

**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Minnesota**

**2024-2025**

**Department President  
Judy Ackerman**

**March 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



Spring is right around the corner. Happy Birthday to the American Legion.

March is Community Service month. What are your plans for your community? Please share your ideas with the District and Department Community Service chairmen. We want to be able to toot your horn in the annual reports as to what you have done and will be doing.

Unfortunately, the weather forecast did not cooperate for the Sweetheart Rally. It's better to be safe and cancel than to have someone have an accident trying to get to or home from the rally. Membership is high on the priority list. Please help Membership Chairman Hope and the 10 District membership chairmen to help the Department to reach the 85% goal by March 15. As of February 12, Minnesota was at 81.64%. We only need 875 members to attain this milestone. We can do it. Please send in your memberships right away. Bring your memberships to the Appreciation rally on March 8 in Chanhassen. It would be fantastic if Membership Chairman Hope can announce that we have achieved 85%. This milestone will help the Department of Minnesota be recognized at National Convention with the Department Merit Medallion Recognition. This is our biggest hurdle for this recognition. We are so close. Chairman Hope and I are counting on you to help us achieve this recognition.

Thank you to the American Legion family and individuals for donations to the Department President's project. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you also for the invitations to visit your units.

Midwinters are over and I am hoping that you were able to attend your District's Midwinter and learn some new information.

I am sending a huge SHOUT OUT to the Montgomery Post 79 Legionnaires for their hospitality on February 13. They were excellent hosts to their Auxiliary unit members. It was so fun to be waited on and served by the Legionnaires. This is an annual event for them. Appetizers, beverages, meal, dessert, and door prizes. It was a great time. Thank you so much.

Annual Report time is approaching fast. I hope that your unit has been keeping track of what your unit has done this past year. Please send in your reports and pictures so we can share what the Department of Minnesota has done. We want to be able to show your good deeds on the big screen at Department Convention.

**Judy Ackerman  
Department President**

  
**AMERICAN  
LEGION**  
**AUXILIARY  
FOUNDATION**

# *Celebrating Women of Service*

International Women's Day is March 8. Support the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation by donating to the Celebrating Women of Service campaign in honor of a woman who inspires you. A tribute donation offers you a thoughtful way to celebrate a special person while contributing to the ALA Foundation's mission to positively impact the lives of veterans, military, and their families by funding ALA programs.

Honor their service today by scanning the QR code, texting **WOMAN** to 1-844-940-3450, or mailing a check to the ALA Foundation at 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

Scan here  
to make  
a gift:



# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_**



We might be making up for lost time with our winter this year, relative to the temperature! I trust you are all staying warm with the frigid fun in the sun here in Minnesnowta. Thankfully we are on the home stretch. Have you been able to realize CWF donations so we can take it home for the Northwestern Division this year, our state is in the lead at the time this communication was written at \$2,673.50!

Congratulations to Unit 96 recognizing the effort and good deed of the Middle School Youth group at Christ the King church. They packed bags for the county weekend Food Program. Nice work! How are the rest of you doing with your search for Good Deed and Youth hero awards?

Keep up the search to recognize at least one individual for their selfless acts of service and acts of bravery/valor. Remember that you need to submit applications *online* for consideration! Go to the ALA Academy to learn about the "Youth Hero Award". Watch your local news, Facebook, and even your schools for these kids doing amazing things in their communities!

April is the month of the Military Child so let's get our Purple on and celebrate them. Purple Up!

If you haven't already, don't forget to Make April 15<sup>th</sup> Purple up day for military kids! Be sure to make a proclamation request if you haven't already with your city official/mayor.

*Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy Blue!*

Don't forget to join/visit the ALA Children and Youth Facebook page, so you don't miss out as the information shared is invaluable.

[ALA Children & Youth | Facebook](#)

Start gathering the information for your annual reports and if you have any questions reach out to your unit president or district children and youth chairman.

It has been an honor to support you this year and super proud of what is happening around the districts! Thank you for inspiring the leaders of tomorrow!





## CONSTITUTION & STANDING RULES

Marsha Bible – Department Chairman  
5602 West Oakes Drive – St. Cloud, MN 56303  
(320) 492-8977 [marsha.bible@gmail.com](mailto:marsha.bible@gmail.com)

**March, 2025**

### **TOPIC #4 – What is the process for submitting a resolution to your District or the ALA Department of Minnesota for consideration?**

Have you often wondered how you or your unit can help to make a change in the constitution, bylaws and standing rules of your district or the Department of Minnesota? These governing documents are not “written in stone” and can be amended or deleted or have additions. Units, districts and departments are encouraged to review their documents annually. In our units, motion serves the same purpose.

