

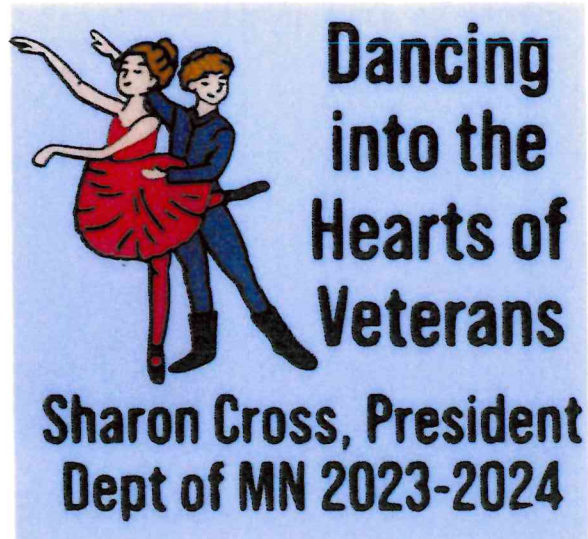
**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Minnesota  
2023-2024**

**Sharon Cross, Department President  
October Unit Mailing**

State Veterans Service Bldg. 20 W 12<sup>th</sup> St #314, St. Paul, MN  
55155

(651)-224-7634 [deptoffice@mnala.org](mailto:deptoffice@mnala.org)

Website: [www.mnala.org](http://www.mnala.org)



Fall is in full color in some areas and there are a lot of leaves on the trees. As I write this there is still a lot of October ahead of me. I have not wanted to pick all my green tomatoes, so I cover them at night and uncover them on warmer days. I will have everything picked and frozen by the time this goes to print. This is a beautiful time of year to travel around Minnesota. I have been enjoying my travels and the events I have been invited to. There were many past and current 6<sup>th</sup> District Presidents at their luncheon with a wonderful meal and silent auctions. The Brain Science Lecture was amazing followed by dinner and an equally amazing dinner at a Greek restaurant called Cristo's. My youngest son's wedding, Brainerd's membership dinner, the Jewish War Veteran's annual dinner, helping at the Melrose American Legion for their fish fry and the Legionville board meeting all happened before the Fall Conference.

I certainly enjoyed the trip of a lifetime traveling to the National President's Homecoming in Fairbanks, Alaska. What a beautiful trip to end our summer and learn about our National President's home. There were eight of us that traveled from Minnesota, and I encountered some Minnesotan's that now live in Fairbanks. Even one from Sauk Centre. It was a trip that included a historical museum, ice museum and research facility visits. Bus tours of two military bases, stops at a few American Legion Posts for meals, a visit to Santa Town and a Mardi Gras themed banquet were also a part of our weekend. We had wonderful food experiences and wonderful hospitality by all their American Legion Family. Team Alaska did an awesome job planning this event. Check out my Facebook page, I probably took almost 300 photos.

November is Past Presidents Parley month and the American Legion Auxiliary's 104<sup>th</sup> birthday. Record your activities with photos and a narrative. Remember NOT to write on the page with the photos. When you are submitting them to your District Chairmen either actual pictures with a narrative or pictures need to be large and jpeg if emailing. Also, no writing on the picture page that is emailed. Narrative should be on a separate page. Adopt a student to help with the computer stuff if you don't have anyone around to help. Then be sure to teach them about the American Legion Auxiliary. Who we are, what we do and why we matter! You just might eventually find their family loves our mission and just maybe you will grow your membership. Our passion for what we do shines brightly when we speak about our why.

Do you know a veteran that is able and willing to learn to make poppies and receive some extra money for doing so? Minnesota is proud of our veteran made poppies and we are grateful to some of our Auxiliary that has helped with making poppies. Poppy Chairman Marsha Bible has had some response to her request for veterans to make poppies from her article in the Legionnaire. Let's get the word out and get some more veterans onboard. Let's put Minnesota in the spotlight and keep our poppies veteran made. Contact the Department Office for more information. Your Unit Poppy orders are due by November 28, 2023.

*Sharon Cross*

President Department of Minnesota  
American Legion Auxiliary



## Auxiliary Emergency Fund

### URGENT NOTICE

Greetings to all Department Officers, District Presidents, District AEF Chairman, Units and members.

Just to let you know that there have been some **major changes** in the AEF program effective October 1, 2023.

This is the information that I received from National last week.

- The National Executive Committee (NEC) approved an increase for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) grants in February. The new grant amount took effect at the beginning of the 2024 fiscal year, Oct. 1. The updated grant award is \$3,000 for ALA members who have been affected by a natural disaster or other crisis and need urgent financial assistance.
- The increase from \$2,400 to \$3,000 is a result of the rising cost of living and inflation. These rising costs impact millions of Americans, making it increasingly difficult for them to attain economic security. In July 2023, consumer prices were 3.2% higher than the year before. This has increased the cost of goods and services, making it more difficult for families to afford their basic needs.
- The updated applications are attached and can be found on the ALA website. Please distribute them to your units so we can help as many members in need as possible. **We will no longer accept outdated applications.**
- If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out to Carley (317-569-4537). She is happy to jump on a call if anyone should need further clarification.

This information was received from Carley Schutz, CFRE at the National Headquarters. See her contact information : Carley Schutz, CFRE | Development Director | American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters | 3450 Founders Road | Indianapolis, IN 46268 | Office: (317) 569-4537 | Fax: (317) 569-4502 | [www.ALAFoundation.org](http://www.ALAFoundation.org) | [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) | [cschutz@legion-aux.org](mailto:cschutz@legion-aux.org) | *A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families*

*I have attached the updated applications for Disaster and Hardship application.*

*Margee Keller, AEF Chairman, 301 Maple St, Crookston 56716,*

*Email:margeekeller@hotmail.com; Cell 218.349.4566*



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

## **Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) Application Instructions for Disaster Assistance for American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Members**

An AEF grant may provide emergency assistance to ALA members in areas devastated by a natural disaster. The applicant must have received damage to the primary residence and/or been displaced/evacuated from the residence and/or had out-of-pocket expenses for temporary emergency expenses as a result of the disaster. Grants may be awarded up to \$3,000. One AEF grant per grantee will be awarded in a 12-month period.

### **What is a natural disaster?**

A natural disaster is a major adverse event resulting from natural processes of the Earth that may produce great loss of human life or destruction of the natural environment. Any other disaster outside of this scope will need the consensus of the AEF Internal Review Committee to be considered. Examples of natural disasters include floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, and other geologic processes.

