

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Minnesota**

**2024-2025
Department President
Judy Ackerman
October Unit Mailing**

State Veterans Service Bldg. 20 W 12th St #314
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-224-7634 Email: deptoffice@mnala.org
Website: www.mnala.org



October will be here in the blink of an eye. Fall is definitely in the air. Fall Conference is fast approaching and there are some fun events to participate in, learn new things, get together with old friends and meet new friends. I am so excited to have our National President Trish Ward here for our Thursday night education. Encourage every member you know to come hear President Trish as she will be “Leading the Way”. Let’s give her a great Minnesota turnout for her presentation to us.

Friday night at Fall Conference will feature a couple of events. There will be an opportunity to participate in a poppy making challenge. Please refer to Poppy Chairman Lorinda Kies’s information regarding the teams. There will be a prize for the winning team. There will also be an opportunity to help pack the Personal Care Kits for the female veterans at the Women’s Clinic at the Minneapolis VAMC. Please bring donated items for the Personal Care Kits to Fall Conference.

Items needed for the **PERSONAL CARE KITS** are listed below. The zippered pouches will be provided.

REQUIRED ITEMS:

Shampoo	Conditioner	Deodorant (non-aerosol)
Bar Soap	Body wash	Toothbrush
Toothpaste	Lip Balm	Chapstick
Emery Board	Large Comb	Hairbrush
Lotion		

OPTIONAL ITEMS:

Travel-size Kleenex	Small Journal/Notepad
Word Search/Puzzle Book	Stress Ball/Fidget item
Slipper/Cozy Socks	Handwritten note of Thanks/Encouragement
Pen/Pencil	

October is Education and Constitution and Standing Rules Month. Take the time to review these programs and see what your unit and you can do to promote these programs.

Thank you to the units that have sent invitations for a Department President’s visit. I will do my best to attend your events.

The National Convention was held in New Orleans, LA. It was fun to see pictures of MN ALA members on the big screen. It was an honor and privilege to take the oath of office as your Department President with the other department presidents.

Judy Ackerman
Department President



Robin Dorf endorsed for 2025-2026 Department ALA President

Monticello Unit 260, 10th District Past Presidents Parley, and the 10th District Auxiliary has endorsed Robin Dorf for Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary President for 2025-2026.

Robin has been an active member of Unit 260 for 49 years and is a PUFL member. Her eligibility is through her father, Emil W. Dorf Jr., who served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War.

At the unit level she has held many positions, including President two terms. On the district level, she has served as St. Cloud VA Social Activities, Junior Activities multiple years, Education, Girls State, Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Children & Youth, Poppy, Leadership, Membership, Past Presidents Parley, Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Committee member, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President and served as 10th District President 2014-2015.

On the department level, she has served on the Strategic Planning Committee, past Girls State Counselor, Junior Activities, Leadership, Public Relations, Membership, Children & Youth, Chaplain, Community Service, Legislation, and is currently serving as First Vice President and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman.

On the national level, she served as the 2018 ALA National Convention Vice Chairman, Northwestern Division Membership Chairman, Children & Youth Committee Vice Chairman, Junior Activities Committee Vice Chairman, and is currently serving as the Northwestern Division Leadership Chairman.

Robin has been employed by Wright County for 17 years and is currently the Wright County Health and Human Services Kinship/Child Foster Care Recruiter Case Aide.



Linda Kelly endorsed for 2025-2026 Department ALA 1st Vice President

Linda Kelly has been endorsed by Unit 184 of Pine Island and the 3rd District Executive Committee for Department of Minnesota, 1st Vice President for the year 2025-2026. Linda is an active member of her unit, having been a member for 26 years. She is eligible through the service of two brothers, Stanley and Melroy Kundert.

She has served her unit in many ways including President two terms, Vice President, Executive Committee, and is currently

their Chaplain. She works on many of the programs and is passionate about working with the local school to educate students about our programs and encouraging Americanism in our youth.

Linda served as President for the 3rd District for two years due to the Pandemic, working her way up from Executive Committee. She has also served as Chairman of Membership, Children and Youth, Education, Girls State, Leadership, Public Relations, and Community Service and is currently the District Poppy Chairman.

Linda has served as Department Chairman for Membership, Poppy, Girls State, and is the current Legislation Chairman. As the Legislation Chairman, Linda has been attending the monthly meetings of the Commander's Task Force. This group of several Veteran organizations works together to determine what bills they want our legislators to support, and they ask for your support in their endeavors. She feels that all Legion Family

members, along with members of all Veteran organizations can work together to get these bills passed for the betterment of our veterans.

She attends numerous events throughout the year such as District, Department, and National Conventions, Fall Conferences, and Mission Training Workshops.

Linda worked for 52 years in Pine Island and retired a few years ago. She has two daughters, Jennie and Sarah, and one grandson, Miles.



Jody Hassing endorsed for 2025-2026 Department ALA 2nd Vice President

Bloomington Unit 550 proudly endorses Jody Hassing for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota 2nd Vice President for 2025-2026.

Jody has been an active member of Bloomington Unit 550 for 17 years. She is currently serving as Unit President. She is eligible for membership through her husband, Paul Hassing, Past American Legion Department of Minnesota Commander, retired with 32 years of service in the Army Reserve.

On the Unit level, Jody has served in many positions including President for several terms, membership chairman, sunshine chairman, 1st/2nd Vice President, and several committees. At the District level, Jody has served as Servicemen Center chairman, Poppy Chairman, National Security Chairman, Membership Chairman, Executive Committee, and District Treasurer for several years. She also

served as 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, and 10th District President 2017-2018. She is currently serving on the Finance Committee for the 10th District. Jody has served at the Department level as Secretary, Finance Committee member for four years, and Finance Chairman 2023-2024.

In addition, she is currently active with the American Legion Riders at the Department, District, and Chapter levels. Jody was Chairman of the Legacy Run for 4 years and is the current Chairman of the Fund 85 Run. She is currently serving her 2nd year as Department of Minnesota American Legion Riders Director.

Jody is married to Paul Hassing. They have 5 children, and 10 grandchildren all are members of the American Legion family. She has been employed by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota for 15 years and is a Principal Business Analyst in Medical Management.

Hi, I am Kollett Kaehlert your 2024-2025 Americanism Chairman. When I googled the meaning of Americanism it came up with many, but all said basically the same: Americanism, also referred to as American patriotism, is a set of nationalist values which aim to create a collective *American identity* for the United States that can be defined as "an articulation of the nation's rightful place in the world, a set of traditions, a political language, and a cultural style imbued with political meaning". According to the American Legion, a U.S. veterans' organization, *Americanism* is an ideology, or a belief in devotion, loyalty, or allegiance to the United States of America, or respect for its flag, its traditions, its customs, its culture, its symbols, its institutions, or its form of government. In the words of [Theodore Roosevelt](#), "Americanism is a question of spirit, conviction, and purpose, not of creed or birthplace."

What is Americanism? Americanism is an unflinching love of country; loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; individual allegiance to the flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty of ourselves and posterity. The many activities of the National Americanism commission are designed to acknowledge and preserve that heritage, recognizing all the unalienable rights of man and the human qualities of mind and heart.

A few American Legion and Auxiliary Americanism programs include the Oratorical Contest, which instills a greater understanding and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States among high school students; Both Boys and Girls State and Boys and Girls Nation, where high school juniors lean the wheels of policies as they operate their own government, acquiring the knowledge and practical experience that is vital to the development of responsible citizenship; and the Legion Baseball and Softball programs that have taught thousands of youth the importance of sportsmanship, good health and active citizenship.

