

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Minnesota**

2024-2025

**Department President
Judy Ackerman
November 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



“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.” John Fitzgerald Kennedy

November is a time when we reflect and are grateful for what we have. Let us not forget the ones that are protecting our freedoms and our country and cannot be with their families for this Thanksgiving season. We have so many things to be grateful for.



This month is Past President’s Parley month. Does your unit have an active PP Parley? If not, consider starting one. If you have any questions regarding what a past presidents’ parley does, please contact Shirley Fredrick, our Department Chairman.

If there is anything that your unit or your members have questions about, please contact either your District program chairman, District President, Department Program chairman or me. We are here for you and will help you get the answers you need. There are many ways to get information on programs and education on the

American Legion Auxiliary. Mission Training for the Northwest Division will be held on November 16 in Denver, CO. There will be a Mission Training held in Des Moines, IA on January 25 if you would like to attend one closer to home. This is a great way to network and find out what works for other units. Each program has a Facebook page. This is a great way to see what is happening across the country.

Wear your branding when you are out and about with the public. Make yourself visible in your communities and show off what you do.

Have a fantastic Thanksgiving season and may the God you worship bring you bountiful blessings.

Judy Ackerman
Department President

Hello, fall is certainly going way too fast, next thing we know it will be time to do our reports! If I asked the Units what was the one thing they disliked the most, I would most likely get the answer “reporting”. To help with that this year, I am promoting “monthly” reporting. I am attaching a simple reporting form for Units to complete at their monthly meetings. When the time comes to write your annual Americanism report the units will be able to use the monthly report to gather information about the different activities they have done throughout the year. The reports will also help the unit to write a narrative for the “Most Out-standing Unit Americanism Program” award.

Help increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest. Encourage Junior members and family members to participate in the essay contest. Work with school administrations to identify guidance counselors, and English and History teachers whose students would be interested in participating. Contact youth organizations to identify potential youth for participation in the contest. Provide all interested students with information packets explaining contest rules, deadlines, topic and award opportunities.

I have received several emails asking how to promote the essay topic of “**What does America The Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?**” National sent out the following suggestions on how to explain the Essay Topic to school age children. Here are some examples.

- America the Beautiful to me is our freedoms we exercise every day because of our Veterans and our Military.
 - Freedom of speech
 - Freedom of religion
 - The right to keep and bear arms
 - Freedom of assembly and the freedom to petition.
 - Freedom of expression.
 - Freedom of movement.
 - Right to vote.

All above is because of our Veterans and Military.

November 11th is Veterans Day, be sure to thank all the Veterans that served our country.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving,



STAR-SPANGLED KIDS KITS 1ST - AMERICANISM CHALLENGE



*Who will win this challenge?
The Central Division?
The Eastern Division?
The Northwestern Division?
The Southern Division?
The Western Division?*

*The Division that reports the most Star Spangled Kids Kits Promoted in schools by May 15, 2025, will receive a Trophy at their Division Caucus at the 2025 National Convention. Your National Americanism Chairman will surprise the Division that won, the winner will not be announced until National Convention
“So Who Will It Be”?*

Do not forget to include your numbers in your year-end report to your Division Americanism Chairman.

Happy Autumn Everyone!

I trust you are doing well and having fun working on the ALA programs!

The Divisions are focusing this year, specifically, on the following bullets so keep them at the top of your mind for the year and no better time than the present to get excited about our Children & Youth as they are our future for sure!

- *Have at a minimum one Good Deed Award per Department*
- *Seek out recipients for our ALA Youth Hero Award*
- *Request a Proclamation from government officials to make*
- *April the Month of the Military Child and “Purple Up!” for Military Kids! Make the requests of state and local officials.*
- *Increase the ALA contributions to the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) All donations should be sent to the Department!*

This year I encourage us all to bring donations to upcoming Department (& your District) Rally's, for the CWF!

Let's do our best to surpass the American Legion this year with donations to CWF in the Northwest Division!

Super exciting that our very own Past Department President Patti Coleman is our Northwestern Division Chair this year – Super neat! Congratulations Patti! Looking forward to working closely together this year on this very important Pillar of the ALA!

