



“Angels in the Outfield, Caring for others”

November 2025.

We have upgraded the Dept. website. It will be the same web address but more up to date. Our old website is no longer supported by our web host. Anyone with website experience, with an emphasis on Go Daddy, that would like to volunteer to help webmaster Deb Munchbach (be a backup/assistant) with the website once updated please let us know. (aladeptaz.org)

We are also upgrading our phone system, so please bear with us. Please if you leave a message for us, and we do not respond in a timely manner, please email us and ask us to call you. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

DEPARTMENT FALL CONFERENCE: November 7th – 9th. It will be held at Doubletree Reid Park in Tucson. The link to reserve a room is posted on the website. Watch Ring Your Bell, the Department website and the Legion website. Book early as the rooms sell out fast. Currently the Doubletree is full, and the backup hotel is LaQuinta Tucson East. As of Monday, November 3, LaQuinta still has rooms available.

The agenda is posted on the website.

Friday's meetings start at noon with Girls State Board of Directors, 1pm Finance, 2pm Department Executive Committee.

Saturday, we begin at 7:45Am

THERE WILL BE A LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF OUR NATIONAL WESTERN DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT. IF THE FEE IS A HARDSHIP, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

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 !!!!!

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

RENEW MEMBERSHIP BY PHONE: Call National Headquarters at 317-569-4570 with your member ID and debit or credit card ready

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. I have 3 veterans making poppies and two of them have just started. A shout out to Roger Munchbach, who supplies Department with 98% of the poppies the units order.

Unit Goals: 2026 Unit Goals are in the new 2026 membership report and in the directory. Good luck to all Units in achieving 100% for President Dolores.

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

Secretary1@aladeptaz.org

Rae Hopf
Department Membership Processor

membership@aladeptaz.org



American Legion Auxiliary Fall Conference
November 7-9, 2025
Double Tree Reid Park, Tucson, AZ

!!PRICE CHANGE!!

!!PRICE CHANGE!!

REGISTRATION - \$15.00
At Fall Conference - \$25.00

PLEASE RETURN FORM WITH CHECK MADE OUT TO:

American Legion Auxiliary Dept. of Arizona
4701 N. 19th Ave. Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85015

UNIT NUMBER _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

NAME (PRINT)

POSITION/TITLE (PRINT)

1	_____	_____
2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____
4	_____	_____
5	_____	_____
6	_____	_____
7	_____	_____
8	_____	_____
9	_____	_____
10	_____	_____
11	_____	_____
12	_____	_____

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE OCTOBER 24, 2025
NO REFUNDS OR SUBSTITUTIONS



**DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
FALL CONFERENCE 2025
DOUBLETREE REID PARK
TUCSON, AZ
HALL E**

This schedule is subject to change.

Friday, November 7, 2025

11:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Registration	Grand Ballroom Lobby
12:00 p.m.	Girls State Board of Directors	Hall G
1:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting	
2:00 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting	
6:00 p.m.	Joint Opening	Grand Ballroom
7:15 p.m.	Past Department President's, District President's, Department Officers, Sgt at Arms, Pages and Department Color Guard meet with Americanism Chairman	Hall E

"A strong woman looks a challenge dead in the eye and gives it a wink"

Saturday, November 8, 2025

7:00 a.m. – 11 a.m. Registration

Grand Ballroom Lobby

7:30 a.m. Department Officers & Past Department Presidents line up for processional.

Hall E

7:45 a.m. Opening Ceremony Processional

Monika Monize, Americanism

Call to Order
Opening Prayer
Pledge of Allegiance

Dolores Chavez, Dept President
DeDe Dexter, Chaplain
Isabella Ward, Honorary Junior Department President
Alma Mattingly, Music
Barbara White, C & B Committee
Dolores Chavez, Dept President
Marge Christianson & Lynda Griffin
Dolores Chavez, Dept President
Marge Christianson, Dept Vice-Pres

National Anthem
Preamble
POW/MIA Chair

Welcome and Purpose
Response

Greetings

Isabella Ward,
Honorary Junior Dept President
Stacey Mayberry, NEC
Joan Cannon, Western Division
National Vice President

Roll Call of Units
Announcements

Rose Ficklin, Dept Executive Director

8:20 a.m. Presentation of NEC for the Purpose of Special Guest Introduction

Dolores Chavez, Dept. President
Stacey Mayberry, NEC

National Western Division Vice President

Joan Cannon, CA

Presentation of 2025
National Awards & Convention Report

Stacey Mayberry, NEC

"I am not a product of my circumstances. I am a product of my decisions." —

Stephen R. Covey

*****BREAK*****

9:45 a.m. 2025 Membership

Marge Christianson,
Dept. Vice President

10:15 a.m. Programs Slide Show & Q&A

10:45 a.m. So, you want to be a

Dolores Chavez, Stacey Mayberry,
Rose Ficklin

"Behind every successful woman is a tribe of other successful women who have her back"

*****ANNOUNCEMENTS*****

11:45 a.m. Luncheon to Honor Joan Cannon, WDNVP
Department President Reception

TBD

1:15 p.m. Reconvene

Hall E

1:30 p.m. President's Special Project

Dawn Davidson, PSP Chairman

2:00 p.m. So, you want to be a

Dolores Chavez, Stacey Mayberry,
Rose Ficklin

*****BREAK*****

2:30 p.m. Girls State Video
Girls State Workshop

Penny Maklary, Director

3:25 p.m. Announcements

Rose Ficklin, Executive Director

3:30 p.m. Recessed

Dolores Chavez, Dept President

At least 1 representative from each Unit please. All District Presidents and Department officers to attend.

4:15 p.m. Choir Practice
Alma Mattingly, Music Chairman

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025

8:00 a.m. Joint Memorial Service

Grand Ballroom

9:15 a.m. Reconvene

Hall E

Call To Order

Dolores Chavez, Dept President

2026-2027 Candidate Announcements

Open Floor

Announcements
Benediction

Rose Ficklin, Dept. Executive Director
DeDe Dexter, Chaplain

Retirement of District & Unit Colors

Monika Monize,
Americanism Chairman

Retirement of District Presidents and Dept Officers

Retirement of Department Colors

11:00 a.m. Adjournment

Dolores Chavez, Dept President

Safe Travels until we meet again!

"A woman is like a tea bag — you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water"
Eleanor Roosevelt

To: ALA Department of AZ Program Chairmen for 2025-26

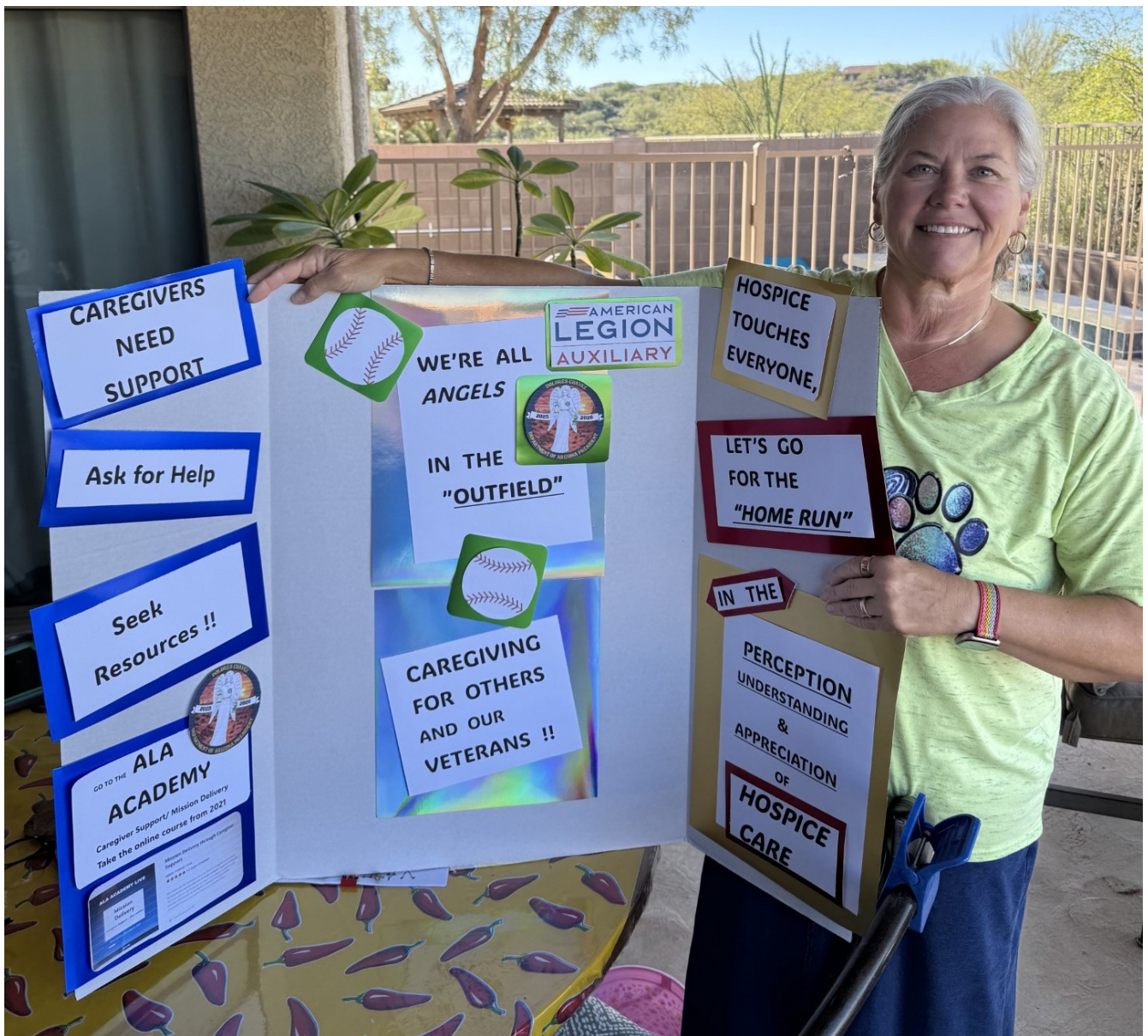
Re: Fall Conference Table Displays for Your Specific Program's Information and Updates

This year at our 2025 ALA Fall conference, Dept. President Dolores would like to do something a little different in getting information out to the conference participants. She's asking each chairman to create a table display with information regarding their program. If your program is under VA&R with Department 2nd Vice President Lynda Griffin, Please connect with her in regards to your programs information. We will give chairmen the chance to greet those that are specifically interested in the programs that their units participate in. It may also create interest in programs that are new to the units and districts. Your displays can be anything you can put together to include pictures, handouts, your contact information and award guidelines for your program. We are hoping this will help members put a smiley face and personal touch to each of our programs. Making it easier to reach out to chairmen regarding questions. It also will help our Fall conference day go smoothly to not have each chairman standing up front for oral reports. (yep! You may not have to stand up front and make your report!)