The Americanism Essay Contest was created to teach students the value of patriotism and what it means to be Americans. Thousands of students participate in the program each year and help promote a lifelong respect of our flag and country. Students (grades 3 to 12) explore the fundamental rights and freedoms we enjoy today. Each year's contest has a different theme; one student in each category per division is awarded a prize. There is a category for students with special needs.

The theme for the ALA Americanism Essay Contest this year is "**What does America the Beautiful mean to me regarding veterans and our military?**" I would like to urge all units to get the information out to the schools, (public, private and home school co-ops) as soon as you can. Please remember that each entry must include a signed coversheet and be received by me by March 25, 2025. Please see the attached information for both the Essay Contest and the Plaques and Awards that units can work towards.

Election Day is November 5, 2024, one of our great freedoms is the right to vote for whoever we want to, so get out and vote. If you know of a Veteran or Community member that needs a ride or help getting to their polling place, help them out, show your Americanism.

**PLAQUES AND AWARDS
2024-2025
AMERICANISM**

**ALL ENTRIES ARE TO BE SENT TO THE Department Americanism Chairman,
Kollett Kaehlert, 1943 Sheridan Court, North Mankato, MN 56003**

DEPARTMENT AWARDS:

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST:

- Theme: **What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?**
- Entry must include signed coversheet
- One entry per class per unit may be submitted
- Entry due to Department Americanism Chairman **no later than March 25, 2025**

PIERCE J. Clark Plaque:

- Award Criteria: To the Unit reporting the most constructive, well-rounded program in Americanism.
- Award Guidelines: Entry must be in narrative form not to exceed 1000 words. Entry must be typed and may include photos and press releases. Entries must contain the Unit name, number and the name and address of the Unit chairman.
- Award: Plaque – presented at the Department convention.

FREEDON AWARD:

- Award Criteria: To the Unit Chairman reporting the most outstanding Americanism youth program.
- Award Guidelines: Entry is to be typed in narrative form, not to exceed 1000 words. The entry may include no more than five pictures/news articles.
- Award: Citation – presented at Department Convention.

PATRIOT AWARD:

- Award Criteria: To the Unit Chairman reporting the most outstanding program promoting awareness and proper respect for the American Flag and the National Anthem.
- Award Guidelines: Entry is to be typed in narrative form, not to exceed 1000 words. No pictures or clippings are to be included.
- Award: Citation – presented at Department Convention.

NATIONAL AWARDS:

Unit Award: DOROTHY PEARL MOST OUTSTANDING UNIT AMERICANISM PROGRAM

- Award: Citation Plaque
- Presented to: One Unit in each division (5)
- Materials and guidelines:
 - The entry must be typewritten in narrative format, not to exceed 1000 words.
 - The entry may include not more than five pictures and five news articles.
 - Report must have National Americanism Report & Award Cover Sheet attached to it.

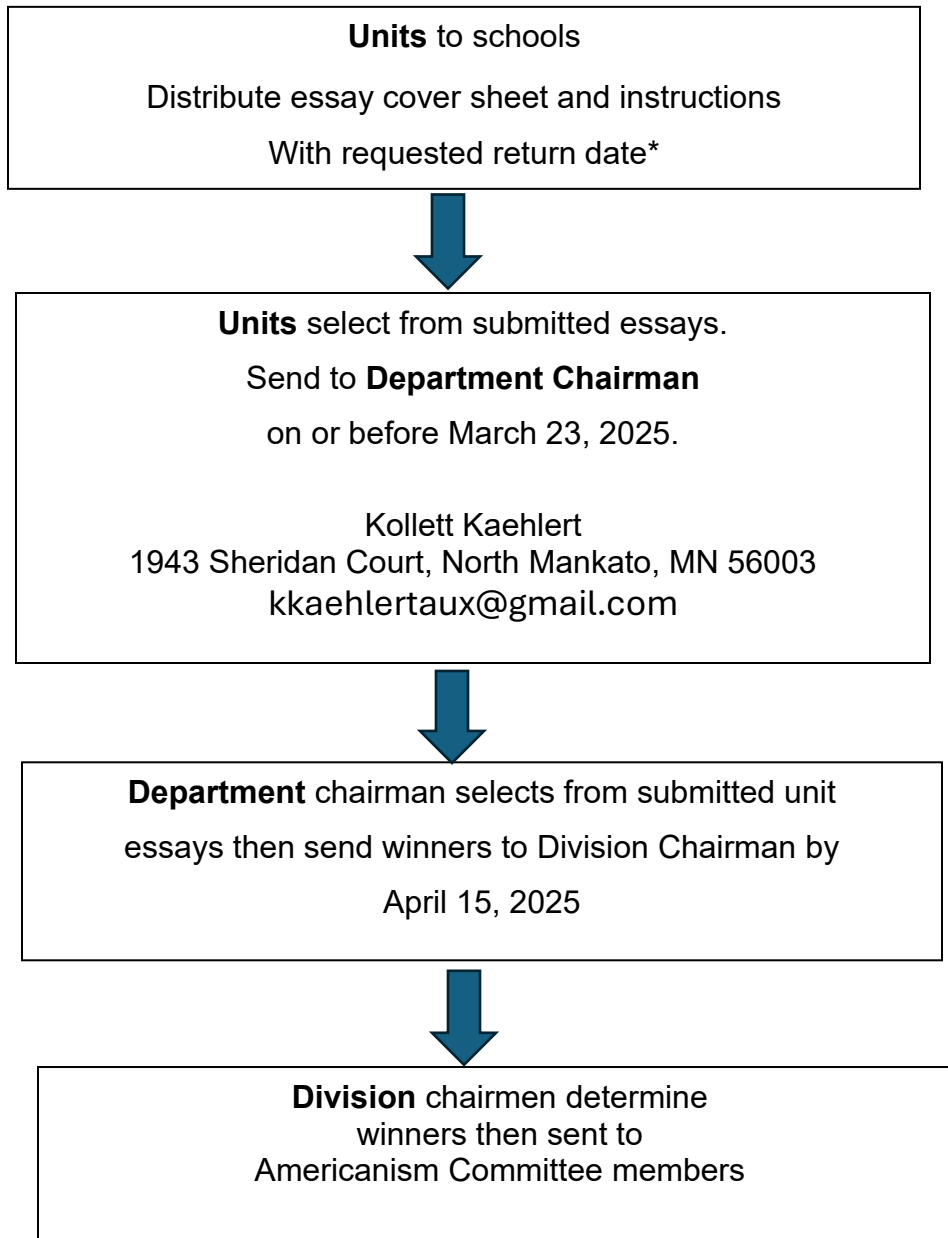
Department Award: BEST DEPARTMENT AMERICANISM PROGRAM

- Award: Citation
- Presented to: One department in each division (5)
- The entry must be typewritten in narrative format, not to exceed 1000 words. Include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc.
- Report must have National Americanism Report & Award Cover Sheet attached to it.



Americanism Essay Contest flow chart

Visit www.ALforVeterans.org for more information and required cover sheet



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



**AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST
2025 Cover Sheet**

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

Essay Title: "What does America the Beautiful mean to me regarding veterans and our military?"

