



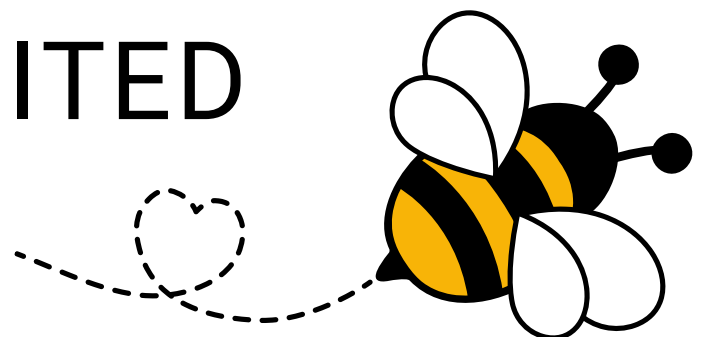
 AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

Evergreen News May 2026

printable versions are
available on ALA website

June Deadline:
June 5th

BEE EXCITED



*****HIGH ALERT*****
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
EVERGREEN GIRLS STATE
Director; Terri Campbell

ALA Evergreen Girls State (EGS) has recently discovered that there are social media messages going viral stating it was from walagion aux.org (ALA Department of WA) Evergreen Girls State – American Legion Auxiliary. The message is an AI Overview. This is NOT FROM the ALA Department of WA nor from Evergreen Girls State Committee.

ALA Evergreen Girls State (EGS) never sent this message out which is circulating on social media and this may be confusing Junior Girls, School Counselors, Organizations, ALA Units, who may be working to register girls and may not be sure which program to sponsor. The Social Media message from AI that we did not send out is as follows:

For 2026, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Girls State program in Washington is evolving into a co-educational format known as Evergreen Boys & Girls State taking place June 21-27th, 2026, at the Warm Beach Conference Center in Stanwood. The message goes on to explain the program.

This was also stated in writing in social media from Units supporting Boys and Girls State that as co-educational “Beginning with the 2026 session, the Boys and Girls State program will be conducted as a fully co-educational experience

under the authority of The American Legion Department of Washington”.

At convention in July 2025, the American Legion Post members voted to do a co-educational program even though most Auxiliary members were not in favor of this.

Our ALA Evergreen Girls State Committee has worked so hard preparing and hopes to remain running the **ALA EGS program**, that the Auxiliary is hopefully supporting, **which this year will be held in Ellensburg, WA at Central University on from June 21st thru June 26th with a tuition of \$530.00. Our program is NOT a co educational program.** It is for Junior high Students who are female who are eligible to have the greatest opportunity to experience a week full of campaigning for offices, leadership training, and much more educational opportunities along with meeting wonderful girls from the State and making life changing memories. Yes, our program is intense, but well worth spending a most valuable week.

Due to this change, Junior Girls are asked to registrar and attend the Evergreen Boys and Girls State program even though our committee has worked hard to bring the program back to life after COVID19. We have been diligent getting the message out to schools, organizations, and our community asking the Junior Girls and Units to support our ALA EGS program through the Auxiliary. After getting our attendance numbers up since COVID19 we have had a very successful program.

But this year, this change has hurt our turnout for our EGS program supported by the Auxiliary. The number of girls that have signed up now is the lowest we have had in the last few years. The EGS committee feels that there may be great confusion which program the Junior Girls should attend due to the social media output. The Junior Girls, and Units who sponsor

the ALA EGS program may not be aware that our program is the only ALA EGS program where they can run and be Governor, or the two Senators which who get the opportunity to attend Girls Nation in Washinton DC. They also do not get credit for attending the Boys and Girls state program. **The ALA National Auxiliary states in their Guidebook,that the program cannot be combined,** the ALA must have their own program. Yes, Girls can attend the Boys and Girls program but they will not receive credit without going through the Auxiliary Girls State program.

Please, take the time to look into this. The Girls will only benefit if they attend the ALA Evergreen Girls State program.

For our ALA Evergreen Girls State program to succeed, we need the support of our Auxiliary members, Units, and sponsors.

Please, see our website (Evergreengirlsstate.com), it has everything you need to know in what the ALA EGS offers. We also have zoom meetings to answer any questions you may need answered or help with to enable a junior member to have the opportunity to attend.

On a side note, at our EGS program last year the counselors questioned the girls if they would be in favor of a co-educational program. More than the majority stated “No, it would not be as comfortable and they love getting to know other girls from other cities in our state and hanging out with other girls with no boys around is a lot of casual and fun.”

Thank you, and please support our ALA EGS program by encouraging a Junior Girl to attend our wonderful program, we really need you.

Hi all, friendly reminder for the remainder of our year.

VA&R: All reports are due! Please send me a copy as soon as possible so I can prepare my report for Department and National. Photos are always appreciated in the narrative reports. Brag about all you have been doing! I have a couple in that are going for awards so please send me what your Units are doing.