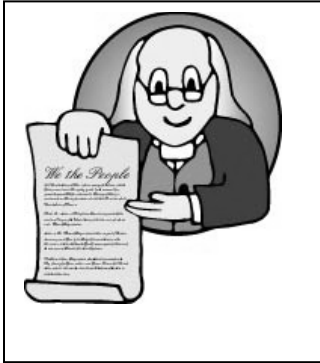
I highly recommend if you haven't already to incorporate the Military Childs Table Setting Ceremony at some of your unit meetings and/or events to honor our children, their friends and classmates that are sacrificing as well.

Also, safety first when it comes to the kids! Do your part to support safety in your communities!

Don't forget all the amazing resources that are available to us so we can support the Children & Youth Program and beyond!

www.alaforveterans.org

www.mnala.org



TOPIC #2 – What is a Preamble and Why do we recite it?

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:
To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; to inculcate a
sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation; to combat the
autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to

promote peace and goodwill on Earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity, the principles of justice, freedom, and
democracy; to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion; to
consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

What is a Preamble?

The Preamble is a preliminary or preparatory statement; an introduction; the introductory part of a statute or deed, stating its purpose, aims, and justification.

The Preamble explains the objectives of the Constitution in two ways: first, about the structure of the governance and second, about the ideals the organization wishes to achieve.

When The American Legion began, its members got together and created a preamble to their constitution. It was a compass for these veterans pointing to the direction of where they wanted their organization to go. A few years later, The American Legion decided that it would be a great idea to include spouses and children of their members and their comrades who were no longer with them in their journey. And the American Legion Auxiliary was born. The ALA decided to use the basics of The American Legion Preamble and change a few words to show that it was a preamble for the descendants of the members of The American Legion.

Why Do We Recite the Preamble?

Members of The American Legion family are known to recite their respective Preambles at the beginning of every meeting. This is their affirmation that we join together for God and our Country and for the purposes of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Upholding the Constitution: The ALA's first obligation is to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America

Maintaining law and order: The ALA believes that law and order must be maintained to preserve freedom

Promoting Americanism: The ALA works to foster and continue to "perpetuate or continue forever to promote and practice Americanism

Preserving memories: The ALA preserves the memories of veterans and their associations in war

Promoting peace and goodwill: The ALA promotes peace and goodwill on earth

Safeguarding principles: The ALA safeguards and believes in the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy

Mutual helpfulness: The ALA consecrates and joins together to be mutually helpful to all

Supporting The American Legion: The ALA supports The American Legion and participates in its aims and purposes.

The next time you join in with your members in reciting the Preamble, think about what it really means...it's not just a bunch of random words. It is our purpose.

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

The Education Program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary’s role in providing quality education for children and adults through classroom activities, literacy programs, scholarship promotion and support of education beyond high school, with special emphasis on children of veterans and service members.

There are many ways that we can support the children of our Veterans.

Let’s start with American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Scholarships.

National Scholarships snapshot: www.alaforveterans.org/scholarships for applications.

All American Legion Auxiliary scholarships should be submitted by March 1st to a local American Legion Auxiliary Unit, the application must be signed by the Unit President.

1. Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members

- a. One (1) Junior member in each of the five (5) divisions will receive a \$5,000 scholarship.
- b. Applicant must have been a Junior member for the past three (3) years and hold a current membership card and must continue their membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during scholarship period.
- c. Must be in their senior year of high school. This is a scholarship to attend an accredited institution of higher education. They must be of good character and have grades that meet the entrance requirements at the institution of their choice and must have at least a 3.0 GPA using a 4.0 scale.
- d. Application must be received by the Local American Legion Auxiliary Unit President on or before March 1st, 2025.
- e. The Decision of the Judges Shall Be Final.

2. The Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

- a. One (1) scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded in each of the five (5) divisions.
- b. Applicants must be:
 - i. A current member of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion, must have held membership for two (2) preceding years and for the current (2025) membership year.
 - ii. A Non-Traditional student returning to the classroom after some period in which

their formal education was interrupted, or a student beginning their education at a later point in life.

- c. American Legion Auxiliary Spirit of Youth Scholarship recipients are not eligible.
- d. Application must be received by the Local American Legion Auxiliary Unit President on or before March 1st, 2025.
- e. The Decision of the Judges Shall Be Final.

3. Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship

- a. Two (2) scholarships of \$2,500 each will be awarded in each of the five (5) divisions.
- b. Candidates for this award shall have been a Junior member and held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the past three (3) consecutive years (2022, 2023 and 2024) and be a paid member for the current year (2025). They must continue their membership during the scholarship period.
- c. This scholarship is intended for the traditional college student with no interruption in education, who is at least in the first semester of college or technical school but has not yet attained a bachelor's degree.
- d. This is a scholarship to attend an accredited institution of higher education for the completion of a bachelor's degree. Applicants must have completed at least one semester with the grades that meet continuation requirements at the institution of their choice and must have at least a 3.0 GPA using a 4.0 scale.
- e. Previous American Legion Auxiliary national scholarship recipients are welcome to apply.
- f. Applicants must present the completed application, along with the other required material.
- g. Application must be received by the Local American Legion Auxiliary Unit President on or before March 1st, 2025.
- h. The Decision of the Judges Shall Be Final.

4. Department of Minnesota Scholarship

- a. Awarded to deserving sons or daughters, grandsons or granddaughters of a veteran who need financial assistance.
- b. Applicant must resident in the State of Minnesota or a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the American Legion or Sons of the American Legion.
- c. A high school senior/graduate or college student/graduate, seeking further education with a scholastic record and average of least a "C."
- d. Applications can be found on <http://www.mnala.org/scholarships>.
- e. Application must be received by the Local American Legion Auxiliary Unit President on or before March 1st, 2025.
- f. The Decision of the Judges Shall Be Final.
- g. This scholarship is totally funded by the Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary.

5. Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship

- a. Awarded to the children of veterans who served in the armed forces during eligibility dates for the American Legion.
- b. Applicants must be in their senior year of high school.
- c. Three (3) scholarships of \$5,000 will be awarded in each division.
- d. Applicants must complete 50 hours of community service.
- e. Application is due by March 1st, 2025, to national via online submission. You can print

forms and rules at www.alaforveterans.org/scholarships/children-of-warriors.com.

National office will forward applications to departments.

f. The decision of Judges shall be final.

6. Department of Minnesota Past Presidents Parley Health Care Scholarship

a. The Past Presidents Parley Health Care Scholarship has been established to assist needy and deserving students or adults to commence or further their education in any phase of the health care field.

b. One year \$1,000 scholarship

c. Applicant must be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for a minimum of three (3) years and maintain a "C" or better average in school if a student.

d. Applications must be signed by the Unit President of which you are a member due to Unit President by March 1st, 2025.

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship

Provides college scholarship money to children of post 9/11 veterans who have died or have a combined VA disability rating of 50% or more. The application period for the 2025 Legacy Scholarship will open on January 1st, 2025. You can find more information at <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy>.

The American Legion Oratorical Contest

High school students are eligible to compete, competition begins at the local Post level and advances to a state champion, then on to National level. More information can be found at www.legion.org.

❖ Unit Must sign all applications. This signature should be done after the applicant has completed the application. It is up to the Unit to verify that all rules have been followed and all requirements are in place.

❖ Units are in control of their own scholarships; it is important to publicize your scholarships.

❖ More scholarship information can be found on the following websites along with all the instructions that need to be followed.

www.mnlegion.org/scholarships

www.mnala.org/schlarships

www.alaforveterans.org/scholarship

Upcoming Events for November

Veterans Day, November 11, 2024

American Education Week November 18-24, 23024

2024-2025 Scholarship Information

Applications and/or links can be found on our website – www.mnala.org

Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship

On-line application due March 1, 2025

<https://www.legion-aux.org/scholarships/children-of-warriors>

Member Loyalty Scholarship

On-line application due March 1, 2025

<https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/2025memberloyaltyscholarship>

Minnesota Department ALA Scholarship

Due March 5, 2025

<https://www.mnala.org/scholarships/>

ALA Non-Traditional Student Application

On-line application due March 1, 2025

<https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/2025nontraditionalstudentscholarship>

ALA Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members

On-line application due March 1, 2025

<https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/2025spiritofyouthscholarship>

Past Presidents' Parley Healthcare Scholarship

Due March 15, 2025

<https://www.mnala.org/scholarships/>

HISTORY

What is History? History is all the events in a certain era of time. It is what is documented and retained for future generations.

Who makes history? We make history for the American Legion Auxiliary in everything we do on behalf of the organization in our Units, the District and our Department.

