

2024-2025
Department President
Judy Ackerman
December 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



Happy Holidays!

Thank you for all that you've done for the American Legion Auxiliary and the Department of Minnesota! Your dedication remains unrivaled. I hope your holidays are filled with warmth, peace, and joy. Happy holiday greetings to you and yours! Here's to a cheerful present, a well-remembered past, and a prosperous year ahead.

Fall Conference was a huge success thanks to all of those who attended. National President Trish Ward shared her message for "Leading the Way" and gave us great ideas on how to renew members and to grow our units, districts and department. President Trish started the Department Excellence Initiative for this year. Each department that meets the criteria for this initiative will be recognized on stage at National Convention in Tampa. I would love to see Minnesota honored on stage at National Convention. Membership Chairman Hope and I need your help with the biggest part of the challenge. This challenge is to attain 85% of our membership goal by March 15, 2025. This is attainable, but we need **your** help. Team up with your membership chairman and reach out to the members that have not renewed in the last couple years. National will be sending out an email (for those that have submitted emails) to those members that haven't renewed in the last two years.

Thank you to all the units and individuals that donated items and money for the female veterans' personal care kits. Three hundred plus kits were packed on Friday night of Fall Conference. In addition to the 139 kits that the Junior packed at Junior Fun Weekend, almost 500 kits were packed for our female veterans. Your generosity is so appreciated.

I just returned home from Mission Training in Denver. Minnesota was well represented with 10 members and 3 juniors. I know I came back energized and ready to get back to working the mission.

Mid-Winter Conferences will be starting in January. Please attend your District Mid-Winter and hear all about our programs.

Please take the time to celebrate the holiday season. Take the time to practice self-care. You are valuable to the Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary.



Take the Challenge LEAD THE WAY

When your unit participates in the ALA
Challenge Deck, you can discover ways to
get involved in your community and make
a real difference in the lives of local
veterans. Your efforts, big or small,
contribute to a brighter future for those
who served.

With your donation \$35 to the Veteran Projects Fund, you will support projects serving veterans in local communities and have also found a meaningful way to engage with the mission of the ALA.

Scan the
QR Code
to make your
donation or text
CARD to

1-844-940-3450





Department of Minnesota December 2024 Unit Mailing Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) Brandi Christensen

Thank you to everyone that contributed items for the Silent Auction and Bake Sale at Fall Conference this year. It was greatly appreciated. The whole day was a great success! And thank you to the wonderful volunteers for all your help in the planning and help during the silent auction! It could not have happened without you!

The Silent Auction/Bake Sale brought in \$5,182.01. And monetary donations during Fall Conference brought in \$1,548. For a grand total of \$6,730.01!!

THANK YOU!!!

I just wanted to remind members that the Auxiliary Emergency Fund is not just for disaster emergencies. Members can also receive grants for Hardship crisis. If you were around for my report at Fall Conference you already heard this story. But for those that were not there I want to let you know how amazing this program is and why I love it!

A few years ago, my little family was having a hardship crisis. Work hours were cut due to COVID. And at a time with a new baby, it was hard to make ends meet. I had applied for the Hardship grant and received it. It helped us pay our rent on our house, electric bill, heat bill, and garbage bill. And I am grateful for this every day!

Once again thank you for the generous donations from you the members!!



Americanism ETIQUETTE

The Flag & Sporting Events 2024 - 2025 Americanism Committee Flag Etiquette Article 2 November 14, 2024

> Department of Minnesota December 2024 Unit Mailing Americanism Chairman, Kollett Kaehlert

Why the Flag is Displayed

We have all been to a sporting event that began with the national anthem and recognition of the United States Flag. Whether it be at a local high school, community park, or professional stadium, sporting games often start with anything from a solo of the national anthem to a full-fledge performance with massive American Flags.

According to the History Channel, the tradition of playing the Star-Spangled Banner during sports events began during the 1918 World Series game between the Boston Red Sox and Chicago Cubs. The baseball game took place a day after a bomb had gone off in Chicago, only adding to the national heartache caused by the continuing Great War. The World Series continued to play the anthem at each of its games that year and the practice was soon adapted by other sports leagues around the nation.

Although the tradition started as part of the war effort, sports fans continue to sing the anthem and recognize the American Flag before competition. The American Flag represents enduring principles of this country and the sacrifices that men and women have undertook to make these principles a reality. The moment taken before a game to recognize the Flag and sing the anthem helps fans to remember the history and values that can unite people of various states, races, ethnicities, and backgrounds.

How the Flag is Displayed

In a sports arena, there may be several Flags: championship flags, Flags from other countries, or conference flags. It is important that the American Flag is flown in the highest, most prominent position among the other Flags.

The American Flag is often highlighted-with lights, fanfare, or other method-when the national anthem is sung before a sports competition. Regardless of the style of performance, the American Flag should be treated with respect and care throughout it. The American Flag is not a prop for an entertaining act but an important representation of this country's history, values, and people.

How You Should Respond

The national anthem is a time where we come together to honor our country in a unified manner. During sporting events, it is expected that you be attentive when the anthem is playing. Stand, place your right hand over your heart, and sing along or listen in respectful silence. If you are wearing a hat, remove the hat with your right hand and place it over your heart.



December 2024 Unit Mailing Children & Youth Chairman, Anne Steffen



This a great time of year to celebrate our children with the Holidays coming up and all the gatherings we have together to celebrate (and should be about the kids) with our legion family, families, friends, posts, units and the community. If your Posts/Units are celebrating the holidays, please include the legion family and the Children and send pictures please! Would love to honor and celebrate what you do and our young people, our future!

Have you been able to locate a future Good Deed or a Youth Hero award winner potential in your community?! Social media is a great way to find our young people doing amazing things as social media is the communication of choice with many. If you're not in the social media world, check out your local paper and/or community and make it happen for our youth! Call me and I can support you with other options if needed!