There are two ways that members, units or committees can present suggested changes. Our national organization has transitioned to method #2 (Amendment form) but Minnesota **will accept either format**. It is recommended that if the resolution is intended to make a change on the national level that method #2 be used.

1. A Resolution – (see the attached resolution template)

The guidelines for preparing the resolution using the template are shown on the sample template. It is important that the first word begins with a capital letter and uses the punctuation as noted. Make sure that the submitted by, subject and date are completed. The voting body (district or department) resolution chairman completes the routing information.

2. Amendment Format – (see attached 3 column motion form for proposing amendments to governing documents.)

This format simplifies the process of presenting a motion by putting the reasoning behind the motion in plain language in the ***Rationale*** section at the bottom of the form. These are prepared in advance and made available for members to view either by mail or on the department website.

Here is what goes in each of the three columns.

**Column 1:** The precise wording of the existing bylaw or rule. If none currently exists, this is left blank.

**Column 2:** The proposed change beginning with “amend by striking out” or “amend by adding” or “amend by striking out and inserting.” Then include the existing bylaw or rule with the new words to insert in **bold** and words to be deleted with a line struck through them. If it’s a completely new rule, the entire rule would be bold.

**Column 3:** How the bylaw or rule will read if the amendment passes.

Below the three column table, a rationale statement explains the need for the change being presented.

**What’s the big deal?** The words used in governing documents have precise legal meanings. If your documents say “shall,” then it means that whatever it is, it **must** happen and it must **always** happen. If an action of the organization is challenged in court, the court will look at the organization’s governing documents to see if they have been followed. So, governing documents not only explain how the organization will function and govern itself, they have a direct impact on the rights of its members. The national organization engages a professional registered parliamentarian from the National Association of Parliamentarians to review proposed amendments for clarity and consistency with our governing documents. Engaging a professional parliamentarian can save an organization a lot of time and help protect the rights of members. Is there a timeline for submitting resolutions/amendments? This answer depends on whether the proposal will be presented to the district or department for consideration. It is recommended that a resolution be submitted to the district first. This gives more members the opportunity to know about the proposal and to understand its purpose prior to a department convention. Proposed resolutions/amendments should be submitted to both the District President and District Secretary at least 30 days prior to the district convention or as your district rules dictate. Proposals that would be submitted to make changes at the national level come from a department and must be approved by department convention action.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me (info at top of page) or Department Parliamentarian Raleen Tolzman at [raleen44aux@gmail.com](mailto:raleen44aux@gmail.com) or (507) 317-3240.

Much of this information was found on our national website <https://membership.legion-aux.org/member/committees/constitution/governing-documents>. Check out this site for more detailed information.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
RESOLUTION

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SUBMITTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

---

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Assigned by Resolutions Committee)*

*Whereas,* First word starts with a capital; and

*Whereas,* First word starts with a capital; and

*Whereas,* First word starts with a capital; and

*Whereas,* First word starts with a capital; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved,** First word starts with a capital; and be it further

**Resolved,** First word starts with a capital and sentence ends with a period.

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**Routing:**

*Committee Chair Name and Signature*

_____	Recommend <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Recommend <input type="checkbox"/>	Recommend with Amendment <input type="checkbox"/>
_____	Recommend <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Recommend <input type="checkbox"/>	Recommend with Amendment <input type="checkbox"/>
_____	Recommend <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Recommend <input type="checkbox"/>	Recommend with Amendment <input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed Amendment to *[location in Constitution/Bylaws/Standing Rules goes here]*

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
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<i>Location in Constitution/Bylaws/Standing Rule</i>	Amend by <i>Location in Constitution/Bylaws/Standing Rule</i>	<i>Location in Constitution/Bylaws/Standing Rule</i>
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Proposed by:

Rationale:





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

**Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary Girls State 2025 is soon approaching!  
June 15-21,2025 at Bethel University in Arden**

Our new Girls State video and informational letter about Girls State went to ALL Minnesota High Schools and your Units. We have had some great responses from schools who have not sent a student for a while, as well as wanting to know more about our program and asking for a presentation.

We are truly in the age of electronic media, knowing this had been seen instead of a letter going in the trashcan. Please use the video to help with your recruiting, post on your social media if you have. You will need to send in your reservation and money for the student(s) your unit is looking to sponsor. We only need your reservation(s). Remember you do NOT need to provide any names at this time. **Deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

If funding is an issue, please ask your Post or Gambling if they possibly could help with sponsoring.