Why record history? We record history for the benefit of others who will succeed us in our efforts of “service not self” for veterans, active military, our communities and the children & youth of tomorrow.

How do I record history? That part is up to you! Many use the written word or photos. Social media posts are becoming very popular in recording history and are very helpful to chronologically recall events and activities. Video recordings of interviews are popular as well. Do not include personal opinions. Only the occasion, the people involved and what occurred.

Should the Junior Auxiliary record History? Absolutely! What our junior members do to learn about our programs and volunteering is just as important to record as what we do as senior members. Young people do marvelous things!

As your Department Historian this year, I would like to highlight some of the members who have made history in the Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary. It is my hope that members read and learn from what I share and share it with others. This is our Why!



Dr. Helen Hielscher was one of the first female surgeons in Minnesota, and helped develop the ALA's veterans' hospitalization and rehabilitation mission component. She played a significant role in successfully encouraging the U.S. Veterans Bureau to offer more help, such as maintaining medical facilities to care for veterans and starting programs for giving veterans interest-free loans to start farms as their livelihoods. While she didn't hold a national office within the Auxiliary, Hielscher was elected as chairman of the first National Convention in 1921, since the organization did not have a national president yet.



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

The purpose of Girls State is to provide outstanding, unique and educational opportunity to instill the basic ideals and principals of American Government and good citizenship.

The value of democracy, the importance of dialogue, compromise, and unity by working together. Citizens will be challenging themselves and that every voice matters, the importance of leadership and why it is crucial for their generation to speak up.

The opportunity to draft, debate in mock legislation, advocate for policies they believe will improve lives in Minnesota.

Citizens will learn of the sacrifice of our veterans, and why they are able to live in a democratic country. Will have a better understanding of what Americanism truly means than what they originally thought.

Citizens will become engaged, informed, and passionate about what matters most to them and lifelong friends.

This program is like no other for anyone who takes a serious interest in government, it looks great on a college application. We just need to keep getting the message out to our schools, teachers, and counselors. We are going to be sending to home and charter school students this year, if we reach the home school community, our numbers should rise. Remember Mid-Winter is coming up, try to get a few of your last year's citizens to come and talk about Girls State!

To help raise money for our Girls State Program this year with budget cutbacks, we are doing a Quilt Raffle. Tickets are \$5:00 each or 5 for \$20.00. If any unit is interested in helping to sell tickets, let me know and we will get them to you.

District Chairman

1 st District: Wanda Prescher	507-254-0304	w.prescher1951@gmail.com
2 nd District: Linda Sweha	507-340-5529	diswehla@bevcomm.net
3 rd District: Suzette Maluchnik	612-387-3001	suzettemaluchnik@comcast.com
4 th District: Mary French	651-470-0818	kenmaryf@comcast.com
5 th District: Becky Nelson	612-968-6176	mnnplsnaol@aol.com
6 th District: Kristi Wacker	612-202-5974	kbwacker21@gmail.com
7 th District: Sandy Wersal	320-354-4517	sandywersal@gmail.com
8 th District :		
9 th District: Lynn Carr	218-686-2421	lynn624@ymail.com
10 th District: Kelli Frederickson	651-462-2633	kfred98@gmail.com

Chairman: Wanda Prescher	507-254-0304	w.prescher1951@gmail.com
Director: Peggy Tesdale	612-715-4489	ranpegt0814@hotmail.com
Education Director: Amelia Tesdale	763-753-8247	ametes2014@hotmail.com
Committee Member: Jan Stolz	763-894-1198	jstolz.de@gmail.com
Committee Member: Renee Seuss	763-300-2226	rsuess3@gmail.com
Americanism Chairman: Kolette Kaehlert	612-327-4579	kkaehlertaux@gmail.com

Listed are the District Chairman and Committee Members, if there are questions pertaining to the Girl State Program. Please call or email any of the above.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Leadership Workshops

Our first workshop is over – was such a fantastic day at Bagley American Legion Post. Thank you to them for allowing us to hold our workshop in their post. Thank you to Denise Milton for making all the arrangements for us including a great lunch.

24 members attended and 7 presenters were scheduled (1 was unable to attend) and what a day it turned out to be! Eight (8) units were represented: Bagley, Moorhead, Roseau, East Grand Fords, Hackensack, Fertile, Waubin and Gary.



