



ALA Evergreen News Online September, 2024



Department President Diana Hagen

At our Department Convention in Kennewick in July, Diana Hagen was duly elected as our Department President for 2024-25.

Diana shared this message with us:

"I would like to open with a scriptural selection from *Proverbs 29:18* - "*Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*"

Our outstanding organization, the American Legion Auxiliary, is founded on the 4 principles of justice, freedom, democracy and loyalty. They guarantee that we are united in

service to enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad – a most worthy cause for those who have and are serving our country. My goal for the coming Auxiliary year is to unite us in service to our country’s veterans, military and their families. With this vision or goal in mind we will not perish – no greater good can we do than to “lay” down or demonstrate our loyalty to this “cause.” This coming year you will see many familiar faces continuing as Department of WA chairs to keep the focus and continuity of all those who have gone on before me. Catherine, you have truly selflessly given your heart and soul not only in service to our country but to our endeavor to unite all of us in “*Service not Self*” by “*Climbing Every Mountain*” and mentoring others.

Our over-arching theme is “*United in Service*” and our motto is a spinoff on “*Climbing Every Mountain*” – “*Happy Trails.*”

May I inspire you by example to unite our hearts and hands in service to active military Veterans and their families and make our various paths of endeavors or “trails,” happy ones for us and those that we serve.

Primary to this 100% Membership milestone for each Unit is ***fiscal*** and ***procedural integrity***. ***Fiscal Integrity*** truly is the highest form of justice – its provable, its honest, its above reproach and SOUND – it preserves and protects our resources and demonstrates the highest moral caliber.

Naturally, ***Procedural Integrity*** is complementary to ***Fiscal Integrity*** – it’s the fundamental “bones” of our organizational business and means of conducting our organization which will eventually “*move-it-forward*” to future generations.”

President Diana has chosen the ALA Auxiliary Emergency Fund as her Presidential Project. Donations can be made on the Department Donation Form.

President Diana is having us walk the “Happy Trails” to membership this year. You will receive a new tools (reward) for your Auxiliary Backpack (envelope) for each 10% of goal that your Unit achieves.

10%	Bottle of Water (thirst quencher)
20%	Trail Mix (sustenance)
30%	Compass (direction)
40%	Sunglasses (eye protection)
50%	Hat (head coverage)
60%	Poncho (rain protection)
70%	Pick Axe (to mark the path)
80%	Flashlight (to light the way)
90%	Journal & Pen (to jot notes)
100%	Cell Phone (to share your story)

Off we go tracking our Membership Goal Achievements!



LET'S MAKE 100% THIS YEAR!

2024-25 Dept of WA Membership "Happy Trails!"



- Camping Checklist
- ✓ tent
 - ✓ lantern
 - ✓ flash lights
 - ✓ multitool
 - ✓ camp stove
 - ✓ soap
 - ✓ knife
 - ✓ first aid kit
 - ✓ hiking poles
 - ✓ 100% membership
 - ✓ lots of great memories
 - ✓

The more membership renewals, the more goodies you can add to your backpack!

Shelly Lagerwey
Dept of Wa Membership Chair
deptmembership20232024@gmail.com
Cell (360) 595-7496



YOU ARE INVITED TO A ZOOM Membership Workshop!

Given by Dept. of WA Membership Chair Shelly Lagerwey

Date: Wednesday SEPTEMBER 18th, 2024 6:30 – 7:30 pm

RSVP by: Monday September 16, 2024 to:

deptmembership20232024@gmail.com

You will learn how to:

- Fill out membership applications
- ALA MIS Basics
- How to prepare membership transmittals
- Ways to achieve your Unit's 100% Goal
- National Membership Awards



40%



50%



60%



70%



10%



80%



20%



90%



30%



100%

ALA 2024-25 Mission Trainings and National Junior Meetings

Are you passionate about the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary? Want to connect with national leaders and like-minded American Legion Auxiliary members from all over the country who share your enthusiasm for serving our veterans?