In an effort to answer questions some of you may have, we have set up 2 Zoom Q&A sessions for interested District and Unit Girls State Chairman to have your questions and concerns addressed.

Sessions: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 7pm  
Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 7pm.

If you are interested in either session, please email me: [w.prescher1951@gmail.com](mailto:w.prescher1951@gmail.com) or Christie at the department office. A link will be sent to you a day before the sessions.

Thank you for the support of the gift card program and the quilt raffle to help benefit the Girls State program. Both will be available at the Appreciation Rally on March 8<sup>th</sup> in Chanhassen. The drawing for the quilt will be then. Gift Cards will be available.

Thank you to all our units and members for your support for our MN ALA Girls State Program! Please contact anyone of us with questions you may have.

**Committee:**

Chairman: Wanda Prescher	<a href="mailto:w.prescher1951@gmail.com">w.prescher1951@gmail.com</a>	507-254-0304
Director: Peggy Tesdahl	<a href="mailto:ranpegt0814@hotmail.com">ranpegt0814@hotmail.com</a>	612-715-4489
Education: Amelia Tesdahl	<a href="mailto:ametes2014@hotmail.com">ametes2014@hotmail.com</a>	763-753-8247
Committee Member: Renee Suess	<a href="mailto:rsuess3@gmail.com">rsuess3@gmail.com</a>	763-300-2226
Committee Member: Jen Stolz	<a href="mailto:jstolz.de@gmail.com">jstolz.de@gmail.com</a>	763-234-1198
Americanism Chairman: Kollette Kaehlert	<a href="mailto:kkaehlertaux@gmail.com">kkaehlertaux@gmail.com</a>	612-327-4579



The month of March is dedicated to the celebration of women's history. It corresponds with International Women's Day on March 8th. Our Auxiliary members have accomplished a great deal all around the world. Now it's time to celebrate what makes them so special!

What can we do?

- Learn more about Auxiliary members who made history within your department or unit. This could include girls sponsored to ALA Girls State who have gone on to do great things or those members who have improved their communities, state or country.
- Celebrate the women in your life – mom, grandma, even your sister.
- Donate money to the ALA Cavalcade of Memories budget at the unit, department, or national level in honor of a special woman.
- Set up a display in honor of those members who have gone above and beyond the ALA's mission.
- Write an article for your unit/department newsletter about Women's History Month or about the woman you are honoring.
- Check out how women's fashion has changed over time in the Auxiliary, as well as women's hair fashion. There has been a great deal of change from 1919 to today!
- Research and write about how the former and present members make a difference in the community and share with others.
- Put up a display at your local library, historical society, or storefront, celebrating the work that the women of the ALA have done and still do every day.

Remember – these activities can be shared with the Junior members. Honoring our members provides them with a role model. Sharing our history with our Junior members allows them to know that they, too, are valuable members of this great organization. Hopefully, they will begin to own this history and remain members throughout their lifetimes.

These are the Past National Presidents from Minnesota who have made history for our Department and the National organization. See if you can find out additional information about each one of them and share it with your members.



**1934-1935**  
**Mrs. Albin Charles Carlson**  
**(Tess)**

**1947-1948**  
**Mrs. Lee W. Hutton**  
**(Ruth)**



**1986-1987**  
**Evelyn Starr**

**2011-2012**  
**Kris Nelson**

# PLAQUES AND AWARDS 2024-2025 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Update 2/2025

All entries are to be sent to the Department Junior Activities Chairman  
Jean Walker 426 E Ross Avenue Warren MN 56762  
jmwalker1992@hotmail.com

## **Starr Lauck Americanism Award**

- **Award Criteria:** To the Junior group reporting the best constructed and well-rounded Americanism program for this year.
- **Award Guidelines:** The entry is to be typewritten in narrative form and not to exceed 1,000 words include a copy of your Junior Activities annual report, use the Department Award sheet, and clearly identify the award name for the entry as this is a separate entry form from your annual report.
- **Award:** A plaque presented at the Department Convention.

## **Cederberg and Langenbrunner Community Service Plaque**

- **Award Criteria:** For the best all-around Junior Program in Community Service.
- **Award Guidelines:** Submit a narrative and include a copy of your Junior Activities annual report. Use the Department Award sheet and clearly identify the award name as the entry is a separate entry from your annual report.
- **Award:** A plaque presented at the Department Convention.