Essay Classes:

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

Essay Checklist:

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

To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:

Student Name: _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____

School Name: _____

School City/State: _____

Teacher Name and Signature: _____

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

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: _____

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: _____

Unit winner due to Department on: _____ Department: _____

Signature of Department Chairman: _____

Department winner due to National Americanism Division Chairman by April 15, 2025



Department of Minnesota
October 2024 Unit Mailing
Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) Chairman,
Brandi Christensen

Fall Conference

Silent Auction

The Silent Auction to support the Auxiliary Emergency Fund is back again this year for Fall Conference!! Time to get together as a unit/post/squadron or family to come up with a theme basket or maybe even 2!! You can also bring in quilts, books, patriotic items, pictures, jewelry, American Legion family items, decorations.

Everyone loves bake sales! I know we have some wonderful bakers out there. And I hope you come through for a huge bake sale that will go with the silent auction. Bake sale items will be a free will donation. I am even making some items. (And if you know me that is a huge task because I am not usually someone who bakes.) 😊😊

We will also be taking monetary donations. To go along with Department President Judy's symbol each monetary donation that comes in will be a Lego block (building blocks) to make towers.

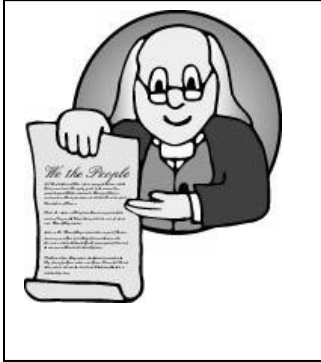
I am hoping to have a great silent auction for an even greater cause!

Volunteers Needed!

If you would love to help with the auction whether it be setting up or working during the auction, please contact me or the Department Office.

Brandi Christensen
763-843-0873
Brandichristensen21@gmail.com

Department Office
651-224-7634
deptoffice@mnala.org



TOPIC #1 – Why We Need Standing Rules

Every Unit should have their own unique set of Standing Rules. These are detailed administrative policies that spell out how your unit operates. They may be changed as your Unit's needs change but there are some guidelines that must be followed. With prior notice to all members, they may be changed by a majority vote and without prior notice to all members, the vote needs to be a 2/3 majority vote. These cannot be determined by the Executive Committee alone.

Other items that should be provided for in the Standing rules are:

- Meetings – meetings that are locked into a specific day, time and place ran into an issue when COVID-19 hit. Consider how specific this needs to be.
- Dues – the amount of dues and when due
- Elections – when they take place and how the election is held
- Unit property – rules for loaning, maintenance, replacement, etc.
- Finances including cash management and check signing procedures, special funds, rent and utilities, special funds such as poppy, Girls State, gambling, etc.
- Gifts (example for retiring officers)
- Flowers/gifts/memorials for funerals and illnesses
- Delegate expenses
- Contests & prizes (poppy and essay)
- Donations to program
- Compliance including who will audit financials and when

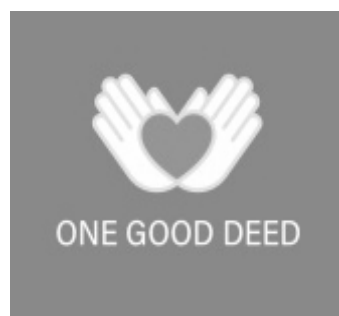
Promoting the Youth Hero Award and the Good Deed Award all year long is necessary as we would like everyone to recognize and reward the positive actions of our children and youth so we can honor them. This is our future so let's band together and if you see someone on social media, at church, school, etc., doing something amazing in the community, that could be considered for one of these awards. Please reach out to the unit in that area so they can make a difference, and we can receive many more nominations for these awards in the future.

- Watch your socials and local media for possible nominations of students.
- Use the online form to submit your nomination.
- More information: <https://member.legion-aux.org/youth-hero-good-deed-awards>

This is the time of year to gather with many event opportunities to have fun with the children and youth in your unit, post and/or schools! Be sure that when you are planning you search the National website www.alaforveterans.org for the amazing resources available for your consideration! Feel free to reach out to your District Children and Youth Chairman or myself if you have any questions whatsoever throughout the year!

Remember the earlier we involve our youth the brighter our future will be!

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our youth and beyond!



We are off and running with our programs. There is so much to do and so little time, it seems! October is fast approaching and you can already smell fall in the air! The leaves are turning color and it will be nice to have nice to have cooler temperatures!

It is my hope that all our Units are working diligently on our program "Give 10 to Education!" There are so many ways you can participate in this program even if your Unit is small and you don't have a lot of finances. You can volunteer your time in the reading or mentoring programs, or perhaps the school may have other things that need to be done. Just ask. This is such a fun program to be involved in. Here is a little tidbit I want to share with you. In my Community we have the Yellow Ribbon Citizen's Committee and this group asks our local Dollar Store if they would be willing to donate school supplies to our local Guardsmen and their families. Well, they receive so many boxes of items that they cannot use all of the supplies given to them, and being the American Legion Auxiliary is involved working closely with the Unit, they are offered the remaining items for our "Give 10 to Education' Program. It's a win/win for both groups. Something to consider.

It is not too earlier to think about getting Veterans into the Classroom. This program should be checked out with the schools during the summer, however sometimes that really had to do, so now would be a great time to connect with your schools. Let them know that Veterans Day, November 11th will be here before they know it and wouldn't it be nice to have a currently serving veteran or a retired veteran come and speak to their class. I know some schools have Veteran Day programs already, however that doesn't mean we can't use another day perhaps the week before Veterans Day. We need to think outside of the box!!

This event is something I would really like to promote this year. Some of your may already do this program, however there are many of us who have not, my Unit included. I have copied the information from our National Website to help those Units who have members who don't have computers so that they may try this program too. Don't want to leave anyone out

How to Organize Veterans in Community Schools Program

Veterans in Community Schools is an activity endorsed by The American Legion that brings history to life by connecting military veterans with students in classrooms or at school assemblies in conjunction with history lessons about World War II, The Korean War, The Vietnam War or Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom. The ever-decreasing numbers of healthy veterans from World War II points to the fleeting nature of the opportunity to pass on these important lessons.

Veterans are important pieces of American history. The American Legion Family believes accounts of their experiences while in uniform and as a result of their military service should be preserved and shared with others. Veterans have witnessed monumental events in history. They can help students learn from and appreciate the sacrifices individuals and their families have made. In addition to sharing their experiences, veterans may also discuss a wide range of topics including how to help a family who has a deployed military service member, how to show support for the troops, proper respect for the flag. Also, veterans' sharing of their military experience with an appreciative audience can help them heal psychological wounds from combat, deployment or family separation.

Participation in The American Legion's Veterans in Community Schools program is a suggested activity in the American Legion Auxiliary's Education Programs Action Plan. It can be reported for either the Education or VA&R program. Please only report each program one time.

Follow these steps to organize a Veterans in Community Schools event at a school(s) in your community.

1) Identify and Contact School (s)

Contact a school or schools in your local community and offer to organize a Veterans in Community Schools event for a classroom, grade level, or student-body assembly. Reach out to the school principal first, either by in-person visit, telephone or email. You may choose to select an elementary, middle or high school; you can alter your activities to accommodate a wide range of age groups. The most effective way is to have someone connected to the school (a parent or friend of a teacher) make the approach.

