

Carmelite Staker
October 26, 1927 – April 10, 2026



Carmelite "Carm" Staker, 98, passed away on Friday April 10th at Eden Acres Lutheran Home in Perry, Iowa.

Carm served as the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona President from 1994-1995. She also served as National Chaplain from 1998-1999.

MAY TIDBITS

--The NATIONAL Creative Arts Festival is scheduled for June 9-14, 2026, in Columbia, South Carolina.

--Directory Change of Address: ALA Unit 123, PO Box 1096, Seligman, AZ 86337

DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN AND OFFICERS-SEND A COPY OF YOUR YEAR-END REPORT TO THE OFFICE AT secretary1@aladeptaz.org AND TO DEB MUNCHBACH AT munchaz@msn.com FOR THE BOOK OF REPORTS

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS -YOU ALSO NEED TO WRITE AND SUBMIT A YEAR-END REPORT ON WHAT YOUR DISTRICT'S UNITS ACCOMPLISHED THIS YEAR.

SUPER IMPORTANT

Just like last year, there are many Resolutions which have already come through for Department Convention. We don't have enough trees to send a hard copy of everything. I have included a one sentence description below. Put those grandchildren to work and ask them to bring it up on their I-pad or computer so you can look them over. They are under Member Resources Tab # 15.

Codes: \$: Finance Committee
 E: Executive Committee
 one: one reading on floor
 2: two readings on floor

Resolution 1 Housekeeping of governing documents \$E2(abundance of caution)

Resolution 2 Over-budget expenditure increased to \$500 before requiring E. Com. approval \$E2

Resolution 3 National Convention Delegates no longer required to live in Arizona Eone

Resolution 4 Processional Dress Eone

Resolution 5 Rescind Standing Rule #21 \$Eone

Resolution 6 Remove Awareness Assembly from National Security Policy Eone

Resolution 7 Poppy Mandate, Text pending \$Eone

Resolution 8 District President Terms E2

Resolution 9 Updating Jr. Meeting Terminology Eone

Resolution 10-1 Revised and Updated Award Rules Addendum #4 \$E2(abundance of caution)

Resolution 10-2 E. Com. Only: Approval of updated Jr. Awards E only

Resolution 10-3 E. Com. Only: Approval of Revised Mentor of the Year Award E only

Resolution 11 \$100 to Department winners of National sponsored scholarships being forwarded for further competition \$Eone

Resolution 12 Reporting vs Award Submission Policy, both Department and National Eone

Resolution 13 Asking American Legion for further membership eligibility changes E2

Resolution 14 Raises cost of poppies to \$18 per 100 for Units \$Eone

Resolution 15 Funding for a National "Little Miss Poppy" from Arizona to attend National Convention
\$Eone

Resolution 16 Awards to classrooms participating in Americanism Essay Contest having a Department winner advanced to National competition \$Eone

Resolution 17 Awards to classrooms participating in Poppy Poster Contest having a Department winner advanced to National competition \$Eone

Resolution 18 Establish a Department ALA Foundation Chairman \$E2

Resolution 19 Discontinue PPP Breakfast or Luncheon requirement in PPP Policy Eone

Resolution 20 Revise rules of PPP Nursing and Health Occupations Scholarships to pay awards directly to the recipient \$Eone

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of Arizona

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

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

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

UNIT NAME AND NUMBER _____

UNIT MAILING ADDRESS _____

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

PRESIDENT: _____ ID# _____

Phone # _____ Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____ Publish Yes No

SECRETARY: _____ ID# _____

Phone # _____ Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____ Publish Yes No

MEMBERSHIP: _____ ID# _____

Phone # _____ Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____ Publish Yes No

TREASURER: _____ ID# _____

Phone# _____ Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____ Publish Yes No

CHAPLAIN: _____ ID# _____

Phone# _____ Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____ Publish Yes No

HISTORIAN: _____ ID# _____

Phone# _____ Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____ Publish Yes No

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

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

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

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of Arizona

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

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

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

DISTRICT NUMBER _____

DISTRICT MAILING ADDRESS _____

MEETING DAY _____ **TIME** _____

PRESIDENT: _____ **ID#** _____

Phone # _____ Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____ Publish Yes No

VICE PRESIDENT: _____ **ID#** _____

Phone # _____ Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____ Publish Yes No

SECRETARY: _____ **ID#** _____

Phone # _____ Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____ Publish Yes No

TREASURER: _____ **ID#** _____

Phone# _____ Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____ Publish Yes No

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

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

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

CALL TO CONVENTION
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona

The Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Arizona, is hereby called, and, in conformity with the Department Constitution Article VIII, *Section 1*, which provides that the annual Department Convention shall be held at the same time and place as The American Legion Annual Convention, will be held in **Chandler, Arizona, June 25th – 28th, 2026.**

PURPOSE

The Convention is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, amending the Department Constitution, receiving reports of Department Officers and committees, and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it.