## **Miller Outstanding Junior Member Plaque**

- **Award Criteria:** To an individual Junior member for her outstanding contributions to the Junior Activities program or Junior project for this year.
- **Award Guideline:** The Junior group should choose their Junior Member of the Year according to the following guidelines.
  1. Each unit is limited to one nomination.
  2. Nominations are limited to Junior members in good standing for 2024-2025.
  3. Selection should be based on the outstanding contribution the Junior has made through a program or project other than the office she is holding for the current administrative year.
  4. Length of membership is not part of the criteria.
  5. The Junior nominee will be selected by her Junior group with the assistance of the Unit Junior Activities Chairman.
  6. Each Junior group will submit to the Department Junior Activities Chairman the following information:
    - a) Name, complete address, and email of nominee.
    - b) Narrative typed double space, not to exceed 500 words, describing nominee's accomplishments during the current administrative year.
    - c) Nomination must be signed by the Unit Junior Activities Chairman and the Unit Honorary Junior President.

7. The winner will be forwarded to National for the Junior Member of the Year Award.
8. If there are no entries, the Department Junior Activities Chairman will choose an award recipient. If awarded in this manner, the Juniors' name will not be forwarded to National for competition.

### **Poppy Contests: These are awarded at the Department Junior Conference**

- There is no limit to the number of entries per unit for the contests.
- Only one entry per Junior per contest.
- All entries must include large, small or a combination of poppies.
- All white tags must be removed from the poppies.
- All entries must be at the Department Conference by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 12, 2025. for judging.
- All entries must have an envelope attached with the contest name and class number on the envelope and the Junior's name, Unit number, location, and District number on a card inside the envelope.

#### **Classes for each Contest:**

Class I	Ages 6 & under
Class II	Ages 7 – 12
Class III	Ages 13 -18

#### **Award:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place \$10.00 cash award and certificate in each class.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$5.00 cash award and certificate in each class.

#### **1. Poppy Jewelry/Accessories Contest**

To the Junior member in each class with the best Poppy Jewelry/Accessory using Honorary Department Junior President Terianna's theme ***"We love our Veterans to the Moon and Back"*** using the star and the moon



#### **2. Poppy Corsage/Boutonniere Contest**

To the Junior member in each class with the best Poppy corsage or boutonniere using Honorary Department Junior President Terianna's theme ***"We love our Veterans to the Moon and Back"*** Her symbol is a star and the moon.

#### **3. Poppy Memorial Day Wreath**

To the Junior member in each class with the best Poppy Memorial Day Wreath with the poppy as the focus of the wreath.

## **National Junior Activities Awards Information**

### **Member Award: Junior Member of the Year**

- One National JMOY will win a \$5,000 scholarship and a trip to the ALA's National Convention.
- Four Division JMOY winners will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.
- Juniors must be at least in eighth or eighth-grade equivalent and may win only once.
- Juniors may be nominated by any member, Unit or Department.
- Nominees must have been a Junior at the start of the current ALA administrative year.
- Narrative should detail the Junior nominee's ALA participation and activities during the past year. Document with high-resolution photographs, screenshots, and other evidence of Junior's ALA participation and activities.
- All entries must be submitted via electronic form by 5:00 p.m. EST on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Note: You will receive confirmation when your award is submitted.

**National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>**

### **Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Junior Activities Program (One Per Division)**

- Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words that includes specific examples of how the unit involved Junior members as part of their Unit's programs.
- Should include high-resolution action photos, scans/links to news articles, etc.
- All Unit entries must be submitted by the Department Chairman via electronic form by 5:00 p.m. EST on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Note: You will receive confirmation when your award is submitted.

**National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>**

### **Department Award: Best Department Junior Activities Program (One Per Division)**

- Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words that includes examples of how the Department Chair shared information with Departments about the Junior Activities program: may include the Department Chair's report. Include action photos, scans/links to news articles, etc.
- All Department entries must be submitted by the Department Chairman via electronic form by 5:00 p.m. EST on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Note: You will receive confirmation when your award is submitted.

**National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux-.org/National-Awards-Form>**



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

## ***Leadership***

***March 2025***

**Questions** have been sent regarding Unit Member of the Year.

Submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Plaques & Awards State:**

#### **UNIT MEMBER OF THE YEAR**

Award: A plaque to Minnesota's Unit Member of the year. The winner will also receive \$800.00 towards expenses to the National Convention should she wish to attend.