Also, a reminder that at the joint luncheon during Convention in July, the Children & Youth Chair, Vickie Evans and I are looking forward to any and all donations you can bring for the Operation Stork baby shower and remember we are also doing a “donation drop” for the clothing closet at American Lake and Hygiene bags for all the transitional housing.

Donation Drop VA&R:

Hygiene bags: are loaded with personal care items...shampoo, conditioner, bar soap/body wash, razors, combs, brushes, tooth paste/brush, lotion...personal care products for women...anything you can think of you that you would use in your morning/evening routine. Full size or travel size are accepted. If you have someone who can make ditty bags, fill them up...if not, a box of what ever you can load up is perfectly fine.

The Clothing Closet: American Lake has a closet they keep filled with assorted clothes. Shirts, tee's, pants, socks, underwear, sweaters, coats, hats, scarves, shoes, tennis shoes and boots. When a veteran comes in and is transitioning to housing from the streets, they are given a voucher for the closet where they will receive 2 of each item if available. A full set of clothes plus a spare clean change of clothes. Clothing can be for both men and women please. ALL sizes are in need. If you happen to have some of the large size shopping bags they would appreciate those also.

They also need items for their new “homes”. Think of anything for a college dorm room. If you are unsure what’s needed, reach out to us.

Operation Stork Baby Shower:

As in the past, a full on baby shower. Any and all items are desperately needed to replenish their closets. Diapers, bottles, wash clothes, receiving blankets, hats, little mittens, you name it. If it’s in your budget, fill a diaper bag with items to bring a newborn home from the hospital.

Please...include a donation sheet for your items. It’s important in order to drop items off with.

At the combined lunch, we have a great children’s program/presentation along with our guest VA&R speaker. Auxiliary members bring your spouses/special Veterans with you as we are going to “Honor our Own” special Veterans in the room.

On behalf of Vickie and myself we are looking forward to seeing you all at the luncheon and convention.

Watch the Department Web site and your emails for further information regarding convention as we get closer.

For God and Country,

Rose Ring, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Vickie Evans, Children & Youth

AMERICANISM

Eva Wallace, Chairman

“Bee Patriotic”



I am pleased to announce the winners of our Department Americanism Essay Contest for 2025-2026. It was an amazing group of entries, and the judges had a difficult decision in selecting the winners this year. The theme was “Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday and the Veterans Who Fought for Our Freedom”. Our award winners have been sent on to National for further judging. And the winners are:

Class I	Grayson Wachtor	Sponsored by Unit 28, Ephrata
Class II	Paisley Tommer	Sponsored by Unit 28, Ephrata
Class III	Emily Graham	Sponsored by Unit 54, Chewelah
Class IV	Remi Turner	Sponsored by Unit 82, Tonasket
Class V	Marc Schmidt	Sponsored by Unit 54, Chewelah
Class VI	Andrew Entrup	Sponsored by Unit 28, Ephrata

Certificates of Recognition will be awarded to Sara Lemus, Class I, sponsored by Unit 34; Amelia McCoy, Class II, sponsored by Unit 54; Bailee Shellenbarger, Class II, sponsored by Unit 82; Alyssa Reser, Class III, sponsored by Unit 34; Harlee Shellenbarger, Class III, sponsored by Unit 82; Alexis Evans, Class IV, sponsored by Unit 28; Terinda Crosby, Class IV, sponsored by Unit 91; Zauc Heathman, Class V, sponsored by Unit 28; Jaiden Cluck, Class V, sponsored by Unit 34; and Dakota Cox, Class V, sponsored by Unit 82.

A special thank you to all the Units that participated this year, it takes a lot of extra effort to work with the schools and local youth groups to organize the event in your communities. It’s not just one day, its contacting people, presenting the program, getting the essays returned and then judged in a timely manner. This is one of those moments, when it “takes a village” or in this case “a Unit” to make the program successful. Thank you to each one of you, our kids are worth it.

Just a quick reminder, reports are due immediately, I need to get my report to National by the 15th. And don’t forget to email pictures to me. My email is evas_place@hotmail.com.

Attached is a Narrative Outline you can use as a reference.

WRITING A NARRATIVE ANNUAL REPORT

Writing a narrative report simply telling your story of your activities. As your Unit Chairman, it is how you would tell someone what your Unit did but doing it in written form. To simplify the process as take the mystery out of reports, here is the basic process of a report but written _____ in a paragraph format.

WHO YOU ARE: (can be written in any order, as long as the information in included)

1) Department of Washington

2) Identify Unit No. _____ Unit

Name _____

3) City _____

4) Your

Name _____ Position _____

5) Who worked with you?

Unit/Post/SAL/Juniors _____

WHAT ACTIVITY/PROGRAM ARE YOU WRITING ABOUT/WHAT HAPPENED?

WHERE AND WHEN DID IT TAKE PLACE?

