

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

Sharon Cross, Department President

May 2024 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



Unit Presidents are you sharing these pages from our Department Chairmen with your Unit Chairmen? We try our best to keep you and your members updated on changes and events. Department Chairmen that have reports to turn in please keep the deadlines set by your National and Northwest Division Chairmen on your radar. We want to put Minnesota in the spotlight!

Department Chairman if you wish to spruce up your trifold that you brought to Fall Conference, please bring them again to Department Conference. Add some end of year information to them. Information has already been released for our Convention July 11, 12, & 13th at the Willmar Conference Center. Check the website mnala.org and in the Legionnaire. The Department pre-convention meetings will be on July 10 at the Conference Center. More information on this later. All are welcome to attend the Department Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday. Come see what happens there.

Units are you remembering to record what you are doing in your Unit as your events happen, so you do not forget to include them a year from now. The new leadership will have some new ideas when beginning their year after the Department Convention. That information will be in your September 2024 Unit mailing. We have that trickle up effect as we put our dollars and hours together for all that you, our members, do for our veterans, active military and their families. Soon I will also be writing a report putting Minnesota in the spotlight for our National book of annual reports. I know you will all come through and together we will make Minnesota proud of all we have accomplished this past year.

Are you growing your Juniors? They are our future. You can involve your juniors even if they are not local. Send them information about the Junior Patch Program. Mail out scholarship information before your Juniors start preparing for college. Girls State and Boys State and volunteering in their community are important additions to their college applications. The Oratorical Contest is a great program for our youth. Any 9th - 12th grade student can compete in this great scholarship opportunity. Keep in touch and ask them if they say the Pledge of Allegiance in their school? Do they learn our National Anthem? Some schools are good at this and others not so much. We have just under 30,000 auxiliary members in our state. Can you imagine if every one of us brought in one more! Your juniors are a great source. Have them speak to their friends. Is their mom or dad in the service? Did grandma or grandpa serve our country? As the American Legion Auxiliary, we need to mentor our youth. There is no "I" in team. Working and planning together, being part of something bigger than yourself. Networking with others makes your organization grow. How is your Unit doing this?

Memorial Day is upon us remembering our deceased members and when we honor our veterans and military that have gone on to Post Everlasting. The lives they touched the sweet memories they gave us.

Sharon Cross, President Department of Minnesota



Department of Minnesota May 2024 Unit Mailing Americanism

Americanism Essay submissions went from 28 submissions from the last Unit Mailing to 102 total submissions! Wow, that is a lot of Americanism in this State of Minnesota. The first-place winners have been sent on to the Northwestern Division and National Americanism Chairman. Winners of the competition will be announced at the Department Convention.

American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State is getting closer. If your Unit has not sent in the citizens registration, please do so as soon as possible. This week is packed full of learning opportunities, which includes Americanism. I encourage Units to sponsor a young woman for this awesome week.

Armed Forces Day is on May 18th this year. Armed Forces Day was designed to expand the public understanding of what type of job is performed and the role of the military in civilian life. Armed Forces Day is the day to honor all who currently serve and all who have served, both active and former, the reserves, National Guard, or on active duty. President John F. Kennedy declared the third Saturday of May to be a federal holiday in honor of Armed Forces Day.

May also includes National Military Appreciation Month. This includes recognition of VE (Victory in Europe) Day, Military Spouse Appreciation Day, and Armed Forces week. The month of military appreciation concludes with Memorial Day-May 27th, a day to honor our fallen.

We won't forget Mother's Day – May 12th! If not for our mothers, this organization would not have been this awesome organization that we have now.

Flag Day and Father's Day are coming up in June. Start making your plans to honor both days.

I am looking forward to reading all the Americanism reports!

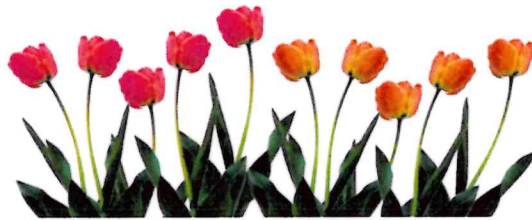
Mary Kuperus,
Department Americanism Chairman
wmkuperus@tds.net



NEEDED

Have you done any projects to promote AEF at your local unit meetings or district meetings? Have you written articles for your newsletter? If so, please send me pictures or articles to margeekeller@hotmail.com. Thank you in advance. The sooner the better!

Spring has sprung in our neck of the woods. We had a very mild winter.



With that being said, I am sharing a few tips for Emergencies involving storms and lightning.

Emergencies can occur in many different circumstances.

As Spring and Summer arrive, listed are a few types of safety to be utilized.

I am sharing safety tips that I received from my insurance company that they had received from the National Fire Protection Association.

Lightning Safety:

Thunder and lightning storms happen all the time. Do you know what to do to keep your family safe when storms strike!

Fast Fact: Lightning may strike as far as ten miles from any rain.

Indoor Safety:

Turn off computers!

Stay off-corded phones, computers and other things that put you in direct contact with electricity or plumbing.

You can use a cell or cordless phone.

Do not wash your hands, bathe, shower, do laundry or wash dishes.

Outdoor Safety:

Do not go under trees for shelter. There is no place outside that is safe during a thunderstorm.

Wait at least 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder before leaving your shelter.

Stay away from windows and doors. Stay off porches.

There is no save place outside – esp. golf courses, picnic areas, roofs on sports fields.

Small sheds should not be used.

If you hear thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning. Look for shelter in a home, large building, or a hard-topped vehicle right away.