Award Criteria: To an individual who is very special, hardworking, dedicated Auxiliary member who goes above and beyond the call of duty, however, has no desire to serve in any office beyond the Unit level. She may have worked behind the scenes and was there to further the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Award Guidelines:

- Each Unit is limited to one nomination.
- Only Senior members in good standing are eligible.
- Current membership dues must be paid.
- The member cannot have obtained an elected or appointed leadership role higher than Unit President.
- Selection is based on accomplishments, activities, etc. for the current administrative year.
- Years of membership are not a part of the criteria; the nominee may be a new member.
- Unit must submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less describing the nominee's accomplishments and activities together with the nominee's name, address, and telephone number. The Unit Secretary and President must sign the entry, unless the nominee is one of them in which case, a Past Unit President must sign the entry.



**Department of Minnesota  
March 2025 Unit Mailing  
Legislation Chairman, Linda Kelly**

Our Minnesota American Legion is actively working with legislators to support bills that benefit our veterans. As members of the American Legion Auxiliary, we can support them in their endeavors by contacting our legislators. This is important. They are YOUR legislators, and they need to listen to you.

I have provided information in prior unit mailings on how this works. It's simple and easy for you to send an e-mail to your legislators. All the work is done for you. PLEASE, take advantage of this service.

Things are happening at the Capital. The American Legion is asking legislators to support bills that will provide tax relief for our posts, increase the percentage of their gambling revenue that can be used for capital repairs to their ageing buildings, increase the annual cap that can be used for meals recognizing veterans, approve a sports gambling bill, create a Jewish car license, increase funding to address food insecurity for our veterans throughout the state, give 501 (C)(4) and 501(C)(19) access to the same nonprofit property tax exemptions provided to 501(C)(3) nonprofits, return the criminal penalties to those that take advantage of our veterans and their claims.

There are also a few bills that hopefully will be brought up by our Federal legislators. By the time you receive this unit mailing, I will have joined our American Legion in Washington, D.C. to visit with our legislators. I will provide more information next month.

**BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>:**

**VETERANS ON THE HILL**

**This is a great event, and I hope many of you will be able to attend.**



# 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!

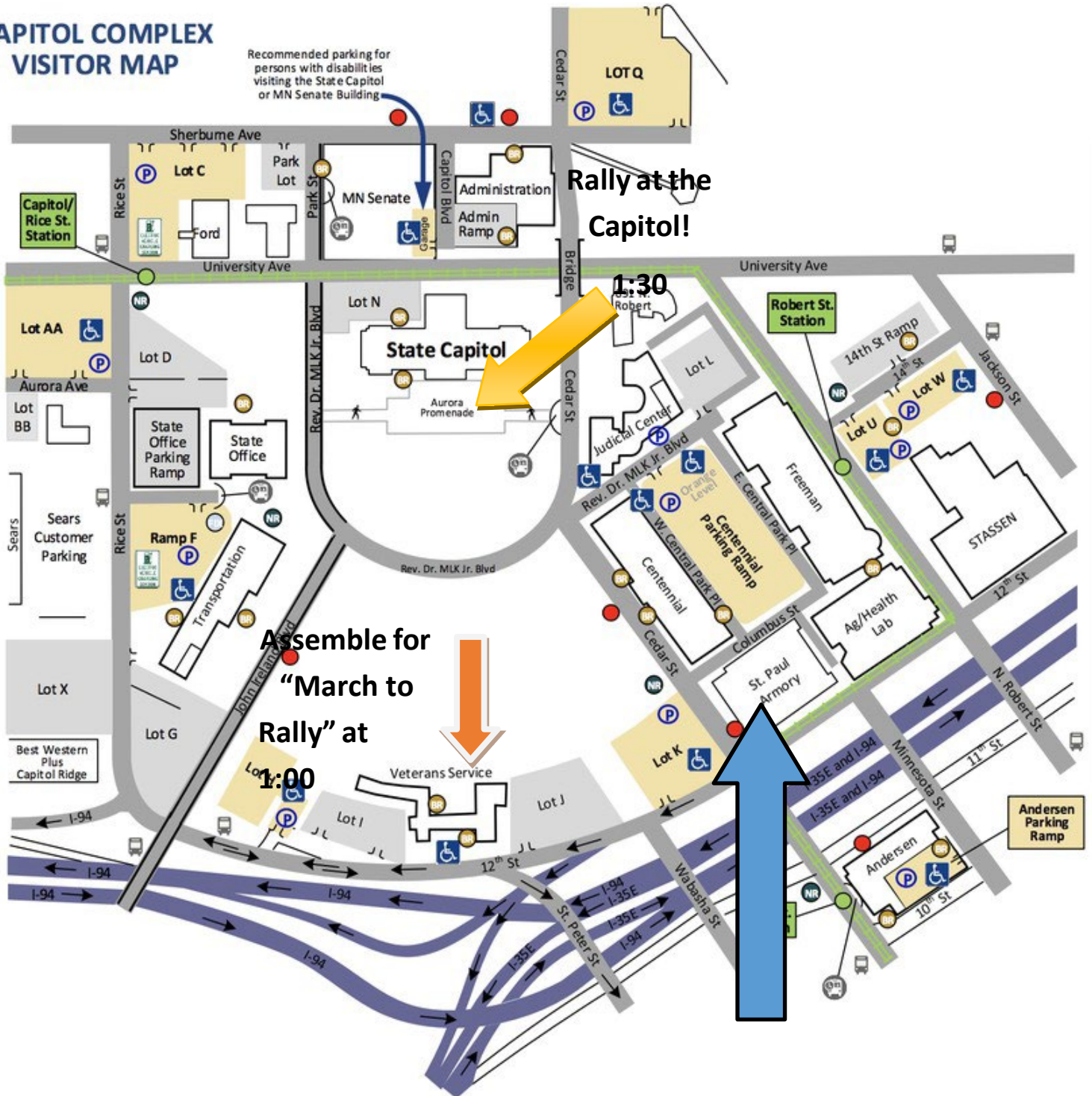


**DAV**  
OF MINNESOTA  
**BENEFITS  
PROTECTION**

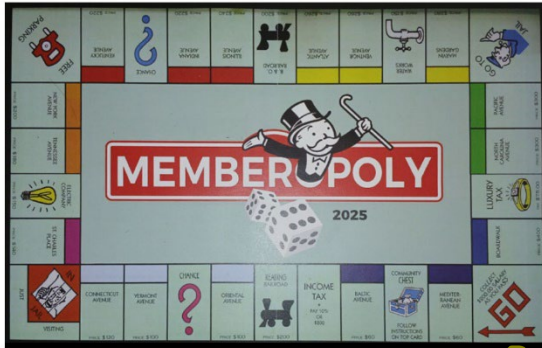


# Veterans Day on the Hill 2025 Map (Arrows)

## CAPITOL COMPLEX VISITOR MAP



DAV MN  
Pre-Rally  
Event 10:00-  
12:30



Northwestern Division			
Department of	Total Membership	2025 Num. Goal	% of Num. Goal
South Dakota	7,660	9,279	82.55%
Colorado	3,696	4,478	82.54%
Minnesota	21,237	26,014	81.64%
Nebraska	12,379	15,490	79.92%
North Dakota	5,688	7,300	77.92%
Wyoming	1,962	2,545	77.09%
Montana	2,035	2,686	75.76%
	<b>54,657</b>	<b>67,792</b>	<b>80.62%</b>

- 🔥 **Western Division - 83.25%** up from 81.48%
- 🌍 **Southern Division - 82.57%** up from 80.83%
- ☁️ **Central Division - 82.43%** up from 81.23%
- 💧 **Eastern Division - 81.62%** up from 79.431%
- ☀️ **Northwestern Division - 80.62%** up from 79.74%



Hello Minnesota Memberopoly Members,

I am sorry that we were unable to gather for the Sweetheart Rally at the Royalton Legion on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Mother Nature was in quite a mood and decided that we needed more snow, wind and that blasted freezing cold to remind us that this is indeed still Minnesota and still early February.

As many of you are aware, a mass call went out on February 8<sup>th</sup> to do a Membership Push. This Push included all District Presidents, District Chairman, Unit Leadership and Me. Each Unit was contacted either by phone, text or email to contact ALL of their UNPAID members to try to get them PAID and turned into Department to get counted before our March 15<sup>th</sup> National Goal deadline. Also, on February 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, the 2<sup>nd</sup> mailing went out notifying members that have not paid.

We are currently 30 days away from the National Goal of 85% that we need to obtain the coveted Merit Medallion. Of the 5 challenges that we need to complete for the Merit Medallion, if we do not make this Membership goal, none of the other challenges will matter.

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Minnesota needed 1050 more paid members to complete this challenge. On February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Minnesota only needed 875 more paid members to complete this challenge. That was 175 members PAID in 7 days. We have 30 DAYS to go. We need an average of 29.17 PAID members per day for the next 30 Days and we have this challenge in the bag.

If your Unit has any unpaid memberships, please get them sent into Department. I Know we can do this, BUT, I need everyone to help make it happen. If you have a transmittal ready, don't hold on to it, send it in. If you have questions on who's not paid, call any one of the District Chairmen or myself, we want to help.



