



“Angels in the Outfield, Caring for others”

February 2026,

Department dues will be going up for the 2027 Membership Year! At last years convention a dues increase for department was passed. Units will be sending in \$30.00 to cover Department and National dues. PLEASE, talk to your members and make sure your unit charges enough to cover this and the unit portion. Dues forms are on the website and must be returned to department HQ by May 5th. Late forms will be charged \$30 if changes are to be made.

National President Pam Ray: will be visiting Arizona March 12-16, 2026. We are working on activities, if your unit is interested in hosting a luncheon, dinner, or meeting & greet please let Rose know. We will be in Southern Arizona for those four (4) days. She will be attending the district 2 meeting at Post 68 on Sunday March 15th.

ALAMIS billing will be sent out for 2026 in February. No changes can be made, nor anyone added until National bills all Departments!

Don't hold on to membership, please send in weekly.

Department NO LONGER HOLDS MEMBERSHIP CREDITS!!! ONLINE AND OVER/UNDERPAYMENTS ARE REIMBURSED MONTHLY. DO NOT WRITE USE CREDIT ON YOUR MEMBERSHIP WHEN YOU SEND IT IN. If the check, we send you is not cashed within 90 days of issuance the bank automatically voids it and you WILL NOT BE ISSUED ANOTHER ONE!

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT: President Dolores's project this year is **Caregivers and Hospice**. Dawn Davidson from Unit 45 is the PSP Chairman. You can reach her at, aladawndavidson@gmail.com, if you want her to visit your Unit or District, or to get more information.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership is everyone's job. 2026 membership renewals, re-joins and new members can be sent to the Department.

RENEW MEMBERSHIP BY PHONE:
member ID and debit or credit card ready

Call National Headquarters at 317-569-4570 with your

MANDATES : The 2025-2026 mandates are on the website. Please pay your mandates sooner than later. There were several Units who did not pay their mandates 30 days before the Department Convention; therefore, they lost their voting rights at Convention. If you have any questions regarding Mandates, contact the Department Office.

2026 DIRECTORY: Is on the Department website: www.aladeptaz.org . If your Units information is blank, that means we did not receive your new officer information. Please email us with the information and we will get you entered.

POPPY: We need units to start making poppies for Department.

The Office is open, and we are here to help. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4p.m. Evenings by appointment. (please don't be afraid to ask).

Rose Ficklin
Department Secretary/Treasurer

Rae Hopf
Department Membership Processor

Secretary1@aladeptaz.org

membership@aladeptaz.org

PLEASE REMEMBER !!!!!

No one representing the American Legion Auxiliary will ever send an email or text asking you for money or to purchase gift cards for them because they are busy or "in meetings".

PLEASE ALWAYS DELETE THEM AND IGNORE ANY SUCH REQUEST !!!!!

A Unit has fallen for a gift card scam, PLEASE let your members know to be diligent!

TIDBITS FROM THE WEBSITE MANAGER

--25-26 YEAR-END REPORT FORMS ARE READY AND UPLOADED TO WEBSITE

<https://aladeptaz.org/12-dept-report-forms>

Contact Deb Munchbach with errors and questions right away. munchaz@msn.com

DIRECTORY UPDATES

--Unit 2 has the following changes or updates...effective January 1, 2026.

Time of meeting is now 1:30 pm instead of 2:00 pm. Date/location etc is not affected.

Secretary Hazel Nitis Sanderson email: coconitis@gmail.com instead of coconitis@yahoo.com.

--New Department Community Service Chairman

Joanie Whitsett

707-478-2102

joanieala86@gmail.com

--Unit 24 Tombstone

New President

Dee Quimby

520-508-0421

ALADeeQuimby@gmail.com

--Unit 115

meetings held at Brother's Restaurant

8466 W. Peoria Ave. #1

Peoria, AZ 85345

First Saturday 3:00 pm (new time)

--Unit 54

meetings to 1st Thursday at 6:00 pm

--Unit 29

Acting President is

Terry Shaw

480-330-7914

tshaw2362@gmail.com

All other Directory entries for Unit 29 unchanged.

--New Department Americanism Chairman

Maggie Montijo

520-904-1814

azamericanism@gmail.com

JUNE 06 THRU 13, 2026

A **AMERICAN**



L **LEGION**



L **LAW**



E **ENFORCEMENT**

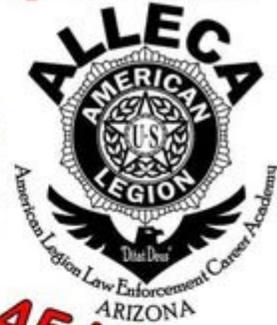


C **CAREER**



A **ACADEMY**

WWW.ALLECA-AZ.ORG



45 YEARS!



- AGES 14 TO 19, MALE & FEMALE
- APPLICATIONS ON-LINE @ WWW.ALLECA-AZ.ORG
- DEADLINE MAY 10, 2026
- 45 YEAR PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP
- DEPT. OF AZ AMERICAN LEGION
- AZ DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY
- 520-289-5113

ALLECA 2026 is on the horizon, scheduled for June 6 - 13, 2026 at Emmanuel Pines in Prescott! Open to youth ages 14 -19, applications can be found on-line at www.alleca-az.org, application deadline is May 10, 2026. Spots are filling up fast, get yours in today. Please message me if you have any questions!

2027 MEMBERSHIP DUES

July 2026 – Dec. 2027

Non-legible forms will be Returned.

Department is raising it's portion of Dues to \$12.00 Effective July 1st, 2026. Units will send \$30.00 to Department to cover National and Department dues for the 2027 membership year.

It is HIGHLY suggested that units raise their 2027 dues, so they have operational capitol.

The dues amount indicated below will be printed on the 2027 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICES that is mailed to senior members in your unit. Also requested is the address to be printed on each renewal notice showing where and whom to mail the dues for your Unit.

Completed forms for 2027 dues must be returned to Department Headquarter on or before May 5, 2026. NO EXCEPTIONS!!

You can mail or email the completed form to secretary1@aladepaz.org OR mail to Department Headquarters, 4701 N. 19th Ave. Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85015.

If your unit fails to return the needed information by the due date, the current information on file with the Department will be sent to National.

Units making Changes after May 15th, 2026, will be charged \$30.00 FEE!

UNIT NUMBER: _____

2027 Junior Dues \$ _____ 2027 Senior Dues \$ _____

Address where membership dues will be mailed to.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP CODE: _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ DATE: _____

Name of Person Competing this Form: _____

TITLE _____

DATE: _____

DUES COMPARISON WITH INCREASE FOR DEPARTMENT PORTION
2026-2027

2025-2026

Member Pays	30.00
Amount sent to Department	25.00 (Dept. keeps 7.00 and sends 18.00 to National)
Unit keeps	5.00

2026-2027

If member pays the same	30.00
NEW amount sent to Department	30.00 (Dept. will keep 12.00 and send 18.00 to National)
Unit keeps	0.00 Nothing. If you rely on some of the dues money to meet Unit expenses you will need to increase the amount each member pays.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of Arizona

SUBJECT: Names and addresses of elected 2026-2027 Unit Officers

NOTE: Since this mailing will be sent to the OUT-GOING OFFICERS, it is THEIR responsibility to send the requested information to the Department Office. Even if you are REPEATING an office, *it is necessary to complete and send this form to the Department Office.*

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

UNIT NAME AND NUMBER _____

UNIT MAILING ADDRESS _____

MEETING DAY _____ **TIME** _____ **PLACE** _____

PRESIDENT: _____ ID# _____

Phone # _____

Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____

Publish Yes No

SECRETARY: _____ ID# _____

Phone # _____

Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____

Publish Yes No

MEMBERSHIP: _____ ID# _____

Phone # _____

Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____

Publish Yes No

TREASURER: _____ ID# _____

Phone# _____

Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____

Publish Yes No

CHAPLAIN: _____ ID# _____

Phone# _____

Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____

Publish Yes No

HISTORIAN: _____ ID# _____

Phone# _____

Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____

Publish Yes No

Please complete and return this form. We must have this information to prepare the Department Directory and to notify National. **Form must be into Department no later than June 19, 2026.**

Mail form to: American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of AZ, 4701 N. 19th Ave., Ste 100, Phoenix, AZ 85015

You can email this form to secretary1@aladeptaz.org.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of Arizona

SUBJECT: Names and addresses of elected 2026-2027 District Officers

NOTE: Since this mailing will be sent to the OUT-GOING OFFICERS, it is THEIR responsibility to send the requested information to the Department Office. Even if you are REPEATING an office, *it is necessary to complete and send this form to the Department Office.*

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

DISTRICT NUMBER _____

DISTRICT MAILING ADDRESS _____

MEETING DAY _____ **TIME** _____

PRESIDENT: _____ ID# _____

Phone # _____ Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____ Publish Yes No

VICE PRESIDENT: _____ ID# _____

Phone # _____ Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____ Publish Yes No

SECRETARY: _____ ID# _____

Phone # _____ Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____ Publish Yes No

TREASURER: _____ ID# _____

Phone# _____ Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____ Publish Yes No

Please complete and return this form. We must have this information to prepare the Department Directory and to notify National. **Form must be into Department no later than June 19, 2026.**

Mail form to: American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of AZ, 4701 N. 19th Ave., Ste 100, Phoenix, AZ 85015

You can email this form to secretary1@aladepaz.org.

ATTENTION PLEASE

Americanism Essay Contest submissions must be sent to the Department Chairman by MARCH 15, 2026, so she can have them judged and forwarded to the Americanism Western Division Vice Chairman by April 15, 2026.

Department Chairman is: (NEW CHAIRMAN AS OF 1-31-2026)

Maggie Montijo

520-904-1814

azamericanism@gmail.com

Enter "essay contest" in subject line

OR

PO Box 155

Pomerene, AZ 85627



AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST Contest Rules

The American Legion Auxiliary's Americanism Essay Contest is for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs, divided into six classes. One award in each class will be presented in each division. Winners will receive a \$50 check, and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund.

Essay Title:
"Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans Who Fought for Our Freedom"

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

1. The Americanism Essay Contest cover sheet must be filled out **legibly** and **completely**. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
2. Departments (states) will determine the deadline for the local unit contests.
3. Essays will be due from the state department chairs to the Americanism Division chairs by April 15. (Essays must reach DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN BY MARCH 15.)
4. Essays received after the contest deadline will not be accepted.
5. Submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary. Through submission of an essay, contestants and their legal guardians grant non-exclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted and agree to have their names and writing published for commercial use without additional compensation or permission.
6. The essay shall be the work of only one individual.
7. Use of AI in writing essays is not allowed. Essays will be checked for use of AI. Any essay determined to be 30% or more AI written will be disqualified.
8. Essays will be scored using the following rubric:
 - Word Count: 5pts.
 - Cover Sheet: 5pts.
 - Topic/Theme — Does the Essay Answer the Topic Question?: 25pts.
 - Content — Original Thought: 25pts.
 - Grammar: 10pts.
 - Clarity/Coherence: 10pts.
 - Organization — Introduction, Body, and Conclusion: 10pts.
 - Correct Word Usage: 10pts.

THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.



AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST 2026 Cover Sheet

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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 cover sheet as first page of essay
- Word count of essay _____
- Due date for student to return to ALA unit _____

To be completed by the student and parent/guardian:

** Please write legibly in ink.*

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

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

Student or Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Name and Signature: _____

School Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

School City/State: _____

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

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: _____

Signature of Unit Americanism Chair: _____

Unit Winner Due to Department on: _____ Department: _____

Signature of Department Chair: _____

Department Winner Due to National Americanism Division Chair by April 15, 2026

ALA Arizona – Monthly Chaplain’s Message – January 2026

As we step into a new year, I invite each of you to pause for a moment of gratitude. January gives us a clean page — not because the past disappears, but because we are given the strength to carry its lessons forward with renewed purpose. Our mission in the American Legion Auxiliary is rooted in service, compassion, and remembrance – let these values guide us into 2026 with clarity and hope.

This month, I encourage all of us to reflect on the quiet heroes who surround us every day.

- The caregiver who sits through long nights.
- The veteran who continues to serve their community long after their uniform is folded away.
- The Auxiliary member who shows up early, stays late, and never asks for recognition.

These acts of love and service are the heartbeat of our organization. The Auxiliary family is a living testimony of service, compassion, and resilience. Each act of kindness, each prayer lifted, and each moment of fellowship is a stream of hope flowing onto the lives of others.

As we begin this year, let us recommit ourselves to kindness — not the soft, passive kind, but the strong, steady kindness that lifts others when they cannot lift themselves. Let us be present for our veterans, our military families, and for one another. Let us be patient with those who are struggling and generous with our time, our talents, and our compassion.

For those who are grieving, healing, or carrying burdens unseen, may this New Year bring comfort and renewed strength. You are not alone. Your Auxiliary family stands beside you.

And for all of us, may 2026 be a year of purpose — a year where we serve boldly, love deeply, and honor the sacrifices of those who have given so much for our freedom.

Wishing each of you peace, hope, and a meaningful start to the new year.