Are you collecting Pop tabs for the Ronald Mc Donald House. We all have access to cans with tabs and is another example of an easy way to give back. Collect your tabs and bring them to our Department Rally's and I will personally deliver them on your behalf! The same is true for CWF donations – send to Dept or bring to Rally and we will make it happen for you! Thank you in advance for your generous considerations & donations!

Please send us your stories and pictures of all you are enjoying and doing so we can celebrate with you and the kids (and the young at heart as well)!

Make your way to the Facebook page as there is SOOO much valuable information for you to consider at the Department & National level!

Thank you for caring about our Children and Youth!

Don't forget to submit a candidate for the Good Deed award and the Youth Hero Award. If you have ANY questions, please reach out anytime! Thank you so very much!

As always, reach out anytime to annesteffen 320@gmail.com or 612-709-0588! Would love to hear from you!

Thank you so much for your service and care for the kids! You make a difference!





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

Thank you to everyone who purchased Gift Cards from the SCRIP program and tickets for the Quilt Raffle! You are helping to support the MN ALA Girls State Program!

We will have SCRIP cards available from Kwik Trip, Walmart, Target, Cub Foods, Amazon and Best Buy at Pearl Harbor Rally on December 7th in Spicer. They make great Christmas gifts or stocking stuffers!

The Girls State committee is working on trying to get registration and other forms needed for the week all online to help cut down on cost and be more effective for the applicants in submitting their forms.

We will send to the District Presidents all the information that will be sent to the schools in January, asking them to put the info onto their District Newsletter if they have one.

Start thinking about how you are going to promote the Girls State Program in your unit, schools, and community.

During your Mid-Winter are you involving your last year's Girls State citizen to come and talk about their week and maybe how they can help you with who and how to reach a teacher. Getting our applicants is one of the toughest jobs we have with the program, reach out to your school counselors, and get the email addresses for the teachers you can send the Girls State information to. We will have something available for you to use early January!

Wishing everyone a Blessed Christmas with family and friends.



Carol Kottom, Leadership Chairman Department of Minnesota 1909 Goldfinch Dr Buffalo, MN 55313 763-360-6102 ckakottomm@gmail.com

Leadership Workshops

December 2024

We were thrilled to see a Legionnaire at our Bagley workshop who wasn't a dual Auxiliary/Legion member. Made me go back a few years to 2013 when I was Leadership Chairman. I guess I "assumed" that everyone knew you are all invited to attend our Leadership Workshops! All fees pertain. Keep in mind, the topics presented are based on what the Auxiliary does. We do need you to register as our meals are prepared by the Posts or Auxiliaries and they need to know how many they are preparing for. Reminder to

all – cost for the meals is determined by the preparers and payable by each attendee.

Anyone who would like to have attended our Bagley session and missed it, is welcome to come to Cold Spring or New Ulm on their scheduled dates. Submit your registration form (both sessions forms were in the November newsletter). If you attended Bagley, we will be changing some of the presentations so come again! We'd love to see you - -



Leadership Discussion Topics

Month	Topic
September	Integrity
October	Accountability
November	Innovation
December	Vision
January	Organize
February	Confidence
March	Positivity
April	Compassion
May	Humility
June	Collaborative
July	Supportive
August	Optimist





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	hip Chairman I 55313

LEGION AUXILIARY

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 ceakottom@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

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

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION 20 W. 12TH STREET, ROOM 300A ST. PAUL, MN 55155



November 2024

Dear Post Commanders, Unit Presidents, and Squad Commanders:

I am writing you today to ask when planning your budgets that you include donations to The American Legion Family Hospital Association. We need your continued monetary support to help assist our own members. Each and every year we are receiving more and more applications for medical assistance from within our membership, and thankfully we are able to assist the majority of these requests. This program is one where we can proudly say we are members-assisting-members. Can they count on you?

Eligibility of assistance requires you must be a member of the Department of Minnesota American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion, or a dependent as determined by the IRS. You must be a member in good standing for at least one year. Assistance can be as much as \$4,000.00 annually and is paid directly to the medical facility. Often there are also negotiations decreasing or completely eliminating the billing balances.

The American Legion Family Hospital Association is a 501(c)3 charity and charitable gaming funds may be used when making donations. The Association also receives twenty-five cents per member, per year, from the annual dues of all three organizations. Memorials and personal donations are gratefully accepted and make up a portion of our annual funding drive.

Enclosed you will find additional information with details of the American Legion Family Hospital Association. If you are in need of more information or applications you can contact Department Headquarters or any Board Member. Board Members are also available to speak to your members at Post, Unit or Squadron meetings, please feel free to call upon us.

Our heartfelt thanks to any of you who have contributed in the past and thanks in advance to all of you who will be contributing this year. Your donations are certainly appreciated. Donations should be sent to the American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary Department Headquarters, clearly marked "American Legion Family Hospital Association."

On behalf of the many members who gratefully accept your assistance, thank you!

Gary Weaver, President	
Detach and mail to:	
The American Legion, Dept. of Minnesota 20 West 12th Street, Room 300A St Paul, MN 55155-2000	
Post/Unit City & Number:	District Number:
Amount of Contribution \$	

Checks should be made payable to "American Legion Family Hospital Association."

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION







Membership and Revenue ~ The Association is officially incorporated as The American Legion Family Hospital Association

and all members of Minnesota American Legion Posts, American Legion Auxiliary Units, and Sons of The American Legion Squadrons are members of the association. Revenue for carrying on the work of the association consists of money received from Post, Unit, and Squadron dues, donations, and interest from investments.

Eligibility ~ All members of the association and eligible dependents, regardless of their place of residence, are eligible for benefits provided by the association. Criteria for eligibility is established by the Board of Trustee and published in the American Legion Family Hospital Association Operational Manual.