Join us for a one-day conference that's both

ALA Mission Trainings and National Junior Meetings



- NASHVILLE, TENN.
November 16
- DENVER, COLO.
November 16
- DES MOINES, IOWA
January 25
- LAS VEGAS, NEV.
February 1
- BOSTON, MASS.
February 1



inspiring and educational.

This year, the Mission Trainings on November 16 and February 1 will be for the whole Legion Family, with the Legion and the SAL holding trainings at the same time and place.

National Junior meetings will be held at the same time in the same location as ALA Mission Trainings.

Let's show them who the Dept of WA is!

Register now by clicking here! [ALA Mission Trainings Registration](#)

**2024 National Creative Arts Competitions are coming soon!
the Spokane VAMC competition is on
Friday, September 20, 2024**

**and the American Lake VAMC Festival runs
from September 6 - October 13, 2024**

Volunteer to help or attend to see the unique artistic abilities of our veterans.



**NATIONAL VETERANS
CREATIVE ARTS
COMPETITION**

Visual Arts / Music
Creative Writing / Drama

WHEN:
Friday, September 20th, 2024
Set up starts at 10 AM-12PM
Pre-judging starts at 12 PM (Noon)

Public showing 2-4 PM
***Format of show is subject to change
per Veteran entry count.***

LOCATION:
Spokane, WA VAMC
Picnic Area (Behind Building 40)

 **VA** | U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs
Mann-Grandstaff VAMC
Spokane, WA



VA U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health
Administration
Puget Sound
Health Care System

**NATIONAL VETERANS
CREATIVE ARTS
FESTIVAL**

**VA Puget Sound Veterans
Creative Arts Festival**

 **Artist Reception:**
September 6, 2024, 5pm-7pm

Exhibit Dates:
September 6, 2024 – October 13, 2024

Lakewold Gardens Info:
12317 Gravelly Lake Drive SW, Lakewood
253-584-4106 | contactus@lakewoldgardens.org

VA Creative Arts Therapy Info:
Kristin Weber, LMHC, ATR | Creative Arts Therapist | Kristin.weber@va.gov
VA Puget Sound Health Care System | American Lake Veterans Hospital

ALA AMERICANISM

Welcome to the start of the new school year. I have so much to share with all of your Units and Americanism Chairmen.



The Department of WA Americanism Program was chosen as the Best Americanism Program in the Western Division at our National Convention.

Congrats to the Units who participated and to our Chair, Eva Wallace!

Constitution Day September 17th, plan a way to share the Constitution with your Unit, your local community and schools. Set up a display at your Post or library, put on a fun reading, share with your local school, dress up as Betsy Ross and other period costume to talk to or put on a skit for the kids about what the Constitution means. Ask your Juniors to help put it together at your Unit meeting. You can share copies of the Constitution along with a small flag.

Star Spangled Kids—The program continues, but we will not be getting the special grant. Each Unit will need to put together its own packet for your local schools or other youth groups that you share them with. The list is attached.

Americanism Essay Contest "*What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?*": The rules and essay dates are the same this year, due by May 1st for judging. A copy of the Cover Sheet for 2025 is attached, so you can start getting this out to your schools, home-schooled children, and youth groups. (as a FYI, 4 of the essays were declined due to word count errors; please count carefully)

TAKE PICTURES!

"STAR SPANGLED KIDS" SUGGESTED LIST FOR KITS

Educating our children about American history is essential to our country's civic health. "Star Spangled Kids" is the American Legion Auxiliary's initiative to educate about United States history, Americanism, and the U.S. Constitution. This is a suggested list that can be used in classrooms, with your Junior members, scouting groups and other community groups of children. Make it fun, be creative, you can dress up in costume, have skits, talk about what it means to you to be an American citizen, our flag history, create or have coloring contests, show them how to fold the flag and what that means, put up a display at their school, there are so many ideas. This list is just some ideas of resources you can use.