If a person is struck by lightning, call 9-1-1. Get medical help right away.

Happy Spring!

Margee Keller, MN AEF Chairman

Cell 218-349-4566 margeekeller@hotmail.com



**Department of Minnesota
May 2024 Unit Mailing
Children and Youth**

Children and Youth

With the weather getting warmer more kids are playing outside. It is a great time to promote children safety events. Partner up with local law enforcement and promote bike safety. Or other local safety.

Legionville! Legionville! Legionville!

I am going to sound like a broken record here but Legionville is a very unique and an important program to the Department of Minnesota American Legion Family. Please promote this summer camp opportunity to children in your communities ages 9-13. The 2024 Camp will have 6 weekly sessions with a maximum capacity of 154 campers ages 9-13. Cost per camper is \$500. The 2024 sessions will be: June 16-21 and 23-28 July 7-12, 14-19, 21-26, and 28- Aug 22.

There is still time to get those Youth Hero Awards and Youth Good Deed Awards. Please keep recognizing these amazing kids in your communities that do amazing things!

***Brandi Christensen,
Department Children and Youth Chairman***



Department of Minnesota
May 2024 Unit Mailing
Education

Well, all the scholarships that needed to be into the National Northwestern Division went in on time. We received six (6) Non-Traditional Scholarship applications, six (6) Spirit of Youth applications and 20 Children of Warriors applications along with eight (8) for the Department of Minnesota scholarship, but one was received 15 days after the deadline and not all the directions were followed.

When the unit is signing off on the application form, please make sure that all the items that are required are with the application and make sure you are getting the information to department office by your deadline.

I had a lot of essays to read boy do we have a lot of ambitious students in the state. It was a very hard decision to make. I am so glad that national put out a scoring sheet in place to make the job easier. There were many great essays, some brought me to tears.

In the beginning of the year, we asked to make a push on the Non-Traditional scholarship as last year they didn't have many applications. We got the totals from national, and we received 1,060 Children of Warriors which is up from 864 last year, Non-Traditional we received 92 which is up from 12 last year, 81 Spirit of Youth application were also received.

The students that will receive a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 will receive a letter from Department office.

Teachers' appreciation week is May 6th-10th, 2024, still time to say "Thank-you". You can do something as simple as getting a card to a small snack in their breakroom I am sure anything would be welcomed.

I know that school is almost over for the year but there are still a couple of months and what about summer schoolteachers may still need items.

I am looking forward to reading all the annual reports that I have been getting in the mail.

Lorinda Kies
Department Education Chairman



Department of Minnesota May 2024 Unit Mailing

By the time you are reading this, our list of students attending Girls State in June will be complete. Our list is very close to our maximum of 200. I thank all units that are participating, and I appreciate the units that contacted me with questions or comments.

I am learning a LOT as Girls State Program Chairman. One of those items was the steps in sending a girl to the Girls State week and I found that many units are unsure of the steps. For that reason, I am including a "time-line" as such for your future use. I hope that you will print my article and keep it for future use.

Address your unit's participation in the program early in the calendar year. Be sure to consider your contribution when you complete your budget at the beginning of our year. Ask for volunteers to work with your local schools.

Contact your local school(s) in late January. The schools should have received paperwork by mid-January. Check with the Superintendent to see if they have appointed a staff member to help us. In many schools this would be their high school counselor. If that isn't possible, ask if there is a staff member that attended Girls State. Follow up with the appointed staff member.

Be sure that the school understands that although you may ask for their assistance or opinion, the final decision is yours. Ask candidates to complete a form about themselves. Meet with them. Answer their questions and ask some of your own. Many units conduct a group interview with all candidates.

We want to make sure our units are sending the right student. The student does not need to be an honor student – we are looking for students that are interested in learning about our government. We are hoping to educate them in the election process so they can become informed and conscious voters and participants when they are eligible. We are looking for students that will be there to learn – to be kind and respectful.

Reservation Forms need to be completed and returned to the Department Office when the deadline is set. This is usually March 31. You do NOT need to provide the names of the students with this form. This is just reserving the spot(s) that your unit is sponsoring. The fee(s) need to be sent with this form. Any money sent at this time and not later used for a student will be used for scholarships for units that have students, but do not have funds.

The Registration Forms are where you provide the names of the students. These are sent to the units after the Reservation deadline has happened. The Department needs the names to complete name badges and room assignments among other things. This is a job, and we appreciate you getting the name(s) in by the deadline, which is usually May 1.

There will be a separate packet, including several forms, for each student they are sponsoring. The packets need to be completed by the student AND their parents. These forms are essential for the week. They include medical information that is needed by our nurse, permission to post pictures of

the week, and a pledge signed by the student – among other forms. We suggest that you meet with the students and their parents to verify that all the forms are there and notarized if required. (I volunteered as a counselor last year and there were many students missing some information.) I also suggest that you mail the forms into the Department in plenty of time before the week. This gives us a chance for the office and our nurse to look over to be sure they are complete, and the student is eligible to attend.

Students are responsible for their transportation to the week. (We do have two districts that arrange a bus to bring students because of the distance.) Once they arrive, they cannot leave. If they drive themselves, they must turn their car keys into the committee. Visitors (family or friends) are not allowed at Bethel except at the Inauguration Ceremony on Thursday night.

Rules are necessary and we expect our attendees to abide by the rules. We expect them to be responsible, kind, and respectful when they are there.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Each year's committee may make changes, so these are guidelines based on what I learned this year. Be sure to read all the information that the committee sends to you. This is a great opportunity for our youth. If they take advantage of all the information provided, they can become good American citizens.