Financial Assistance ~ Financial assistance is available to all eligible members of the association for payment of medical bills incurred for services provided by any duly licensed hospital or medical practitioner provided the need for financial assistance has been determined. Before applying for aid, veterans should take advantage of the services offered them by the government at Veterans Hospitals. The member's dependents should make all possible use of other available medical assistance programs.

Exceptions ~ The Association does not pay for transportation to and from the hospital (unless by ambulance), hotel-motel bills for anyone accompanying a patient unless an attendant is deemed necessary and authorized by the association, telephone bills incurred by the patient, personal service, dental work, eye wear, or hearing aids. The association does not give aid in the nature of a loan or pay credit card charges.

Procedure ~ the applicant should:

- 1. Contact the Service Officer of the local Post or the County Veterans Service Officer in their area to obtain an application blank.
- 2. Complete the application.
- 3. Copies of final medical bills must be provided.

Information & Applications ~ To obtain further information contact The American Legion Department Headquarters at 1-651-291-1800, mnlegion.org, The American Legion Auxiliary Department Headquarters at 651-224-7634 or the Sons of The American Legion Detachment Headquarters at 651-291-1800, as well as any County Veterans Service Office.

Board of Trustees

President Gary Weaver

Secretary Anne Steffen

29 North Elm Street, LaCrescent, MN 55947

3018 127th Lane NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448

612-709-0588, annesteffen@kw.com

507-696-1431, <u>gweaver@acegroup.cc</u> Vice President David Arend, Jr.

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22489 Iverson Ln N, Forest Lake, MN 55025

763-568-6620, darend77@outlook.com

1927 Clearwater Rd, St. Cloud, MN 56301

320-250-7581, tavfern@gmail.com

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Trustee Michelle Weaver

Rick Cross

1305 Willow St, Apt 39, La Crescent, MN 55947 507-850-2407, weaver.michelle595@gmail.com

10491 Alcott Drive, Sauk Centre, MN 56378

763-370-7882, rec94990@gmail.com

^{*} The Department Commander, Department President and Detachment Commander are members of the Board.

The American Legion Family Hospital Association 20 W. 12th Street, Room 300A, St. Paul, MN 55155 Telephone: 651-291-1800 Email: department@mnlegion.org

APPLICATION FOR AID BY MEMBERS AND DEPENDENTS

Name of patient			Membership #	1 1 2 2	
			If a depe	endent, write "De	pendent" here
Address Street / Box No.		······································	City	State	Zip
Telephone Ce					···
If a dependent, give name and relation					
Post/Unit/Squad No C	ity	H	low long have you bee	en a member	?
Have you previously applied to this A	ssociation for ai	d? Do you have M	ledicare or other hosp	ital insurance	e?
Give the name of your Insurance com	pany		athenia and a facilities and a facilitie		
Date of birth of patient		Marital status	Children	nYes	sNo
Names and ages of member's children	1				MA PARAMETER ST.
Other Dependents					
(If member	is deceased, give finar	PLICANT'S FINAN	cant is dependent for support)		
Are you employed	If not, how l	long have you been unemp	loyed		
Occupation		Name of your empl	loyer		
Monthly wage	Take ho	me pay after withholding a	and S.S. tax deduction	IS	
What other members of your family a	re working?	MA	Their total monthly in	ncome	
How much VA pension or compensat	ion do you recei	ve a month?			
What other source of income do you	nave?	_	How much a month?		
List your assets, including cash in che unpaid mortgages, contracts, or other			*	ist your liabi	lities includin
Assets		Liabiliti	ies		
Home		Home or R	Rent		
Car (make & year)			ck Payment		
Checking			ds		
Savings					
IRA			port		
Property					
Other					
I hereby authorize the Hospital	Association to	negotiate my claim on	my behalf with my	medical p	rovider usin
the above personal information.					
Signed			Dated		



Department of Minnesota December 2024 Unit Mailing Legislation Chairman, Linda Kelly

I recently attended the latest CTF (Commander Task Force) meeting. This organization is made up of several veteran organizations working together for our Minnesota veterans. I am so appreciative that this group has invited the Auxiliary to their meetings. They provide information that is prevalent to our veterans, which is why we exist.

In past newsletters, I have given you websites to sign up for notices when there is a pending vote benefiting our veterans. These websites are for National Legislation, and we ask that you let your legislator know that you support these bills. This has nothing to do with the result of our recent election. No matter who is your legislator now or if you voted for them, they still represent YOU and your opinion should matter to them.

We also need to be pro-active with our Minnesota Legislation. There is a QR code with this article. Use your phone camera to take a picture of it. You will then be directed to a site where you can add your name, address, phone, and email address. You can also decide if you would like notices sent to your e-mail or phone.

This site will notify you of upcoming votes and what the CTF supports for our veterans. The current notification that you will see if you use this QR code now is regarding the fact that the Veterans Committee is being combined with the State and Local Government Committee. This is not in the best interest of our 327,000 Minnesota veterans. The committee has enough issues to address without adding the veteran issues. The increase in staff funding should be sufficient to support a separate committee, thus giving our veterans the time the legislation needs to address those issues. With one click (Send Message) an e-mail regarding this particular legislation will be sent to YOUR legislators based on the address you provide.

The CTF has selected five issues that they would like the Minnesota Senate and House to address. They are as follows:

Protect our Veterans from Consumer Fraud and Claim Sharks

Modernize the Disabled Veterans Homestead Market Value Exclusion

Food Insecurity Resources for Minnesota Veterans

Hunting and Fishing Licenses for Veterans at nominal cost

Preserve the veterans omnibus bill

As a veteran organization that has Gambling in our posts, the American Legion will also be supporting additional issues beside the five listed above. The Legion's priorities are being compiled and I will share with you in a future unit mailing.