- 25 "The Pledge of Allegiance" comic books (Emblem Sales Item #755.302)
- 25 "Our Country's Flag" comic books (Emblem Sales Item #755.300)
- 1 "Let's Get It Right on Flag Etiquette" (Emblem Sales Item #755.200)
- 50 4 x 6 stick flags (Emblem Sales Item#

- 100.200G)
- 50 Declaration of Independence/Constitution of the United States (Emblem Sales Item #755.200)
- 40 USA Flag Key Chains
- 50 Flag Pins
- 50 Patriotic Stickers
- Star Spangled Kids "How to Sheet"

Eva Wallace, Americanism Chairman (2024-2025)

evas_place@hotmail.com

(206) 979-7458

14611 – 64th Ave SE
Snohomish, WA 98296



**AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST
2025 Cover Sheet**

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into six classes. One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund.

Essay Title: *"What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?"*

Essay Classes:

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement*
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level.

THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.

Essay Checklist:

- Class competing in _____
- Sponsoring ALA unit _____
- Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- Completed essay coversheet as first page of essay
- Word count of essay _____
- Due date for student to return to ALA unit _____

To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____

School Name: _____

School City/State: _____

Teacher Name and Signature: _____

Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.):

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: _____

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: _____

Unit winner due to Department on: _____ Department: _____

Signature of Department Chairman: _____

Department winner due to National Americanism Division Chairman by April 15, 2025

FINANCE

It is important for all of us to realize that our financial well-being is based upon our membership numbers. We do not have a product that we are selling to bring in income, but rather we are dependent on our members renewing and bringing in new members to meet our obligations.

This year, our Department budget is based upon only those things that we are required to pay – ie wages, utilities, taxes, those things outlined in the standing rules that we contribute to etc. We have several programs that we just could not budget for, and those that we budgeted for at the bare minimum.

This is where you come in.

We know what our mission is – we are here to help our veterans and their families. How often do we get all excited about a program, or an event and realize that they need help to continue. Well, many of our programs need your help.

I am asking each of you to find a program close to your heart, whether it be Gift Shop, Santa's Castle, Americanism or Girls State and start raising money to help them continue. We as a Department do not have the funds to subsidize these programs and they ALL need help.

It would also help if our membership increased – the more members the more funds available for our programs. If you can't donate or start a fund raiser – bring in a new member. It all starts with YOU. We are in this together. We are here for our Veterans and their families. Let's do what we can to make their lives better.

Thank you for your consideration and support of the American Legion Auxiliary and their programs. If you have any questions or concerns you can reach me at terter59@gmail.com.

I look forward to seeing what this year brings for our Veterans. I know with your help that we can continue and even exceed our donations this year.

Yours in Service

Terri Angell – Finance Chair

GIFT SHOP

We need your help!!! With membership being the driving force behind our budget, our funds are limited. We have multiple Gift Shops throughout the state that just can't open without your help!

Our veterans count on us each year to bring a little cheer into their lives by being able to participate in the spirit of giving. We don't want to let them down.

Please, go to your units and see if you can do a special fund raiser. Remember the sooner that the chairmen get the donations, the sooner they can start shopping for gifts.

Send your donations into Dept of WA ALA
And earmark the giftshop of your choice. If
Nothing earmarked, it will go to the
Gift shop in most need.

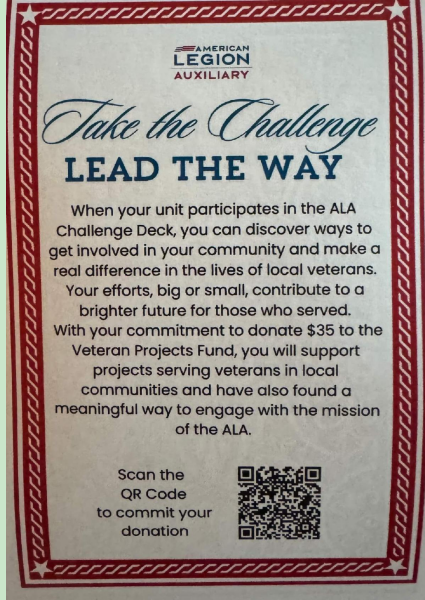


THANK YOU



From our new ALA National President, Trish Ward:

