

American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Minnesota  
2023-2024

**Sharon Cross, Department President**

**June 2024 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)



Here we are already fired up and working on our programs for the 2024-2025 program year. This is the most exciting month for our American Legion Auxiliary Girls State volunteer staff. The anticipation, the planning, the preparation all come to fruition. The committee has held awesome training sessions for the staff. The Girls State program is a grass roots government program that is a fast-paced educational experience for the citizens your Unit has chosen. We ask all citizens to thank their American Legion Auxiliary sponsors and we ask that you invite them to come to your Unit and share their experience. Thank you to all The American Legion Family that helps to support this program. Without you this would not be possible.

Did your Unit/Post celebrate American Legion Family Day? Are you aware that in 2022 the American Legion passed a resolution to declare that the last Saturday in April is “American Legion Family Day”? Here is the last part of that resolution:

**RESOLVED**, By National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular S meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 12-13, 2022, That a special day known as “American Legion Family Day” be established and observed annually on the last Saturday of April, when all American Legion posts throughout the nation would open their doors to their members and the members of their local communities with the intent of celebrating all great deeds and works of the American Legion Family with the intent to educate, recruit, recognize and to give back to those members that continually support the gift of giving; and, be it finally **RESOLVED**, That the American Legion Family shall place special emphasis and awareness on the “Be The One” program on American Legion Family Day.

Thank heavens the weather has been warm enough to rain not snow as we get closer to the end of spring! I am always able to say that we live in God's Country. The beauty of the clean crisp air when white with fresh snow on the ground. Our beautiful lakes when in the winter we can walk on water! The awakening of spring with trees budding, birds singing and flowers beginning to bloom. My travels have been blessed this year, 10,595 miles since January 1, 2024.

Planning is ongoing for the Department Convention July 11, 12, 13, 2024. Get your reservations in and we will see you at the Willmar Conference Center.

Keep up the good work and keep Dancing Into the Hearts of Veterans!

**Sharon Cross, Department President**





# 2024 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Please join us at 104<sup>th</sup> Department Convention being held July 11-13, 2024, at the Willmar Conference Center, Willmar, MN.

## **Wednesday, July 10, 2024**

Pre-Convention Department Executive Meeting

## **Thursday, July 11, 2024**

District Caucuses

Convention Session

Joint Memorial Service

Convention Committee Meetings

## **Friday, July 12, 2024**

District Caucuses

Convention Session

Past Department Presidents Luncheon

Convention Reconvenes

## **Saturday, July 13, 2024**

Convention Session

Election of 2024-2025 Officers &

Delegates to National Convention

Installation of 2024-2025 Officers

The following members have been endorsed for Department office:

Department President – Judy Ackerman, Northrup Unit 522

Department 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Robin Dorf, Monticello Unit 260

Department 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Linda Kelly, Pine Island, Unit 184

Nominations will be on Thursday morning. When there is more than one candidate nominated, elections will take place by balloting. There will also be nominations for delegates at-large to the National Convention.

Please remember to bring your entries for the **Poppy Contest**. All entries must be at the convention by 9 a.m. on Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. Tables will be set up in the display area for the entries. Winners will be announced during the Poppy report on Friday.

## **HOUSING INFORMATION**

Please, call the hotels listed below to make your reservation.

**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

## OFFICIAL CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION

A registration fee of \$15.00 for each person attending, whether a delegate, alternate or a guest, must accompany this form. Make your check payable to **"American Legion Post 167"** with Dept. Convention written on the memo line. No credit cards will be accepted. Please mail this form with your check to: Carrie Werner, 36898 County Hwy 6, Redwood Falls, MN 56238. **Registration after June 26th will be \$25.00.**

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.**

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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)**

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**CALL FOR THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
Department of Minnesota**

The 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota, is hereby called to be held in Willmar, Minnesota July 11, 12 and 13, 2024, for the purpose of:

1. Electing Department Officers
2. Considering any amendments which may be proposed for Unit, District, and Department Constitutions
3. Electing delegates and alternates to the 105<sup>th</sup> National Convention.
4. Receiving reports of Department Officers, National Committeewoman, District Presidents, and Chairmen of Department Committees.
5. The transaction of such other business as may be brought before the Convention in conformity with the provisions of the National and Department Constitutions.

\*\*\*\*\*

REPRESENTATION: (Article VI, Unit Bylaws) "Each Unit shall be entitled to two delegates at the Department Convention one of whom shall be the Unit President, plus one additional delegate for each 50 members or major fraction thereof whose dues have been received by the Department Treasurer 30 days prior to the meeting of the Convention for which they are elected. Each Unit shall elect its delegates. In addition, each Unit shall elect alternate delegates to serve in the absence of delegates. The delegates shall serve in the order elected before any alternate delegates and then the alternate delegates shall serve in the order elected." (Example: Units which have membership of 10 to 25 are entitled to 2 delegates, Membership of 26 to 75, 3 delegates; 76 to 125, 4 delegates, etc.)

The vote of each Unit shall be equal to the total number of delegates to which the Unit is entitled, provided there is a delegate from the Unit present to cast the vote. Alternates will have power to vote only in the absence of the delegate.

\*\*\*\*\*

"To be eligible to candidacy for office or delegate to convention, a member must be a member in good standing." (Article VIII, Unit Bylaws.)

EXPENSES: The Convention expenses of Unit delegates must be borne by their Unit or by the delegates themselves unless they are Department Chairmen or members of the Department Committees,

CREDENTIALS: Two (2) delegate and two (2) alternate cards are included in this mailing. Additional cards will be available for pick up at the Department Convention. The outgoing Unit President is the Chairman of your Unit's delegation. If she will not be attending the delegation she should elect a chairman of the delegation. It is best to have this done before the delegates leave home.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES: All delegates and alternates shall be elected at a regular Unit meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

WATCH THE DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK PAGE AND THE LEGIONNAIRE FOR DETAILS regarding Convention plans.

**SHARON CROSS**  
**Department President**

**CHRISTIE AVANT**  
**Department Secretary**

The table below indicates the number of delegates and alternates to which your Unit is entitled for the annual Department Convention to be held at the Conference Center Willmar, MN July 11-13, 2024.

<b>Unit Membership</b>	<b>Number of Delegates</b>	<b>Number of Alternates</b>
10 to 25	2	2
26 to 75	3	3
76 to 125	4	4
126 to 175	5	5
175 to 225	6	6
226 to 275	7	7
276 to 325	8	8
326 to 375	9	9
376 to 425	10	10
426 to 475	11	11

Two delegate and two alternate Credential cards are enclosed. If your Unit is entitled to more than two delegates and two alternates, **they will be available at the Department Convention in the Auxiliary office.**

Make sure the location and number of your Unit and District is on your Credential Card. Each delegate or alternate must show her Credential Card when she registers. This card **must be** signed by the Unit Secretary and should be carried by the delegate or alternate at the Convention in Willmar. All delegates **must** present their Credential card to receive a ballot to vote.

# Congrats Minnesota!

## FY23-24 ANNUAL AEF AWARDS LEADERBOARD

*Date Range: June 1, 2023 - May 13, 2024*

	<b>DEPT. AWARD</b> <i>Largest Total Annual Contribution</i>	<b>DEPT. AWARD</b> <i>Largest Annual Amount / Capita</i>	<b>UNIT AWARD</b> <i>Largest Annual Amount / Capita</i>
<b>1<sup>ST</sup></b>	<b>ALA DEPT. of MINNESOTA</b>	<b>ALA DEPT. of MINNESOTA</b>	<b>ALA Unit 365</b> <i>Hope, KS</i>
<b>2<sup>ND</sup></b>	<b>ALA DEPT. of INDIANA</b>	<b>ALA DEPT. of GEORGIA</b>	<b>ALA Unit 79</b> <i>Riverside, CA</i>
<b>3<sup>RD</sup></b>	<b>ALA DEPT. of ARIZONA</b>	<b>ALA DEPT. of ALASKA</b>	<b>ALA Unit 21</b> <i>Independence, MO</i>
<b>4<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>ALA DEPT. of WISCONSIN</b>	<b>ALA DEPT. of INDIANA</b>	<b>ALA Unit 6</b> <i>Zeeland, MI</i>
<b>5<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>ALA DEPT. of OHIO</b>	<b>ALA DEPT. of ARIZONA</b>	<b>ALA Unit 117</b> <i>Phoenix, AZ</i>

**DISCLAIMER:** The results posted are as of the stated dates above and are shared to be for informational purposes only and are not the final results for the FY23-24 AEF Annual Awards. The results are subject to change based upon AEF donations received from departments, units and annual membership per capita data. These results are based upon AEF donations directly received from ALA departments and units at the ALA National Headquarters. No numerical data will be shared in the posting, only a listing of ALA entities.

