



# Evergreen News

March, 2024

[www.walegion-aux.org](http://www.walegion-aux.org)



We begin the month of March with weather that should have been here in December, January or even in February. Looking forward to the 105th birthday for the American Legion on the weekend of 15th to 17th of the month. The yip-pity, skip-itty Easter celebrations will be here on the last day of the month. We will be busy traveling up and down the I-5 corridor and a couple of trips to eastern Washington before the end of the month arrives.

## Dept President's Message

Now is the time to begin closing out your "Tracking Worksheets for Members and Units," so those numbers are given to your Unit President before the 31st of March. The Unit president, secretary and unit treasurer will add all your individual numbers together then place them on the Unit Report. Compiled data should then be sent to the District President, No Later Than 15 April. A team of 3 can easily process 40 to 75 reports in several hours. Larger Units will need several teams who will repeat the process: calculating all the units in the district to the district form which is sent to the Department Secretary to be placed onto a spreadsheet that consolidates all 12 sets of district numbers to create the Department of Washington's Report to National. That gives the Department ample time to complete their report to National by prior to the 15 May deadline.

**Read President Catherine's report at**  
**[www.walegion-aux.org](http://www.walegion-aux.org)**



**The Committee: Director; Terri Campbell, Assistant Director Rose Ring,  
Members Robin Bostwick, Debbie DeLong, Cheyenne Morrison, and Barb  
Rutherford**

**IT IS OFFICIAL**

**Evergreen Girls State will be held June 23rd – June 28th, 2024  
Sunday through Friday**

**COST \$520 Per Citizen (Unit Sponsor \$320) (Citizen \$200)  
Central Washington University**

**WEBSITE [www.evergreengirlsstate.com](http://www.evergreengirlsstate.com)**

All of the information is on the website that you will need to sponsor and recruit a citizen to attend this amazing event. If you need any assistance or further information our contacts are on our website above or you can contact me at [gotwater@myyahoo.com](mailto:gotwater@myyahoo.com)

Our committee hopes you will work with us this year; we need you to be part of our Evergreen Girls State (EGS) team in order to accomplish making this program successful. Your participation is so vital. The citizens who attend on behalf of your Unit will be effective in other people's lives and are our future in Government, we may be the only program that teaches this now.

At Evergreen Girls State, the citizens will run for County and State Offices. Two citizens will be elected as Senators and will attend Girls Nation in WA DC from July 20th through July 27th. The citizens are taught how to write a bill and debate it in the EGS House and Senate prior to going the EGS Governor's desk to sign or veto. They will run for the EGS Supreme Court Justices and wearing their robes, preside in a mock trial with the elected EGS Prosecuting and Defense attorneys with citizens acting as witnesses. The Citizens will be given a County Problem which they will need to build a county project and then present their problem and solution in front of the staff and all citizens in an assembly. They will hear from distinguished guest speakers and experience dorm life in the Kamola Hall at CWU.

This year we plan to have a wonderful graduation on Friday at 1PM where we are encouraging the parents and family to attend along with any members of the American Legion Auxiliary. We want those who join us to see what the ALA is about so we thought this was the best time to share something we do and are a part of. These are the following ceremonies: • Candlelight (50 States honored and displayed by 50 individual citizens) • Blue Star Banner presentation • POW/MIA table presentation • Placing a poppy in the wreath (everyone participates). • Graduation



# Education and Scholarships

Please encourage everyone, wherever you are, to wear purple on April 15th! Why purple? Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military: a combination of Navy blue, Marine red, Coast Guard blue, Army green, and Air Force blue.\* "Purple Up for Military Kids" is a way of giving a visible sign of support and to thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. It's also a sign of gratitude to their parents for serving our nation.

Teacher Appreciation Week is 6-10 May 2024. Plan now to show your appreciation to the teachers in your area; don't forget homeschoolers, coaches, and youth organization leaders like Boy & Girl Scouts, 4-H, etc. (they teach too). Putting out letters to the editor in town newspaper is one sure way to show your appreciation and encourage others to join in. A more personal way to show appreciation is a note/card. Sure you could send an email but I believe a handwritten note/card is more personal and shows you think enough of the teacher to put forth a little effort. How bout enclosing a certificate for the local coffee shop or making a thank you sign to put up in the teacher's yard. Small treasures for teachers are the handmade little items from students but you could make something too. How about filling a mason jar with brownie ingredients, colorful gumballs, or other sweet treats. Some teachers would be thrilled to get things like Monthly Planners, Desk Caddies, Kleenex, Disinfectant Wipes, and/or other Teacher Supplies.