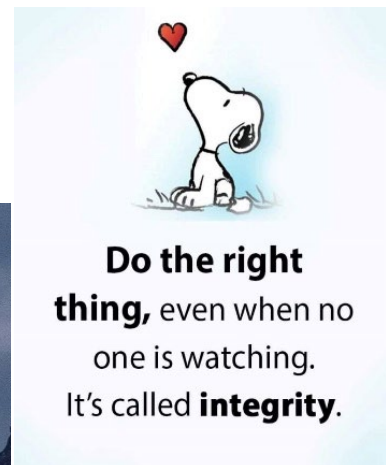
The second Workshop will be held at the Cold Spring American Legion on February 22nd and we'll have our last Workshop at the New Ulm American Legion on March 29th. Hope to see your Unit represented at one, or both, of those Workshops.

Discussion topic for September was Integrity. Let's follow Snoopy's motto:

October is Accountability:

Accountability is essential to personal growth, as well as team growth. How can you improve if you're never wrong? If you don't admit a mistake and take responsibility for it, you're bound to make the same one again.

Pat Summitt



Do the right thing, even when no one is watching. It's called **integrity.**



*Leadership Workshop
February 22nd, 2025
Cold Spring, MN*

Our second workshop is scheduled! We are heading to the central part of the state. Of course, no matter where you live, you are encouraged to attend.

February 22nd, 2025 10AM til 3PM
Cold Spring American Legion Post #455
209 Main Street Cold Spring, MN 56320



Lunch will be served by the Legion and amount (to be determined) is due at that time.
To register, complete the form below and mail it to me along with \$5 registration fee per person made payable to Carol Kottom (covers costs). OR – you can contact me at ckakottom@gmail.com with registration information and pay me at the workshop. You can also PM me on facebook.

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

DEADLINE to register is February 15th

Name _____ Unit _____

Contact phone/email _____

Special dietary requirements: _____

Number of attendees you are registering: _____ (\$5/each)

Carol Kottom, Department Leadership Chairman
1909 Goldfinch Dr, Buffalo MN 55313



*Leadership Workshop
March 29th
New Ulm, MN*

Our final workshop is scheduled! We are heading to the southern part of the state. Of course, no matter where you live, you are encouraged to attend.

March 29th 10AM til 3PM
New Ulm American Legion Post #132
13 South Minnesota Street New Ulm, MN 56073



Lunch will be served by the Legion and amount (to be determined) is due at that time.
To register, complete the form below and mail it to me along with \$5 registration fee per person made payable to Carol Kottom (covers costs). OR – you can contact me at ckakottom@gmail.com with registration information and pay me at the workshop. You can also PM me on facebook.

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

DEADLINE to register is March 22nd

Name _____ Unit _____

Contact phone/email _____

Special dietary requirements: _____

Number of attendees you are registering: _____ (\$5/each)

Carol Kottom, Department Leadership Chairman
1909 Goldfinch Dr, Buffalo MN 55313

I have but one word for all of you this month:

VOTE

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Bulletin #10 as of 10/30/2024

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 10/29/24	Difference from Last Year
One	47	3,341	98	1,685	50.43%	1,564	121
Two	70	3,456	120	1,582	45.78%	1,632	-50
Three	46	3,476	59	1,603	46.12%	1,693	-90
Four	7	514	2	248	48.25%	266	-18
Five	7	463	6	179	38.66%	138	41
Six	60	4,469	168	2,489	55.69%	2,711	-222
Seven	52	2,579	75	1,168	45.29%	1,182	-14
Eight	19	1,076	13	514	47.77%	594	-80
Nine	45	2,944	118	1,569	53.29%	1,578	-9
Ten	41	3,391	59	1,584	46.71%	1,626	-42
1982 & 0476	2	336	0	219	65.18%	195	24
Department Total	396	26,045	718	12,840	49.30%	13,179	-339
Group 1 (Even) Linda Kelly	197	12,906	362	6,417	49.72%	6,829	-412
Group 2 (Odd) Robin Dorf	197	12,803	356	6,204	48.46%	6,155	49



RANKINGS

1st
55.69%
District 6

2nd
53.29%
District 9

3rd
50.43%
District 1

4th
48.25%
District 4

5th
47.77%
District 8

6th
46.71%
District 10

7th
46.12%
District 3

8th
45.78%
District 2

9th
45.29%
District 7

10th
38.66%
District 5





Department of Minnesota
November 2024 Unit Mailing
Membership Chairman, Hope Wilson

At Fall Conference we had our District Percent Song Competition. Here are the results.
Also, we had Even Districts vs Odd Districts!!
Thank you everyone who participated!!