REPRESENTATION

Each Unit shall be entitled to four (4) delegates and four (4) alternates and one (1) additional delegate and one (1) alternate for each twenty-five (25) members, or major fraction thereof, whose current Department and National dues have been paid and received by Department Headquarters thirty (30) days prior to Department Convention. Each member of the Department Executive Committee shall be an ex-officio delegate with full voting power. All Past Department Presidents in good standing in their local Units shall be life delegates to the Department Convention with vote. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any delegate absent, and not represented by an alternate, shall be cast by the majority of the delegates present from the Unit each voting its full strength. Units shall elect delegates and alternates at a special meeting called for that purpose not less than two weeks prior to the Convention. A quorum at the Department Convention shall consist of fifty-one percent of the Units of the Department.

UNITS NOT HAVING their current District, Department, and National mandates paid thirty (30) days prior to Department Convention shall not be entitled to vote. Delegates per capita, rehabilitation per capita, junior activities per capita and bond fee must be received by close of business **May 26, 2026.**

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A pre-convention meeting of the Department Executive Committee is hereby called as provided by the Department Constitution, Article VII, and will be held at **Crown Point San Marcos Hotel Chandler, AZ June 25th, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.**

A meeting of the Department Executive Committee will be held at the call of the Department President within twenty-four (24) hours after the adjournment of the Convention. The newly installed officers, including the ten new District Presidents, are to be in attendance. All Past Department Presidents are invited to attend. The meeting is open to any interested member.

RESOLUTIONS

A meeting of the Resolutions Committee is called by the Department President for **June 25th, 2026, 3:30p.m. Crown Plaza San Marcos.** One “hard” copy, signed by at least two (2) qualified

delegates, and an unsigned “soft or electronic” copy of all resolutions are to be forwarded to the Department Secretary before Convention if possible. Resolutions originating at Convention need to be written as a “hard” copy with two delegate signatures, and a “soft or electronic” copy forwarded to the Department Secretary as soon as possible so that discussion and vote may take place. (2013) Resolutions presented by the vote of a unit need to be signed by at least two (2) qualified delegates from the Unit and forwarded to the Department Secretary thirty (30) days prior to Department Convention for registration and classification and issuing to respective committees. A resolution which has not been presented through the proper channels will not be considered.

HOUSING

Headquarters will be the **Crown Plaza San Marcos**. All housing reservations for the period of the Convention must be made individually with the hotel or motel desired.

REGISTRATION

Registration fee is \$15.00 per member if pre-registered. Registration at the Convention site will be \$20.00. Pre-registration is encouraged. Checks made out to American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona should be included with pre-registration. All registration will be **June 25th, 2025, Crown Plaza San Marcos, June 26-27, 2025, Chandler Community Center 125 E Commonwealth Ave, Chandler, AZ**

NO LUNCHEON TO BE HELD, PER DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTE held March 25, 2025

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Memorial Service will be held jointly with The American Legion on **June 28, 2026, 8:00 a.m. Crown Plaza San Marcos**.

PROCESSIONAL

NO Unit or District Colors due to space. Sashes are to be worn by Department Officers, including District Presidents and Past Department Presidents. Lineup for Processional **June 26th, 2026, 8:00 a.m. Chandler Community Center Courtyard**.

PLAQUES

All trophies and plaques must be engraved and brought to Convention. These must be turned into the Department Trophies and Awards Chairman **NO LATER than 8:00 a.m. Friday, June 26, 2026**. A table will be set up in the Convention Hall at the Chandler Community Center.



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA CONVENTION JUNE 25-28, 2026

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY REGISTRATION \$15.00

REMINDER AT CONVENTION \$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)

15 numbered rows for registration entries

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE JUNE 12, 2026 NO REFUNDS OR SUBSTITUTIONS



CONVENTION RULES 2026

1. All meetings of this Convention shall be called to order at the designated time, or as soon thereafter as a quorum is present.
2. The Chair may deviate from the printed program when necessary or expedient.
3. The Credentials Committee shall report at such times as directed by the Chair.
4. The audience shall remain seated during the business of the Convention. Doors will remain open unless noise interferes with the conducting of business. Delegates will be allowed to leave or enter the auditorium except when balloting or elections are being held, or when a speaker is speaking. There shall be no rhythmic applause when guests are presented to the platform, but spontaneous applause is encouraged.
5. No smoking is allowed on the floor of Convention at any time.
6. Admission to the business sessions at the Department Convention shall be restricted to those persons displaying the official Convention badge, or other acceptable official credentials.
7. A member wishing to address the Convention shall rise and address the Chair as “Madam or Mr. President”, give their name and Unit number, and wait to be recognized by the Chair.
8. Debate on any question shall be limited to two minutes for each speaker. No person shall speak on the same question more than twice without the consent of the Convention.
9. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the delegates present from that Unit, each Unit voting its full voting strength. No delegate shall represent more than one Unit.
10. Voting shall be by voice except when the Chair deems it necessary to use some other method or when a roll call is requested by the Chairman of three Unit delegations or except in the election of Department Officers, paid delegates, and unpaid delegates.
11. In the event of a voice vote the Unit delegation chairman, or in their absence, the leader of each delegation, will announce all votes.
12. Reports of Department Officers and Chairmen, with the exception of Finance, Membership, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, shall be limited to five minutes.
13. Any committee recommending an appropriation of money for any purpose shall confer with the Finance Committee before presenting recommendation to the Convention.