Linda Kelly
Minnesota Girls State Chairman



GIRLS STATE TRANSPORTATION

The Sixth District is again providing transportation to and from Girls State at Bethel University in St. Paul. Bemidji Bus Line will be using the following route and time schedule. The cost this year is \$75 for each girl. Please return this form by **May 16, 2024**

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU NOTIFY EACH OF YOUR GIRL'S ATTENDING OF THE PICKUP LOCATION, TIME OF PICKUP AND RETURN

TOWN	BUS STOP	DEPART JUNE 9, 2024	RETURN JUNE 15, 2024
Bemidji (56601)	Cenex Truck Stop	7:00 AM	3:00 PM
Cass Lake (56633)	Teal's Super Valu	7:20 AM	2:40 PM
Walker (56484)	Rear of BP Gas	7:45 AM	2:15 PM
Hackensack (56452)	Mark's Market	8:00 AM	2:00 PM
Backus (56435)	Legion Club	8:15 AM	1:45 PM
Pine River (56474)	Legion Club	8:30 AM	1:30 PM
Pequot Lakes (56472)	Super America	8:45 AM	1:15 PM
Nisswa (56468)	Holiday	9:00 AM	1:00 PM
Brainerd (56401)	Legion Club	9:20 AM	12:45 PM
Little Falls (56345)	Coborn's Parking Lot	9:50 AM	12:15 PM
St Cloud (56304)	Kwik Trip Hwy 10	10:30/10:45 AM	11:45 AM
Becker (55308)	McDonald's at Lights	11:15 AM	11:15 AM
Elk River (55330)	Legion Club	11:45 AM	10:45 AM
Bethel University	(55112)	12:30 PM	10:00 AM

We can make stops anywhere along Hwy 371 or Hwy 10. Just ask ahead of time. If you have any questions, please contact me: **Sharon Wunsch: 9226 Decatur Ave S Bloomington, MN 55438-1435,**

Phone 608-385-8041 or email sharonwunsch@gmail.com

Girls State Transportation Registration Form

Return by May 16, 2024 (Send all checks to name below)

Mail this completed form and a check made payable to "6th District AL Auxiliary" for \$75 (if this is being paid for by **Gambling Funds**: make the check payable to "Bemidji Bus Line") for each girl attending to: Sharon Wunsch 9226 Decatur Ave S Bloomington, MN 55438-1435

Unit Town: _____ Unit #: _____

Unit Girl's State Chairperson: _____ Phone: _____

APPLICANT'S INFORMATION

Name of Girl's State Citizen: _____
(Please Print)

Address of Citizen: _____
(City) (Zip)

Phone #: _____ Location of Bus Stop for Pickup _____

Parent Name: _____ Parent Phone #: _____



Department of Minnesota May 2024 Unit Mailing Junior Activities

The 2024 Junior Conference was held April 13th. We had a very good turnout of Juniors, and it went well. It looked like a good time was had by all. We have a New Honorary Junior President for the year 2024-2025. She is Teriana Richards from the Argyle Unit in the 9th District. Her theme this year is "We love our veterans to the moon and back".

I would like to thank the 9th District for all the hard work they did in preparing the hall, the snacks, and meals. It was greatly appreciated. Thanks to Diane Hayes and Mary Efta and all the other auxiliary members who assisted them.

I am looking forward to reading all those reports and seeing all the pictures of things that your Juniors have been doing this year to help our units and what they have done for our Veterans.

Hopefully if you were at the junior conference, you received a flyer about Junior Fun Weekend which happens the 2nd weekend in August. It is a good place to meet other juniors from around the state and have a great time.

Let's get out there and recruit and mentor new members so we can continue to see new faces each year at our activities.

Below are the 2024 Poppy Contest Winners

Poppy Memorial Day Wreath

Class I	First Place	Hazel Mertens	Unit 261 – Kimball - District 6
	Second Place	No Entry	
Class II	First Place	Alanna Willis	Unit 16 – Bagley - District 9
	Second Place	Emma Lovas	Unit 29 – Morris – District 7
Class III	First Place	Anika Mertens-Maxson	Unit 261 – Kimball - District 6
	Second Place	Shania Mertens	Unit 261 – Kimball - District 6

Poppy Corsage/Boutonniere

Class I	First Place	Sophia Suchar	Unit 353 – Argyle - District 9
	Second Place	Hazel Mertens	Unit 261 – Kimball - District 6
Class II	First Place	Mattea Efta	Unit 353 – Argyle - District 9
	Second Place	Miley Mahoney	Unit 258 – Clinton – District 7
Class III	First Place	Hannah Pederson	Unit 27 – Warren – District 9
	Second Place	Lily Lovas	Unit 29 – Morris – District 7

Poppy Centerpieces

Class I	First Place	Harley Nelson	Unit 353 – Argyle - District 9
	Second Place	Hazel Mertens	Unit 261 – Kimball - District 6
Class II	First Place	Lauren Lampman	Unit 522 – Northrop - District 2
	Second Place	Alanna Willis	Unit 16 – Bagley - District 9
Class III	First Place	Ashley Baird	Unit 27 – Warren – District 9
	Second Place	Addison Bienek	Unit 27 – Warren – District 9

New officers for 2024-2025 were elected and installed by Department President Sharon Cross.