District	%		District	%	Winner	%
1	47.50 %	vs	8	46.56 %	District 1	47.50 %
2	42.30 %	vs	9	49.29 %	District 9	49.29 %
3	44.42 %	vs	6	51.94 %	District 6	51.94 %
4	47.86 %	vs	7	42.38 %	District 4	47.86 %
5	37.37 %	vs	10	44.97 %	District 10	44.97 %
Even	vs	Odd		Winner		
46.92%		45.68%		Even – Linda Kelly		46.92%

Since 10/21/24, I have had 21 Units come off the 5% or less membership list. This is fantastic. This being said, there are still 71, yes 71 Units, that are at zero or under 5% of Goal. Please reach out to your members and check on them. Are they doing ok? Do they need some help? Can anyone in your unit pay it forward for a member? Can your Legionnaire’s help sponsor a member’s dues?

Please keep the memberships rolling in. We have a National Goal of 85% we are trying to hit by March 15th, 2025. As soon as the memberships are paid, send them into the Department office. Do not hold on to them.

Unfortunately, we had 4 Units turn in their charters at the Fall Conference. Even more distressing, there are 16 more Units that are in the process of turning their charters in as well unless we can turn them around and get them some Leadership help.

Our next Membership Rally :

What: The American Legion Pearl Harbor Family Gathering-Rally

When: Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024

Where: Post 545, 155 Lake Ave South, Spicer, MN

Who: Hosted by American Legion Riders

Social hour and membership turn-in: 11:00 A.M.

Lunch served @ 12:00 {Noon}, Program to follow the meal.

See Membership Grid for current numbers as of October 30, 2024

November is National Military Family Appreciation Month

During the month of November and throughout the whole year, we all need to remember the sacrifices of military families while their service members are protecting us and our freedoms. November is the time when we should especially show our support and appreciation for the spouses and children of our military.

The contributions they make as a family member for the support of the military, their mission, and our nation is not always easy. So many times, the servicemember is called away from home for training, schooling, and being deployed. Military families continue their home life with many other demands and sacrifices in their lives. Military families are courageous and strong throughout the separations.

What can members of the American Legion Auxiliary do to show our support and appreciation? Let them know that you care and are available to help. Give them a break if they need it. Be sure to offer assistance with babysitting, rides to the store or doctor appointments, if needed, help with yard work, find help if their car has mechanical problems, house issues, or be there if they just need to talk.

Being a military spouse or child can be difficult. Having someone offer support and kindness helps so much when you are worried about your service member. We often hear that the servicemember worries about their family at home and all they want is someone to be there for their family.

American Legion Auxiliary members can and will support military families, as much as we can, to make their lives a little easier! If you know of a military family, especially now with our troops helping with hurricane clean up, check in on them and offer assistance and support.

Veterans Day is on November 11th. Please report on the many activities that will take place in your communities and Posts. Remember to take pictures for your reports. Remember that veterans had families worried about their safety also. Thank veterans for their service to our country. Thank the spouses and families of veterans also for their sacrifices.

The Blue Star Banner is displayed to show that a family member is currently serving in the Armed Forces. The banners can have up to five blue stars on them. You can present a Blue Star Banner to the military family you are going to help this month!

Thank you all for everything you do for our military, veterans, and their families!



What is the Past President's Parley? What do they do? Does my Unit have one? Who can belong? So, let's go "Back to the Basics" as our President Judy's theme says.

For many of our members the answer is easy, but what about new members, long-time members that have not been as active. Does your unit have one and do all members know about it?

Sometimes we forget that not all our members know about some of the programs and committees we have in our units.

A Unit Past President's Parley is made up of members who have served their unit as President. A District Past President's Parley is made up of members who have served as a District President. And a Department Past President's Parley is made up of members who have served as Department President.