December 2024 Unit Mailing Membership Chairman, Hope Wilson

MN Membership Member-opoly Report

I was just looking at the Membership numbers from National and I am very excited to say that the Northwestern Division is at 53.31% up from 48.44% last week. That is Us, WE did that together. We are officially at this time "Leading the Way". Right now, MN is in 8th place in the National Membership race with 55.68%. I know we can improve on that as the numbers show we are still down 406 members from last year. We want that front row seating at the Tampa Convention!

There has been a lot of movement in the District Membership turn-ins, and it is showing on the weekly reports. The Odd Districts (Robin Dorf) is currently in the lead this week with the Even Districts (Linda Kelly) nipping at their heels.

If you haven't already, you will be hearing from Membership Chairmen very soon!!

As of 10/30/2024, we had:

733 members that belong to units that have not paid any membership this year and have no PUFL's and no members that have paid their own dues online. That 733 represents 2.82% of our total membership.

3014 members that belong to units that have only had PUFL's processed and members that have paid their own dues online, but the unit itself has not turned in any membership. Of that 3014, 238 members paid their own dues online or are PUFL's. That 3014 represents 11.57% of our total membership goal.

So in total this is what we have:

98 # of Unit that have not turned in any membership (24.75% of our total units)

238 # of Member that paid online or are a PUFL in those 98 units

3747 # of Total Members in those 98 units (14.39%)

This number has a huge impact on the membership and our standings at National. These units need to turn in membership once a week or at least every other week no matter how many members are on the transmittal.

This is Membership 101, our members need to be paid AND sent to Department to be counted. Our Leadership for each Auxiliary Unit should be providing the example and be the 1^{st} ones on the transmittals that are sent so we can say "we were first, now join us".

If you are having trouble in your Unit, or with your memberships, please reach out to your District Membership Chairman or myself. We want to help your Unit thrive. We are devastated when a Unit gives up its Charter. You have worked to hard and to long to give up now. Ask us for help.

Here is your GO TO Membership Chairmen Team:

Membership	Name	Unit	Email
District 1	Rosalie Trom	333	rosalie7g@gmail.com
District 2	Pam Sandland	11	djs1947@charter.net
District 3	Ann Bovy	601	abovyauxiliary@centurylink.net
District 4	Teri Rieger	542	sunnie55126@gmail.com
District 5	Jill Davis	435	alajilldavis@gmail.com
District 6	Wendy Grittner	560	wgrittner@gmail.com
District 7	Jennifer Hurst	169	jenhurstauxiliary@gmail.com
District 8	Jessica Hanna	71	jessicajoreinhardt@gmail.com
District 9	Denise Milton	16	kuuky@hotmail.com
District 10	Michelle Lesch	566	pmlesch@hotmail.com

Hope Wilson: MN ALA Membership Chairman / 320-304-0809

As we look forward, please keep in mind:

Pearl Harbor 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.

Meal: Pork roast, baby reds, corn, broccoli, pasta salad, tossed salad, dinner roll

Cost: \$20.00, paying by check send to the address below and make check out to MN American Legion Riders.

Registration by postal mail to:

MN ALR

P.O. Box 111002

Saint Paul, MN 55111

The Pearl Harbor Rally is organized by the Minnesota American Legion Riders and is an event for all members of the Minnesota American Legion Family.

Contact: ALR-Director Jody Hassing, email: jodyhassing@gmail.com, Phone: 651.329.7197

Remember to bring your earned Judy Bucks to receive your gift at ALL RALLIES!!!

~AND~

*******Unit Awards from National******

- ❖ Units reaching 100% by January 31, 2025 will receive a Unit Flag Ribbon
- ♦ New Chartered Units between 9/1/2024 thru 7/31/2025 will receive a \$25 gift card to Emblem Sales
 - Recruit 10 -Any combination of Jr & Sr members by 6/24/2025
 - will receive a special gift selected by the National Membership Chairman (1 entry per recruiter/member)

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY Bulletin #13 as of 11/26/2024 2025 Membership

Member-opoly

Your Leader is Rich Aunty Pennybags, Hope Wilson "Finding Members in Everyday Places"

Difference from Last Year -194

-25

-194

-11

-94

				Membership	Percent of	Membership
DISTRICT	# of Units	Goal	Period Gain	To Date	Goal	Last Year
One	47	3,341	232	2,311	69.17%	2,375
Two	70	3,444	283	2,181	63.33%	2,375
Three	46	3,476	226	2,251	64.76%	2,356
Four	7	208	18	283	55.71%	308
Five	7	463	31	221	47.73%	200
Six	09	4,469	238	3,314	74.16%	3,320
Seven	52	2,561	147	1,672	65.29%	1,866
Eight	20	1,117	49	719	64.37%	730
Nine	45	2,944	183	1,974	67.05%	2,042
Ten	41	3,391	183	2,173	64.08%	2,267
1982	П	331	-3	217	65.56%	224
Department Total	396	26,045	1,587	17,316	66.48%	18,063

E			_		47.73%	District 5	
				9th	55.71%	District 4	
	-330	-410	•	8th	63.33%	District 2	
	000'6	8,839		7th	64.08%	District 10	H
	67.06%	65.93%	•	eth	64.37%	District 8	M
	8,670	8,429		5th	64.76%	District 3	
	771	819		4th	65.29%	District 7	
	12,929	12,785	•	ard	67.05%	District 9	
	198	197		2nd	69.17%	District 1	
-	Group 1 (Even) <i>Linda Kelly</i>	Group 2 (Odd) Robin Dorf	RANKING\$	151	74.16%	District 6	

-747



December 2024 Unit Mailing National Security Chairman, Mary Kuperus wmkuperus@tds.net

Quilts of Valor

What is a Quilt of Valor?