The newly elected Honorary Department Junior Officers are:

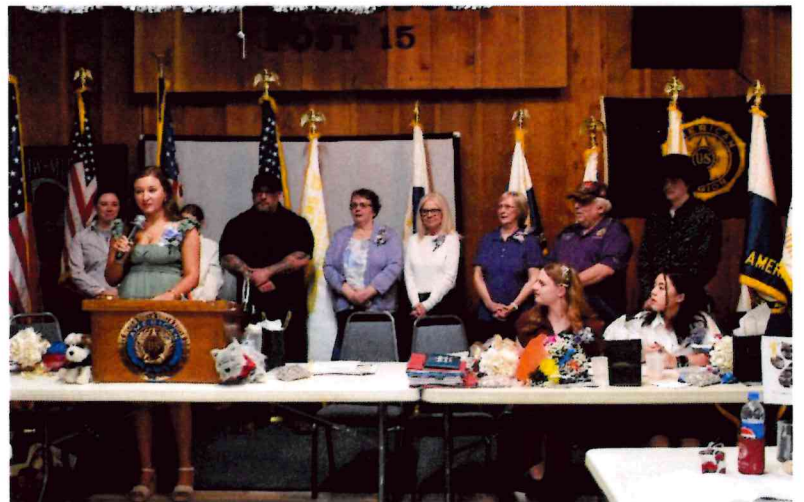
Honorary President:	Teriana Richards	Argyle Unit 359 – District 9
Honorary 1 st Vice President:	Bree England	North St. Paul Unit 39 – District 4
Honorary 2 nd Vice President:	Abigal Koltcs	Melrose Unit 101 - District 6
Honorary Secretary:	Faith Efta	Argyle Unit 353 – District 9
Honorary Treasurer:	Regan McElroy	LeRoy Unit 373 – District 1
Honorary Chaplain:	Lauren Lampman	Northrop Unit 522 - District 2
Honorary Historian:	Mattea Efta	Argyle Unit 353 - District 9
Honorary Sergeant at Arms:	Claire Verkuillen	Minneapolis Unit 511 – District 5

Minnesota's Official Delegate to the NW Division National Junior meeting - Teriana Richards, Argyle Unit 359 – District 9

Sally Strasser
Junior Activities Chairman
Email sstrass@hotmail.com

**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**

Department of Minnesota
60th Annual Junior Conference
Detroit Lakes, MN





ANNOUNCING. . . .

**Minnesota's 15th Annual
Junior Fun Weekend**

A fun weekend for Junior members of the Department of Minnesota to get together for some fun and to learn more about the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Friday thru Sunday, August 9-11, 2024

**Legionville School Patrol Camp
(on Long Lake, near Brainerd, MN)**

**Cost will be \$25.00 per person
if paperwork & payment is received
no later than July 17, 2024
\$30.00 fee for all reservations received
after July 17th
(meals & snacks included)**

- ❖ **Open to all Juniors and their Advisors/Chaperones**
- ❖ **Everyone attending must pre-register and prepay**
- ❖ **Limited to 1 Senior member for every 4 Junior Members unless space is available**



15th Annual Junior Fun Weekend

Who: All Junior members and their Advisor/Chaperones
Registration is on a first-come, first serve basis
All Junior members ages 3-18 are invited
You do not have to be from an active Junior group
Advisor/chaperones to Junior ratio is 1:3
1 - 3 Juniors = 1 advisor/chaperone
4 - 6 Juniors = 2 advisors/chaperones
If you have any questions, please call Judy Ackerman at 507-848-0145 or email judya2002@gmail.com

What: A weekend for junior members from throughout the State of Minnesota to get together for some fun and to learn more about the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. This will be an organized program which will be coordinated by the Department Junior Activities Chairman and American Legion Auxiliary volunteers.

When: Friday, August 9, 2024, through Sunday, August 11, 2024
Check-in Friday, August 9th from 5-8 p.m.
Dinner will be served after 6 p.m.
Check-out Sunday, August 11th by 11:00 a.m.

Where: Legionville near Brainerd, Minnesota (see attached map)

Cost: \$25.00 per person (includes meals, snacks & activities)
Paperwork & Fees must be received in the Department Office no later than Friday, July 19, 2024
All registrations received after July 19th will be \$30.00
No refunds will be issued.

Send to: American Legion Auxiliary
State Veterans Services Building
20 West 12th St. #314
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

To participate, complete the attached registration form and send the names of participants along with the \$25.00 fee per person as noted on the form. Again, the registration fee covers the cost of all meals, snacks & activities.

Each participating Junior member will be required to bring the attached permission form with them when they check in. Unit Senior Advisors and/or chaperones will have primary responsibility and supervision of all Junior members that they bring and will be expected to assist as needed with activities.

There will be a nurse on the premises to assist with minor boo-boos!

No one needs to bring a snack this year - they will be included.

2024 Department Junior Fun Weekend Registration

August 9-11, 2024

Unit Name: _____ Unit No: _____
Location: _____ District No: _____
Number of Juniors: _____ Number of Seniors: _____

Amount enclosed at \$25.00 per person: \$ _____
\$30.00 if rec'd after July 19, 2024

Make checks payable to American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota
Remit to: American Legion Auxiliary, State Veterans Service Building, 20 W 12th St. #314, St. Paul, MN 55155

Advisor/Chaperone Information (Print or type)

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone #: _____ Cell #: _____
Email: _____

Emergency Contact name & Phone #: _____ Relationship: _____

Areas where I would be interested in helping:

Junior Member Participants (Ages 3-18)

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

(Please make copies of this page for additional names)

WHAT TO BRING

Bring with you:

Picture of your Veteran or Veterans 2X2

Permission form & Media Release Form

Copy of Health Insurance card

Water Bottle (labeled with participant's name)

Pillow – Bedding or Sleeping Bag

Toiletries – toothpaste, toothbrush, towels, face cloth, soap, shampoo, comb/brush

Swimwear, shorts, shirts, pants, sweatshirt or sweater, jeans, jacket, socks, pajamas

2 pairs of shoes (Tennis & flip flops)

Sunscreen

Insect repellent

Flashlight (optional)

Poncho, raincoat, or umbrella

Instructions for or about any medicines you take to be given by the nurse.