MAIL or EMAIL TO YOUR DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN

*****ADD PICTURES OF YOUR ACTIVITY*****

MAKING HISTORY

January - March

2026

Dept. Historian Jessie Cluck

A Blooming Poppy Making Party

Olympia Unit 3 recently hosted a blooming Poppy Making Party, bringing together members for a fun and meaningful experience. Rookie poppy makers from Unit 19 traveled to join the event, eager to learn and prepare for the upcoming Poppy Day in May.

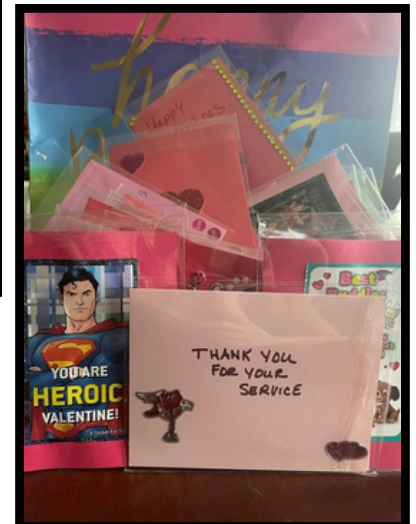
Using poppy kits, members were guided through the process of creating poppies, learning helpful techniques along the way. The room was filled with laughter, teamwork, and new friendships as participants honed their skills. This special gathering not only helped grow confidence in poppy making but also strengthened the bond between units—all while supporting an important tradition that honors our veterans.



Unit #54 Spreads Love with Valentine's Day Cards

Members of Unit #54 in Chewelah recently shared kindness and appreciation with local veterans by delivering 100 handmade Valentine's Day cards to the Spokane Veterans Home.

Unit# 54 members enjoyed coming together to create and collect the cards, turning the effort into a community-driven act of kindness. The delivery to the Spokane Veterans Home was met with appreciation and smiles, making the project a rewarding experience for both the recipients and the volunteers.



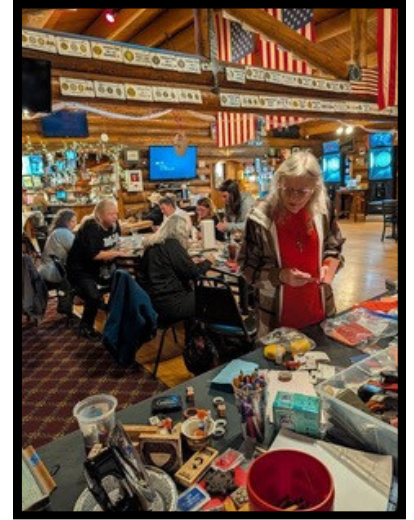
A Busy Winter at Unit 141 South Whidbey Island



Unit 141 has enjoyed a busy and fun-filled winter season! Members gathered monthly for Friday night dinners at the Post, creating a great opportunity to share meals, laughter, and fellowship.

They also cheered on the Seahawks throughout the season, adding plenty of excitement to the winter months.

The Crafty Group stayed active as well, meeting regularly to create handmade items for fun, fellowship, and fundraising efforts—showcasing the group’s creativity and teamwork.



Creativity on Display at Unit 10 Highland Cow Painting Party

Unit 10 ALA members and friends had a “moo-velous” time during their Highland Cow Painting Party! The event brought everyone together for a fun and creative afternoon filled with laughter, fellowship, and artistic expression as members painted their own adorable Highland cow masterpieces

Unit 72 Brings the Heat at Annual Chili Cook-Off

Unit 72 brought the heat once again with their annual Auxiliary Chili Cook-Off, serving up a wide variety of delicious and flavorful entries. From mild to spicy, each chili showcased the creativity and talent of the participants.

With so many tasty entries to sample, the judges had a difficult time selecting the winners. The friendly competition made for a fun and flavorful event enjoyed by all in attendance.



Unit 34 Celebrates St. Patrick's Day in Style



The luck of the Irish was strong with Unit 34 this St. Patrick's Day as members gathered for a festive and fun celebration. Guests enjoyed a delicious serving of corned beef and cabbage, perfectly fitting the holiday spirit.

The atmosphere was filled with lively music, laughter, and fellowship as members and friends came together to celebrate. It was a joyful occasion that captured the warmth and camaraderie of the season.



Mid Winter Conference in Lacey Brings the State Together

Members enjoyed a great time at the Mid-Winter Conference in Lacey this February. The event provided an opportunity to gather with fellow members from across the area to hear chairman reports and district updates. Attendees also engaged in meaningful discussions about strengthening units and better serving members, making it both an informative and inspiring conference.



President Cindy is Buzzing Across the State

President Cindy has been a busy bee on the move again! Throughout March and April, she has been buzzing all over the state, traveling nearly every weekend to visit events, connect with members, and support Auxiliary activities wherever she lands. We would love to help document her travels and share all the sweet moments from Spring Conferences across the state. If you have any photos from your Spring Conference or related events, please send them to Jessie Cluck at alawahistorian@gmail.com for a special bee-themed Spring Conference edition of Making History.





Reminder:

October Edition Deadline Is:
June 5th

Email Submissions To:
alaevergreennews@gmail.com

BE EXCITED