*Margee, Department Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman*





I would like to “THANK” all of the Units who submitted Americanism Essay submissions. Our elementary school participated for the first time this year. I was so honored to present certificates and our Unit’s prizes to the winners in front of their classroom. Hoping that the essay contest will continue into Middle School and High School in the years to come.

Americanism will be front and center at American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State in less than a month. Each morning, the colors of our Nation are advanced, the Pledge of Allegiance is recited, the National Anthem is sung, and an Americanism reading, or flag etiquette is presented in some way. The colors are retired each evening or at the end of a session. The ALA MN Girl State citizens are asked on the first and last evening “What is Americanism?” It is very interesting to hear their answers.

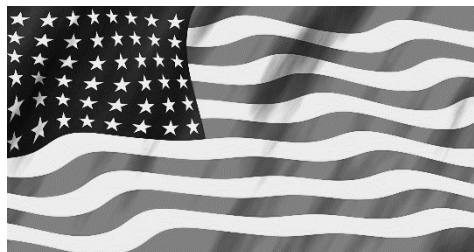
Flag Day is June 14<sup>th</sup>. Flag Day is celebrated on June 14 in the United States. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777 by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. The Flag Resolution stated "That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." The week of June 14 (June 09–15, 2024) is designated as "National Flag Week." During National Flag Week, the president will issue a proclamation "urging the people to observe the day as the anniversary of the adoption on June 14, 1777, by the Continental Congress of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States of America." (Wikipedia)

Father’s Day is on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Father’s Day in the United States is on the third Sunday of June. It honors all fathers, grandfathers, great-grandfathers, and father figures for their contribution in the lives of their children. As an American Legion Auxiliary, we can celebrate the fathers of our organization. Their insight of what the largest women’s veteran organization could be, has been around for over 100 years. Now fathers, who are spouses of a veteran, can be American Legion Auxiliary members.

Independence Day is July 4<sup>th</sup>. People in the thirteen colonies began fighting the British under King George III in 1775 for their own independence. Congress secretly voted for independence from Great Britain on July 2, 1776. The final wording of the Declaration of Independence was approved and published on July 4, 1776. The Declaration of Independence was publicly read on July 8, 1776. Delegates started signing the Declaration of Independence on August 2, 1776.

Enjoy your 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations! Americanism will be all around you!

Mary Kuperus  
Department Americanism Chairman  
[wmkuperus@tds.net](mailto:wmkuperus@tds.net)





## **Junior Fun Weekend**

The Juniors will be doing a Service project at Junior Fun Weekend, August 9-11, 2024. The service project will be packing Personal Care Kits for Female Veterans. These kits will be distributed to inpatient and outpatient female veterans.

I'm asking our members to donate and bring these items to the Department Convention so they can be taken to Legionville for the Juniors to pack the kits. Here is the list of items that are needed for these kits. These are the travel size (shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, lotion, and toothpaste).

<b>Required items</b>		<b>Optional Items</b>
Shampoo	Lip Balm	Travel-size Kleenex
Conditioner	Chapstick	Pen/Pencil
Deodorant (non-aerosol)	Emery Board	Small Journal/Notepad
Bar Soap	Large Comb	Word Search/Puzzle Book
Body Wash	Hairbrush	Stress Ball/Fidget Item
Toothbrush	Lotion	Slipper/Cozy Socks
Toothpaste		Handwritten Note of Thanks/Encouragement

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Judy Ackerman, Department Junior Activities Chairman

Cell 507-848-0145 or e-mail [judya2002@gmail.com](mailto:judya2002@gmail.com)

Thank you for considering this request. Helping one veteran at a time.





## **Minnesota National Guard Youth and Teen Camp**

**Camp Ripley, MN**

*Week 1: July 21-27 and Week 2: July 28-August 3*

### ***OUR HISTORY***

Approximately 300 youth, ages 10-15, converge on Camp Ripley, Minnesota, in July-August to attend the Annual Minnesota National Guard Youth Camp. During the one-week camp session, the youth, dependents, nieces, nephews, brothers, sisters, and grandchildren of current and retired Minnesota Guard members spend seven days experiencing Camp Ripley and its surrounding environment.

A group of Minnesota National Guard members first discussed establishing a youth education program in the summer of 1988. In September 1989, the Adjutant General, Major General Eugene Andreotti, appointed the Family Program Manager to establish a youth camp program. A State Coordinator was appointed in November, and the first planning meeting was held in December 1989. In August 1991, 104 youths attended the First Annual Minnesota National Guard Youth Camp, which was a resounding success.

Since then, the Youth Camp Program has developed into a Minnesota non-profit organization. The Internal Revenue Service recognizes it as a non-profit organization, and a Board of Directors oversees the planning and conduct of all operations. It solicits, screens, and trains volunteers who serve as the staff for all youth camp activities. All volunteers are active, retired, spouses, or dependents of members of Army or Air National Guard members. In October 1992, the American Camping Association (ACA), after undergoing a thorough investigation during the 1992 camp session, classified Youth Camp as an accredited camp. Youth Camp was the first accredited National Guard Youth Camp in the United States. Youth Camp continues through the re-accreditation process and remains an ACA camp.

In 2001, Teen Camp was created. This one-week camp was developed for 13 to 15-year-olds. It intends to promote respect, friendship, leadership, teamwork, self-confidence, self-esteem, and community involvement.

#### **The purpose of the Minnesota National Guard Youth Camp is to:**

- Provide a unique and enjoyable opportunity for the Minnesota National Guard dependents to explore the environment in which they live and be more responsible in maintaining the environment for future generations.
- Provide a positive experience in a safe and caring environment.
- Assist youth in understanding why their Guard member serves in the National Guard.
- Help youth cope with the stress and confusion of separation/deployment.

### ***VOLUNTEER POSITIONS***

There are many volunteer opportunities at both Youth and Teen Camp for persons 18 and older! This camp will change you life in so many amazing ways. Please consider being a part of the camp.

Indicate which position you would like to apply for on your Adult Youth Camp Application. Although requests for certain positions are considered when staffing camp, assignments are made based on the best interests of that week's camp operations.

Listed below are the different volunteer positions and requirements for those positions.

## Leaders / Counselors

- **Youth Camp Counselors:** Must be 18 years or older and will spend the week at Youth Camp participating as counselors for 10-12 year old campers. Counselors must be motivated, energetic, patient people who are expected to lead the campers in various activities.
- **Teen Camp Counselor:** Must be 20 years or older and will spend the week at Teen Camp participating as counselors for 13-15 year old campers. Counselors must be motivated, energetic, patient people who are expected to lead the campers in various activities.

## Waterfront

- **Waterfront Staff:** Acts as a member of the waterfront staff assisting in direction of waterfront activities to include swimming, canoeing and all other water activities. Typically is a member of the Biking Staff for morning activities.

## Biking

- **Biking Staff:** Acts as a member of the biking staff assisting in biking activities to include bike trip and other biking activities. Typically is a member of the Waterfront Staff for afternoon activities.

## Orienteering.

- **Orienteering Staff:** Assists with orienteering activities, exposing campers to compass usage and map navigation. Typically is a member of the Confidence Course Staff for afternoon activities.

## Range

- **Rifle Range Staff:** Assists with rifle range

## Medical

- **Medical Volunteers:** Volunteers with current licenses as doctors, nurses, emergency medical technicians or paramedics. Medical personnel are assigned to teams and serve as counselors either at Youth or Teen camp throughout the week, while also attending to the medical needs of the campers on their team.