### **Basic criteria for qualification**

- The applicant must be a current ALA member
- Applicant must have maintained annual ALA membership for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years)

### **Required application information**

The application must be accurately and completely filled out with all necessary documentation to prevent delays in processing. Please explain **in detail** the damage incurred to the primary residence including interior and exterior of primary structure only, household contents/appliances and damage to vehicles from the disaster. Application must include photos of damage, full copies of receipts for emergency expenses/repairs and copy of driver's license, work estimates, and insurance claim and/or government (FEMA) documents. If the application is not complete, it may be returned for amendment, further explanation or more documentation.

### **Checklist before sending in the application**

- Review the AEF frequently asked questions before starting the application.  
(<https://www.legion-aux.org/AEF-FAQ>)
- Confirm you have held annual membership for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years).
- Complete **ALL** sections of the application.
- Provide photos of damage, full copies of receipts for itemized emergency expenses/repairs and applicable documentation, and driver's license.

### **Submit application**

Once an application is complete, please e-mail to: [AEF@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:AEF@ALAforVeterans.org); fax to ALA National Headquarters at: (317) 569-4502; or mail to: ALA National Headquarters, Attn: AEF, 3450 Founders Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46268

### **Questions**

If you have any questions, please email: [AEF@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:AEF@ALAforVeterans.org) or call: (317) 569-4500.

## Application for Disaster Assistance for ALA Members

E-mail application and documentation to: [AEF@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:AEF@ALAforVeterans.org); fax to National Headquarters at: (317) 569-4502; or mail to: ALA National Headquarters, Attn: AEF, 3450 Founders Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46268

### Member Information

Member's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

at time of disaster: \_\_\_\_\_ Is this your

primary residence?  Yes  No

Do you own or rent the affected residence?  Rent  Own

Number of family members in primary residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Member ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Disaster Information

Type of disaster:  Fire  Flood  Hurricane  Earthquake  Tornado  Other

If other, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of disaster: \_\_\_\_\_ Are you

still residing in the primary residence?  Yes  No

If no, please explain current living arrangements: \_\_\_\_\_

Reimbursement expected from other assistance: \_\_\_\_\_

FEMA: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

State/Local Disaster Assistance: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Homeowners/Renters Insurance: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please explain the

damage incurred to primary residence:

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|

List of damages to primary structure only and household contents/personal belongings: (Examples include: interior/exterior damages, furniture, appliances, and clothing.)

| Item  | Amount |
|-------|--------|
| _____ | _____  |
| _____ | _____  |
| _____ | _____  |
| _____ | _____  |
| _____ | _____  |
| _____ | _____  |
| _____ | _____  |
| _____ | _____  |

**Required Attachments**

Please provide photos of damages, full copies of receipts with itemized emergency expenses/repairs, copies of repair estimates, copy of driver's license and documentation from FEMA, insurance claims and/or local law enforcement.

**Other Information**

Was employment of member lost or suspended due to the disaster?  Yes  No

If yes, for how long: \_\_\_\_\_ Was

employment of spouse lost or suspended due to the disaster?  Yes  No  N/A

If yes, for how long: \_\_\_\_\_ Please

provide documentation of loss of income from employer and/or medical professional.

**Payment Information**

If awarded, payment can be transmitted by electronic funds (EFT) directly to the member's bank account OR a check can be mailed. You must provide a complete mailing address below for delivery of a check. For EFT payment, you must provide the bank name, routing/ABA number, type of account, account number. **A voided check must be attached for payment by EFT.**

**For EFT Payment**

Name of Bank: \_\_\_\_\_ Type of

Account:  Checking  Savings

Bank Routing #/ABA # \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name listed on account: \_\_\_\_\_

Address listed on account: \_\_\_\_\_

Member's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**For Check Payment:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Once officially submitted to the ALA National Headquarters for review and funding consideration, all fully completed grants, providing the requested information/documentation will be presented to the AEF Committee for final review and funding consideration within a maximum of 60 days. After 30 days, if requested information is not provided by the applicant or no response from the applicant, the application will be closed with no decision by the AEF Committee.

Member's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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

## **Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) Application Instructions for Hardship Assistance for American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Members**

An AEF grant may provide temporary assistance to eligible members during a time of financial crisis when no other source of aid is readily available to pay for shelter, basic household utilities and/or for loss of income. Grants may be awarded up to \$3,000 with the intent to help members who have suffered a financial setback and offer a helping hand to assist in reestablishing financial stability. Funding will not be granted to pay for any expenses other than shelter, basic household utilities and/or loss of income. One AEF grant per grantee will be awarded in a 12-month period.

### **Basic criteria for qualification**

- The applicant must be a current ALA member
- Applicant must have maintained annual ALA membership for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years)

### **Required application information**

The application must be accurately and completely filled out with all necessary documentation to prevent delays in processing. Please explain in detail your current situation/emergency. Include all current basic household utility statements, bills, eviction notices, disconnection notices, documentation on loss of income and any other expenses you wish to be considered for funding. If the application is not complete, it may be returned for amendment, further explanation or more documentation.

### **Checklist before sending in the application**

- Review the AEF frequently asked questions before starting the application. (<https://www.legion-aux.org/AEF-FAQ>)
- Confirm you have held annual membership for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years)
- Complete ALL sections of the application.
- Provide all pages of past due mortgage/rent expenses, basic household utility bills and/or documentation on loss of income from employer or medical professional.

### **Submit application**

Once an application is complete, please e-mail to: [AEF@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:AEF@ALAforVeterans.org); fax to ALA National Headquarters at: (317) 569-4502; or mail to: ALA National Headquarters, Attn: AEF, 3450 Founders Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46268

### **Questions**

If you have any questions, please email: [AEF@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:AEF@ALAforVeterans.org) or call (317) 569-4500.

