



ALA Evergreen News Online Special Department Convention Edition

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Dept. President Catherine's Message



FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT:

First, I want to inform you that the visit from the National President Lisa Williamson will not be taking place in August as initially planned. Attempts were made to electronically file, but glitches were frequent and none of the submissions reached the desk of the schedulers. Other attempts were made to schedule a visit when we were notified that Lisa chased down Lorna our NEC at a fall meeting and asked why she was not visiting Washington.

I placed an inquiry in the Evergreen News in the fall as to which units in the department would be willing to host luncheons or a supper and set up locations for Lisa to visit while she is here in Washington. The secretary and I received no information from any unit. So I asked our district presidents to try again to see if one or two districts would volunteer. Again, no response from members. Calls were placed to the travel division and asked what open time did Lisa have open her calendar. Our NEC Lorna heard August 7 to 12/13 had a cancellation due to multiple issues. The Department office and Lorna and I requested unit or districts to host a meal or lunch in her honor. A third time we got no response from units or the districts. Having no positive response, it was decided to notify National that due to prior calendar bookings, no area, district, or unit was able to step up to assist in organizing this event.



American Legion Auxiliary

In the Spirit of Service Not Self for Veterans, God and Country

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION IN KENNEWICK @ THE TRI-CITIES CONVENTION CENTER WILL BE WEDNESDAY 10 JULY TO SATURDAY 13 JULY. ALL BLOCK ROOMS HAVE BEEN BOOKED IN THE THREE CONTRACTED HOTELS.

YES, THE PRICES ARE EXPENSIVE. HOWEVER, THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY WAS HIT EXTREMELY HARD DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC SHUTDOWN. THEY ARE MAKING UP FOR THOSE LOSSES.

THERE ARE SEVERAL UNFILLED POSITIONS SO IF YOU ARE CAPABLE AND WILLING TO HOLD THE POSITION OF DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN, OR DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT COME JOIN US.

You need a letter of endorsement from your unit/district for the target position. Be at your District caucus on Thursday 12 July for voting. Department positions will be voted on Saturday morning @ 7:00 AM, follow the line of Auxiliary members who appear to be sleep-walking to vote.

During the fall visitations and conferences, I requested that all units and districts get into the spirit of increasing our membership by creating a hill, single mountain, or mountain range for districts to show your accomplishments in renewals and newly joined members.

NOW IS THE TIME TO BRING THOSE BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINS TO CONVENTION. SHOW OFF THE TALENTS OF YOUR UNIT OR DISTRICT.

The membership and general themes for 2023 to 2024 were:

- ❖ CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN: To reach our goal, it takes a team of dedicated, mission-driven, and passionate members to attain a positive outcome.
- ❖ Moving forward through mentoring others



WE ARE BACK !

GIRLS STATE was held, 23 June to 28 June on the campus of CWU. The target was 60 High School junior girls, from across the state to learn just how government is designed to work.

This year due to some difficulties we had to scale back a bit. The instructions of city and township governments were dropped. We had three (3) counties Adams, Baker and Rainier, for the girls to establish budgets, eliminate or find a solution(s) to a county problems, collect taxes, to find revenue to pay for county improvement project(s).

The citizens also learned Flag Etiquette, history of the flag, Blue Star Banner and the "**Prisoner of War and Missing In Action**" table ceremony.

Having attended EGS Evergreen Girls State in 1969, I was honored and pleased to be part of the team that helped put this year's curriculum together. I was also humbled to be able to give the Department President's Comments on Graduation Day.

Thank you to the committee Terri Campbell ~ Director, Rose Ring ~ Assistant Director, Barb Rutherford, Robin Bostwick, Debbie DeLong, Cheyenne Morrison, Cindy Smith, DeDe Theal and the Junior Counselors who made this event *Happen!*



Thank you to the members of the Department of Washington for your support throughout these past two years. Our first year was especially tough

with the loss of President Carolyn, and the pandemic. You managed to come out of that with no broken bones, GREAT JOB ALA MEMBERS !

2025 Membership cards will be shipped from National the week of 4 July. District Presidents will be able to sign for them at convention with their Delegate at Large credentials.