NOTE to ALL District and Unit Chaplains - please join our Chaplains Circle on the Band app so that we can all be united in prayer. Scan with your phone the QR below. If you have any questions or issues please reach out to me at AzDeptChaplain@gmail.com or 562-370-0080 (text). (P.S. Chaplains Circle on the Band App is open to any auxiliary member)



In service and faith,

DeDe
ALA Arizona State Chaplain

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
Community Service Chairperson Monthly Report**

Reporting Month: December

Overview / Summary: As the newly appointed Dept. of Arizona Community Service Chairperson, I didn't have the opportunity to reach out to the Arizona State Units for the month of December. For now, I can report on Unit 86.

Unit 86 members along with community members participated in several events along with the community. Wreaths Across America, Heber-Overgaard Chamber of Commerce Community Winterfest event, gift delivery to homebound seniors and Veterans, served meals to dine-in Seniors and delivered meals. Christmas Dinner at the American Legion Post 86. Assist a community member with VA paperwork.

Activities & Accomplishments:

1. Unit 86 invited the community to help set wreaths from Wreaths Across America at our local cemetery veteran gravesites. It was a solemn event, and the community members were honored to participate.
 2. Some of the Unit 86 members volunteered at the Chamber of Commerce Community Winterfest event. There were Carolers, children's arts & crafts, children's games, Hot Cocoa, Food, Gingerbread House contest, Cookie Walk, and Santa. Over 400 community members attended.
 3. Unit 86 Members delivered gifts donated by the community to homebound Seniors. Members also helped serve meals to dine-in Senior members at the Senior Center.
 4. Unit 86 Members along with community members set up, prepared, served and cleaned up Christmas Dinner. This dinner was provided to all Veterans, their families and the community.
 5. A member of Unit 86 helped a community member complete a VA Application to receive reimbursement for the burial of a Veteran family member.
-

Unit Participation

- Number of units reporting: 1
 - Estimated volunteer hours reported: 31 hours
 - Estimated number of members participating: 14
 - Units showing outstanding participation this month include:
 - Unit: 86
 - Unit:
-

Highlights / Success Stories

I feel that the whole month of December was a success and brought the community out in a big way.

Challenges / Needs

Getting more Unit members to participate is the biggest challenge.

Upcoming Events / Plans: Pet supply donation, volunteering at the local Senior Center and Card Signing.

7. Goals for Next Month

- Increase the number of units reporting
 - Encourage youth and family involvement
-

8. Additional Comments: My goal is to have many more Units participating.

Submitted by:

Joanie Whitsett
Department of Arizona Community Service Chairperson
American Legion Auxiliary
Joanieala86@gmail.com



Education February 2026



As we all know, college is very expensive, and all of our high school students should be taking advantage of any and all scholarships available to them. Units and departments are responsible for promoting American Legion Auxiliary scholarships and making sure the schools have them in ample time for students to apply. The American Legion Auxiliary offers four scholarship opportunities to students:

1. **Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship:** Scholarship is awarded to children of veterans who served in the armed forces during eligibility dates for The American Legion. Three \$5,000 scholarships will be awarded in each division. Fifteen outstanding students will be awarded a total of \$75,000 to further their education. The applicant must complete 50 hours of community service during their high school years to be eligible for one of these scholarships. **Applicants must submit this scholarship online this year by March 1, 2026. It will be forwarded to the Department Education Chair by the National Organization.**
2. **The Non-Traditional Student Scholarship:** One scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded in each American Legion Auxiliary division. Applicant must be a member of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion and shall have paid dues for the two preceding years and for the calendar year in which the application is made. **Applicants must submit this scholarship online this year by March 1, 2026. It will be forwarded to the Department Education Chair by the National Organization.**
3. **Spirit of Youth Scholarship:** One Junior member in each division will receive a scholarship valued at \$5,000. The applicant must have held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the immediate past three years, hold a current membership card and continue her membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during the four-year scholarship period. **Applicants must submit this scholarship online this year by March 1, 2026. It will be forwarded to the Department Education Chair by the National Organization.**
4. **Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship:** American Legion Auxiliary Junior members are the future of our organization. To reward those who retain their membership into adulthood, the American Legion Auxiliary offers the Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship to current college students. Ten scholarships, in the amount of \$2,500 each, will be awarded to a current college student for 2026. Two scholarships will be awarded in each division of the American Legion Auxiliary. The scholarship is a grant; not a loan. **Applicants must submit this scholarship online this year by March 1, 2026. It will be forwarded to the Department Education Chair by the National Organization.**

Please promote these American Legion Auxiliary scholarships to enable our children of veterans to apply and receive funds the American Legion Auxiliary has so graciously provided. Applications are available online at www.ALAforVeterans.org/Scholarships. Links to the scholarship applications can also be found on the Department website.

In the Spirit of Service, not for self,
For Veterans, God and Country,

Julie Vietri

Education Chairman
Department of Arizona
jvietri@msn.com
480-495-1558

Finance

January 2026

This is a reminder that the following Units have not paid their mandates and the amounts owed are also listed as follows:

Unit 1	\$ 81.10	Unit 37	\$ 34.30	Unit 90	\$ 57.10
Unit 9	\$138.30	Unit 44	\$256.70	Unit 123	\$ 34.30
Unit 16	\$ 43.90	Unit 46	\$ 59.90	Unit 125	\$ 17.10
Unit 19	\$143.10	Unit 51	\$ 57.10	Unit 131	\$481.50
Unit 22	\$120.70	Unit 52	\$155.90	Unit 133	\$ 23.50
Unit 24	\$349.50	Unit 59	\$105.90	Unit 140	\$ 17.50
Unit 26	\$ 78.30	Unit 84	\$ 46.70	Unit 141	\$ 21.50
Unit 30	\$ 78.30	Unit 88	\$ 36.70		
District 2	\$ 37.30	District 4	\$ 29.53		

Per Constitution and ByLaws, Article VIII

Section 3 –"Units not having their current District, Department and National Mandates paid thirty days prior to Department Convention shall not be entitled to vote."

Department Constitution and ByLaws, Standing Rule 11, Page 15 - "All Units failing to turn into Department per capita tax, dues, etc., shall be given a period of thirty days from the close of Convention before Charter, monies and material may be confiscated, provided the Executive Committee has approved such action."

30 Days prior to Convention is May 25, 2026

Yolanda Bonilla, Chairman, 602-989-3321, yodobo@msn.com

Penny Maklary, Member, 520-364-5038, ahhpenny@aol.com

Barbara White, 602-908-2980, barbara.white99gmail.com

Members by Virtue of Office: Stacey Mayberry, President, NEC, Rose Ficklin, Sec/Tres. (no vote)



Historian Report February 2026
By Stephanie McMullen – AZ Department Historian
February is Americanism Month!

I want to humbly apologize for not doing a bulletin for January. Right before Christmas, I got ill with the crud everyone seems to be getting. It felt like I got hit by a freight train. But I am back to my normal self now. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Getting back on track, February is Americanism Month! What does your Unit have planned for this month that can be included in your History book?

One idea, Four Chaplain's Ceremony. This can be included in conjunction with your Prayer books. You can include what your Unit or Post Family did to honor these four men.

"The Four Chaplains were four U.S. Army chaplains—Methodist Lt. George Fox, Jewish Rabbi Lt. Alexander Goode, Catholic Priest Lt. John Washington, and Dutch Reformed Lt. Clark Poling—who sacrificed themselves during the sinking of the troopship USAT Dorchester in World War II (Feb. 3, 1943) by giving their life jackets to soldiers, then calmly praying and singing as the ship went down, becoming symbols of interfaith courage and selfless service."

I am still in need of Unit's and District's meeting minutes. I am missing minutes from many of the Units and Districts 2,3,5,6,8, and 12.

LET MAKE HISTORY FOR AZ COUNT!

I want YOU
in the Department History
Be sure to post on Ring Your Bell
And send me your meeting minutes!

Stephanie McMullen
AZ Department Historian
historianaladepaz@gmail.com
(623) 910-4716

Leadership
Arizona Mission Training
February 2026

Thank you to the members who have seen the need for a Mission Training for your Unit and/or District. There is so much to know about our organization and why not? None of us ever stop learning, it is mentally healthy and does us a world of good. Remember the rule of 10, \$10 per member, 10 attendees and information/money turned into department 10 days prior to event. The purpose of the trainings is: To raise awareness of ALA leadership development opportunities, to promote participation in the ALA Academy and, to enhance knowledge about ALA history, programs, and organization.

Deb Munchbach has posted that all end of year reports is on the department website aladeptaz.org. This committee cannot stress enough the importance of the department and national websites. There is "SO MUCH" information available to us. The national website is alaforveterans.org. Most of your questions can be answered there. Please let us know if you have a problem with either site. I would like to stress the **ACADEMY AWARD** for our department this year. At least try one or more of the courses and submit them to me by May 1st. Western Division Chairman Donna Dillard has listed some on Facebook or you can get a list of the courses from me. Just send an email to me and I will get it to you. Even if you have taken one, I would like to be able to list it in the report sent to national.

Also on the department website are the Leadership Awards. Unit Member of the Year, LaVan Erickson Plaque and Vickey Zwall Mentor of the Year Award. If you have any questions about them, please contact me. Remember, this is how we recognize our members. It is good Public Relations and Community representation. When you recognize the members let us know how you do this i.e. Ceremonies, newspaper, social media etc. Thank You!

I hope to hear from you, until next month, Karen Smith, Chairman

1133 Carmelita Drive, Sierra Vista 85635 ksmith111@cox.net

520-249-1119

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
LEADERSHIP/MISSION TRAINING
2025-2026 SCHEDULE

February 7, 2026 {101 and 202} scoutermomkim@yahoo.com	Southern Meadows Unit #5	Kim Lindsey 602-574-1318
February 21, 2026 llrbecky@gmail.com This is a new date for Unit #32	Swift Murphy Unit #32	Becky Miscovich 702-413-5554
February 28, 2026 {202} cpaplaczykunit39@gmail.com	Merrell Mitchell Unit #39	Christine Paplaczyk 630-957-7177
March 28, 2026 kmartinez63468@gmail.com	William David Hood Unit #54	Kerry Martinez 623-693-3449

Legislative Report – January 2026 Message

As we turn the corner into a new year, January always reminds me of one important thing: **reporting season is here**. I know... reporting isn't anyone's favorite task. But I cannot stress enough how vital it is—not just for the Department of Arizona, but for **every Department across the nation**. And this is Legislative month, along with National Security of course.

Too often, we get comfortable inside our own unit and forget to look at the bigger picture. We ask ourselves, “*Does what I do really matter?*” The answer is **yes—absolutely**.

Think of your unit as a pebble. When you drop that pebble into water, the ripples travel far beyond the point of impact. Every action you take—every hour volunteered, every letter written, every conversation about legislation—creates a ripple that reaches your district, your department, and ultimately, our National organization.

Arizona has more than **80 units**, and I truly believe we can achieve **100% reporting** this year.

I know Legislative is not the most popular program. I even heard someone say recently, “Well, that’s more of a Legion thing.” While the Legion certainly leads the charge, our own preamble reminds us that we support **the aims and purposes of The American Legion**. When they have a mission, we stand beside them.

And here’s why your report matters:

Everything you submit—hours, activities, letters, advocacy—gets compiled and sent to National. In March, the National Commander goes before Congress and says, “**Here is what our members have accomplished.**” Your work becomes part of that national testimony.

So if you do only **one thing** for the Legislative Program this year, let it be this:

👉 **Fill out the simple reporting form.**

No narrative required (though I’d love one if you’ve been active).

Even if you did *nothing*—fill out the form.

You don’t even need a stamp. Just **email it to me**.

I’m shooting for the moon this year, and I know Arizona can shine.

