Family’s Day honors mothers and families who have lost a service member in the line of duty or in support of military activities. The name comes from the custom of families hanging Service Flags in the window of their homes. The Service Flag has a star for each family member in the armed forces. A blue star represents a family member in active-duty service, a silver star represents a family member wounded or injured in a war zone and a gold star represents a family member killed during active-duty and stands for sacrifice made for honor and freedom. The American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. was founded shortly after World War I by Grace Darling Seibold, who lost her son, George Vaughn Seibold, during the war. Gold Star Mothers are often socially active, but are non-political. Gold Star Mother’s Day was designated by Congress on June 23, 1936. In September 2012, President Barack Obama rededicated the last Sunday in September as “Gold Star Mother’s and Family’s Day.”

Mary Kuperus

Department Americanism Chairman

wmkuperus@tds.net

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

September 2023

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is a national grant assistance program that provides temporary emergency assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have endured a significant financial setback as the result of an act of nature or another personal crisis. Members helping members – that’s the American Legion Auxiliary’s mission of **“Service Not Self in Action”**.

Hard times can fall upon us at any moment. That’s when the American Legion Auxiliary is committed to help.

AEF was established in 1969. Five decades later, the AEF is still helping fellow Auxiliary members get back on their feet. Since the Auxiliary Emergency Fund was established, more than \$6 million has been awarded to more than 6,500 members.

Learn more at AEF@ALAforVeterans.org. **Applications are now only processed online at www.mnala.org**. Go to forms for the ALA Emergency Fund Application.

Temporary assistance is considered under the follow guidelines:

- ✓ Members whose dues are current and have maintained their dues for three consecutive years are eligible to apply. One grant per grantee in a 12-month period will be awarded.
- ✓ Natural disasters or weather emergencies leave a member without shelter or food.
Financial crisis hits – leaving a member without resources for shelter, food, or utilities, and there is no source of assistance available.
- ✓ Extreme circumstances: educational training who is lacking the necessary skills for employment.
- ✓ Maximum award is \$2,400 on a case-by-case basis.
- ✓ Funds cannot be used for medical expenses or debts such as credit cards.
- ✓ The grant committee directs payments to a provider such as a utility or mortgage company.

AUCTION



Annual Silent Auction

Bigger and better than ever! Hope we can count on **YOU!**
Thursday, October 26 through Saturday, October 28th. We will be open for set up by 3 p.m. on Thursday. Funds raised will benefit our Auxiliary Emergency Fund coffers. Please bring items to donate such as theme baskets, patriotic items, quilts, pictures, jewelry items, jams, jellies, munchies, pies, bake goods, etc. The list is endless. Just use your imagination. We will again have \$2.00 grab bags. I will have available paper bags so bring along those small items as well. So far, we have one generous donor of some large pictures – of watercolor, wildlife, etc.

Also, remember to bring donations of monies from individual members, units, and districts. A special thank you gift will be given by me to individuals donating \$50.00 or more. Also, we will be doing a district challenge. Challenge will be posted at the Auction. Results of auction will be shared on Saturday morning.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. I will attempt to answer your questions or put you in touch with someone who would be in the know.

Margee Keller
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman
301 Maple St.
Crookston MN 56716
Email: margeekeller@hotmail.com
Cell: 218.349.4566

Children and Youth Program

September 2023



The American Legion Auxiliary Children and Youth Program is to work with the entire American Legion Family to promote protection, safety, and care of children and youth in our communities especially those of military and veterans.

With it becoming Fall and school starting work with your Education Chairman to start a school supply drive for kids in your community.

Or do a fall event for kids in your communities such as a trip to a local orchard. Also you could start planning a Halloween Party for children in you communities.

Remember to always watch in your communities for youth that deserve the Youth Hero Award as well as the Good Deed Award.

Brandi Christensen

Chairman

brandichristensen21@gmail.com

763-843-0875





Community Service

September 2023

"Love cannot remain by itself- it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action and that action is service." Mother Teresa

9/11

DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE

The September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance or 9/11 Day is a federally-recognized National Day of Service that happens in the United States on the anniversary of the 9/11/2001 terrorist attacks.

Reportedly 35 million Americans observe 9/11 by engaging in some form of charitable service, making it the largest annual day of charitable service in the United States. We, as American Legion Auxiliary members, Units, and Districts are challenged to volunteer in service to others on this day set aside for service and remembrance.

Following are a few ideas for Community Service projects-

...Volunteer to clean-up a Veterans/Seniors yard in your community

...Organize a Unit garage sale with proceeds going to your local food shelf

...Volunteer to assist on an Eagle Scout project in your community

Always wear your ALA apparel or pin, take photos for your local paper, and have American Legion Family membership applications available.

Throughout this year, please share your Community Service activities and events with me, so I can share your awesome ideas and your Unit number, with other Units and Districts monthly in this newsletter.

When you attend the Fall Conference please come and check out the Community Service table! More information will be in the October unit mailing.

Wanda Seidler, Community Service Chairman

Education

Purpose: To promote The American Legion Auxiliary's role in providing quality education for children and adults through classroom activities, literacy programs, scholarship promotion and support education beyond high school, with special emphasis on children of veterans and service members.

I am so excited to be your Department Education Chairmen this year.

American Education Week is November 13-17, 2023, this would be a good chance to have a local post member/veteran go to the schools and maybe tutor or help reading to the children in the libraries. You will have to contact schools in your area to see if they would like to have a veteran come in.

Teacher Appreciation week is May 6-10, 2024. You can honor more than just the teachers there are a lot of people in the schools that help our children don't forget your bus drivers. Many ways to do this like bringing in fruit and cards to say "thanks".

Give 10 for Education program is another way to help schools. Every Unit, no matter the size, can help with this. You can do this all year long in the beginning of the school year and maybe right after Christmas break. Will have forms at Fall Conference for you to keep track of the items you collect. Right now, the dollar stores have tons of items that the schools will need.

Another one is **Box Tops for education**. All you need to do is download their app and pick your school scan your receipt within 14 days and your school will receive \$.10 per item. Here is the website to download the app from and see the nice long list of products: www.boxtops4education.com. On the website is also a long list of items that can count.

Please watch out for the scholarship information in the next newsletters. I would like to try and put more emphasis on the Non-Traditional Student Scholarship. All the scholarships are very important this one seems not to get many applications for. Watch the Unit mailings for all the deadlines we don't want to leave anyone out.

Be creative and have fun there are tons of ways to help our children of veterans.

Lorinda Kies
Department of MN Education Chairman



GIFT SHOP



As we start our new auxiliary year, I am happy to say we can now get back in to see our veterans in the VA hospitals and homes. That being said we will also have three new homes opening this auxiliary year, we had hoped to have them open by now but there have been some delays.

Your donations to our Gift shop are especially needed this year as we plan on having in-person gift shops this year. It makes it seem more like Christmas if they can pick out presents for their families and have them wrapped, rather than just a gift card.

As you can imagine, due to the new homes and the cost of everything goes up and we would like to encourage each unit to include us in your budget for the 2023-2024 auxiliary year.

We will also be in need of more volunteers this year, so please consider helping at one of the gift shops. Your hours at these gift shops can be used on your VA & R report at the end of the year.