Kindle, e-Reader, laptop, or iPod/ iPad (definitely Not Required - use your judgement!)

Plenty of enthusiasm, good attitude, and a willingness to make new friends!

Please Note:

The Juniors will be engaged in a variety of activities, some of which may include electronic devices. Although we are allowing them to bring them along, they will be asked to refrain from using their electronic devices while we are doing other activities. Please be sure they are clearly marked with the owner's name.

Medications:

If your child is on any prescription medication, please send the medication in its original container. Be sure it is clearly marked by your pharmacy, with the medication name and administration directions.

Please do not send over-the-counter medications unless deemed necessary. OTC meds must be in their original containers with the medication label clearly displayed and labeled with your child's name.

Reminder - to be turned in upon your daughter's arrival:

The signed parent's waiver

A copy of your daughter's health insurance

PLEASE MAKE A COPY OF THIS FOR EACH PARTICIPANT

Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary
State Veterans Services Building
20 West 12th St. Room #314
St. Paul, MN 55155

PARENTS WAIVER

This form **MUST** be brought with each Junior Member
and turned in upon their arrival at

Junior Fun Weekend

August 9-11, 2024

The undersigned parent(s) or guardian of:

(Junior Member)

(Address/City/State/Zip Code)

In consideration of the instructions, activities and training to be given to our (my) daughter, a Junior member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota, at the Junior Fun Weekend to be held at the Legionville Safety Summer Camp at North Long Lake in Brainerd, Minnesota, August 9 - 11, 2024, does hereby release and discharge the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota, its officers, agents, instructors and employees from any and all claims that may occur by reason of any illness, injury or accident incurred or suffered by said daughter while in attendance, while traveling to/from attending or participating in said Junior Fun Weekend no matter how caused or occasioned.

I acknowledge that neither basic accident and health insurance or personal property insurance is provided by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota, in connection with the Junior Fun Weekend and that the provision of such insurance is my own personal responsibility. I (we) understand the responsibility of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota, ends at the close of Junior Fun Weekend on Sunday, August 11, 2024.

In case of emergency, contact information is:

Name of parent(s) _____

(Address/City/State/Zip Code)

Telephone Number on Weekend _____ Cell Phone _____

(Print Parent or Guardians Name)

Date Signed: _____

(Parents or Guardian Signature)

(Please make copies and fill out for additional Junior members)

ALLERGIES AND MEDICATIONS

Does your daughter have any allergies? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please explain? _____

If this is a food allergy, please email judya2002@gmail.com, so we can plan accordingly for meals.

MEDICATIONS: Please send the medication with your daughter in its original container, clearly marked from your pharmacy with the medication name and directions for its use. Be certain your child's name is on the medication.

Name of medication my daughter is on _____

Does your daughter have any physical restrictions? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please explain? _____



American Legion Auxiliary

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

Media Release Consent Form

1. I, the undersigned, hereby authorize American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota to photograph me, take motion pictures of me, take video footage of me, and/or make electronic sound recordings of me (herein referred to as photographic or electronic reproductions) as well as use my name and likeness.
2. I authorize the use of any such photographic or electronic reproductions and my name and likeness for any purpose, including, but not limited to, educational and other public media as may be deemed appropriate by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota. I understand that I may be identifiable from such photographic or electronic reproductions for non-profit public purposes.
3. I understand that I will not be compensated financially for such uses.

Print Name _____
Title _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
Email Address _____

PARENTAL CONSENT

I certify that I am the parent and/or guardian of the individual above, _____, a minor under the age of eighteen years. I hereby agree to assume legal responsibility for his/her authorization referred to in this General Media Release.

Signature of Applicant's Parent/Guardian

Date

Address of Parent/Guardian (if different)

Cell Phone Number

City, State, Zip Code

Email Address

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

“We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives.”

John F. Kennedy.

Golden Rules of Leadership



Give Credit, Don't Take It Away

Arnold H Glasgow defines a good leader as, “**Someone who takes a little more than his share of the blame, a little less than his share of credit.**” As a leader, you should be the first one to recognize, appreciate and reward your followers instead of hoarding praise. This helps to keep them motivated and inspired. On the other hand, if you take all the credit for their efforts, it can send negative vibes to your followers. They eventually start to lose interest in your vision and refrain from giving their best, since they know their works will never be accredited to their names.

Have Fun with Leadership

This was sent from Carol Kottom our NW Division Leadership chairman, who received it from the Central Division leadership chair defiantly worth the read.

Have Some Fun with Leadership, April Fool's Day is known as the day of pranks and having fun. But did you know that having a good sense of humor is also an art of leadership?

Research shows that leaders who use humor are seen as more motivating and admirable than those who don't. That's because humor can be used as a motivation tool and helps build teamwork. When done right, your sense of humor gives your members an insight into your personality. Cracking a joke can also make you seem confident and competent. Funny people are described as being “quick-witted” not just funny but also intelligent. And good-natured joking about a mistake can put others at ease and opens the idea of trying something new or taking a chance. We can do serious things without taking ourselves too seriously. In fact, sometimes we can do them better with a little humor. Check-out this TED talk that reveals why great leaders take humor seriously.