Participants will be able to go from table to table, making their way through the programs they need and want more information from. Make your Program SHINE!

Think like a "science fair or craft fair".....hand out materials about your program with your contact info. Think of a treat, like a peppermint or a piece of gum to hand out with a message and your contact info. Be creative with your program details. Take a peek on our National ALA programs pages (pictures?). Pass on valuable information that our members need to know, like Who won an award in your program last year? What activities have been a success? Share encouragement and cheer the members on....they probably already do fun things with their units, that fall under a program area. Ask them questions about what works and what didn't. You'll get valuable information to share in your monthly bulletin writings.

Just do whatever is doable for you....do not spend a lot of \$\$\$ and or get very elaborate with your display.....this is not a contest in any way. Pick up a tri fold poster board at Dollar General or Walmart....get out your scissors and markers or print out titles on the computer and paste it on the poster. Are there any photos that you can use? Bring a colorful tablecloth you already have at home or from your unit....be creative or plain....it's totally up to you!! You may have seen Dawn's Display for the President's Special Project at the Chairman's, District, or Unit meetings. Please feel free to give Dawn a call or message if you have any questions regarding this project. She may have some suggestions. You can reach her at ALADawnDavidson@gmail.com or 763-221-8047



DAWN, THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR DISPLAY !!!



SATURDAY ONLY

FALL CONFERENCE FUN!!!

PRESIDENT DOLORES

IS ASKING MEMBERS TO **OPTIONALLY DRESS ACCORDING TO
THEIR DISTRICT'S **MEMBERSHIP** ROAD-TRIP THEME!**

- **LOOK FOR YOUR DISTRICT THEME ON RING YOUR BELL OR
DEPARTMENT WEBSITE**
- **PLEASE BE SURE THAT NORMAL STANDARDS OF CARE ARE GIVEN TO
CLOTHING CHOICES (THIS IS NOT HALLOWEEN!)**
- **POSED PHOTOS WILL BE TAKEN AND POSTED ON LOCAL AND NATIONAL
SOCIAL MEDIA-- YOU MAY OPT OUT OF PHOTOS BY
STAYING OUT OF THE FRAME!**
- **APPROPRIATE SIGNS OR OTHER PROPS ARE WELCOME FOR PHOTOS**

FALL CONFERENCE FUN!!!

CALLING DISTRICT 1 MEMBERS

DRESS AS YOUR MEMBERSHIP
ROAD-TRIP THEME:
PICK-UP TRUCKS

FARMERS?
COWBOYS?
REDNECKS?
OTHER?



FALL CONFERENCE FUN!!!

CALLING DISTRICT 2 MEMBERS

DRESS AS YOUR ROAD-TRIP THEME:

1950'S

SADDLE SHOES?

POODLE SKIRTS?

LETTER SWEATERS?

OTHER?



CALLING DISTRICT 3 MEMBERS

DRESS AS YOUR MEMBERSHIP

ROAD-TRIP THEME:

THE RICH & FAMOUS



FALL CONFERENCE FUN!!!

CALLING ALL DISTRICT 4 MEMBERS

DRESS AS YOUR MEMBERSHIP

ROAD-TRIP THEME:

BARBIE



FALL CONFERENCE FUN!!!

CALLING ALL DISTRICT 5 MEMBERS

**DRESS UP AS YOUR MEMBERSHIP
ROAD-TRIP THEME:**

OFF ROAD VEHICLES

YEE-HAW!



FALL CONFERENCE FUN!!!

CALLING ALL DISTRICT 6 MEMBERS

DRESS AS YOUR MEMBERSHIP

ROAD-TRIP THEME:

“FRIENDLY” MILITARY



FALL CONFERENCE FUN!!!

CALLING ALL DISTRICT 7 MEMBERS

DRESS AS YOUR MEMBERSHIP

ROAD-TRIP THEME:

HIPPIES



FALL CONFERENCE FUN!!!

CALLING ALL DISTRICT 8 MEMBERS

DRESS AS YOUR MEMBERSHIP

ROAD-TRIP THEME:

MOTORBIKES



FALL CONFERENCE FUN!!!

CALLING ALL DISTRICT 11 MEMBERS

DRESS AS YOUR MEMBERSHIP

ROAD-TRIP THEME:

MOVIE ICONS



FALL CONFERENCE FUN!!!

CALLING ALL DISTRICT 12 MEMBERS

DRESS AS YOUR MEMBERSHIP

ROAD-TRIP THEME:

LUXURY SPORTS CARS



President Dolores' Schedule
Schedule 2025-2026

Oct. 4, 2025.....Bike Show @ Post 105

Oct. 11, 2025.....Veterans Standdown in Casa Grande AZ

Oct. 11, 2025.....Local Union 469-Phoenix AZ

Oct. 16, 2025.....DoubleTree Meeting-Tucson AZ

Oct. 17, 2025.....VA State Home-Fall Carnival-Tucson AZ

Oct. 18, 2025.....New Unit-Payson AZ

Oct. 25, 2025.....Official Visit-Dist. 5 -Safford AZ

Oct. 25-26, 2025.....Junior Fall Conference-Benson AZ

Nov. 1, 2025.....Official Visit-Dist. 8-Cottonwood AZ

Nov. 6-9, 2025.....Fall Conference-DoubleTree-Tucson AZ

Nov. 11, 2025.....Veterans Day Parade-Tucson Az

Nov. 11, 2025.....Veterans Day Dinner-Tombstone AZ

President's Special Project guidelines for 2025-2026

1. We are encouraging Units and Districts to support local hospice organizations and VAMC caregiver support offices that serve their families and AZ veterans. Seek out an organization that has served a family in your Post or Unit, how can they use ALA support?

1. For ease, Units and Districts, can send their PSP funds raised to Department. Department President Dolores and the PSP committee will then distribute funds across the State, focusing on rural areas and our underserved veterans, unless the funds are designated to a certain place. Both Hospice and Caregiver support will be addressed and supported with your donations.

1. Please discuss and vote as units or districts regarding your fund raising efforts. Listen to the membership and those who have experience using hospice organizations caregiving support services.

1. If you host a President's Special Project fundraiser event, please invite your Department President Dolores. She would like to attend, if possible, and be made aware of your efforts to raise awareness and support of caregivers and hospice organizations in your area.

1. Department of AZ President Dolores Chavez has expressed that first and foremost, she is most interested in getting information and assistance out to the membership regarding Caregiving and making our way through Hospice care. Having knowledge and being aware of how to get support you need when you need it, brings us confidence in the care we provide and receive. Please pass on the information we put out to your Units and Districts. Take the time to discuss it and pass it out at your meetings.

Thank you in advance for your support in such a heartfelt and emotional filled effort. It is a topic that truly touches all of us. Thank you for being "Angels in the Outfield ". Let Us do our best to Support Madam President on this year's PSP!

Dawn Davidson
ALA Dept of AZ PSP chairman 2025-26

TIDBITS FROM THE WEBSITE MANAGER October 2025

Erica Bailey (change is for Chairmen Directory—Unit Directory is Correct)

Credential Committee

ebaileyunit39@gmail.com

Unit 37 Officers

President

Sirena Tracas
928-241-2046
sirenatracas@yahoo.com

Secretary

Kelli Sample
928-241-3020
kbalo009@hotmail.com

Membership

Mandie Shaw
928-587-2486
mandieshaw@yahoo.com

Unit 88 Officers

President

Laurie Cannon
619-889-4913
laureniggel@yahoo.com

Secretary

Bunnie Andrews
928-249-2771

Membership

Tamara Williams
303-588-2408
alaunit88ds@gmail.com

Meadview Unit 103 Mailing Address

PO Box 691
Meadview, AZ 86444

Remove Jane Shoemaker as **PPP**

Chairman

Gina Bopp **Trophies** new email

gina.bopp@gmail.com

District 7 President

Ellen Hampton
new phone no.
928-531-3417

Tucson Gift Shop Chairman

Melani Pyland

new email

ala.giftshop.tucson@gmail.com

ALA Arizona Auxiliary – Monthly Chaplain Message October 2025

As autumn settles across our beautiful state, we are reminded of the quiet strength found in change. The falling leaves, crisp air, and golden sunsets invite us to reflect—not only on nature’s transformation but on our own spiritual renewal.

October is a month of remembrance. We honor the sacrifices of our veterans and their families, especially as we approach Veterans Day next month. Let us take time to pray for those who serve, those who have served, and those who continue to carry the weight of freedom in their hearts.

Let us also remember our fellow Auxiliary members who may be facing illness, grief, or hardship. A kind word, a handwritten note, or a simple prayer can be a powerful tool. As Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us, *“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.”* May we embrace this season with purpose, compassion, and grace.

I encourage each of you to find a quiet moment this month to reflect, give thanks, and renew your spirit. Whether through prayer, meditation, or service, let your heart be wide open to the blessings of the season.

I encourage all District and Unit Chaplains to 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).



With faith and fellowship,
DeDe
ALA Arizona State Chaplain

October 29, 2025

Legion Family is urged to make connections with young people and drive participation heading into the 250th anniversary -

Now that America's 250th birthday is nearly upon us, there's no better opportunity to "celebrate and educate" in honor of the freedoms we enjoy in the nation we swore with our lives to defend than to promote those programs like never before.