As of 11 March 2024, I've received 38 scholarship applications for judging. 12 are applications for Department Scholarships and 26 are for National Scholarships (18 alone for Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship). Looks like the judging team will be at it for 2-3 LOOOONG days. I look forward to announcing the winners.

Yours in service and friendship for God and Country – Not self,

Jane Montaney, Dept. Education Chairman

(509)760-1433 [jmontaney@yahoo.com](mailto:jmontaney@yahoo.com)





# Children & Youth

We have a winner for the "Dollar out of your pocket" contest. The winner will be announced at Dept Convention and receive their prize during the C&Y banquet.

Just because we have a winner does not mean the donating is over. The contest was to see who had every member donate from their pocket, first. Now, I'd like to see everyone continue to get donations from each member, but if units want to cover the \$1.00 for each member, you may you do so now. My goal is to have enough money so that every ALA member is covered from the Department of Washington. So, let's get those checks sent in now so we can make our goal of 100% participation.

Remember to get the donation form and mark Child Welfare Foundation and send your check to department. Thank you all for participating.

As I was talking to some people at Post 34 in Pasco about the contest, the Commander of the SAL Squadron overheard me. He thought it was awesome that I was wanting to get a dollar from every member of every unit. Well, he told the squadron and they wanted to take part as well. They have 82 members and they gave me a check for \$82.00 to cover every member in the squadron! What a nice surprise. They are so willing to help. Thank you Squadron 34, Pasco!

I have sent four "Good Deed Awards" to National. I will not name them in this newsletter as they have not been notified yet. I will be giving out two awards this month at the regular meetings of those units who have nominees. I will name them next month. Good job to the ones receiving these awards.

April is C&Y month. Start making plans now to do something for our children and youth in April. Maybe a karaoke party, a trip to a zoo, a party or something for them. Think of things you can do and just have fun. April 15th is "Purple Up Day." Just wear something purple in support of our military children.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chelse Callahan, C&Y co chair, for writing the article in last month's newsletter. She has been busy checking on units and gathering information on C&Y projects.

Thank you to everyone who has sent pictures and articles about your C&Y. Keep them coming. I was able to give a great report to our Western Division Chair Dorothy Hazen about the Department of Washington ALA Children and Youth activities!

**ALA Department of Washington, WE CAN DO IT!**

Thank you,

Vickie Evans, 2nd Vice President  
Children & Youth Chair

509-851-5384, vwtrumpet@aol.com



# Americanism

## Americanism Essay Contest

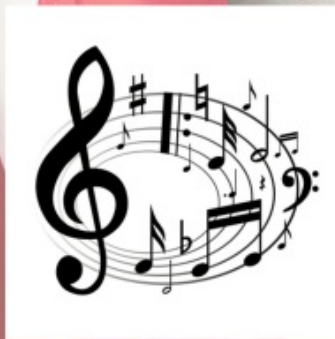
The essays are due to me no later than April 1, 2024, (my post office is slow so mail early). Each Unit judges the essays and only sends one per age group category. Don't forget to give each child who participates a Certificate of Participation. They are all special and the thought that goes into each one shows their feelings about "What Does Freedom Mean to Me?" The Department winners will be announced at our Convention in July and National will announce the Division and National winners at National Convention.

Unit Reports are due to me by April 1, 2024. These can be emailed along with your pictures so I can share them with our National Chairman. Who knows, your Unit could be shown on the big screen at the National Convention.

Mail to: Eva Wallace,  
14611 – 64th Ave SE,  
Snohomish, WA 98296  
evas\_place@hotmail.com (206) 979-  
7458 text



## Dept of WA American Legion Band



In case you missed it, the band had a fantastic time at the Post 17 Spaghetti Feed in Centralia. This annual mid-February performance is always the band's first of the year and 2024 brings new tunes and old favorites (including the new Space Force song if you have not heard it!). Be sure to check out our Facebook page for upcoming events!

If you would like the band (or small group) to play for your post, other veteran/civic organizations, and/or your business, find us on Facebook. Better yet, dust off your horn and come play with the band, Thursday, 7 p.m., St. Martin's University (Lacey).