2) Propose an Activity Plan

a) The school official may refer you to a classroom teacher or to a department chair. If so, work with the teacher or chair to develop the activity into an educational program for students. Discuss with them how veterans can contribute to the students' understanding of military service and/or U.S. history. Provide additional resources (found below) for teachers, as they may want to introduce key concepts to students in their lesson plans in preparation for the activity.

b) Work with the school to identify the most suitable time, venue, and format of the activity. You could host the event in a classroom, cafeteria, auditorium, or gymnasium. The size of the venue will depend on the number of veterans and the size of the audience.

c) Propose to hold the Veterans in Community Schools activity on or around Veterans Day (November 11) or Memorial Day, but do not limit yourself to those time periods if that time frame does not suit the school calendar. Perhaps hold the event the week before Veterans Day.

d) Depending on the average age of the audience, you may want to develop a set of guidelines for the event. In addition to hearing about veteran experiences, different age groups may be interested in other information as well. Elementary/middle school students may be interested in flag education and citizenship; high school students may be interested in the role of the military in today's society, a more in-depth exploration of the veteran's experience, the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress, and volunteer service opportunities that are offered by the Legion Family.

e) Offer to create handouts or supplemental materials about veterans for students to take home for themselves and their family members. Note that the school official will likely need to review and approve the materials being proposed for distribution to students or family members. Materials can contain information about the Legion Family (such as a web address) but should not overtly promote membership since that is not the purpose of this activity.

f) Identify and assign roles to participants, such as greeter, ALA or Legion representative and moderator. While service members don't necessarily expect civilians to address them by their military title, it is a nice courtesy to know the proper address.

3) Identify Veterans for Speaking Roles

a) Once the possible dates have been selected with the school, identify one veteran or group of veterans from the appropriate war era who would be willing to speak about their experiences, or other topics suggested by the school. Note that some veterans may prefer to speak to older or younger audiences depending on how the activity is structured.

b) There are many ways to find veterans who may be willing to participate. First, ask the family member(s) of those who belong to the American Legion Auxiliary. Second, contact the commander or a commission chairman of the Legion post. Third, ask the school if a staff member is a veteran

and wishes to speak, or if they are aware of a parent or family member with military experience.

c) Try to connect specific historical incidents with those veterans who may have served in that theater or at that time in history.

d) Try to invite veterans from more than one branch of the armed forces and different periods of conflict. A wide array of speakers will give students an opportunity to hear many kinds of experiences.

4) Prepare the Veteran(s) and Audience

a) Ask each veteran if there are topics they wish to discuss or not discuss. Work with the teachers to develop guidelines for students to respect the veterans' wishes. It is common for young people to want to ask a military service member if they have killed anyone. Teachers should discuss this in advance, requesting that students refrain from asking this question out of respect for the service member.

b) Below is a list of potential questions and talking points to review with your veteran(s) in advance. It may even be helpful to assign questions to students at the event. (I like this idea, involve students)

- 1) When and where did you serve?
- 2) Why did you join the service? What branch?
- 3) Why did you pick the branch that you were in?
- 4) What did it feel like to be in the service?
- 5) Would you demonstrate a proper salute?
- 6) What was boot camp like?
- 7) What were your job assignments?
- 8) What are some of your memorable experiences?
- 9) What did you do for entertainment?
- 10) Where did you travel during service?
- 11) Any humorous or unusual events?
- 12) What did you do in the days and weeks after you returned?
- 13) Did you form any close friendships, and do you still stay in touch?
- 14) Are you a part of any veterans' organizations?
- 15) Did your military experience influence your views on today's military and war?
- 16) How did the service affect your life?
- 17) What values did you learn from your experience?

5) Implement the Activity Plan

a) Follow the agenda you have laid out through careful planning and consultation with the school Official and staff. *If time, space and resources allow, consider hosting a small reception for the veterans, school officials, key faculty, and a representative or a few of the student body to continue their conversations and exchange information.

6) Sample Agenda

- a) Assemble the students and veterans.
- b) Welcome students and veterans to the activity. Give a brief overview of the project's purpose and introduce the veterans.
- c) Say the Pledge of Allegiance and/or have a local ROTC display the U.S. flag.
- d) Allow for a few remarks from any distinguished or notable guests you may have invited (e.g. Mayor, member of Congress, etc.)
- e) Allow the veterans to introduce themselves. After they have given brief introductory remarks, begin the Q&A session.

- f) Thank each veteran for participating and allow for individual remarks if they have any. If you wish to present each veteran with a gift, now would be the best time to do so.
- g) Consider saying the Pledge of Allegiance again to see if you hear the words differently in light of the presentation.
- h) Close out the project or event with a culminating 'Thank You' to all participants.
- i) Follow-up with Veteran(s) and School(s) How did they feel about the program
- j) Send thank-you notes to the school leader and faculty. Ask if they would like to continue with the program in the future.
- k) Provide the school leader with information about the Legion Family and Legion Family programs and resources for veterans, veteran and military families, and the general community, so that he/she may make referrals of students and their families to Legion Family programs and services.
- l) Send thank-you notes to veteran speakers. Ask the veterans if they would be willing to be added to a list of willing speakers for future Veterans in Community Schools activities.
- m) Promote ALA and Report Your Impact:

The ALA encourages members to identify themselves as such. **When interacting with teachers, parents and veterans, however, it is important that members not push ALA membership aggressively, as that is not** the primary purpose of this activity. * Please, do feel free to wear ALA apparel and mention why you value association with The American Legion Family. *Please also be sure to report your volunteer activities and hours to your unit's Education or VA&R committee chairman. (One or the other, NOT BOTH!)

Additional Ideas:

- 1) Assign a unit member to take pictures or video during the activity, provided the school and the veterans consent to this documentation.
- 2) Assign a unit member to prepare an article or blog post of the event for the unit and post publications.

Gather publicity generated by students and schools themselves, such as news articles in the school newspaper or online postings, student essays written for class assignments, or thank you notes from students. Re-publicize this material, with the authors' permission, in your unit or department communications

Resources:

America's Veterans Teacher Guide, The American Legion

<http://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/veterans.pdf>

Promoting Historic Preservation in Community Schools, The History Channel

http://www.history.com/images/media/interactives/promote_historic_preservation.pdf

Our Veterans: Sharing Their Stories, The History Channel

<https://images.history.com/images/media/pdf/OurVeteransOurStories.pdf>

Veterans History Project, U.S. Library of Congress

<http://www.loc.gov/vets/>

Where does your money come from to finance the programs your unit supports?

I expect that would be your membership dues and then any fundraising your unit chooses.

Why is it important to have a budget? Minnesota weather can sometimes prevent units from meeting in the winter. If your unit has an approved budget, the treasurer can send in funds for items such as poppies and your ALA Girls State Citizen reservations. It is important to stay on schedule with your obligations.



Your budget should cover all the expenses that are typical to your unit each year. It is important to note that if you are spending more than is in the budget, that would require a vote of the members at your quorum unit meeting.

The treasure should always require receipts each time a check is issued for reimbursement of an item on the budget. If something is not on the budget, a vote at the unit meeting should be done prior to issuing payment.

Keeping good records is helpful when setting the next budget – Did we spend more on an item than the year before? How can we be more fiscally responsible? Good records will help you to answer these questions.

A budget will help members understand where the money is being spent and the funds needed for the year.

The Department also has a budget which is presented to the Department Executive Committee. The DEC then approves the budget. They have an opportunity to ask questions and make decisions concerning the budget.

As with the unit our funds are mostly from membership dues. As membership declines and prices rise, our ability to support the programs decreases. It is the responsibility of all of us to increase our membership. Just Ask!! More members, more fun and a better life for our veterans as we are better able to support programs that will enhance their lives.