**Application for Hardship Assistance for ALA Members**

E-mail application to: AEF@ALAforVeterans.org; fax to ALA National Headquarters at: (317) 569-4502; or mail to: ALA National Headquarters, Attn: AEF, 3450 Founders Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46268

**Member Information**

Member's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Member ID#: \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Employment Information**

What is your current employment status:  
 FT  PT  Laid-Off  Retired  Unemployed  Other  
Place of employment: \_\_\_\_\_  
If unemployed, last date of employment: \_\_\_\_\_  
What is your spouse's current employment status:  
 FT  PT  Laid-Off  Retired  Unemployed  Other  N/A  
Place of employment: \_\_\_\_\_  
If unemployed, last date of employment: \_\_\_\_\_

**Monthly Income**

Monthly earnings of applicant: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Monthly earnings of spouse (if applicable): \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Earnings of others in the household: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Veteran's Pension/Compensation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Child Support: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Supplemental Security Income (SSI): \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security Disability (SSD): \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Unemployment Compensation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Income: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Monthly Household Expenses**

Mortgage/rent: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Electricity: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Heating: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Water/Sewage: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Food: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please explain in detail your current situation/emergency:** (Refer to page 1 of the application for documentation requirements)



List of past due expenses for funding consideration:  
(Examples include mortgage/rent expenses; basic household utility bills: and/or loss of income – documentation must be provided.)

| <b>Item</b> | <b>Amount</b> |
|-------------|---------------|
| _____       | _____         |
| _____       | _____         |
| _____       | _____         |
| _____       | _____         |
| _____       | _____         |
| _____       | _____         |
| _____       | _____         |
| _____       | _____         |

**Required Attachments**

Please provide all pages of past due mortgage/rent statements, basic household utility bills, eviction notices, disconnection notices, and documentation for loss of income from employer and/or medical professional.

**Payment Information**

If awarded, payment can be transmitted by electronic funds (EFT) directly to the member's bank account OR a check can be mailed. You must provide a complete mailing address below for delivery of a check. For EFT payment, you must provide the bank name, routing/ABA number, type of account and your account number. A voided check must be attached for payment by EFT.

Name listed on account: \_\_\_\_\_

Address listed on account: \_\_\_\_\_

Member's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**For EFT Payment**

Name of Bank: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Account:  Checking  Savings

Bank Routing #/ABA #: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**For Check Payment**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Once officially submitted to the ALA National Headquarters for review and funding consideration, all fully completed grants, providing the requested information/documentation will be presented to the AEF Internal Review Committee for final review and funding consideration within a maximum of 60 days. After 30 days, if requested information is not provided by the applicant or no response from the applicant, the application will be closed with no decision by the AEF Internal Review Committee.

Member's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Americanism

The Americanism Essay title this year is "What does Freedom mean to me?" Units are encouraged to contact their local schools, Boy and Girl Scout Troops, Homeschool Co-ops, and other youth organizations to ask youth in grades 3-12 and Students with Special Needs classrooms to participate in the contest. Included in this Unit Mailing is the cover Sheet that is needed when submitting the essays. Also included is the flow chart showing when and where your Unit winning essay submissions should be sent. I will be so excited to receive submissions for all classes from Class I-VI.

Please remember to submit stories and pictures of your Veterans Day programs. What better way to promote Americanism than on Veterans Day!

Mary Kuperus  
wmkuperus@tds.net



## The Chair

I'd like to take a moment at the closing of this year  
To comment on a subject that you may not be clear.  
The question is more complex than first it may appear  
Just why is it the Presidents are also called "the chair."  
The one who thought that title up must surely be aware,  
It doesn't boost one's ego to be likened to a chair.  
It's true one may be well-upholstered, over-stuffed or bare,  
But just between us – I don't think that I look like a chair.

The problem really puzzled me then finally grew clear,  
A conscientious president must function like a chair.  
Some chairs are only beautiful, they are delicate and rare.

The kind I refer to is the ordinary chair.  
Can anyone imagine any object anywhere

That is more downright useful than the ordinary chair?  
A chair should never squeak, or sag or any way complain  
But just go on functioning no matter what the strain.  
A chair must be efficient and equal to the task  
Of sometimes being "sat upon" by some well-meaning lass.  
A chair should be dependable and always well aware  
It's awfully hard to sit upon a chair that isn't there.  
A chair should not seek privileges that it does not deserve  
But should remember at all times - it's only there to serve."

The proper chair will not collapse when burdened with a care  
But stand upon its sturdy feet and calmly bear its share.  
At last there comes the moment when with worn and weary face,  
The chair must tactfully take off – and find a corner place.  
It needn't seek retirement in corners dark with gloom-  
Just clear a place for fresher chairs that come to grace the room.

I hope I've served you well and never let you down,  
For surely I'm the luckiest of all the chairs in town.  
You've sat on me most gently throughout the years of use  
I honestly can testify I've never known abuse.  
I'll cherish every spot on me that you have given wear  
And so I close these thoughts to you  
With much love,  
The Chair

**This poem was read at the closing of the 2023 Department Convention by  
2022-2023 Department President Mary Kuperus.**

**ALA Dept of Colorado Americanism Chairman Judy Sadler sent this poem to Americanism Chairmen a few years ago.**

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**AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST  
2024 Cover Sheet**

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into six classes. One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund.

**Essay Title:** *“What does Freedom mean to me?”*

**Essay Classes:**

| Class | Grade Level                 | Word Requirement   |
|-------|-----------------------------|--|
| I     | 3 and 4                     | 150-250  |
| II    | 5 and 6                     | 250-300  |
| III   | 7 and 8                     | 350-400  |
| IV    | 9 and 10                    | 450-500  |
| V     | 11 and 12                   | 450-500  |
| VI    | Students with special needs | Word count should correspond with student's grade level. |

**Essay Checklist:**

- Class competing in \_\_\_\_\_
- Sponsoring ALA unit \_\_\_\_\_
- Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- Completed essay coversheet as first page of essay
- Word count of essay \_\_\_\_\_
- Due date for student to return to ALA unit \_\_\_\_\_

**To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name and Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.):**

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit winner due to Department on: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Department Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

*Department winner due to National Americanism Division Chairman by April 15, 2024*



## American Legion Auxiliary

### Americanism Essay Contest flow chart -

Visit [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) for more information and **required** cover sheet

**Units** to schools  
Distribute essay cover sheet and  
instructions with requested return date\*

Units select from submitted essays.  
Send to **department chairman**  
on or before March 25, 2024.

Mary Kuperus [wmkuperus@tds.net](mailto:wmkuperus@tds.net)  
313 Pine St SW, New London, MN 56273

Department chairman selects from submitted unit  
essays then send winners to division chairman by  
April 15.

Division chairman determine  
winners then send to  
Americanism Committee members

**\*Deadlines determined by unit and department chairmen.**

## Community Service

November 2023 **VETERANS DAY**, originally known as Armistice Day, is a federal holiday to honor military Veterans of the United States. How can we recognize and honor Veterans through community service projects?