Laughter is universal. It's a natural human response that sometimes happens automatically to something that is funny. Effective leaders understand that humor is not just about telling jokes; it's about creating an atmosphere where levity and laughter are encouraged.

Leadership often comes with its fair share of stress and pressure. Humor can be a powerful stress-relief

tool. A well-timed joke or a lighthearted comment can ease tension during high-stakes situations, helping both leaders and team members stay grounded and focused. Laughter is a natural mood enhancer. When members share a good laugh, it can improve their overall morale.

Here's a few tips for effective leadership humor:

- **Know Your Audience:** Understand the preferences and sensitivities of your members.
- **Be Inclusive:** Use humor that includes everyone, rather than targeting individuals or groups.
- **Avoid Sarcasm:** Sarcasm can easily be misinterpreted, so use it sparingly.
- **Stay Professional:** Maintain a level of professionalism while injecting humor into your interactions.

So go ahead...crack a joke or two at your next meeting! Your meetings may be more fun and productive if you take them a little less seriously. Amy Luft Central Division Leadership Chair

I want to thank every unit that set in their leadership reports your reports tell me you are an amazing group of Auxiliary members, and I am proud to be one of you.

Karla Otterness,
Department Leadership Chairman
t.d.news2share@gmail.com

**MEMORIAL DAY OUR FLAG DOES NOT FLY BECAUSE THE WIND MOVES IT. IT FLIES WITH THE
LAST BREATH OF EACH SOLDIER WHO DIED PROTECTING IT.**

2024 Veterans Day on the Hill

Minnesota veterans and their supporters, from every corner of the state, came together to march to the State Capitol on Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

The event at the Armory, sponsored by Disabled American Veterans (DAV), started with lunch and speakers. The event quickly became a standing room only as there was an estimated 900-1000 people in attendance.



Exciting this year, and a first for Minnesota, was the National American Legion Commanders Tour matched up to the Veterans Day on the Hill. National American Legion Commander Daniel Seehafer was the keynote speaker at the Armory. His main message included the **Be the One** mission.

“This is really our mission. It’s not just a campaign, it’s really a mission. Be the one. What Be the One entails is we want to lower that suicide rate within our veteran community”- Commander Seehafer.

After the speakers at the Armory, we gathered by the Veterans Service building and marched together to the State Capitol. The rotunda, and all three levels, were filled. Governor Tim Walz spoke and shared that Minnesota is working towards ending veteran homelessness. He said that Minnesota is on track to be the fourth state in the nation. Speakers shared the need for passing a clean Veterans Omnibus bill and updating the amount of the property tax value exclusion. You could feel the electricity in the room of everyone gathering for the same purpose and missing, our veterans.



Please consider attending the 2025 Veterans Day on the Hill. It will make an impact not only for our veterans but will inspire you and remind you of the importance of working our missions.

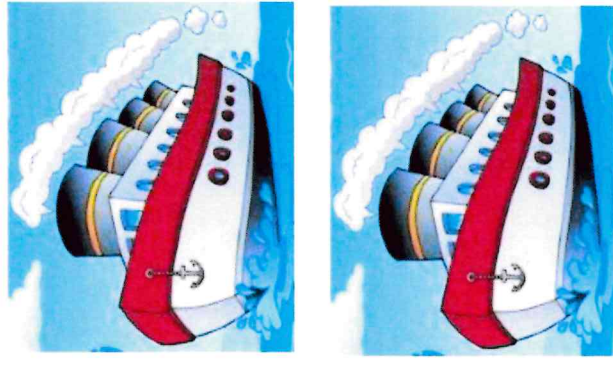
Thank you to the American Legion Auxiliary members in attendance supporting our veterans.

Together WE CAN!

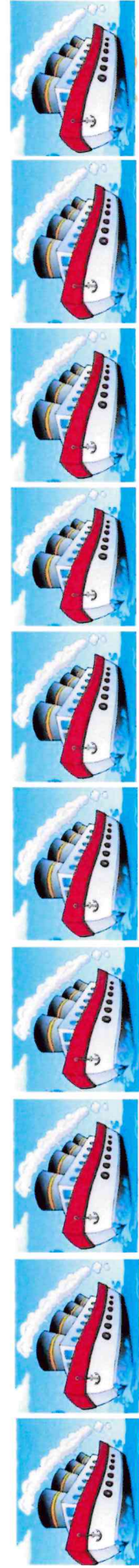
Robin Dorf
Legislation Chairman

"Cruising the Sea for Members!"

DISTRICT	# of Units	Goal	Period Gain	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year 4/15/2023	Difference from Last Year
One	47	3,762	28	3,110	82.67%	3,275	165
Two	71	3,890	26	3,156	81.13%	3,296	140
Three	46	3,882	45	3,242	83.51%	3,348	106
Four	7	579	7	445	76.86%	470	25
Five	7	522	7	307	58.81%	412	105
Six	61	5,031	38	4,164	82.77%	4,342	178
Seven	53	2,955	15	2,399	81.18%	2,507	108
Eight	19	1,185	8	1,033	87.17%	1,064	31
Nine	46	3,348	36	2,668	79.69%	2,881	213
Ten	42	3,812	28	3,054	80.12%	3,126	72
1982 Dept	1	332	4	267	80.42%	236	-31
District Totals:	400	29,298	242	23,845	81.39%	24,957	1,112
Group 1 (Even)	200	14,497	107	11,852	81.75%	12,298	446
<i>Robin Dorf</i>							
Group 2 (Odd)	199	14,469	131	11,726	81.04%	12,423	697
<i>Judy Ackerman</i>							



1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
87.17%	83.51%	82.77%	82.67%	81.18%	81.13%	80.12%	79.69%	76.86%	58.81%
District #8	District #3	District #6	District #1	District #7	District #2	District #10	District #9	District #4	District #5



RANKINGS



POPPY

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

May, 2024

Special thanks to all of the members of the American Legion Family who have stepped up this year and assisted our Department in poppy making. Hopefully, we have a few veterans who will continue to assemble poppies for us throughout the year. If you know of anyone interested, contact the Department office.