Please take the time to stop by one of our veteran facilities and spend some time with our veterans.

Bev Grose
Gift Shop Chairman

Sandy Wersal
Gift Shop Committee Member





American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State

After President Sharon asked me to be the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota Girls State Program Chairman, I contacted the Girls State Director to see if I could attend the 2023 session and she said, "Yes". It was quite a week. We were there to teach our students, but I learned a lot. I was a counselor in one of the cities – go Bass.

This annual week is such an opportunity for students and as American Legion Auxiliary units, we can offer students a week of learning and fun. Sponsoring a youth is a chance for our units to encourage our youth to become good citizens - citizens that care about their community, state, and nation – just like our preamble states. They have the opportunity to embrace the week to learn about our government, participate in elections (both as a candidate or supporter). They also participate at the State Capitol in either House and State Chambers or in a mock trial in a State Courtroom. They put on a talent show and this past year, they produced skits on game shows.

Your ALA MN Girls State committee recently held their first meeting. You might think that it is too early to start planning the 2024 week, but you are wrong.

First, you are probably planning your year and more importantly, your budget. Please budget to send at least one student to Girls State – maybe more. The registration fee will remain at \$300 per student. If your normal budget doesn't have room for a sponsorship, consider holding a fundraiser just for this purpose. Advertise it as a fundraiser to send someone to Girls State. Ask a past Girl Stater to be there to answer questions. Put up a tri-fold about the week. Walmart has a smaller bi-fold available. You can use it as a bi-fold or cut it in half, do two posters, putting one in your hall and one at your local school.

Second, I would ask all units to consider holding an information meeting for the junior students in your community. Invite them and their parents to learn more about the program. Serve them pizza or Sloppy Joes and chips – everyone likes food. Again, ask your past Girl Staters to attend to answer questions. I found that most parents, along with the students, didn't have any idea what the program involved. **WE NEED TO CHANGE THIS!** Don't forget to use your local papers for articles on the program. If you sent someone in 2023, get their picture in your paper.

Lastly, I would suggest that you find someone in your unit that has a HUGE interest in the youth of your community. Ask them to be your unit chairman. We want our units involved in choosing the right student for this program.

Over the next few months, the newsletter will provide more information to help you work through the process. Please contact us with your questions or how we can help. There were close to 200 students at Bethel College this year. Prior to Covid, the numbers were closer to 400. We need to move our numbers up to give more students this experience.

Linda Kelly, Chairman
lkkauxiliary@gmail.com
507.421.8270



*"A generation which ignores history has no past and no future."
Robert Heinlein, American author (1907-1988)*

Historians have a vital job in our units and districts. They are keeping an accurate and meaningful record of accomplishments and significant events. These accomplishments and events build the future. We need to look to our past to find meaning and possible changes to the ever changing world our American Legion Auxiliary is impacting.

As you begin to write your unit's history. Start out by writing month by month. This is a great way to stay organized. Don't just rely on one individual to organize your history. Make this a group effort. At the close of your meetings, share what has been added from the month to your unit history with all your members. Also, ask members for pictures they may have from events to add to your history for the year. Share what you are adding to the next month's history for the unit with your members.

Here are some questions to ask as a unit when beginning to write this year's history for your unit.

- What events are you proud of from last year that you'd like to continue?
- What changes have you made as a unit that have been beneficial?
- What events are successful for your unit?
- How are you impacting your community as a unit?
- What ways are you honoring your veteran's in your post?

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Enjoy collaborating and writing your unit history!

Renee Suess
Historian

Junior Activities

The Junior Activities program started out the year at their Annual Junior Fun Weekend. There 26 juniors and 19 adults. They were busy with cleaning flower beds and planting flowers and just having fun and getting to know one another.

Our Honorary Department Junior President for the year 2023-2024 is Taylor McElroy. Her project is Believet. Believet works with preparing service dogs for our Veterans. Her theme is **"A companion for our comrades."** Her symbol is a camouflage paw print.



Taylor would like the junior members to recruit and mentor new members, as well as doing fund raisers so they can donate to her project.

As senior members we need to encourage juniors to help as they are able in their respective units alongside the seniors with auxiliary functions and in the community also. Senior members can help with the **patch program**, also to inform them about **scholarships** and **recognition certificates** that are available. Encourage your juniors to talk about what they have done in their units.

Taylor would like to see the juniors at **fall conference** in October where we will be doing a fun craft project. She would also like to know when and where midwinters and junior district meetings are being held.

The Junior conference will be held in the 9th district April 12th and 13th there will be more information coming on that.

God Bless America

Sally Strasser
Junior Activities Chairman
Sstrass@hotmail.com



**IF YOUR ACTIONS INSPIRE OTHERS TO DREAM MORE, LEARN MORE, DO MORE AND
BECOME MORE, YOU ARE A LEADER.**

**BE A CHEERLEADER FOR
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

Being a leader in any organization but especially in the American Legion Auxiliary, we need to be the person who is enthusiastic and inspirational. It is a person who encourages and openly supports the success of another person or their cause. They exhibit excitement: through demonstration and unswerving commitment to our vision.



They motivate others by their enthusiasm. These same characteristics are associated with a cheerleader. So, this year's let's inspire creative thinking and encourage our members to try something new, in our Unit programs.

GO GET EM, TEAM ALA!

LEADERSHIP GOLDEN RULES

"SET AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW"

Good leaders do not tell you what to do; they encourage your creativity or will show you how it is done. When followers see you getting your hands dirty, they buy into your vision and get the much-needed inspiration to achieve the unthinkable.

UNIT MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Each year your unit has a chance to honor a very special unit member. This member is willing to help wherever she/he is needed and volunteers to head up any special project or fund raiser your unit may be having. This unit member is active in the community and may be involved with other organizations. Why not nominate this member for Unit Member of the year?

Requirements:

1. Open to senior members who are not currently, nor have ever been, in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than unit president.
2. Units: submit a narrative of 1000 words or less to your Department Leadership Chairman Karla Otterness Describe the nominee's accomplishments and activities and include the nominee's name and address.
3. Submit only one entry per unit, entry is due April 20th as I need to judge them and send the winner to national by June 1st
4. Your entry must be on the official Unit Member of the year application form and must be emailed to me t.d.news@share@gmail.com.
5. You can find the Unit Member of the year form on the National Web Site alaforveterans.org. You will need to go to forms and click on the applications for Unit Member of the Year.
6. Selection is based on accomplishments, activities, etc. For the current administrative year.

Leadership
Department Leadership Chairman
Karla Otterness t.d.news2share@gmail.com
320-420-8163



Legislation

September 2023

This new year, as members of the American Legion Auxiliary, we will continue to support the legislative priorities of the American Legion.

Did you know that in 2019 the American Legion Auxiliary was invited to attend the Minnesota Commanders Task Force and have representation as an ex-officio non-voting member in support of our veterans?

The Minnesota Commanders Task Force, created in 1988, is comprised of nine congressionally chartered veterans service organizations. The elected leaders of these organizations meet monthly to discuss and advocate for veteran legislative needs.