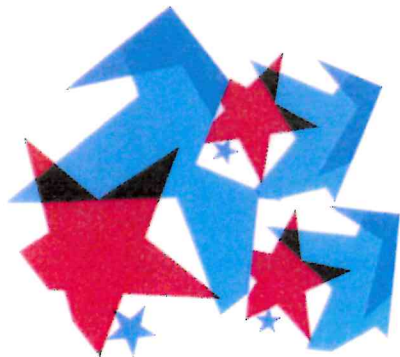
\*Community-wide Veterans Day dinners and programs are a wonderful opportunity for all citizens in the community to recognize and honor local Veterans. Partner with other community organizations, especially other groups that support Veterans, in hosting this honorary Veterans Day observance.

\*Schools in the community can honor local Veterans by inviting the Veterans into the classroom to encourage patriotism in the youth community, to share their military experience, or to participate in a special honorary Veterans Day program.

\*Veterans Day community service projects can be aimed to support the basic needs of Veterans such as food, housing, and clothing. Purchase a bag of groceries, bake a special treat, or prepare a home cooked meal and deliver to a Veteran living alone or homebound. Contact your Post VSO to identify specific basic needs of Veterans in your area and work to meet those needs.

\*Community service projects can support other needs for Veterans in your community. Due to life circumstances, a Veteran might appreciate the offer of friendly helping hands to mow the lawn, rake and bag leaves, or shovel snow off the sidewalk or driveway. Enlist the help of your Junior Auxiliary and youth S.A.L. members, youth organizations at school, youth groups at your local place of worship, and local Scout troops.

\*Veterans Day projects can be of a social nature. Encourage your Unit members to each say a special thank you to a Veteran, make a phone call, or visit a Veteran or someone in your community that is alone or homebound. Set up an evening for your Unit to write on "thank you" cards and mail to Veterans in your community.



**BE THE ONE FOR  
VETERANS IN YOUR  
COMMUNITY!**

Wanda Seidler, Community Service Chairman



Greetings from the Girls State Committee by Linda Kelly

Thank you to all that attended the informational meeting about Girls State on Thursday night of Fall Conference. Members of our committee gave an overview of the week-long program. This program is a great opportunity for students to learn about our election process and the three branches of our state government. That is why this is the chance for your unit to help make this investment in our youth – our future citizens.

Budgets are always an estimate – for both the income and the expense. Our income is registration fees, donations, sale of girls-state wear, and SCRIP. All these vary every year. We watch our expenses, but we are dependent on the number of our attendees and how many of our members support the SCRIP program.

I talked at length about the SCRIP program. This is the program where over 500 businesses will pay a percentage of their gift cards we purchase back to the Department of Minnesota's Girls State program. The percentage back varies by the business.

With your participation, you can really impact our budget. The Department brought some gift cards to the Fall Conference, and we successfully sold ALL of them. That small number that we sold netted the program \$80.00 and that was just \$1500 in gift cards.

For example: It isn't often that I can leave Walmart without spending \$50. If I would purchase cards to be able to spend \$50 every week for 50 weeks out of the year, it will net the program \$62.50 and if I dine out monthly at my favorite restaurants, spending \$50 every month, it will net the program \$48.00. That is a total of \$112.50 and that's not talking about my gas purchases, gift cards for Christmas and birthdays, home repairs, and clothing and shoes. This also nets us over \$1000 for every 10 members that purchase. Think of what 100 of us can do.

Gift cards can be ordered through the Department, but the easiest way to order is online at [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com). Use the "sign up" button to set up an account the first time you are there. You need to "join an existing account" using 2987B82859542 for Girls State. The top of the next screen will show our name and ask for your name. You will then need to fill in a username (e-mail address), password – with security questions to follow. After you have created your account and going forward, you will need your username and password to start shopping.

They also offer bonuses. I was online and Kwik Trip had increased their bonus to 9% which is almost double their normal bonus. In fact there were 33 businesses that had bonuses, with limited time.

Please take the time to set up an account, look over the bonuses, and check out the entire list of participating businesses. There is an extra charge for using a credit card to pay for the cards, but if you set up the money to come out of your checking account, there is just a small fee (cents) per card. Order some cards and test it out. You can also reload the cards after you have used the dollars. It was also mentioned that you can purchase e-cards that go directly to your phone, but I have not tried that.

We will have cards at all Rallies this year, so come prepared with check or cash. If there are certain cards that you would like, please give me a call and I will add them to the list. The Pearl Harbor Rally is December – just in time to purchase your Christmas gift cards.

We will be sending information to all High School Superintendents and Principals in mid-January. I will be sending the information that they get to all District GS Chairman and ask them to put into your newsletter so your unit will see what they are getting.

**Thank you for all your support of this program.**



*American Legion Auxiliary*  
**JUNIORS**

**ACTIVITIES  
NOVEMBER 2023**

Veterans day is coming soon. Let us encourage our Juniors to visit Veterans in the Nursing Home or at VA Homes in your area.

There are many patches the girls can earn. There is a new level of patches coming. These are the purple level and there are 3 patches for the youngest of our Junior members. There will be more information to come on this. The patch program is all online. Let me know when they are completed, and we can order them. You can check on the website for all the different patches and requirements to complete them.

The Junior Conference will be April 12 and 13<sup>th</sup> 2024 in the 9<sup>th</sup> District in Detroit Lakes. Plans are well underway. Don't forget to pay Junior dues. More information to follow.

We need to recruit Junior members to get them organized and encourage them to participate in auxiliary functions. Encourage the juniors to ask their friends to see if they are eligible to join. And explain to them the reason for belonging. Encourage your juniors to mentor each other. Let us get out there and get our Juniors organized and involved these girls are our future leaders.

Don't forget recruitment is an ongoing process.

The Northwestern Division Junior Meeting is Feb.3, 2024 in Lincoln Nebraska. Please encourage your Junior members to attend. Please register as soon as you can, girls ages 8 to 17 may attend.

Department Junior Activities Chairman  
Sally Strasser



Leadership  
Chair Karla Otterness  
November 2023

If everyone is moving forward together, success takes care of itself. Henry Ford

### NATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The purpose of the leadership program is to find new leaders, develop existing leaders, and enhance members' knowledge to better equip members with the confidence and skills to carry out the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. The key to good leadership is to build confidence in those you lead, treat all members with dignity and respect, and to be a good listener.