ELECTION RULES

14. Nomination of Department officers, paid delegates, unpaid delegates, and alternates to the National Convention shall be made from the floor at least six hours before the election is held. Paid delegates shall be listed separately on the ballot from other delegates and alternates. All delegates must reside in Arizona.
15. Should an endorsed candidate be absent due to unavoidable circumstances, the endorsing Unit may submit the nomination as if they were present.
16. Nominating speeches shall be LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES and no seconding speeches shall be permitted.
17. Units not having their current District, Department, and National mandates paid thirty days prior to Convention shall not be entitled to vote.
18. Each member of the Department Executive Committee shall be an ex-officio delegate to the Department Convention with one vote. The Department Executive Director is a paid employee and not an officer and has no individual vote. (2000)
19. All Past Department Presidents in good standing in their local Units shall be life delegates to the Department Convention with one vote, provided they are in attendance.

20. A blank sample election ballot shall be given to members of the Department Executive Committee, all Past Department Presidents, and the Chairman of each Unit delegation at the time of nominations.

21. Doors shall be secured from the time official ballots are distributed until the Election Committee has retired from the meeting room.

22. When there is but one candidate for office, roll call may be dispensed with and the nominee declared elected. In the event there is more than one candidate for office, the ballots shall be deposited in the Ballot Box by members of the Department Executive Committee, Past Department Presidents, and the Chairman of each Unit delegation on roll call.

ELECTION BY BALLOT

23. A. The Department President shall appoint an Election Committee consisting of one election judge; two tellers/clerks. Each Candidate shall be allowed to have a representative in the counting room for observation only.
- B. The Department Secretary shall call the roll and give the number of votes certified by the Credentials Committee Chairman for each Unit as official ballots are distributed.
- C. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. **NO VOTE MAY BE DIVIDED INTO PARTS.** The vote of any absentee delegate shall be cast with the majority of the Unit delegation.
- D. When all ballots have been returned to the ballot box by roll call, the Department President shall declare the election closed.
- E. A majority of votes cast shall elect. IF no majority is received the candidate receiving the least number of votes will not be considered in the next round of voting.
- F. The Election Judge will give a written ballot report to the Department President. The Department President will declare the number of votes cast for each candidate and declare as elected the candidate who received the majority of votes cast. If no majority is received the voting process will begin again.
- G. Voted Ballots will be stored in the Department Office for a period of 30 days following an election and then destroyed by the Department Executive Director.

RESOLUTIONS

24. All resolutions shall be presented as one "hard" copy signed by two qualified delegates and one unsigned "soft or electronic" copy. (2013) Resolutions presented by the vote of the Unit must be presented thirty days prior to the Convention. Courtesy Resolutions are exempt from these requirements.

25. The three-member Resolutions Committee appointed by the Department President shall receive all resolutions, study, number them in logical sequence, eliminate duplication by combining, if necessary, making certain they are in correct form and refer them to the proper committee for action.

26. Resolutions in conflict with the policy of The American Legion shall not be considered. Resolutions which are not properly executed will not be considered.

27. As per the Department Policies and Procedures, all properly executed resolutions are presented, with the respective chairman's and/or committee's comments, to the Department body for action.

28. Any resolution rejected by committee or by the Resolutions Committee as being in conflict with American Legion policy or as being improperly executed will be stated as such and may be brought before the Convention by two-thirds vote of the Convention body.

29. These rules may be amended during the Convention session by a two-thirds vote.

30. *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall be the parliamentary authority on all points not covered by these Convention rules, or the Department Constitution and Bylaws.

Chairman

Member

Member

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
FINANCE RULES**

THE MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT FINANCE COMMITTEE RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT AND PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION OF THIS DEPARTMENT CONVENTION IN **CHANDLER, AZ, JUNE 25-28, 2026**