## Drivers

- **Vehicle/Bus Drivers:** Must be a current military member licensed on 44 passenger bus or have a current commercial bus driver license. Drivers will serve as counselors for either Youth or Teen camp providing team transportation to their scheduled activities.

## Security

- **Night Security Staff:** Are responsible for ensuring campers are safe during the night and provide any assistance to campers as needed. (This person is working during the night.)

## Campout

- **Overnight Campout Staff:** Assists with all activities during the campout at Bennett Hill to include meal preparation, water delivery, campfire building, and night security during the campout. This person is working during the night.

## Arts & Crafts

- **Arts and Crafts Lead:** Is responsible for all arts and crafts activities to include assisting campers with their projects, setup and teardown of the craft room and organizing of team craft boxes. Supervises all Arts and Crafts Staff.

activities, familiarizing campers with range procedures and firing of 22 caliber rifles. Typically is a member of the Archery Staff for afternoon activities.

- **Archery Range Staff:** Assists with all archery range activities to include range operations and equipment maintenance and bow usage. Instructs campers on the safe usage of archery equipment and how to site a bow and arrow.

- **Arts and Crafts Staff:** Assists with all arts and crafts activities to include assisting campers with their projects, setup and teardown of the craft room and organizing of team craft boxes.

## Confidence Course

- **Confidence Course Lead:** Is responsible for inspection operation and direction of all activities at the confidence course where campers go through a series of obstacles that encourage teamwork and participating in new experiences. Supervises all Confidence Course Staff.
- **Confidence Course Staff:** Assists with confidence course activities where campers go through a series of obstacles that encourage teamwork and participating in new experiences. Typically is a member of the Orienteering Staff for morning activities.

## Administration

- **Administration Personnel:** Are responsible for the administrative processing of all campers and staff, answering phones, mail delivery, processing camper memory book and support of camp director and camp.
- **Supply Lead:** Is responsible for all accountability of, buildings, vehicles and equipment borrowed from Camp Ripley. Directs and oversees all pre-camp setup and turn in of buildings and equipment. Should have good working knowledge of Camp Ripley procedures and personnel. Supervises all Supply/Logistics Staff. (This position is appointed by the MN National Guard Youth Camp Board).
- **Supply Staff:** Assists Supply Director with all accountability, setup and turn in of all buildings and equipment as well as operations during camp.

## *ELIGIBILITY*

To come to camp, applicants must meet a few criteria;

1. All campers must be the child, grandchild, niece, nephew, brother, or sister of a current or retired member of the MN National Guard.
2. Campers must be between the ages of 10-15 by the start of camp.
3. All volunteers must be the spouse, parent (including in-laws), sibling (including in-laws), child, or grandchild of a current or retired member of the Minnesota National Guard.
4. Eligibility requirements may only be waived by the Board of Directors and are considered on a case-by-case basis. Please email us for consideration.

More information can be found online at: [Minnesota National Guard Youth Camp \(mngyc.org\)](http://mngyc.org)

You can also support MNGYC by playing in the golf tournament Aug 7<sup>th</sup>: [Minnesota National Guard Youth/Teen Camps-Golf Tournament \(mngyc.org\)](http://mngyc.org)



## **Minnesota National Guard Youth and Teen Camp**

**Camp Ripley, MN**

*Week 1: July 21-27, 2024 and Week 2: July 28-August 3, 2024*

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Anyone 18 or older currently in the Minnesota Air or Army National Guard or a spouse, parent (including in-laws), sibling (including in-laws), child, or grandchild of a current or retired member of the Minnesota National Guard is eligible to volunteer for MNGYC.

In August 1991, 104 youths attended the First Annual Minnesota National Guard Youth Camp, which was a resounding success. Since then, the Youth Camp Program has developed into a Minnesota non-profit organization.

.All volunteers are active, retired, spouses, or dependents of members of Army or Air National Guard members. In October 1992, the American Camping Association (ACA), after undergoing a thorough investigation during the 1992 camp session, classified Youth Camp as an accredited camp. Youth Camp was the first accredited National Guard Youth Camp in the United States. Youth Camp continues through the re-accreditation process and remains an ACA camp.

In 2001, Teen Camp was created. This one-week camp was developed for 13 to 15-year-olds. It intends to promote respect, friendship, leadership, teamwork, self-confidence, self-esteem, and community involvement.

Camp cannot happen without volunteers. We have kids on wait lists because we don't yet have enough adult volunteers. Lodging and meals are included free of charge for volunteers. We appreciate any time you can commit to MNGYC, even if its just a day or wo, volunteers are valuable to us! We want your time with the campers to be beneficial to you too; As a 501c(3) any pay that you receive while with us can be a tax deduction for your employer, just ask admin for a letter.

### **Volunteer opportunities:**

**Youth/Teen Camp Counselor**  
**Waterfront**  
**Biking**  
**Orienteering**

**Rifle/Archery Range**  
**Medical**  
**Drivers**  
**Security**

**Confidence Course**  
**Arts & Crafts**  
**Campout**  
**Administration**

More information can be found online at: [Minnesota National Guard Youth Camp \(mngyc.org\)](http://mngyc.org). You can also support MNGYC by playing in the golf tournament Aug 7<sup>th</sup>: [Minnesota National Guard Youth/Teen Camps-Golf Tournament](#)



As I read through the numerous Unit annual reports that your District Community Service Chairman forwarded me, I am excited and impressed by your dedication to Veterans, active-duty military and their families, and everyone in your communities! **What you do makes a difference!** Thank you to all Units for everything you are doing within the Community Service program! Also, a special thanks to those who served the Auxiliary as 2023-2024 District Community Service Chairman and District Presidents. Thank you for being part of the Community Service team! In my September, October, and December news articles I asked Units to share your Community Service activities/events with me, so I could pass your ideas on to other Units in my news articles. Lake Crystal Unit #294 and their 2<sup>nd</sup> District Community Service Chairman, Georgen Dietz, will receive the small prizes. Have a safe summer & blessings to all! Wanda Seidler, Dept Community Service Chairman



Top Left-Park Rapids Unit 212 Chili Cookoff.

Middle Elysian Unit 311 Birthday Party.

Right...Lake Crystal Unit 294 Quilt of Honor recipient.

Bottom row-Sanborn Unit 286 Tea Party and brainstorming session with 32 ALA members and community members from Sanborn, Lamberton, Jeffers, Westbrook, and St James attending

Bottom left...Lamberton Unit 41.

Bottom middle Sanborn Unit 286 with 2<sup>nd</sup> District President Kollett Kaehlert and Alt. NEC Raleen Tolzmann.

Bottom right...Jeffers Unit 401.

Thanks for the photo

**Wanda Seidler, Department Community Service Chairman**





**Department of Minnesota**  
**June 2024 Unit Mailing**  
**Girl's State**

Since this is my last unit mailing as your Girls State Program Chairman, first I'd like to thank Sharon for this appointment. I was definitely apprehensive about this chairmanship, but like every year since my first Department Chairmanship, I have learned SO much about this program, our units, and how everything works.

This committee has worked diligently for the past eight months to create an educational and fun week, while providing a safe environment for our students. Our Education Director (Bethany Dickert) has our program ready. Our Americanism Chairman (Mary Kuperus) has several events to show patriotism for the group such as folding of the flag and flag retirement. Our Director (Patti Coleman) has held monthly zoom training meetings so our entire staff can be prepared. Lynn Carr, Yolanda Dailey and I round out our committee and the support from these five Auxiliary members has been outstanding.

New this year: we are going to have "Auxiliary Minutes" – short two minutes daily presentations about some of our Auxiliary programs such as poppies and scholarships.

Although this is my last unit mailing, I have one more project in mind (after Girls State week). I plan to create a "timeline" for units to use in the future. Yes, each year's committee will make changes – we learn from our staff and our citizens how we can improve the week. I hope to have a "go-to" place to answer some of questions the Department Office and I have fielded this year. I ask that you check the timeline on our website ([www.mnala.org](http://www.mnala.org)) first. If you don't find the answer, contact next year's Program Chairman. It is the chairman's job to work with the units. If she doesn't have the answer, she will find it. I hope to provide suggestions for your unit. Check it out in a couple months and let me know if I need to address your suggestion on the timeline.