A Quilt of Valor[®] (QOV) is a quality, handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted. It is awarded to a Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation." To use the term Quilt of Valor, Quilts of Valor or QOV, the quilt must be a specific size, must have a label with required information, it must be awarded (it is not a gift) and it must be recorded.

The first Quilt Of Valor was awarded November 2003 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) to a young soldier from Minnesota. On that day ½ of the 300 QOVs were awarded to the physically wounded and ½ were awarded to those struggling with psychological/emotional trauma and distress.

Quilt Requirements

- A Quilt of Valor does not have to be red, white and blue, but patriotic colors are very popular with
 recipients. Panels can provide a great focal point and bring in other colors. Think creatively with the
 recipient in mind.
- Recommended size: 60" x 80"; minimum: 55" x 65"; maximum: 72" x 90".

For more information check out www.govf.org. Quilts of Valor Foundation



Ship Thrifty is passionate about supporting those who serve and supporting your shipping this holiday season and beyond. Plus, with prepaid labels, you can skip the lines and handwritten customs forms.

Here are a few tips for shipping:

- Your free Ship Thrifty account will save you time and money on your personal and care package shipping.
- As an ALA partner, when you create your shipping labels with Ship Thrifty, a percent of the dollars
 you spend is donated back to the organization to support the mission. Be sure to type ALA in the
 affiliate code at signup.
- Holiday shipping deadlines are fast approaching, to make sure your packages arrive on time please send them before those dates.

Create your free Ship Thrifty account. Go to www.shipthrifty.com/rf/ala or type ALA into the affiliate code when signing up.

May you all have a wonderful holiday season! Be sure to remember all our military and their families and veterans during this season. Take time to visit your local nursing and veteran's homes and spend a few moments with those who have served our country.



December 2024 Unit Mailing Parliamentarian, Raleen Tolzmann

When at meeting and a motion is made that you don't understand?

In Robert's Rules of Order there are different kinds of motions that are used at meetings.

Robert's Rules basics

New and old Officers should learn the basics of Robert's Rules as soon as they join a board. Board members will use the basic rules for making decisions at most meetings.

Here is a general outline of the essential elements of Robert's Rules:

- Motion A member makes a motion to propose an action or make a decision by saying, "I move to...". Another
 member must second the motion by saying, "I second the motion." Once someone seconds the motion, the
 group votes on the motion. It passes by a majority vote or a <u>quorum</u> depending on the rules in the bylaws.
- Amend a motion Members use this process to change a motion and can do so by stating, "I move to amend the motion on the floor." Again, this motion must be seconded and voted upon.
- **Commit** Members use this type of motion to transfer a motion to a committee. As with other types of motions, it must be seconded and voted upon. Once it moves to a committee, the committee presents a report on the committed motion at the next meeting.
- Question Members say, "I call the question" to end a debate or discussion. The motion must be seconded and voted upon without further discussion. A call for the question requires a two-thirds majority vote to pass. At this point, the members must immediately vote on the motion on the floor.
- Adjourn This refers to moving to end the meeting. A member would say, "I move to adjourn," and another
 member would second the motion. If the majority then votes to adjourn, the meeting is over.

If anything, out of the ordinary, comes up, board members can look up the rules during the meeting. You store a copy of Robert's Rules on your computer it is quickly and easily accessible if there is a question on proper meeting protocols or have a copy of Robert's Rules of Order.

I have included Robert's Rules of Order Sheet for the year 2024.



Robert's Rules of Order

Cheat Sheet

Action	What to Say	Can interrupt speaker?	Need a Second?	Can be Debated?	Can be Amended?	Votes Needed
Introduce main motion	"I move to"	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend a motion	"I move to amend the motion by II (add or strike words or both)"	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Move item to committee	"I move that we refer the matter to committee."	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Postpone item	"I move to postpone the matter until"	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
End debate	"I move the previous question."	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Object to procedure	"Point of order."	Yes	No	No	No	Chair decision
Recess the meeting	"I move that we recess until"	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Adjourn the meeting	"I move to adjourn the meeting."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Request information	"Point of information."	Yes	No	No	No	No vote
Overrule the chair's ruling	"I move to overrule the chair's ruling."	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority

Action	What to Say	Can interrupt speaker?	Need a Second?	Can be Debated?	Can be Amended?	Votes Needed
Extend the allotted time	"I move to extend the time by minutes."	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
Enforce the rules or point out incorrect procedure	"Point of order."	Yes	No	No	No	No vote
Table a Motion	"I move to table"	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Verify voice vote with count	"I call for a division."	No	No	No	No	No vote
Object to considering some undiplomatic matter	"I object to consideration of this matter"	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
Take up a previously tabled item	"I move to take from the table"	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Reconsider something already disposed of	"I move to reconsider our action to"	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Consider something out of its scheduled order	"I move to suspend the rules and consider"	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Close the meeting for executive session	"I move to go into executive session."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Personal preference - noise, room temperature, distractions	"Point of privilege"	Yes	No	No	No	No vote



Department of Minnesota December 2024 Unit Mailing Past Presidents Parley Chairman, Shirley Frederick

The Past President's Parley Scholarship "Rules and Regulations" are included in this mailing along with the scholarship application. The completed application must be received to the Department Office by March 15th.

Put this information in your newsletter, on your monthly agenda for December, January and February. Let your members know so if interested in applying will have time to apply. Let your Junior members that are eligible know so if interested in higher education in any medical field they will have time to fill out and apply for the scholarship.

Has your unit donated to the Past President's Parley Scholarship yet? If not please do so if you can. The only money for this scholarship comes from our units donating to it. Up to 10 scholarships can be given out each year. This is ONLY if there is enough funds to do that many.