RULES

1. The Department Finance Committee shall oversee the general finance policy of the Department as prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws and Policies & Procedures.
2. Special expenditures voted on by Convention action or as authorized by the Department Executive Committee shall be taken from revenue in the General Fund.
3. The Department Treasurer shall not overdraw any items budgeted, except on written permission of the Department Finance Committee.
4. **NO SOLICIATION SHALL BE MADE BY ANY OFFICER, CHAIRMAN, and OR MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY** without written permission of the Department President and Department Finance Committee.
5. The Department Treasurer shall forward all National Dues to the National Treasurer within two (2) weeks of receipt.
6. **NO SOLICITATION SHALL BE PERMITTED BY VETERANS MEDICAL CENTERS DIRECTLY TO THE UNITS.**
7. All people receiving money from this Department for whole or partial expenses to Department or National Convention, Conference, or other meetings **MUST ATTEND ALL SESSIONS** and will represent no other organization.
8. Any Committee or person thereof who is handling monies to accomplish their programs shall have their books audited annually during-or-after Department Convention and on-or-before the date of the Officers and Chairmen meeting, i.e. VAVS Representative from each VA Hospital, the Representative from each AZ Veterans Home, all Gift Shop Chairmen, and any others as requested by the Finance Chairman. All checkbooks, bank statements, receipts, and ledgers of transactions will be presented for review. (2013)(2017)
Audits will be conducted by no less than 3 members of the Department Finance Committee. If the persons involved do not comply with this audit or make alternative arrangements with the Finance Chairman, then they will receive a letter requesting that all items be produced within 10 days of the Officers and Chairmen meeting. If they still do not respond, and the person is a current Department Chairman, the Department President will go through the process of having the Chairman replaced for improper handling of funds. (2013)
Audit and oversight of the Girls State accounts are addressed separately.
Chairmen handling funds through individual bank accounts may not close, change, or open a bank account for their Committee without action and approval by the Department Finance Committee. Accounts in effect on June 21, 2008, are the only accounts which may be used by the Chairmen unless the Finance Committee implements a change of any kind.
9. Upon adoption of this budget, the funds will be expended as needed.
10. Reimbursement for ground transportation may not exceed the lowest air fare available. The statement of air fare must accompany the mileage claim. Rate reimbursed per mile is determined by the Department Finance Committee on a yearly basis. (2008)

NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES FUND RULES

1. We recommend that the National Convention Delegates fund for 2026, be divided equally among three (3) "Paid Delegates". There shall be (14) "Unpaid Delegates", and (4) Delegates by virtue of office, those being: The Retiring Department President, **Dolores Chavez**; The Department President Elect, **Marge Christianson**; Convention Secretary, **Rose Ficklin**; National Executive Committeeman, **Stacey Mayberry**.

NOTE: THIS DISTRIBUTION MAY CHANGE DEPENDENT ON MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AND SEATED NATIONAL CHAIRMEN.

2. Paid Delegates to the National Convention **must attend all sessions and all meetings of the Convention Committee as assigned by the Delegation Chairman** and report on only assigned meeting in writing to the Delegation Chairman within thirty (30) days after the National Convention. Copies of the report will be sent to the **Department President** and the **Department Executive Director of Operations** for the files.

3. All persons (paid, unpaid delegates and alternates) receiving money from the Department for whole or partial expenses to National Convention **must attend all sessions**, representing the American Legion Auxiliary only. Any Delegate absent without permission of the Chairman will be asked to return the money given them by the Department.

4. No person shall serve twice as a paid delegate to National Convention.

5. Any candidate for National Office, and the Auxiliary Member of the Year representing the Department of Arizona will adhere to the same guidelines as Delegates to National Convention. Funding for the Auxiliary Member of the Year will be taken from the General Fund.

6. A refund of money paid by Department will be required of any Delegate/person who does not adhere to these rules.

REMINDER TO UNITS/DISTRICTS

We ask Units to refer to and review Unit Financial responsibilities and duties as stated in the Department Policy and Procedures Book.

MEMBERSHIP REMITTANCES MUST BE SENT TO DEPARTMENT WEEKLY.

ALL POPPY ORDERS MUST BE TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BY SEPT. 30.

Each Unit holding a Poppy Distribution Function is **REQUIRED** to remit to Department **10% of NET POPPY PROCEEDS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING FUNCTION. POPPY FUNDS MUST BE USED ONLY IN DIRECT AID TO THE VETERAN AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES. THEY MAY ALSO BE USED FOR CREATIVE ARTS.**

Department and District Per Capita and Bonding Fees **MUST BE PAID THIRTY (30) DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AS PRESCRIBED IN THE DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.**

Districts are permitted to issue Membership Challenges with payoffs to any Auxiliary Program. All Units when issuing Membership Challenges to other Units may designate any Auxiliary Program as the payoff recipient.

MONETARY CHALLENGES SHALL BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE WINNING UNIT/DISTRICT FOR THE DESIGNATED PROGRAM AND NOTIFICATION OF THE SAME SHALL BE SENT TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS.



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
 DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
 2026 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
 CROWN PLAZA SAN MARCOS
 CHANDLER, AZ**

This schedule is subject to change.

Thursday, June 25, 2026

REGISTRATION: 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	CROWN PLAZA SAN MARCOS
11:00 a.m.	Finance Committee Meeting PALO VERDE
1:00 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting PALO VERDE
3:00 p.m.	All Department Officers, including District Presidents, and Past Department Presidents Girls State Directors Meeting PALO VERDE
3:30 p.m.	Credential Committee Meeting PALO VERDE Rules Committee Meeting Resolutions Committee Meeting Courtesy Resolutions Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m.	Joint Opening BALLROOM A & B

Friday, June 26, 2026

This schedule is subject to change.