As I write this article, I am anxiously awaiting poppy reports from each of the districts. From what I am hearing, our Department has a few Little Miss Poppy candidates and also has Poppy Poster entries. That is amazing news! Thanks to those units who stepped up to try something new this year in the poppy program.

POPPIES AND MEMORIAL DAY

The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary has used the poppy as its symbol almost since our inception. The beautiful red poppy has remained as our way to recognize the lives lost to war since World War I and they play a large part in our Memorial Day ceremonies. Many of our members may not realize that the poppy is also worn in many of the countries that were Allied Forces during World War I including Great Britain, France, Belgium, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. However, in most of those countries, the poppy is worn on what they refer to as Remembrance Day (our Veteran's Day in the U.S.)

Red poppies bloomed in France and Belgium during World War I and were attributed to the soil that was enriched by rubble left over from the battles fought there. The bright red flowers sprouted around and among the rows of white crosses of fallen soldiers in Flanders Field American Cemetery & Memorial in



Waregem, West Flanders, Belgium. During the first World War, from 1914 to 1918, Flanders Field was a major battle zone. A million soldiers from more than 50 different countries were wounded, missing, or killed in action there. Entire villages were destroyed and the U.S. 37th and 91st Divisions suffered heavy casualties. At this peaceful site, 368 of our military dead lie in rest. Their headstones are aligned in four symmetrical areas around a white stone chapel that stands in the center of the cemetery.

Memorial Day to the American Legion Family is more than just cookouts and trips to the cabin over a long weekend. The holiday is about commemorating the millions of brave Americans who have given their lives defending the values our country was founded on. The words of John F. Kennedy say it best... "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them."

Our beautiful red poppy is a symbol to represent the ultimate sacrifice paid by our men and women who fought for our country. Poppies are typically seen in abundance over the month of May, especially during Memorial Day weekend. It shows as our way to keep our thoughts on the most important reason for the holiday.

How the poppy became the official Memorial Day flower began back in the spring of 1915. Allied battle surgeon and poet Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae saw the barren fields blanketed with the vibrant red poppies. In the spring of 1915, just after a battle that resulted in the deaths of 87,000 Allied soldiers, McCrae composed a poem on the spot. His poem was published in *Punch* magazine later that year and would become one of the most famous poems to emerge from World War I.

The American Legion made the poppy its official flower to memorialize those who fought and died on September 27, 1920 and began national distribution programs around the country in 1924.

The most common way to use the poppy is to simply pin one on your lapel or hat. Emblem Sales have created many other poppy related items that can be worn or displayed. Check them out – there is a nice collection. There is a nice card stock poster that many units offer to local businesses that states "Honor America's Veterans – Wear a poppy with pride". These can be found at emblem.legion.org.

Many units have made beautiful corsages or bouquets to display throughout the holiday. Others have used the poppy to decorate anchors to represent those who died at sea. Still others have decorated crosses and Stars of David with poppies to display at religious ceremonies throughout their community. Another idea is to distribute poppies to all who attend your local Memorial Day ceremonies – without accepting donations. Simply ask them to wear a poppy in remembrance. It's amazing how much this small gesture means, especially to our elderly.

There is no set way to use poppies as we honor and recognize our veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Let's be creative in finding new ways to use poppies for Memorial Day.



DEPARTMENT CONVENTION POPPY CONTESTS

Cash Prizes for each contest will be awarded as follows:

1 st Place	\$25.00
2 nd Place	\$20.00
3 rd Place	\$15.00
People's Choice Award	\$10.00

Please be creative for these contests and “think outside the box” when submitting your entries.

Entries must be submitted at Department Convention at the Willmar Event Center on Thursday, July 11th by 10:00 AM.

CONTEST #1 – *Wearable item Using ALA Poppies or a Poppy motif*

Something wearable with poppies included that you might wear when you distribute poppies. Please be creative. This can be anything – jewelry, clothing, hair accessories, hats, etc.

CONTEST #2 – *Poppy Donation Container*

A Poppy Donation Container that was created by one of your unit members and used when your unit distributed poppies. Again, be creative.

Contests are open to all Auxiliary members. You do need to have a poppy of some sort in your entry, but you do not have to use the ALA poppy. All entries must include an attached sealed envelope with a card inside that states your name, unit number and unit location. If using ALA poppies, remember to remove the white tags. Small or large poppies may be used.

Voting for the People's Choice will be by donation, with the funds going to the Department President's Special Project of purchasing a player piano for the Minnesota Veterans Home in Bemidji and funds for activities at the Veterans Homes in Preston and Montevideo.



Department of Minnesota
May 2024 Unit Mailing
Public Relations

Thank you for filling out your reports. But next year for the ones who sent me (Department Chairman) your reports and not to your District Chairman, please pay attention to the instructions. The reports are to go to your District Chairmans.

They (the District Chairman) are to send me a report so I can fill it out and send a report to the Department. I then can put them in for awards from Department and National. All this takes time to get accomplished.

Please keep our troops in your thoughts and prayers.