Unit Presidents, would you let me know if your unit has a Past President's Parley. How active is it, and anything you would like to share about it. How long have you had one. Is it new this year.

District Presidents, would you also let me know if your unit has a Past President's Parley and is it active, how long have you had one, If not would you start one.

Please text, or email me this information soon at 218-409-5556

Or shirley.a.frederick@gmail.com

Thank you. Happy Thanksgiving and remember veterans gave their tomorrow for our today.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY HEALTH CARE SCHOLARSHIP RULES AND REGULATIONS 2024-2025

- 1. 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 including the entire medical, nursing and dental support fields such as registered nurses, nursing assistant, licensed practical nurse, X-ray or other technician, dieticians, physical or other therapist, dental hygienist or dental assistant, etc.
- 2. The Scholarship is a one-year scholarship for \$1,000.00.
- 3. The applicant must be a member of an American Legion Auxiliary in the Department of Minnesota, for a minimum of three (3) years; and maintain a "C" or better average in school if a student.
- 4. The Scholarship must be used for the purpose of continuing education, beyond high school, in a post-secondary educational facility.
- 5. Applications must be signed by the Unit President of which you are a member and received in the Department Office of the American Legion Auxiliary by MARCH 15th. They will be reviewed and scholarships will be awarded by a committee appointed by the Past Presidents Parley Chairman.
- 6. When notified that a scholarship application has been approved, the winners must send a letter of acceptance to the Department Office before any monies are released (up to ten recipients per year based on based on donations received this Auxiliary year).
- 7. The Scholarship will be awarded in the following manner: The \$1,000.00 will be sent directly to the school after the <u>first quarter</u> has been completed and proof of satisfactory grades via a transcript has been sent to the Department Office.

8. APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE:

- A. A letter from either the superintendent, principal or counselor of the school now attending, or have attended, regarding scholastic record, aptitude and ambition.
- B. A letter from either a business, clergy or professional person (not a relative) with whom you have been associated.
- C. A brief **TYPED** essay from the applicant telling of his/her plans for higher education, career goals, and the need for financial assistance (see form with application).
- D. A copy of high school or college transcript.

<u>APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 15</u>TH

Applications must be sent to:

American Legion Auxiliary State Veterans Service Building 20 W 12th Street, Room 314 St. Paul, MN 55155

PAST PRESIDENTS HEALTH CARE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2024-2025

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	В.	If you are	not 18 years old, pleas	se have your parents o	r guardian complete the following	; :
	I, the	parent/guard	ian of (please print)_			
	DO F	HEREBY GI	VE PERMISSION FO	R THE RELEASE O	F MY CHILD'S educational	
	recor	ds.				
			(SIGNATURE)		(DATE)	

10.	COLLEGE STUDENTS: Applicants enrolled in college must send a copy of their current college transcript. ***** If you are not a high school senior and this is your first college enrollment, please include your high school transcript.		
11.	I certify that the foregoing information is true and correct. I also agree that if I am awarded a Heal Scholarship by the Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary and decide not to seek further education change my course of study from the Health Care Field, I will immediately notify the State American Auxiliary office at 651-224-7634.		
	(APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE)	(DATE)	
	A	pplicant Name	
This	section is REQUIRED for Applicant Award S	election.	
	must furnish 2 letters of reference of non-fami pplicant statement. Name and relationship of	ly members (see rules and regulations sheet), along with those furnishing letters of reference:	
	Name	Relationship	
1. 2.			
	LICANTS STATEMENT: On the space below E this statement indicating: What your future plans are? What are your career goals? The need for financial assistance?	and if additional space is needed use another page. Please	
This	statement must be a minimum of 75 words.		
(UNI	T PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE)	(DATE)	



December 2024 Unit Mailing Poppy Chairman, Lorinda Kies

Thank you to everyone who participated in the two contests at Fall Conference, I was overwhelmed by the number of entries. I want to thank everyone who participated in the Parade on Saturday morning, you all looked wonderful in your crowns and sashes.

The information everyone really wants to know about the contest winners at Fall Conference.

For people's choice we raised \$254 for the President's project thanks to all you donated.

People's Choice

Elysian Unit 311-it was a very cute crown. They also got a \$20 cash prize.

Sash

Sash 1st place and \$20 went to Pine City-if you missed it their sash had all their unit members names on it.

Sash 2nd Place and \$15 went to Pamela Hagen-French

Sash 3rd Place and \$10 went to Donna Zochert

Crown

I must confess for the crown winners I didn't write them down in the order they won. Here is the list of winners and each received a cash prize of either \$20, \$15 or \$10.

Hattie Efta

Matea Efta

Pamela Hagen-French

It was great to see all the work the Juniors put into their crowns and sash's.

I wanted to say "THANK YOU" to all the 154 people that came out on Friday night at Fall Conference to make Poppies in total we made 3,729, which is way more than I thought we would make. This was the first time this was done, and I am so glad to have been part of it. I had lots of helpers getting the tables set up to make this happen, too many to list. But thank you to Verinica Fernlund for taking the open kits home to work on them, I heard that a few other units also got kits to take home.

I sure can't wait to see what the Poppy contest entries will look like in July.

This just in Zimmerman American Legion Auxiliary and the 6th District will be holding a Poppy making day on Sunday January 26th, 2025, from noon to 3pm. Please email Donna Schermann to let her know if you will be attending, food will be available, her email address is <u>donna.schermann@gmail.com</u>, address to the post is 12674 Fremont Ave, Zimmerman, MN 55398. Thanks to Bev Grose and the Zimmerman Auxiliary for setting this up. I hope the weather is nice so we can see many poppy makers.

If any other Unit wants to host a poppy making day, please let me know and we can get something figured out.

This year one thing we want to promote using National President Trish Ward's ALA Challenge card deck. Let's start with this one: Let me know what you did.