Chairmen, please sit up front prior to speaking.

REGISTRATION 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	CHANDLER COMMUNITY CENTER 125 E. COMMONWEALTH
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7:00 a.m.	Sgt at Arms, & Pages, meet for Instructions
7:45 a.m.	Processional Lineup – All Department Officers, District Presidents, and Past Department Presidents... <i>Don't forget sashes.</i>

8:15 a.m. OPENING CEREMONY	CHANDLER COMMUNITY CENTER 125 E. COMMONWEALTH AVE
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Processional	Maggie Montijo, Americanism Chairman
Call to Order	Dolores Chavez, Dept Pres.
Opening Prayer	Debra "DeDe" Dexter, Chaplain
Pledge of Allegiance	Maggie Montijo, Americanism
National Anthem	Alma Mattingly, Music Chairman
Preamble	Barbara White, C&B Chairman

POW/MIA Chair

Dolores Chavez, Dept Pres.
Marge Christianson, Dept VP
Lynda Griffin 2nd Dept VP
Dolores Chavez, Dept Pres.
Marge Christianson, Dept VP

Welcome and Purpose
Response

Introductions and Greetings

Isabella Ward – Honorary Junior Department President

Stacey Mayberry – National Executive Committeeman

Introduction of Convention Appointees

Dolores Chavez, Dept Pres.

Registration – ALA Unit 35

Chairman of Pages – Illiana Solis

Personal Pages – Jennifer Klingaman and Maggie Montijo

Sgt-at-Arms – Illiana Solis and Jacque Solis

Color Bearers – Unit 29 Color Guard

Credentials Committee – June Moyer

Resolution Committee Chairman – Debra Munchbach

Rules Committee Chairman – Debra Munchbach

Roll Call of Dept Officers and Units

Rose Ficklin,
Dept Executive Director
Debra Munchbach, Rules
June Moyer, Credentials

Rules of Convention

Partial Credentials Report

Nominations for Officers & National Convention Delegates
SAMPLE BALLOTS

Instructions for Elections of Department Officers,
Delegates and Alternates to National Convention

Debra Munchbach,
Head Teller

Sample Ballots by Roll Call of Units with number of votes announced:

Rose Ficklin, Dept
Executive Director

Nominations for Department Officers 2026-2027
Nominations for Delegates and Alternates for National Convention
August 28, - September 3, 2026, Louisville, KY

Paid and unpaid delegates must attend ALL SESSIONS of National Convention

BREAK

*This schedule is subject to change.
Chairmen, please sit up front prior to speaking.*

10:00 a.m. PROGRAM

CHAIRMAN

Resolutions 1st Reading

Debra Munchbach,

Resolutions Chairman

Americanism

Maggie Montijo

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Barbara Shields

Cavalcade of Memories

Paula Burgess

Children & Youth

Barbara Whitney

Community Service

Joanie Whitsett

Constitution & Bylaws

Barbara White

Creative Arts

Anita Ritter

Education

Julie Vietri

Announcements

Rose Ficklin,

Dept. Executive Director

11:30 a.m. LUNCH

1:00 p.m. RECONVENE

**CHANDLER COMMUNITY CENTER
125 E. COMMONWEALTH AVE**

Call to Order

Dolores Chavez

Roll Call of Units

Rose Ficklin

Credential Report

June Moyer

1:15 p.m. PROGRAM

CHAIRMAN

Girls State

Penny Maklary

Junior Activities

Jacque Solis

Legislative

Kathy Amery

Music

Alma Mattingly

National Security

Stacey Mayberry

Past President's Parley

Patricia Lugo

Public Relations

Shannon Mead

Service to Veterans

Sara Decker

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Lynda Griffin

**Introduction of 2025-2026 District and Unit Presidents
by the 2024-2025 District Presidents**

RECESS

*This schedule is subject to change.
Chairmen, please sit up front prior to speaking.*

Saturday, June 27, 2026

REGISTRATION: 7:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

**CHANDLER COMMUNITY CENTER
125 E. COMMONWEALTH AVE**

8:00 a.m. RECONVENE

CHANDLER COMMUNITY CENTER

Call to Order	Dolores Chavez
Invocation	DeDe Dexter
Roll Call of Units	Rose Ficklin
Credentials Report for Elections	June Moyer
Head Teller	Debra Munchbach
Introduction of Tellers	Debra Munchbach
Distribution of Ballots by Roll Call	Rose Ficklin

Election of 2026-2027 Department Officers
2026 Delegates & Alternates to National Convention

Each candidate is given the opportunity to have a witness present during the ballot counting.

