

Historian Report October 2025

By Stephanie McMullen – AZ Department Historian

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

This year, the National Convention was held in Tampa, Florida. It is the historic first time the Legion Family has congregated in Tampa for these events.

The minutes from the 1925 ALA National Convention are not available online, however there are some key takeaways from the 1925 ALA National Convention, which was held in Omaha, Nebraska, from October 5-9, 1925.

Key takeaways from the 1925 ALA National Convention

- **Moved National Headquarters:** In 1925, the ALA moved its National Headquarters to the War Memorial Plaza in Indianapolis.
- **Veterans' programs emphasized:** The ALA continued to focus on its hallmark veterans' programs, and its official history mentions an emphasis on youth-related programs, including scholarships.
- **Poppy distribution by veterans emphasized:** While the ALA had adopted the poppy as its memorial flower in 1921, the convention's proceedings reinforced the use of poppies made by veterans as part of its support efforts.
- **Part of a larger history:** The convention was part of the organization's early history, following its charter by Congress in 1920. The ALA's constitution, adopted at its first convention in 1921, was modeled after that of The American Legion.

Where to find historical minutes

To find the full minutes or proceedings from the 1925 convention, you may need to visit or contact on of the following historical archives for more information:

- **The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters Library:** This is the most likely location for a full record of the convention's proceedings. It is in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- **State-level ALA departments:** Contacting the Nebraska or National ALA archives may also yield specific information about the convention.
- **HathiTrust Digital Library:** This library contains a catalog record for some American Legion Auxiliary proceedings from the 1920s, including some from the Department of North Carolina, but may have other documents as well.
- **The American Legion Digital Archive:** This archive is managed by the American Legion and contains programs and reports for the 7th National Convention in 1925. However, it's possible that Auxiliary specific minutes were not added to their archive.

I only had one member in the whole state answer all the eight questions correctly. Rebecca Faris from Unit 14 was the winner. I will see you at Fall Conference with your gift.