This program is one that each unit should have on its mind as we progress through our year. Early on, we should be budgeting to send youth to this week in June. Going forward we should ask ourselves: How can we fundraise? As school starts, how can we educate our junior girls as to what this program can provide them? After the letters go out to the schools, can we contact school staff for access to the junior girls? Can we invite last year's girls to attend one of our meetings and again, ask your local paper to cover? Can we invite students and parents in for an informational meeting? My one comment is that you can't ever start too early.

The last thing that I would encourage your unit to do is to complete the Annual Report for Girls State. This is another way for this committee to learn and improve. I was actually the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Girls State Chairman, too, and I received reports from less than half of our units. After making several contacts with the District Presidents, I received reports from most districts. I know that 3<sup>rd</sup> District was not the only one that didn't hear from a large percentage of their units.

Each annual report takes very little time, and they don't have to be completed by one person. Ask help from a member of your unit that is familiar with that program. The numbers in this report just show how involved our units are in the different programs.

Girls State is a program worth the money and time spent by our units. We are educating our youth, we are providing them with knowledge of our election process, we are inspiring citizens to participate in elections. Our youth are our future citizens.

Linda Kelly, Department Girl's State Chairman



# *Script Gift Card Fundraiser*

The girl's state program is going to be here in no time, and they have script cards to sell. I am turning to all of you to help sell the remaining 136 cards. I have included an inventory list of the cards in stock at the department office. It's not a lot really. The funds raised will go to help with all the general expenses associated with the program. If we can sell the remaining cards, it will be putting \$3,400 back into the program and will earn an additional \$230.88. The cards are \$25 in value. The shipping will be \$1 for every 10 cards a member purchases. Checks and cash only. No credit/debit cards will be accepted for this fundraiser. Same day shipping. Let me know if you have any questions about Script Cards. Thank you for all you do.

<i>Visa</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Best Buy</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Buffalo Wing Wings</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Applebee's</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Barnes &amp; Noble</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Bath &amp; Body Works</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Target</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Land's End</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Shutterfly</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Petsmart</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Holiday</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Ulta Beauty</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Kohl's</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Walgreen's</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Dairy Queen</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Walmart</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Fleet Farm</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>TJ Maxx/Marshalls/HomeGoods/Sierra/Home Sense</i>	<i>10</i>

Call Shannon at 651-224-7634 or email her at [shannon@mnala.org](mailto:shannon@mnala.org) to purchase your cards!

**“AND SUDDENLY YOU KNOW ITS TIME TO START SOMETHING NEW AND TRUST THE  
MAGIC OF NEW BEGINNINGS” UNKNOWNEN**

### **Leadership's Final Golden Rule**

#### **Prepare Future Leaders**

Last, but certainly not the least, is to prepare the leaders of tomorrow. It is the duty of a good leader to pass on the torch and nurture future leaders from the team so that the good work continues.

Identify people that have the potential to be future leaders and assign them leadership roles to gauge how they take on your activity. Your legacy will never die if you prepare a leader that picks up from where you have left off and takes your mission forward.

As I sit in front of the computer reflecting on my year as leadership chairman. wishing what I know now, I new in September. Meaning I would change many things. But all in all, I am happy with this year.

I would like to thank those who help me along the way:

**Kimball Unit 261** what a wonderful group of auxiliary women. They enjoy fun and laughter. Keep up the wonderful work.

**Bev Grose** is amazing to work with and we are lucky to have her on our team. She is inspiring and motivated. Thank you.

**Shirly Fredrickson** was a wonderful speaker at leadership workshop and did an outstanding job at presenting legislation.

**Roberta Elvecrog** our Risk and Compliance speaker, wow I learned so much from you. And you made a hard topic easy to understand. You're the best!

**Jenny Nelson** Membership Chair, Thanks for bringing fun to our workshop. In the photos I have, you can see the smiles on everyone's faces. Your creativity is so appreciated. thank you!

In closing I would like to Thank the MN Auxiliary Members for their support.

## Reminder!

Everyday is a good day to take an ALA Academy course. There are self-paced courses and recorded webinars from which to choose on a wide variety of topics, including:

- Be the One
- ALA 101
- National Poppy Day
- Celebrating the Month of the Military Child
- ALA Compliance Matters
- ALA Junior Patch Program
- Understanding the Differences Between National Security and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
- Mission Delivery through Caregiver Support
- Using Social Media to Your Unit's Advantage
- Using Poppy Funds to Serve Our Mission
- Unit Fundraising: Moving the Mission Forward by Engaging your Community
- ALA Branding and Why it Matters
- ALA Leadership: Living our Motto of Service Not Self

And many more...

Simply set up your *My*Auxiliary Member Portal account to access all of the ALA Academy offerings. You'll be glad you did!

Lisa Chaplin, Leadership Committee Vice Chair

### How to Recognize an American Legion Auxiliary Member

Say tell me have you seen her...that Auxiliary volunteer?  
She was in the hospital yesterday, spreading hope and cheer.  
Last week she was at a local school, thanking all the teachers,  
And at a Legion baseball game, cheering from the bleachers.  
She wears a veteran-made Poppy next to her Auxiliary pin,  
And has a kind word ready with a warm and welcoming grin.  
When she sees Old Glory, her hand crosses over her heart.  
She loves God and her country, and she's made "giving" an art.  
For Auxiliary means "Service Not Self," that's how it's supposed to be.  
We honor all who serve and have served to keep our country free.  
We strongly embrace traditions, and try to do what's right,  
To help in our communities and make right the Master of might.  
All our Auxiliary programs are much too vast to mention,  
But if you let her know that you've got a "good intention" ...  
She'll invite you to a meeting and then first-hand you'll see  
The richness of the blessing being an Auxiliary member can be.  
We're mothers, wives and daughters, sisters and granddaughters too  
And women veterans in their own right that have served our country, who  
Know that "Freedom Isn't Free" ...it comes at a very high price,  
And giving back is what we do to honor the sacrifice.  
It is our prayer that someday all the wars will cease,  
And the whole world will enjoy everlasting peace.  
Until that day comes forth, our service will not end.

"For God and Country" we shall serve, faithfully...Amen



**Department of Minnesota**  
**June 2024 Unit Mailing**  
**Membership**

**How can we communicate to get and keep new and seasoned members?**

More and more new members complain that after they join, they no longer hear anything from their Unit except "Where are your dues?" Your Membership Chairman is a direct link with your member and can learn when a member is ill or has some other issues that cause them to be unable to fully participate in Unit activities. This is a great opportunity to "reach out and touch someone," as the famous ad says. It can forge a bond between that member and the Unit that can last a lifetime. We need to stabilize the decline in our membership by first recognizing our problems and seriously committing to solving them.

Helpful actions: **\*Newsletters, Bulletins, Phone Calls, (see call script) Website, Flyers at your post, Word of mouth, Personal visits, Thank you notes, Consider a Mentor Committee in your Unit, Kindness.** When you meet with members, remember to spread good things, never gossip, or share bad things that are happening in your Unit. Would you want to be part of that group? Kindness goes a long way and leaves a lasting impression. Turning the tide of the downward slide in membership may also mean we need to change attitudes.

Some Unit members are happy volunteering behind the scenes or from their homes. We can value these members' decisions to know what they want to do and how they want to volunteer. We can still mentor them so they can stay involved and learn while they volunteer their own way. Many times, after they learn and like what they see, they will move up and get more involved.

I want to acknowledge all of the hard work in recruiting new members! You are doing great! Continue reaching out to your members to help them keep their membership and valuable relationships! We are all so busy these days and tend to let things go until tomorrow or believe "someone else can do that." The truth is, it is for each one of us to reach out and keep the mission going! If we all can gain one member, we will succeed!!

I want to thank President Sharon Cross for inviting me on the National President Lisa Williamson Tour. What an honor it was to be in her presence. We learned so much. Along with Sharon Cross and Jean Walker, we enjoyed every stop, especially when we were able to interact with the Veterans. In four days, we toured the Armed Forces Center, Minneapolis Veterans Home, Brain Science, Fisher House, St. Cloud Stand Down, Sauk Centre Post 67, Eagles Healing Nest, Montevideo Veterans Home, Mn. State Veterans Cemetery, Redwood Falls Post 38, Eagles Healing Nest Ranch, Adrian Post 32, Luverne Veterans Home, Lake Crystal Post 294, and back to the Airport again. Lots of miles in a short time! Can you imagine how President Lisa does it? Her time at home is very short as she tours around the US. I will remember that trip forever!