Membership cards that are not signed for may be mailed to your unit membership chair. You will be invoiced for the postage or notify the department secretary to hold the cards in the office for you to pick them up before your September meeting.

Please schedule time to attend Fall conference or Workshop. Those dates will be out shortly after convention.

Things to think about

Encouragement given to others helps build their confidence.

Mentoring others will keep us viable and able to continue service to veterans and their families for years to come.

Mentoring builds leaders for our future members.

The best way to kill an organization is to think only you can do the job.

There are no stupid questions, only the unasked ones are stupid.

Suggest ideas, offer assistance when needed, do not order someone to help it must be a request.

Legion Family Dept Convention July 10 - 13, 2024 Kennewick

Deadline for Convention Registration is
Friday, June 28 if you would like to buy
lunch and banquet tickets.

The form is attached above; it can be
emailed to secretary@walegion-aux.org

with your credit/debit info, or you can mail a check to Dept.

Registrations will be accepted at the door but meal tickets will not be available.

Unit Delegate Forms should be sent to Dept as soon as possible.



**DEPT OF WASHINGTON
CONVENTION**

JULY 10 - 13, 2024

**THREE RIVERS
CONVENTION CENTER,
KENNEWICK**

WWW.WALEGION-AUX.ORG

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department Convention
Preliminary Schedule – Subject to change
Kennewick, WA
July 10-13, 2024**

Wednesday, July 10

- 8:00am-5:00am Auxiliary Office Hours (closed 11:00am-12:00pm) – Meeting Room F
- 8:00am-12:00pm Bag Stuffing- Meeting Room F
- 12:30pm-5pm Registration/ Credentialing Tables- Lobby
- 11:00pm-12:00pm Incoming Pres/ VP meeting- Meeting Room GH
- 2:00pm-2:30pm Closed DEC Meeting - Meeting Room GH
- 2:00pm-4:30pm Pre-Con DEC Meeting Room GH
- 6:00pm Approval Committee- Joanne Glasgow, Diana Hagen, Ruth Foster
- 6:30pm Memorial service practice Great Hall C
- Auxiliary Memorial Service for Past Department Officers- Great Hall C

Thursday, July 11

- 8:00am- 4:30pm Auxiliary Office hours- Meeting Room F
- 8:00am-12:00pm Registration/Credentialing- Lobby
- 7:30am-8:00am Rehearsal and Pages Instruction- Great Hall C
- 8:20am-11:45pm Convention Opening Session- Great Hall C
- Approval Committee- Jacklynn Gennai, Kathy Schuoler, Cindy Williams
- Children & Youth Luncheon- Great Hall A
- 12:00pm-1:30pm Registration/Credentialing- Front Lobby
- 1:00pm-4:00pm Auxiliary Convention Session Reconvenes- Great Hall C
- 1:40pm-4:00pm Caucuses (Check w/Dist. Pres for time and location)
- 4:15pm Social Hour- Great Hall A
- 5:00pm-6:00pm Auxiliary States Dinner- Great Hall A
- 6:00pm- 8:30pm Theme: Women of Service

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Friday, July 12

- 8:00am-9:00am Legion Band Concert- Great Hall BD
- 8:00am-12:00pm Registration/Credentialing -Lobby
- 9:00am- 4:30pm Auxiliary Office hours- Meeting Room F
- 9:00am-10:00am Legion/Auxiliary Convention Joint Session- Great Hall BD
- 10:15am-11:45am Auxiliary Convention Session- Great Hall C
- 12:00pm-1:30 pm VA & R Luncheon – Great Hall A
- 1:00pm-4:00pm Registration/Credentialing -Lobby
- 2:00pm-5:00 pm Auxiliary Convention Session Reconvenes- Great Hall C

- 6:30pm-8:00pm

Training Classes- Great Hall C

Saturday, July 13

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| • 7:15am-8:30am | Voting for Department Officers- Show office |
| • 7:45am-8:45am | Installation Rehearsal - Great Hall C |
| • 8:00am-9:00am | Legion Band Concert- Great Hall BD |
| • 9:00am- 4:30pm | Auxiliary Office hours- Meeting Room F |
| • 9:00am-11:30am | Auxiliary Convention Session - Great Hall C |
| • 11:30am-1:20pm | Lunch Break |
| • 1:30 pm-2:45pm | Installation of 2024/25 Department Officers- Great Hall C |
| • 3:00pm | Adjournment of Convention – Great Hall C |
| • 3:15pm –5:00pm | Post-Convention DEC Meeting -Meeting Room CD |
| • 6:00pm | Legion BBQ at Post 34 |
| • 5:00pm-7:00pm | Auxiliary Office pack up- Meeting Room F |

How many of our 81 Units will be at Dept Convention? Let's get 100% participation, and fill the place! Your voices are needed as we discuss important issues for our Department and our future. Every member gets a vote, but you need to be there to make it happen.