If you have any questions on finance or making a budget, please contact the department finance committee.

Committee Members:

Mary Hendrickson, Cavalene Regan, Tonia Betterman, Jill Davis



MERRY CHRISTMAS

It is getting to be that time of year again, when everyone is starting to think of Christmas. As you make your list, **PLEASE**, think of our Veterans who are in the Veterans Hospitals or Homes and contribute to the American Legion Auxiliary Gift Shop.

The Gift Shop was started in 1932 by a group of Auxiliary Juniors from the Department of Minnesota who furnished toys for the children of long-term patients at the Minneapolis VA Hospital. The Gift Shop was later taken over by the American Legion Auxiliary as it got larger in order to serve more of our Veterans. So just think about it, the American Legion Auxiliary has been doing this for 92 years. And this year we are adding 3 new Veterans Homes.

We would like to continue doing this with your donations, and remember to tell The American Legion, Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Riders that their donations are much appreciated too.



Department of Minnesota
October 2024 Unit Mailing
Minnesota Girls State Chairman, Wanda Prescher

Even though Girls State is not till June 2025! Please start thinking about putting the cost into your budgets or decide on what kind of fundraiser you might want to consider to help raise money for sponsorship.

Those that have gambling in their post, do not be afraid to ask for sponsorship for Girls State, they might surprise you!

If you know of a business in your community that might consider sponsoring, you might want to talk to them in helping a student.

Come January, we need to get into the schools to talk to the 11th grade government classes, to help promote our program. Too many of our schools do not understand the program because we have not been able to get into the classroom or hold a meeting. We are working on a few ideas to hopefully help with that going forward.

We all have District Mid-Winter coming up in January, get Girls State on the program by bringing a couple Girls State citizens from this past year to talk about their week. Do the same for Boys State. Many of our members do not understand these programs as those of us that have been involved.

President Judy has asked all Program Chairman to have a tri-fold poster highlighting our programs for the year, please stop by and check us out. There will be information on Girls State and signup sheet if interested in being a counselor in 2025.

We will have Script Cards and Girls State apparel available.

See you at Fall Conference!



Leadership Workshop
October 19th
Bagley, MN

Yay!!! Our first workshop is scheduled! We are starting on the northern part of the state and trying to go early enough in the year to avoid the "white stuff".

October 19th 10AM til 3PM
Bagley American Legion Post #16
112 Main Ave N
Bagley, MN 56621



Lunch will be served by the Legion and amount (to be determined) due at that time.

To register, complete the form below and mail it to me along with \$5 registration fee (covers costs). OR – you can contact me at ckakottom@gmail.com cell: 763-360-6102 and pay me at the workshop.

Juniors 10 years of age or older are invited to attend.

DEADLINE to register is October 12th (one person per form please)

Name _____ Unit _____

Contact phone _____

Special dietary requirements: _____

Carol Kottom, Department Leadership Chairman

If you haven't gone to the websites that I mentioned last month, please do so. Just this weekend, I received two e-mails from the Grassroots association. They both asked me to contact my legislators to ask them to support two different bills to come before the United States Congress. One is to Fix the VA Funding Shortfall so our veterans will receive their benefits. The VA system does not have enough money allocated to pay our veterans' benefits. This is important. The e-mail gave me the option to automatically contact my legislators with their pre-created e-mail. It was as easy as just a few clicks. I then received confirmation that my e-mail had been sent.

As your legislation chairman, I was invited to attend the meetings of the Commander's Task Force (CTF). The CTF is advisory group consisting of nine chartered veterans service organizations including the American Legion. They meet monthly to discuss and advocate for issues affecting our veterans and their families.

They recently held a workshop at Camp Ripley which I attended. First, I had never been to a military camp/base. Camp Ripley is a 52,000-acre facility for the MN National Guard. It is a training center used by not only the Guard, but other organizations including the MN Highway Patrol. I didn't have time to see everything, but I visited the first Minnesota Veterans Cemetery on the grounds and the Military Museum – both very impressive. If you are ever have the opportunity, stop in at the Cemetery and the Museum.

The workshop provided a lot of information presented by different departments of the Minnesota VA System. We are lucky to have people that not only know their jobs but have our veterans at the top of their priorities and provide much needed support for our veterans and their families.

Please take the time this month to research the candidates for the office of the legislators representing your area. Find out where they stand on veteran issues. Consider these issues when you cast your vote this election day. If you don't know how they stand on these issues, invite them into your Post. Ask the important questions. Invite your entire Legion Family and the community.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Bulletin #5 as of 9/24/2024
2025 Membership
Member-opoly
"Finding Members in Everyday Places"
Your Leader is Rich Aunty Pennybags, Hope Wilson**



DISTRICT	# of Units	Goal	Period Gain	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year 9/26/23	Difference from Last Year
One	47	3,341	65	533	15.95%	535	-2
Two	70	3,456	86	522	15.10%	573	-51
Three	46	3,476	110	473	13.61%	458	15
Four	7	514	9	65	12.65%	89	-24
Five	7	463	20	43	9.29%	41	2
Six	60	4,469	151	743	16.63%	828	-85
Seven	52	2,579	68	254	9.85%	326	-72
Eight	19	1,076	5	124	11.52%	172	-48
Nine	45	2,944	118	383	13.01%	449	-66
Ten	41	3,391	79	564	16.63%	497	67
1982 & 0476	2	336	0	81	24.11%	61	20
Department Total	396	26,045	711	3,785	14.53%	4,029	-244
Group 1 (Even) Linda Kelly	197	12,906	330	2,018	15.64%	2,159	-141
Group 2 (Odd) Robin Dorf	197	12,803	381	1,686	13.17%	1,809	-123

RANKINGS

1st 16.63% District 6 & 10	2nd	3rd 15.95% District 1	4th 15.10% District 2	5th 13.61% District 3	6th 13.01% District 9	7th 12.65% District 4	8th 11.52% District 8	9th 9.85% District 7	10th 9.29% District 5
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Hello Membership Players and Scorekeepers,

I wanted to share with everyone how quickly the scores in a game can change. Below are the 9/21/2024 membership numbers compared to just a few short days afterward on 9/24/2024. We now have a TIE for 1st place between the 6th & 10th Districts.

Place in Race	Harvest Rally 2025			9/21/2024			9/24/2024		
	District	# turned in at Rally	%	Place in Race	District	%	Place in Race	District	%
10th	5th		8.21%	10th	5th	9.29%			
9th	7th	35 Members	9.59%	9th	7th	9.85%			
8th	4th		10.89%	8th	8th	11.52%			
7th	8th		11.25%	7th	4th	12.65%			
6th	9th	84 Members	11.64%	6th	9th	13.01%			
5th	3rd		13.40%	5th	3rd	13.61%			
4th	2nd		14.14%	4th	2nd	15.10%			
3rd	10th	77 Members	15.69%	3rd	1st	15.95%			
2nd	1st	17 Members	15.80%	2nd					
1st	6th		16.11%	1st	6th & 10th	16.63%			

Our department goal was 40% for September 21, 2024. Several units made that goal and surpassed it, but unfortunately, we still have 93 units at a ZERO (0) percentage. I encourage ALL units to turn in their memberships as soon as they receive it. Do NOT hold your dues until everyone pays in the unit. Memberships need to be turned in at least once each month as stated in Article IX, Section 3 of the National Bylaws. I would like to see this happen more frequently than that. This will help make sure our members receive their membership benefits right away and we don't run into any violations in the terms of our bond.