Details can be found by clicking: <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/usa250/2025/october/made-to-celebrate-and-educate-american-legion-family-youth-programs>

For God and Country

Barbara Whitney

barbaraw527@icloud.com

ALA Dept AZ - Children and Youth Chairman



The ALA Children and Youth challenge this month is...acquire school supplies and donate them to a local classroom or school. Things like hand sanitizer, tissues, crayons, notebooks, glue sticks, composition books, colored pencils ..really help out the teachers and the kids. Watch for sales, stock up, and then donate to support education in your community.

For God and Country Barbara Whitney

ALA Children and Youth Chairman



CELEBRATE & EDUCATE

American Legion Family Youth Programs advance civics and responsible citizenship for our nation's 250th anniversary and beyond.



ORATORICAL CONTEST

The American Legion Oratorical Contest challenges high school students to explore and understand the U.S. Constitution while developing confidence, leadership and communication skills. National contestants compete for more than \$200,000 in scholarships each year.



BOYS STATE/BOYS NATION

American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation are government-education programs that have shaped thousands of careers in public service and leadership since 1935. Boys State offers students entering their senior year a glimpse into how government functions in a democracy. Two delegates from each Boys State program are selected to attend Boys Nation, where they form and operate a mock federal government, visit congressional delegations, military leaders and The White House to enrich their understanding of U.S. leadership.



GIRLS STATE/GIRLS NATION

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State and Girls Nation closely mirror American Legion Boys State/Boys Nation, for students entering their senior years of high school seeking understanding about participation in government. Two delegates from each ALA Girls State program are chosen each year to participate in Girls Nation in Washington, D.C. Participants leave with "leadership lessons for life" and an understanding of the fundamentals of U.S. government, rights, privileges, and responsibilities of citizens.



AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

More than 10 million young athletes have since 1925 learned the principles of sportsmanship, teamwork, discipline, fitness and responsible citizenship through the American Legion Baseball program.

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program is a gun-safety education and marksmanship program that encompasses the basic elements of safety, education, enjoyment, competition and citizenship.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY EDUCATIONAL CONTESTS

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST:

The Americanism Essay Contest of the American Legion Auxiliary teaches students the value of patriotism and what it means to be Americans. Students (grades 3 to 12) explore the fundamental rights and freedoms, following a theme.

Current Theme: "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans who Fought for Our Freedom."

POPPY POSTER CONTEST:

American Legion Auxiliary units sponsor poppy poster contests in local schools across the country for schools and youth groups. Seven classes of contestants are available.



FUN WAYS TO LEARN ABOUT OUR FLAG

The American Legion publishes comic and activity books about the U.S. flag, veterans and the founding values of our nation. Many items can be ordered in bulk at discounted prices for classrooms or youth groups.

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE: Early readers will learn the meaning behind the Pledge and the freedoms it symbolizes.

LIGHT OF LIBERTY: Advanced elementary-age readers meet a Revolutionary War minuteman who tells how and why America achieved independence and the rights and responsibilities of all U.S. citizens.

OUR COUNTRY'S FLAG: Set on the 4th of July, preteens learn the story of our nation's colors and how to properly display the flag.

OUR COUNTRY'S VETERANS: As a veterans memorial is dedicated, young people learn from one who served the importance of protecting our freedoms.

RISE OF OUR FLAG: The epic story of our nation's flag is illustrated in a "graphic novel" format for teen and adult readers who discover the reason behind The American Legion's sacred ceremonies to retire U.S. flags when their useful days are over.

INDIVISIBLE: THE STORY OF OUR FLAG: A 116-page, photo-filled bookazine shows the complete story of our nation's flag.

Also available are flag decals, pins, stick flags, copies of U.S. Flag Code and pocket-sized U.S. Constitutions and Declarations of Independence.

Order online at emblem.legion.org
Or call (888) 453-4466



For more information and how to participate visit legion.org/usa250 or scan the QR code



Education

November 2025

The 1st quarter is already at an end! Each month I am focusing on one of the areas mentioned in the August newsletter. This month: **Promote American Legion Auxiliary scholarships and award local scholarships at the department and unit levels.**

There are a number of ways that Members and Units can promote scholarships:

- Assign a member to communicate with school guidance counselors/teachers regarding scholarship applications. Obtain information on the website for the applications (found at <http://www.legion-aux.org/Scholarships>) and provide them to the schools.
- Inform school-aged children in your community about National, Department and Unit scholarship opportunities.
- Volunteer to be on the scholarship selection committee in your District or Unit.
- Make a donation to American Legion Auxiliary education scholarship funds (Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship, ALA Foundation at www.ALAFoundation.org or Department, District or Unit scholarships).
- Create a Unit scholarship fund to award scholarships to local students.
- Prepare a news release with scholarship information for local media and your Post/Unit newsletter.
- Publicize the winners of Auxiliary scholarships at a school presentation and through the media.

National American Legion Auxiliary scholarships awarded in each Division include the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship, the Non-Traditional Student Scholarship, the Spirit of Youth Scholarship and the Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship. The Department of Arizona also awards the Wilma Hoyal-Maxine Chilton Memorial Scholarship to a second-year or upper division student in Political Science, Public Programs or Special Education at Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University or the University of Arizona.

Be sure to review all the material in the Education packet available on the Department website following the Fall Conference. It contains links to the rules and application forms for all of these scholarships, as well as the report forms for the year-end report. Don't forget *American Education Week*, November 17-21, 2025.

I look forward to hearing how your Units promote the Auxiliary scholarships.

In the Spirit of Service, not for self,

Julie Vietri

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

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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

October 2025

Issue #2

FROM THE 2025-2026 NATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Promoting Veterans in the Classroom

Inviting veterans to share their stories in the classroom can be an informative and meaningful experience for students; while providing the veteran with a sense of pride in his/her service, The history and sacrifice associated with the veteran's service help students gain a real-world perspective on what it means to be in service to our country. It can also help them learn the importance of public service and civic duty. While Veterans Day is an obvious time to host a veteran, any time during the school year can be considered. Here are some helpful hints on promoting this program in your area.

- Contact your local school to gauge interest in hosting veterans in the classroom or assembly. Start with the principal or someone who may be a member of the American Legion Family. The article, Veterans in Community Schools, provides a brief overview of the program to those unfamiliar with it.
- Work together with your American Legion to identify veterans willing to speak about their experiences.
- Prepare a plan for the activity by choosing a date that is convenient to the school. Provide a list of questions that are appropriate for students to ask.
- Share the list of questions with the veteran to help in preparing the talk. Be sure to give a time limit. The veteran could give the presentation at a unit meeting first to get comfortable talking in front of people and answering questions.
- If the event is open to the public, promote it through local media outlets and on social media. Be sure to clear this with the school ahead of time.
- Be branded! Wear your American Legion Auxiliary apparel for this event and every time you visit the school.

There are a variety of resources available to help you prepare for and hold your event. The bulletin below provides an excellent roadmap for an event, complete with sample questions, agenda, and additional resources to help ensure success with your event.

[How to Organize a Veterans in Community School Event](#)

Submitted by Barb Washburn, National Education Chair



EDUCATION DATES:

Education Quarterly Zooms

Q1 - October 7, 2025, at 7:00PM Eastern / 6:00PM Central 5:00PM Mountain / 4:00PM Pacific

Register here: https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/20252026education_q1meeting

Q2 - January 27, 2026

Q3 - April 7, 2026

National Scholarships Webinar:

October 14, 2025, at 7:00PM Eastern / 6:00PM Central 5:00PM Mountain / 4:00PM Pacific

Register here: [National Scholarships](#)

Veterans Day: November 11, 2025

**American Education Week:
November 17-21, 2025**

[Join us on Facebook:](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAEducation/>



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE LIVE!

We have four (4) American Legion Auxiliary National scholarships. Be sure to check out the eligibility requirements on our website at <https://www.legion-aux.org/scholarships>

- ❖ CHILDREN OF WARRIORS NATIONAL PRESIDENTS' SCHOLARSHIP
- ❖ SPIRIT OF YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS
- ❖ NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP
- ❖ MEMBER LOYALTY SCHOLARSHIP

!! NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY !!

We want to hear what your departments are doing to support education. Please post to our Facebook group and send to your division chair. We have included a sample from Facebook of activities some departments have done recently.



Read the story of the American Legion Family Department of Arizona working the Education Program together at Legiontown U. S.A. [Legiontown U.S.A. Story](#)

Submitted by *Julie Vietri,*
Department Education Chair, Arizona



Town and Country Memorial Unit 152 Tampa Florida held a school supply drive to support education one mind at a time.

Submitted by *Sheryl Kinsler*



On September 5, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 269, Haslett Michigan proudly donated school supplies to Haslett Public Schools, supporting their students, teachers, and community as part of their service mission.

Submitted by *Patti Leppanen DeNike*



ALA Unit 511 of Dallas, Texas sponsored the annual Back to School Bash. Children received backpacks full of school supplies. Families enjoyed BBQ, snow cones, and other resources that were provided.

Submitted by *Elizabeth Whee-Smith*

2025-2026 Mission Training

November 15, 2025 –
Albany, NY & Minneapolis, MN

January 31, 2026 –
Indianapolis, IN & Las Vegas, NV

February 7, 2026 – Atlanta, GA

ALA Mission Training & National Junior Meetings

[To register now: Click here and select your city](#)

Committee on Youth Education (COYE) Recap

The Committee on Youth Education (COYE) met in Indianapolis, October 4-5. The primary focus of this fall meeting was to ratify the 101 recipients of the 2025 Samsung scholarships. Winners will be notified during October. Essay questions for the 2026 application are under development and the application will be available in early 2026. Department winners of the Teacher Appreciation Certificate were approved and will be receiving their certificates. This is a unique opportunity for members of the ALA Education committee to work side-by-side with our American Legion peers.