They have three stated purposes which include a unified Minnesota Veterans Legislative agenda document for state and federal legislators and to represent and act as a single voice at the Capitol, to act as an advisory board to the Minnesota Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, and to work as a unified veterans leadership team when establishing veterans programs to form partnerships in the rollout and execution of new programs when possible.

As the Legislation Chairman I am the ex-officio member and represent the American Legion Auxiliary. The first meeting of the year was held in August to start compiling and reviewing the 2024 legislative priorities. Once these priorities are voted on, I will share in a unit mailing. I will be attending these meetings monthly and sharing what I can with members.

THE MINNESOTA COMMANDERS TASK FORCE



American Legion
Department of
Minnesota



The Minnesota
Department of The
American Veterans
Association (AMVETS)



Disabled American
Veterans, Department of
Minnesota



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

Paralyzed Veterans of
America - Minnesota
Chapter



Military Order of
the Purple
Heart Department
of Minnesota



Jewish War
Veterans of the
United States
Department of
Minnesota



Marine Corps
League
Department of
Minnesota



Department of
Minnesota
Veterans of
Foreign Wars



Vietnam Veterans
of America -
Minnesota
Chapter

Robin Dorf
Legislation Chairman



Let's "Cruise the Sea for Members!"

Our organization's survival depends on Membership!

This year's theme is Cruising the Sea for Members. Refresh your vacation wardrobe and let's cruise for those fish in "Sweet Membership Sea"! They are out there, we just need to find 'em, sign 'em up and keep 'em! We can do this together!

First, Know your Why! Why did you join? Why did you stay? What is your passion? What gives you joy? Maybe it is the Junior or a female Veteran that you can focus on! Be mindful to show your joy when having a conversation with a potential member to help Veterans! Smile when you talk!

Question...So where do we find these fish in the Sea? Answer...Everywhere we go! Some are just waiting to be asked! It is up to all members to expand our Legion Family. Here are some places to find them:

School board members, your hair stylist, realtors, boy scouts, girl scouts, parents at sports activities, church, your banker, waiters/waitresses, cab and uber drivers, health care workers, people you are sitting at the airport with, on a plane or a bus, your co-workers, your neighbors, classmates, Facebook friends, jury duty pals, tax preparer, Legionaries' wives or husbands, female veterans, reconnecting with members you have missed and anywhere we mingle with strangers.

Next, Ask Questions! Ask if they have anyone in their family who has served in the Military. Do they like to volunteer? What are their hobbies? Maybe there are members in their family who also qualify. Offer them a small gift if they join the Auxiliary together. Make it fun!

Sometimes people know a lot about us and are just waiting to be asked to join! We have all been there...We are standing next to a Veteran and their spouse and never ask the question. Last week I was talking to a Veterans wife and her answer was "People keep asking me to join" I was glad to hear that our people were actively working on recruiting new members!

Your District Membership Chairmen have the itinerary for our journey to the islands we will visit. Our first stop is located near "Anticipation Municipal". The Island is called "CORNCOB BEACH". That is where we hope to be at the Harvest Rally on September 9 with completing 40% of your goal! I will have prizes!

Here are your District Membership Chairmen with Captain Jenny!

1 st District	Sharon Hammon	1stadjutant@gmail.com
2 nd District	Pam Sandland	djs1947@charter.net
3 rd District	Deb Chicos	debchicoslegion@gmail.com
4 th District	LeeAnn Warner	ravenala577@gmail.com
5 th District	Jill Davis	alajilldavis@gmail.com
6 th District	Dori Hamilton	dorikh@icloud.com
7 th District	Sandy Wersal	sandywersal@gmail.com
8 th District	Tamara Opland	tamaraopland@gmail.com
9 th District	DonnaRae Jacobson	drjacobson@gvtel.com
10 th District	Bethany Dickert	bethany.a.dickert@gmail.com



I want to thank all of the District Membership Chairman for 2023-2024. Please help and support them!
May you have Fair Winds and Following Seas!

Jenny Nelson
Department Membership Chairman
Flipflops55025@gmail.com

Dear Legionnaires, We have a great idea to expand the Legion Family. We want to work with you. We have a great community to draw from to pull us all together. Together we are stronger. How can we help you. When paying other dues. Stay in touch.

If someone in your unit is struggling, pay their dues.

RECRUIT 1!

Here are some people we should be talking to about Membership!





Memorial/Chaplain

I would like to start out by using our Department President Sharon's theme, "BE the ONE to Dance into the Hearts of Veterans."

Be the One to have a shoulder for someone to lean on, an ear to listen, or even a hand to hold. Everyone needs someone. So Be the One. God was the one for us. So, let's pay it forward and be the one there for our veterans. Let's show them the dance that we have for them in our hearts.

This year I would like every unit to send me who their Chaplin is. I would also like you to remember to say a prayer before your meeting and at the closing of your meeting.

Remember to do a memorial service for the deceased members of your unit.

Keep a list of these members throughout the year because it will be needed when preparing for your annual reports. Please make sure that when sending your deceased members list in, to also include your District Chaplin and your Department Chaplin. They will need them to do their annual reports and for the memorial services that are held at District/Department Conventions.

I would like to continue with the Past Dept. Chaplin Donna's request that every unit send me the names and address of the deceased member or one of their family members. This way I can send out a card from the American Legion Auxiliary Dept. of Minnesota. You can send it either snail mail or email. I feel this is a very important way to remember the ones we lost and that it needs to continue.

I am also requesting prayers so I can make a prayer book for our Dept. President Sharon. It can be a long prayer, a short prayer, or an emotional prayer. You can either send me one that has been used before or write one of your own.

I would like to close with this prayer:

Dear God,

I pray that you continue to bless our hearts with courage to face difficulties and overcome obstacles. Give us the wisdom and patience to reach our goal by helping veterans. Remind us to always look to you for strength and guidance in every step of the way in helping our veterans. Help us Be the One to dance into the hearts of veterans everywhere. May God bless you and everything you do for our veterans.

Amen

Robin Olson
Dept. of MN Chaplain & Memorial Chairman
734 Cleveland Ave W
Winnebago, MN 56098
507-525-3790
Email: rrde2002@gmail.com

National Security

August - September 2023

There is a lot of information that falls under National Security. This is the first. One of the best sites, for those of us concerned with our POW/MIAs, is www.DPAA.mil. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

Their vision is: A world-class workforce fulfills our nation's obligation by maximizing the number of missing personnel accounted for while ensuring timely, accurate information is provided to their families.

Mission: Provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation.

Values: Compassion: We conduct our work and communication with empathy.

Integrity: We live our lives with truthfulness and objectivity.

Teamwork: We are committed and willing to do all we can to assist each other, thereby strengthening our collective ability to partner with family organizations, veterans, public and private entities, foreign governments, and academia to achieve our mission.

Respect: We always demonstrate the utmost regard for one another, our partners, and our missing personnel and their families.

Innovation: We apply fresh thinking and continuously improve everything we do.

They publish information on those that they find and identify. But only after the immediate families are notified. The following link will take you to the most recent soldier accounted for:

<https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/News-Releases/PressReleaseArticleView/Article/3493454/soldier-accounted-for-from-korean-war-thurman-a/>

Thurman is from Oklahoma and will be buried in Broken Bow, his home town, on October 21, 2023. His family is one of the lucky ones. They get to say goodbye. So many do not.