This newsletter will come in two parts:

- **This month:** the reporting form
- **Next month:** a step-by-step narrative walkthrough

Let’s make those ripples reach far. **Kathy Amery 2025-2026 Legislative chair**

MEMBERSHIP January 30, 2026

		UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT	PERCENT 1/23/2026
		0100	Phoenix	166	4	151	155	93.37%	92.17%
		Total		166	4	151	155	93.37%	92.17%
	Total			166	4	151	155	93.37%	92.17%
01		0019	Yuma	182	4	152	156	85.71%	82.97%
		0046	Bouse	63	0	49	49	77.78%	55.56%
		0056	Yuma	72	1	52	53	73.61%	72.22%
		Total		317	5	253	258	81.39%	75.08%
	Total			317	5	253	258	81.39%	75.08%
1		0113	Quartzsite	0	0	10	10		
		Total		0	0	10	10		
	Total			0	0	10	10		
02		0007	Tucson	46	1	31	32	69.57%	69.57%
		0036	Tucson	243	2	208	210	86.42%	86.42%
		0059	Tucson	127	3	103	106	83.46%	81.10%
		0066	Green Valley	883	0	754	754	85.39%	83.69%
		0068	Tucson	56	2	43	45	80.36%	76.79%
		0073	Tucson	25	1	13	14	56.00%	56.00%
		0109	Vail	440	6	346	352	80.00%	78.41%
		0125	Tucson	15	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
		0131	Green Valley	601	0	486	486	80.87%	80.87%
		0132	Oro Valley	77	2	59	61	79.22%	76.62%
		Total		2513	17	2043	2060	81.97%	80.82%
	Total			2513	17	2043	2060	81.97%	80.82%
03		0011	Douglas	116	4	114	118	101.72%	100.86%
		0016	Bisbee	48	0	39	39	81.25%	79.17%
		0024	Tombstone	450	9	381	390	86.67%	85.78%
		0045	Benson	45	4	40	44	97.78%	82.22%
		0052	Sierra Vista	183	0	90	90	49.18%	49.18%
		0141	Pearce	20	0	22	22	110.00%	110.00%
		Total		862	17	686	703	81.55%	80.05%
	Total			862	17	686	703	81.55%	80.05%
04		0008	Casa Grande	27	1	25	26	96.30%	92.59%
		0009	Florence	191	0	102	102	53.40%	53.40%
		0051	Coolidge	72	0	1	1	1.39%	1.39%
		0054	Coolidge	81	1	62	63	77.78%	76.54%
		0129	Queen Creek	31	0	24	24	77.42%	74.19%
		0133	Maricopa	23	2	23	25	108.70%	108.70%
		Total		425	4	237	241	56.71%	56.00%
	Total			425	4	237	241	56.71%	56.00%

05		0004	Globe	42	2	20	22	52.38%	52.38%
		0028	Clifton	89	0	43	43	48.31%	47.19%
		0032	Safford	139	0	113	113	81.29%	80.58%
		0095	Solomon	82	6	74	80	97.56%	96.34%
		Total		352	8	250	258	73.30%	72.44%
	Total		352	8	250	258	73.30%	72.44%	
06		0030	Springerville	94	1	70	71	75.53%	75.53%
		0037	Holbrook	36	0	27	27	75.00%	75.00%
		0069	Payson	112	0	50	50	44.64%	44.64%
		0086	Overgaard	468	10	416	426	91.03%	89.53%
		0147	Payson	0	0	1	1		
	Total		710	11	564	575	80.99%	80.00%	
	Total		710	11	564	575	80.99%	80.00%	
07		0003	Flagstaff	68	3	47	50	73.53%	72.06%
		0013	Williams	74	2	47	49	66.22%	64.86%
		0014	Kingman	131	5	109	114	87.02%	87.02%
		0022	Golden Valley	146	3	119	122	83.56%	83.56%
		0042	Grand Canyon	42	5	33	38	90.48%	76.19%
		0057	Ash Fork	68	2	56	58	85.29%	83.82%
		0081	Lake Havasu City	759	4	635	639	84.19%	77.34%
		0087	Bullhead City	124	3	149	152	122.58%	119.35%
		0088	Dolan Springs	39	0	43	43	110.26%	79.49%
		0103	Meadview	53	0	56	56	105.66%	105.66%
		0123	Seligman	35	0	19	19	54.29%	54.29%
		0136	Yucca	15	2	13	15	100.00%	100.00%
	Total		1554	29	1326	1355	87.19%	82.24%	
	Total		1554	29	1326	1355	87.19%	82.24%	
08		0006	Prescott	304	6	299	305	100.33%	97.70%
		0025	Cottonwood	336	6	266	272	80.95%	80.95%
		0040	Chino Valley	97	0	76	76	78.35%	78.35%
		0078	Humboldt	148	1	103	104	70.27%	58.11%
		0079	Yarnell	172	0	137	137	79.65%	76.16%
		0090	Black Canyon City	65	1	50	51	78.46%	70.77%
		0093	Camp Verde	117	0	84	84	71.79%	70.09%
		0108	Prescott Valley	31	3	23	26	83.87%	77.42%
		0135	Cornville	42	6	28	34	80.95%	80.95%
		0140	Prescott Valley	17	4	4	8	47.06%	47.06%
	Total		1329	27	1070	1097	82.54%	79.46%	
	Total		1329	27	1070	1097	82.54%	79.46%	

11	0001	Phoenix	114	1	81	82	71.93%	71.05%
	0005	Phoenix	61	0	51	51	83.61%	81.97%
	0012	Wickenburg	219	1	184	185	84.47%	64.84%
	0029	Glendale	240	6	183	189	78.75%	78.75%
	0053	Buckeye	38	0	42	42	110.53%	110.53%
	0061	Avondale	239	2	195	197	82.43%	79.92%
	0062	Peoria	1122	18	1041	1059	94.39%	92.34%
	0105	Phoenix	299	8	212	220	73.58%	73.58%
	0115	Glendale	37	4	29	33	89.19%	89.19%
	0145	Peoria	25	0	13	13	52.00%	52.00%
		Total		2394	40	2031	2071	86.51%
	Total		2394	40	2031	2071	86.51%	83.42%
12	0002	Tempe	101	0	73	73	72.28%	69.31%
	0026	Mesa	251	1	187	188	74.90%	72.51%
	0027	Apache Junction	2039	11	1780	1791	87.84%	86.95%
	0034	Cave Creek	318	1	247	248	77.99%	74.21%
	0035	Chandler	295	5	254	259	87.80%	85.76%
	0039	Gilbert	636	10	487	497	78.14%	76.89%
	0041	Phoenix	351	7	228	235	66.95%	66.67%
	0044	Scottsdale	314	0	244	244	77.71%	76.75%
	0058	Fountain Hills	411	4	357	361	87.83%	85.89%
	0064	Phoenix	16	0	15	15	93.75%	93.75%
	0065	Phoenix	358	18	217	235	65.64%	65.64%
	0084	Sacaton	60	5	45	50	83.33%	83.33%
	0091	Chandler	308	19	298	317	102.92%	101.62%
	0107	Phoenix	215	3	197	200	93.02%	91.63%
	0114	Scottsdale	9	1	6	7	77.78%	77.78%
	0117	Phoenix	243	0	184	184	75.72%	69.96%
	0124	Guadalupe	29	5	30	35	120.69%	106.90%
	0138	Mesa	138	2	90	92	66.67%	60.87%
	Total		6092	92	4939	5031	82.58%	80.98%
	Total		6092	92	4939	5031	82.58%	80.98%
Total	Total		16714	254	13560	13814	82.65%	80.45%

January 5, 2026

Hello Membership Leaders,

The New Year is off to a good start! This week's numbers show some big increases and I see more renewals coming in shortly. I've been to a couple of Posts since New Year's and I'm happy to say they were all asking to see current membership cards in the social quarters! Nothing like getting a renewal on the spot!

This week's standings:

- 1st Place is District 3 at 76.33%! Their 6-point increase was largely due to *Unit 11 Douglas* who jumped 26 percentage points reaching 98% of goal. Along with *Unit 141 Pearce* at 110% of goal, they are really rocking it-- YAHOO!
- 2nd Place is District 12 at 75.23%. *Units 91 Chandler* and *138 Mesa* led the way with big increases. *Unit 64 Phoenix*, *Unit 91 Chandler* and *Unit 124 in Guadalupe* are in the 90's percentages of goal or higher!
- 3rd place is District 6 at 74.37%. *Unit 69 in Payson* jumped nearly 30 percentage points. Keep that momentum going!!!

Other Notables:

- In District 4, *Unit 133 Maricopa* jumped 56 percentage points and is now at 108.70% of goal! [Congratulations!!!](#)
- In District 5, *Unit 32 in Safford* jumped 9 percentage points!
- In District 7, *Unit 87 Bullhead City* increased 8 percentage points to 103.23% of goal! And *Unit 103 Meadview* increased over 7 percentage points to 92.45%
- In District 8, *Unit 25 Cottonwood*, *Unit 108 Prescott Valley* and *Unit 135 Cornville* all had big gains.
- Thank you to all the units that process their membership consistently.** You may not get periodic "big gains", but your efforts are not unnoticed! You are the foundation for our membership results each and every month. THANK YOU!

By my count, we have 6 Units already qualifying for the National President's "100% by January 31 Club" with many more in range. Let's get lots of ALA Key Chains distributed on Arizona!

Meanwhile, I'm busy making Poppy Bling pins! Remember: Poppy Bling pins to ALL Unit and District membership chairs in *Districts that meet the National 85% goal by March 15, 2026*. Keep inching forward—help get your District over the mark and you ALL win!!!

We are off to a great NEW YEAR and keep in mind, we are here to help!

Marge

Marge Christianson
Membership Chair/VP
Department of Arizona
American Legion Auxiliary
(763) 234-9852 (call or text)

January 9, 2026

Hello Membership Leadership,

This is a short week due to the holiday delay last week, so not a ton of news except:

DISTRICT 11 increased 8.5 percentage points and has moved from 7th place to FIRST PLACE! Unit 1 Phoenix, Unit 5 Phoenix, Unit 29 Glendale, Unit 62 Peoria and Unit 105 Phoenix all made big contributions to the increase.

District 3 is in 2nd place with 77.84%. Unit 11 Douglas hit the 100% mark!

District 12 is in 3rd place with 76.87%

District 2 is right behind with 76.04%

At the Department level we are at 76.06%. 8 Districts are in the 70's percentages.

This race is really heating up! Yahoo!!! Please keep processing those renewals and new members weekly.

Marge

January 17, 2026

Hello Membership Team,

Another great week for Arizona!

- We have 2 Districts in the 80th percentile:
 - Continuing their speedy maneuver from last week, in First Place **District 11** at 82.08%!!!
 - Jumping nearly 5 percentage points, 2nd Place **District 7** is at 80.24%!!! **Unit 87, Bullhead City** is the highest Unit in the Department at 114.52%. Fabulous!
- The next 5 Districts are in an absolute dead heat—reminding us that every member counts:
 - Maintaining steady growth (the best kind), in 3rd place is **District 12** at 79.89%; **Unit 91 in Chandler** has joined the 100% Club. Go 91!
 - Right behind is **District 3** at 79.00%
 - **District 8** at 78.78%
 - **District 6** at 78.59%
 - **District 2** at 78.43%
- **District 1** moved up 11% percentage points to 75.08%! Units 19 and 56 in Yuma and Unit 46 in Bouse all contributed to the acceleration—vroom vroom!!!!
- In **District 4** Units **8, 54, 129** all made important forward progress. Keep it up, you can get there!
- We have several Units on the cusp of 100%-- **Unit 100, Department; Unit 8, Casa Grande; Unit 95 Solomon; Unit 103, Meadview; Unit 6, Prescott; Unit 64, Phoenix**—get to 100% by Jan 31 to get the National Membership gift!

Arizona is in 2nd place in the Western Division! Let's keep moving up—the competition is fierce!

Attached is the usual Unit report/standings. I added a column that show the standings of the previous week. I found that helpful and thought maybe you would too.

Have a great week!

Marge

Marge Christianson
VP/Membership Chair
Department of Arizona
American Legion Auxiliary
(763) 234-9852 call or text!

January 23, 2026

Hello Membership Team,

You may have seen on Ring Your Bell that the Department of Arizona is in 2nd place in the Western Division and **5th Place in the COUNTRY! WAHOO!**

Not a lot of change this week:

- Holding on to **1st Place is District 11** at 83.42%. Looks like Kathy and all the Unit membership chairs in District 11 will be receiving "Bling Poppies"..... by being at 85% by March 15.
- Right on their tail is **District 7 at 82.24%**. Unit 103 Meadview joined the 100% Club! Unit 14 in Kingman jumped 11 percentage points, while Unit 87 Bullhead City is at a whopping 119.35%!!! More poppies?
- In **3rd** is **District 12** at 80.98%. Keep chugging!
- **Districts 2, 3 and 6 are right at 80%, with District 8 at 79.46%. Districts 1 and 5 making progress against the 70's percentages. And District 4 still making good progress.**

Keep checking those cards in the social quarters and in meetings. Have you sent Postcards? We still have some at Department: only \$2.50 per 25 (plus shipping to you-- if needed). National will be sending out, via USPS, final renewal requests in February. Let's double team those slow renewers!

Thank you for all you do.

Marge

***Marge Christianson
VP/Membership Chair
Department of Arizona
American Legion Auxiliary
(763) 234-9852 talk or text***

January 30, 2026

WOOHOO! As of the last National standings there were only 3 (of 52) Departments ahead of the Department of Arizona!!! But the game is still afoot! Please keep up the effort.

As for local news----

District 1: Bouse really picked up the pace and District 1 moved 6 percentage points to 81.39%. Great news.

District 2: The Tucson area Units are keeping up their steady growth week after week growth and have reached 81.97%. Love it.

District 3: Two of six Southern Arizona Units (Unit 11 Douglas and Unit 141 Pearce) are over 100%! As a District they are right in the pack at 81.55%. Keep up the great work.

District 4: Unit 8 Casa Grande (96.30%) and Unit 133 Maricopa (108.70%) are leading the way for the District 4 at 56.71%. Waiting for a big jump from this District!

District 5: Unit 95 Solomon is a fraction from 100% (97.56%) helping District 5 get to 73.30% this week. Making good progress.

District 6: Unit 86 Overgaard (91.03%) continues to lead the way for District 6 at 80.99%. You are right in there!!