Committee Contacts:

National Chair: Barb Washburn
National Vice-Chair: Judy Ackerman
Committee Member: Nancy Babis
Central Division: Teri Miller
Eastern Division: Karyl Horn
Northwestern Division: Mary Kuperus
Southern Division: Carol Westergren
Western Division: Valerie Hardy
Program Liaison: Laura Arand

Education@alaforveterans.org



Historian Bulletin November 2025
By Stephanie McMullen – AZ Department Historian

Attention all District, and Units Presidents, Secretaries and Historian – Who needs a copy of your meeting minutes? Copies of your meeting minutes are to be sent to the Department Secretary Rose Ficklin at secretary1@aladeptaz.org and to the Department Historian, at stephaniemcmullenala62az@gmail.com.



I want YOU
in the Department History

Be sure to post on Ring Your Bell
And send me your meeting minutes!

November is Membership Month!

November is Membership Month and believe it or not Membership is also part of your history.
Meeting or exceeding your membership goals for the year should be recorded in your Unit's History.

I have been getting some Unit and District meeting minutes. They have been going in individual folders on a USB drive, but I am still lacking a lot. We have 86 Units, and I don't even have half of them. Please send your minutes.

I got a welcome email from the National Historian for this year, Hilary Ott. She mentioned the first quarterly Historian Zoom meeting coming up in two weeks. In my next bulletin, I will highlight the meeting on what was discussed.

She did also mention the importance of the 250th birthday of our nation, and how it would be important in your individual History books to include events and activities that your Legion Family participated in during the year.

See you at Fall Conference!

Stephanie McMullen
AZ Department Historian
(623) 910-4716 – Text me or email at
Stephaniemcmullenala62az@gmail.com

Leadership
Arizona Mission Training
November 2025

The purpose of the Leadership Committee is to better equip members to serve in leadership positions with confidence and skill. **Standing Rules #6, National Committees – Member/Organizational Support Key Program Statements:**

- **To raise awareness of ALA leadership development opportunities.**
- **To promote participation in the ALA Academy**
- **To enhance knowledge about ALA history, programs & organization.**

The above is quoted from the National Leadership committee in our October 2025 Issue #2 newsletter. We encourage you to follow the leadership program in the Facebook platform -<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALALeadership/>

In last month's bulletin I introduced the new Leadership Award – The Academy Award to promote participation in the ALA Academy programs. If you wish to download the flyer, go to <http://ALADEPTAZ.org/> and it will be in the Leadership portion. It is easy, take as many Academy courses as you are able and send it to me by May 1st. Prizes will be awarded! Let's find a unique way to promote these courses, I am open to any new ideas.

Once again, this committee encourages your unit/district to schedule an Arizona Mission Training. So much knowledge is out there, and we never stop learning! The rule of 10 members signed up, \$10 each/sent to department 10 prior to training. Let us hear from you.

Karen Smith

<mailto:ksmith111@cox.net>

(520) 249-1119



ARIZONA MISSION TRAINING ACADEMY AWARD

1. No. of Academy courses completed in Auxiliary year 2025-2026.
2. Prizes awarded to 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place.
3. List of courses taken submitted to Leadership Chairman by May 1st.

Let's show everyone that we are the Best in the West!

Karen Smith

520-249-1119

ksmith111@cox.net





October Legislative Report

Spotlight Campaign: Urgent Action Needed — Tell Congress to Fully Fund the Government and Protect Veterans' Services

This month, I'm spotlighting a critical initiative that demands our immediate attention. I had hoped this issue would resolve on its own—but it hasn't.

Congress missed a key deadline to pass full government funding, and as a result, the government is now shut down. This failure has real consequences: essential services and benefits for military and veteran families are being disrupted, leaving those who've served our nation without the support they've earned.



Why This Matters

- The American Legion's 2025 Legislative Agenda calls on Congress to fully fund:
- VA health care
- Mental health and suicide prevention programs
- Disability benefits
- As of today, U.S. Coast Guard and active-duty personnel are performing essential missions without pay—while members of Congress continue to receive their salaries.
- Veterans and their families depend on government stability to ensure uninterrupted claims processing, community care, and access to benefits.

Congress must act responsibly. Delays in funding directly harm those who've sacrificed for our country. This moment is not about party politics—it's about doing what's right for Arizona's veterans.



How You Can Help

Let's rally together through grassroots advocacy:

1. Visit the [American Legion Grassroots Action Center](#)
2. Select the **Protect Veterans Services campaign- Open our Government**
3. Submit your support, it only takes a minute!
4. While you're there, consider supporting other campaigns like **Our Troops Deserve Their Pay Act**



Tip: You can personalize your message to Congress—make it count!

💡 **Tip: You can call our senators they are still taking calls**

Office Contact Info- Senator Ruben Gallego

- Washington, D.C.: SH-302 Hart Senate Office Building

☎ **202-224-4521**

- **Phoenix:** 3333 E. Camelback Rd, Suite 200

☎ **480-697-3600**

📍 **Arizona Offices- Senator Mark Kelly**

Phoenix

Address: 2201 E. Camelback Rd, Suite 115, Phoenix, AZ 85016

Phone: 602-671-7901

Tucson

Address: 100 N. Stone Avenue, Suite 600, Tucson, AZ 85701

Phone: 520-475-5177

🎁 **Bonus: Fall Conference Giveaway!**

Once you've submitted your support, text or email me with **"I DID IT!"**

Include your name, phone number, or email, and you'll be entered into a drawing for a beautiful gift to be delivered at Fall Conference.

Let's show Congress that Arizona is in the House—and we stand united for our veterans.

Service, not Self,

Kathy Amery

Legislative Chairman

☎ **623-640-0134**

✉ **alalegislativaz@gmail.com**

Received from: Colleen Heck
Unified Arizona Veterans ALA Representative
check@ionet.net

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Gabe Forsberg <gabeforsberg@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 10:54:03 PM MST

Subject: Fwd: You're Invited – Upcoming Adventure Series & Veteran Community Events

These first 2 events are available to only 30, so register right away if you are interested. Home Base Arizona is focused on healing invisible wounds of military and veterans and often involves families - gabe

On Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 6:48 PM West, Dana <dwest8@mgb.org> wrote:

Hello everyone,

We're excited to share a few upcoming Adventure Series and community events designed especially for Service Members, Veterans, and their families. Whether you've joined us before or are new to the program, we'd love to see you again! These gatherings are all about connection, growth, and wellness, and, as always, they're free to attend.

Adventure Series: safeTALK Training

Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM (check-in and networking at 9:00 AM)

Location: Burton Barr Central Library – Meeting Room A, Phoenix, AZ

Open to: Service Members, Veterans, and Families (18+)

Capacity: 30 participants

In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, join us for an empowering suicide alertness training hosted in partnership with Maricopa County Public Health, featuring LivingWorks safeTALK. This world-renowned training prepares participants to recognize when someone may be thinking about suicide and connect them to lifesaving support.

Facilitated by Vivian Gonzalez Carrera, Suicide Prevention Coordinator and certified LivingWorks safeTALK Trainer.

Register here: <https://hbp.mgb.org/eventReg/advEvent.php?loc=AZ&id=367>

Adventure Series: Family Dinner Project with First Page at the HEART Center

Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2025

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: The HEART Center

3735 W. Beardsley Rd, Glendale AZ 85308

Capacity: Up to 30 participants

Join us for an evening focused on connection, conversation, and community, hosted in collaboration with the Family Team from Boston, [First Page](#), and the HEART Center. Families will share a meal together, participate in a parent workshop led by facilitators trained by The Family Dinner Project, and enjoy a children's creative activity running in parallel.

This special night aims to strengthen family bonds, enhance communication, and celebrate the shared experiences of military and Veteran families.

Register here: <https://hbp.mgb.org/eventReg/advEvent.php?loc=AZ&id=368>

Valors Veterans Community Arizona (VVCAZ) Coffee Connections

Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: WHF Gym, Sun Devil Fitness Center, 330 N 1st Ave, Room 212, Phoenix, AZ 85003

[VVCAZ](#) Coffee Connections meets monthly (except December) at local coffee shops or host venues to spotlight Veteran nonprofits and encourage networking within the Veteran community. This is a great opportunity to connect with fellow Veterans and learn more about resources and programs in Arizona.

We'd love to see you at one, or all, of these upcoming events. Your continued participation helps us grow this incredible community of Veterans and families supporting one another.

"When you can't look on the bright side, I will sit with you in the dark."

Respectfully,

Dana West

Clinical Outreach Manager, US Army Veteran
Home Base Arizona

Home Base, a Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital Program

c/o ASU-CHS, 550 N. 3rd St, Mail Code 9020, Phoenix, AZ 85004

W: [\(480\) 328-5145](tel:(480)328-5145)

E: dwest8@mgb.org

homebase.org

Their Mission is Complete. Ours Has Just Begun.

October 3, 2025

Hello Membership Leaders,

I've attached the latest standings as a PDF and an Excel spreadsheet. Same info—different formats. Please share with your Units.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU—

- **Department of Arizona has made the first landmark of 25%....YAHOO!**
- **Districts 5 (37.78%), 12 (29.58%) 2 (28.569%), 8 (27.01%) and 3 (26.80%), are on their way to Mount Rushmore—ride on!**
- **Teetering on the edge of the first goal are Districts 11 (24.60%), 6 (24.51%) and 7 (23.36%)—keep going!!!**
- **District 1 and 4 are gearing up and making material progress each week. I appreciate your efforts to engage your Units.**
- **39 Units have made the first landmark— a few are even on their way to the East Coast!**

Remember that the next big landmark is 60% on November 10—and also when many challenges come due.... I've attached the challenges.

Have a great weekend,

Marge

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

October 10, 2025

Good morning, Membership Leaders,

We had a great week! Renewal notices evidently hit Arizona:

- At the Department level, we jumped from 27% to 35% of goal in one week.
- Leader board remains the same with District 5, 12, 2 and 3 in first, second, third, fourth respectively. Look out Mount Rushmore!
- Districts 11, 7 & 6 have rounded the 25% mark. Way to go!!!!
- District 1 is right on the edge of the 25% mark. District 4 has 3 Units over the mark, but a couple having trouble getting the gas pedal down. Keep at it.