The purpose of the Past President's Parley is for their members to use their experience, knowledge and training to mentor the unit members by answering their questions of the who, what and why of our organization. Encourage them to take part in committees, chairmanships and leadership by asking them to be part of a project with you. Make them feel comfortable at meetings and activities and with the members are all part of good mentoring.

If your unit does not have a Past President's Parley how about going back to your unit and start one. Set a meeting date, time and place and then send out invitations for all your past presidents to come.

All Past Presidents Parleys should have dues and encouraged to contribute to the **Past Presidents Parley Healthcare Scholarship Fund**. And encourage the unit to do the same.

Past Presidents Parley Healthcare Scholarship is not just for nursing, it is for any course of study in the medical field. It is open to any American Legion Auxiliary member who has been a member for three years and their current dues are paid. It is a \$1,000 scholarship and up to 10 are given each year, if the donations received from units to the Department Office have enough funds to do so. The September Unit Mailing has more information. The applications will be sent out to units with the 2024-2025 Plaques and Awards material in a Unit Mailing.

A few things in our PPP Preamble we pledge to do: defend the prestige of our Units, maintain honor and dignity, interest and concern for the future of our Unit, to make right past mistakes.

December is Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation month. Of course, every month in the American Legion Auxiliary we are supporting and appreciating our veterans. This is the month to make sure to plan an event or reach out to veterans.



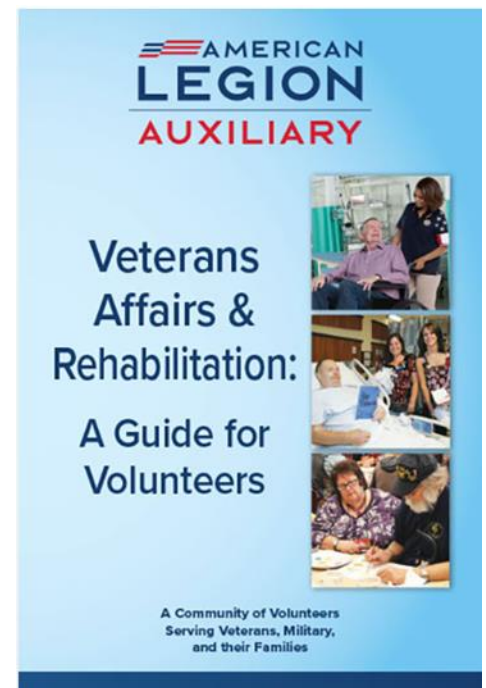
Minnesota has eight beautiful veterans' homes, and we work with four VA Health Care Systems that serve our veterans and their families through quality care and an environment of community. At the representative meeting we reviewed the sewing needs for each facility. For our auxiliary members who love to sew the **2024-2025 sewing needs list** is included in this unit mailing. Please only make those items that are marked by each representative and follow the pattern. They are limited on storage. This list, along with the patterns, will be available on our website at www.mnala.org Reminder that it is the unit's responsibility to keep track of your donations for end of the year reporting.

What is a VAVS volunteer? A member who volunteers through Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) at a VA health care facility.

This year we are trying to increase the number of VAVS volunteers and hour that you volunteer. If you are volunteering, ask another member in your unit to join you to see what you do. If they enjoy it and get excited give them information on how to sign up with the Voluntary Services office.

If there is a VA Health Care facility near you work with them to find the volunteer work that suits you so our veterans benefit from your time. Examples of assignments may include drivers, ambassadors, escorts, helping with recreational activities, assist office staff with clerical duties, and so much more. There are steps to become a volunteer so make sure to check their websites for more information.

Any questions please contact me at RobinLDorf@yahoo.com or (612)483-4076. I do work during the day but will return communications promptly.