District 7: Jumped 5 percentage points this week to 87.19% putting them in FIRST PLACE! Unit 88 Dolan Springs has joined the 100% club along with 3 other District 7 Units! Unit 42 Grand Canyon and Unit 81 Lake Havasu both had big increases. Groovy hippies getting bling poppies for meeting the "85% by March 15" District challenge!

District 8: Unit 6 in Prescott has joined the 100% Club and Unit 78 Humboldt jumped 12 percentage points both helping bring District 8 to 82.54%. Right behind third place!

District 11: Unit 12 Wickenburg jumped 20 percentage points to 84.47% helping to put District 11 in SECOND PLACE at 86.51%. More bling poppies!

District 12: at 82.58% District 12 holds THIRD PLACE. Their steady growth week after week is a big part of our success.

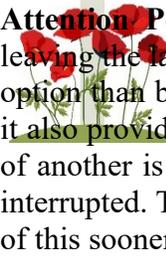
Our next National goal is 85% by March 15. If your District reaches 85% overall, **every Unit and District membership chairman** in that District will receive a bling poppy. One for all and all for one!

Enjoy your weekend!

Marge

Marge Christianson
VP/Membership Chair
Department of Arizona
American Legion Auxiliary
(763) 234-9852 (talk or text)

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA FEBRUARY POPPY 2026



Attention Poppy Makers. Through continued mass poppy making we have discovered that leaving the labels intact on the sheet while inserting the poppies into those tiny, tiny holes is a better option than breaking them apart. It not only provides more stability to insert the stems through, but it also provides a better option of counting the Poppies. Each sheet is ten. Duh. Two sheets and half of another is 25. Yet if you keep them all together, you can count by 10's. No loosing count when interrupted. They also pack more efficiently for shipment and storage. Why didn't anyone inform us of this sooner? Hope this helps everyone.

Poppy Special Hat Contest has an additional category – Patriotic. This category must have a reference to the 250th America Anniversary on the hat. Members judge all hats in this contest at Convention. Check out the list provided.

Some of you are aware there is a Poppy Poster List to assist with that program. Now there is a similar list for the other awards. There are four awards for plaques but only two are judged at Convention.

The Marie Cooney Memorial Plaque and the Marie Townshend Plaque are judged prior to Convention. No, the chair does not do the judging but does provide the rules to a group of Auxiliary members.

The Nita Kimball Community Poppy Plaque and the Patriotic Poppy Decoration Plaque are the ones judged at Convention. Again, the Chair does not judge but has a committee. Don't forget to mark the award sought and Unit number and attach it to the entry.

Poppy Narratives. Have you ever wondered how they are judged? It would be nice to wait for Department Convention, but reports must be completed and forwarded during May prior to June 1st. This chair reviews all the narratives and reports. Yes, what you put on your report is very important. Pictures are important and enhance the narrative.

The Department Poppy Unit is chosen again by Auxiliary members after reviewing the rules. Each member reviews the narratives and makes an independent vote. Then each member is asked why they voted for a specific unit. No voting is unanimous so majority wins. The Department Poppy Unit may or may not be the Unit nominated for the National Award.

The report form has been updated this year to assist with the End of Year Reports to Department and National. The information contained in narratives and reports allows the chairperson(s) to compile a narrative for National Poppy Unit of the Year and National Poppy Department of the Year. Creativity and originality are a plus.

The lists for the awards are to assist with the final product. They are created from the rules of each award. These lists contain the necessary points of the award so hopefully they will prove helpful..

Kat Sticklin, Department Poppy Chair
katsticklin2025@gmail.com
928-322-1550

Wendy Hackney, Co-chair
wendy9rs@gmail.com
480-510-6824



POPPY HAT CONTEST 2026
BRING HAT TO CONVENTION READY FOR DISPLAY

All hats must be blank to start
Units may enter two different categories
Must utilize at least 2 paper poppies per hat
May utilize any type of hat including a hard hat
All hats must have a tag attached with the category and Unit #
Contest open to Senior and Junior members

Categories:

Funny or silly
Bling
Elegant
Job specific
Patriotic -must display 250 years

Awards

Category winners receive a prize and a certificate
2nd and 3rd place in categories receive a certificate

Winners will be determined by membership attending convention with 4 votes per Unit – one for each category
Cups shall be placed in front of each category for voting
Place the number of your choice on the back of the ticket and place in the cup in front of the category
Voting will take place all day Friday and Saturday until noon. Votes will be counted for awarding Saturday afternoon.
All hats should be reclaimed by the Units prior to end of the Saturday of Convention.

MARIE COONEY MEMORIAL PLAQUE

1. Review the rules for this award.
2. Select the window for this display.
3. If a public business display, obtain the appropriate permission.
4. Plan the display based on the window size and award rules.
5. Gather all the items needed.
6. Create the display the week preceding Unit Poppy Day.
 - a. The Poppy is your object and dictates the theme of the display.
 - b. Make sure you include “American Legion Auxiliary” in the display.
 - c. Include poppies number not specified.
 - d. If displaying a cross, display the Star of David.
7. Take a photo.
 - a. Ensure the photo submitted is an 8x10.
 - b. Ensure the Name and number and Unit address is on the back of the photo.
8. If submitting by e-mail be sure to follow the rules just as noted in the rules.
9. Although not requested including the Unit chair is helpful for awards.
10. Check with the business to have a container for donations.
11. NOTE: this is not an item judged at Convention so it must be received by May 1st.
 - a. Judging will be done by a committee of members.

MUST SUBMIT POPPY REPORT

MARIE TOWNSHEND MEMORIAL PLAQUE

1. Award given for Narrative written about interest and activity in a well-rounded poppy program in the usage of the Poppy.
2. Review the award rules.
3. Review the Narrative format.
 - a. Narrative must be **no more than 1000 words**.
 - b. Typed, double spaced.
 - c. Review to include month to month usage of the poppy.
 - d. Include description of original ideas, handouts and displays.
 - e. Photos with description of event(s) are helpful but not required.
4. Judging will be by committee
5. NOTE: This is not judged at Convention so must be received by May 1st.

MUST SUBMIT POPPY REPORT

NITA KIMBALL COMMUNITY POPPY AWARENESS PLAQUE

1. This is an original “hand out” item utilizing the poppy and designed by the Unit for distribution to the community.
2. Review the rules.
3. Have a plan and several designs of items.
4. Decide which design is best and least costly.
5. Entry must have 5 items of similar design that were distributed by Unit members.
 - a. Mount on poster board no larger than 20x20.
 - b. Include photos on the poster of the event(s).
 - c. Display a 100 word summary of the Project on the Poster.
 - d. Include the Unit Name and Number.
 - e. Number of members working on project and hours of preparation.
 - f. How the items were presented in the community.
 - g. How many made and total amount of donations received.
 - h. Items must showcase the poppy.
 - i. Project originality is the key.
6. The judging is on a Point System so details are important.
7. Unit Poppy Chair be prepared to talk about your presentation in case of a tie.

MUST SUBMIT POPPY REPORT

PATRIOTIC POPPY DECORATION PLAQUE

1. Review the rules.
2. Have a plan.
3. A decoration can be anything as long as the rules are followed.
ALL THE FOLLOWING IS REQUIRED
4. Dimensions must not exceed 15 inches by 15 inches by 15 inches.
5. Must contain at least 20 official crepe paper poppies with tags removed.
6. Theme is PATRIOTIC.
7. Written description of the display is required on letter size paper or card stock.
 - a. Unit Name and Number.
 - b. Description of the decoration and why it is PATRIOTIC is required.
 - c. Names of volunteers and hours of preparation.
 - d. Signed and dated by Unit Poppy Chair.**IMPORTANT REQUEST**
8. At convention by 1pm on Friday for judging.
JUDGING
9. This Plaque is judged on a point system of each required item as well as the appearance, so be sure to include all required items.

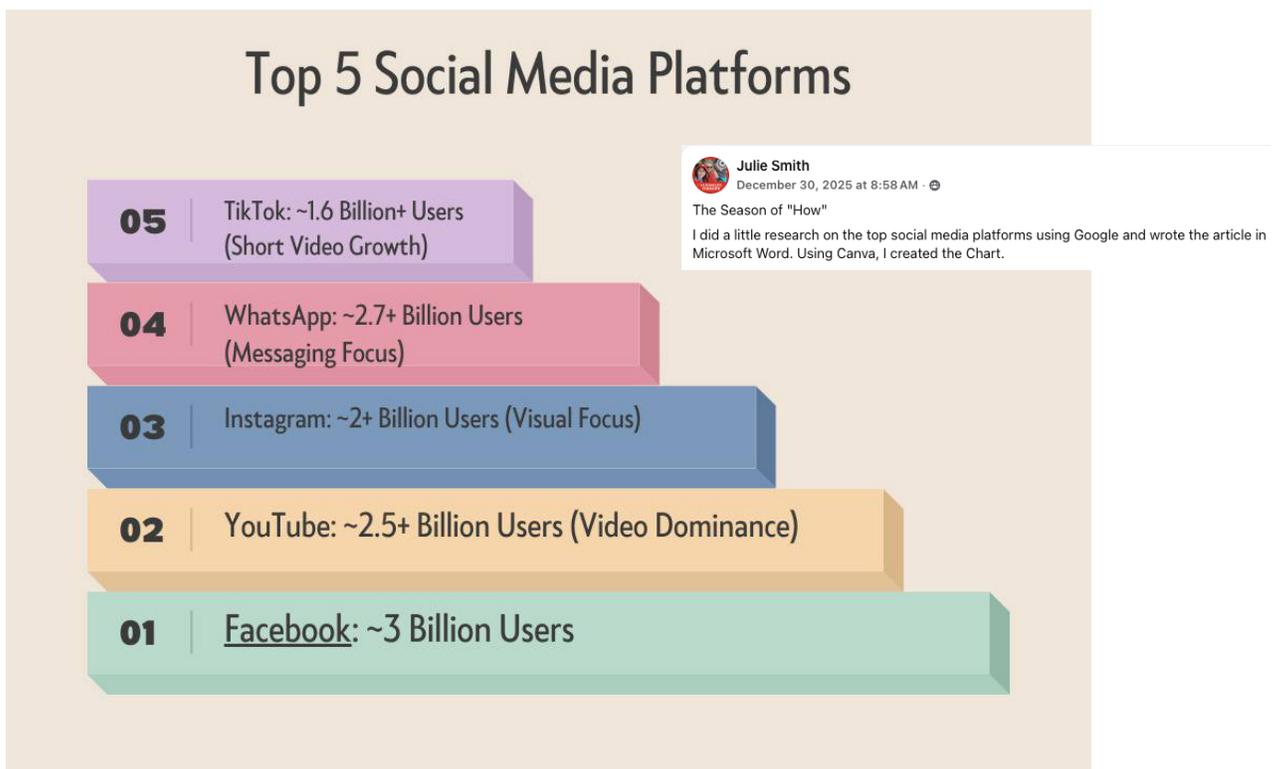
MUST SUBMIT POPPY REPORT

February 2026

What does your choice of social media say about your target audience?

The top social media platforms in 2025, based on user numbers and popularity, are Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok. Facebook and YouTube appeal to a wide range of users across different ages and demographics, while Instagram and TikTok are especially popular for visual content, mainly among younger users. WhatsApp and other messaging apps like Telegram mainly serve as communication tools. However, they have gained popularity among adults in recent years. Key takeaways: Facebook remains popular among older adults. Younger adults are more likely to use Instagram and TikTok. Video platforms are dominant. In the U.S., most adults use at least one major platform. Age plays a strong role in which platform you choose.

Credit to Julie Smith



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Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
February 2026
By 2nd Vice – Lynda Griffin



**American
Red Cross**

Military and Veteran
Caregiver Network

The Military and Veteran Caregiver Network (MVCN) is a vital resource for military caregivers, offering a secure and customized experience to connect with caregivers from all eras, relationships, and locations. The network provides practical insights, valuable advice, and a community to share, listen, and learn from caregivers at all stages in their caregiving journey. MVCN aims to decrease feelings of isolation while increasing connection, hope, and wellbeing through peer-support, self-care practices, and education. Caregivers can access workshops on their whole health journey, a custom online community for educational content, and a Hero Care Resource Directory to access local resources and support. The MVCN also offers peer support programs, including one-on-one mentoring and peer support groups, to help caregivers build confidence, gain new skills, and maintain hope.

How to get involved:

- Join the MVCN if you are a caregiver.
- Become a peer mentor or mentee.
- Tell caregivers about the MVCN and the resources available through the website.
- Pass along information about the MVCN to other Veteran and Military Service Organizations in your area (local Veterans Councils, VFW Posts and similar organizations, Churches & other Religious bodies, local Senior resource groups/support organizations).

MVCN Resources

- Online Peer Support Community: This secure, custom, peer-moderated online community allows caregivers to connect with others who understand their unique challenges. It provides a safe space for sharing experiences and receiving support.
- Peer Mentor Support Program: Caregivers can engage in one-on-one relationships with peer mentors who offer guidance, support and understanding based on their own caregiving experiences.
- Peer Support Groups: These groups, available online and in community settings, provide a confidential environment where caregivers can discuss their challenges and triumphs with others who truly understand.
- Hero Care Resource Directory: This comprehensive library offers tools and programs designed to assist caregivers in military and Veteran communities. It includes information on a wide range of topics, from health and wellness to legal and financial support.
- Caregiver Calendar: The MVCN's calendar lists events, activities, conferences, retreats, camps, trainings and webinars specifically for military and Veteran caregivers. This allows caregivers to find and participate in events.