On a positive note, our next Department membership goal is 75% by December 7, 2024. This is also the date of the next Membership Rally! Here is some information on the upcoming Rallies.

Pearl Harbor Rally

What: The American Legion Pearl Harbor Family Gathering-Rally

When: Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024, Noon time Rally, details are being worked out.

Where: Post 545, Spicer MN

Who: Hosted by American Legion Riders

What: The American Legion Sweetheart Family Gathering-Rally

When: February 8, 2025

Where: Royalton American Legion Post 137

Who: Host – The American Legion Auxiliary

Times: 11 AM Membership Turn-in / 12 PM Lunch / Program to Follow

What: Minnesota American Legion Appreciation Rally

When: Saturday, March 8, 2025

Where: Chanhassen Post 580

Who: Members of American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Riders

Host: American Legion Department of Minnesota

Another HUGE, and I say HUGE event I would like to remind everyone about is **FALL CONFERENCE!!!** This is just around the corner. It will be held at the St. Cloud at River's Edge Convention Center.

2024-2025 National President Trish Ward

will be speaking on Thursday, October 24 at 6:30 pm in the main auditorium.

ALSO

District vs District Membership Percentage "Song" Challenge

District 1	vs	District 8
District 2	vs	District 9
District 3	vs	District 6
District 4	vs	District 7
District 5	vs	District 10

Keep 2 songs in your mind: a "Happy" song for winning the challenge and a "Sad" song for losing the challenge. Which district will have the highest percentage of membership to date? You will get your verdict at the Rally. So be ready. You get to choose the songs. Make them fun!

An award presented from the National Security Program is the Salute to Servicemembers Award. Please consider nominating an enlisted servicemember for this award. The following information can be found on the national website-alaforveterans.org. Do you know of a servicemember with ties to Minnesota? Start the nominating process now so you are ready to submit before June 1, 2025!

SALUTE TO SERVICEMEMBERS AWARD

Award Nomination Form

Established in 2003, this award honors one enlisted servicemember (pay grade E1-E9) from each branch of service (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Space Force) as well as the National Guard/Reserve. Recipients will be recognized at the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention and will be invited to attend the National Convention as guests of the Auxiliary.

Nomination Eligibility:

- An enlisted servicemember (pay grade E1-E9) currently serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Nomination Requirements:

- The nominating person submits a narrative discussing the reason for the nomination
- The servicemember will be invited to speak to the general assembly of the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention as a guest of the American Legion Auxiliary. If operational requirements prevent the servicemember's attendance at National Convention then other arrangements for their presentation to the general assembly will be made.
- Endorsement from a member of their command group must be included.
- The nominating form, along with all supporting documentation, must be completed and submitted by June 1, 2025, 5:00 PM EDT.

Be sure to continue wearing red on Fridays. RED-Remember Everyone Deployed is an awesome way to show our military that we care about them and are here to support them!

Members all over the nation can support "Be The One" on the 1st of each month. "Be The One" items can be purchased through Emblem Sales. Wearing "Be The One" shirts and pins on the 1st of each month brings awareness to saving the lives of veterans on the brink of suicide. It also highlights the issue and brings awareness to pinpointing solutions.

Fall is here and many of you are just now starting to meet for the 2024-2025 year. As we start the new year, I thought it would be good time to do a unit mailing on conducting a unit meeting as a refresher for some and to help the new officers. Most of the information included in this mailing is from the Unit Guidebook. This book can be found on the national website at “alaforveterans.org” under printable forms.

Conducting a Unit Meeting To be successful as a volunteer organization in today’s busy world, unit meetings need to be planned to best honor the volunteers’ time. Plan your agenda, keeping in mind your unit’s bylaws, and publicize it to your members in advance so that they can plan their time accordingly. The sample meeting agenda that follows shows the order of a variety of activities including officer installation. It is not necessary that every one of the examples be on the agenda at every meeting. Units may find that their members prefer a more abbreviated agenda. Committee meetings are where discussion and research take place. Committee chairs should only bring important matters before the unit for decision. Unit elections and all unit business must be conducted following unit bylaws and state nonprofit laws. All members are entitled to have access to the unit’s constitution, bylaws, and standing rules. The national organization does not dictate to units how they must operate. Unit bylaws, however, cannot conflict with federal, state, or local laws or regulations as well as department and ALA National Constitution and Bylaws. Unit presidents should be impartial while presiding and not take part in discussion. The majority vote rules, but the minority has the right to be heard. For more information, refer to Fundamentals of Parliamentary Procedure in the Unit Guide Appendix. It describes the roles and responsibilities of everyone taking part in the unit meeting.

Example of Order of Business:

Not every item will be used at every meeting throughout the year. The order should be changed to fit the type of meeting being held.

1. Call to Order
2. Advancement of colors (optional). Salute the colors if colors are not advanced
3. Prayer
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. National Anthem or other patriotic song
6. Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary
7. Roll call of officers
8. Reading and approval of minutes of previous meeting
9. Treasurer’s financial report
10. Initiation of candidates (quarterly, biannually, or annually, as is the unit custom)
11. Reports: president, secretary, unit officers, executive committee, standing committee reports (membership, etc.) and special committee reports
12. Reading of communications, including those from national, department, and district officers (email these to members if possible)
13. Unfinished business
14. New business
15. Election and installation of officers
16. Announcements

17. Program – service project (mission) or educational and entertaining (optional)

18. Closing prayer

19. Adjournment of business meeting 56 American Legion Auxiliary Unit Guide

20. Retirement of colors (optional) NOTE: Use only full-sized flags to advance/retire colors. The American flag and a miniature banner of the American Legion Auxiliary flag in a small stand should not be used for the advancement or retirement of colors.

Requirement for Voting - A unit cannot require that a member attend a certain number of meetings to vote. The right to vote and the right to hold office are clear privileges of membership.

Remember these are suggestions to help you with your unit meeting, use them as a guide to conduct your unit meeting.

Thank you for all you do for the American Legion Auxiliary and for our Veterans and their families and your community.

Contact Information:

raleen44aux@gmail.com

phone: 507-317-3240

The Poppy program is the American Legion Auxiliary's major source of income where all the funds must only be used for Veterans, active-duty military and their children.

This year we will work on the following areas to increase poppy revenue:

- ❖ Increase the number of Veteran poppy makers.
- ❖ Celebrate National Poppy Day in May -what does your Unit plan on doing.
- ❖ Have units get out in the community to promote/educate them on what the "Poppy" is used for.
- ❖ Best ways to promote then poppy program to increase revenue.
- ❖ We will also schedule some poppy making classes.

In doing some digging on the national website there is a ton of information on how units can bring awareness to this very important program. Anyone who is an auxiliary member has access to the poppy program, you might even learn something new.

Same as last year we are down to a few Veteran poppy makers. The last few years we have had to purchase more poppies from other departments. This will cost the department to use funds that would be better spent on our veterans, because that is why we all are here.

We have the tradition of doing two (2) poppy contests at Fall Conference and Department Convention. I hope to make them fun so everyone will feel like participating. We again will have prizes and people's choice. The fund from the people's choice will go to Department President Judy's project. Hopefully you all will be inspired to get your junior members involved with one or both contests. I can't wait to see what you all will come up with.

Poppy entries must be brought to the Department Fall Conference at the Rivers Edge Convention Center by Friday October 25th, 2024, at 10:00am. Let's see how many tables we can fill.