Some of the information available on their site is the count of those missing. You can search by State or Era. You can also submit your information regarding a missing family member to help them identify those who have been found but not identified.



Annual POW/MIA Recognition Day posters are now available. To order a DPAA poster, visit [DPAA Posters \(crmforce.mil\)](http://DPAA Posters (crmforce.mil)). DPAA has released a POW/MIA Poster for 2023. This site shows all their posters from 1999 thru 2023. They are free, but you'd need to order immediately to still receive them. You can download the images and print them. You can scan the QR Code on this poster. It will come up with a link that will take you to this site.

I'll put some point of interest in the Unit mailing every month and will try to furnish you with links for the information provided.

God bless you and God bless the U.S.A.
Carol Kottom, Department National Security Chairman

This calendar is from www.military.com site. If you click on the description in column one, if there is additional information, this link will take you to that site.

September	
National Suicide Prevention Month	Month of September
National Service Dog Month	Month of September
Labor Day	First Monday of September
V-J Day (Victory over Japan)	Sept. 2
Patriot Day	Sept. 11
Constitution Week	Sept. 17 -23
Hispanic Heritage Month	Sept. 15 – Oct. 15
Air Force (USAF) Birthday	Sept. 18
Office of the Sec. of Defense Birthday	Sept. 18
Air National Guard Birthday	Sept. 18
National POW/MIA Recognition Day	Third Friday in September
Gold Star Mother's Day	Last Sunday in September
Warrior Games	2023 dates TBD (San Diego)
Yom Kippur	Sept. 24 (begins), Sept. 25(ends), 2023
Rosh Hashanah Begins (at sunset)	Sept. 15 – 17, 2023
VFW Day	Sept. 29
October	
Breast Cancer Awareness Month	Month of October
Ms. Veteran America Pageant	Dates Pending
Columbus Day	Second Monday in October
U.S. Navy (USN) Birthday	Oct. 13
Military World Games	October (Summer Games to be held in 2023) TBA
Day of the Deployed	Oct. 26
Navy Day	Oct. 27
Halloween	Oct. 31
November	
National Veterans & Military Family Month	Month of November
Warrior Care Month	Month of November
National Family Caregivers Month	Month of November
Daylight Savings Time Ends	Nov. 5, 2023
National Veterans Small Business Week	Nov. 1-5, 2023
Marine Corps Day/Birthday	Nov. 10
Veterans Day	Nov. 11
Armistice/Remembrance Day	Nov. 11
Thanksgiving Day	Fourth Thursday in November
December	
Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday	Dec. 1
#GivingTuesday	Tuesday after Thanksgiving
National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	Dec. 7
U.S. National Guard Birthday	Dec. 13
National Wreaths Across America	Dec. 18
Hanukkah Begins	Dec. 7 – Dec. 15, 2023
Christmas Day	Dec. 25
Kwanzaa	Dec. 26 – Jan. 1
New Year's Eve	Dec. 31
Other	
Alive Day	Anniversary Date
Red Shirt Friday	Every Friday
Wedding Anniversary	Anniversary Date



POPPY

Marsha Bible – Department Chairman
5602 West Oakes Drive
St. Cloud, MN 56303
Marsha.bible@gmail.com
320-492-8977

The Poppy program is the American Legion Auxiliary's major source of income that can be used to promote and carry on the ALA's key mission – veterans, active-duty military, and their children. Our areas of focus this year will be:

- Promote the poppy program and increase revenue.
- Educate our communities on the meaning and history of the poppy.
- Celebrate National Poppy Day
- Increase the number of veteran poppy makers in our department.

I encourage everyone to utilize the new Program Awareness page for the Poppy program that can be found on our national website on the member login page. You must be registered as a member to have access to this information.

Most of you are aware that we are down to a few veteran poppy makers in our Department. Last year we had to purchase thousands of poppies from out of state which made our costs higher than they should be. Our beautiful paper poppy that we offer to the public for a donation has a tag on it that states "Handmade by Veterans". We are currently in the process of seeking out veterans who would be willing to assist us in our poppy making.

More information will be in next month's mailing and the Unit Guide on a few new initiatives that National President Lisa Williamson would like to see our members participate in.

We will also have information on the Poppy Poster Contest and the Little Miss Poppy program as well.

We have had the tradition of having 2 Poppy Contests at our Fall Conference and Department Convention. So, we will once again have those contests with a bit of a twist. I'm looking forward to seeing all the beautiful creations that our members can make to promote awareness of our poppy. We will have cash prizes again and a People's Choice category. Voting for the People's Choice Award will be by cash donations to Department President's Special Project of purchasing 2 player pianos for the Minnesota Veterans Homes. Get your Junior members involved also. They are members too!

Poppy entries must be brought to Department Fall Conference at the River's Edge Convention Center by Friday, October 27, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

CONTEST #1 - Poppy Holiday Display

using the ALA poppy, create a holiday display of your choosing using our Department President Sharon's theme – "Be The One to Dance into the Hearts of our Veterans". The white tags should be removed from the entry. Be creative!

National Poppy Chairman Norma Tramm has asked that we share our poppy creations with the public to make them more aware of our program. She suggests that you display them in a local business window or donate them to local nursing homes, our VA hospital facilities or to one of our Minnesota Veterans Homes.

CONTEST #2 – Poppy Craft Project

Using a poppy theme but not using any of our ALA poppies, create a craft project depicting the poppy/poppies using our Department President Sharon's theme – "Be The One to Dance into the Hearts of our Veterans". This project can be sewn, knitted, crocheted, embroidered, painted, drawn, diamond dotz, etc. – the skies the limit. Let's show that we can promote the poppy without actually using our precious poppies since we are in such short supply.



American Legion Auxiliary Public Relations

Greetings from your Department Public Relations Chairman. My name is Sharon Hammon, I am from Unit 161, LeRoy, MN which is in the First District. I have two agendas for this upcoming year, to try and promote Public Relations better in the Legion Family and get our Juniors more active.

First, I would like to promote more use of the new Department of Minnesota Brand Mark (See image below) and get Units to post events they do on face book more.

Second, we need to get our Juniors more involved, and I think by doing short you tube videos about the American Legion Auxiliary and posting them on face book we can get the word out about the great things the Auxiliary does. As you already know, young people today live on social media and that is the way we will have to get information to them.

Sharon Hammon – Department Public Relations Chairman
507-923-7205
1stadjutant@gmail.com



Risk & Compliance

(formally known as the Audit Committee)



The goal of the Risk and Compliance Committee is to promote financial oversight of moneys collected and spent by the Auxiliary units, districts, and Department.

Since this is the end of our fiscal year, units and districts are reminded to complete an annual audit of their books and to make sure they file their 990 so that they can maintain their tax-exempt status. It is very expensive to renew your tax-exempt status if this is not done.

Units and districts also need to have this process done to be in good standing with the State of Minnesota.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.
relvecrog@frontiernet.net or call me at 218-549-3614 or 218-513-9973.

I will try to send you in the correct direction.