Introducing our ALA Challenge Cards
The deck is a 44-card deck of cards sharing great projects and ideas to work the ALA programs. Our members, units, departments WIN when they play cards AND the Veterans Project experience through the ALA Foundation WINS TOO...as all proceeds benefit the fund...this is our National President Trish Ward's special fundraising project for the year. What a fantastic way to support our National President's special project, the Veterans Project while having FUN and learning all in ONE swoop. Grab and reserve your Deck of Cards today before it's too late!!! Attached is the flyer communicating about the deck, please share. The link to order Decks is here: [ALA Challenge Card ALA Challenge Cards Order Form](#)



Please communicate throughout about the decks and encourage ALL to share on Facebook groups and to print the flyer.

2024-25 National President Trish Ward

Trish Ward was elected national president of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) during the organization's 103rd National Convention held Aug. 23-29 in New Orleans.

"I stand before you today incredibly honored to have been elected to the position of national president for the 2024-2025 administrative year and I thank you deeply and genuinely for your support and confidence," Ward said from the convention stage. "As a dedicated and committed member of this organization, it's hard for me to express the emotion of this moment. Yes, it is the opportunity of a lifetime, not only for me, but also and more so for my beloved Kansas."

Before her election to the ALA's highest volunteer office, Ward held numerous leadership positions in the organization at the unit, district, department, and national levels. At the national level, she served as chair of several programs, including Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Children & Youth, Constitution & Bylaws, Leadership, Legislative, ALA Girls Nation, Public Relations, and Membership. She also served as national vice president during the ALA's 2023-2024 administrative year.

Ward is a member of John P. Hand Unit 250 in Louisburg, Kan. She is eligible for ALA membership through her father, John M. Brusati, and her grandfather, Edmund S. Lindberg. Her father served in the U.S. Army in World War II, and her grandfather served in the U.S. Navy during WWII.

In her professional life, Ward retired in 2023 as Senior Lead Project Manager at Lumen, a global technology and IT company. She holds bachelor's degrees from both the University of Southern California and the University of Kansas. Her hobby is studying parliamentary law, and she is a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians.

Ward's family is also involved in The American Legion Family organizations. She and her husband Steve bring children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to the Family experience.

As a membership organization, American Legion Auxiliary members make a difference every day for our veterans, military, and their families.

Our membership numbers change from year to year for various reasons, which can impact the outreach we are able to do.

The American Legion Auxiliary has seen in recent years that small-town rural environments are struggling, leadership capacity is dwindling, membership is aging and churning, and infrastructure is weakening.

These reasons related to our membership have led Ward to an ALA national focus on helping reinvigorate our organization through membership — from the ground up.

Ward is visiting ALA departments during her term as national president to share a content enablement experience to help departments help their units succeed. Leveraging her deep business acumen as a senior lead project manager and corporate trainer, Ward looks to bring her skills to empower departments to build organizational excellence. During the visits, she will focus on how to build leadership capacity and share knowledge on how to stop the trend of units surrendering their charters.

To help motivate and guide departments, Ward established the Department Merit Medallion Recognition. There are five established areas of focus that, if achieved, will drive business and operational excellence:

- **Achieve 85% membership benchmark goal by June 30, 2025.**
- **Submit department impact report.**
- **Governance excellence (Constitution & Bylaws annual review, board responsibilities, disciplinary process, meeting and voting authority).**
- **Financial policies and process (990 compliance, audit standards).**
- **Financial donation obligations (ALA Foundation Veteran Projects Fund, Auxiliary Emergency Fund).**

Members are also invited to join the Renew Crew. These are the people who get things done — with or without a title; people who, when asked, will jump in to help; people who are looking for actionable items and want to make an impact; people who are interested in moving the needle for our organization; and people who are positive, innovative, and visionary.





Connect with us on facebook! We want to hear what you are up to!
www.facebook.com/DeptofWaALA

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