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Bulletin #20 as of 2/11/2025

2025 Membership

Member-opoly

"Finding Members in Everyday Places"

Your Leader is Rich Aunty Pennybags, Hope Wilson



DISTRICT	# of Units	Goal	Period Gain	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year	Difference from Last Year
One	47	3,341	24	2,860	85.60%	2,913	-53
Two	70	3,444	13	2,845	82.61%	2,982	-137
Three	46	3,476	107	2,962	85.21%	3,012	-50
Four	7	508	13	386	75.98%	404	-18
Five	7	463	3	280	60.48%	250	30
Six	60	4,469	61	3,895	87.16%	3,947	-52
Seven	52	2,561	51	2,150	83.95%	2,273	-123
Eight	20	1,117	11	888	79.50%	960	-72
Nine	45	2,944	78	2,451	83.25%	2,503	-52
Ten	41	3,391	42	2,673	78.83%	2,838	-165
1982	1	331	5	241	72.81%	255	-14
Department Total	396	26,045	408	21,631	83.05%	22,337	-706
Group 1 (Even) <i>Linda Kelly</i>	198	12,929	140	10,687	82.66%	11,131	-444
Group 2 (Odd) <i>Robin Dorf</i>	197	12,785	263	10,703	83.72%	10,951	-248

## RANKINGS

1st	87.16%	District 6	2nd	85.60%	District 1	3rd	85.21%	District 3	4th	83.95%	District 7	5th	83.25%	District 9	6th	82.61%	District 2	7th	79.50%	District 8	8th	78.83%	District 10	9th	75.98%	District 4	10th	60.48%	District 5
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Department of Minnesota  
March 2025 Unit Mailing  
National Security Chairman, Mary Kuperus  
wmkuperus@tds.net



### **Blue Star Mothers**

On January 22, 1942, the Flint News Advertiser printed a coupon asking Mothers of servicemen to return the coupon after filling it out. The following February 1st 300 mothers met in the Durant Hotel, in Flint Michigan. It was decided that after receiving 1000 responses from the ad to form a permanent organization.

On February 6th the organization was reported on Congressional record. Chapters then formed in nine states. In June of 1960 the organization was chartered by congress. Minnesota has six Chapters located in: Willmar, Anoka, Plainview, Roseville, Buffalo, and Pine City.

This organization provides support for active-duty service personnel, promotes patriotism, assists Veterans organizations, and is available to assist in homeland volunteer efforts to help our country remain strong.

### **Blue Star Families**

Blue Star Families was founded by military spouses in 2009 to empower military families to thrive as they serve. They are committed to strengthening military families by connecting them with their neighbors – individuals and organizations – to create vibrant communities of mutual support.

With the help of neighbors, military families are overcoming the isolation and alienation of frequent moves, deployments, and reduced support from the government. Programs are solving challenges for military families. They include resources that foster spouse career development, creating family strength with rich family programming, and providing critical peer support for caregivers.

With approximately 275,000 members in the network, they reach more than 1.5 million military family members each year. They ensure that wherever American military families go, they can always feel connected, supported and empowered to thrive. There are no Chapters in Minnesota

### **Northwestern Division**

The American Legion Auxiliary National Security Program promotes a strong defense by strengthening and supporting military serve members and their families.

As the Department Chairman, I am asked to collect information, from our Units, about the activities they are doing for the National Security program. Please let me know what activities you are doing by emailing me a report and sending pictures of when and what you are doing by April 1<sup>st</sup>. You can mail the report to me also. Thank you very much.



### **Salute to Servicemember Award**

Have you been working on nominating a servicemember for the Salute to Servicemembers Award? Now is the time to start the process. The nomination form is online at [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org). Will Minnesota have a nomination? I sure hope so!!!



It is annual report time, as much as we don't like doing them it is something as a Unit or as a chairman, you need to an annual report.

According to Robert's Rules of Order –

Continuity and Conclusion of Committee Assignment: (50:29)

“Since members of the standing committee in ordinary societies are appointed for a term corresponding to that of officers, such a committee is generally required to report at least once a year, usually at the annual meeting, on its activities and everything referred to it during the year. When a standing committee submits such a report at the conclusion of its members' term, the committee is not discharged from further consideration of the assembly so votes; thus, such matters normally go over to the new committee. The members of the old committee continue their duties until their successors are chosen.”

An **annual report** is a comprehensive document that outlines a committee's activities and performance over the preceding year. It is intended to inform members about the committees' activities during the Auxiliary year. Typically, an annual report includes:

- A summary of general committee information.
- Annual performance highlights.