It has been a journey Cruising for Members. I hope you are having fun with it! I am looking forward to awarding those gifts to those who have achieved the challenge!

Jenny Nelson, Department Membership Chairman

### **For a Member in Good Standing:**

Hi [member name]. This is [your name] from [your Unit name and number]. I am just calling to say thank you for your membership in the ALA. We really appreciate your passion for serving or supporting our veterans. We want you to know we value your membership and respect your time.

How you are doing? We want to make sure our unit members feel they are part of our Legion Family community and know/feel you can reach out to us during good times or trying times. We rally around our veterans, our community, and our members and that is one of the reasons I am/we are calling today. [Take time to really listen to the member if she expresses concerns or difficult family circumstances.]

We would love to see you at our next meeting or special event [provide the member of the event day, date, and time]. Please let us know if you would like to help with this event. If you are unable to help but would like to attend, we would love to see you. *Optional: If you are having trouble getting to the meetings/events, we can try to arrange to have someone pick you up.*

This year our National President has focused on the health and wellbeing of our members and our veterans. What a great reminder that we should always care for and nurture our own members, as well as our veterans and the community.

Thanks for taking the time to speak with me. I look forward to seeing you soon. If you need anything further here is my telephone number and email address.

### **For a Member Who Has Not Renewed Yet this Year or Last Paid More Than a Year Ago:**

Hi [member name]. This is [your name] from [your Unit name and number]. I want to thank you for your membership [last year/\_\_\_ years ago] and see how things are going for you and your family.

We understand that everyone has financial and family obligations and have so many good causes they could choose to support, but I know you joined to honor a special veteran or service member. Even if you can't be active in the unit, your membership supports the mission and the veterans we serve. Can I assist you in renewing/rejoining?

**If they renew/rejoin:** Thank you so much for your renewed support for our veterans. [Make arrangements for how to collect their dues...and application/eligibility documentation for rejoins.]

We value your membership and we respect your time. We would love to see you at the next Unit meeting. However, if you are unable to attend, I would be happy to call you after the meeting and share what was discussed. I will keep you updated on upcoming events as well. Let's stay in touch. My telephone number is \_\_\_\_\_ and here is my email as well. Thank you for your time and I hope to see you soon!

#### **If they are unwilling to commit:**

No problem. We'll be holding a \_\_\_\_\_ for Memorial Day next month. Feel free to come out. Let's stay in touch. My telephone number is \_\_\_\_\_ and here is my email as well. Thank you for your time today.




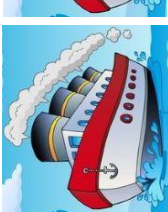


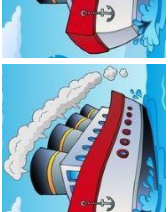
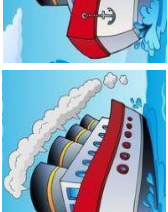




# "Cruising the Sea for Members!"

DISTRICT	# of Units	Goal	Period Gain	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year 5/15/2023	Difference from Last Year
One	47	3,762	9	3,148	83.68%	3,324	176
Two	71	3,890	6	3,181	81.77%	3,329	148
Three	46	3,882	1	3,279	84.47%	3,430	151
Four	7	579	4	450	77.72%	477	27
Five	7	522	0	325	62.26%	417	92
Six	61	5,031	47	4,230	84.08%	4,392	162
Seven	53	2,955	14	2,419	81.86%	2,574	155
Eight	19	1,185	1	1,037	87.51%	1,082	45
Nine	46	3,348	30	2,725	81.39%	2,898	173
Ten	42	3,812	13	3,075	80.67%	3,182	107
1982 Dept	1	332	3	271	81.63%	240	-31
<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>29,298</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>24,140</b>	<b>82.39%</b>	<b>25,345</b>	<b>1,205</b>
<b>Group 1 (Even)</b>	200	14,497	71	11,973	82.59%	12,462	489
<i>Robin Dorf</i>							
<b>Group 2 (Odd)</b>	199	14,469	54	11,896	82.22%	12,643	747
<i>Judy Ackerman</i>							



## RANKINGS

<b>1st</b>	87.51%	<b>District #8</b>	
<b>2nd</b>	84.47%	<b>District #3</b>	
<b>3rd</b>	84.08%	<b>District #6</b>	
<b>4th</b>	83.68%	<b>District #1</b>	
<b>5th</b>	81.86%	<b>District #7</b>	
<b>6th</b>	81.77%	<b>District #2</b>	
<b>7th</b>	81.39%	<b>District #9</b>	
<b>8th</b>	80.67%	<b>District #10</b>	
<b>9th</b>	77.72%	<b>District #4</b>	
<b>10th</b>	62.26%	<b>District #5</b>	



# VA&R

SILENT AUCTION

AUCTION



We will be trying something **BORROWED AND FUN** for the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) and the Gift Shop programs. The plan is to have a SILENT AUCTION with the proceeds going to the VA&R and Gift Shop budget. As you are aware, 3 new Veterans' Homes were added this last year, so we need to find ways to stretch the budget.

Please bring items to donate such as theme baskets, patriotic items, quilts, pictures, jewelry items, jams, jellies, pickles, baked goods, etc. The list goes on and on. Clean off your shelves, clean out your cabinets, etc. Bring your items to the Department Convention and help out the VA&R and Gift Shop budget. Bring your items Wednesday night/Thursday morning of convention. The Silent Auction will end on Friday afternoon at 4.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Judy Ackerman, Department VA&R Chairman

E-mail: [judya2002@gmail.com](mailto:judya2002@gmail.com)

Cell Phone: 507-848-0145 Home Phone: 507-238-2071





**Department of Minnesota**  
**June 2024 Unit Mailing**  
**Poppy**

***SOME GUIDELINES & IDEAS FOR WHERE TO USE YOUR POPPY FUNDS***

I hope that each of your Units had a successful Poppy distribution day. Units can decide where they want their Poppy Funds to be used as long as they follow national Poppy guidelines.

Funds derived from poppies are restricted by action of The American Legion national organization who sets all poppy requirements. Poppy funds must be used only for the welfare of veterans and their families and active-duty military and their families when a financial or medical necessity exists. A good rule of thumb would be to determine if the use is a WANT or a NEED. Poppy funds are used when there is a NEED, not a WANT!

In Minnesota, each unit can decide how they want to use their Poppy funds, as long as it complies with the national Poppy guidelines which are:

- The rehabilitation of veterans honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces after April 6, 1917.
- The welfare of the families of veterans of the above-named period.
- The rehabilitation of hospitalized military service personnel returning home and awaiting discharge who require treatment in service hospitals.
- 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 need is evident.
- For the purpose of poppy kits and supplies used to make symbolic poppies and poppy items that will be distributed for donations to the Poppy Fund.

When reference is made to “veterans and their family,” it means immediate family and dependents. Immediate family consists of wife, husband, daughter, and son who live with the veteran. Remember: Poppy Funds are to help veterans and their families and active-duty military and their families where financial and medical need is evident. If the veteran is deceased, then Poppy Funds cannot be used for his/her family. Poppy money cannot be used for a family member who does not live with the veteran.

Each fall, our Department sends out a “green” sheet listing the donations that the Department Executive Committee has approved for solicitation. There are multiple items on that list and many of them are ways that your unit can use your poppy funds. Some of those items include: \$5.00 Bill Shower – ALA Hospital Program – Gift Shop – Department Scholarship Fund – Past President’s Parley Health Care Scholarship Fund – Armed Forces Service Center – Temporary Financial Assistance. Please seriously consider earmarking some of your poppy funds for those programs that aid veterans across the state.