## **DEPT OF WASHINGTON CONVENTION**

**JULY 10 - 13, 2024  
THREE RIVERS  
CONVENTION CENTER,  
KENNEWICK**

**WWW.WALEGION-AUX.ORG**

### **Convention Resolutions Committee**

**It's Resolution time! If your unit has suggestions/edits to the ALA Department of Washington Constitution or Bylaws, print the PDFs, sign, and send/scan to headquarters.**

**We are accepting resolutions through May 1, 2024 to be read and voted on at convention in July. All of the forms you need are on our website, [www.walegion-aux.org](http://www.walegion-aux.org)**

- **Dept of WA Constitution & Bylaws, updated 2023**
- **So You Want to Write a Resolution**
- **Resolution Form PDF**

**If you have any questions, reach out to the Resolutions Committee.**

**Amy Robertson**





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**2024 - 2025 Officers' Endorsements**

**As of this printing, the Dept has received the following endorsements for Department officers. All endorsements can be read in full on our website [www.walegion-aux.org](http://www.walegion-aux.org)**

**Diana Hagan for Department President  
Vickie Evans for Department Chaplain  
Alice Richard for 1st District President  
Chelse Callahan for 5th District President**





## Member Benefits

As an American Legion Auxiliary member, you bring untold value to the organization and America's veterans through your service to our mission. To show our appreciation for your membership, the ALA has partnered with businesses that share our values to bring you exclusive discounts and savings!

### DISASTER AND HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is a national grant assistance program that provides disaster and hardship assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have endured a significant financial setback as the result of a disaster or other qualifying incident.

### RETAIL DISCOUNTS

#### REDEEMABLE

Enjoy discounts, rewards, and perks on 1,000s of brands including Hertz, Sam's Club, Walt Disney World, Toyota, Starbucks, and more! Enter the exclusive ALA member referral code H2ETV6 when creating your account.

#### R. RIVETER

R. Riveter is an American company that offers everything from handbags and wallets to sweaters and accessories. Every R. Riveter bag is assembled in the USA by a workforce completely made up of military spouses. Shop using the exclusive ALA link to receive your 25% discount.

### AMWINS™ GROUP BENEFITS

### AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

### AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

### STARS & STRIPES

### BenefitHub

### R. RIVETER

### ShipThrifty.com

### TrueHearing

### DentalInsurance.com

### ARMED FORCES vacation club

### VSP

### GTL

### Ameritas

### Liberty Mutual

### WellRx

### LTGR

### LANDS' END BUSINESS

### WYNDHAM HOTELS & RESORTS

## Membership

Our membership year is wrapping up, and we are getting ready for 2025! We are ahead of where we were last year, but we want your renewals and new members. New 2024 members would receive a 2025 renewal notice next fall.

Our members are our heart and soul, and our dues are what allow us to do all the great work we are doing for our veterans and their families.

[Click here to read about all the great benefits and discounts that come with your ALA membership!](#)

**Mark your calendars!  
Our National President  
Lisa Williamson will be  
in Washington in  
August for her  
visitation. More details  
will be coming soon!  
Let's show her the great  
work we do.**





## Poppy Program



Let us know your  
Poppy Days plans,  
and send us your  
pictures!

To all the new members in the state who have experienced a Veteran's Day or Memorial Day Distribution period we say, "Thank You". Remember we never use the words "for sale or sell". We distribute poppies for the purpose of honoring those who served, those serving today and for those who have moved into Post and Unit Everlasting.

If your Unit would like to make poppies, talk to Sabrina about ordering a poppy kit and make a party of it!

National  
Poppy Day:  
May 24, 2024





## VA & R

### VA Puget Sound Health Care System

- The Social Work Service – Clothing Room is in need of Men's briefs in sizes small, medium and large; Men's sweatpants in small, medium and large and Men's sweatshirts in small, medium and large.
- Our organization has an ongoing opportunity to participate in Outreach Events at the Seattle VA. If your Unit would like to become involved, please contact the Seattle VA's Voluntary Service Office for more details – 206-762-1010.
- The Volunteer Transportation Network (VTN) – The DAV has provided 15 vans and a Volunteer Transportation Network Coordinator for volunteer drivers. Please contact Ken Jones, 206-310-7893 to assist you in signing up to become a certified driver.

To donate funds to the VA Puget Sound Health Care System at American Lake and the Seattle VA, American Legion Auxiliary Units can make donations using the Department of Washington Unit Donation Form. Donations can be specified on the check's memo line for specific purposes such as the Seattle VA National Clinics and Games, to support the Clothing Room.

Donations of clothing and sewing request articles should be mailed or delivered to the Seattle VA using the VA Puget Sound Donation Form. Call ahead to schedule a delivery at 206-762-1010.

Submitted by: Diana Hagen, 2023-2024 Dept. of WA VA & R Chair



## Operation Stork

I feel so truly fortunate to be the liaison for such a wonderful program as Operation Stork!