CONTEST #1-Poppy Crown

Using the ALA Poppy create a "crown" not a hat. You must be able to wear it, as there will be a crown parade, won't that be fun. Try and use President's Judy's theme "Back to the basics-Recognize, Respect, Remember. White tags need to be removed.

CONTEST #2 -Wearable "Sash"

To go along with the Crown using any poppies of any color or material as long as it can be worn. Be creative! White tags need to be removed if you use the ALA poppy.

Night Team Event!!

Gather your poppy makers and team up with your sister district let see which team can make the most poppies. This is a American Legion Family event.

President Judy and Commander Carl have decided not to have a grand march on Friday night. But some fun will still be had by all. This fun event is for the whole American Legion Family.

Gather up your best or worst poppy makers and let's see which District's will come out on top. Remember that the veterans will get paid for the poppies they make, it will be very fun.

How this is going to work each team will be made up of sister districts so five (5) teams total. The teams are 1 & 3, 2 & 7, 4 & 5, 6 & 9 and 8 & 10, they will work together to see which team will come out on top. We are hoping to get a lot of poppies made on Friday night. How many can each team make?



Department of Minnesota
October 2024 Unit Mailing
Public Relations Chairman, Cari Lamb

Well, it is time again to start spreading the news about the ALA. I am going to be doing something new this year. I am going to be doing a press book to give to Judy at the end of her year. So, I need all the Units and Districts to send me all the articles that the ALA is in. Newspapers, Facebook, pamphlets, anything media related. So, when she is on one side of the state, she can see what the other sides are doing, or even if she is visiting send everything you can so we can make this memorable. Just send the pages that the ALA is in, not the whole newspaper.

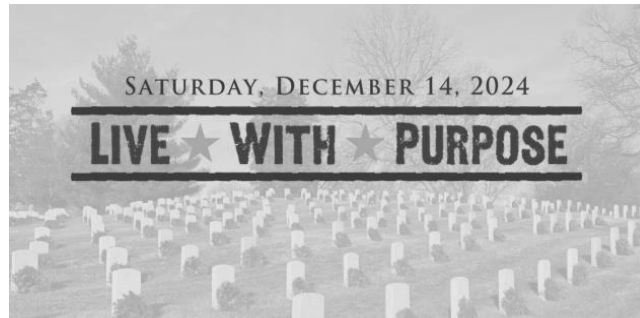
Thank you very much.

Contact Information:

3217 19th Ave S, Mpls, Mn 55407

Crlmb74@gmail.com

612-968-4839



**SAVE THE DATE and make plans to attend the
National Wreaths Across America Day
Saturday, December 14, 2024.**

Now is the time to start planning to attend a local Wreaths Across America Day in Minnesota. The following are locations in Minnesota who are listed on the WAA website to volunteer at:

Fort Snelling National Cemetery
Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery – Duluth
Evergreen/Rinehart Cemetery
Grand Army of the Republic Park
Calvary Cemetery
Sauk Valley Lutheran Cemetery

Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery – Little Falls
Elim Lutheran Church Cemetery
Pleasant Hill Cemetery
Lakeside Cemetery
Oak Park Cemetery-Oslo, MN
Salem Lutheran Church Cemetery

National Wreaths Across America Day is an event held in more than 3,000 local communities each December. It is a day where volunteers of all ages, demographics and backgrounds gather to place live balsam veterans' wreaths on the headstones of our nation's heroes, joining together to say each of their names out loud one more time and in doing so, keeping their memories alive.

Wreaths Across America's (WAA) mission to **Remember** the Fallen, **Honor** those that serve and their families, and **Teach** the next generation the value of freedom is yearlong and carried out by individuals finding a way to serve in their communities. WAA offers many programs and opportunities to share the stories of veterans, their families and those who serve our country.

Remember

WAA annual pilgrimage from Columbia Falls, Maine, to Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia has become known as the world's largest veterans' parade, stopping at schools, monuments, veterans' homes, and communities all along the way to remind people how important it is to Remember, Honor and Teach. WAA hosts State House Ceremonies in nearly 50 states.



Honor

Through WAA national group sponsorship program, it has helped other nonprofits and civic groups such as Civil Air Patrol, Scouts, 4- H Clubs, local VFWs and American Legions raise funds for their own community needs. Since 2007, WAA has given back **more than \$20 million** to local groups.

WAA offers volunteers several ways to honor our veterans, including our popular Thanks-A- Million campaign, which distributes free "I Owe You" cards to volunteers all over the country to share with veterans as a simple thank-you for their service and a promise to give back.

WAA works with veteran service organizations across the country in hopes of sharing relevant and pertinent information with this important audience. WAA's Executive Director and VSO leaders from across the country join together for a quarterly Roundtable on WAA Radio focused on Veteran Healing where they share stories of service and success.

Teach

WAA is committed to teaching younger generations about the value of their freedoms and the importance of honoring those who sacrificed so much to protect those freedoms. The TEACH program offers lesson plans, interactive-media projects and opportunities for educators and students of all ages and resources from partner organizations offering guided learning opportunities.

The WAA Museum located at the National Headquarters in Columbia Falls, Maine, showcases thousands of items that have been donated to WAA over the decades. All donations help to provide insight and tell the greater story of the experiences of U.S. military personnel.

The Mobile Education Exhibit is a traveling classroom on wheels designed to inspire and educate all about the mission and those whose lives have been impacted by it. The goal of the Wreaths Across America Education Exhibit is to bring local communities and our military together with education, stories, and interactive connections.

The information from this article is from the Wreaths Across America website at www.wreathscrossamerica.org for more information please take the time to review their site.

If you or unit does attend a distribution on December 14th, please share your pictures with me via email and/or social media.

Robin Dorf

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman

RobinLDorf@yahoo.com

(612) 483-4076

Department President's Memory Book

Please send pictures or newspaper articles to President Judy in either way, e-mail or mail.

E-mail: judya2002@gmail.com Please indicate in the subject line that it is for the memory book.

Mail: Judy Ackerman, Dept President's Memory Book, 924 Shoreacres Dr, Fairmont, MN 56031

2024 Fall Conference – Registration and Special Guest

Go to mnala.org, all the information you will need to register and about our Special Guest is on the front page. The information was also in the September Unit Mailing and the August & September Legionnaire.

Picture and Article Submissions

How to send in content. When sending in write-ups for the Auxiliary Bulletin and the Legionnaire, send Microsoft Word documents. All photos should be sent in high resolution as a JPG attached to the email.

Do not insert the JPG into a Word document. Send all articles and pictures to Executive Secretary Christie Avant, christie@mnala.org

Webpage – mnala.org

We are working on the webpage to make it more user friendly. We want the webpage to be a place where our members can go to find the forms they need, information on our programs and links to other resources and our Minnesota Legion Family. This will take us a little time. Over the next few months, you will see changes/updates. If you can't find something you are looking for, please, email us at DeptOffice@mnala.org. We'll be happy to email the form or information out to you. Also, if you have suggestions of things you would like to see let us know. ~ Thanks!