Keep wearing your Auxiliary shirts and Branding Clothing.

Sharon Hammon
Department of Minnesota, Public Relations Chairman

Proper Donation Procedures

There are 2 types of donation checks that we process here at the office, Department of Minnesota and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation checks.

1. Department of Minnesota checks are deposited directly into our main checking account, then we turn around and cut a check for all the donations made over a certain time period.
2. American Legion Auxiliary Foundation checks are processed completely different. When a check comes into the department made out to the foundation, we must write a grant and submit that grant with the check. After the grant is approved at the foundation, they send us an electronic funds transfer for the full amount of the grant. **ALL GAMBLING DONATIONS MUST BE MADE OUT TO CHARITIES AS PER MINNESOTA STATUTE! PLEASE, MAKE SURE THAT YOU WRITE ALL GAMBLING DONATIONS OUT TO THE "AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION".**

If you have any questions at all about how to make out your donation checks, please do not hesitate to call the department. Grant processing takes some time, so if it's submitted by the Unit or Post properly, we will save valuable time.



**Meat
Raffle!**

990 Filings

This is just a reminder to make sure that your unit is filing your 990 every year. If you neglect to do so you will not be IRS compliant, you will lose your status, and it's not an easy process to get back. You must stay on top of this. To help you through this process, we have posted the IRS 990 Guide on our website. Go to www.mnala.org, click the forms tab, and scroll through until you see "990-Ne Postcard User Guide".



Poppy Update

HOORAH!!

ALL THE ORDERS HAVE BEEN SHIPPED!!



We do have some poppies left at the office. We will be accepting more order, but none over 1000. We are off to a good start for next year. We managed to secure some yearround poppy makers. Some are veteran's and the other's have a love for veteran's.



Department of Minnesota Dates to Remember and General Updates

May 24 - National Poppy Day

May 27 – Memorial Day

June 1 – 2024-2025 Unit Officers List Due to Department Office

June 9-15 – American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota Girls State

July 10-13 – Department Convention, Willmar

August 9-11 - Junior FUN Weekend, Legionville

August 23-28 – National Convention

*** The 2024 Call to Department Convention, Delegate Strength and Credential Cards will be in the June Unit Mailing. Housing information and registration form is in the May (this) Unit Mailing.

*** If your Unit has not sent in the 2024-2025 Unit Officers list, please, do so ASAP. Our deadline to have all of the Department's Unit Offers updated in ALAMIS is June 1. You can email the form to deptoffice@mnala.org.

To all the Units and individuals that made Poppies over the last several months,



Because of **YOU**, we were able to meet the needs of all our Department's Units and Posts.

This was Teamwork at its **BEST!**





Department Convention, Willmar, July 10-13, 2024

DEC Meeting July 10

**Caucasus, Program Meetings and General Sessions July 11-13
(More details about the agenda and meeting schedules to come.)**

Hotel Options:

When making your reservation, please ask for The American Legion Block.

Best Western Plus 320-235-6060

Holiday Inn Express 320-231-2601

Country Inn & Suites: 320-214-0300

AmericInn: 320-365-1995

** All hotel room rates subject to applicable state and local taxes in effect at time of check in.

OFFICIAL CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION

A registration fee of \$15.00, until June 26, for each person attending, whether a delegate, alternate or a guest, must accompany this form. Make your check payable to "AMERICAN LEGION POST 167". OR register and pay by Eventbrite at mnlegion.org/events/calendar. If you write a check, please mail this form with your check to: Carrie Werner, 36898 Co Hwy 6, Redwood Falls, MN 56238. **Registration will be \$25.00 after June 26 and at the door.**

Legion _____ SAL _____ Auxiliary _____

District# _____ Post/Squad/Unit# _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Delegate _____ Alternate _____ Guest _____

Delegate at-Large (Auxiliary) _____

(As a Past Department President or member of the Department Executive Committee)

(Please check one of the above)

If additional pre-registrations accompany this request, this pre-registration form should be photocopied for each person. The \$15.00 registration fee must be enclosed for each person.

Please do not use this registration blank for more than one person.



SAVE THE DATE

Friday, May 31, 2024

10 a.m.

2190 William Avenue, Montevideo, MN 56265

Please join the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) and community members for the dedication ceremony of the Minnesota State Veterans Homes - Montevideo.

Invited guests include Federal, State and Local elected officials, business and civic leaders, Veterans Service Organizations and advocates, volunteers and donors who have worked tirelessly for years to make this dream a reality.

Join us for:

- Social Hour featuring building tours, light refreshments and live music from the Montevideo Community Band
- Commemorative program honoring our Veterans Home

For more information, email cindy.wilkens@state.mn.us or call 320-435-4744

Thank you in advance for attending; we look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

Ashley Bormann, Administrator
Minnesota Veterans Homes - Montevideo





30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Friday, June 7, 2024

1300 North Kniss Avenue
Luverne, MN 56156

Open House

Tours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Lunch: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Program begins at 1 p.m.

Please join us as we celebrate 30 years of caring for Veterans!

Enjoy live music, refreshments and more.

Parking will be available in the back parking lot and across the street at the American Reformed Church. A shuttle service will be available.



Vet Center Mission

To welcome home and honor those who served, those still serving, and their families by reaching out to them, engaging their communities, and providing them with quality readjustment counseling and timely referral.



Readjustment Counseling Service

**Grand Opening and Open House
Ceremony
St. Cloud Outstation**

**DATE: JUNE 13, 2024
TIME: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
LOCATION: 330 Highway 10
South, Suite 101
St. Cloud, MN**



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs