

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Minnesota**

2024-2025

**Department President
Judy Ackerman**

February 2025 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



Mid-Winters are almost over. I hope many of you were able to attend your District's Mid-Winter and that you learned something new.

The month of February has several special days in it.

February is Americanism Month for the American Legion Auxiliary. Please promote the Americanism program at your unit meeting.

February 2nd is the Sunday that the 4 chaplains of the USAT Dorchester are remembered. Lt. George Fox, Methodist minister, Lt. Alexander Goode, Jewish Rabbi, Lt. Clark Poling, Dutch Reformed minister, and Lt. John Washington, Roman Catholic priest, distributed life jackets until they ran out. They then removed their life jackets to save four others. As the ship was sinking, the four chaplains were seen standing on the ship's stern, arms locked as they prayed and sang hymns. Not only was it a sign of bravery, but the chaplains put aside their different faiths and prayed as one.

The Sweetheart Rally will be held at the Royalton American Legion on Saturday, Feb. 8. Please reserve your ticket and bring a lot of membership with you. Membership chairman Hope and I want to bring the Department Merit Medallion to Minnesota. The biggest hurdle for this achievement is to achieve the 85% benchmark membership goal by March 15. Per the ALAMIS report as of 1/10/25, the Department needs 1,726 members to reach 85%. This is attainable, but we need your help.

Thank you for all the work you have done so far this year.

Happy Valentine's Day. Take the time and send a valentine to a veteran. President's Day is February 17th.

Judy Ackerman
Department President

Testimonial Dinner

**Celebrating
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Minnesota
President**

Judy Ackerman

**Hosted by:
Northrop Unit 522**



**May 17, 2025
Best Western
Fairmont, MN**

**Social Hour: 4:30 PM
Dinner: 6 PM
Program following
Cost: \$35**

**Send Reservations
By May 1st to:
Judy Ackerman
924 Shoreacres Dr.
Fairmont, MN 56031**

Menu:

**Pork, Chicken
Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Glazed Carrots
Salad
Dessert**

**Block of rooms are set aside at the Best
Western (507-238-4771)
Ask for the American Legion block**


Make Checks payable

To ALA Unit 522

NAME _____ # of Guests _____

Contact # and Email _____

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



2024-2025 EXCELLENCE Initiative



1

National President's Focus for 2024-2025 Department Excellence Initiative



National President Visits

Advising, Development, Mentoring, Learning, Coach, Education, Knowledge

- Knowledge sharing on how to STOP the trend of units surrendering charters
- Focus on how to build leadership capacity
- Initiate Activism and Enable Growth
- Talk about how to strengthen our organization at the grassroots level

Department Merit Medallion Recognition

established areas of focus that if achieved, drive business and operational excellence.

- Achieve 85% Membership benchmark
- Department Impact Report
- Governance Excellence
- Financial Policies and Process
- Financial Donation Obligations

2

National President's Visits

Let's Talk

Knowledge Sharing

- Open and honest dialogue
- What's working, what's not
- How to engage and support units that are struggling

Solution Focused

- What does success look like?
- Set participation goals that are achievable
- Identify and Document Wins. Activate the losses

Action Plan Strategies

- Fill the potholes
- Identify areas that need attention
- Establish "Renew Crew"

Growth Initiatives

- Identify and cultivate future leaders
- Fortifying infrastructure of units

Journey Mapping

- Stop, Start, Continue
- Envisioning a sustainable future for your Department and Units

3

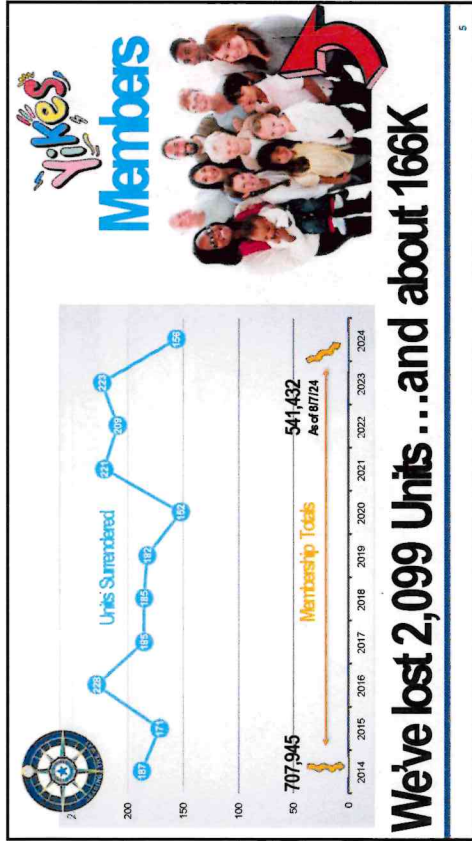
TRUTH STATEMENTS

WHAT WE KNOW

- Small town rural environments are **struggling**.
- Leadership capacity is **dwindling**.
- Membership is **aging and churning**.
- Infrastructure is **weakening**.

The reality is over the last 10 years ...

4



Driving Revitalization and Transformation

"Small town rural environments are struggling"

Vibrancy

- Cultivating an engaging public realm
- Range of activities
- Diversity of opportunities and interests

Reflective

- Celebrate distinct cultural and historical identity of the community
- A shared sense of ownership and attachment

Trust

- Fosters social interactions and trust among residents, workers, business owners, communities and guests

Lynchpin

- Our American Legion Post Homes represent the best in all three of these requirements

Driving Revitalization and Transformation

"Small town rural environments are struggling"

Understand

- Composition of Membership
- Current Successes
- Current Struggles
- Relationship in the Community
- Identify their Passion

Opportunities

- Economic situation of the community
- Existing Industries
- Community Activities
- Cultural Alignment

Partnerships

- First Responders
- Organizations and Groups who support our mission
- Barry Units
- Business Entities
- Media

Execute

- What Can The Unit Do
- Start Small
- Find a Fit
- Participate and Play a Role
- Assemble the Team

ACTIVITY

"Small town rural environments are struggling"

- Take a sheet of paper to draft some notes
- Think about a unit in your Department that is struggling
- Think about the community where that unit is situated
- List a few things that you think would help the downtown area and community become more vibrant
- Could the Legion Family play a role in making these things happen?
- Would YOU be willing to help them if they needed help?
- What could YOU do to help a struggling unit

Check It Out!

Visit www.legionfamily.org Strong towns are replicating America's positive pattern of development, check out info regarding the Station Equipment, with a pattern of development that is financially strong and resilient.

CHECK IT OUT!

Articles

"A commonsense approach to reinvigorating small-town America"
<https://www.stroptowns.com/commonsense-approach-to-reinvigorating-small-town-america/>

"The Town Actually Got Things Done. What Makes It Different?"
<https://www.stroptowns.com/journal/2024/10/15/this-town-actually-got-things-done-what-makes-it-different/>

Books

"Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community"
 By Robert Putnam

"Strong Towns: A Bottom-Up Revolution to Rebuild American Prosperity"
 By Charles L. Marohn, Jr.

On Site

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Non-Profit Organizations

Driving Revitalization and Transformation

"Leadership Capacity is Dwindling"

Quantity

We need more people willing to step up in leadership roles

Quality

We need people who have leadership skills and will commit to the organization
 We need people who are willing to step up and learn

Experience

We need people who have existing leadership experience and who are willing to bring their knowledge to the ALA

Diversity

We need leaders from all areas of America from different backgrounds, different age ranges, different cultures and all genders

Driving Revitalization and Transformation

"Leadership Capacity is Dwindling"

Other VSOs

NABVETS

Businesses

DINER
VARIETY STORE

Professional Orgs

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS
Local Government

Joiners

GREEK
Elks
LI

ACTIVITY

"Leadership Capacity is Dwindling"

1. Take the paper on your table. Combine into groups
2. Create a paper plane
3. Rules are: Select a Team Lead, Name your plane, Everyone participates, Use ONLY the paper
4. Team members must work together to come up with the most aerodynamic design
5. Get creative on designing your aircraft, everything is legal!
6. Farthest flight = winning team!
7. Let's go!
8. After Action...Let's discuss how it went!

CHECK IT OUT!

Online Classes

- "Building Leadership Skills to Confront Today's Challenges" [Dale Carnegie](https://ilwiscorstan.edu)
- "Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure: Dynamics of Leadership" <https://ilwiscorstan.edu>

Books

- "Turn the Ship Around! The Story of Turning Followers into Leaders" By L. David Marquet
- "Leading with Dignity" By Doran Hicks
What every leader needs to know about dignity and how to create a culture in which everyone thrives. Winner of the 2019 IBCFEE award in the Business, Management, and Finance Category

Continuing Education

KEEP EDUCATING YOURSELF

Check out your local Community College for courses in Leadership, Presentation and Public Speaking, Organizational Management, and Strategic Planning.

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Remembering Kris



Continuing Education

KEEP EDUCATING YOURSELF

Check out your local Community College for courses in Leadership, Presentation and Public Speaking, Organizational Management, and Strategic Planning.

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START HERE

AA

Visit the AA National website at www.aanational.org

- Select "Member Login"
- Establish your access
- Once you have established your account, you will have access to tons of info and resources

AA Auxiliary

Visit the AA National website at www.aanational.org

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AA Academy

Provides tools to members to help grow the Auxiliary's mission

- Self-Paced Courses
- Access to live webinars

Facebook

Like national president and veterans

AA Auxiliary

- All the Program Groups

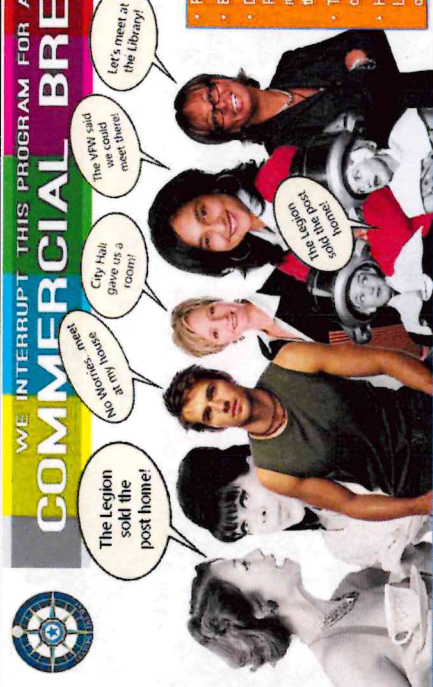
YouTube

American Legion Auxiliary

- Subscribe to the channel so you are aware of all the postings!

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WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM FOR A COMMERCIAL BREAK



The Legion sold the post home!

City Hall gave us a room!

The VFW said we could meet there!

Let's meet at the Library!

Find a solution

- Be Pro-Active
- Don't let the loss of the Post Home be the reason for surrendering the charter!
- There are lots and lots of options!
- Hy Department Leadership... Help them out!

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Driving Revitalization and Transformation
"Membership is Aging and Churning"



Gen Aux



- Think of this as a "3rd Class" of membership
- 18-35 Age Group. Understand their needs and interests

Organic Growth



- People we all know
- Growing from within
- Look for "high profile" members, sign them up, and then crow about them

Network



- Care out some time to volunteer for other organizations
- Networking is critical

No Silos




- We now must collaborate across our country to support all Departments and Units
- If we are to succeed, we no longer live in Silos

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Driving Revitalization and Transformation
"Membership is Aging and Churning"



Our Kids



- Scrabble in all our communities
- You Give You Get
- It's not just engaging the kids, it's capturing their parents

Community Outreach



- Get Active in the communities events, projects, and initiatives
- Be visible and vocal
- Host a Friendship Drive

Services



Feed

Your Backyard



- The Neighbors
- The new people in town
- Extended Family

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Assemble your Department...



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



- These are the people who get things done...with or without a title
- These are the people who, when asked, will jump into help
- These are the people who are looking for actionable items and want to make an impact
- These are the people who are interested in moving the needle for the organization
- These are the people who are positive, innovative, and visionary
- Is that **YOU?**

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Renew Crew Custom T



Front



Back



- Hit the QR Code
- Order your T-shirt
- All proceeds benefit the **American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Veterans Project Fund**
- Gather your Crew and don't forget to send us a picture of your "Renew Crew" in their T-shirt



Authorized Vendor
 5226 B STREET
 CHINO CA 91710
 (951) 698-2222



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ACTIVITY

Membership is Aging and Changing



- ### Team Maverick

TASK You are charged with chartering a new unit in a rural community.

TIMELINE The National President is coming in 60 days to sign the new charter.

ACTION How are you going to get it done. What's the plan?
- ### Team Hangman

TASK You are charged with revitalizing your Junior Activities unit.

TIMELINE Jamie Hess, the National Junior Activities Chairman is stopping by to shoot a video clip for the national stage in 45 days.

ACTION How are you going to get it done. What's the plan?
- ### Team Phoenix

TASK You are charged with ignoring or finding 20 new members in each of your Department's Districts.

TIMELINE Your department's delegate strength is being booked in 30 days.

ACTION How are you going to get it done. What's the plan?

CHECK IT OUT!



Articles

- "Increase Membership for Associations & Nonprofits with These 50 Tips"
- "11 Proven Strategies to Grow Memberships in 2024"
- "15 Ideas for How to Grow Membership in an Organization in 2024 [Our Ultimate Guide]"

Books

- "Nonprofit Kit for Dummies"
- "Gung Ho"

On Site

- Research
- Get Creative
- Gain Confidence
- Get a Plan

Driving Revitalization and Transformation

"Infrastructure is Weakening"



Pivot

- Change up what you're doing and try something different

Refresh

- Add something new and innovative to your repertoire of activities

Rethink

- Is there a better way to accomplish the end goal?
- Is it time to consider a new approach?

Renew

- What is working...what is NOT working
- What should we keep doing
- What should we start doing

Driving Revitalization and Transformation

"Infrastructure is Weakening"



Visibility

- Lean into your comfort level and execute
- Start with what you know best and then expand

Lean In

- Lived in our roles to create a desired outcome
- Work together as a Legion Family

Legion Family

- Be the "Go-To" place to gather in your community
- Everything "good" happens at the Legion
- By the place citizens go for help, safety, and family-friendly activities



ACTIVITY

"Infrastructure is Weakening"

START

"What should we/ start doing?"

List ideas/items

- Things that are not being done, but should be done.
- Things to begin doing to get better results.
- Things worth trying or experimenting for better results.

STOP

"What should we/ stop doing?"

List ideas/items

- Things that are not working or helping.
- Things that impede or are not practical.
- Not delivering desired results.
- We or others dislike.

CONTINUE

"What should we/ continue doing?"

List ideas/items

- Things that are working well.
- Things that we want to keep.
- Worth continuing to see if they're worthwhile.
- We like or need.



CHECK IT OUT!

Articles

"Don't Rebuild, Upgrade - Reimagining Nonprofit Infrastructure"
NonprofitEquity.org

"Why Our Service Organizations Are Dying (and 6 ways to fix them)"
MishkaKozlov (as seen on LinkedIn)

Books

"Building Brand Communities - How Organizations Succeed by Creating Belonging"
By Cain Miller Jones

"Building Communities of Hope"
By Rev. Dr. Arno Hoge Egan

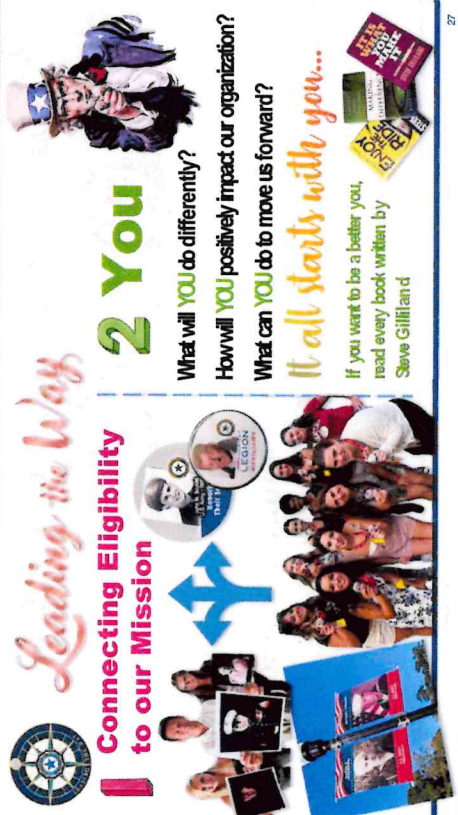
- ✓ Believe in creating an elite step to improve our lives
- ✓ Address challenges and break through barriers
- ✓ Build practical hope and strengthen purpose and power
- ✓ Win friends, influence, lead and support others
- ✓ Be a force for positive change in communities

Websites

BoardSource
BoardSource.org
Their mission is to inspire and support nonprofit boards and executives to lead justly and with purpose

Nia1.org
"Empowering Leaders, Transforming Communities"

Nicrb.org
Their mission is to develop and connect nonprofit leaders to strengthen organizations and our communities



Leading the Way

Connecting Eligibility to our Mission

2 You

What will **YOU** do differently?
How will **YOU** positively impact our organization?
What can **YOU** do to move us forward?

It all starts with you...

If you want to be a better you, read every book written by Steve Gilliland

THE 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL BOOKS OF ALL TIME



WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM FOR A COMMERCIAL BREAK

Hello Friends!

Let's Play Aux Cards!

Aux Cards are a fun, interactive, and custom created 48-card deck of cards designed to help you and your unit get active and STAR active!

- Each card has an activity designed to help members and units work the AIA programs
- All proceeds benefit the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Veterans Project Fund
- Hit the QR Code and get your decks TODAY!



Standard of Excellence

Leading the Way



Courage and Conviction

A Bright Future
For Members and Those We Save



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Department Merit Medallion Recognition

TRUTH STATEMENTS


- **Building Department Business Excellence** drives volunteer engagement
- **Demonstrating solid governance** assures respect in the ranks
- **Addressing key compliance and reporting requirements** builds member allegiance
- **Achieving financial benchmarks** validates legitimacy for members and non-members

WHAT WE KNOW

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Department Merit Medallion Recognition 2024-2025



5 established areas of focus that if achieved, drive business and operational excellence.

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Department Merit Medallion Recognition 2024-2025

MEMBERSHIP

Achieve 85% of Membership Goal by March 15, 2025

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Department Merit Medallion Recognition 2024-2025




IMPACT REPORTING

- Department Impact Report Submission due by July 1, 2025

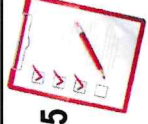
33

Department Merit Medallion Recognition 2024-2025



Governance Excellence

- C&B Annual Review
- C&B contains Board Responsibilities
- C&B contains Disciplinary Process
- C&B contains meeting and voting authority (How meetings are called and "who" can vote)



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Department Merit Medallion Recognition 2024-2025



FINANCIAL POLICIES & PROCESS

- 990 Compliance benchmarks
- Audit Standards achieved based on Department Size

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Department Merit Medallion Recognition 2024-2025



DONATIONS

- Donation to the American Legion Auxiliary Veterans Project Fund*
- and
- Donation to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund*

* No Minimum

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Department Merit Medallion Recognition 2024-2025




WHAT YOU'LL GET:

- ✓ Recognition on Stage at Convention 2025
- ✓ Signage at Convention 2025
- ✓ Merit Medallion Ribbon / Medal to President
- ✓ Highlight in ALA Magazine

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Department Merit Medallion Recognition 2024-2025



- ✓ Completed and Signed Form will be due to the National Secretary by July 1, 2025
- ✓ Recognition is for one year and must be submitted annually

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Leading the Way



Business and Operational Excellence



Compliance and Governance Standards



Financial Donations to AAF and ALAF



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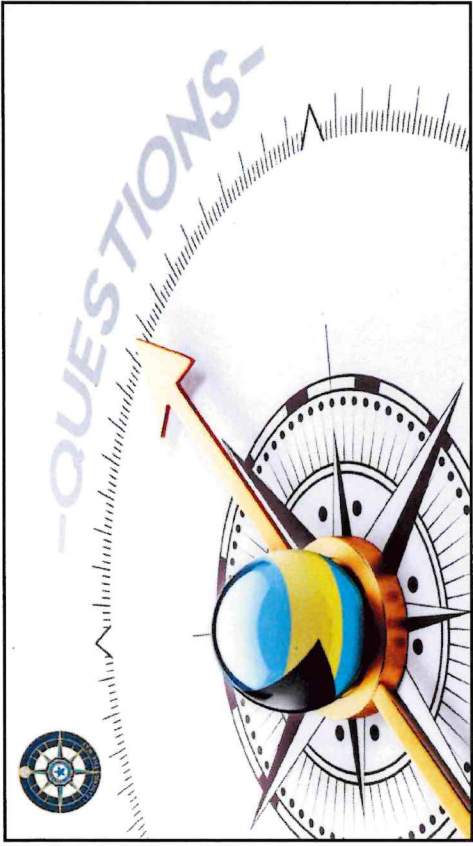
What is YOUR SUCCESS Story?

- ✓ Did you save a unit that was struggling and get them back on track?
- ✓ Did you form a Renew Crew that took action to support membership?
- ✓ Did you create an alliance with a community partner to revitalize a downtown experience?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU
...and YOU might just be featured in the ALA Magazine!

Send us an email to natipres@alaforveterans.org and share your success!

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Truth Statement #1: "Small town rural environments are struggling"

Articles



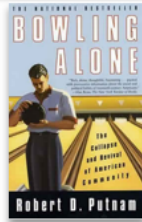
"A common-sense approach to reinvigorating small-town America"

<https://www.ruralbusiness.com/a-common-sense-approach-to-reinvigorating-small-town-america/>

"This Town Actually Gets Things Done. What Makes It Different?"

<https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2024/1/31/this-town-actually-gets-things-done-what-makes-it-different>

Books

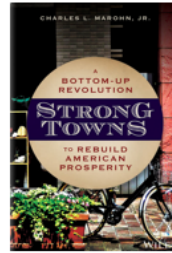


"Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community"

By Robert Putnam

"Strong Towns: A Bottom-Up Revolution to Rebuild American Prosperity"

By Charles L. Marohn, Jr.



On Site



Truth Statement #2: "Leadership capacity is dwindling"

Online Classes



"Building Leadership Skills to Confront Today's Challenges"

Dalecarnegie.com

"Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure: Dynamics of Leadership"

<https://il.wisconsin.edu>



Books



"Turn this Ship Around! A True Story of Turning Followers into Leaders"

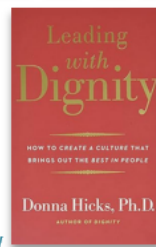
By L. David Marquet

"Leading with Dignity"

By Donna Hicks

What every leader needs to know about dignity and how to create a culture in which everyone thrives.

Winner of the 2019 PROSE award in the Business, Management and Finance Category



Continuing Education



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Truth Statement #3: "Membership is Aging and Churning"

Articles



"Increase Membership for Associations & Nonprofits with These 50 Tips"

[Memberclicks.com](https://www.memberclicks.com)

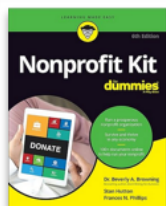
"11 Proven Strategies to Grow Memberships in 2024"

[Suremembers.com](https://www.suremembers.com)

"115 Ideas for How to Grow Membership in an Organization in 2024 [Our Ultimate Guide!]"

[Mightynetworks.com](https://www.mightynetworks.com)

Books



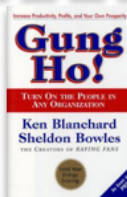
"Nonprofit Kit for Dummies"

By Beverly A. Browning, Stan Hutton and Frances N. Phillips

"Gung Ho"

By Ken Blanchard and Sheldon Bowles

Turn On the People in Any Organization. Increase Productivity, Profits, and Your Own Prosperity



"Gung Ho! Shows in three easy steps how to release the energy and enthusiasm of your whole team and focus it on success."

~Stephen R. Covey

On Site



- Research
- Get Creative
- Gain Confidence
- Get a Plan

Truth Statement #4: "Infrastructure is Weakening"

Articles



"Don't Rebuild, Upbuild! – Reimagining Nonprofit Infrastructure"

[Nonprofitquarterly.org](https://www.nonprofitquarterly.org)

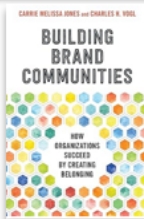
"Why Our Service Organizations Are Dying (and 6 ways to fix them)"

[Michaelbrand.org](https://www.michaelbrand.org) (as seen on LinkedIn)

Books

"Building Brand Communities – How Organizations Succeed by Creating Belonging"

By Carrie Melissa Jones



"Building Communities of Hope"

By Rev. Dr. Anne Hays Egan

- ✓ Believe in ourselves and take steps to improve our lives
- ✓ Address challenges and break through barriers
- ✓ Build practical hope and strengthen purpose and power
- ✓ Win friends, influence, lead and support others
- ✓ Be a force for positive change in communities

Websites

BoardSource

[BoardSource.org](https://www.boardsource.org)

Their mission is to inspire and support nonprofit boards and executives to lead justly and with purpose



[Nla1.org](https://www.nla1.org)

"Empowering Leaders, Transforming Communities"



[Nlctb.org](https://www.nlctb.org)

Their mission is to develop and connect nonprofit leaders to strengthen organizations and our communities

CHECK IT OUT!

Visit www.strongtowns.org Strong Towns are replacing America's postwar pattern of development, check out info regarding the Suburban Experiment, with a pattern of development that is financially strong and resilient.



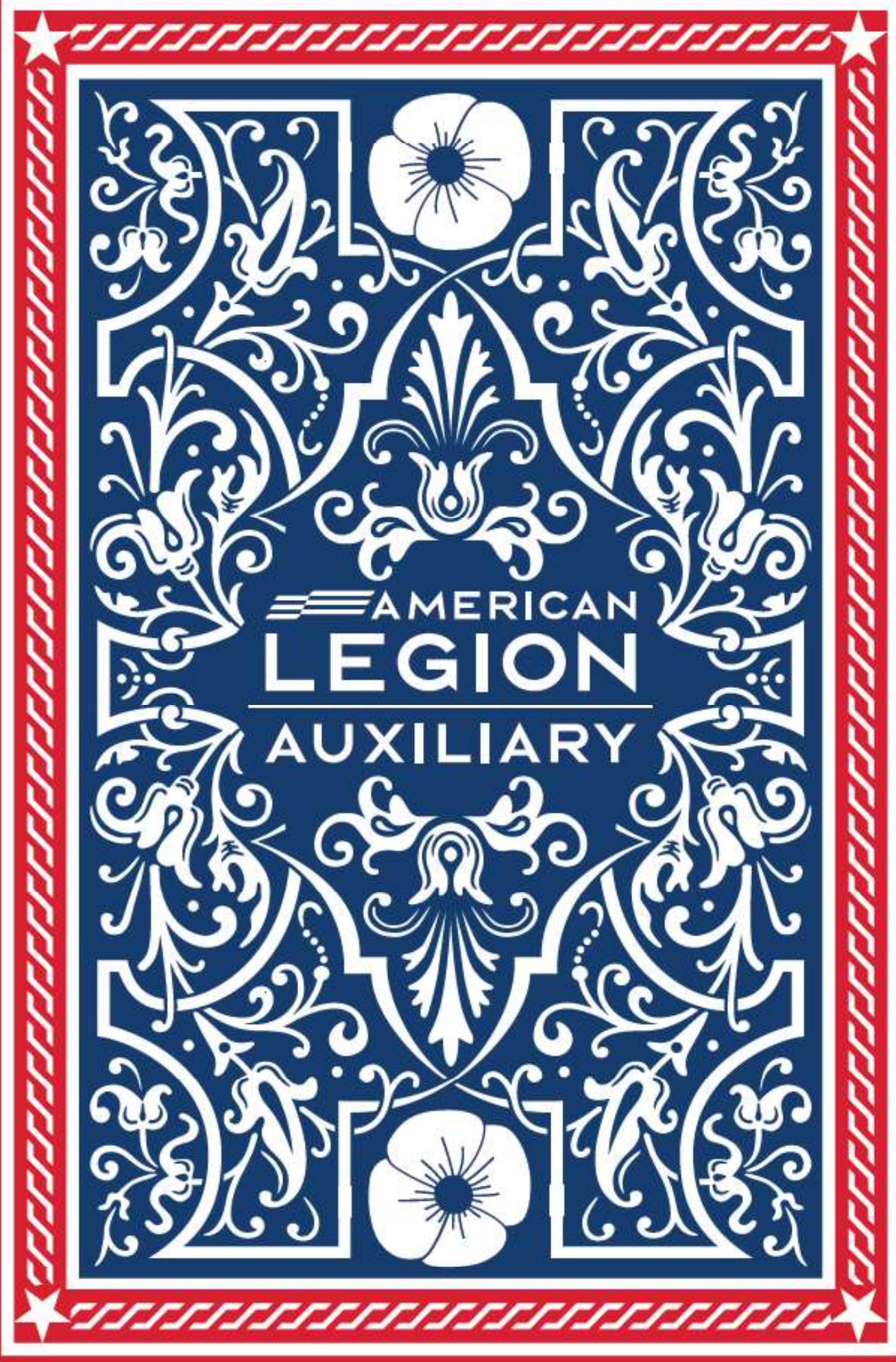
Take the Challenge **LEAD THE WAY**

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 commitment to donate \$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 commit your
donation





AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

The American Legion Oratorical season is upon us. Coordinate with your Posts to volunteer. Perhaps provide refreshments after the presentations for the contestants, volunteers and audience. Offer to serve as a timer or chaperone. Attend the various levels of the contest as an audience member. If you haven't done this before, you will be quite impressed with the knowledge and skills of these students. And you will certainly learn more about the Constitution.

Americanism Essay Reminder: Be sure to follow up with the schools you work with to pick up the essays. Make sure you follow the various deadlines in your Department, make sure your first-place winners are sent to your Division Chairman by April 15th. For details on the Americanism Essay Contest, visit <https://www.legion-aux.org/americanism-essay-contest> The Americanism Essay Contest was created to teach students the value of patriotism and what it means to be Americans. Thousands of students participate in the program each year and help promote a lifelong respect of our flag and country. Students (grades 3 to 12) explore the fundamental rights and freedoms we enjoy today. Each year's contest has a different theme; one student in each category per division is awarded a prize. There is a category for students with special needs. Current Essay Theme: "What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?" February: Americanism Month & Black History Month February 3rd – Four Chaplains Day February 4th – USO Birthday February 9th-15th – National Salute to Veteran Patients February 17th – Presidents Day February 19th – U.S. Coast Guard Birthday Upcoming Dates in February •Recognize Essay Contest winners with an award. •Contact your local news to attend the award ceremony. (make sure you get the parents' approval) Invite winners to read their entry at your Unit meeting.

Let's have some fun, try and do the word search below!

American Flag Word Search

L R Q W C I G M I D C G A G B D X T M R
T G E V O W X S I J R B Y M S Y J W C H
G X K N S H S E V Q M E B H E P Q P S Z
Y H S K N N J Z Z I B D H K U W O P T F
K J D K G A I D P G B P T T C N B R H H
T T P E U L B D N A E T I H W D E R I R
W F T D V O L D G L O R Y X Q J K L R K
Q Q B R R U J R E C U M F E I G T E T X
V J V U U Z S L S L S O N X A C A G E J
I K A T I N Q S S Z G H S Y S V P B E R
H O X S E P I R T S D N A S R A T S N S
S E E U H C Q O Y X O Q A W A D O L S D
N P Y I N W N L N B H R G P T H J D T G
F E K A T P C O S A X A Y V S Y S Q R T
D B R F C F M C B T B X M S Y R O A I P
F F X H M P B B L Z N Q S N T H A W P O
K I V E K Y H I I M B U U W F E I T E H
P V S G W V K Y S C V E P B I M B A S I
C E I F Y O Z Y N V M Q B V F Q K M G Y
S L H L W H A I C I Y S N L E O N Y R Q

- Betsy Ross
- Colors
- Fifty Stars
- Francis Scott Key
- Old Glory
- Red White and Blue
- Star Spangled Banner
- Stars and Stripes
- Thirteen Stripes
- Union



**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**

You're a Grand Old Flag Challenge

February 06, 1906 You're a Grand Old Flag was written by George Cohan, one of the most popular patriotic song.

Here is your "CHALLENGE"

The best overall creative video will receive a certificate from your National Americanism Committee Team and a special gift from your Chairman.

One winner from each Division

Include your - Name, Unit Number, Division, Department

All videos will be posted when received

Divisional Chairman will pick the "Best Overall Video" in their Division.

Winners will be announced March 30, 2025

Visual quality

"Make sure your video is clean" means to ensure that your video footage is visually clear, with no unnecessary distractions or blemishes, including things like background clutter, shaky camera movements, poor lighting, audio noise, or any visual elements that might detract from the main focus of the video.

Sharp focus: Ensure your subject is in focus throughout the video.

Proper lighting: Use adequate lighting to avoid excessive shadows or blown-out highlights.

Steady camera: Minimize camera shake by using a tripod or stabilization techniques.

Clean background: Keep the background clutter-free and relevant to the content.

Audio quality

Clear sound: Record audio with minimal background noise.

Proper microphone placement: Position the microphone close to the sound source for optimal audio capture.

Examples

Involve your Unit, District, Division, County, Department, The American Legion, SAL, Juniors, your local elementary (make sure you get permission from the parents to share the video) "Think out of the box".

Be Creative

2024 - 2025

Americanism Committee



Happy New Year Everyone!

Are you still actively searching for Youth Hero and Good Deed award prospects..... This time of year, kids are supporting many outdoor chores for others and might be a good time to reach out if you see something like this on Facebook or in the community. Listen up for those children at school that have supported their classmates and/or teachers on the playground as perhaps they may be doing a good deed, and we don't even know it. Let your educators know about the awards and they can be our advocates as well. Let's really do what we can to recognize and reward the positive actions of our children and youth.

There are so many ways to engage with children and youth in your communities! Our National Children and Youth Chair, Lisa Chaplin reaches out on the National Facebook page with invaluable information regarding this important program, which is one of the Pillars of the American Legion Family! Here are other ways our Legion family and community can engage: **Americanism Essay Contest, Poppy Poster Contest, promoting scholarships, ALA Girls State and TAL Boys state programs, American Legion Youth Shooting sports, The American Legion Oratorical Contest, American Legion Baseball.** Did you know that ½ of the Major league baseball players played Legion ball and 81 of the Baseball Hall of Fame members played Legion Ball! We just need to let the world know what we do and have to offer! It's pretty neat!

Ok, get those Piggy banks out and bring them along to your events so we can raise more money for the Child Well Being Foundation. Minnesota needs to do what we can in our Northwest Division to get more donations so we can increase the donation total as we are at \$665, and although not at the bottom, we are close to it, with Nebraska in the lead at \$2,180.46. I encourage you to reach out to your Legion Family and have a piggy bank or whatever creative bank/bucket, etc. to ask for donations this year.

No better time than the present to consider the upcoming Military Child Month and Purple it up in April, with April 15, 2025, the day we celebrate our military children! This is the time to get your Proclamations off to your city officials and make it official in your community and then BRAG about it around the community, Legion Posts and Units! Get your Purple ON in April!!! More information to come! Visit alaforveterans.org and ALA Facebook page and get inspired! Super good stuff!

Let's Revive and Thrive in 2025!!



Oh Boy! I have received a handful of phone calls wanting clarification on the essay contest, that the Education Chairman is promoting. So, in this newsletter I would like to start out by clarifying some information about the age/school group for the Essay entitled “If you could be the principle or a teacher for the day, what if anything would you change?” Originally, I said 3rd graders, however in talking to some teachers in my area they suggested 4th or 5th graders. So, I changed the information to 5th graders.

If you have already spoken to your schools and asked the 3rd graders to write this essay, that’s perfectly okay. They will be acknowledged and awarded for it was my mistake. If you haven’t reached out to your teachers yet, please go with the 5th graders! Ask the teachers if they would help promote the essay with their students, encouraging students to participate for they could win prizes. I would give the students a week (depending on when this mailing goes out, I would say the week of February 10th -February 14th, 2025 would be the week) to turn their essays into their teacher, then you the Unit Education Chairman pick the essays up from the (teacher). Please include student’s full name, grade they are in, and what District then mail them to me at Sharon Voltz-828 NE 1st Ave.-Grand Rapids, MN 55744. Please, I’m requesting that you do not email them to me, because I would like a hard copy. If you have any questions, please call-218-259-4711. All essays should be sent to me no later than February 21, 2025

As we all know, the deadline for scholarship applications is fast approaching. A couple reminders, check to see that all documents requested are included, such as transcripts, letters of recommendations, signatures, etc. We don’t want to disqualify any students if we don’t need to because we (Aux. Chairman) didn’t follow through. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this.

Reach out to schools and remind them about Box Tops for Education. Remember parents can do this online. Parents go to www.boxtops4education.com/s/gettheapp Follow the directions. Make sure your school is included in this program. It’s a great way to earn points for your school. Example of one store: When you connect your Box Tops and Walmart accounts, you can buy participating products at Walmart either in-store or online and earn for your school — no receipt scanning required.

One last note:

I hope you have been keeping track of the items that your Units have donated to “Give 10 to Education” and perhaps you are still collecting items-Great! Now is the time to check back with your schools for there has been a mess of sicknesses floating around and hospitals are full. They may need items such as Kleenex, hand sanitizers, Lysol wipes etc. Let’s help keep our children heathy.

Until next month, be safe with your travels and stay warm.



**Department of Minnesota
February 2025 Unit Mailing
Minnesota Girls State Chairman,
Wanda Prescher**

Your Girls State Committee continues to work on preparing for the upcoming 78th session of ALA MN Girls State, June 15-21, 2025, at Bethel University in Arden Hills, Mn.

We are working on a registration website where all the information that is needed for your citizen will be available to you. This program is being used by MN Boys State and Iowa Girls State with great success.

Unit chairmen need to start going to the schools and recruiting citizens as well as sending in their money for sponsoring their citizen(s). We would love to see our numbers go up this year and have more than 200. Since COVID the numbers have been down from 300 citizens. Charitable Gambling Funds may be used for the reservation fee only. If used, please make checks payable to: **American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.**

We will have available a new Girls State video by the end of this month for you to use however you want to use with recruiting.

To help answer some of the questions anyone should have, we will have 3 - Zoom Q&A sessions for interested District or Unit Chairman to address concerns or whatever help is needed.

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 @ 7 pm

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 @ 7pm

Wednesday, March 19, 2025 @ 7pm

If there is a session you are interested in, please email w.prescher1951@gmail.com and I will send you the appropriate Zoom link a day before.

The Girls State Brochure is available on our Department Website for you to print if needed.

Thank you, to all you do to help make Minnesota American Legion Girl State a success every year!

Wanda Prescher - Chairman
Peggy Tesdahl - Director
Amelia Tesdahl - Education
Renee Suess - Committee Member
Jen Stolz - Committee Member
Kollert Kaehlert - Americanism

When was the last time that you looked at the charter for your unit? Who is that charter signed by? Have you read your unit charter? What does it mean to you?

National President Trish Ward has asked for our help in a history initiative she has started this year. She is attempting to get a photo of a charter signed by each one of our Past National Presidents. She needs our assistance to accomplish this goal, and it is very simple. Take a photo of your unit charter and send it to me by email pjc3555@aol.com or text 763-354-8644. I will gather the photos all together and forward them to our National Historian Dara Oliver. Let's do our part in Minnesota and help our National President attain this fun goal. Your photo could wind up in the national archives!

Do you know this ALA member who had had an impact on the American Legion Auxiliary in Minnesota?

Eleanor (Ellie) Johnson



February 28, 1938 - November 12, 2009

Eleanor (Ellie) Johnson, a member of Unit #168 in White Bear Lake, served as the Executive Secretary for the Department of Minnesota for over 30 years. Ellie's impact on our ALA is immeasurable. She left her mark on the American Legion Auxiliary and everyone who had the pleasure of knowing her.

"Ellie was our "library" for the American Legion Auxiliary with her knowledge of the organization and its programs... We always will remember her "parts and costumes" at our Fall Conference pay offs ~ always a good sport, always entertaining." Kris Nelson, Past National President, Brainerd Unit #255

"She was known as a loyal and hard-working Department Secretary and one to whom anyone could turn in time of needing information." Joyce Babcock, Past NW Division National Vice President, Department of Montana

"Ellie leaves a legacy of caring commitment to the American Legion Auxiliary, having served as an officer for some 35 years in Minnesota as Department Secretary. Many in the ALA have been inspired by her passion and dedication to our mission. She will be missed by her peers and members throughout the organization." Dubbie Buckler, Past National Secretary, Department of Indiana

"Ellie was one super woman in her position as our secretary, we were very fortunate to have her for so long." Lou Ellen Christensen, Past 9th District President, Bagley Unit #16

"I had the pleasure of working with Ellie as her Table Facilitator at "A New Day is Dawning" event in Washington... She always greeted me with a smile..." Trish Ward 2024-2025 National President, Department of Kansas

Member-opoly Updates

January 31st was the last day to enter memberships to count towards the Unit 100% Goal Award. The Units that reached the 100% Goal will receive a 100% Flag Ribbon from National.

Members not renewed since 2022 will become FORMER members. Members not renewed since 2023 will become EXPIRED members.

- **REMINDER:** You must perform a rejoin activity to rejoin former members into your unit. Please be mindful of what Membership Year you are paying for.

As of Feb 1, 2025 dues must be paid before 2024 or prior back dues can be paid. This ensures members remain current.

District Standings as of 1/14/2025:

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
82.43%	81.95%	79.45%	78.94%	78.86%
District 6	District 1	District 9	District 3	District 2
6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
78.09%	74.55%	72.61%	68.50%	57.88%
District 7	District 10	District 8	District 4	District 5

I would like to thank all the District and Unit Chairmen and all the Unit Leadership for helping us get us to a point where ALL of our units have now sent in Membership.

Minnesota Standings at National Level as of 1/15/2025:

Minnesota was in 9th place in the Nation with 20,404 Members setting us at 78.43% of Goal.

Northwest Division is *ROCKING IT!! 78.43% the week 1/15/25*

South Dakota is still ahead of Minnesota this week by .54%. I have a health competition streak, and I am pretty sure even though we like AnnaMae and South Dakota we like the 1st place spot more. With a little push, we can be back in that 1st place spot and maintain it.

We are followed in Divisions by:

- Western Division – 76.45%
- Central Division – 76.38%
- Southern Division – 75.76%
- Eastern Division – 73.52%

UPCOMING DEPARTMENT GOALS

MN is at 78.43% as of 1/15/2025

- Feb 8, 2025 is our 80% Department Goal
- March 15, 2025 is the 85% Department Goal – (60 days as of this writing, Jan 14th)



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

2025 Membership as of 1/24/2025

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 1/22/24	Difference from Last Year
One	47	3,341	44	2,782	83.27%	2,845	-63
Two	70	3,444	16	2,732	79.33%	2,911	-179
Three	46	3,476	35	2,779	79.95%	2,871	-92
Four	7	508	16	364	71.65%	385	-21
Five	7	463	4	272	58.75%	240	32
Six	60	4,469	71	3,755	84.02%	3,793	-38
Seven	52	2,561	57	2,057	80.32%	2,197	-140
Eight	20	1,117	12	823	73.68%	899	-76
Nine	45	2,944	14	2,353	79.93%	2,447	-94
Ten	41	3,391	48	2,576	75.97%	2,715	-139
1982	1	331	2	230	69.49%	240	-10
Department Total	396	26,045	319	20,723	79.57%	21,543	-820
Group 1 (Even) <i>Linda Kelly</i>	198	12,929	163	10,250	79.28%	10,703	-453
Group 2 (Odd) <i>Robin Dorf</i>	197	12,785	154	10,243	80.12%	10,600	-357

RANKINGS

1st
84.02%
District 6



2nd
83.27%
District 1



3rd
80.32%
District 7



4th
79.95%
District 3



5th
79.93%
District 9



6th
79.33%
District 2



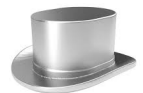
7th
75.97%
District 10

8th
73.68%
District 8

9th
71.65%
District 4



10th
58.75%
District 5



2026 UNIT DUES FORM

Please print neatly - forms not legible will be returned

I understand that the dues amount listed below will be printed on the 2026 Membership Renewal Notices that will be mailed to each Senior member of our Unit next September. Below is the address to be printed on each Renewal Notice showing where our members are to mail their dues for this Unit.

It is understood that no change in the dollar amount of dues or the address to which the dues are to be sent can be made after a deadline which Department Headquarters will establish based on the requirements of National Headquarters. **When determining your dues amount, please make sure that the amount charged is at least \$30.00 for Senior members and \$6.00 for Junior members amounts that are sent to the Department office.**

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA UNIT NUMBER _____ DISTRICT _____
UNIT LOCATION _____

2025 SENIOR DUES OF THE UNIT ARE
(Amount **each Senior** member pays to your Unit) \$ _____
Dues sent to Department per Senior = \$30.00

2025 JUNIOR DUES OF THE UNIT ARE
(Amount **each Junior** member pays to your Unit) \$ _____
Dues sent to Department per Junior = \$6.00

Name of individual in the Unit to receive membership dues Member Number

Address (Please be certain it is the current/correct address) Check Box if this is the Legion Post address.

City State Zip Code

(_____) _____
Area Code Telephone Number E-mail address

Name of Membership Chairman

Date Signature Title

EVERY UNIT MUST COMPLETE & RETURN THIS FORM EVEN IF THERE IS NO CHANGES

Return no later than March 15, 2025 to:

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

Forms are also on our website and completed forms may be emailed to: deptoffice@mnala.org

Did you know that there is a Facebook page for many of the American Legion Auxiliary programs? The National Security program is one of them. Please join the ALA National Security Facebook page to learn and receive many ideas for this program. You will find ideas of what other National Security Chairs in all divisions are utilizing.



Blood Drives are happening all over our state which is awesome! Please remember the reason/reasons that blood donations are needed. Many of our family, friends, and neighbors all over this nation are in need of blood. Remember to collect information about your Blood Drives for your end-of-the-year reports!



We all need to remember our First Responder's families that are left at home. Please think of them and focus on creative ways to let them know that we have not forgotten them while their loved ones are keeping us safe and out of danger. The First Responders in California and their families need our prayers and any assistance you may be able to give them. Many prayers are needed for all people who have lost everything in the fires.



Don't forget to start on your nominations for Salute to Service Members. Will the Department of Minnesota have nominations for all or any branches of our military? Do not wait to nominate E-1/E-9 military members for this honor. We would love to see a nomination for this award on stage at the National Convention as the recipient of a Salute to Service Member.

Because so many of us are having zoom meetings or other electric meetings I'm printing what I found in Roberts Rules of Order about these kinds of meetings. This is just a recap of the rules as the original that is going in the book is 11 pages long.

Sample Rules for Electronic Meetings

June 22, 2020

In light of the fact that many organizations are needing to conduct business using electronic meetings, due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the Robert's Rules Association and its publisher Hachette Book Group are making available Sample Rules for Electronic Meetings, which will be included as an appendix in the forthcoming *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 12th Edition*.

As noted in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised,* there is an increasing preference among some organizations to transact business at "electronic meetings," in which some or all of the members communicate through electronic means such as the Internet or by telephone. Regarding the proper authorization of such meetings, and their limitations, please refer to the subsection entitled Electronic Meetings [RONR (11th ed.), pp. 97–99], wherein it is stated that when electronic meetings are authorized—which, in the case of a board or other assembly, always requires a bylaw provision—additional rules should be adopted to govern their conduct. Depending on the nature of the rules and the specific provisions of the bylaws, such additional rules may be placed in the bylaws, adopted as special rules of order or standing rules, or contained in instructions from a superior body.

Sample Rules for Electronic Meetings

1. Login information. The Corresponding Secretary shall send by e-mail to every member of the Board, at least [time] before each meeting, the time of the meeting, the URL and codes necessary to connect to the Internet meeting service, and, as an alternative and backup to the audio connection included within the Internet service, the phone number and access code(s) the member needs to participate aurally by telephone. The Corresponding Secretary shall also include a copy of, or a link to, these rules.
2. Login time. The Recording Secretary shall schedule Internet meeting service availability to begin at least 15 minutes before the start of each meeting.
3. Signing in and out. Members shall identify themselves as required to sign in to the Internet meeting service and shall maintain Internet and audio access throughout the meeting whenever present but shall sign out upon any departure before adjournment.
4. Quorum calls. The presence of a quorum shall be established by audible roll call at the beginning of the meeting. Thereafter, the continued presence of a quorum shall be determined by the online list of participating members, unless any member demands a quorum count by audible roll call. Such a demand may be made following any vote for which the announced totals add to less than a quorum.
5. Technical requirements and malfunctions. Each member is responsible for his or her audio and Internet connections; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting.

6. Forced disconnections. The chair may cause or direct the disconnection or muting of a member's connection if it is causing undue interference with the meeting. The chair's decision to do so, which is subject to an undebatable appeal that can be made by any member, shall be announced during the meeting and recorded in the minutes.

7. Assignment of the floor. To seek recognition by the chair, a member shall ... [specifying the exact method appropriate to the Internet meeting service being used]. Upon assigning the floor to a member, the chair shall clear the online queue of members who have been seeking recognition.

8. Interrupting a member. A member who intends to make a motion or request that under the rules may interrupt a speaker shall use the designated feature] for so indicating and shall thereafter wait a reasonable time for the chair's instructions before attempting to interrupt the speaker by voice.

9. Motions submitted in writing. A member intending to make a main motion, to offer an amendment, or to propose instructions to a committee, shall, before or after being recognized, post the motion in writing to the online area designated by the Recording Secretary for this purpose,

10. Display of motions. The Recording Secretary shall designate an online area exclusively for the display of the immediately pending question and other relevant pending questions (such as the main motion, or the pertinent part of the main motion, when an amendment to it is immediately pending); and, to the extent feasible, the Recording Secretary, or any assistants appointed by him or her for this purpose, shall cause such questions, or any other documents that are currently before the meeting for action or information, to be displayed therein until disposed of.

11. Voting. Votes shall be taken by the anonymous voting feature of the Internet meeting service, unless a different method is ordered by the Board or required by the rules. When required or ordered, other permissible methods of voting are by electronic roll call or by audible roll call. Business may also be conducted by unanimous consent.

12. Video display. [For groups using video, but in which the number of participants is too large for all to be displayed simultaneously:] The chair, the Recording Secretary, or their assistants shall cause a video of the chair to be displayed throughout the meeting, and shall also cause display of the video of the member currently recognized to speak or report

I hope that everyone had a great Holiday Season with family and friends.

At Fall conference I read the answer to “Flander’s Field”, I forgot to put it in the November newsletter so here it is. I know a lot of you have read this, but I had not, so I thought it was important to put it in.

The Answer –
In Flanders Field the cannon boom
And fitful flashes light the gloom;
While up above, like Eagles, fly
The fierce destroyers of the sky;
With stains the earth wherein you lie
Is redder than the poppy bloom
In Flanders Field.

Sleep on ye brave! The shrieking shell,
The quaking trench, the startling yell,
The fury of the battle hell
Shall wake you not; for all is well.

Sleep peacefully, for all is well.
Your flaming torch aloft we bear,
With burning heart an oath we swear
To keep the faith to fight it through
To crush the foe, or sleep with you
In Flanders Field.

There have been some phone calls to the office to ask about due dates for the poppy poster contest.

Units must have their WINNERS ONLY from each class to their District chairmen by April 15th, 2025.

District chairman must have their WINNERS ONLY from each class to me by April 30th, 2025.

I decided that the timeline that is used for reports is the best way to go on due date for Poppy posters. If for some reason you are finding it hard to meet these deadlines, please get in touch with me and we will talk about it.

I have included the poppy poster contest rules. The cover sheet can be found on the website along with the rules, www.alaforveterans.org then look for poppy information.

Poppy Poster Contest Rules

Units shall sponsor contests in local schools. When schools do not conduct activities, other youth groups – including Junior members – may participate under direct supervision of the unit.

Contest Classes

- ❖ Class I: Grades 2nd and 3rd
- ❖ Class II: Grades 4th and 5th
- ❖ Class III: Grades 6th and 7th
- ❖ Class IV: Grades 8th and 9th
- ❖ Class V: Grades 10th and 11th
- ❖ Class VI: Grade 12th
- ❖ Class VII: Students with special needs defined as:
 - Those in special education classes.
 - A student recommended for special education classes but who has not been admitted due to a waiting list or various other factors.
 - A child identified as having a disability, but not in a special education class due to lack of facilities, identification contingent upon discretion of school officials.

Poppy Poster Requirements

1. Each poster shall have a fitting slogan not to exceed 10 words. Articles “a”, “and” “an”, “the” are not to be counted as words. The words “buddy” and “buy” cannot be used.
2. The words “American Legion Auxiliary” must be used in the design of the poster and will not be counted in the 10-word count.
3. Each poster must include a red poppy.
4. The department shall determine the closing date of the unit contest. The poster shall be on an 11x14 poster board. (Drawing paper will not be accepted).
5. The United States flag may be used as long as there are no infractions of the flag code.
6. Posters will be judged using the following criteria:
 - a. 50% poster appeal (layout, message, originality)
 - b. 40% artistic ability (design and color)
 - c. 10% neatness
7. Media used shall be watercolors, crayons, powder or oil paint, handmade paper cutouts, ink or textures, acrylics, pencils, and markers.
8. Written in ink on the back of the poster (not attached) shall be the class in which the entry is submitted, the name, address, age, and grade of the contestant and the name of the department.
9. Submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary. Through submission of artwork, contestants and their legal guardians grant non-exclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted and agree to have their names, and artwork published for commercial use without additional compensation or permission.
10. The poster shall be the work of only one individual.
11. The label “In Memoriam” from the veteran-made poppy may not be used.

Poppy Poster Contest Judging and Awards

1. Each department shall establish its own procedure for judging.
2. A citation will be given for the most outstanding poster in each classification within the five divisions.
3. Unit members should follow deadlines and process for the department. All department entries are due to the division chairman by June 1st.
4. While ALA representatives will do their best to return all posters, it is not guaranteed. We recommend participants take a picture or scan their poster for their records.
5. Submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary. Through submission of artwork, contestants and their legal guardians grant nonexclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted and agree to have their names and artwork published for commercial use without additional compensation or permission.

A huge THANK YOU to all the Units (districts) that have made and are still making Poppies!

The Department is still very short. Keep this in mind if you ordered your Poppies after December 1st, which was the deadline, you will not receive your poppy order until all orders that were at the Department Office on or prior to the deadline. As of the writing of this Unit Mailing, the Department is nearly 30,000 Poppies short. The Department staff is working to secure Poppies from other Departments. If a Unit would like to make their own Poppies, please, contact the Department Office.



Department of Minnesota
February 2025 Unit Mailing
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman
Robin Dorf

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give".
Winston Churchill

What is the American Legion Auxiliary Hospital Program? The money received to this fund allows our volunteer home and hospital representatives to provide clothing, personal care items, special outings, events, treats, cards and much more for all the veterans. Each home and hospital have different needs and our representatives know their veterans needs.

What is the overall Minnesota Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program money used for? This money supports all activities we do in the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program.

What is the \$5 Bill Shower? This is a project that we do for our veteran's home and hospitals. We provide each veteran \$5.00 in cash or to their canteen account. This year we are excited to announce that each veteran received \$10.00 because of the generous grant from the Minnesota Veterans 4 Veterans Trust Fund. Usually this happens in December, but it was decided at the representative meeting to break the holidays up for our veterans and deliver for Valentines Day.

Who can donate to our programs? Everyone!

PLEASE donate through the department office – do not send your donations directly to the hospital or homes. Poppy funds and charitable gambling funds are allowed for all three programs.

Donation from charitable gambling funds? You need to use the gambling donation form and check made out to the ALA Foundation. We are unable to process if not made out to the ALA Foundation and the check would be delayed and sent back to you.

Donation from your post, unit, SAL, or ALR? Or Personal donation? You will need to use the non-gambling funds donation form and check made out to American Legion Auxiliary.

Memorial donation? You will need to use the memorial donation form and check made out to the American Legion Auxiliary. Make sure to note who the donation is in memory of and who should receive the notification of donation.

All donation forms are available at MNALA.org under the forms tab.

silent auction

Silent Auction at the 2025 Department American Legion Auxiliary Convention to Benefit our Veterans in our Veteran's Homes and VA Health Care Systems through our VA&R Program

How can you help with this event? You can bring items; you can purchase, or you can make a cash donation!

A flyer will be in next month's unit mailing, but you can start now!



Thank you to Minneapolis VAHCS representative Janet Thompson for sharing this great news me!

The National Veterans Wheelchair games will be held in Minnesota this year.

Interested in volunteering?
Email - NVWGvolunteers@va.gov

Let me know if you are volunteering so we can keep track of our members helping.

It is not too early to start tracking your donations and volunteer hours for your annual report. The VA&R program is a large program, and we want to make sure you don't miss all the wonderful work you do for our veterans.



VETERANS DAY ON THE HILL 2025

**WHEN:
APRIL 9TH, 2025**

**DAV of MN Presents:
Free Veterans and Supporters Lunch**
(One Block from Capitol at 600 Cedar Street, St. Paul)

Doors Open @ 10:00AM FOR COFFEE

LUNCH PROVIDED

PRESENTATION @ 12:00PM

Veterans March to the Rally @ 1:00pm

(Short Walk from Armory to State Veterans Service Building 20 West
12th St, St. Paul)

**CTF and MACVSO Present:
Rally in the Rotunda 1:30-2:30pm**



**ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT-
TRENT@DAVMN.ORG:**

**NO MEMBERSHIP IN
ANY ORGANIZATION
REQUIRED.
ALL SUPPORTERS ARE
WELCOME!**



Topics Include:

PASSING A CLEAN
VETERANS OMNIBUS
BILL

INCREASING THE
AMOUNT OF THE
PROPERTY TAX VALUE
EXCLUSION

REDUCED COST
HUNTING AND FISHING
LICENSE FOR DISABLED
VETERAN

Meet Your Lawmaker!!

A MINIBUS RUNNING
FROM THE ARMORY TO
THE CENTENNIAL AND
SENATE OFFICE
BUILDINGS 10-1130.

MAKE YOUR
APPOINTMENTS TO SEE
YOUR LAWMAKERS!



DAV
OF MINNESOTA
**BENEFITS
PROTECTION**





February – Black History Month & Americanism Month

Feb. 2 – Groundhog Day

Feb. 3 – Four Chaplains Day

Feb. 8 – Sweetheart Rally Forest Lake Post #225 11:00am Turn-in

Feb. 17 – Presidents Day (office closed)

Feb. 25-28 – Washington Conference

March – Women's History Month & Community Service Month

Mar. 8 – ALA Department of Minnesota DEC Meeting 8:30am, doors open at 8am
Chanhassen Rec Center

2310 Coulter Blvd

Chanhassen, MN 55317

Mar. 8 – Appreciation Rally - Chanhassen American Legion Post #580 - 11am Social, 12pm
Lunch, Program to Follow

Mar. 9 – Daylight Savings Starts

Mar. 15 – Unit Due Forms due to the Department Office

Mar. 31 – Girls State Reservations due to Department Office

April – National Volunteer Month & Children and Youth Month

Apr. 11-12 – Department Junior Conference, Anoka Post 102

Apr. 15 – Annual Reports Due to District Chairman

Apr. 18 – Good Friday (office closed)

Apr. 20 – Easter

American Legion Family Day

American Legion Family Day is Saturday, April 27. On this date, American Legion posts throughout the nation are encouraged open their doors to their members and the members of their local communities with the intent of celebrating all great deeds and works of The American Legion Family with the intent to educate, recruit, recognize, and to give back to those members who continually support the gift of giving. The day should also place special emphasis and awareness on the Legion's "Be The One" program.

HOLD THE DATE

Department Convention July 10-12, Willmar, MN
Look for more information coming in the April Unit Mailing



Department of Minnesota
February 2025 Unit Mailing
Department Treasurer, Shannon Brown



Script Card Fundraiser

Available @ the Department Office

\$25 Each

- Visa.....108 Available
- Barnes & Noble.....1 Available
- Walmart5 Available
- Lands' End.....6 Available
- Target.....24 Available
- Cub Foods.....14 Available
- Kwik Trip.....39 Available
- Amazon.....23 Available
- Best Buy20 Available

We have 240 cards in the department office for a total value of \$6,000. We need to sell these cards to get that money back into the program budget. Anyone can order them from the department office, members, friends, relatives etc. Please help us sell these cards. There will be a \$1 postage fee. There is an option to pay for your order via debit or credit card online with a \$1 fee. Once you place your order, I will generate an invoice and email it to you with a link for payment. You can also mail a check to the department office.

Here are the options for placing an order:

Email: shannon@mnala.org

Phone: 651-224-7634

Mail to:

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Minnesota
20 - 12th St. W. Room 314
St. Paul, MN 55155

2024-25 Gambling Donations

Minnesota Girl's State Week

It's that time of year again, "GIRLS STATE WEEK". I'd like to take this opportunity to talk about DONATIONS BEING MADE WITH GAMBLING FUNDS. All gambling checks **MUST** be made out to the AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION and mailed into the department office for processing. This process can take up to 8 weeks before the funds are made available for use. When enough gambling donations have been collected, we are required to write a grant detailing what the donation is for and how much. Then the grant and the checks are submitted to the ALA Foundation for approval and funding. As stated earlier, this process can take up to 8 weeks providing the grant is submitted perfectly. All the "I's" are dotted and the "T's" are crossed. It is unfortunate that this can take such a long time, but we are governed by statute and must follow the letter of the law. We would like to see all gambling donations for girl's state in the department office by **May 15th**. This ensures that the grant can be written, submitted, approved and finally funded to be used for this year's program.

If you can all be so kind as to share this information with your posts, the department office would greatly appreciate it. The American Legions have been so generous with this program in the past, I would hate to have them miss out of any information that is published about it.