Promote poppy ambassadors among your ALA Junior and young Sons of the American Legion who you say.

- Identify Juniors and young SAL willing and able to promote the Poppy.
- Train your poppy ambassadors on how to distribute poppies and the story of the poppy, "The Poppy Lady," "In Flanders Field", etc.

- Supply them with poppies to distribute and poppy cans to collect donations.
- Poppy ambassadors should be dressed for the occasion. Legion Family branded attire is always a good choice.
- Work with the Junior chair/advisor to schedule opportunities for poppy ambassadors to distribute poppies. Make sure adults from your legion Family accompany your poppy ambassadors.

Resources: http://members.legion-aux.org/member/committees/poppy.

Activities there are many activities think outside the box. Here is one idea with the holidays right around the corner why not bake some cupcakes, cookies they can decorate at a meeting. I found the cookies recipe on the website and Northwestern Division Poppy Chairman Mary Kuperus also shared it with us. Remember to take pictures to show your ambassadors in action and even get pictures of the Legion and Auxiliary members helping.

Poppy Spritz Cookie

1 cup butter-room temperature
2/3 cup sugar
3 egg yolks
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon of almond flavoring (or other of your choice)
Generous squirt of red gel food coloring
2 ½ cups of flour

Corn syrup and black decorator sugar for the middles.

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Thoroughly mix the first 5 ingredients, then add gel food coloring to achieve the desired color. Add and mix flour in increments. Using about ¼ of dough at a time, force dough through a cookie press onto a ungreased cookie sheet using a wreath-shaped insert. Using a bit of extra dough, fill in the center of the wreath. Bake 7 to 10 minutes until set but not brown.

Cool completely. Decorate the center by placing a drop of corn syrup in the center and sprinkling it with black decorator sugar.

Place in 2x2 cellophane bag, fold over and staple an ALA poppy bookmark or with anything tells the poppy story.

Let me know if you tried this and how it went.

Have a great Holiday Season.



Department of Minnesota December 2024 Unit Mailing Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman Robin Dorf

One of the key program statements this year for the VA&R program is supporting veteran caregivers, family members and their survivors. Please review this information and have available for members and your community you find may need assistance.



The **Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Caregiver Support Program (CSP)** offers clinical services to caregivers of eligible and covered Veterans enrolled in the VA health care system. The program's mission is to promote the health and well-being of family caregivers who care for our Nation's Veterans, through education, resources, support, and services. The program is comprised of two separate programs.

1. Program of General Caregiver Support Services (PGCSS)

PGCSS is the core of VA's Caregiver Support Program (CSP). The program provides peer support mentoring, skills training, coaching, telephone support, online programs, and referrals to available resources to caregivers of Veterans. The Veteran must be enrolled in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and be receiving assistance from a caregiver for the caregiver to participate.

2. Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC)

PCAFC offers enhanced clinical support and services for caregivers of eligible Veterans who have a serious injury (or illness) and require in-person personal care services among other requirements.

What is the VA Caregiver Support line?

This line is a number for caregiver, family members, friends, veterans, and community partners to contact for information for available supports and services.

Whether you're in need of immediate assistance or have questions about what services you may be eligible for,



the team is available to help you and you can learn more about CSP, its various services, and program eligibility. They can help you with navigating the barriers to access care and help you connect with the CSP team at your local VAMC, who assist with referrals to local services and enrollment.

Contact information for Caregiver support teams:

Fargo VA Health Care System	(701) 239-3700	ext. 4399
Minneapolis VA Health Care System	(612) 467-5405	
St Cloud VA Health Care System	(320) 252-1670	ext. 7283
Sioux Falls VA Health Care System	(605) 336-3230	ext. 5080

I wish I would have known about this program when our family was taking care of my father. It would have been such a support system. We need to make this information available for our caregivers.

LEGIONNAIRE BENEFITS

As a Member of the Legion Family, You Know How Important It Is to Help Protect Those in Need ...

NOW WE CAN HELP THE LIT PLANS CAN HELP WITH

- Hospital HELP Plan
- Cancer Care
- Accidental Death Protection
- On-The-Move Travel Accident
- Emergency Assistance Plus
- ID Resolve

- Medicare Supplement Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Long-Term Care
- Lifeline Medical Alert Service
- Device Guard

Hospital HELP Plan — Provides benefits for hospital stays including intensive care, cardiac care, care for cancer, rehabilitative facilities, and V.A. hospitals.*

Cancer Care — Provides important protection and a daily benefit if you are hospitalized due to cancer.*

Accidental Death — Helps provide financial protection for you and your family. Up to \$5,000.00 LegionCare AD coverage at no cost to Legionnaires is available: (activation required).* You can also purchase additional Accident coverage up to \$100,000.00.

On-The-Move Travel Accident — Provides up to \$200,000.00 coverage when fatally injured in a covered accident while traveling, plus \$500.00 per day if a covered accident lands you in the hospital.*

ID Resolve — Provides 24-hour identity theft resolution that helps protect your money, your time and your financial reputation.

Emergency Assistance Plus — Provides you with 24/7 emergency medical and travel assistance services should something happen to you or your family while traveling away from home.

Medicare Supplement Insurance — Supplements your Medicare Coverage at group rates.

Health & Dental Insurance — Request a quote on various Health & Dental Insurance Plans designed with you in mind.

Long-Term Care — Can help provide home health care, supervised adult care, and more.

Lifeline Medical Alert Service — Provides fast access to help in the event of a fall or medical emergency so you can live confidently and independently.