Thank you,

Roberta Elvecrog

Risk and Compliance Committee Chairman





Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

“Be the “Be the One to Dance into the hearts of Veterans”

The purpose of the American Legion Auxiliary’s Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee is to promote programs and services that assist and enhance the lives of veterans and their families, ensuring restoration and/or transition to normally functioning lives. (*Standing Rules #6, Core National Standing Committees*)

This program is one of our largest and includes Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Service to Veterans, Gift Shop and the VA homes and hospitals representatives. Remember that every Unit is not expected to work every programs. Select the program(s) that are the right fit for you Unit and members in your community. These programs continually need support from Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services (VAVS) volunteers. Any assistance you can give to veterans and their families is greatly appreciated.

Your support of our veterans is shown by your participation projects or donations that help with arts, crafts, and hobbies. Please remember to show your support in a variety of ways to the caretakers of these veterans. Sometimes they need some TLC or some down time. Please help wherever and however you can. The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary recognizes and supports aiding of our homeless veterans. Our organizations know that this support of our homeless veterans requires a sustained coordinated effort. Consider networking with other local organizations to find ways to assist our homeless veterans.

Does your unit have members that are enrolled as VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) volunteers? This is a great opportunity if you live near a VA facility. Become a regularly scheduled VAVS volunteer. They are always in need of volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a VAVS volunteer, please contact the Voluntary Services Coordinator at your local facility or our Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary Hospital and Home Representative that President Sharon has appointed to serve for the 2023-2024 year.

Fargo VAHCS	Becky Olson, Moorhead Unit #21
Fergus Falls Veterans Home	Doris Lafayette, Barnesville Unit #153
Hastings Veterans Home	Darlene Wondra, Montgomery Unit #79
Luverne Veterans Home	Jeanette Mertens, Redwood Falls Unit #38
Minneapolis Veterans Home	Sandy Gibson, Rosetown Unit #542
Minneapolis VAHCS	Mary Ann Davis, Lester Tjernlund Unit #451
Silver Bay Veterans Home	Nancy Hopper, Two Harbors Unit #109
Sioux Falls VAHCS	Diane Strassburg, Adrian Unit #32
St. Cloud VAHCS	Jan Benson, Waite Park Unit #428
	Carol Kottom, Buffalo Unit #270
Bemidji Veterans Home	Denise Milton, Bagley Unit #16
Montevideo Veterans Home	Jennifer Hurst, Montevideo Unit #59
Preston Veterans Home	Wanda Prescher, Stewartville Unit #164

Please take the time to thank these wonderful members for volunteering their time to help our veterans and their families. Their dedication and the countless hours that these members give to our veterans is indeed an awesome service. Please contact these representatives to find out what their facilities need the most. Monetary donations are always welcome. Please send your donations to the Department Office and not directly to the VA Homes or Hospitals.

The following programs have been approved for solicitation of funds:



- ❖ American Legion Auxiliary Hospital Program
Money received to this fund allows the hospital and home representatives to provide clothing, personal care items, special outings, events, treats, cards, etc. for all veterans utilizing their facility.
- ❖ \$5 Bill Shower
Provides a \$5 bill to all veterans in the 12 VA facilities for personal use.
- ❖ Gift Shop
Provides gift to hospitalized veterans, nursing home residents and their families during the holiday season.
- ❖ Fisher House
A home away from home for spouses or families with a loved one receiving care in a major VA medical facility. Donations cover support supplies, food, personal hygiene items and other special needs for the families.
- ❖ Overall Support of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program
Supports all activities we do in the VA&R program.

Sponsored in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the American Legion Auxiliary, and Help Hospitalized Veterans, the **National Veterans Creative Arts Festival** is a week-long event that showcases the creative achievements of veterans receiving treatment at VA facilities. Participation is open to any veteran enrolled at a VA Medical Center, an outpatient clinic or living in a state veterans' home. Veterans who participate in the Creative Arts Festival at their local facility are afforded an opportunity to qualify for the National Festival. The **National Creative Arts Festival** recognizes progress and recovery through recreation therapy and raises the visibility of the creative achievements of our nation's veteran after disease, disability, or life crisis. Approximately 140 medal winning veterans are asked to participate at the national Creative Arts Festival each year. Veterans participate in many mediums, including visual arts, such as painting, sculpting, and drawing. They also participate through creative writing, dance, drama, and music.

The Department of MN ALA has a fund available for participants in the **Minnesota Veterans Creative Festival**. We are **not asking** for donations for this fund at the present time, but we are working with the VA Hospital Medical Centers to assist area veterans to apply for grant money from this fund. This fund allows grants to veterans for artistic kits, paint, pens, pencils, performing arts costuming, leather, or music. This fund may also assist with clothing and funds for other expenses to compete in the Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Veterans must

apply for this assistance. If you know of a veteran interested in participating the MN Veterans Creative Arts Festival and they have a specific need, encourage them to apply for this grant.

The local Minnesota Veterans Creative Arts Festival offers many opportunities for Auxiliary members to volunteer. Contact your local facility Recreation Therapist for more information and the dates of their festival.

Judy Ackerman, VA&R Chairman

507-848-0145

judya2002@gmail.com

To All Veterans



Whether At Home Or Abroad

Active Duty ~ Reserves ~ Retired

All Americans Say:

THANK YOU!

PLAQUE & AWARDS 2022-2023

AMERICANISM

Pierce J. Clark Plaque		Faribault Unit 43	District 3
Freedom Award	No Entry		
Patriot Award	No Entry		

Americanism Essay Contest

Class I - Grades 3 & 4

1 st Place	Rowen Pulkralck	Hutchinson Unit 96	District 3
2 nd Place	Audrey Soltvedt	Karlstad Unit 445	District 9
3 rd Place	Belvia Ogata	Belle Plaine Unit 144	District 3

Class II - Grades 5 & 6

1 st Place	Mya Haspel	Barnesville Unit 153	District 9
2 nd Place	Quinnlyn Gleason	Belle Plaine Unit 144	District 3
3 rd Place	Slade Schaunaman	Browns Valley Unit 58	District 7

Class III - Grades 7 & 8

1 st Place	Brett Hanson	Browns Valley Unit 58	District 7
2 nd Place	Brennan Cooney	Elysian Unit 311	District 3
3 rd Place	Lili Wiens	Lewisville Unit 561	District 2

Class IV - Grades 9 & 10

1 st Place	Ely Goodnough	Mpls-Hellenic Unit 129	District 5
2 nd Place	Megan Odenthal	Montgomery Unit 79	District 3
3 rd Place	Emma Malicki	St. Paul Park Unit 98	District 3

Class V - Grades 11 & 12

1 st Place	Savanah Berg	Belle Plaine Unit 144	District 3
2 nd Place	Ellery Liverseed	Faribault Unit 43	District 3
3 rd Place	Kenly Hallstrom	Northome Unit 499	District 8

Class VI - Special Needs

1 st Place	Ava Szydel	Northome Unit 499	District 8
2 nd Place	Jackson Cooney	Elysian Unit 311	District 3
3 rd Place	no entries		

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Milo Blanich Children and Youth Plaque		Elk River Unit 112	District 6
Glen H. Dornfeld Children and Youth Plaque		No entry	

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Department Community Service Plaque		Blackduck Unit 372	District 6
Starr Community Service Plaque		Elysian Unit 311	District 3
Senior Volunteer of the Year Award		No Entries	
Junior Volunteer of the Year Award		No Entries	

EDUCATION

Coppa Starr Education Plaque		Chaska Unit 57	District 3
------------------------------	--	----------------	------------

HISTORY

Betty Gartner Plaque	Charlene Wilkes	Hackensack Unit 202	District 6
Stickley Gifford Plaque	Liv Efta	Argyle Unit 353	District 9
District Historian Plaque	Ginny Schulelke		District 3
Women's History Activity Plaque	Karen Rasmussen	Faribault Unit 43	District 3

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Starr Lauck Americanism Plaque	No Entry
Cederberg & Langenbrunner Community Service Plaque	No Entry
Miller Outstanding Junior Member Plaque	No Entry

Poppy Memorial Day Wreath Contest

Class I	First Place	Hattie Efta	Argyle Unit 353	District 9
	Second Place	No Entry		
Class II	First Place	Elizabeth Jarshaw	Argyle Unit 353	District 9
	Second Place	Ashlynn Anderson	Stewartville Unit 164	District 1
Class III	First Place	Eva Biffert	Stewartville Unit 164	District 1
	Second Place	Gracyn Swanson	Warren Unit 27	District 9

Poppy Corsage/Boutonniere Contest

Class I	First Place	Hattie Efta	Argyle Unit 353	District 9
	Second Place	Josephine Andringue	Northrop Unit 522	District 2
Class II	First Place	Izzy Slovinski Zipperer	Stewartville Unit 164	District 1
	Second Place	Ashlynn Anderson	Stewartville Unit 164	District 1
Class III	First Place	Lily Lovas	Morris Unit 29	District 7
	Second Place	Makenna Swanson	Warren Unit 27	District 9

Poppy Centerpiece Contest

Class I	First Place	Hattie Efta	Argyle Unit 353	District 9
	Second Place	Lou Jarshaw	Argyle Unit 353	District 9
Class II	First Place	Mattea Efta	Argyle Unit 353	District 9
	Second Place	Cloe Carter	Sanborn Unit 296	District 2
Class III	First Place	Taylor Wentz	Warren Unit 27	District 9
	Second Place	Brooke Miller	Warren Unit 27	District 9

LEADERSHIP

Florence Hamel Plaque	No Entry
-----------------------	----------

LEGISLATIVE

Marie Harding Plaque	Shirley Fredrick	Hackensack Unit 202	District 6
----------------------	------------------	---------------------	------------

MEMBERSHIP

Adam Victory Plaque –	Not Awarded
Jorgens Plaque –	Not Awarded
Scallen Carlson Plaque – (Fall Conference)	9 th District – Cheryl Grover, President
Carlson Hollenbeck Plaque – (Department Convention)	3 rd District – Kim Carlander, President

NATIONAL SECURITY

Lonergan Plaque	Diane Hayes	Detroit Lakes Unit 15	District 9
Dorothy Pearl Civil Preparedness Award	No Entry		
Military Support Award	Diane Hayes	Detroit Lakes Unit 15	District 9
National Security Program Award	Karen Rasmussen	Faribault Unit 43	District 3

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

Kienholz Walker Plaque	Karen Rasmussen	Faribault Unit 43	District 3
Unit Member of the Year Award	Bonnie Luedloff	Waconia Unit 150	District 3

POPPY

Vanlandingham Poppy Plaque –		Argyle Unit 353	District 9
------------------------------	--	-----------------	------------

Poppy Poster Contest

Grades 2 & 3 Class I – 1st Place

Class I – 2nd Place

Class I – 3rd Place

Grades 4 & 5

Class II – 1st Place

Class II – 2nd Place

Class II – 3rd Place

Grades 6 & 7

Class III – 1st Place

Class III – 2nd Place

Class III – 3rd Place

Grades 8 & 9

Class IV – 1st Place

Class IV – 2nd Place

Class IV – 3rd Place

Grades 10 & 11

Class V – 1st Place

Class V – 2nd Place

Class V – 3rd Place

Grades 12

Class VI – 1st Place

Class VI – 2nd Place

Class VI – 3rd Place

Special Needs

Class VII – 1st Place

Class VII – 2nd Place

Class VII – 3rd Place

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Ruth Hutton Plaque		Faribault Unit 43	District 3
Best Unit Report	Shari May	Spicer Unit 545	District 7
Social Media – Unit		Chaska Unit 57	District 3

These were not recorded

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

Binger Plaque – Faribault 43 District 3
Junior Award - No Entries

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Americanism – Karen Rassmussen Unit 43 Faribault District 3
Auxiliary Emergency Fund– Upsala Unit 350 District 6
Children & Youth – Charlotte Gardner Unit 567 St. Michael District 10
Community Service – Unit 372 Blackduck District 6
Constitution & Standing Rules – Edith Foren & Maria Roark Unit 58 Browns Valley District 7
Education – Sharon Mendenhall Unit 112 Elk River District 6
History – Charlotte Wilkes Unit 202 Hackensack District 6
Junior Activities – Mary Efta Unit 353 Argyle District 9
Leadership – Shirley Fredricks Unit 202 Hackensack District 6
Legislation – Libby Fairchild Unit 57 Chaska District 3
National Security – Unit 43 Faribault District 3
Past President's Parley – Karen Rassmussen Unit 43 Faribault District 3
Poppy – Unit 353 Argyle District 9
Public Relations – Jennifer Stoltz Unit 57 Chaska District 3
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation – Tamara Thayer Unit 311 Elysian District 3

American Legion Auxiliary Fall Conference

Thursday, October 26, 2023

CRAFT CLASS

Time: (right after workshop) 7:45pm to 9:00pm

Paint your own 12 by 12 inch ~ Wooden Quilt Block.

In a Flag pattern of red, white and blue, to hung on the wall.

This class will be led by Sandy Wersal.

Class level is easy and will be held in the hotel.

Class size is limited to first 40.

Pre-registration ONLY. Cost \$25.00.



Send a check payable to: Sandy Wersal

16667 Co Rd 9NE New London, MN 56273

Name _____

Email _____

Cell Phone _____

2023-2024 Request for Department President's Visit

Please complete all information and return to:
American Legion Auxiliary - Department of Minnesota
 State Veterans Service Building - 20 West 12th Street #314 - St. Paul, MN 55155
 Email: christie@mnala.org Fax: (651) 224-5241

Unit Name and Number _____ Unit Secretary _____

1st Choice

Name of Event _____				
Date of Event _____	Time of Event: Social _____		Lunch/Dinner _____	
	Meeting _____			
Event Location _____				
Complete Address of Event _____				
Contact Name & Phone Number _____				
Contact Email Address _____				
Indicate all who will be in attendance:				
Auxiliary _____	Legion _____	Juniors _____	SAL _____	Public _____
Estimated in Attendance _____	Is a guest allowed? _____			
Expectations of President	Bring brief greetings _____	Main speaker _____		
	Other (explain) _____			

2nd Choice

Name of Event _____				
Date of Event _____	Time of Event: Social _____		Lunch/Dinner _____	
Event Location _____				
Complete Address of Event _____				
Contact Name & Phone Number _____				
Contact Email Address _____				
Indicate all who will be in attendance:				
Auxiliary _____	Legion _____	SAL _____	Juniors _____	Public _____
Estimated in Attendance _____	Is a guest allowed? _____			
Expectations of President	Bring brief greetings _____	Main speaker _____		
	Other (explain) _____			

President Sharon Cross would love to visit and participate in your unit events - it doesn't matter what they are. Don't hesitate to request her to attend one of your activities, programs or unit meetings. The only time President Sharon is unavailable is during dates that activities are already planned for our Department and National organization.

Unit Request for ALAMIS - 2024

Member Name _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Member ID Number _____

Unit Number _____

District Number _____

_____ No thanks, our unit already has ALAMIS. We just need the connection to change to the person noted above..

_____ Are you replacing someone? If so, who? _____

Your ALAMIS connection fee for 2024 is \$10.00.

**This fee is based on the calendar year and not the Auxiliary fiscal year.
(January 1 – December 31)**

New Rates Go Into Effect January 1, 2023

Unit Full Access (i.e. can pay dues) - \$20.00 per user

Unit write access (address and profile changes only) - \$15.00 per user

Unit view only - \$10.00 per user

****UNITS CAN HAVE UP TO 2 USERS****

District view only - \$10.00

Once again, these prices go into effect January 2023.

Please return this form to Department office

deptoffice@mnala.org

with payment made out to: ALA Department of MN (earmark: ALAMIS registration).

Women's Veteran's Appreciation Event in September

The Women's Clinic is having an Appreciation Event on September 26th and is looking for the attached items as give aways for the women Veteran patients attending the event. The event is meant to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the women's clinic and will be held at the Base Camp in Fort Snelling. Please, contact me with any donations.

Thank you so much for your consideration of assisting with this event!

Rachel C. Hammer

Director, Center for Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE)
(Formerly Voluntary Service)
Minneapolis VA Health Care System
612-467-3203 (Office)
612-369-8414 (Cell)

Here are the ideas of gift baskets and some things that could be included (this list is not intended to ask for all of these things in each basket):

1. Movie Night In
 - a. Netflix or Prime Gift card
 - b. Popcorn and bowl/tins
 - c. Box Candy (Twizzlers, Mike and Ikes, M&M's, Milk duds, etc.)
 - d. Comfy Socks
 - e. Bottled Root Beer or Craft Soda
 - f. Blanket
 - g. Popcorn flavor seasonings
2. Pampering/Relaxation
 - a. Face Mask
 - b. Bath Bomb
 - c. Hot Tea Assortment and Mug
 - d. Lotion
 - e. Candle
 - f. Cozy Socks and Foot Mask/Cream
 - g. Dark Chocolate
 - h. Essential oil diffuser
3. Health & Fitness
 - a. Health based snacks (protein bars, Cliff bar or nut mix, cheese crups, protein chips, etc)
 - b. Protein Shakes
 - c. Water bottle/Blender Bottle and water flavoring
 - d. Home BP cuff
 - e. Core/Stability Ball, Resistance Band, Yoga Mat, Hand weights, etc.
 - f. Gym towel and Bag
 - g. Dry Shampoo
 - h. Body Wipes
4. Arts and Crafts
 - a. Adult Coloring Book and Markers
 - b. Puzzle or puzzle books (word search, etc.)
 - c. Mondo Llama Kits from Target (Mosaics, flower press coasters, paint by numbers)
 - d. Hobby Lobby or Target Gift Card
 - e. Stickers
 - f. Sketchpad/Notebook/Journal



American Legion Auxiliary
A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

2023-2024 DONATION FORM

UNIT # _____ DISTRICT # _____

UNIT LOCATION _____

SUBMITTED BY _____

AUXILIARY PROGRAMS

** \$5.00 Bill Shower	\$
** ALA Hospital Program (inc. Veterans Rehabilitation)	\$
** Gift Shop	\$
Girls State Support	\$
** Dept. Junior President Project	\$
Dept. President Project	\$
** Department Scholarship Fund Past President's Parley Health	\$
** Care Scholarship Fund	\$

AFFILIATED PROGRAMS

ALA Foundation	\$
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	\$
** Armed Forces Service Center	\$
American Legion Family Hospital Ass	\$
Child Welfare Foundation	\$
Brain Science Foundation	\$
Legionville	\$
Fisher House	\$
** Legacy Scholarship Fund TFA (Temporary Financial Assistance)	\$

**** Poppy Funds can be used for these donations**

The programs listed above are those that have been approved for solicitation for the 2022-2023 year. Please DO NOT cross off names and submit other programs. When making your Unit's donations, please consider the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary first (they are in bold print). If your unit chooses to donate to other programs that are not listed on this sheet, please do so by mailing the donation directly to that entity.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

AMOUNT \$ _____

DATE _____

CHECK # _____

1. Make check payable to the American Legion Auxiliary
2. Mail all checks to the Department office (see below for address)
3. Use separate checks for Poppy orders, supply orders, membership or when paying a bill (invoice).
4. Membership dues must accompany each membership transmittal, and checks should NOT include any donations, supply orders, etc.

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



American Legion Auxiliary

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

2024 POPPY ORDER FORM

REQUIRED

Date of Order: _____

Requested Ship Date: _____

Small Poppies

_____ at \$25.00 per 100 _____ = \$ _____

**** (Please order in lots of 100 only)**

Large Poppies

_____ at \$18.00 per dozen _____ = \$ _____

SUBTOTAL OF ORDER: \$ _____

SHIPPING & HANDLING:

Orders up to \$50.00	\$7.00
Orders \$51.00 - \$200.00	\$12.00
Orders \$201.00 - \$500.00	\$17.00
Orders \$501.00 - \$800.00	\$22.00
Orders over \$800.00	\$27.00

SHIPPING & HANDLING \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF ORDER: \$ _____

Please enclose full payment with your order. Checks should be made payable to: American Legion Auxiliary.

Unit # _____ District # _____ Unit Location (city) _____

Phone Number _____ Contact Person (complete name) _____

_____ Email Address _____

Ship to: _____
Complete Name

Street Address - **NO PO box deliveries** _____ City/State/Zip Code _____

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

2023-2024 MEMORIAL DONATION FORM

UNIT # _____

DISTRICT # _____

DONOR NAME _____

DONOR ADDRESS _____

including city and zip code _____

<u>AUXILIARY PROGRAMS</u>		<u>AFFILIATED PROGRAMS</u>	
ALA Hospital Program Fund	\$	ALA Foundation	\$
\$5.00 Shower	\$	Auxiliary Emergency Fund	\$
Gift Shop	\$	Armed Forces Center @ MSP	\$
ALA Minnesota Girls State Support	\$	The Al Family Hospital Association	\$
Dept. President's Project	\$	Child Welfare Foundation	\$
Dept. Jr. President's Project	\$	Brain Science Foundation	\$
Past Presidents Parley Scholarship	\$	Legionville	\$
Department Scholarship Fund	\$	Fisher House	\$
		American Legion Legacy Scholarship	\$
		TFA (Temporary Financial Assistance)	\$

AMOUNT \$ _____

DATE _____

CHECK # _____

The attached donation is in Memory of _____

Please send notification to _____
 (include full address) _____

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
 MAIL TO:

ALA DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA
 STATE VETERANS SERVICE BLDG - 20 W. 12TH ST #314
 ST PAUL, MN 55155



American Legion Auxiliary

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

DONATIONS USING AMERICAN LEGION GAMBLING FUNDS

UNIT/POST # _____ DISTRICT _____ LOCATION _____

CONTACT: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____ DATE: _____

Please note: This is a newly revised processed that is effective immediately. There are multiple ways the donation checks need to be written. It is highly important that all donation checks be made payable to the correct entity in order for us to process them.

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>CHECK PAYABLE TO</u>	<u>DONATION AMOUNT</u>
ALA \$5.00 Bill Shower	American Legion Auxiliary Foundation	\$ _____
ALA Hospital Program	American Legion Auxiliary Foundation	\$ _____
ALA Gift Shop	American Legion Auxiliary Foundation	\$ _____
ALA Department President's Project	American Legion Auxiliary Foundation	\$ _____
Department Junior President's Project	American Legion Auxiliary Foundation	\$ _____
ALA Minnesota Girls State	American Legion Auxiliary Foundation	\$ _____
ALA Dept. Scholarship Fund	American Legion Auxiliary Foundation	\$ _____
Armed Forces Service Center	American Legion Auxiliary Foundation	\$ _____
Minnesota Fisher House	American Legion Auxiliary Foundation	\$ _____
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	American Legion Auxiliary Foundation	\$ _____
American Legion Child Welfare Foundation	Child Welfare Foundation or CWF	\$ _____
Legionville	Legionville	\$ _____
ALA Foundation	American Legion Auxiliary Foundation	\$ _____
American Legion Family Hospital Association	ALFHA or American Legion Family Hospital Association	\$ _____
Brain Science Foundation	Brain Science Foundation	\$ _____
Legacy Scholarship Fund	American Legion Foundation – Fund #84	\$ _____
Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA)	The American Legion – TFA	\$ _____
	GRAND TOTAL	\$ _____

Send all donations to the address below. Thank you for your generosity!

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

CHARITABLE GAMBLING FUNDS USED FOR THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS, THE CHECK NEEDS TO BE MADE

PAYABLE TO: American Legion Auxiliary Foundation

Check & Donation Form should be sent to: American Legion Auxiliary Dept. of Minnesota - 20 W. 12th Street - Room #314 - St. Paul, MN 55155

<p>ALA Dept of MN \$5.00 Bill Shower</p>	<p>ALA Dept of MN Hospital Program (includes VA&R Program)</p>
<p>Donations are used to ensure every Veteran in the 9 VA Homes & Hospitals receive a cash gift during the holiday.</p>	<p>The American Legion Auxiliary Hospital Program uses the funds donated to this program to purchase personal care items & other necessities for the VA Hospital patients that are admitted. This is all supplemented by the donations that are received from Units. Donations allow the Department Hospital Representatives at each of the nine VA Homes and Hospitals to also plan events for our veterans, outings, treats and more.</p>
<p>ALA Dept of MN Gift Shop</p>	<p>ALA Dept of MN President Project</p>
<p>This program is designed to provide a gift to all our Veterans who are patients at the VA Medical Centers, and residents of the VA Homes. They are also able to choose a gift to give to spouse/children.</p>	<p>Department President Patti's project will benefit holistic therapies offered at Eagle's Healing Nest in Sauk Centre. Essential oils, yoga, sage, Accelerated Resolution Therapy, sweet grass, music and hand crafting bring a sense of calmness to the mind, body, and soul.</p>
<p>**Department Junior President Project</p>	<p>ALA Minnesota Girls State Support</p>
<p>Our Honorary Department Junior President Ashley along with all Minnesota Juniors will be raising funds for MACV (Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans. Watch for more details on how funds will be used.</p>	<p>This fund uses the donations received for the registration of girls who have a Unit sponsor, but Unit has a lack of funds. Units may use this fund for help with registration (depending on available funds) and only once during a three (3) year period.</p>
<p>ALA Dept of MN Scholarship Fund</p>	<p>Armed Forces Center - Minneapolis Airport</p>
<p>Up to eight (8) \$1000.00 scholarships are awarded each year. These scholarships are open to sons, daughters, grandsons & granddaughters of a veteran. Must be a resident of Minnesota. These scholarships are funded by your generous donations.</p>	<p>The Center offers traveling military a place to relax by offering food, drink, personal items, beds and toiletries. It's a place to call home while waiting for their connecting flight to either home or away on duty. The Center is open 24/7, staffed by volunteers and funded through donations.</p>
<p>Minnesota Fisher House @ Minneapolis VA</p>	<p>Auxiliary Emergency Fund</p>
<p>Provides "a home away from home" to Veterans and Military families receiving specialized VA care at military medical centers. This allows patients and families to focus on what's most important, the healing process. We are proud of the services we are able to provide because of donations such as yours.</p>	<p>Assists eligible members during a time of financial crisis resulting from an emergency. Grants are made possible through the generous contributions of members helping members.</p>

FOR THE FOLLOWING, THE CHECK NEEDS TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE ENTITY NOTED FOR EACH PROGRAM.
**Check & Donation Form should be sent to: American Legion Auxiliary Dept. of Minnesota - 20 W. 12th Street -
Room #314 - St. Paul, MN 55155**

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

Established in 1954, TAL Child Welfare Foundation was developed as a repository of funds from individuals who wish to contribute to the betterment of children in this country. Foremost priority is to provide other non profit organizations with the means to educate the public about the special needs of children across the nation.

CHECK PAYABLE TO: American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

Legionville

A School Patrol training center for school and bus patrols. Instruction is provided by Safety Education Officers of the MN State Patrol. Legionville is a program of TAL and donations fund maintaining the center and additions of needed equipment. This enables the weekly fee to the center to remain at a low level.

Check Payable to: Legionville

ALA Foundation

Secures the service work of the ALA for future generations. The donations paid into this fund remain in the fund and are referred to as endowment principal. It is the interest dollars earned from the investment of donations that are used to support the ALA programs directly benefiting our veterans and their families.

Check Payable to: American Legion Auxiliary Foundation

The American Legion Family Hospital Association

Donations fund the work of this association by helping eligible members with financial aid for payment of medical bills, provided the need for assistance has been determined.

Check Payable to: American Legion Family Hospital Association (ALFHA)

Brain Science Foundation

Contributions will help the dedicated neuroscientists continue their research into the understanding of this incredibly vast and complex organ, the brain, in health and disease. More specifically, your donation will be supporting our Women Veterans Healthy Brain Project.

Check Payable to: Brain Science Foundation

Legacy Scholarship Fund

Supports children of fallen and disabled post 9/11 service members through annual scholarships funded by donations.

Check Payable to: American Legion Foundation - Fund #84

TFA (Temporary Financial Assistance)

This fund is specifically designed to assist minor children of eligible veterans through cash grants, which contribute to a stable home environment. These grants help families meet the cost of shelter, utilities, food and medical expenses.

Check Payable to: The American Legion - TFA

Thank-you for all your hard work in supporting these Programs