Units from all across the state have made my job so fun and easy! I cannot thank you enough for all the love and support you show the new families at Fairchild Air Force Base!

District 8 hosted a "Baby Shower" at the Fall Conference and \$800 of gifts and baby supplies arrived! One member donated 100 cupcakes for our fun jungle theme! It was a great success! Those gifts, coupled with the \$651 cash donations that were made to the Department made that trip to deliver well worth the drive!

I have received many fuzzy, warm, and beautiful handcrafted baby blankets from members from across the state! It is obvious how much time and care goes into each one. These are a favorite item in the basket that is delivered to the new families. Throughout the year I have received another \$500 in donations on top of those mentioned above! Thank you to everyone for making Operation Stork such an awesome program to be part of!

### Operation Stork Donation Ideas:

Bandana Bib	Outlet safety plugs and cabinet locks
Burp Cloths and Wash Cloths	Diapers and Wipes
Fleece Baby Blankets and baby socks	
Bottle Brush	Digital baby thermometers

## Lakeland Village

Lakeland Village narrowly escaped the fire that devastated so much of Medical Lake this past fall. I was very surprised how very close it came when I drove out to make a donation this winter. To me it provided proof that Guardian Angels are there for those who need it most.

I have been able to donate over \$1000 worth of items to Lakeland this year! I've received crocheted hats and scarves, toys from across the state, rolled fleece blankets, and so many wonderful donations from Art Semro Unit 28! Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making the residents at Lakeland Village feel loved!

### Lakeland Village Donation Ideas

The residents of Lakeland Village are special needs adults that live in cottages. Some have higher needs than others, and some have no living family to provide for them.

Jewelry—Nothing with a clasp, costume Jewelry is good\* Wallets\* Baseball Caps\* Scarves\* Small Purses\* Simple Puzzles—15 piece is good\* Small Flashlights\* Fidget Spinners\* Stress Balls\* Plug in Night Lights\* Sweatshirts and Sweatpants\* Arts and Craft Supplies\* Rolled Fleece Blankets\* Slippers socks with Gripper Bottoms\*

Elaine Roach

509-936-1524

livehappy73e@gmail.com

## 2024 Spring Conference Schedule:

April 5th - District 12

April 6th - District 6 @ Yakima 36 - 1100 social / noon  
lunch / 1300 meeting

April 7th - District 5

April 12th - District 1 (via zoom/teams)

April 13th - District 2 @ Burlington 9 - 0930 social /  
1030 Memorial / 1300 Meeting

April 14th - District 11 @ Bothell 127

### 2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION AND ALA SPRING



#### 2<sup>nd</sup> District Spring Conference

Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Burlington Post #91  
721 East Fairhaven Avenue, Burlington

#### AGENDA

Joint Social hour - 9:30 AM (muffins and donuts)

Memorial - 10:30AM

Followed by the Welcoming and Introductions

Lunch will be served at noon and the Auxiliary Meeting will start at 1:00PM.

#### MENU

##### SOCIAL HOUR

Muffins and Donuts

##### LUNCH

(\$13 if you RSVP, \$16 if you do not RSVP)

Baked Potato Bar with toppings

Salad

Dessert

#### RSVP

Lynn Handy 360-757-8766

[handyl@frontier.com](mailto:handyl@frontier.com)

by March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Hope you will join us!



## Unit 91 Burlington Crochet Club

Over a year ago, we started a crochet club. The purpose of this club was to make afghans for veterans moving into their own place. We put a tag on saying "Wrapping you in a warm hug, American Legion Post 91 Ladies Auxiliary". We asked members and the public to crochet 7" squares, any color, any pattern, etc. They would be put together by Debra Stratton who is the chairman of this. She has other members to help out putting together the afghans. This year alone we have made 8 afghans to be given to Vets Connect in Burlington to be handed out to veterans. We also have a member that does quilting. Laurali Larson has made over 6 quilts for Vets Connect and Quilts of Valor. Debra Stratton has also been showing a few of our junior members how to crochet...future sewers in the making.

Sue Whittle  
Unit 91 Burlington  
Secretary/membership/newsletter



Questions? Suggestions?  
email us  
[alaevergreennews@gmail.com](mailto:alaevergreennews@gmail.com)

[Find us on Facebook](#)



Thanks for reading this month's issue; we are only reaching 50% of our members -please ask your Unit members to update their email addresses with Department by filling out a Unit Data Form, available on our website: [www.walegion-aux.org](http://www.walegion-aux.org).

Send me your articles and pictures for our April issue by April 10!