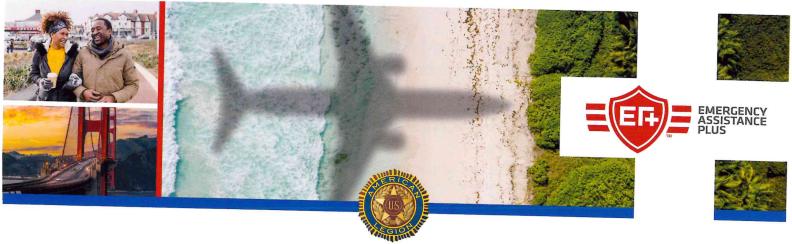
DeviceGuard — A simple, comprehensive, and affordable way to protect your devices—from smartphones to laptops to digital doorbells. Flexible plans and bundles ensure that you only pay for the protection you need.

ENDORSED BY YOUR AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT

To Learn More and Enroll, Visit www.TheLIT.com
For Questions Call 1-800-235-6943

I TRAVEL PROTECTION WHEN YOU NEED IT!

Emergency Assistance Plus is a plan that protects you and your family if you get sick or hurt while traveling in the U.S. or abroad. Available for Legionnaires and their families, EA+ gives you access to 24-hour emergency medical assistance services that your primary insurance typically will NOT cover!



From Your American Legion Department

HERE ARE JUST SOME OF THE EA+ SERVICES AVAILABLE TO YOU*

MEDICAL EVACUATION



Emergency Medical Monitoring by an EA+ medical expert to make sure you get the appropriate care in a medical emergency.

Emergency Medical Evacuation if deemed medically necessary to get you to a more appropriate hospital if your current facility can't properly treat your medical condition.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE



Prescription Replacement Assistance if your medications are lost or stolen.

24-Hour Doctor/ER/Dentist/Attorney Locator Assistance to help you quickly find a professional no matter where you are in the world.

ASSISTANCE FOR COMPANIONS



One Round-Trip Economy-Class Airline Ticket to bring a loved one to your bedside, from anywhere in the world, if you're traveling alone and become hospitalized.

Airfare Home for Dependent Children or Grandchildren who are left unattended if you're unable to care for them due to your hospitalization.

Ticket Home for a Traveling Companion if EA+ evacuates you from one hospital to another, transports you home, or if you pass away while traveling.

TRANSPORTATION HOME



Transportation Home after hospitalization via a one-way economy-class airline ticket.

Nurse Escort provided if deemed medically necessary to help ensure you get proper medical care during your trip home.

Return of Deceased Remains service to bring your remains home if you pass away while traveling.

Vehicle Return if you can't drive your vehicle back home because your documented medical emergency prohibits it and your companion can't drive it either.

OTHER VITAL TRAVEL ASSISTANCE



Destination Intelligence regarding weather, travel, health, inoculations, travel restrictions, and special events.

Real-time Security Intelligence in the event you feel threatened by political unrest, social instability, weather conditions, or health hazards.

Lost Luggage Assistance helps you track down any lost luggage.

Language Interpretation Assistance to connect you with an interpreter over the phone.

AND SO MUCH MORE ...

If you get sick or hurt away from home, Legionnaire Emergency Assistance Plus® (EA+®) gets you the help you need!

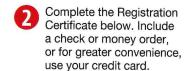
Emergency Assistance Plus® (EA+®) is not insurance, it is a membership plan. This is only an outline of the plan's features. Hospitalization (admitted as an inpatient) is a requirement to be eligible for some services. All services must be arranged and provided by EA+. Please read the EA+ Member Guide carefully to understand all the services available to you, as well as any rules and regulations. Visit emergencyassistanceplus.com/partner/lit to view a sample of the EA+ Plan details.

CONTINUED ON REVERSE...

HOW DO I GET EA+?



Decide whether you want protection for just you, or for your family. If you ever travel with your spouse and/or your dependent children, we strongly urge you to consider member and family protection for just \$60 more. This way they can have the protection of EA+ in case of an emergency while traveling.



Mail back your Registration Certificate and payment. In return you'll get back a a Welcome Kit with your official Member Guide.

For questions or enrollment assistance call 1-888-293-4008.

Or go online to www.emergencyassistanceplus.com/partner/lit REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE YES! If I get sick or hurt while I'm away from home in the U.S. or abroad I want Emergency Assistance Plus to come to my aid. This goes for my spouse and

be refunded as long as I have not used the services.

From Your American Legion Department

dependent children as well, if I enroll in Member and Family protection (below). 100% Money-Back Guarantee: I will receive a Member Guide that gives the full rules and regulations of this plan. I can take up to 30 days from my effective date to read it over. If I then feel that the Legionnaire Emergency Assistance Plus plan is not what I want, I will let you know and my payment will

Please complete your information: Name: (FIRST NAME, LAST NAME) Street Address: City: State: Email: Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): Check () Desired Protection: **2** ANNUAL RATE: Member Only\$129 Member and Family\$189 (only \$60 more for your family) Enclosed is my check or money order made payable to: Emergency Assistance Plus. I'll charge it for my convenience. VISA Visa MasterCard Discover **AMEX** Card #: Expires (MM/YY): I hereby enroll in the Emergency Assistance Plus (EA+) Program. I authorize EA+ to process my initial and renewal payments utilizing the check or credit card account information I've provided. On the annual anniversary of my effective date, the annual rate, above, will be charged to my provided account and will remain active until I notify customer service or my membership ends. The funds will be charged on the due date or the business day prior to my due date. In the event the amount withdrawn changes I will be notified in writing at least 10 days prior to the withdrawal date, or within the advanced notification period required by my specific state. If no coverage option is selected, I understand that my coverage will be defaulted to the Family option and I will be charged for that amount. If I wish to cancel, I will call EA+ at 1-877-883-1998. By signing below I understand these terms and authorize automatic payments. Authorized Signature: Today's Date (MM/DD/YYYY):

MAIL TO: LEGIONNAIRE EA+ PROGRAM P.O. BOX 47150, PHOENIX, AZ 85068