The next goal is a tough one: 60% by November 10th. That's a little over a month out. If we can keep up the current momentum, we will make it! Not to mention, many challenges from Convention are due November 11th, so give it your best!

Ten Units (7, 11, 14, 24, 29, 59, 62, 86, 91, 107) ordered "renewal" postcards which will be available at Fall Conference. All Units will receive 5 free. We ordered extra, so encourage Units to consider ordering some. As a District, you could order some to share—particularly for smaller Units?! \$2.50 for 25 Post Cards.

I hope you all received my Fall Conference email (and saw the Ring Your Bell posts) about optional dress for your membership theme. I know District 7 is bringing the hippie bus! Personally, I'm working on my combo outfit theme—something to represent every District. As District Leadership, PLEASE encourage members to come to Fall Conference and pass the word through your social media, email etc. about the dress theme (thank you, Jennifer, for jumping right on that!). The more the merrier!

If you haven't visited the new website, Deb did an amazing job! We have our own "membership" page <https://aladeptaz.org/10-membership-tools> and a "Fall Conference" page <https://aladeptaz.org/15-fall-conference>. And so much more! Check it out and share with your Units.

Standings are attached—same info in 2 different formats.

It is a pleasure working with each of you to build our patriotic future—together increasing membership. Thank you!

Marge

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

October 17, 2025

Good Morning Membership Team,

- Leadership board has changed—but the race is tight:
 - First Place is District 12 @ 42.89%;
 - Second is District 2 @ 42.62%;
 - Third is District 3 @ 40.26%;
 - And Districts 5 and 11 are right on your tails with 39%!!!
 - District 7 is at 38%!
 - District 8 is at 37%!
 - District 6 is at 33%
 - District 1 jumped 10 percentage points in a week to also come in at 33%!
 - District 4 continues to make progress—Heather and Betty we appreciate your efforts!
- Together, the Department went **up 5 percentage points** this last week from 35% to **40%!** THIS IS AWESOME!
- Let's keep building the momentum with our Units, we have 20 more percentage points to go by November 10 to make our next National 60% goal.
 - Please pass on my thanks and congratulations to those Units already at 60% of goal:
 - Unit 141 Pearce (110%);
 - Unit 136 Yucca (100%);
 - Unit 84 Sacaton (83%);
 - Unit 95 Solomon (77%);
 - Unit 53 Buckeye (63%)
 - Unit 6 in Prescott is at 59.21% (so close!)
- Remember many of the challenges come due on Veterans Day! Depending on how close the contest is, you/your Units may want to concede and deliver your proceeds to President Dolores for her Special Project at Fall Conference..... ? The list of challenges is attached, **BUT DON'T GIVE UP YET!**
- Rejoin/Renew Post cards will be available for sale (\$2.50 for 25) at Fall Conference (as well as to those that already ordered them).
- I hope your theme outfits are as awesome as mine will be (LOL)!
- Please make sure you are sharing information and communicating with your Units—I am relying on you!
Thank you.











Looking forward to seeing you at Fall Conference!

Marge

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

October 24, 2025

Hello Membership Team!

- **WOW**, together, Department went up another 5 percentage points to 45.20%!!! At this rate, we can make the 60% National goal by November 10. Keep pushing on the accelerator and promptly processing those new/renew & rejoins!!! You are all amazing.
- The Veteran's Day challenges are **SOOOOO tight**! I will be pulling numbers after close of business on November 11. That means if you are having a Veteran's Day event and have a renewal push, you could process those renewals before the deadline something to consider and plan for..... Here's where the challenges stand as of today:
 - District 8-- 44.32% vs District 11—45.86%
 - District 12- 46.82% vs District 11—45.86%
 - Unit 25—55.36% vs Unit 62—52.85%
 - Unit 41-- 19.66% vs Unit 65—23.46%
 - Unit 41---19.66% vs Unit 117—45.68%
 - Unit 24—52.22% vs Unit 11—56.03%
 - Unit 56—38.89 vs Unit 19—47.25%
 - **EVERYONE IS STILL IN THE GAME!**
- Congratulations to the 2 more Units that have reached the 60% goal—Unit 132 Oro Valley and Unit 6 Prescott. **YAY!!!**
- District Standings have changed but remain amazingly close:
 - 1st Place: **District 2 @ 47.19%** moving up from 2nd place!!! 
 - 2nd Place: **District 5 @ 47.16%** up from 4th place. 
 - 3rd Place: **District 12 @ 46.82%** 
 - 4th Place: **District 3 @ 46.40%** 
 - 5th Place: **District 11 @ 45.86%** 
 - 6th Place: **District 8 @ 44.32%** 
 - 7th Place: **District 7 @ 44.02%** 
 - 8th Place: **District 6 @ 39.72%** 
 - 9th Place: **District 1 @ 37.54%** 
 - 10th Place: **District 4 @ 17.88%** 
- Fall conference is going to be so much fun! Please encourage your Units and their members to attend. Info is on the website, including the overflow hotel information (whose rate is lower than the Host Hotel!).

Thank you again for your continued efforts to build our patriotic future by building our membership! **YOU** are making a difference!

Marge

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

October 31, 2025

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!

Having an event at your Post? Make sure to check for renewals!!!

WOW—we've had a great week: WE ARE HALFWAY TO GOAL!

**We have 17 Units that are over 60% (our November 10 National goal)!
Thank you to these frontrunners:**

- Unit 100
- District 2
 - Unit 132 Oro Valley, 62.34%
- District 3
 - Unit 11, Douglas, 69.83%
 - Unit 141, Pearce, 110.00%
- District 4
 - Unit 8, Casa Grande, 74.07%
- District 5
 - Unit 95, Solomon, 85.37%
- District 7
 - Unit 87, Bullhead City, 64.52%
 - Unit 136, Yucca, 100.00%
- District 8
 - Unit 6, Prescott, 67.76%
 - Unit 25, Cottonwood, 60.71%
- District 11
 - Unit 53, Buckeye, 84.21%
- District 12
 - Unit 27, Apache, 61.45%
 - Unit 58, Fountain Hills, 66.42%
 - Unit 84, Sacaton, 83.33%
 - Unit 91, Chandler, 60.71%
 - Unit 107, Phoenix, 60.47%
 - Unit 114, Scottsdale, 66.67%

Districts are nearing Mount Rushmore!

1st Place: Great job District 12 at 51.97%! As the largest District your performance is huge!

2nd Place: District 2 at 50.26%. Nearly every Unit improved from last week!

3rd Place: Moving up from 5th place, District 11 reached 49.71%. Wickenburg kicked it in high nearly doubling their membership since last week.

4th Place: Holding 4th place, District 3 at 49.30% (so close to 3rd place!)—with Douglas rockin' it at nearly 70%

5th Place: Moving up from 7th place, District 7 reached 48.58%, led by Lake Havasu and Bullhead City

6th Place: District 8 a hair behind District 5--at 48.38% with 2 Units over 60%

7th Place: District 5 holding their own at 47.73%

8th Place: Jumping 5 percentage points, District 6 at 45.07%-- with Overgaard leading the way and Springerville jumping 25 percentage points!

9th Place: Jumping 7 percentage points, District 1 at 44.16%-- keep movin'!

10th Place: District 4 still making forward progress with 20.24%

Fall Conference news

I've gotten some questions about "theme dress". President Dolores has provided the following direction:

- Membership theme dress is only on Saturday
- Jeans, capris and hats are OK if they are part of your theme, but please no tank tops, strapless tops or shorts.
- If you have other questions, please ask!

Remember many challenges are due Nove 11—keep on processing those applications and renewals!

See you soon!

Marge

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

MEMBERSHIP OCTOBER 31, 2025

		UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT
01		0100	Phoenix	166	0	107	107	64.46%
		Total		166	0	107	107	64.46%
	Total			166	0	107	107	64.46%
		0019	Yuma	182	3	100	103	56.59%
		0046	Bouse	63	0	5	5	7.94%
0056		Yuma	72	0	32	32	44.44%	
Total			317	3	137	140	44.16%	
Total			317	3	137	140	44.16%	
02		0007	Tucson	46	1	11	12	26.09%
		0036	Tucson	243	2	134	136	55.97%
		0059	Tucson	127	2	66	68	53.54%
		0066	Green Valley	883	0	464	464	52.55%
		0068	Tucson	56	2	20	22	39.29%
		0073	Tucson	25	1	6	7	28.00%
		0109	Vail	440	1	181	182	41.36%
		0125	Tucson	15	0	0	0	0.00%
		0131	Green Valley	601	0	324	324	53.91%
		0132	Oro Valley	77	2	46	48	62.34%
		Total		2513	11	1252	1263	50.26%
	Total			2513	11	1252	1263	50.26%
03		0011	Douglas	116	2	79	81	69.83%
		0016	Bisbee	48	0	17	17	35.42%
		0024	Tombstone	450	1	243	244	54.22%
		0045	Benson	45	1	22	23	51.11%
		0052	Sierra Vista	183	0	38	38	20.77%
		0141	Pearce	20	0	22	22	110.00%
		Total		862	4	421	425	49.30%
	Total			862	4	421	425	49.30%
04		0008	Casa Grande	27	1	19	20	74.07%
		0009	Florence	191	0	17	17	8.90%
		0051	Coolidge	72	0	1	1	1.39%
		0054	Coolidge	81	0	36	36	44.44%
		0129	Queen Creek	31	0	11	11	35.48%
		0133	Maricopa	23	0	1	1	4.35%
		Total		425	1	85	86	20.24%
	Total			425	1	85	86	20.24%