For general information on the MVCN please email: info.mvcn@redcross.org

Mark Your Calendars

2025 – 2026 ALA Mission Training & National Junior Meetings
January 31, 2026 Las Vegas NV
January 31, 2026 – Indianapolis IN

2025-2026 ALA Mission Training & National Junior Meetings
January 31: Las Vegas

Let us all remember the ALA Mission Statement in everything we do!

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.



TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS



TAPS IN ACTION

The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, or TAPS, directly supports all grieving the death of an active-duty or veteran service member including military dependents and government contractors, regardless of the manner of death, the duty status at the time of death, the survivor's relationship to the deceased, or the survivor's phase in their grief journey.

Our team of experts, TAPS staff, compassionate volunteers, and peer-support network stand ready, 24/7, to embrace bereaved families, friends, and battle buddies and connect them with immediate and life-long tangible resources and emotional care, including casework and education assistance, community-based connections, in-person events, a thriving online community, and the National Military Survivor Helpline which is answered by a knowledgeable, caring Survivor Care Team member anytime, day or night. No one grieves the death of a military member, veteran, or member of the military community alone with the TAPS Family.

2023 BY THE NUMBERS



20,656

24/7 Helpline Calls



\$561 million+

Education Benefits



1,300+

Events Hosted



9,611

New Survivor Connections

For more information, view the TAPS 2023 Impact Report.

TAPS FOUNDING AND FUTURE

TAPS was founded in the wake of a military tragedy following a 1992 C-12 crash in Alaska that took the lives of eight soldiers. Among the grieving family members was Bonnie Carroll, the widow of Army BG Tom Carroll. After realizing that no support network was in place for the families of the fallen, Bonnie spent two years researching best practices while navigating her own grief alongside fellow survivors.

In 1994, TAPS officially opened its doors to military and veteran survivors. Today, Bonnie and the TAPS team have supported over 100,000 military and veteran survivors as they grieve, heal, and honor the life of their loved one.

100,000+

Survivors

40,000+

Fallen Heroes Honored

Each day, an average of 26 new survivors connect with TAPS in search of support, resources, and community. TAPS will continue to support all survivors of military and veteran loss, across all duty statuses, manners of death, and all relationships to the deceased.

TAPS CORE VALUES

Honor And Remember

the lives of military loved ones and celebrate military survivors as the living legacies of their service and sacrifice.

Empower

survivors with healthy coping skills, resources, and opportunities to connect in the comfort of their homes, their communities, their regions, and nationally to grow with their grief.

Connect

all those grieving a military death with a nationwide network of peer-based, emotional survivor support and critical casework assistance, 24/7.

Educate

using research-informed best practices in bereavement and trauma care for survivors, and advocate on behalf of survivors with policy and legislative priorities.

Create Community

with survivors to provide comprehensive comfort, care, and resources where they live, when they need it, and in a manner comfortable for them.



@TAPSOrg



Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors



@TAPSOrg



Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors

202.959.TAPS (8277) • TAPS.org • Media Inquiries: media@TAPS.org

TAPS is the national nonprofit organization providing compassionate care and comprehensive resources for all those grieving the death of a military or veteran loved one.



Phoenix VA Community Living Center (CLC) Wish List



Amazon Wish List for CLC Veterans: [Click Here](#)

Item Name	Brand	Quantity	Price	Link or Store Name (Click on Link for direct webpage) Push down and hold "Ctrl" button then click on link	QR Code: Use smart phone or tablet camera to scan:
Sterilite Ultra Laundry Hamper, Wheeled Plastic Clothes Bin with Retractable Secure Grip Handle, Reinforced Rim, and Flip-Top Lid, Black, 6 Pack	Sterilite	10 packs = 60 Baskets (one for each Vet to store dirty laundry) *High Priority	\$165 Per 6-pack	Amazon.com	
Pembrook Wheelchair Backpack for Back of Chair	Pembrook	10 (Continuous Need)	\$17.95 each	Amazon.com	
Honeywell HT-900 TurboForce Air Circulator Fan Black, Small- 4 Pack	Bedside Fans	Any (Continuous Need)	\$16.10 each Or \$89.30 (4-Pack)	Amazon.com	

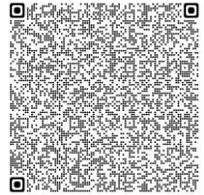
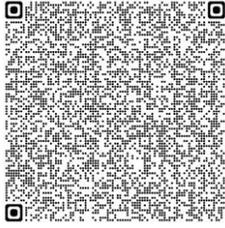
CONTACT COMMUNITY LIVING CENTER:

JON TANG – 602-785-3955 or Jonathan.Tang2@va.gov



Phoenix VA Community Living Center (CLC) Wish List



Item Name	Brand	Quantity	Price *Price is subject to change depending on site	Link or Store Name (Click on Link for direct webpage) Push down and hold "Control" button then click on link	QR Code: Use smart phone or tablet camera to scan:
Tide PODS Free & Gentle Laundry Detergent Soap Pacs, 112 Count, Tide PODS Laundry Detergent (Non-Scented) (Continuous Need)	Tide PRIORITY	Any (Continuous Need) PRIORITY	\$27.24 each PRIORITY	Amazon.com	
Tide PODS laundry detergent pacs, 3-in-1 Stain Remover, Odor Fighter, Color Protector, 112 Count, HE compatible, Spring Meadow Scent (Scented) (Continuous Need)	Tide PRIORITY	Any (Continuous Need) PRIORITY	\$27.48 each PRIORITY	Amazon.com	
Gildan Men's Crew T-Shirts, Multipack, Style Any Size from: Med – 2XL	Shirts for CLC Vets	Any (Continuous Need)	~\$20 Per Pack	Amazon.com	
Women's clothing – Shirts, pants, jackets, zip up jackets	Clothing for CLC Female Vets	Any (Continuous Need)			

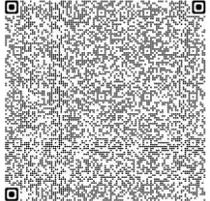
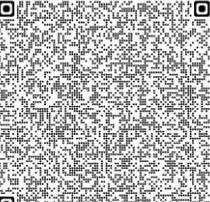
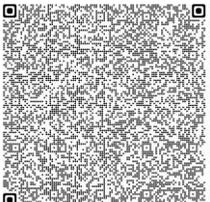
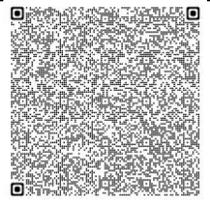
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Phoenix VA Community Living Center (CLC) Wish List



Item Name	Brand	Quantity	Price	Link or Store Name (Click on Link for direct webpage) Push down and hold "Control" button then click on link	QR Code: Use smart phone or tablet camera to scan:
Gildan Men's Crew T-Shirts, Multipack, Style G1100 Needed: Medium – 4XL Sizes	Any Color	As much as possible (Continuous Need)	\$17.77 - \$74.02 Depending on size of pack 5 – 12 packs available	Amazon.com	
Real Essentials 5 Pack: Men's Mesh Athletic Basketball Shorts Quick Dry Activewear with Pockets Any Size from: Med – 3XL	Shorts for CLC Vets	Any (Continuous Need)	\$34 Per pack of 5 shorts	Amazon.com	
Hanes Men's EcoSmart Fleece Full- Zip Hoodie Sweatshirt Needed: Medium – 4XL Sizes	Any Brand	As much as possible (Continuous Need)	\$13.35 Each	Amazon.com	
5 Pack Athletic Gym Mens Shorts - Workout Black Quick Dry Basketball Shorts with Pockets for Running Casual Activewear Needed: Medium – 4XL Sizes	Any Brand	As much as possible (Continuous Need)	\$16.99 - \$45.99 Per 5-Pack	Amazon.com	

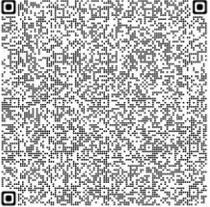
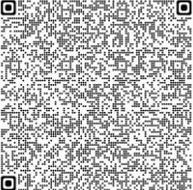
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Phoenix VA Community Living Center (CLC) Wish List



Item Name	Brand	Quantity	Price	Link or Store Name (Click on Link for direct webpage) Push down and hold "Control" button then click on link	QR Code: Use smart phone or tablet camera to scan:
Real Essentials 3 Pack: Men's Pajama Pants - Knit Cotton Flannel Plaid Lounge Bottoms Needed: Medium – 3XL Sizes	Any Brand	As much as possible (Continuous Need)	\$32.99 Per 3-pack	Amazon.com	
Large Magnifying Glass 5X Handheld Reading Magnifier for Seniors & Kids - 100MM 4INCHES Real Glass Magnifying Lens for Book Newspaper Reading, Insect and Hobby Observation, Classroom Science (Green)	Magnifying glass	As much as possible (Continuous Need)	\$6.99 Each	Amazon.com	
Amazon Basics 3-Blade Disposable Razors for Men, 6 Count (2 Packs of 3), Black (Previously Solimo)	Razor Blades	As much as possible (Continuous Need)	\$6.27 Per 6 razors	Amazon.com	
Philips Norelco Shaver 2400, Rechargeable Cordless Electric Shaver with Pop-Up Trimmer, X3001/90	Electric Shaver for CLC Vets	Any (Continuous Need)	\$35 Each	Amazon.com	
Men's underwear Any Size or Type (Continuous Need)	Any Brand	Any (Continuous Need)			

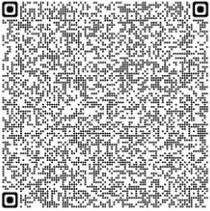
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Phoenix VA Community Living Center (CLC) Wish List



Item Name	Brand	Quantity	Price	Link or Store Name (Click on Link for direct webpage) Push down and hold "Control" button then click on link	QR Code: Use smart phone or tablet camera to scan:
Scented Body Wash liquid soap	Any Brand	As much as possible (Continuous Need)			
Chapstick	Any Brand	As much as possible (Continuous Need)			
Manual Razor Shavers (more than a single blade; minimum of three blades) (Continuous Need)	Any Brand	As much as possible (Continuous Need)			
Nail Clippers / Toe nail Clippers (Continuous Need)	Any Brand	As much as possible (Continuous Need)	\$11.99 per unit 1 Unit = 6 Toe clippers and 6 fingernail clippers	Amazon.com	
\$25 Visa Gift Card (plus \$3.95 Purchase Fee) For Veterans under Hospice Care	N/A	Any	\$28.95 Per unit	Amazon.com	
Patriot Store Gift Cards For Veteran Resident Needs	VA	Any	Any Amount	Check with VA Canteen or VA Patriot Store	

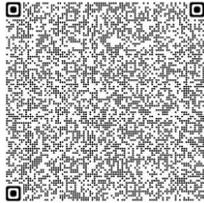
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Phoenix VA Community Living Center (CLC) Wish List



Item Name	Brand	Quantity	Price	Link or Store Name (Click on Link for direct webpage) Push down and hold "Control" button then click on link	QR Code: Use smart phone or tablet camera to scan:
Insta360 X3 - Waterproof 360 Action Camera with 1/2" 48MP Sensors, 5.7K 360 Active HDR Video, 72MP 360 Photo, 4K Single-Lens, 60fps Me Mode, Stabilization, 2.29" Touchscreen, AI Editing, Live Stream	360 Camera for personalized VR for Veterans on Hospice	3	\$379 Per Unit	Amazon.com	
JOY FOR ALL - Silver Cat with White Mitts - Interactive Companion Pets - Realistic & Lifelike	Robotic Cats	Any Continuous Need	\$124.99 Each	Amazon.com	
Joy for All Walker Squawker Cheery Animatronic Bird for Companionship and to Help You Remember Your Walker - Cardinal, Red	Robotic Bird	Any Continuous Need	\$64.99 Each	Amazon.com	
JOY FOR ALL Ageless Innovation Companion Pets Golden Pup Lifelike & Realistic	Robotic Dog	Any Continuous Need	\$133.99 Each	Amazon.com	

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Recreation Therapy Wish List Phoenix VA

All Amazon Items can be found on the Veteran Wish List using this QR Code



Requesting Location	Item	Quantity	Reason
HBPC	Super Glue	1	Putting together model kits
Outpatient/Inpatient	Fender Acoustic Guitar	5	Music Therapy Program
Outpatient	Wood Carving Tool Set	8	Whitling Group
Outpatient	Detail Knife	1	Whitling Group
Outpatient	Cut Resistant Gloves	4	Whitling Group
Outpatient	Denture Cleaner Brushes	3	Whitling Group
Outpatient	Cutting & Carving Tools	2	Whitling Group
Outpatient	Knife Sharpener	4	Whitling Group
Outpatient	Pack of 60 Xacto knife replacement blade	1	Outpatient Creative Arts Group
Outpatient	Xacto Knife Set of 10	1	Outpatient Creative Arts Group
HBPC/HUDVASH/CLC	Amazon/Walmart gift cards	No limit	Purchasing supplies for Veteran care