Poppy funds can also be used for the programs and activities that your unit may support in your local community like activities and programs in local nursing homes, Stand Down, activities and treats at your local VA Medical Centers and Minnesota Veterans Homes. This includes purchasing clothing, sewing items like bibs, making quilts, providing comfort items, games, canteen books or cash offered at activities, and refreshments, etc. at any of those facilities. Units may also donate funds to either their local or the national Veterans Creative Arts Festival through various forms of art therapy. Many of our Department and District Projects can also receive poppy funds. If you are in doubt, please feel free to ask.

Our National organization has three other missions that our poppy donations may be used for. Detailed information can be found on the ALA national website.

These programs are:

- Honor Flight Inc.
- The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, which the Auxiliary has co-presented for over 20 years
- Food insecurity among service members nationwide

**Poppy Funds CANNOT be used for:**

1. Any general operating fund of a department, unit, or post.
2. Any community service project that does not strictly benefit the welfare of an individual veteran/military servicemember or the welfare of his/her family. American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program Guide

3. General maintenance, beautification, or improvement projects of American Legion or Auxiliary facilities, including adding ramp(s) to a post home.
4. Investments, even those that would bring profit to the unit or post.
5. POW/MIA programs.
6. Memberships, including other veteran support organizations such as Gold Star Mothers.
7. Contributions to, or payouts from, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.
8. ALA Girls State/ALA Girls Nation fees.
9. Flags or flagpoles.
10. Scholarships which do not restrict eligibility solely to military service members or their children, or where financial need is not evident.
11. 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, even if it is about veterans, military, or any other topic.
12. 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 vital hygiene items), as opposed to a comfort need, and not comfort/leisure items (such as baked goods or books).

## **DEPARTMENT CONVENTION POPPY CONTESTS**

Cash Prizes for each contest will be awarded as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	\$25.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	\$20.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.



Marsha Bible, Department Poppy Chairman



## Department of Minnesota June 2024 Unit Mailing National Security

The following is from "Veterans.com" site. There is so much information on their site – I wish I could share it all. The best way to do that is to share their link. The calendar at the end of this article is their calendar. I hope you find it helpful to know the dates.

Enjoy learning from them.  
Carol Kottom

### **Memorial Day History**

Memorial Day began after the Civil War with both formal and informal ceremonies at graves and ceremonies for the soldiers who had fallen in battle. Many places claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866, including Waterloo, New York, and Macon and Columbus, Georgia. On May 5, 1868, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), a Union veterans organization, established Decoration Day, May 30, as a time for the nation to decorate the dead with flowers. Arlington National Cemetery held the first large observance later that year.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were held throughout the country on May 30. The Army and Navy adopted policies for proper observances, and state legislatures passed proclamations designating the day. After World War I, the day was expanded to honor those who died in all American wars, and in 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday to be celebrated on the last Monday in May.

### **Memorial Day vs. Veterans Day**

What is the [difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day?](#)

Memorial Day is meant for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of a wound sustained in battle.

[Veterans Day](#) is intended to thank all those who have honorably served in the military – in wartime or peacetime.

### **Memorial Day Facts**

- Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day.
- The birthplace of Memorial Day is a debated topic. Cities such as Warrington, Virginia; Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; Savannah, Georgia; and Waterloo, New York, are some places believed to be its birthplace.
- Memorial Day was originally celebrated May 30 until the Uniform Monday Holiday Act took effect in 1971 and it was moved to the final Monday in May.
- 1971 is also when Memorial Day became an official holiday.
- Originally, only soldiers who had died in the Civil War were honored.
- The National Monument of Remembrance Act passed in 2000 requires all Americans to stop what they are doing at 3:00 pm on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who died while in service.
- The Poem "[Bivouac of the Dead](#)" is often recited on Memorial Day and inscribed on iron tablets throughout many of the country's national cemeteries, including the original entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. The poem was written by Theodore O'Hara to honor his fellow soldiers from Kentucky who died in the Mexican-American War. Bivouac (/ˈbɪvoo,ak/) is a temporary camp without tents or cover.

Carol Kottom, Department National Security Chairman

# "Bivouac of the Dead"

The muffled drum's sad roll has beat  
The soldier's last tattoo;  
No more on life's parade shall meet  
That brave and fallen few.

On Fame's eternal camping-  
ground Their silent tents are  
spread,  
And Glory guards, with  
solemn round, The bivouac of  
the dead.

No rumor of the foe's advance Now  
swells upon the wind;  
Nor troubled thought at midnight haunts Of  
loved ones left behind;  
No vision of the morrow's strife The  
warrior's dream alarms;  
No braying horn nor screaming fife At  
dawn shall call to arms.

Their shriveled swords are red with rust, Their  
plumed heads are bowed,  
Their haughty banner, trailed in dust, Is  
now their martial shroud.  
And plenteous funeral tears have washed The  
red stains from each brow,  
And the proud forms, by battle gashed Are  
free from anguish now.

The neighing troop, the flashing blade, The  
bugle's stirring blast,  
The charge, the dreadful cannonade, The din  
and shout, are past;  
Nor war's wild note nor glory's peal  
Shall thrill with fierce delight  
Those breasts that nevermore may feel The  
rapture of the fight.

Like the fierce northern hurricane That  
sweeps the great plateau, Flushed with  
the triumph yet to gain, Came down the  
serried foe,  
Who heard the thunder of the fray  
Break o'er the field beneath,  
Knew well the watchword of that day Was  
"Victory or death!"

Long had the doubtful conflict raged  
O'er all that stricken plain,  
For never fiercer fight had waged  
The vengeful blood of Spain; And  
still the storm of battle blew, Still  
swelled the gory tide;  
Not long, our stout old chieftain knew, Such

odds his strength could bide.  
Twas in that hour his stern command Called to a  
martyr's grave  
The flower of his beloved land, The nation's flag  
to save.  
By rivers of their father's gore His first-born  
laurels grew,

For many a mother's breath has swept  
O'er Angostura's plain --  
And long the pitying sky has wept  
Above its moldered slain.  
The raven's scream, or eagle's flight,  
Or shepherd's pensive lay,  
Alone awakes each sullen height  
That frowned o'er that dread fray.

Sons of the Dark and Bloody Ground  
Ye must not slumber there,  
Where stranger steps and tongues resound  
Along the heedless air.  
Your own proud land's heroic soil  
Shall be your fitter grave;  
She claims from war his richest spoil --  
The ashes of her brave.

Thus 'neath their parent turf they rest,  
Far from the gory field,  
Borne to a Spartan mother's breast  
On many a bloody shield;  
The sunshine of their native sky  
Smiles sadly on them here,  
And kindred eyes and hearts watch by  
The heroes sepulcher.

Rest on embalmed and sainted dead!  
Dear as the blood ye gave;  
No impious footstep shall here tread  
The herbage of your grave;  
Nor shall your glory be forgot  
While fame her records keeps,  
Or Honor points the hallowed spot  
Where Valor proudly sleeps.

Yon marble minstrel's voiceless stone  
In deathless song shall tell,  
When many a vanquished ago has flown,  
The story how ye fell;  
Nor wreck, nor change, nor winter's blight,  
Nor Time's remorseless doom,  
Shall dim one ray of glory's light  
That gilds your deathless tomb.





**Department of Minnesota**  
June 2024 Unit Mailing  
**Public Relations**

It is almost the end of the year. I read all the reports I got. I was amazed at the amount of work you ladies do for veterans, children, and your communities.

I only got six (6) district reports out of ten (10). There are four hundred (400) auxiliary units in Minnesota. Only seventy-seven (77) units were sent in reports. That is pretty darn sad. I hope the turn-in next year will be better. I just know we can do better.

You ladies do so much. You hosted birthday dinners, veterans' day dinners, and Halloween parties for the kids.

If a family needed warm coats, mittens, boots, or school supplies you were there to help.

Remember to wear your auxiliary clothing when you go out and about. Besides using social media, newspapers, radio, and TV stations to get the word of what you are doing. There is one other way that we must not forget about, that is the old age word of mouth. One thing to remember is that if you cannot say something nice, don't say anything at all.

Keep up all the great work.

Sharon Hammon  
Department Public Relations Chairman





**Department of Minnesota**  
**June 2024 Unit Mailing**  
**Education**

**2023-2024 Scholarship Report**

The Department of Minnesota units sent in 11 applications for the Department Scholarship. Minnesota awards eight (8) \$1,000 scholarships. Units donated \$ 5,825 to the Department Scholarship fund.