No matter the experience, education, or technical skills, anyone can be trained to be a leader if they are willing to make a commitment, devote their time and energy to listen, learn, and communicate.

#### Developing Tomorrow's Leaders ... Today

Leadership Workshop November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Kimball MN Post 261

Time: 10:00 to 2:00

#### POPPYALOOSA

JOIN UNIT 407 and the Third District  
AS WE MAKE POPPIES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

TIME: 1pm -4 pm Date: Sunday November 19<sup>TH</sup>

#### LEADERSHIP GOLDEN RULES

Collaboration -No matter how good you are at what you do, you cannot achieve everything on your own. You need a Unit which is united for a common cause. Create an environment that fosters collaboration and enhances Unit cohesion. The better your unit collaborates with each other, the easier it will be to achieve your goals.

Happy  
Veterans Day!

"Thank  
You"

...to our Veterans  
for their Service to  
our Country.



American Legion Auxiliary  
Department Of Minnesota

# Developing Tomorrows Leaders.... Today!



**November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**10 AM -2 PM**

**American Legion Post 261      201 Main St S, Kimball, MN 55353**

\$10.00 pre-registration includes coffee, donut/rolls, and course handouts.

Lunch will be a free will offering.

Presented by  
Karla Otterness Department Leadership Chair  
Jennifer Nelson Department Membership Chair  
Bev Grose 6th District Leadership

Guest presenters  
Shirley Frederick  
Roberta Elvecrog

---

Cut and return this portion to: Karla Otterness, 239 Westgate Dr Winsted MN 55395 along with \$10.00 registration fee. Make checks payable to Karla Otterness. In the memo line put **leadership 11/18/2023**.

**Please return this portion by November 11<sup>th</sup> So Kimball can plan lunches accordantly.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Dist. \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



Please join Unit 407 and the Third District in  
celebration

## POPPYPALOOSA

November 19<sup>th</sup>

1:00pm - 4:00 pm

Bring a snack to share.

a pliers and work gloves for large poppies

Coffee, soda, and water will be supplied.

We will learn the art of assembling the poppy  
flower for the Department of Minnesota

There will also be Pop Up, Poppy Trivia

Poppy snacks

Poppy Ladies Presentation.

Please call Karla and rsvp or email how many unit  
members will be attending.

320-420-8163

[t.d.news2share@gmail.com](mailto:t.d.news2share@gmail.com)

**So come on, join us for a wonderful afternoon!**

## Legislation

November 2023

With the American Legion Auxiliary supporting the American Legion and their legislative priorities it is good to know about these two resources:



### The American Legion Legislative Website

<https://www.legion.org/legislative>

This informative site contains the legislative priorities of the American Legion. It has priority sheets and point papers available to download which provide more information on the issues and the American Legions position.



### The American Legion Legislative Action Center

<https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>

The congressional contact report form is located here to be used when members have engaged with members of congress, or staff, when advocating on behalf of the American Legion.

Sign up for Legislative alerts at [www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Register](http://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Register) and receive notifications when the American Legion Family is needed to take immediate action. You can go to this grassroots action center and sign up for emails or text messages to be notified.

Find and review legislation relating to our veteran's benefits, mental health, healthcare, employment and economic opportunity, education, and national security.

You can also easily find your elected officials to make contact.

**Robin Dorf**  
**Legislation Chairman**



## Cruising the Seas for Members

Look at the progress we have made! Memberships are rolling in as we speak at a fast pace! Let's not slow down as we are still in friendly competition with each other cruising to our final destination to Over the Moon Bay! Look at the numbers between odd and even ships. Evens are ahead by only ONE member! This can change at any time, so stay focused!! That is where the fun is!

Right now, 1<sup>st</sup> District is in the lead at 37.55%

4<sup>th</sup> District is at 34 %

3<sup>rd</sup> District is at 33.17%

EVERYONE's efforts are important to keeping our Legion Family Strong. We can only continue to help our veterans, communities, families, and country if we remain a force in numbers that the politicians must recognize and pay attention to our voice.

Please remember that members do not need the remittance notice to pay their dues. They can pay online at [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org) and print their new membership card from home at any time. National will mail it to them as well. They can also pay them to your unit at anytime and it can be processed immediately. I had several calls about this for the snowbirds that want this done before they leave for the sunshine. Contact those Snowbirds before they leave. If they forget, contact them when they return to renew!

The membership chairman can issue a handwritten card and forward the card that comes from National to the member. Those notices are a simple reminder to renew. Pass the word!

Let's focus on our programs and our mission. Change needs to happen in how we do things. Always think outside the box! Let's be creative to build a strong Legion Family! We CAN Do this!!

We have seen the 3 R - WORDS OVER AND OVER AGAIN...It works!

RENEW, RECRUIT, REINSTATE! Then let the membership magic happen!

Jenny Nelson  
Department of Minnesota  
Membership Chairman

## Membership Moment

*Think about this...does this happen at your Unit meeting?  
Do you have any members who may feel this way? Is this why we might be losing  
members?*

### Thoughts from a New Member...

I see you at the meetings,  
but you never say hello.  
You're busy all the time you're there  
with those you really know.