HUDVASH/MHICM	Tickets to local museums and sports games	No limit	Outings
Adaptive Sports	Funding for travel for Veterans to national games	No limit	National Games Veteran travel cost

Adaptive Sports Wishlist Phoenix VA

Wheelchair Tire Air Pump Quantity 3 \$62.96/ea

POCKET AIR PRO Tire Inflator Portable Air Compressor by Bullseye Pro for Tires, Balls, Bike with Persta Valve, Auto Shut Off, Inflates in 2 Min, Cordless Rechargeable 6000MAH, 150 PSI, SoS Light

Brand: EMSON

https://www.amazon.com/Inflator-Portable-Compressor-Bullseye-Rechargeable/dp/B0DQQYFFN5/ref=sr_1_2_sspa?crd=2ZZ666ZE27QIK&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.TbrQdHTi5K43wn0vOYT8le9gLDpSS5qpva-YBIJvw6VLOJIAWnlazTcvayisy9X3kHYZCsthazdDhT5H8DieRBXYUzM0sc_jN3qrouQE_zbyYaOHqdbHtXx3dZF_aCdX5e0weF4HnJfaP03Px-jZkXvMcKFY2xoJdhxl8ZIFEE3aq8qPOyEAsZ8iALK1mgpJPbx0gd6nrCTKb7yoVWlqeTMY5sMjXfuCLvCJVCj0.kgilpkp0Cz_fBIERJyzlQZKs5TD4-9o6Yl1rLDHcTgY&dib_tag=se&keywords=air+pump+for+wheelchair+tires&qid=1768231741&srefix=air+pump+for+wheelchair%2Caps%2C173&sr=8-2-spons&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9hdGY&pvc=1

Storage Bags for Balls Quantity 4 \$36.05/ea

Fitdom Heavy Duty XL Soccer Mesh Equipment Ball Bag w/Adjustable Backpack Shoulder Strap Design for Coach. 2 Different Size Front Pockets for Sporting Accessories.

https://www.amazon.com/Fitdom-Equipment-Adjustable-Different-Accessories/dp/B0CNLKYWH/ref=sxin_17_pa_sp_search_thematic_sspa?content-id=amzn1.sym.5dc91e8b-22f1-4f36-9b40-34a7802651b9%3Aamzn1.sym.5dc91e8b-22f1-4f36-9b40-34a7802651b9&crd=46LYQWP4DEA8&cv_ct_cx=sports%2Bball%2Bbag%2Bcarrier&keywords=sports%2Bball%2Bbag%2Bcarrier&pd_rd_i=B0CNLKYWH&pd_rd_r=3dd8cf50-37ec-4622-b3a7-cfa5bedccf73&pd_rd_w=DoucM&pd_rd_wg=XLxob&pf_rd_p=5dc91e8b-22f1-4f36-9b40-34a7802651b9&pf_rd_r=P1R9C8W6T44MNSX86EH5&qid=1768231913&sbo=RZvfv%2F%2FHxDF%2BO5021pAnSA%3D%3D&srefix=sports%2Bball%2Bbag%2Bcarrier%2Caps%2C177&sr=1-5-82c53dfb-e7ac-41f3-9604-355dc7747827-spons&aref=JZ2IOv9tNI&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9zZWYyY2hfdGhlfWF0aWM&th=1

Storage/Moving carts Quantity 2 @ \$319.00

https://www.amazon.com/Flatbed-Handrails-Capacity-Platform-All-Steel/dp/B0CJTRPR9Z/ref=pd_bxgy_thbs_d_sccl_1/137-3378703-8258305?pd_rd_w=1TEG1&content-id=amzn1.sym.9bef5913-5870-4504-8883-3ba89d7f8e39&pf_rd_p=9bef5913-5870-4504-8883-3ba89d7f8e39&pf_rd_r=CWT43NC9SD16X1HK719D&pd_rd_wg=cmVWS&pd_rd_r=41041599-37f9-4876-9b17-a6477bde03d9&pd_rd_i=B0CJTRPR9Z&psc=1

Ball Storage for Pickleball Quantity: 2 159.98

OLE ANDIGO Pickleball Cart Portable Tennis Balls Hopper, Holds 180 Pickleballs or 210 Tennis Balls, Pickle Ball Equipment, Ball Caddy with Wheels for Pickleball Player Training

https://www.amazon.com/OLE-ANDIGO-Pickleball-Pickleballs-Equipment/dp/B0DCVJL97J/ref=sr_1_21_sspa?crd=1AL0UQL25ZCV4&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.qmwahQ2JhrdSrcHaayyMQfjcxlWwFycjNnuGyfUJwDk0rJSyZj-miY-NPcXgFSy-v6MBecxPXlijqJzhMMfuMcGj72PfCeWWo8JaZcZjIRQipJls9r9ukRy0U6kU-XDpB1_rg2kc3T-qSQOoDAY6XD67BU-9GjedCkl4zCAMvRE8Y4BNuhnH38WlqJjO1pTNH4ggqJ8yrWZxLW2_ugL0_WUDzwuxaFylFEV0eq3y26CU5HRUozX8ydkuwBaKEkk8vy8OME_A8DW3hsTEmtqmq4-dCFRLlv9axpFC2hFr5M.Y9B-xgNgwptrwTLlyH1zcAk04LR7ojGFRcnacANm_Q0&dib_tag=se&keywords=pickleball+training+equipment&qid=1768366588&sprefix=pickleball+tra%2Caps%2C226&sr=8-21-spons&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9tdGY&psc=1

Basketball Rack Quantity: 1 \$52.89

EXTCCT Basketball Rack, Rolling Basketball Shooting Training Stand, Sports Equipment Storage with Wheels, Four-Layer Organizer Holder with Two Basket for Basketballs Footballs Volleyball

https://www.amazon.com/EXTCCT-Basketball-Four-Layer-Basketballs-Volleyball/dp/B08F5GSHSW/ref=sr_1_5?crd=3DM5JDV7QE2KD&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.lvEagaa7xG5nXpO_tmP5XGkmus_bapvBKlKF9UVwGfbz64EFaRYVwEaebD63Lxf2M08GA5TssIu1HzsTrr-AZfH84JAgXSBpy4OLeId-92ID7c3ZZ3f-5dQoVz5yPdu3N5GTT2yOHi-jY2HNF9CWRW-T_SGYUy8vdEa73p-Y8OpC2hxFQLTY3wrnpg6bj1k624mMCl7aLVldjY0OA-NbCQQL04zFsyNZlWvjG8OAeNU4ry7qx58s-5mlVYot_yc4eS8PhJ3vunjIhw7Z7skWgibGcT4gcLYsnZ6XG6GNQ.fiZSwnBzyr-Hix0UFjzGScF-TshSLAjaN-k92BRpwV4&dib_tag=se&keywords=basketball%2Brack&qid=1768366742&sprefix=basketball%2Brack%2Caps%2C216&sr=8-5&th=1

Shuffleboard Equipment Quantity 2 sets \$2323.26

Allen Shuffleboard

6595 Seminole Blvd

Seminole, FL 33772

800.260.3834

sales@allenshuffleboard.com

www.allenshuffleboard.com

Estimate

ESTIMATE # 71105

DATE 01/12/2026

9015 9015- Tournament Rollout Court

Full Size Vinyl Roll-a-Court (40' x 6')

2 750.00 1,500.00

9012B 9012B- Rollout Court Equipment Package

Rollout Court Equipment Package - 4x Bronze Anodized Aluminum

Continental Cues, Beveled ARCO Tournament Discs 4 Yellow/4 Black,

Disc Carrier, 12" x 24" Scoreboard, Shuffleboard Strategy Book, 1.5lbs of

Speed Beads for Rollout Courts

2 248.00 496.00

4010 4010- Dry Beads for Rollout Courts (5 lbs.)

5 lb. Dry Bead for Rollout Courts (dry- without silicone)

2 33.50 67.00

This is an estimate; the cost of shipping and products are subject to change. This order requires a PO or check.

SUBTOTAL 2,063.00

TAX 0.00

SHIPPING 260.26

TOTAL **\$2,323.26**

National Games

<https://department.va.gov/veteran-sports/>

Discus

Women's Discus discs **Quantity: 2** **\$90.00** *Must select .75 once you go to the site.

Nelco Lo Spin Competition Discus - 0.75 kg to 2.00 kg We are in need of .75

Brand: HAEST

https://www.amazon.com/Nelco-Lo-Spin-Competition-Discus/dp/B07WKS9T2B/ref=asc_df_B07VXYK7B6?tag=bingshoppinga-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=80401880071562&hvnetw=o&hvqmt=e&hvbmt=be&hvdev=c&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=68785&hvtargid=pla-4584001426379332&th=1

Discus

Women's Discus discs Quantity: 2 \$104.70 *Must select 1K
once you go to the site

Nelco Lo Spin Competition Discus - 0.75 kg to 2.00 kg We are in need of 1K

https://www.amazon.com/Nelco-Lo-Spin-Competition-Discus/dp/B07VVST7H3/ref=asc_df_B07VXYK7B6?tag=bingshoppinga-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=80401880071562&hvnetw=o&hvqmt=e&hvbmt=be&hvdev=c&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=68785&hvtargid=pla-4584001426379332&th=1

Javelin 400GM Quantity: 1 \$150.62 *400GM 40-65M

Premium Aluminum Javelin for Track & Field, Competition, and Training, NCAA & IAAF
Approved

[Visit the Amber Fight Gear Store](#)

Javelin 500GM Quantity: 1 \$152.07 *500GM 45-65M

Premium Aluminum Javelin for Track & Field, Competition, and Training, NCAA & IAAF
Approved

[Visit the Amber Fight Gear Store](#)

Javelin 700GM Quantity: 1 \$153.36 *700GM 55-75M

Premium Aluminum Javelin for Track & Field, Competition, and Training, NCAA & IAAF
Approved

[Visit the Amber Fight Gear Store](#)

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=amber+fight+gear+javelin&crid=2JGKX8IRMLET8&srefix=amber+fight+gear+javelin%2Caps%2C224&ref=nb_sb_noss

Champro Cast Iron Shot Put
Visit the CHAMPRO Store

Quantity: 1 \$29.81 2.7/6lb

https://www.amazon.com/Champro-Cast-Iron-Shot-6-Pound/dp/B004HH6T84/ref=sr_1_4?crd=163Y6W661VSQN&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.9cHGB1uHMhXDxDdWoTlv2OI2plwf9PiDFCvQzvZAJbMjvHR3lZ115N1i2L2TPZp2v4Cy5elwpwXyOeZ-kft-6VZzdmJJI1j94FV82-DVcxD_C_d0rZ5Lls6uXzoajKPkqizmx1KY_fa5UaW7Rb4GQ0KsujdBbGQoV37q8DRDoRaL0O74tcskaVbMcZZfpS8ouaLd_YpVqULTbJD2kRdwl9hBn4RT9KVSxGCaWdaUVvE.QEFSAKFPJHoy05BDqOuQpT773lY-MQ-jNG4WQIBW4rw&dib_tag=se&keywords=shot%2Bput&qid=1768254887&sprefix=shot%2Bput%2Caps%2C176&sr=8-4&th=1

Champro Cast Iron Shot Put

Quantity: 1 \$46.48

3.6/8lb

[Visit the CHAMPRO Store](#)

https://www.amazon.com/Champro-Cast-Iron-Shot-6-Pound/dp/B004HH6T84/ref=sr_1_4?crd=163Y6W661VSQN&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.9cHGB1uHMhXDxDdWoTlv2OI2plwf9PiDFCvQzvZAJbMjvHR3lZ115N1i2L2TPZp2v4Cy5elwpwXyOeZ-kft-6VZzdmJJI1j94FV82-DVcxD_C_d0rZ5Lls6uXzoajKPkqizmx1KY_fa5UaW7Rb4GQ0KsujdBbGQoV37q8DRDoRaL0O74tcskaVbMcZZfpS8ouaLd_YpVqULTbJD2kRdwl9hBn4RT9KVSxGCaWdaUVvE.QEFSAKFPJHoy05BDqOuQpT773lY-MQ-jNG4WQIBW4rw&dib_tag=se&keywords=shot%2Bput&qid=1768254887&sprefix=shot%2Bput%2Caps%2C176&sr=8-4&th=1

Champro Cast Iron Shot Put

Quantity: 1 \$29.81

4kg/ 8.8lbs

[Visit the CHAMPRO Store](#)

https://www.amazon.com/Champro-Cast-Iron-Shot-6-Pound/dp/B004HH6T84/ref=sr_1_4?crd=163Y6W661VSQN&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.9cHGB1uHMhXDxDdWoTlv2OI2plwf9PiDFCvQzvZAJbMjvHR3lZ115N1i2L2TPZp2v4Cy5elwpwXyOeZ-kft-6VZzdmJJI1j94FV82-DVcxD_C_d0rZ5Lls6uXzoajKPkqizmx1KY_fa5UaW7Rb4GQ0KsujdBbGQoV37q8DRDoRaL0O74tcskaVbMcZZfpS8ouaLd_YpVqULTbJD2kRdwl9hBn4RT9KVSxGCaWdaUVvE.QEFSAKFPJHoy05BDqOuQpT773lY-MQ-jNG4WQIBW4rw&dib_tag=se&keywords=shot%2Bput&qid=1768254887&sprefix=shot%2Bput%2Caps%2C176&sr=8-4&th=1