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 24-26 – Fall Conference – River's Edge Convention Center – St. Cloud

National President's Visit & Presentation

November 11 – Veteran's Day – Office Closed

November 13 – American Legion Auxiliary Birthday 105

November 28 – 29 – Thanksgiving – Department Office Closed

December 7 – Pearl Harbor Rally – Spicer

December 24th & 25th – Christmas – Office Closed

December 31 – January 1 – New Year's – Office Closed

January 20 – Martin Luther King Day – Office Closed

February 8 – Sweetheart Rally – Royalton

February 17 – President's Day – Office Closed

March 8 – Appreciation Rally - Chanhassen

March 12 – The American Legion Birthday 106

April 11-12 – Dept Jr Conference – 10th District Hosting

April 15 – Purple Up Day!

April 18 – Good Friday – Office Closed

May 17 – Department President Testimonial – Fairmont American Legion

May 26 – Memorial Day – Office Closed

June 15 – 21 – Girls State – Bethel University

July 9 – 12 – Department Convention – Wilmar Conference Center

"Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting and autumn a mosaic of them all." – Stanley Horowitz

**Fall Conference Program
American Legion Auxiliary
Rivers Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud, Minnesota
October 24-26, 2024**

Department Headquarters and Flag Room
General Sessions
Silent Auction – AEF
Thursday Evening Session

Opportunities Suite, Clarke Room
Glen Carlson Exhibit Hall
Opportunities Suite, Weidner Room
Glen Carlson Exhibit Hall

**Conference Theme
Back To The Basics – Recognize, Respect, Remember**

Thursday, October 24

11:00 a.m.	DEC and Special Guest Lunch	Kelly Inn, Husky Room
12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.		Opportunities Suite, Bell Room
1:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Registration	Hotel Lobby of the Kelly Inn

Silent Auction items can be taken to the Opportunities Suite, Weidner Room Thursday afternoon. See Brandi Christenson, AEF Chairman or stop in the Department Office for instructions.

Thursday Evening, October 24

5:00 p.m.	Distinguished Guest Dinner	Kelly Inn, Husky Room
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	National President’s Presentation	Glen Carlson Exhibit Hall

Friday, October 25 – morning

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration	Hotel Lobby of the Kelly Inn
7:00 a.m.	Rehearsal for processional	Glen Carlson Exhibit Hall
8:10 a.m.	Call To Order	
8:30 a.m.	Welcome to St. Cloud	
9:00 a.m.	Presentation of Districts Presidents	
9:30 a.m.	Chairman Presentations	
11:30 a.m.	Recess for Lunch	

Friday, October 25 – afternoon

12:30 p.m.	Session Reconvenes	Glen Carlson Exhibit Hall
12:35 p.m.	Chairman Presentations	
1:55 p.m.	Presentation of Past Department Presidents and Distinguished Guests	
3:00 p.m.	Announcements and Close Session	

Silent Auction Bidding Closes at 5:00 p.m.

Friday, October 25

4:00 p.m.	American Legion Family Hospital Meeting	University B, Kelly Inn
7:00 p.m.	American Legion Family Gathering/Social	Glen Carlson Exhibit Hall

Poppy Making District Contest - Cash Bar & Light Refreshments Available

Saturday, October 26

8:00 a.m.	Call to Order	Glen Carlson Exhibit Hall
8:05 a.m.	Chairman Presentations	
8:55 a.m.	2023-2024 National Awards	
9:10 a.m.	Auxiliary Emergency Fund Program - Emergency Silent Auction Report	
9:15 a.m.	Poppy Contest Winners	
10:00 a.m.	Member-opoly - "Finding Members in Everyday Places" Membership Payoff	
11:30 a.m.	Close of Session	

Program subject to change

Incomplete Membership Applications

Incomplete applications result in a delay of the membership start dates. We are continuing to see a very large number of incomplete applications. And we need to get a handle on this. Jocelyn continues to make several attempts i.e. phone calls and emails to the membership chairman trying to gather the proper information to process applications but with very little response back. If this continues, we are going to have to start sending the application back to the units for proper completion. The department office does not want to have to take this step, but the volume is getting worse and not better. You can all help us!

How to Properly Fill Out a Membership Application

There are 2 ways to fill out a membership application. The first is with a LIVING veteran and the second is a DECEASED veteran.

New Member Application with a LIVING VETERAN

1. If the member is signing up under a living veteran, THAT VETERAN MUST BE AN AMERICAN LEGION MEMBER. If that veteran is not an American Legion member, the Auxiliary member is not eligible. They must either convince the veteran to join or join under another veteran. If they cannot, they are not eligible for the Auxiliary.
2. If the living veteran is an American Legion member you can proceed with completing the application in the manner that is REQUIRED BY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS.
3. Now for the application requirements. ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ARE REQUIRED. ALAMIS WILL NOT LET US PROCEED WITH ENTERING THE NEW MEMBER IF WE DO NOT HAVE THIS INFORMATION and we will have to mail it back to the unit for completion.
 - A. First & Last Name
 - B. Address, City, State, Zip Code
 - C. Home and/or Cell Phone Number
 - D. Email is not required unless the member plans on taking advantage of Auxiliary benefits.
 - E. Birth Date
 - F. Check the box that corresponds with the proper age range
 - G. Unit # and Location
 - H. Have you been a member previously? And the corresponding fields
 - I. The new member must sign and date. If the new member is under the age of 18, the application must be signed by the legal guardian.
 - J. Eligible Through – Name of Veteran – Female veteran’s list their own name if they are Legion member
 - K. Veteran’s American Legion ID#, Post #, City & State
 - L. ERA MEANING WHEN THEY SERVED NOT WHICH BRANCH THEY SERVED IN. THIS MUST BE FILLED OUT. WE DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO MILITARY RECORDS AT THE DEPARTMENT.
 - M. New member’s relationship to the veteran. THIS MUST BE FILLED OUT. ALAMIS WILL NOT ALLOW US TO ENTER A NEW MEMBER WITHOUT THIS INFORMATION.
 - N. The Post Adjutant or Membership Officer must verify the veteran’s information, then sign and date the application
 - O. The application is now ready for submission to the office. If any of these field are blank the application will not go thru, and you take the chance on it being returned to the unit.

New Member Application with a DECEASED VETERAN

1. If the member is signing up under a deceased veteran. Check the box for DECEASED.
2. Now for the application requirements. ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ARE REQUIRED. ALAMIS WILL NOT LET US PROCEED WITH ENTERING THE NEW MEMBER IF WE DO NOT HAVE THIS INFORMATION and we will have to mail it back to the unit for completion.
 - A. First & Last Name
 - B. Address, City, State, Zip Code
 - C. Home and/or Cell Phone Number
 - D. Email is not required unless the member plans on taking advantage of Auxiliary benefits.
 - E. Birth Date
 - F. Check the box that corresponds with the proper age range
 - G. Unit # and Location
 - H. Have you been a member previously? And the corresponding fields
 - I. The new member must sign and date. If the new member is under the age of 18, the application must be signed by the legal guardian.
 - J. Eligible Through – Name of Veteran – Female veteran's list their own name if they are Legion member.
 - K. ERA MEANING WHEN THEY SERVED NOT WHICH BRANCH THEY SERVED IN. THIS MUST BE FILLED OUT. WE DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO MILITARY RECORDS AT THE DEPARTMENT.
 - L. New member's relationship to the veteran. THIS MUST BE FILLED OUT. ALAMIS WILL NOT ALLOW US TO ENTER A NEW MEMBER WITHOUT THIS INFORMATION.
 - M. The Post Adjutant or Membership Officer must verify the veteran's information, then sign and date the application
 - N. The application is now ready for submission to the office. If any of these fields are blank the application will not go thru, and you take the chance on it being returned to the unit.