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ALA eNEWS: *CONNECTING WITH YOU MONTHLY*



DECEMBER 2025

National ALA committee application still open!

The application process for 2026-2027 national committee appointments is open until Jan. 1, 2026. National committee chairs and members are appointed annually and confirmed by the National Executive Committee to serve on a wide variety of ALA committees for you to explore. All members are eligible to apply. Go to [our blog](#) to learn more about the various positions and their responsibilities.

[Apply here before Jan. 1!](#)

ALA ACADEMY

ALA Academy Live webinar approaching

What: The Membership Advantage: Discover Your ALA Benefits

When: Dec. 17 @ noon ET

This webinar will explore the value-packed benefits available to members of the American Legion Auxiliary, beyond just service opportunities. With exclusive access to travel discounts, insurance programs, exclusive branded retail outlets, and educational resources, ALA membership opens the door to practical perks that can enhance everyday life. Whether you're a longtime member or brand new to the Auxiliary, this session will show you how to take full advantage of what membership offers, strengthen your connection to our community, and walk away with tangible ways to save money, stay informed, and live well.

[Register here!](#)

Members are encouraged 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. Here's 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 veteran families in need.
- Partner with your 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](#).

Mission Training and national Junior meetings coming up in January!

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*

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.

Join 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.

American Legion Auxiliary celebrates America250 with US...



MEMBER BENEFITS



Wellcare Medicare Advantage & more of the benefits you deserve.

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The Annual Enrollment Period ends December 7.

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

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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, POS 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://doh.la.gov/medicaid or https://www.louisianahelthconnect.com. To request a written copy of our Medicaid Provider Directory, please contact us. Wellcare is not responsible for payment for these benefits, except for appropriate cost sharing amounts. Wellcare 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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The ALA National Headquarters has partnered with SmileAssociate, giving members, supporters, and friends an easy way to give back while shopping on Amazon. When you start your shopping at smileassociate.com/alahq, Amazon donates 1.5% of your eligible purchases to the Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund at no extra cost to you. Same shopping, same prices, same Prime perks, but now every gift you buy helps support scholarships for deserving students.



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Peace of mind starts here

As an American Legion Auxiliary member, you have access to affordable, trusted legal support through Legal Resources. Whether you're updating a will, reviewing a

contract, navigating a family matter, or buying a home, your benefits are here to protect you during life's most important moments.

Click [here](#) to explore your coverage and see how Legal Resources supports you and your family.

GOOD TO KNOW

Missed one of our webinars? Go to ALA Academy to review 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.



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

Wise Person Said: Lisa Mannion

U.S. Army combat veteran Lisa Mannion served active duty from 2012 to 2018 at Fort Bragg, N.C. As a combat veteran, she faced isolation, PTSD, and moral injury. As a music educator, she is passionate about veteran mental health and music education. Music therapy and songwriting have both helped Mannion heal and reconnect. Now, she performs at Chicago American Legion veteran events and leads group ukulele classes to help her fellow veterans heal through music.

[Read more.](#)



Honoring a father, other family members through membership in the Auxiliary

Many people join the ALA join to honor a veteran(s) in their life. For Anne Quinn, a Department of West Virginia member, ALA membership began to honor her father's service. But he wasn't the only veteran in her life.

[Read more.](#)



SAVE THE DATE



December: Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) Awareness Month
December: HIV/AIDS Awareness Month
December: Safe Toys and Gifts Month
Dec. 13: Wreaths Across America Day
Dec. 14-22: Hanukkah
Dec. 16-24: Las Posadas
Dec. 20: U.S. Space Force Birthday
Dec. 21: Winter Solstice
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve
Dec. 25: Christmas
Dec. 26: Boxing Day
Dec. 26-Jan.1: Kwanzaa
Dec. 31: New's Year Eve
Jan. 1: New Year's Day
Jan. 3: National Write to Congress Day
Jan. 6: World Day for War Orphans

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

"We saw [The Wall That Heals] in Herman Park, Houston, Texas, in the '80s. Touching the names of veterans you knew was like reaching into Heaven to say, 'Thank you.'"

LEGION FAMILY NEWS

American Legion annual Holiday Blood Drive is in full swing

Throughout December, The American Legion is encouraging the Legion Family to donate blood and host blood drives as a part of their annual American Legion Blood Donor Program.

[Go here to learn more.](#)

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:

- Dec. 18 @ 5:30-7 p.m. ET
- Jan. 7 @ 2:30-4 p.m. ET
- 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.

Chance to win a \$20 Amazon e-gift card after taking an American Legion collaborative survey

PRAY.COM is collaborating with the American Legion to conduct a research-based survey to gain information on the perceptions of faith-based mental health practices and well-being, mental health care, digital faith practices, church attendance, and social connection. PRAY.COM is looking for veterans, military members, and their family members to participate. All information will be kept confidential. Participants, at the end of the survey, can enter for a chance to win a \$20 Amazon e-gift card.

Click [here](#) to take the survey.

Questions about the survey? Reach out to Dr. Breanne Laird with PRAY.COM at breanne.laird@pray.com.

The Army-Navy football game is Dec. 13

The American Legion is an associate sponsor of the game, which will be happening at 3 p.m. ET at M&T Stadium in Baltimore. The game will be aired on CBS and streamed on Paramount+. Read more [here](#).

American Legion Baseball season is coming up

Registration for the 2026 season opens Jan. 1, 2026, for young people ages 13-19. Click [here](#) to learn more about the program. [Register here](#).



ALA Membership

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

The American Legion Legislative Center

The ALA supports the legislative agenda of The American Legion. [Get involved.](#)



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