Champro Cast Iron Shot Put

Quantity: 1 \$62.92

5.45kg/ 12lbs

[Visit the CHAMPRO Store](#)

https://www.amazon.com/Champro-Cast-Iron-Shot-6-Pound/dp/B004HH6T84/ref=sr_1_4?crid=163Y6W661VSQN&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.9cHGB1uHMhXDxDdWoTlv2OI2plwf9PiDFCvQzvZAJbMjvHR3lZ115N1i2L2TPZp2v4Cy5elwpwXyOeZ-kft-6VZzdmJJl1j94FV82-DVcxD_C_d0rZ5LIs6uXzoajKPkizomX1KY_fa5UaW7Rb4GQ0KsujdBbGQoV37q8DRDoRaL0O74tcskaVbMcZZfpS8ouaLd_YpVqULTbJD2kRdwl9hBn4RT9KVSxGCaWdaUVvE.QEFS AKFPJHoy05BDqOuQpT773lY-MQ-jNG4WQiBW4rw&dib_tag=se&keywords=shot%2Bput&qid=1768254887&srefix=shot%2Bput%2Caps%2C176&sr=8-4&th=1

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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

January 2026

Issue # 5

FROM THE 2025-2026 NATIONAL CHAIR OF THE VA&R PROGRAM

Upcoming Events

2025-2026 ALA Mission Training & National Junior Meetings

January 31: Las Vegas
ALA senior members at capacity,
still open to ALA Juniors
January 31: Indianapolis
ALA senior members at capacity
still open to Juniors, TAL, and SAL

February 7: Atlanta – still open to all Legion Family
Register at <https://www.legion-aux.org/Meetings/Mission-Training>

Unhoused Veterans

Submitted by Lauren Lloyd
Eastern Division VA&R Chair

As we begin the new year, let's celebrate the work our American Legion Family has done to support unhoused veterans, sometimes referred to as homeless veterans. The most recent data from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Point-in-Time Count showed that there were **32,882 veterans experiencing homelessness** in the U.S.—the *lowest number since records began and a decline of about 7.5% compared with 2023*. In fact, in 2025, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reported that it permanently housed 51,936 previously homeless veterans nationwide. This is the most significant number of veterans that have been housed since tracking unhoused veterans began.

The American Legion places a priority on supporting our veterans in finding sustainable housing and resources for their journey through the Homeless Veterans Taskforce, partnering with agencies to address the housing, employment, and health needs of our veterans.

(continued on page 3)

Service to Veterans Outside of VA Facilities

Submitted by Lisa Chaplin
National VA&R Chair

The VA&R program encompasses two specific categories of volunteering: opportunities within Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMC) and VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC), as well as opportunities to volunteer outside of VA facilities. The latter is referred to as Service to Veterans, which combines what was once known separately as *Field Service* and *Home Service*.

In essence, any volunteer service to veterans occurring outside of VAMCs and CBOCs falls under Service to Veterans. This provides opportunities to reach veterans beyond the VA system and without the structure of a VA Medical Center or Clinic. Members can volunteer individually or as part of a group. So how can *you* or *your Unit* get involved? Here are a few ideas:

- Identify a need of a servicemember, veteran, or their family member and consider how to meet that need.
- Coordinate with your Post Family for larger or recurrent needs, such as building a wheelchair ramp or providing transportation to recurrent or frequent appointments.

(continued on page 3)

Member Spotlight

Rhonda Bailey is a member of the Department of Florida Maurer Unit 14 in St. Petersburg, FL. She was the caretaker for her father, through whom she received her eligibility. Rhonda is a 13-year member who honors her father's service by serving and supporting our veterans. She is actively involved in Wreaths Across America, where she remembers, honors, and teaches others about the importance of freedom and service. You can find Rhonda visiting local nursing homes, passing out bears to let veteran residents know that they are "beary" loved. Her dedication to serving our veterans is evident through her smiles and generosity as she distributes wooden coins to the veterans who attend the monthly Coffee on Sundays at the VA. She is always available to assist when needed and loves giving her time and talents to our veterans as she works the ALA Mission.

Send us your nominee for the next Member Spotlight!



Collaboration with the Legion Family

Submitted by Elaine Roach, Western Division VA&R Chair
and Lisa Chaplin, National VA&R Chair

One of the greatest strengths of the American Legion Family is the number of members and the heartfelt patriotism that we all believe in. The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary may have separate national headquarters and finances, but the mission of honoring those who have served and caring for their families is something we share. Collaborating with your Legion Family and working together in the community shows not only that unity, but that the American Legion Family is a great family to belong to. Family teamwork makes taking on larger projects more manageable, encourages future participation, and hopefully brings in new members.

Communication is key - invite your Post Commander to speak at your meetings and ask if your Unit could do the same. Keeping each other informed about your future activities can make them feel more welcome to join you. When you host an event and ask for assistance from your American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, or American Legion Riders, they could offer a variety of knowledge and strengths that your Unit may not possess. Offering to volunteer at Legion, SAL, or ALR events is another way you can promote mutual helpfulness. Working together opens the possibilities of having more resources at your disposal. There may be someone with a print shop for your flyers, or who works at a company who is willing to donate to your event. The possibilities are endless, and the end results can be rewarding to not only your Unit, and Legion Family, but to your community as well.

Collaborating with the Legion Family on VA&R projects can include working together on any endeavors directed to benefit veterans within VA facilities as well as to those residing in the community. In addition to some of the activities noted elsewhere in this newsletter, jointly hosting a Bingo event, movie night or cook-out at a VA Medical Center or State Veterans Home, supporting shelters for homeless veterans, writing cards and letters for Honor Flight *Mail Call*, and providing holiday and birthday cards for patients and nursing home residents are some ways to make a difference. Consider how your Legion Family might participate in *National Salute to Veteran Patients Week* which is observed annually during the week of February 14th. To learn how you can get involved at a facility near you, check out <https://www.volunteer.va.gov/nationalsaluteveteranpatients.asp>

Another opportunity for Legion Family collaboration is supporting Veterans Creative Arts at a facility near you, as each year there are local/regional competitions leading up to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival for the following year. To learn more about planning or supporting a local competition, go to <https://www.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/VAR/How-to-Facilitate-a-Local-Veterans-Creative-Arts-F>

Combining our Legion Family resources multiplies our impact in delivering our all-important mission of service to veterans and their families wherever they reside.

(continued from page 1)

Veteran Homelessness

It is through these partnerships and the efforts of our Posts, Units, and Detachments that we have contributed to reducing that number and increasing our support nationwide.

How can your unit support these efforts? In Vermont, they discovered that their city did not have a place for unhoused female veterans. They partnered with community organizations and posts to help create space in the Dodge House in Rutland for females to join the transitional home as they found housing and gained employment. In Delaware, they collect and assemble backpacks filled with ready-to-eat foods to distribute to veterans on the street who face food insecurity. In DC, unit members hit the streets as part of the Point-In-Time Count. Many of our units participate in the VA Stand Down to offer resources for our most vulnerable veterans.

For additional ideas on how your units can support unhoused veterans, check out these resources:

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans <https://nchv.org/>

Veterans Justice Outreach Center <https://www.va.gov/homeless/vjo.asp>



Submitted by Lauren Lloyd

Reminders & Resources

- Join us to share ideas and activities on our Facebook group page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAVAR>
- Share our newsletters with your Units and members.
- Look for like-minded organizations in your area to collaborate with on projects that serve veterans.
- Sign up for the free online **Be the One** training at <https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/be-the-one-training>
- Download the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Guide available at <https://www.legion-aux.org/member/guides/volunteer-guide>
- Download the Homeless Veterans Handbook available at <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/homeless-veterans>

On behalf of the VA&R Committee, we wish you a
Happy New Year!
Lisa Chaplin

(continued from page 1)

Service to Veterans Outside of VA Facilities

- Host events at state veterans' homes.
- Visit a homebound veteran.
- Provide a respite break to a veteran's caregiver or help with their yardwork or housework.
- Contact community leaders and businesses to secure donations for veterans' transitional housing programs or for "Buddy Baskets" for those exiting a transitional program.
- Participate in a Stand Down.
- Participate in clean-up of veterans' graves or at veterans' cemeteries.

We serve our communities as well, so when volunteering at community facilities such as nursing homes, half-way houses, and shelters that serve both veterans and non-veterans, your hours can be allocated in part to VA&R and in part to Community Service.

Submitted by Lisa Chaplin

The 2025-2026 VA&R Committee

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**Carl T Hayden Phoenix VA Medical Center
National Competition Winners**

Destroyer of Valor, Feliciano Fortuna
1st Place Combat Experience (top left)

The Seuss Amongst Us, Daniel Combs
1st Place Print Making (middle)

Floral, Tofe Eslava
2nd Place Leather Carving (bottom right)

Hot Air Balloons, Melissa Freed
3rd Place Fiber Arts (top right)



NATIONAL VETERANS
CREATIVE ARTS
COMPETITION



January 15, 2026

Happy New Year from the Creative Arts Therapy Department at the Phoenix VA Medical Center!

We wanted to share some great news! We just received results from the National Competition. Out of 7000 entries nationally, the Phoenix VA had four entries that received an award!

In Third Place – **Melissa Freed** with her Fiber Arts piece, “Hot Air Balloon”

In Second Place – **Tofe Eslava** with his Leather Tooling piece, “Floral”

And there were TWO first place winners, who will be able to travel to the National Veteran’s Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) on June 9, 2026, in Columbia, South Carolina!

For Combat Experience – **Felix Fortuna** with “Destroyer of Valor”

For Printmaking – **Daniel Combs** with “The Seuss Amongst Us”

[Congratulations](#) to all the winners and participants!

Save the Date for May 7, 2026, which is our next Creative Arts Festival!

You will receive more information about how to register and participate in this year’s local event in upcoming emails. Please feel free to share with anyone who might be interested.

Tim McAlee & Kristin Fray

Kristin Fray, MA, MT-BC
Creative Arts Therapist (Music)
Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center – Phoenix
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Kristin.Fray@va.gov

Mission Training and national Junior meetings, webinars, and more

From American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters <publicrelations@alaforveterans.org>

Date Wed 1/14/2026 11:07 AM

To munchaz@msn.com <munchaz@msn.com>

[View as Webpage](#)



ALA eNEWS: CONNECTING WITH YOU MONTHLY



JANUARY 2026

Don't miss the remaining Mission Training and national Junior meetings!

Winter national Junior meetings are approaching alongside Mission Training. Interested in learning more about our mission and becoming a stronger ALA member? Plan on going, then bring a Junior, or Juniors, along to learn valuable information and become well-rounded members and individuals. Juniors will have their own meetings happening where they'll do service projects, meet new friends, and — most importantly — have fun!



What's happening in the 2025-2026 national Junior meetings?

- Hats for Heroes — a service project developed by ALA National President Pam Ray to give personal hygiene products to homeless veterans
- Learning the Pledge of Allegiance in American Sign Language
- Crafts, such as beaded keychains and America's 250th birthday hats
- Receiving *A Life of Service: The Story of Senator Tammy Duckworth* book about a U.S Army veteran with many firsts in Congress

To learn more about the national Junior meeting activities, [click here](#).

Winter meetings and trainings listed below:

- Jan. 31: Las Vegas
- Jan. 31: Indianapolis*
- Feb. 7: Atlanta*

Please note: Las Vegas and Indianapolis Mission Training are sold out and operating on a waiting list, but the national Junior meetings are still open.

Register [here](#) for both national Junior meetings and Mission Trainings.

*These events will be held with The American Legion's National Regional Information Conference and the Sons of The American Legion Regional Meeting.

ALA hopes to embolden members to volunteer for Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service

Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service on Jan. 19 provides the ALA opportunities to host or participate in volunteer activities throughout our communities in honor of the Rev. Dr. King. ALA units and members are encouraged to use this day to make a difference in their communities and in the lives of our veterans by volunteering their time, talent, and compassion. A list of the types of activities the ALA can host or participate in on this day:



- Coordinate a community cleanup — parks, schools, neighborhoods, or cemeteries that honor veterans.
- Collect and distribute hygiene kits to people experiencing homelessness.
- Sponsor a food drive for local food pantries or for veteran families in need.
- Partner with Junior members for a multi-generational service project, such as assembling care packages or making no-sew blankets.
- Sponsor an MLK Day Reflection Program highlighting the Rev. Dr. King's commitment to service and equality, tying in the ALA mission.
- Collaborate with local service organizations (American Red Cross, shelters, food banks) to join large-scale community volunteer events.
- Deliver baked goods or thank-you baskets to first responders.