With such qualified applicants, it was a challenge to determine who the recipients were, out of the eleven we had 3 that were disqualified.

The 2023-2024 Recipients of the Department of Minnesota Scholarship:

- ❖ Sydney Aberle - Moorhead
- ❖ Charity Kunselman - Slayton
- ❖ Samantha Bogen - Owatonna
- ❖ Rylie Fredrickson - Middle River
- ❖ Dylan Brenny - Monticello
- ❖ Patrick Douglas - Aurora
- ❖ Sydney Mertens - Redwood Falls
- ❖ Madisyn Mertens - Redwood Falls

We received 20 Children of Warriors applications, four (4) Spirit of Youth applications and five (5) Non-Traditional Student. They all are very qualified, and each wrote a wonderful essay and even brought me to tears a couple of times, which made the decision on who to forward very difficult. Of the three I sent in we had two scholarships awarded.

Spirit of Youth Scholarship gave out \$ 5,000 winner per Division and a \$ 1,000 winner per state.

Minnesota recipient of \$ 1,000

- ❖ Brooklyn Hofer of Cold Spring her Veteran was her Great Grandfather

Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship of \$ 5,000. Minnesota recipient of \$ 5,000

- ❖ Jerome Barbour IV of Lakeville his Veteran is his father who is still serving in the US Army

Unfortunately, our submission for the Non-Traditional Scholarship was not chosen.

Part of the Education Chairman's responsibility was to read all the applications each one of the applicants deserved to win. Each essay was moving.

In addition to our Department Scholarships, the units in Minnesota provide local scholarships to the tune of \$ 25,764.

**Lorinda Kies, Department Education Chairman**





## MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS Office of the Commissioner

20 W 12th St, St Paul, MN 55155  
Phone: 651-757-1582 • Email: [Brad.Lindsay@state.mn.us](mailto:Brad.Lindsay@state.mn.us)  
[MinnesotaVeteran.org](http://MinnesotaVeteran.org) • 1-888-LinkVet

May 13, 2024

On behalf of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA), I cordially invite you to attend the Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Event.

More than 97,000 Minnesotans served during the Vietnam War era. This group of Veterans made great sacrifices fighting a very difficult war and did not receive a warm welcome when they returned.

MDVA has planned this event in an effort to right that wrong. We want to demonstrate our state's gratitude and promote healing for Vietnam-era Veterans, our allies and their families, provide an opportunity to connect with other Vietnam Veterans, and learn about benefits earned through military service.

The event is being held June 13-15 at [Mall of America](#)<sup>®</sup>. Over the three days, attendees can see historical displays from the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum and watch screenings of Vietnam War documentaries, view the American Veterans Traveling Tribute memorial wall, and walk through a Resource Fair which will provide valuable resources and information for Minnesota Vietnam Veterans and their families.

On Friday, June 14 at 11 a.m., there will be a Commemoration Program at Mall of America in the Huntington<sup>®</sup> Bank Rotunda with speakers, music and storytelling, followed by a complimentary brunch for Vietnam Veterans.

We strongly encourage spouses and family members to attend to learn about benefits not only available to Veterans, but for dependents. We are also partnering with the Mall of America to provide family-friendly opportunities to enjoy while visiting.

We want to make this experience as easy and accessible as possible. Please see the attached information regarding transportation options. We are also reserving wheelchairs and will have numerous volunteers to assist with wayfinding and support throughout the event.

I look forward to seeing you at this special event in June. For more information, visit [MinnesotaVeteran.org/Vietnam50](http://MinnesotaVeteran.org/Vietnam50).

And to our Veterans, thank you for your service!

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bradley S. Lindsay".

Brad Lindsay  
Commissioner

### Serving Minnesota Veterans and Their Families

MDVA is a Veteran-friendly, equal opportunity and affirmative action employer and service provider. This document can be made available in alternate formats. Contact MDVA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Line at 612-548-5961 or your preferred telecommunications relay service.



# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



## Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Schedule of Events

**Thursday, June 13, 2024**

Time	Activity	Mall of America Location
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Vietnam Veterans Resource Fair	North Atrium, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Historical displays from the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum and the American Veterans Traveling Tribute (AVTT) Vietnam Wall	North Atrium, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor

**Friday, June 14, 2024**

Time	Activity	Mall of America Location
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Vietnam Veterans Resource Fair	North Atrium, 2nd Floor
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Historical displays from Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum and the American Veterans Traveling Tribute (AVTT) Vietnam Wall	North Atrium, 1st Floor
Before and after the Commemoration Program	Minnesota National Guard 34 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division "Red Bull" Band	Huntington <sup>®</sup> Bank Rotunda
11 – 11:45 a.m.	Vietnam War 50th anniversary Commemoration Program	Huntington Bank Rotunda
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Vietnam Veterans Brunch	North Atrium, 2nd Floor in Resource Fair
12:15 p.m. and 2:45 p.m.	Movie screening: Welcome Home! A Nation's Tribute to Vietnam Veterans	B&B Theaters, Mall of America 4th floor

**Saturday, June 15, 2024**

Time	Activity	Mall of America Location
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Vietnam Veterans Resource Fair	North Atrium, 2nd Floor
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Historical displays from Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum and the American Veterans Traveling Tribute (AVTT) Vietnam Wall	North Atrium, 1st Floor



## Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs To Assist with the Cost of Busses to the Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Event

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) and the Minnesota Veterans 4 Veterans Trust Fund (V4V), with assistance from the Disabled American Veterans, Dept. of Minnesota (DAV MN), are proud to announce we will be partnering with organizations/groups from across the state to bring Veterans to the **Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Event at the Mall of America June 13 - 15, 2024**. MDVA and V4V are offering this financial support to all organizations and communities in Minnesota with facilitation provided by DAV MN.

### Details:

- MDVA and V4V, with the assistance of DAV MN, are offering to cover 100% of the cost of a charter bus, or large van, from communities across Minnesota. Reimbursement checks will be issued by DAV MN.
- In the past, DAV MN has assisted DAV Chapters, VFW's, American Legions Posts, and local "Veterans Councils" with the cost of their busses. An affiliation with any particular group is NOT required to take part in this partnership.
- The busses are highly encouraged to come to the Mall of America for all the festivities, on any one or all three days, particularly the official commemoration ceremony and Veterans brunch on Friday, June 14. See attached schedule of events for more details.
- Any group utilizing this financial sponsorship must offer transportation to the Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Event June 13 - 15, 2024 FREE of charge. MDVA, V4V and DAV MN are proud of our history of not charging for services to our Veterans and their families, and we view this opportunity as our service to our Veterans.
  - Please note we require our partners to avoid charging by any means; this includes: Free-will offerings, passing-the-hat, suggested donations, or the solicitation of donations from the riders participating.
  - Submit the attached "Transportation Funding Request Form" ASAP, but no later than June 4, 2024. Your reimbursement check will come from DAV MN.

If you would like more information, or to sign-up for the 100% reimbursement, please contact **DAV MN's Trent C Dilks at [Trent@davmn.org](mailto:Trent@davmn.org) to discuss the details.**



## Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration

### Transportation Funding Request Form

PLEASE SUBMIT ASAP but NLT June 3rd, 2024 to ensure transportation information can be shared  
The form Should be Submitted to [Trent@davmn.org](mailto:Trent@davmn.org) or faxed to 651-291-0115