2024-2025 Hospital/Home Sewing Needs

Revised October 14, 2024

VA Homes

Description:	Fargo VA	Mpls VA	Sioux Falls VA	St. Cloud VA	Bemidji	Fergus Falls	Hastings	Luverne	Mpls	Montivideo	Preston	Silver Bay
PATTERN # 1-2021 Bed Throw	NO NEEDS	X	NO NEEDS			NO NEEDS		NO NEEDS		X	X	
PATTERN # 2-2021 Childrens Activity Bags	THIS YEAR	X	THIS YEAR			THIS YEAR		THIS YEAR		X	X	X
PATTERN # 3-2021 Comfort Boxes					X					X	X	
PATTERN # 4-2021 Coverups (Formerly Bibs)				X	X							X
PATTERN # 7-2021 Heart Pillow-VERY FIRM		X										
Pattern #8-2021 Laundry Bag				X	X							
PATTERN # 9-2021 Neck Pillow - VERY FIRM		X		X						X	X	
PATTERN # 10-2021 No Sew Fleece Poncho				X	X				X	X	X	
PATTERN # 11-2021 Oxygen Tubing Bag												
PATTERN # 12-2021 Port Pillow		X										
PATTERN #13 -2021 QUILTS 70 x 90 Twin or 3/4 Size				X			X		X	X		
PATTERN # 14-2021 Tote Bag				X LONGER HANDLE	X					X	X	X
PATTERN # 15-2021 Urine Bag Cover					X							
PATTERN # 16-2021 Wheel Chair/Walker bag				X	X				X	X	X	
PATTERN # 17-2021 Wound Vac cover	↓		↓			↓		↓				



**Department of Minnesota
November 2024 Unit Mailing
Gift Shop Chairman, Sandy Werzal
Committee Member, Becky Nelson**

Gift Shop 2024, the planning and ordering of gifts has started.

We need your unit donations to this program as without money we cannot make sure that the Veterans and family members have a beautifully wrapped gift this Christmas. Reach out to your Legion Post and S.A.L for funds to help make it part of this year budget.

The VA Hospital and Veterans Home Representatives have been busy making plans about when and what kind of gifts would be the best for each facility. Next time you see them at an American Legion Family event, take the time to say thank you.

Bemidji ~ Denise Milton, gift shop will be on December 4th.

Fergus Falls ~ Doris Lafayette, gift shop will be December 9th.

Minneapolis ~ Sandy Gibson, gift shop will be December 4th & 5th.

Sioux Falls ~ Diane Strassburg, gift shop will be December 3rd & 4th.

St Cloud ~ Jan Benson and Carol Kottom-Deputy. Gift shop date on December 2nd & 3rd.

Hasting ~ Darlene Wondra, Luverne ~ Jeannette Mertens, Minneapolis ~ Janet Thompson,

Montevideo ~ Jennifer Hurst, Preston ~ Wanda Prescher, Silver Bay ~ Nancy Hopper.

VA Hospital Fargo ~ Becky Olson.

This is a great team working together, sharing ideas, and their deduction is much appreciated.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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
Jan. 11: 1st District Mid-Winter Conf., Winona Post 9
Jan. 11: 4th & 5th District Mid-Winter Conference, Arcade-Phalen Post 577
Jan. 11: 9th District Mid-Winter Conf., Warren Post 27
Jan. 11: 10th District Mid-Winter Conf., Anoka Post 102
Jan. 18: 6th District Mid-Winter Conf., Melrose Post 101
Jan. 18: 7th District Mid-Winter Conf., Olivia Post 186
Jan. 18: 8th District Mid-Winter Conf., location TBD
January 20 – Martin Luther King Day – Office Closed
Jan. 25: 3rd District Mid-Winter Conf., Lonsdale Post 58
Feb. 15: 2nd District Mid-Winter Conf, Bricelyn Post 165
February 8 – Sweetheart Rally – Royalton
February 17 – President’s Day – Office Closed
Feb. 22: Minnesota Oratorical Contest, Osseo Post 172 & Anoka Post 102
March 8 – Spring ALA DEC Meeting - Chanhassen
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: 1st District Convention, Lake City Wild Wings
May 17: 3rd District Convention, Forest Lake Post 225
May 17: 4th District Convention, N. St. Paul Post 39
May 17: 7th District Convention, Echo Post 204
May 17 – Department President Testimonial – Fairmont American Legion
May 26 – Memorial Day – Office Closed
July 9 – 12 Department Convention – Wilmar Conference Center

“You have shielded your fellow citizens from danger. You have defended the beliefs of your country and advanced the rights of the downtrodden. You have been the face of hope and mercy in dark places and a force for good in the world.” *George W. Bush*

We are Thankful for all Veterans. Thank You for YOUR service!

“A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the other virtues.”
Marcus Tullius Cicero

~ Happy Thanksgiving ~ Christie, Shannon and Jocelyn