BREAK

PROGRAM

CHAIRMAN

Chaplain
Memorial Service for Past Department President's lost in 2025-2026

DeDe Dexter

Finance
Historian
Leadership
Membership
New Units/UD&R
Poppy
Scrapbook

Yolanda Bonilla
Stephanie McMullen
Karen Smith
Marge Christianson
Rose Ficklin
Kat Sticklin
Sandra Solis

Announcements

Rose Ficklin

11:30 a.m. LUNCH

*This schedule is subject to change.
Chairmen, please sit up front prior to speaking.*

1:00 p.m.	RECONVENE	CHANDLER COMMUNITY CENTER
	Call to Order	Dolores Chavez
	Roll Call of Units	Rose Ficklin
	Final Credentials Report	June Moyer
	President's Special Project Hospice	Dawn Davidson
	Executive Directors Report	Rose Ficklin
	President's Report	Dolores Chavez

Announcements

Rose Ficklin

RECESS

3:15 p.m.	Installation Practice	
4:30 p.m.	Choir Practice Room TBD	Alma Mattingly
6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	President Elect Reception	Room 109

Sunday, June 28, 2026

8:00 a.m.	Joint Memorial Service	Ballroom A,B,C San Marcos Hotel
	The American Legion	Ron DiBiasio, Dept Chaplain
	American Legion Auxiliary	DeDe Dexter, Dept Chaplain
	American Legion Family Choir	Alma Mattingly

9:15 a.m.	RECONVENE	CHANDLER COMMUNITY CENTER
		125 E. COMMONWEALTH AVE
	Installation of Officers 2026 -2027	

Break 15 Minutes

Call To Order
Membership and Challenges for 2026-2027

Dolores Chavez
Lynda Griffin

Final Comments
Announcements
Benediction
Retirement of 2025-2026 District Presidents
Retirement of 2025-2026 Department Officers
Retirement of Unit 45 and Department Colors
Adjournment

Dolores Chavez
Rose Ficklin
Stephanie McMullen
Maggie Montijo

Dolores Chavez

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME!

Immediately following the adjournment of this convention there will be a meeting of the Department Executive Committee. All Department Officers which include the new seated District Presidents and Past Department Presidents are required to attend.

The meeting will be at the Chandler Community Center

Call to Order Newly Elected Department President

2026-2027 Department Executive Committee Meeting

Marge Christianson

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Department of Arizona**

DELEGATE / VOTING STRENGTH

30 DAYS PRIOR TO CONVENTION

5/26/26 paid into Department

Unit Name	Unit Number	Membership 2026	# Votes 2026	Additional Votes
LUKE GREENWAY	1	106	8	
WILLIAM BLOYS	2	86	7	
MARK A. MOORE	3	70	7	
HENRY BERRY	4	38	6	
SOUTHERN MEADOWS	5	67	7	
ERNEST A. LOVE	6	352	18	
MORGAN McDERMOTT	7	35	5	
FRED A. HUMPHREYS	8	30	5	
McCLELLAN-PARSONS	9	149	NO VOTE	MANDATES
FRED HILBURN	11	128	9	
KELLIS-DRAPER	12	222	13	
CORDOVA	13	65	7	
SWASKEGAME	14	125	9	
L.A. ENGLE, JR	16	44	6	
H.H. DONKERSLEY	19	192	12	
WALLY FERDINAND	22	135	9	
ROY FOURR	24	438	22	
VERDE VALLEY	25	311	16	
PABLO J. CORTEZ	26	217	13	
APACHE	27	2049	86	
LLOYD C. HILL	28	84	7	
EARL E. MITCHELL	29	214	13	
JOHN H. SLAUGHTER	30	96	8	
SWIFT - MURPHY	32	151	10	
FRANK W. WRIGHT	34	300	16	
MATHEW B. JUAN	35	289	16	
JOHN P BURNS	36	241	14	
NAVAJO	37	31	5	
MERRILL - MITCHELL	39	642	30	
BOBBY BISJAK	40	97	8	
TONY F SOZA/RAY MARTINEZ	41	335	17	
JOHN IVENS	42	39	6	
SIPE - PETERSON	44	284	15	

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Department of Arizona**

DELEGATE / VOTING STRENGTH

Unit Name	Unit Number	Membership 2026	# Votes 2026	Additional Votes
VICENTE MANZO	45	47	6	
CHIC CHISOM	46	65	7	
HASKEL OSIFE ANTONE	51	71	7	
BILL CARMICHAEL	52	155	10	
HAZELTON - BUTLER	53	42	6	
WILLIAM DAVID HOOD	54	75	7	
FLOYD G. JEFFERSON	56	62	6	
ROBERT FULTON	57	66	7	
FOUNTAIN HILLS	58	424	21	
COCIO - ESTRADA	59	127	9	
CRANDALL - PALMER	61	249	14	
JOHN J. MORRIS	62	1235	53	
AHWATUKEE	64	15	5	
TRAVIS L WILLIAMS	65	362	18	
GREEN VALLEY	66	852	38	
WILLIAM D. AVILES SAHUARO	68	52	6	
TONTO RIM	69	116	9	
CASAS ADOBES	73	17	5	
FRED "YAM" CAVALLIERE	78	126	9	
TAYLOR - KEEHNER	79	160	10	
ROBERT A. ECKERT	81	725	33	
IRA H. HAYS	84	50	6	
JOHN D. WIBBY	86	479	23	
MOHAVE VALLEY	87	183	11	
DOLAN SPRINGS	88	53	6	
BLACK CANYON CITY	90	65	7	
WAYNE V MCMARTIN	91	366	19	
DAVID C. JOHNSON	93	101	8	
LOPEZ-HERNANDES	95	81	7	
MEADVIEW	103	64	7	
CHRISTOPHER J LAPKA	105	291	16	
IRVING B. SELMER	107	241	14	
GARY STREETER	108	32	5	