Annual reports are often considered a legal requirement for public corporations.



Let's get started with the help of your unit members doing the annual reports and get them in on Time.



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

***The \$5 Bill Shower was a huge success this year!***



February was full of **LOVE** for our veterans at hospital and homes we support. Over **1,370 veterans** received **\$10 each** cash or in their personal accounts from the Department of MN American Legion Auxiliary and the MN Veterans 4 Veterans Trust Fund.

This happens each year because of the donations of our members, units, American Legion Family members, and other donations.

We would like to thank the MN Veterans 4 Veterans Trust Fund for their grant which allowed us this year to give \$10 instead of the usual \$5 bill shower donation.

**Would you like to support our veterans and donate to the \$5 Bill Shower for next year?**

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.

- ♥ **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.**

It is not too early to start planning for the silent auction at Department Convention!

This will benefit our programs that support our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation programs.

Big thank you to Margee Keller, Joanie Krantz, and Sharon Lanctot who will be organizing at the convention!



Silent Auction at the  
 Department of Minnesota Convention  
 July 10-11, 2025, in Willmar

All proceeds to our American Legion Auxiliary  
 Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program  
 to benefit our Veterans

**How can you help?**

- ♥ Bring items for silent auction
- ♥ Purchase items at silent auction
- ♥ Make a cash donation!

Questions contact VA&R Chairman Robin Dorf  
 Silent Auction Committee~ Margee Keller,  
 Joanie Krantz, or Sharon Lanctot





## Department of Minnesota Department Secretary's Notes

### **Public Relations, Chairman Cari Lamb**

I am creating a Press Book for President Judy. I need all the Units and Districts to, please, send me articles about the ALA. Newspapers, Facebook, pamphlets, anything media related.

Thank you very much.

### **Contact Information:**

3217 19<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Mpls, Mn 55407

[Crlmb74@gmail.com](mailto:Crlmb74@gmail.com)

612-968-4839

Department Treasurer, Shannon Brown has resigned as of March 3rd. She has agreed to temporarily work a minimum number of hours over the next few months as we are searching for her replacement. Please, help me in wishing her well on her new endeavor.

**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. 15** - American Legion Birthday

**Mar. 29** – Leadership Workshop New Ulm

**April** – National Volunteer Month & Children and Youth Month

**Apr. 1** – Girls State Reservations due to Department Office

**Apr. 5** - Department Commander's Testimonial

**Apr 9** - Veterans Day on the Hill

**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

**May 17** - Dept. President's Testimonial, Fairmont

**May 23** – Poppy Day

**May 26** - Memorial Day

### **HOLD THE DATE**

Department Convention July 10-12, Willmar, MN

Look for more information coming in the April Unit Mailing





# American Legion Auxiliary

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

## 2025 - 2026 UNIT OFFICERS LIST

THE DEPARTMENT IS IN THE PROCESS OF COMPILING THE 2025 - 2026 UNIT MAILING LIST. WE NEED THE INFORMATION NOTED BELOW FROM YOUR UNIT FOR THE 2025 – 2026 AUXILIARY YEAR. YOU CAN ALSO FIND THIS FORM IN A FILLABLE FORMAT ON OUR DEPARTMENT WEBSITE AT MNALA.ORG. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT EACH PERSON’S INFORMATION AND MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE CURRENT/COMPLETE ADDRESS FOR EACH. ONE COPY IS TO BE SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OFFICE AND ONE COPY TO YOUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT (OR YOUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT-ELECT) NO LATER THAN JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> 2025 THIS NEEDS TO BE SENT AS SOON AS YOUR UNIT HAS HELD ELECTION OF OFFICERS. THIS 2025 - 2026 FORM IS REQUIRED OF ALL UNITS EVEN IF THE SAME OFFICERS ARE RE-ELECTED. THE COMPLETED FORM CAN BE EMAILED TO [DEPTOFFICE@MNALA.ORG](mailto:DEPTOFFICE@MNALA.ORG) OR MAILED TO THE ADDRESS AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS FORM.

UNIT # \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT # \_\_\_\_\_

**President:** Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID # \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary:** Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID # \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer:** Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID # \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Chairman:**  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID # \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Dues Remit to (if Different from Membership Chairman): \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS 2025 - 2026 FORM IS REQUIRED OF ALL UNITS EVEN IF THE SAME OFFICERS ARE RE-ELECTED.**

\*\*\*Unit mailing is to be sent to: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address/Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit Mailing Preference: Mail \_\_\_\_\_ or Email \_\_\_\_\_