For more information, check out the [ALA Community Service webpage](#).

ALA ACADEMY

Register for these upcoming January and February ALA Academy webinars

Mastering Media Presence Locally

When: Jan. 20 @ noon ET

There is a right way and a wrong way when it comes to working with media outlets. We'll cover some basics to help protect your organization while also spreading the word about your mission outreach activities.

Objectives:

- Understanding media relations basics — both external and internal
- Building a relationship with your local media
- Developing key messaging skills
- Navigating difficult topics
- Learn about resources offered by ALA National Headquarters (news release templates, national communications team, etc.)

[Click here](#) to register!

Wills & Estate Planning: Essential Documents and Practical Guidance

When: Jan. 27 @ noon ET

This session will provide participants with straightforward, easy-to-understand information about the core components of estate planning. The presentation will explain the purpose of key legal documents, common considerations for families of all types, and the practical steps individuals should take to ensure their wishes are clearly documented. Participants will also receive guidance on how to begin or update an estate plan and where to find reliable resources. Please note: The presenting attorney is licensed in Virginia, the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Minnesota. This session is for informational purposes only and does not include legal advice.

[Click here](#) to register!

Planning and Hosting a Successful American Legion Family Day

When: Feb. 10 @ 7:30 p.m. ET

The goal is to provide ideas on how to successfully plan, organize, advertise, and host an American Legion Family Day. The webinar will also discuss the American Legion Family Day Citation that ALA National President Pam Ray is promoting this administrative year. After the webinar, attendees should walk away with a list of ideas to help them host an American Legion Family Day event.

Click [here](#) to register!

Heads up to our social media followers!

As our members interact with our social media content, please be alert. Spammers have been disguising themselves as military servicemembers and commenting on our members' comments by asking you to "friend" them. Please be aware of what you click and who you talk with. Stay safe!

Salute to Servicemembers Award nominations open now!

We've made it much easier to submit for the Salute to Servicemember Award! An ALA member/entity simply makes the nomination, rather than the servicemember, to effectively tell the story of why they feel this person is "head and shoulders" above their peers and worthy of this award.

A simple narrative (no more than 1,000 words), a picture of the servicemember (preferably official Department of Defense photograph), and the endorsement from their command group are the only requirements. The nomination form is live now, and you have until June 1 to enter. [Click here to fill out the form!](#)

This award acknowledges the servicemember's contributions that go beyond their military career, displaying their impact on their community. The goal is to have every branch of the military represented: Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, and the National Guard/Reserve.

Do you have questions about what it takes to have a successful submission?

You're in luck as there is a Zoom meeting open to everyone that will explain the entire form, and you will be able to ask questions. Join us Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 7:30 p.m. ET. To register, click [here!](#)

If you have any questions before Feb. 3, please email nationalsecurity@ALAforVeterans.org.

Don't wait: Apply now! ALA scholarships' deadlines approaching

The Auxiliary has four scholarship funds that members and non-members are eligible to apply for: Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship, Non-Traditional Student Scholarship, Spirit of Youth Scholarship, and Member Loyalty Scholarship. The deadline to apply online is March 1.

- Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship: 15, \$5,000 each, gift scholarships are awarded.
 - Given to high school seniors who are direct descendants, or adopted children, of U.S. wartime veterans.
- Non-Traditional Student Scholarship: Five, \$2,000 each, gift scholarships are awarded.
 - Awarded to American Legion Family members, veterans, and veteran and active-duty spouses who are pursuing a college degree later in life or pick up their education from when it was interrupted.
- Spirit of Youth Scholarship: Each department/state will award one \$1,000 gift scholarship. From each department/state, the national ALA Education Committee will select five recipients for a \$5,000 gift scholarship, instead of the \$1,000 scholarship.
 - Awarded to current ALA Junior members who are high school seniors and have been a member for the past three years.
- Member Loyalty Scholarship: 10, \$2,500 each, gift scholarships are awarded.

- Awarded to current college students who were Junior members and retained their membership into adulthood.

To learn more and to apply, click [here](#). If you need help navigating the application process, click our [Navigating ALA Scholarships 101](#). If you have any questions, email education@ALAforVeterans.org. To donate to scholarship funds, click [here](#)!

Enroll in the USA 250 Challenge to celebrate America's birthday

Join this challenge culminating with America's birthday on July 4, 2026. Participants have three areas — fitness, mental wellness, and/or community service — they can engage in as part of a team, like an ALA unit, or as an individual. You can do one category or go the extra mile and do all three!



[Register here](#) for \$30 and get a USA 250 Legion Family T-shirt and donate to a good cause. For more information on ways to fulfill the categories, go to [the USA 250 Challenge website](#).

Want more than a T-shirt? [Click here](#) to look at other USA 250 Challenge merch!

Watch [National President Pam Ray's video](#) for ideas on the community service category.



Special awards are available for fundraising!

To keep the USA 250 momentum going, The American Legion has awards available for those who hit certain fundraising goals with three fundraising tiers:

- For \$250 in donations raised, participants receive a USA 250 Challenge hat pin.
- For \$500 in donations raised, participants receive a USA 250 Challenge coin and a personalized certificate of appreciation.
- For \$2,500 in donations raised, participants receive a personalized plaque signed by American Legion National Commander Dan Wiley.

To support donors, the Legion will send a commemorative challenge coin and a special poster to each individual or group (like a unit) that donates \$250 or more to the Legion's Veterans & Children Foundation.

To learn more, click [here](#). Have questions regarding fundraising for the USA 250 Challenge? Click [here](#) to learn more.

MEMBER BENEFITS



Wellcare Medicare Advantage & more of the benefits you deserve.

See how a Wellcare Medicare Advantage plan works seamlessly to give you more of the benefits you can use every day.

The Annual Enrollment Period ends December 7.

844-363-1726 (TTY: 711)
8 a.m.-8 p.m., 7 days a week
ala.wellcare.com



Benefits and allowance amounts vary by plan. Please call for more details.
*https://www.medicare.gov/basics/get-started-with-medicare/get-more-coverage/joining-a-plan/special-enrollment-periods Wellcare is the Medicare brand for Centene Corporation, an HMO, PPO, PFFS, PDP plan with a Medicare contract and is an approved Part D sponsor. Our D-SNP plans have a contract with the state Medicaid program. Enrollment in our plans depends on contract renewal. Washington residents: "Wellcare" is issued by Coordinated Care of Washington, Inc. Washington residents: Health Net Life Insurance Company is contracted with Medicare for PPO plans. "Wellcare" is issued by Health Net Life Insurance Company. Washington residents: "Wellcare" is issued by Wellcare Health Insurance Company of Washington, Inc. Louisiana D-SNP prospective enrollees: For detailed information about Louisiana Medicaid benefits, please visit the Medicaid website at https://dsh.la.gov/medicaid or https://www.louisianahelthconnect.com. To request a written copy of our Medicaid Provider Directory, please contact us. Notice: TennCare is not responsible for payment for these benefits, except for appropriate cost sharing amounts. TennCare is not responsible for guaranteeing the availability or quality of these benefits. Any benefits above and beyond traditional Medicare benefits are applicable to Wellcare Medicare Advantage only and do not indicate increased Medicaid benefits.
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Explore your coverage and see how Legal Resources supports you and your family at www.ALForVeterans.org/member-benefits.



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Call 844-363-1726 (TTY: 711)

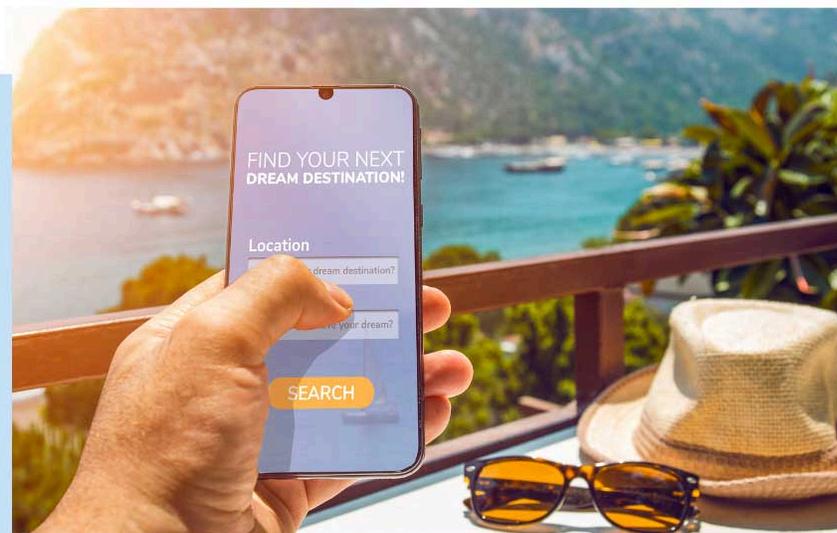
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ala.amwins.com

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Where can your member benefits take you?



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GOOD TO KNOW

Missed one of our webinars? Go to the ALA Academy to view recordings and see what other webinars are coming up. Click [here!](#)

Have an idea for an Academy course? Email ALAAcademy@ALAforVeterans.org to send your ideas for potential courses.

Keep a lookout for the February *Auxiliary* magazine! This issue is on its way to mailboxes in early February. A digital copy will be available soon on our [website](#).



ALA COMMITTEE FACEBOOK GROUPS ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION

These national committee groups are spaces on the social media platform for ALA members to discuss or share ideas about topics related to each committee. Groups provide a safe place for organic discussion about your local programs or services and support efforts to grow our organization's awareness. Visit www.ALAforVeterans.org/social-media to join the groups you're passionate about.

ON THE ALA BLOG

Volunteering at any age in the ALA reaps benefits for everyone involved

The American Legion Auxiliary is a membership organization, but at the heart of it all, we are a community of volunteers serving veterans, military, and their families. We roll up our sleeves and host stand downs, we volunteer at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, we educate and mentor our youth, and so much more.

[Read more.](#)



Tips for being an effective leader, mentor

High-quality leadership gets people interested in participating in organizations, according to 2025 research in *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*. And poor leadership often drives them away.



That means to keep members and the community engaged in efforts to support our mission, the American Legion Auxiliary needs effective leaders and mentors.

[Read more.](#)

SAVE THE DATE



January: Poverty Awareness Month

January: National Blood Donor Month

Jan. 19: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan. 27: International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Feb. 3: Four Chaplains Day

Feb. 4: World Cancer Day

Feb. 6: Time to Talk Day

Feb. 28: ALA's Mid-Year National Executive Committee Virtual Meeting

Feb. 28 – March 4: The American Legion's 66th Annual Washington Conference

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

“Every day, we support and honor our active military, veterans, and their families — especially during the holidays to let them know we appreciate their service and sacrifice for our country, that they are not forgotten or alone.”

— Marguerite Agee, Georgia

LEGION FAMILY NEWS

Be the One online training available for the Legion Family

The American Legion is partnering with Columbia University to develop training for American Legion Family members who want to learn more about interacting and responding with veterans who are in crisis.

These trainings will teach participants how to:

- Use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to determine at-risk individuals
- Identify risk factors and warning signs
- Outline the types of suicidal ideation and four behaviors that indicate imminent risk
- Effectively communicate with individuals who may be at risk of hurting themselves

Upcoming dates:

- Jan. 15 @ 2:30-4 p.m. ET
- Jan. 22 @ 5:30-7 p.m. ET

Go [here](#) to learn more about the training and register.

Samsung American Legion Scholarship applications open

Attendees of the 2026 ALA Girls State or American Legion Boys State programs who are a direct descendant (or legally adopted child) of a U.S. military veteran who served honorably on active duty during a period of war are eligible for this scholarship, which awards up to \$10,000 for undergraduate studies. Applicants must complete and submit their online application before 11:59 p.m. (local time) of day one of their respective programs.

To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

Follow SAL National Commander Bill Clancy's new Facebook page

“[On the Road with SAL National Commander Clancy](#)” hopes to connect with all Legion Family members as Clancy travels and visits Sons across the nation. His page will share and document the hard work and spirit of squadrons, and the whole American Legion post. Support our Legion Family by giving the page a follow.

The official national Sons of The American Legion Facebook page is still [Facebook.com/AmericanLegionSons](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionSons). Follow both pages to keep up with SAL and American Legion Family news!

American Legion Gaming is accepting writing submissions

The ALG, an American Legion-backed organization that aims to enrich veterans and servicemembers' lives through gaming, is looking for original stories focused on how gaming provides comfort, builds connection, or open doors to careers. These writings can be submitted by any veteran, servicemember, and/or family member. The stories need to be a minimum of 400 words, include a short biography of the writer, and an accompanying photo is optional. No prior publishing experience is required. Stories that are selected will be published on American Legion Gaming platforms.

For more information on what to write about, click [here](#). To submit, email rikki.a@americanlegion.gg

Sons of The American Legion hit a big milestone

Our Legion Family members, the SAL, reached a record number of 404,941 national members this year! They increased membership by 1.94 percent from 2024. The ALA is extremely proud of our Sons' growth!



ALA Membership

Where does your department stand in Auxiliary membership? [Click here to log in and view the latest reports.](#)



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