05		0004	Globe	42	0	3	3	7.14%
		0028	Clifton	89	0	18	18	20.22%
		0032	Safford	139	0	77	77	55.40%
		0095	Solomon	82	6	64	70	85.37%
		Total		352	6	162	168	47.73%
	Total			352	6	162	168	47.73%
06		0030	Springerville	94	1	37	38	40.43%
		0037	Holbrook	36	0	2	2	5.56%
		0069	Payson	112	0	15	15	13.39%
		0086	Overgaard	468	6	259	265	56.62%
		Total		710	7	313	320	45.07%
	Total			710	7	313	320	45.07%
07		0003	Flagstaff	68	3	18	21	30.88%
		0013	Williams	74	1	30	31	41.89%
		0014	Kingman	131	2	67	69	52.67%
		0022	Golden Valley	146	1	63	64	43.84%
		0042	Grand Canyon	42	4	16	20	47.62%
		0057	Ash Fork	68	2	33	35	51.47%
		0081	Lake Havasu City	759	3	358	361	47.56%
		0087	Bullhead City	124	1	79	80	64.52%
		0088	Dolan Springs	39	0	21	21	53.85%
		0103	Meadview	53	0	27	27	50.94%
		0123	Seligman	35	0	11	11	31.43%
		0136	Yucca	15	2	13	15	100.00%
		Total		1554	19	736	755	48.58%
	Total			1554	19	736	755	48.58%
08		0006	Prescott	304	5	201	206	67.76%
		0025	Cottonwood	336	5	199	204	60.71%
		0040	Chino Valley	97	0	49	49	50.52%
		0078	Humboldt	148	0	46	46	31.08%
		0079	Yarnell	172	0	54	54	31.40%
		0090	Black Canyon City	65	0	4	4	6.15%
		0093	Camp Verde	117	0	44	44	37.61%
		0108	Prescott Valley	31	0	5	5	16.13%
		0135	Cornville	42	1	22	23	54.76%
		0140	Prescott Valley	17	4	4	8	47.06%
		Total		1329	15	628	643	48.38%
	Total			1329	15	628	643	48.38%

11		0001	Phoenix	114	0	21	21	18.42%
		0005	Phoenix	61	0	17	17	27.87%
		0012	Wickenburg	219	0	99	99	45.21%
		0029	Glendale	240	6	118	124	51.67%
		0053	Buckeye	38	0	32	32	84.21%
		0061	Avondale	239	1	122	123	51.46%
		0062	Peoria	1122	17	596	613	54.63%
		0105	Phoenix	299	6	127	133	44.48%
		0115	Glendale	37	4	14	18	48.65%
		0145	Peoria	25	0	10	10	40.00%
		Total		2394	34	1156	1190	49.71%
	Total			2394	34	1156	1190	49.71%
12		0002	Tempe	101	0	54	54	53.47%
		0026	Mesa	251	0	116	116	46.22%
		0027	Apache Junction	2039	9	1244	1253	61.45%
		0034	Cave Creek	318	1	118	119	37.42%
		0035	Chandler	295	5	146	151	51.19%
		0039	Gilbert	636	5	268	273	42.92%
		0041	Phoenix	351	5	135	140	39.89%
		0044	Scottsdale	314	0	164	164	52.23%
		0058	Fountain Hills	411	4	269	273	66.42%
		0064	Phoenix	16	0	0	0	0.00%
		0065	Phoenix	358	10	76	86	24.02%
		0084	Sacaton	60	5	45	50	83.33%
		0091	Chandler	308	15	172	187	60.71%
		0107	Phoenix	215	1	129	130	60.47%
		0114	Scottsdale	9	1	5	6	66.67%
		0117	Phoenix	243	0	121	121	49.79%
		0124	Guadalupe	29	2	14	16	55.17%
		0138	Mesa	138	2	25	27	19.57%
		Total		6092	65	3101	3166	51.97%
	Total			6092	65	3101	3166	51.97%
Total	Total			16714	165	8098	8263	49.44%

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
Membership Challenges 2025-2026

District 8 challenged District 11

- Highest percentage % of Membership by November 11th, 2025, \$100 to President's Special Project

Unit 25 challenged Unit 62

- Highest percentage % of Membership by November 11th, 2025,
- \$100 to President's Special Project

Unit 41 challenged Unit 65

- Highest percentage % of Membership by November 11th, 2025,
- \$100 to President's Special Project

Unit 91 challenged Unit 35

- Highest percentage % of Membership by January 1st, 2026, \$100 to President's Special Project

District 12 challenged District 11

- Highest percentage % of Membership by November 11th, 2025,
- \$100 to President's Special Project

Jane Shoemaker Challenged Ginger Cox

- \$25 and a bottle of wine to sign up 3 new Legionnaire's, 3 new ALA members, and 3 new SAL members, by 30 days prior to Convention 2026

Unit 41 challenged Unit 117

- Highest percentage % of Membership by November 11th, 2025,
- \$100 to President's Special Project

Unit 8 challenged Units 27,36,41,39,86,25,61,29,65,109,& 8

- 5 new Juniors per unit by January 1st, 2026, Units not meeting challenge: \$100 to President's Special Project

Unit 86 challenged Unit 25

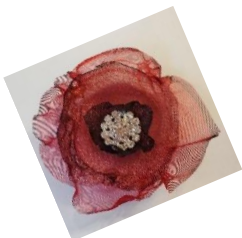
- Greatest percentage % of Dual members (TAL and ALA) by November 11th, 2025,
- \$100 to President's Special Project

Unit 24 challenged Unit 11

- Highest percentage % of Membership by November 11th, 2025,
- \$25 to President's Special Project tie both pay

Unit 56 challenged Unit 19

- Highest percentage % of Membership by November 11th, 2025,
- \$25 to President's Special Project tie both pay



Marge challenges all Districts

- Meet the National 85% goal by March 15, 2026; Poppy Bling pins to all Unit and District membership chairs in the winning Districts

Community Emergency Readiness Team (CERT) Volunteers & Training

Submitted by Central Division Chairman April Kollmorgen

With the change in weather also comes a change in focus. Every year, you probably hear about Emergency Preparedness and see lots of ads for “making your plan”. Maybe it’s because the weather has changed in the area, and the wind has already brought down a couple of tree branches, but it’s time to think about what to do in case of an emergency.

Through The Ready Campaign, numerous resources and training opportunities are available to help you develop and implement your emergency plans. Visit <https://www.ready.gov> to make your plan. It can be as simple as a hand-drawn map of your street with meeting places in case of a house fire. Or you can have a kit for power loss, or a major emergency, like non-perishable food and water. The needs will vary based on where you live and what disasters may happen. Don’t forget about your pets and food and water for them too! It’s a good time to make sure you know where any important documents are, too.

For over 20 years, Ready has been promoting preparedness through public involvement. If you would like to go a step further, you can take the CERT (Community Emergency Readiness Training) and become a CERT Volunteer. The CERT Basic Training is available in each State, so you will need to check your State’s Emergency Site for specific information. CERTs are all locally based, but the State generally has all the information in one place.

What can CERT volunteers do during emergencies?

- Provide basic first aid
- Check on neighbors
- Support local emergency centers
- Connect disaster survivors to resources
- Serve meals
- Distribute information to the public
- Staff lost child booths at booths and at disaster preparedness events during non-emergency community events

Who can be a volunteer on a CERT?

- CERT instructors believe that *everyone* can serve their communities before, during and after a disaster. CERT is open to adults and teens of all ages and abilities.
- Anyone 18 or older can take a basic CERT training. Teens between 13-17 can participate with written permission from their parent or guardian. Youths between 11 and 12 must obtain written permission from their parent or guardian and the parent or guardian must accompany them to CERT trainings and events.

Salute to Servicemembers Award 2026

Submitted by National Vice-Chairman Jammie Phillips

It is never too early to begin planning for your unit's nomination for the Salute to Servicemembers Award. This award is one of the highlights of each year's National Convention and serves as a wonderful way to honor our men and women in uniform. Last year's National Security Vice-Chairman, PNP Lisa Williamson, worked diligently to increase the number of nominations for the Salute to Servicemembers Award, achieving a remarkable 500% increase. This year, she has challenged us not only to surpass the 34 nominations received in 2024-2025 but also to secure a nomination for the one branch that has yet to receive an award—the Space Force. Are YOU up for the challenge? You can find the Salute to Servicemembers Award Nomination form and detailed information at <https://member.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers-Award-Form>

Deadline is June 1st, 2026!

National Security Resources

Facebook – Follow us on Facebook! Don’t forget to answer the questions...
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/915563745139663/>

National Security email address
nationalsecurity@ALAforVeterans.org

CERT Continued.....

How do I become part of a CERT?

The first step to becoming a CERT volunteer is to complete a CERT basic class. Then you can join a CERT team in your area. Start with this Independent Study as an introduction. <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/individuals-communities/preparedness-activities-webinars/community-emergency-response-team>. Then, find a class in your local area. If there is not one in your area, it is possible you can also request one through your State Emergency Department.

There is also a National CERT Association that you can join to connect with and support others. <https://nationalcert.org>

Share with your Departments and Units. Share with your friends and neighbors – a little prep now could mean a lot later. We all pray you don't have to use the knowledge and skills learned through CERT and Emergency Preparedness, but if you do need to use them, use them well.

OPERATION COMFORT WARRIORS

"Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) is an officially recognized program of The American Legion Charities Inc., and its purpose is to assist wounded, injured, or ill active-duty military personnel and veterans by providing morale-enhancing gifts to warrior transition units, VA, and DoD medical care facilities, military installations, and 501 (c)(3) and (c)(19) organizations which are part of The American Legion Family or such nonprofit entities sponsored by an American Legion entity." *Cited from The American Legion Website.*

"While the care at many military hospitals and warrior transition units is extraordinary, The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors program was created to provide nonessential items that help wounded warriors recover but don't usually show up as a budget line on government spreadsheets." *Cited from TAL Website.*

Supporting the health and morale of active service members and Veterans is vital to this program. The American Legion provides aid and comfort through various initiatives, demonstrating ongoing support for those who serve our nation.

Recognizing the importance of family in recovery, event grants allow for family participation. These grants fund outings to amusement parks and outdoor activities, encouraging recipients to take a break from medical challenges and spend quality time with their loved ones.