**Name and Address of Requesting Organization** (who/where to send the check to):

**Name of primary POC:**

**POC Email:**

**POC Phone:**

**How can local Veterans sign up to ride the bus/van:**

**Where will the bus/van depart from** (list multiple locations if applicable):

**Estimated departure time of bus/van** (list multiple times if applicable):

**Estimate number of attendees:**

**Total cost of bus/van** (provide an invoice, quote, etc.):

**Additional information/comments:**

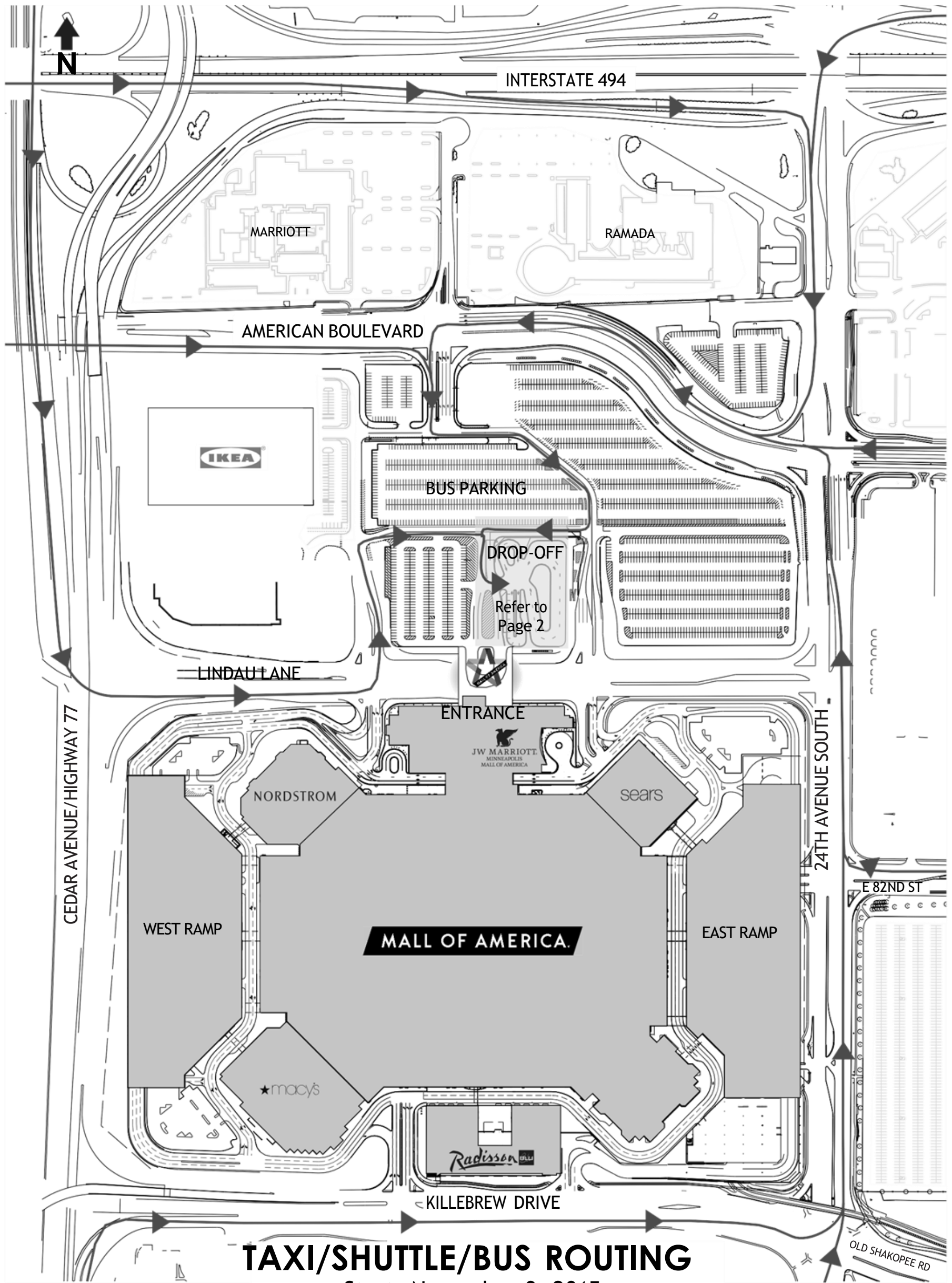
**Please Read and Type Your Name Stating You Understand:**

- The DAV MN will reimburse VSO's, local clubs, etc. if you require a payment to a vendor directly, please contact [Trent@davmn.org](mailto:Trent@davmn.org) to discuss.
- This reimbursement is only offered to entities that agree to not charge, solicit donations, "pass-the-hat", etc. as part of offering this bus. This transportation must be offered free-of-charge and not tied to any fundraising for the service.
- You do not have to be affiliated with DAV MN, a VSO, local council etc. to participate in 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration, Spouses, and family members are encouraged to attend.

**Typed Name of POC:**

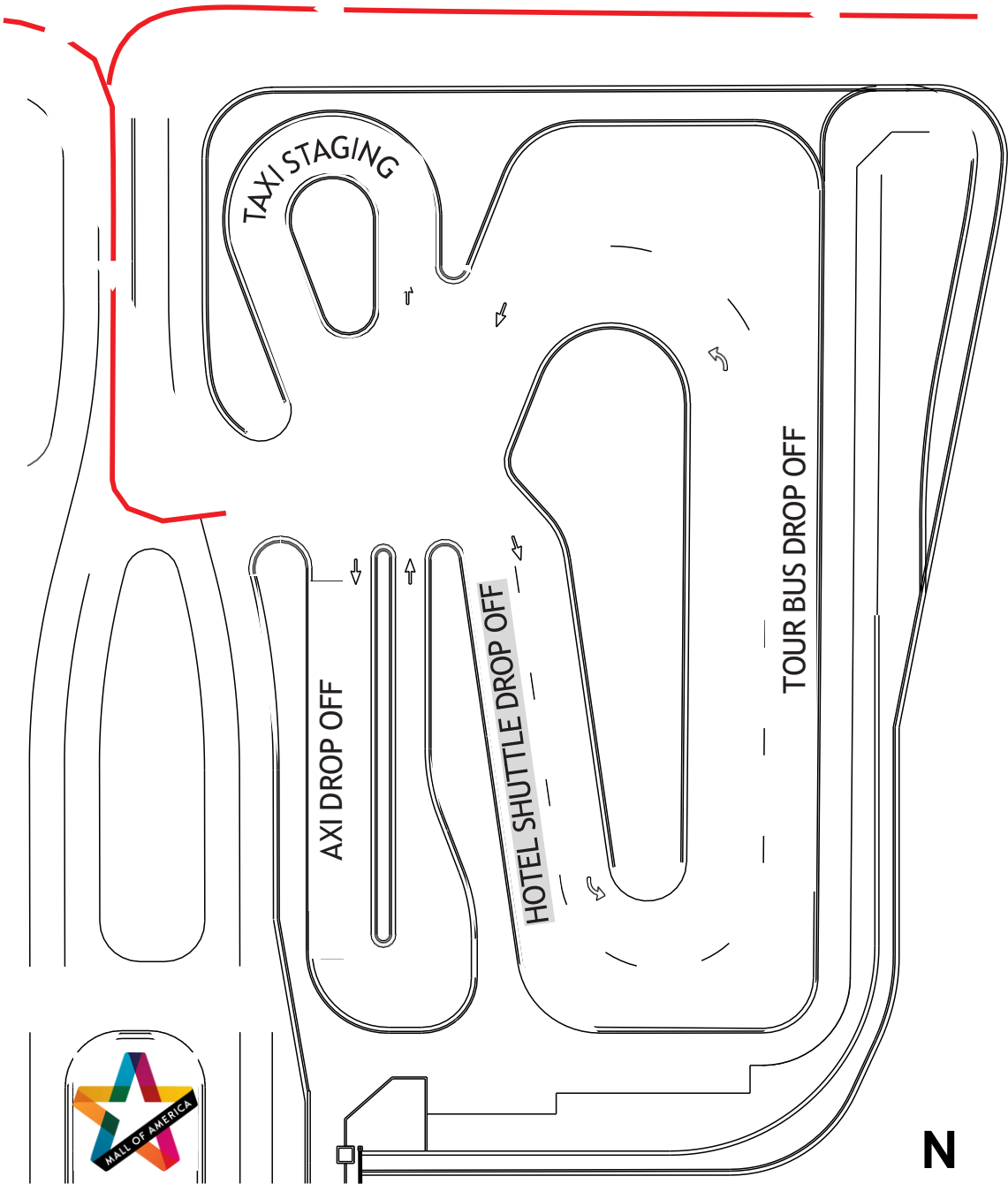
**Date:**





# TAXI/SHUTTLE/BUS ROUTING

Starts November 9, 2015



# TAXI/SHUTTLE/BUS DROP OFF AND STAGING

Starts November 9, 2015