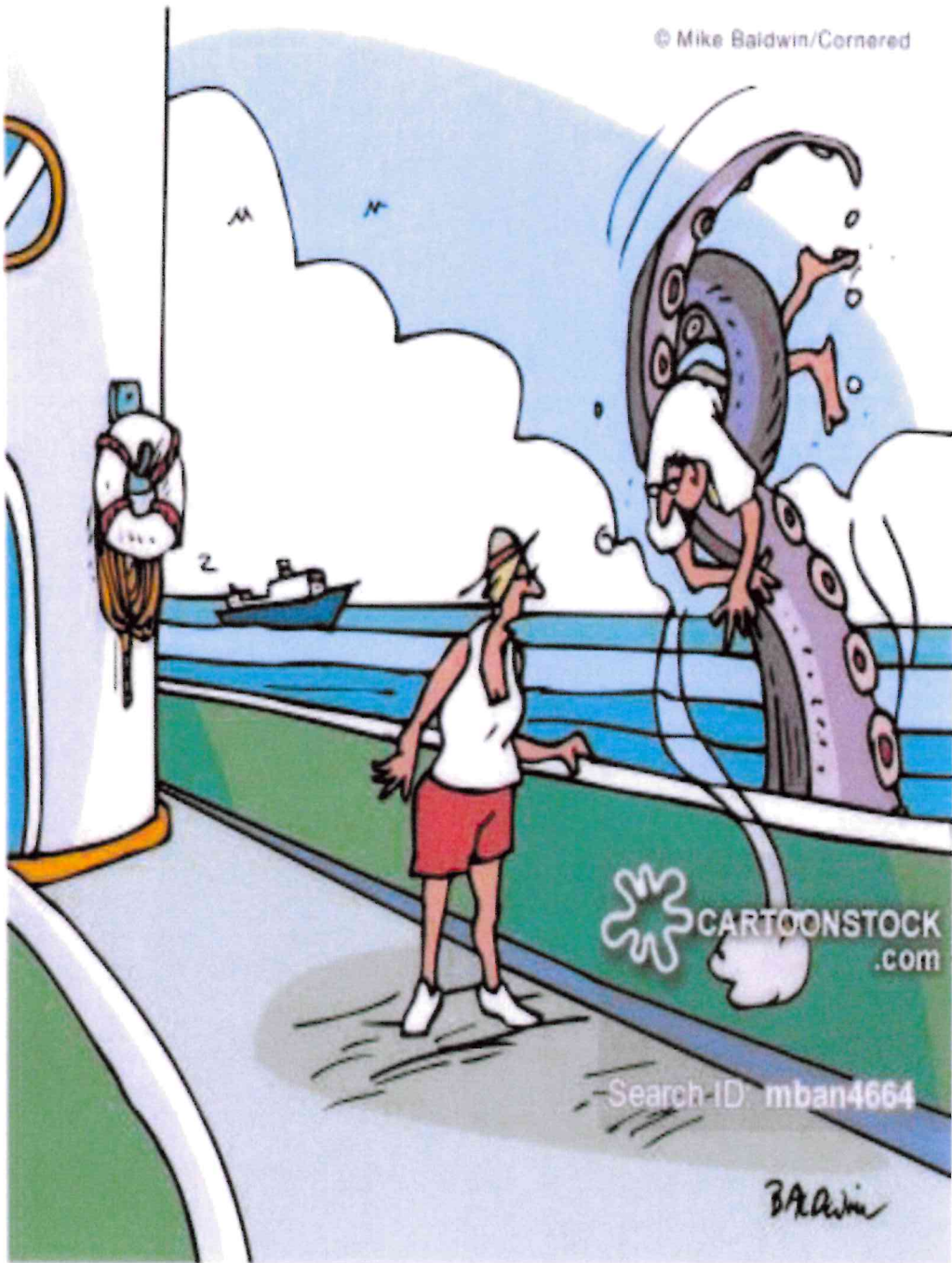
I sit among the members,  
yet I'm a lonely gal.  
The new ones feel as strange as I;  
the old ones pass us by.

\*\*\*it, you folks urged us to join  
and talked of fellowship,  
You could just cross the room, you know,  
but you never make the trip.

Can't you just nod your head and smile  
or stop and shake a hand,  
get over your mom's good intentions,  
then sit among your friends?

Now that I understand  
I'll be at your next meeting,  
and hope that you will spend  
the time to introduce yourself,  
I joined to be your friend.

*From the book "Fine Art of Small Talk" – Steve Bab*



© Mike Baldwin/Cornered

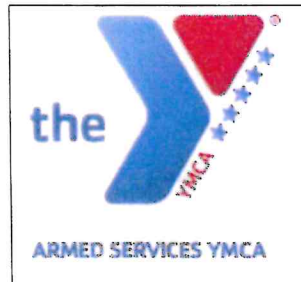
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“Hold on, I’ll get the camera.”



## Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA)



ASYMCA works closely with the Department of Defense and installation commands to identify opportunities and augment service areas to help junior enlisted military families come together, stay together, and thrive together.

For nearly 160 years the Armed Services YMCA has been strengthening our military families due to generosity of our valued donors.

### Child & Youth Programs:

**Child Care & Preschool:** Offers high- quality adorable and accessible programs to care for young children.

**Operation Little Learners:** Interactive early childhood education

**Operation Hero:** No cost after school program – military kids who may be struggling.

**Operation Camp:** Social bonding opportunities for military children

**Children's Waiting Room:** Childcare services inside military hospitals and clinics.

**Operation Kid Comfort:** Volunteers create custom photo transfer quilts and pillows to help children cope with separation of a parent's deployment.

### Assistance & Support Programs

**Food Assistance:** Provides support for food & Basic necessities for military families.

**Operation Ride Home:** Provides financial assistance to active duty junior-enlisted military and their families to travel home for holidays.

**Operation Holiday Joy:** Provides meals for junior enlisted service members and their families, and toys for military children during the holidays.

**DOD Military Outreach Initiative:** qualified military members and their families received free gym membership and respite childcare service,

### Angels of the Battlefield Award

This event honors military medics, corpsmen, and premeasurement – six branches of the U.S. Armed Services & Defense Health Agency.

The 2023 event will be held on November 16, 2023 – 6:00 pm Reception – 7:00 pm Dinner Program, 9:00 pm Dessert Reception at the Crystal Gateway Marriott.

### Contact information:

Armed Services YMCA of the USA  
14040 Central Loop, Suite B  
Woodbridge, VA 22193  
(866) 447-9622

<https://Services-ASYMCA.National.Headquarters>

**Submitted by:** Carolyn A. Baranowski  
National Security Committee Eastern Division Chairman

### Resources

**Hiring Our Heros:** This organization is affiliated with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and has a mission to connect the military community with resources to help improve economic opportunities.

Visit <https://www.hiringourheroes.org/> for more information on services they provide.

**National Military Family Association (NMFA):** NMFA has a mission to advocate for, provide support and to enhance quality of life for all military families.

Visit <https://www.militaryfamily.org/> for more information on services they provide.

### Reminders

**Be The One Day(s):** Help bring awareness to the "Be The One" initiative by wearing and promoting "Be The One" on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. See Resolution 13 approved in May of 2023 by The American Legion for more information on "Be The One" Day(s). <http://www.betheone.org/>

**Navy Birthday:** October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**National Day of the Deployed:** October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**National Veterans and Military Families Month:** November.

**Marine Corps Birthday:** November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**Veterans Day:** November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**National Guard Birthday:** December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**National Wreaths Across America Day:** December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Go to <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/> for more information on how you can get involved.

Share your Departments Accomplishments on the ALA  
National Security Facebook Group



Spread the word and show what your Departments and Units are doing to work the National Security Program! If you have not already done so, join the ALA National Security Facebook Group, and encourage your members to join as well: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/915563745139663>



We have weekly posts with valuable program information and other opportunities to show how you work the program like our weekly #REDFriday post.

**Reminder!**

**Quarterly Zoom Meeting: Thursday  
October 19<sup>th</sup>**

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| EASTERN         | 8:00 PM |
| CENTRAL         | 7:00 PM |
| MOUNTAIN        | 6:00 PM |
| PACIFIC         | 5:00 PM |
| ALASKAN         | 4:00 PM |
| HAWAII-ALEUTIAN | 3:00 PM |

You should have received the registration link from me via email. All Department National Security Chairmen & Department Presidents are invited.

**My Contact Information:** Need to reach me? Feel free to reach out however you are comfortable!

Bettina Kossow  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Northwest Division Chair, National Security  
Cell Phone: (719) 440-3111  
Email: [bettinakossow1000@msn.com](mailto:bettinakossow1000@msn.com)

**In the Spotlight!**

Colorado:

Active Duty E5 and below Baby Shower



Pictured: National Security Northwest Division Chair Bettina Kossow, NEC and National Security Chair for Colorado Laurie Kuntz, National President Lisa Williamson, Unit 209 President Royce Hopper and Department President Janelle Mendelson.

The baby shower was a huge success. 55 families had registered and received amazing donations. Lots of smiles, happy older siblings, hard work and so much gratitude describes this day.

Unit 209 and the family members of the American Legion Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 stepped up and created a wonderful event and the American Legion Auxiliary National President Lisa Williamson jumped right in and assisted handing out the gift baskets and car seats.

Many American Legion Auxiliary Units from Colorado donated to this wonderful event. The national security project that started about 9 months ago was amazing.



# POPPY

Marsha Bible – Department Chairman  
5602 West Oakes Drive  
St. Cloud, MN 56303  
[Marsha.bible@gmail.com](mailto:Marsha.bible@gmail.com)  
320-492-8977

November, 2023

The poppy program in Minnesota is set to gain many new veteran poppy makers! I'm pleased to report that the response to the article in the Minnesota Legionnaire has been successful so far and I have received responses from veterans from across the state of Minnesota. Plans are in the works to train these individuals on how to assemble our beautiful poppy so that our supply is back to where it used to be!

Now for some important information on Poppy Funds and how our units can spend them. Please note that these are not suggestions – they are in fact rules that the American Legion national organization has made concerning poppy funds and rules that we all must follow.

Many programs of the American Legion Auxiliary require financial resources as we work our mission to meet the needs of veterans, active duty military and their families. Poppy distributions and resulting donations are vital to funding certain activities, but it is important to know how poppy funds may or may not be utilized.

#### Permitted Uses of Poppy Funds:

- For rehabilitation of veterans honorably discharged from the US Armed Forces after April 6, 1917
- For the welfare of the families of veterans of the above-named period
- For the rehabilitation of hospitalized military service personnel returning home and awaiting discharge who requires treatment in service hospital
- For the welfare of veterans, active military personnel, and the families of veterans and active military personnel of the above-named period where financial and medical needs are clear
- For poppy kits and supplies used to make symbolic poppies and poppy items that will be distributed for donations to the Poppy Fund
- For donations to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation for benefit of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival
- For supporting local or National Honor Flights
- For supporting the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) to combat food insecurity experienced by our service members and their families.



For further clarification, Poppy funds CANNOT be used for:

- Any general operating fund of a department, unit, or post
- Any community service project not directly benefitting the welfare of an individual veteran/military servicemember or the welfare of his/her family
- General maintenance, enhancement or improvement projects of American Legion or Auxiliary facilities, including adding ramp(s) to a post home
- Investments, even those that would bring profit to the unit or post
- POW/MIA programs
- Memberships, including other veteran support organizations such as Gold Star Mothers
- Contributions to, or payouts from, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund
- ALA Girls State/ALA Girls Nation fees
- Flags or flagpoles
- Scholarships which do not restrict eligibility solely to military servicemembers or their children, or where the financial need is not clear
- Mileage, travel, or lodging expenses; registration of conference fees; or costs incurred by a person-- including ALA members, volunteers, and staff--to attend any meeting, conference, or event about veterans
- Attire or uniforms used by volunteers or staff in promoting or conducting ALA program activity or business

Use of poppy funds is allowable for care packages ONLY when it is for a welfare need, such as first aid topical treatment or 86 American Legion Auxiliary Unit Guide vital hygiene items, as opposed to comfort needs, such as leisure items like baked goods or books.

Because of the restrictions on allowable uses of poppy funds, it is important that Units or Departments provide proper accounting in order to separate poppy monies from any other asset or source of funds.

For more detailed information, you may access the Poppy Program Guide from the National website or contact members of the National Poppy Committee at any time.



## Past President Parley November 2023

Units are encouraged to establish a Past President's Parley. This may be done on the district level also. The Parley is a group of past Unit, District or Dept. Presidents. These Parleys mentor and educate current or new members and officers, or members seeking offices. Help the meetings move toward a positive conclusion. Welcome new members also.

Past Presidents Parley has an annual Health Care Scholarship for the Medical Fields. There are so many different avenues the medical field entails these days, so please review what all this scholarship may include as far as medical occupations. Rules and Regulations for 2023-2024 as well as applications will be available on the Dept website.

Again, this year the Past President Parley program will be offering the Kienholz Walker Plaque Dept Award. Award criteria is as follows; The Unit submitting the best narrative on the activities the Unit's Past President Parley has done. These PPP's must be in existence prior to 2023. Award Guidelines: Entry must be typewritten in narrative format, not to exceed 1,000 words. The entry may include no more than five pictures and news articles. Again, the parley must be in existence prior to 2023.

This year a new initiative is in place for Unit's to organize a Past President's Parley. I have challenged the 10 District Presidents, to organize five new Past President's Parley's in their Districts. A \$50.00 gift card will be awarded at the Dept Convention, to the first District President to accomplish that. Criteria for this is:

1. Phone number of the President of that Unit with a new PPP (Past President's Parley) must be provided to me so I can call and verify it is a new Parley.
2. The new PPP must organize a clothing drive, a food drive, or a school supply drive before the Dept Convention. Pictures and results should be shared with me.

Please help your District President out with this challenge. Please check the PPP page in the Unit Guidebook for tips on organizing these fun and useful organizations. Contribute to the PPP for the Annual Healthcare Scholarship also.

Donna Barbknecht

Past President Parley Chairman

2023-2024

# PUBLIC RELATIONS ARTICLE

NOVEMBER 2023

A short video was published and put on social media by me and the Honorary Jr President Taylor McElroy introducing what we were planning for videos in the upcoming months. Please check out the future month's videos. The video has 90 views and 20 shares as of October 15, 2023, and was posted on October 10, 2023.

We plan on going into depth on the founding of the Legion Family, its missions and programs and the Four Pillars. We do not think everyone knows the mission of the American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, The Sons of the American Legion, and the Legion Riders. We plan on using the public relations platform including social media, written articles, and power points, to help get the word out.

We will also talk about the Jr Auxiliary as Taylor is still a Jr, Is the Department Honorary Jr President and a Legion member. We will also bring up about the programs we have and explain each of them a little.

Sharon Hammon – Public Relations Chairman



# Cathy Radil Department Treasurer Retires



Cathy Radil announced her intention to retire earlier this year. With the hiring of Shannon Brown, Cathy will retire December 1<sup>st</sup>. Cathy has been an asset to the Department during her time in the office. She plans to spend time with her family, especially her grandkids. Please, take a moment to Thank Cathy for all she has done for the Department of Minnesota.

**WHY GRANDPARENTS ARE THE BEST**  
*By I Might Be Funny*

1. They always remember your birthday, even without a Facebook notification.
2. They make delicious food.
3. They understand all too well how annoying your parents can be.
4. They always say yes to dessert.
5. They're never too busy to play a game or read a book.
6. They made it through life without Google.
7. They don't care how long it takes you to get your shoes on.
8. They brag about you to their friends.
9. They send cards in the actual MAIL, sometimes with actual CASH.
10. They have the best stories...and always have time to listen to yours.

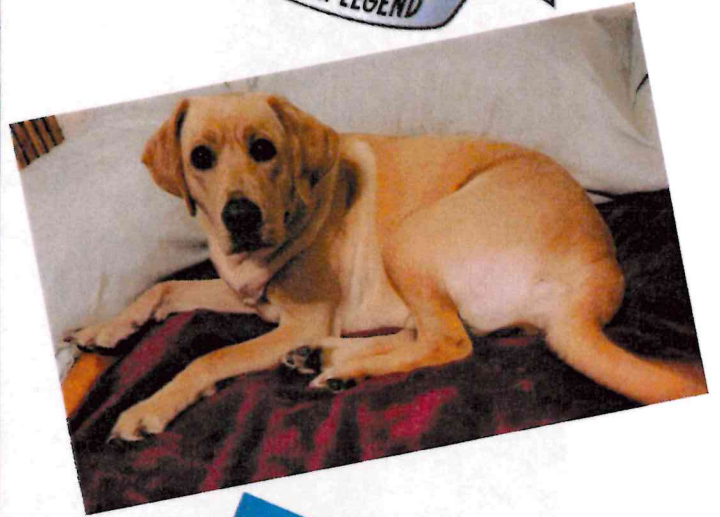
COOKIES FOR EVERYBODY!

I ♥  
SPOILING  
*my*  
GRANDCHILDREN

I'M RETIRED  
-But-  
I Work Part-Time  
Spoiling My  
GRANDKIDS



New Department Treasurer  
Shannon Brown  
[shannon@mnala.org](mailto:shannon@mnala.org)



Shannon is a member at large. She is eligible through her Grandpa Hjalmer Fredrickson who served during World War II. Shannon has 2 sons, 1 daughter and 2 granddaughters: Shannon has a loving boyfriend, John. Her family has been very supportive about her new adventure, and she couldn't do it without them. She's a country girl at heart, born and raised in McGregor, MN. Shannon has 25+ years of accounting experience and is looking forward to applying her knowledge to the greater good. She loves to ride her Harley and spend tons of time with her service dog, Harli. You may even see Harli with Shannon from time to time. Don't be afraid to say hello. Harli and Shannon have found a little apartment in Plymouth and on the weekends and holidays they will travel to their home up north in Isle, MN to spend time with friends and family. Shannon is very excited about this opportunity and couldn't think of a better way to finish her career than here at the Auxiliary.





## Raleen Tolzmann Endorsement

Fred K. Werner American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 287, Minnesota Lake, proudly endorses Raleen Tolzmann for the office of Alternate National Executive Committee for the Department of Minnesota for the 2024-2026 years. Raleen is eligible through her husband, Curtis Tolzmann, a Viet Nam era veteran. Curt and Raleen have 2 daughters (Paula and Ramona) and 1 son (Adarn), 5 Grandchildren, and 6 Great Grandchildren. Raleen and Curt live at Lake Jefferson near Cleveland, Minnesota. They attend St. Paul's Lutheran Church on German Lake. Raleen has served in the following areas:

**Unit Level:** Been a member of unit 287 for 30 years. She has served as president 5 times, has served on almost all the unit chairmanships. Faribault County Counsel Auxiliary president several times. She currently the Unit president.

**District Level:** President in 2003-2004, 1st vice and 2nd Vice President, 2 years on the executive board and served on the following committees: Membership, Americanism, Finance, Leadership, Advisor, Public Relations, Poppy, Community Service, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Chaplain, Parliamentarian, Resolutions and By-Laws, Past President Parley, Girls State and Sectary/Treasurer, District Color Guard and Page Department Conventions. She is currently serving as the District Secretary/Treasurer.

**Department Level:** Department President 2012-2013, Department 1st. Vice President, Department 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Legislation Chairman, Membership Chairman, Americanism Chairman, Girls State Committee, Girls State Staff, Junior Activities Chairmen, Children Youth, National Security, Musical Extravaganza, Sergeant at Arms, Credentials Committee, National Security Chairman, Past President Parley and Leadership. Raleen is currently the National Executive Committee person for Minnesota.

**National Level:** NEC, Alternate NEC, National Community Service Chairman (2018-2019), Vice Chairman of Public Relations, the following committee chairman in the Northwestern Division-Membership, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Junior Activities (twice), National Security Northwestern Division Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairperson. Raleen is the Northwestern Division Children and Youth Chairman for 2023-2024. Raleen has always been involved in her community and church along with the American Legion Auxiliary.