Units - send in your Delegation Form asap, so we can add you to the delegation list!

Lodging Options

These hotels are recommended by the Legion as they are near the Convention Center. Rooms in the reserved block may be sold out.

There are lots of other hotels in the Tri-Cities area

Best Western Kennewick Tri-Cities Center (Formerly Red Lion)
602 N Young St
Kennewick, WA 99336
Tel: 509-396-9979
Group Name: American Legion
2024 State Convention

Hilton Garden Inn Tri-

**First time
at
Dept
Convention?**

We are so glad to have you!

Please take the time to get to know the other members around you. It's a great chance to meet folks from all over the Department.

Ask questions if you are unsure of what is going on or if you need clarification. We want

Cities/Kennewick
701 N Young St
Kennewick, WA 99336
Tel: 509-735-4600

SpringHill Suites By Marriott
Kennewick Tri-Cities
7048 W Grandridge Blvd
Kennewick, WA 99336
Tel: 509-820-3026
Group Name: American Legion
Department of WA

you to be informed and
up to speed.

Have a suggestion? Want
to lend a hand? Reach out
and ask any of the Dept
officers or staff - we
would love your help.

When you get home,
make a report at your
Unit meeting about what
you learned and how
much fun you had!



Evergreen Girls State

June 23 - 28, 2024
Central Washington University

Girls State is right around the corner, and we
are so excited to welcome citizens from
around the Dept to learn about leadership
and citizenship and our political systems.

Thanks to our Units who sent citizens and
spread the word about this life-changing
program. Thanks also to our amazing EGS
committee members. They gave everything
to make this a fantastic week.



Message from Our National President Lisa Williamson

Dear American Legion Auxiliary members,

If the trend continues, the 2024
membership year can be a special one for
the American Legion Auxiliary. At the end
of 2023, we were able to “stop the slide”
and were able to boast a gain in
membership numbers.

This demonstrates the proven success of
personal contact, remaining visible in our

communities, and remembering to “Just Ask!”

I am passionate about our mission of supporting our veterans, our military, their families, and our communities. And I through my travels, I know that our ALA members are as well. Everywhere I go, I see that our Mission remains in forefront for our members!

Shortly after 9/11 nearly 23 years ago, our combined membership with Legion, Auxiliary and SAL was pushing 5 million members; as of today, we sit around 3.1 million members. Wouldn't it be nice to have 5 million members to help support our programs??

A larger American Legion Family – Legion, Auxiliary and Sons - benefits all Americans. This means more are embracing the "Be the One" mission to stop veteran suicide. It means talking about that it's okay to get mental health help. It means saying “it's okay to not be ok!” It means more ALA members to work our great programs such as ALA Girls State, participating in Veterans Creative Arts Festivals, both locally and nationally, promoting our scholarships, and of course, working with the future of our organization, our Juniors.

We are attracting younger members, many with families. And most don't have time to attend meetings and be super active. I ask that you “give them permission” to be card-carrying members by simply paying their dues, volunteering when time allows, or not. There is absolutely nothing wrong in that; remember the larger our organization, the louder our voice when it comes to our lobbying efforts at home and in our nation's capitol.

I think we can all agree, we would like to see the 2024 membership year continue growing. This is where we need your help!

You can **renew just as easily here**, or you might consider a **Paid Up for Life**

membership. If you are not a current member, you can join simply by **clicking here.**

As I said earlier, personal contact matters. Legion Family members who are welcomed by active and engaged posts, units and squadrons in their communities are more likely to stay active.

With your help, I know that we can do it!

Yours In Service,

Lisa Williamson



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Washington | PO Box 5867 | Lacey, WA 98509 US

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