How the ALA can help

The American Legion encourages monetary donations since most military and VA medical centers cannot store large care packages. This allows us to quickly purchase and deliver essential items to our wounded warriors and veterans.

If your Unit is holding a fundraiser, please consider donating to the OCW (Ongoing Care for Warriors).

OCW Continued.....

Checks may be mailed to:

*Operation Comfort Warriors
The American Legion
5745 Lee Road
Indianapolis, IN 4621*

Donations can be made electronically on their website as well.

As always, every dollar of every donation made benefits OCW. The American Legion covers all associated costs, administrative or otherwise.

Check out more on Operation Comfort Warrior at

<https://www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/operation-comfort-warriors>

*** All information from this article is cited from The American Legion website, www.legion.org.*

*Respectfully submitted by
Lisa Boyer
ALA 2025-26 National Security
Eastern Division Chairwoman*



**NATIONAL DAY
OF THE
DEPLOYED
OCTOBER 26, 2025**

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Public Relations Bulletin

November 2025

Public Relations Top 3

1. Looking for inspiration or ideas, check out some hashtags on social media (two used above to get you started).
2. Use our hashtags when posting:
#AmericanLegionAuxiliary #ALA Juniors
#LegionFamily
3. Always proofread before posting.

Punctuation Saves Lives! (And Sometimes Relationships)

I like cooking my family and my pets.
I don't, I promise.

This should be corrected to:
I like cooking, my family, and my pets.
See the difference?

Let's eat children.
Let's eat, children.

What a difference a comma makes!
We are surely not eating children, are we??

This brings us to another topic we should be careful of - one question, one question mark, it can also apply when using exclamation points. Either may demonstrate irritation or unneeded urgency, and we don't want to sound inflammatory or offensive,
NOR DO WE WANT TO YELL, do we?

Before submitting anything to the media, proofread your work. If you would like extra help, there are several free grammar checkers available, just ask Google.

Get the Unit noticed in the community!

Take time to invest in Public Relations for the Unit!
Take time to set up and utilize:

- Website
- Newsletter
- Social Media accounts
- Group Chats or phone sessions
- Zoom meetings if needed

Website and Social Media tips:

- Make sure that you have multiple administrators for both website and social media.
- Be creative and eye catching when selecting templates for your website. Simple, clean and vibrant is always best.
- Use ALA coloring for best results.
- Consider when creating a social media account for your unit if you want a private group page or a public group page. There is a difference.
- Always keep both the website and social media accounts updated regularly to keep from becoming static.



Shannon Mead, PR Chairman
8938 W. Hilton Ave., Tolleson, AZ 85353
623-521-1263 • shannonmead@live.com

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
November 2025
By 2nd vice – Lynda Griffin



Veterans Day is just several days away. What do you typically do on this special day? Make it more than just a day off from work or school. Take an hour or two to volunteer on behalf of veterans who placed their very lives on the line to protect and ensure our freedom. It's impossible to compensate them for their great personal sacrifice, but we can demonstrate deep appreciation for all they've done by sharing a little bit of ourselves. Here are five meaningful ways to volunteer on Veterans Day.

1. **Be an active listener.** Veterans are often expert story tellers. They have journeyed to places you may never see, often in a time you can't imagine. They have a lifetime of wisdom and experience, and if they're willing to share their journey with you, most likely you'll be the one to come away with a gift you never imagined. As you prepare to listen, keep these tips in mind:
 1. Give your veteran your undivided attention.
 2. Lean into the conversation, giving them nonverbal cues that you're really engaged.
 3. Be sensitive to questions our veteran may not want to answer.
 4. Refuse to be judgmental.
2. **Celebrate with veterans.** Show your support and encourage veterans on their day by participating in festivities. Take time to research what activities are happening locally in honor of their day. Then go out and participate.
 1. Stand in the crowd and enthusiastically cheer your veterans on during a parade.
 2. Congratulate them on their service by introducing yourself.
 3. Thank them personally for their service during the celebrations in your community.
3. **Make it personal.** If you know a veteran, ask them what they need. They may need transportation to and from community activities on Veterans Day. They might like for you to drop off or pick up their mail, stop by the grocery store for a few things they need, or mow their lawn. If they are reluctant to share a need, feel free to ask a friend, caregiver or loved one how you could meet a need. (Whatever you commit to, make sure you deliver on your promise that day or the next few days.)

4. **.Pick up their tab.** If you see a veteran in line at the coffee shop or out at a restaurant, pay for their drink or meal. Those serving them are more than happy to bring you the check and it's a nice surprise to honor them for their service.
5. **Write a personal thank you.** As you have the opportunity to get to know some of our veterans, express your thanks in a letter or notecard. Try to mention something about them that personal and relevant to your time together, even if it was a short hello. Then share how much you appreciate their.

Mark Your Calendars

National Wreaths Across America Day this year is December 13th. The cutoff dates for sponsoring wreaths vary by location. Find your area's date at <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/Resources/VolunteerResourcePage> so you don't miss your opportunity to sponsor a wreath to honor a hero. In case you missed the Wreaths Across America live webinar in September, the recording is available to view at your convenience through the ALA Academy.

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.

Northern AZ VA Health Care System

500 HWY 89 North in Prescott

Whipple Gift Shop

Our Gift Distribution is scheduled for **December 17, 2025**. Our plan this year is to have a holiday activity in the Community Living Center (CLC) in the morning and to have a holiday party for the Domiciliary (DOM) during the afternoon. These events will provide an opportunity for many volunteers to be involved. If your unit/post is interested in helping for either the morning in CLC or the afternoon with the Dom, please call or text me at 928-632-2290 or e-mail me at trishaljets@outlook.com. I will contact you directly once our plans are complete.

We are accepting new quilts or plush throws to be given to each Veteran residing at the facility during the holiday (170 needed). Tied fleece blankets would also be most welcome as well. If you are interested in donating, please make sure the item is at least 48"x72". If crocheting or knitting, we ask that items are tightly knitted or crocheted so that the item does not have holes that can get caught on wheelchairs, fingers or toes and cause a tripping hazard.

I will be picking up donations of blankets/throws during the Fall Conference or donations could be delivered to my home at 7132 North Viewscape Drive in Prescott Valley. Please make sure that any donations are clearly marked with your unit information. The parties will provide an opportunity to thank our Veterans in person and to wish them health and happiness during the holidays and the coming year.

Please contact me at 928-632-2290 or trishaljets@outlook.com by **December 8** if you or members of your post/unit would like to volunteer to help. I will contact volunteers by December 12 with final arrangements. I will need to know the following:

- If you prefer to volunteer for the morning (9:00 - Noon) or afternoon (1:00 – 4:00).
- The number of volunteers

Following is the agenda for the day.

9:00 AM Meet in the **Community Living Center** (CLC) first floor dining room. We will have a small gathering with Veterans who are able to join us to receive their gifts and then we will visit the rest of the Veterans in their rooms. CLC staff asked that we provide flannel shirts as the primary gift – already purchased. I will also include a few small treats. As we pass out gifts and chat with each Veteran, we will also provide Christmas cookies and sparkling cider. **I am looking for 6 volunteers to assist with this morning's distribution.**

12 Noon-1pm Lunch for all volunteer helpers in CLC first floor dining room.

1:00 PM We will meet at the Domiciliary to prepare for their distribution and party. The party will consist of music, refreshments, gifts, etc. I will be looking for 8-10 volunteers to help with this activity. The primary gift at the Dom is a backpack – already purchased. Veterans will also receive their choice of other items, fleece throws and treats. The DOM Party will run from 2-3:00 with clean up after.

Trish Aljets

Trishaljets@outlook.com

928-632-2290

P.S. The Prescott VA Veterans can always use new hoodies, sweatpants, long sleeve T-shirts and men's shoes. We do not need any handmade hats or scarves or socks for men or women for this winter. Monetary donations to the Recreation Therapy program are also needed.

Christmas Gift Shop for Veterans

December 3 – 5, 2025

VA Southern Arizona Healthcare System Auditorium, 3601 South Sixth Ave, Tucson, AZ 85723

Christmas Gift Shops, historically hosted at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and veterans homes, offers veterans in these facilities an opportunity to send gifts to their loved ones at no cost.

A cherished tradition since 1928, American Legion Auxiliary volunteers collect donations or purchase gifts items for veterans. ALA Gift Shops may be placed in a specific location within a VA facility, may take the form of a cart full of gifts, or they may travel from one physical location to another.

While Christmas Gift Shops may look different at each location, the experiences for volunteer and veteran are very similar. ALA volunteers help Veterans select items when they visit the Gift shop. We make sure that veterans confined to their rooms are able to participate & offer to shop for them. For Veterans who may not see their loved ones over the holidays, we can ship their gifts at no cost.



Please email Melani by the middle of NOV with a list of the items you are donating... We need kids, girls & boys gifts.... Toiletries, head-sets, alarm clocks and fun stuff



Let's honor the Veterans in our community again this season by offering items that our veterans can proudly give to members of their family. To reach this goal we are asking each of the 28 Units assigned to support Tucson VA Medical Center to shop for or donate funds to our ALA Gift Shop.

Items we would like to see in our Shop include, but are not limited to:

- Clothing items (most popular are small, medium, large, XL, as well as 2X & 3XX)
- Hoodies, Sweatshirts & pants, Jackets, etc
- Sleepwear & Loungewear: all sizes
- Hats/gloves/scarves: adults & children (female/male)
- Toiletry & Nail Care Kits (for both males & females)
- Head-sets, alarm clocks, Christmas items....
- Basketballs, footballs, baseball gloves/mitts, soccer balls
- Lap blankets and Throws
- Toys for the youngsters
- Games for the family
- Adult & Children's books
- Coloring Books/markers/crayons

We also need a bit of your time on the first week in December. Help set-up on **Tuesday**.

Wed-Thurs-Fri: Come meet ALA members from other Units. Accompany the Veterans while they select gifts for their families. Help wrap gifts while the Veterans wait. More importantly, thank every Veteran for their service to us and our Country, with wishes for a wonderful Christmas holiday!

Set-up Tuesday, Dec 2: 12p – 4pm

Ribbon-cutting Ceremony Dec 3: 8:45am

Gift Shop: 9am – 2pm: Wednesday–Thursday

9am – 1pm: Friday

Arizona State Veterans Home Phoenix
October 2025

Pantry supplies of snacks and drinks were delivered.

Tim Hope from TNT Entertainment did a Motown show for the veterans. Ladies from Unit 62 joined in and served drinks and snacks to veterans. They also danced with them while they were in wheelchairs. Everyone sang all the oldies too.

I also purchased 6 sensory boards for rehab and 10 flags for memorial services for family members when a veteran passes.

Christmas cards were also left for veterans to have to mail out.

T-shirts were purchased for veterans to tie dye.

Candy Neagle.

Chair for Phoenix Veterans State Home

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

[View as Webpage](#)

ALA eNEWS: *CONNECTING WITH YOU MONTHLY*



OCTOBER 2025

November national Junior meetings approaching alongside Mission Training

Interested in learning more about our mission and becoming a stronger ALA member? Register for a Mission Training! Plan on going, then bring a Junior, or Juniors, along to learn valuable information and become well-rounded members and individuals.

Juniors and young Sons of The American Legion members age 8 and older 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](#).

Previous Junior attendees can use a \$5 off coupon to register for national Junior meetings! *Use code FALLJUNIORS

***The expiration date for the coupon is Oct. 12.**

November meetings and trainings:

- Nov. 15: Albany, N.Y.
- Nov. 15: Minneapolis

Register here for both national Junior meetings and Mission Trainings.

To learn more about our winter meeting dates starting in January, **click this link**.

ALA ACADEMY

New ALA Academy courses right around the corner

ALA National Scholarships

When: Oct. 14 @ 7 p.m. ET

Join us for an informative ALA Academy Live webinar designed to help units and members share scholarship opportunities more effectively. This session will provide a detailed overview of the four national American Legion Auxiliary scholarships, including eligibility requirements, required attachments, and recent enhancements to the application forms.

You'll also learn:

- Where to find scholarship rules and applications
- Creative ways to "get the word out" in your community
- Key items needed for a complete application
- Helpful tips on what makes an application stand out

Don't miss this opportunity to raise awareness, get information out earlier in the year, and support students in achieving their educational dreams!

Register here!

Wellcare Medicare Advantage Annual Enrollment Virtual Education Seminar

When: Oct. 15 @ 5 p.m. ET

It's time to choose your Medicare Advantage health plan for 2026. The Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) runs from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7, and we're here to help you understand your options, as well as select the plan that best suits your needs. Join us to learn about the enrollment period and how Wellcare Medicare Advantage plans work to provide more coverage than Original Medicare.

You deserve access to the right doctors, the benefits you can use every day to stay healthy, and straight answers about your coverage. You'll find those answers at our upcoming virtual event.

During the session, your host will:

- Give an overview of the Medicare AEP
- Review the requirements of joining a Medicare Advantage plan
- Talk about the different types of plans available
- Explain how to enroll into a Medicare Advantage plan
- Talk about what can be expected after you enroll

Don't wait! If you'd like to attend this informational session, please register now.

Register here!

Leadership in Unity Exploring Leadership Styles

When: Oct. 29 @ noon ET

Every leader has a style — and knowing yours can make all the difference!

This interactive webinar will explore four key leadership approaches:

- **Autocratic:** decisive and efficient
- **Democratic:** collaborative and inclusive
- **Transformative:** inspiring and visionary
- **Servant:** empathetic and people-focused

You'll learn how to identify your own style, recognize the strengths in others, and use these insights to build stronger teams and ease challenges.

Don't miss this chance to grow your leadership confidence and connect with fellow ALA members!

[Register here!](#)

VAVS 101 orientation coming up

When: Oct. 16 @ 7:30 p.m. ET

Join Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation leaders for the virtual Department VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) Orientation. Learn key information for all department secretaries, department presidents, and department VA&R chairs. It is crucial that at least one representative from each department attends this webinar. You will learn the processes and procedures for volunteering within the VA. We will also cover a variety of topics, including how to choose a valuable Rep or Dep, the certification process, VA roles and expectations, the structure of VAVS, and much more.

[To register, click here.](#)

Want to serve on a national ALA committee?

The application process for 2026-2027 national committee appointments opens Nov. 1! 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. Any member is eligible to apply. The application window is Nov. 1 to Jan. 1, 2026.

Watch our socials @ALAforVeterans for an application link.

Join the USA 250 Challenge to raise donations and celebrate America's birthday

This year-long American Legion Family challenge runs until July 4, 2026. Participants have three areas — fitness, mental wellness, and/or community service — they can engage in as a 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**.

Care packages needing extra care with shipping

A new regulation, featured on the ALA blog, started Sept. 1 with U.S. Customs and Border Protection now requiring HS codes for all overseas military shipping to APO, FPO, and DPO addresses. Additionally, military mail needs to follow both domestic and international mail requirements. Entering holiday season, ALA members need to keep these new rules in mind when they send their care packages overseas to support our military. Ship Thrifty is a resource to use to help navigate new regulations, as well as helping plan care package events.

Learn more on our blog.

What do you have planned for Veterans Day?

As Veterans Day (Nov. 11) approaches and your units are working on amazing events for your communities, ALA National Headquarters wants to hear what you have planned. Whether big or small, simple or complicated, please let us hear your cool ideas for us to cover. Your responses may be used in national ALA media to not only showcase your hard work but help other units in your ALA family support our mission.

Please send your responses to **PR@ALAforVeterans.org**.

MEMBER BENEFITS



Use your ALA member benefit during the holidays or any day!

Ship Thrifty saves you time, money, and headaches on shipping. Whether you're shipping to show support, celebrate birthdays and special occasions, do returns, or grow a side hustle, we make it simple. And when you're sending care packages to our troops, Ship Thrifty is the easiest way to create your labels, especially with the new customs requirements.

Create a free account: www.shipthrifty.com/rf/ALA or use the code ALA at signup.

EMPOWER THE FUTURE

AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

MAKE AN INVESTMENT IN
HOPE, DETERMINATION, AND
THE LIMITLESS POTENTIAL OF
OUR YOUTH.

 www.ALAforVeterans.org/donate

 Text "SOY" to 1-844-940-3450

When you give to the Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund, you're not just donating, you're making an investment in hope, determination, and the limitless potential of our youth. For many students, this scholarship is the difference between putting aside their dreams and achieving them. We've made it simple for members, friends, and supporters to contribute. You can text SOY to 1-844-940-3450 or [donate online here](#). Every contribution creates a lasting impact on a student's life, their family, and the communities they will one day serve.



This Veterans Day, join us in *serving those who served*. Through the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation's Veteran Projects Fund, your donation becomes action, powering projects that meet real needs for veterans, military members, and their families. Together, we can turn ideas into impact and ensure those who sacrificed for us are honored with the support they deserve.

Donate online or text VETERAN to 1-844-940-3450.



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/
enewsletter/oct25



AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

Benefits and allowance amounts vary by plan. Please call for more details.

*<https://www.medicare.gov/learn/get-started-with-medicare/get-more-coverage/joining-a-plan/special-enrollment-periods> Wellcare is the Medicare brand for Centene Corporation, an HMO, PPO, FFS, 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 United 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: "Medicaid" 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://dhs.la.gov/medicaid> or <https://www.louisianahwellconnect.com>. To request a written copy of our Medicaid Provider Directory, please contact us. Notice: TermCare is not responsible for payment for these benefits, except for appropriate cost sharing amounts. TermCare 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.

Y00000_WCM_10180405_MCMO Accepted 03/18/2025

NASWCMADN202404_AJ00W

©Wellcare 2025

GOOD TO KNOW

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

Missed a September webinar? They are posted in the ALA Academy. Learn, or review, about Wreaths Across America and a Wellcare Information session. [Click here](#) to access the 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

Virginia unit honors its post home veterans through monthly recognition

Mechanicsville, Va., Unit 175 is recognizing its American Legion Family post veterans through a newly formed program dubbed the Honorable Veteran Program.

[Read more.](#)



What does your unit do?

Do you know how you would answer this question: What does your unit do? Would you start naming all of the American Legion Auxiliary's programs, mention events, use our tagline — a community of volunteers serving veterans, military, and their families?

[Read more.](#)



SAVE THE DATE



Oct. 13: U.S. Navy's birthday
Oct. 26: National Day of the Deployed
Oct. 20-24: Veteran National Buddy Check Week
Oct. 31: Halloween
Nov. 4: Election Day
Nov. 10: American Legion Auxiliary's 106th birthday
Nov. 10: U.S. Marine Corps birthday
Nov. 11: Veterans Day

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

Why is membership important to you?

“We all know membership is the lifeblood of a thriving and vibrant post family, not just in numbers, but the broad array of talent among those members who can help achieve the mission of serving veterans and their families.”

— U.S. Army Veteran and ALA Member Randy Conlon, Maryland

LEGION FAMILY NEWS

Tell Congress: Our troops deserve their pay

The American Legion Family proudly endorses the Pay Our Troops Act of 2026 to ensure that members of the Armed Services will be paid in the event of a government shutdown.

Go to the [Grassroots Action Center](#) to show your support.

Fly the flag proudly for America’s birthday

As our nation approaches its 250th anniversary in 2026, there’s no better way to honor America’s legacy than by proudly displaying the Stars and Stripes. American Legion Flags offers high-quality, made-in-the-USA flags for your home, business, or community. Every purchase supports veterans and programs that strengthen our nation. Be ready to celebrate this historic milestone — order your American flag today and let it wave with pride as we count down to USA 250.

Shop now at AmericanLegionFlags.com



ALA Membership

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

Legion Family Merchandise

Show your support by buying from American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales. [Shop now](#)

The American Legion Legislative Center

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