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Department of Arizona**

DELEGATE / VOTING STRENGTH

Unit Name	Unit Number	Membership 2026	# Votes 2026	Additional Votes
McCULLOCH - WAGNER	109	432	21	
QUARTZSITE	113	17	NO VOTE	NEW UNIT
BUSHMASTERS	114	9	4	
DANIEL GUAJARDO FERNANDEZ	115	39	6	
PAT TILLMAN	117	214	13	
FORREST C. LONGWELL	123	22	5	
CONRADO FRANCISCO BILDUCIA	124	40	6	
YOEME	125	14	NO VOTE	MANDATES
DUANE ELLSWORTH	129	29	5	
MADERA	131	586	27	
ORO VALLEY	132	68	7	
MARICOPA	133	25	5	
CORNVILLE	135	37	5	
YUCCA	136	15	5	
JAMES WITKOWSKI	138	110	8	
PRESCOTT VALLEY	140	19	NO VOTE	MANDATES
COCHISE STRONGHOLD	141	22	5	
EUGENE C. YOUNT	145	19	5	
JOHN OWEN WILSON	147	22	NO VOTE	NEW UNIT
TOTALS	86 UNITS			

Dept. officers, Dist. Pres., PDP's
Units

Total Possible Votes:

32

Total Possible Votes:

972

TOTAL POSSIBLE VOTES

1004

From the call to Convention: "Each Unit shall be entitled to four (4) delegates and four (4) alternates and one (1) additional delegate and (1) alternate for each twenty-five (25) members, or major fraction thereof, whose current Department and National dues have been paid and received by Department Headquarters thirty (30) days prior to Department Convention....."

UNITS NOT HAVING their current District and Department mandates paid (30) days prior to Department Convention shall not be entitled to vote. Delegates per capita, rehabilitation per capita, junior activities and bond fee must be received by close of business **MAY 26, 2026**.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF
ARIZONA CONVENTION JUNE 25-28, 2026
RESOLUTION**

SUBMITTED BY: _____

SUBJECT: _____

DATE: _____

Resolution No. _____
(Assigned by Resolutions Committee)

**DO NOT TRY TO SQUEEZE THE RESOLUTION INTO THIS SPACE. PLEASE ATTACH TEXT OF
RESOLUTION AS A SEPARATE PAGE**

Routing: _____

Submitted by: Name and Signature _____

Submitted by: Name and Signature _____

Submitted by: Name and Signature _____

_____ Approved _____ Rejected _____ Revised _____

_____ Approved _____ Rejected _____ Revised _____

_____ Approved _____ Rejected _____ Revised _____

Convention Action: Approved _____ Rejected _____ Date _____

One "hard" copy, signed by at least two (2) qualified delegates, and an unsigned "soft or electronic" copy of all resolutions are to be forwarded to the Department Secretary before Convention if possible. Resolutions originating at Convention need to be written as a "hard" copy with two delegate signatures, and a "soft or electronic" copy forwarded to the Department Secretary as soon as possible so that discussion and vote may take place. (2013) Resolutions presented by the vote of a unit need to be signed by at least two (2) qualified delegates from the Unit and forwarded to the Department Secretary thirty (30) days prior to Department Convention for registration and classification and issuing to respective committees. A resolution which has not been presented through the proper channels will not be considered.

**DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
2026-2027(Fiscal Year 8/1/2026 to 7/31/2027) Proposed Budget**

Acct. # from QB				Acct. # from QB			
	ESTIMATED INCOME:				ESTIMATED EXPENSES:		\$0.00
401.00	Proposed Membership 2027			501.00	Proposed Membership 2027		
401.50	Dues from 15900 Senior members @ \$30.00	477,000.00		501.48	National Sr. Dues 15900 @ \$18.00	286,200.00	
401.20	Dues from PUFL	5,029.00		501.20	PUFL,Unit Reimbursement	2,145.00	
401.51	Dues from 375 Junior members @ \$4.00	1,500.00		501.49	National Jr. Dues 375 @ \$2.50	937.50	
	Dues from 2026 year:				Dues from 2026 year		
401.48	80 Sr. members @ \$25.00	1,520.00		501.46	National Sr. Dues 80 @ \$18.00	960.00	
401.49	15 Jr. members @ \$4.00	60.00		501.47	National Jr. Dues 15 @ \$2.50	37.50	
	Total Proposed Membership Income		\$485,109.00		Total Proposed Membership Expense		290,280.00
407.00	Proposed Conference and Convention Budget				Proposed Conference and Convention Budget		
407.20	Fall Conference Registration 300 @ \$15.00	4,500.00		628.00	Fall Conference courtesies,decorations, microphones,Pres, NEC & Sec/Tre Room	5,000.00	
407.10	Department Convention Registration 350 @ \$15.00	5,250.00		629.00	Dept Conv courtesies,decorations,microphones, Pres, NEC & Sec/Tre , Membership Room	5,000.00	
	Total Proposed Conference and Convention Income		\$9,750.00		Total Proposed Conference and Convention Expense		\$10,000.00
403.00	Mandate Programs			500.00	Mandate Programs		
403.10	Delegates Per Capita Seniors (DPC) 15900 @ \$.40	6,360.00		500.10	Sr. DPC to National Travel (3 National Convention Delegates)	6,360.00	
403.20	Delegates Per Capita Juniors (JDPC) 375 @ \$.20	75.00		500.40	Jr. DPC to National Travel	75.00	
403.30	Unit Bond Fees (85 Units @ \$5.50)	467.50		500.50	Unit Bond Fees (85 Units @ \$5.50)	467.50	
403.60	District Bond Fees 10 for \$234.00	234.00		500.60	District Bond Fees	234.00	
403.70	ALAMIS	1,865.00		500.80	ALAMIS	1,960.00	
	Total Mandate Programs Income		\$9,001.50		Total Mandate Programs Expense		\$9,096.50
415.00	Scholarship Donations			642.00	Scholarship Expenses		
415.01	Past President's Parley Scholarship Donations	\$5,000.00		642.01	Past President's Parley Scholarship Expense	\$5,000.00	
415.02	Hoyle-Chilton Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000.00		642.02	Hoyle-Chilton Memorial Scholarship	\$3,000.00	
415.04	National President Scholarship Children of Warriors	\$100.00		642.04	National President Scholarship Children of Warriors	\$100.00	
415.05	Spirit of Youth	\$100.00		642.05	Spirit of Youth	\$100.00	
415.06	Non-Traditional Student	\$100.00		642.06	Non-Traditional Student	\$100.00	
415.07	Americanism Essay 7 @ 10.00	\$0.00		642.07	Americanism Essay 7 @ 10.00	\$70.00	
415.08	Poppy Poster 7 @ \$10.00	\$0.00		642.08	Poppy Poster 7 @ \$10.00	\$70.00	
415.09	Junior Loyalty Scholarship	\$0.00		642.09	Junior Loyalty Scholarship	\$0.00	
	Total Department Scholarship Income		\$6,300.00		Total Department Scholarship Expense		\$8,440.00
404.00	Auxiliary Programs (excluding Junior Activities)			550.00	Auxiliary Programs (excluding Junior Activities)		
404.10	AEF	10,000.00		550.06	AEF	10,000.00	
417.00	Cavalcade of Memories 404.417	1,000.00		550.07	Cavalcade of Memories	1,000.00	
			\$11,000.00				\$11,000.00
416.00	Leadership - Mission Training		\$1,200.00	643.00	Leadership - Mission Training		\$1,200.00
442.00	New Units - Charters		\$20.00	640.00	New Units Committee expenses		\$300.00
441.00	National Leadership Fund		\$10.00	550.10	National Leadership Fund		\$0.00
412.00	Resale/Merchandise		\$4,000.00	602.00	Resale/merchandise Expense		\$3,500.00

	Department Office Basic Overhead			600.00	Department Office Basic Overhead		
440.00	Headquarters Office Overhead Donations	1,000.00			Headquarters Office Overhead Expense		
	Rent @ \$600.00 per month to the Legion	0.00		600.01	Rent @ \$600.00 per month to the Legion	7,200.00	
	Directors & Officers	0.00		600.03	Directors & Officers,	3,265.00	
	Business Liability Insurance	0.00		600.02	Business Liability Insurance	1,034.00	
	Repairs all items except those leased	0.00		600.04	Repairs and maintenance contracts	6,230.00	
	Telephone, e-mail, (Cox, AT&T)	0.00		600.08	Telephone, e-mail, (Cox, AT&T)	4,200.00	
	Postage (25% to come from Welfare Budget)	0.00		600.07	Postage (25% to come from Welfare Budget)	5,000.00	
	Printing and supplies	0.00		600.05	Printing and supplies	5,000.00	
	Copier Lease	0.00		600.10	Postage Meter and Scale Lease	2,650.00	
	Postage Meter and Scale Lease	0.00		600.09	Computer Preventive Maintenance	6,000.00	
	Computer Preventive Maintenance and software	0.00		612.00	Bank Service Charges and Fees	500.00	
	Bank Service Charges and Fees	0.00		600.13	Equipment	2,000.00	
	Bulletin Income from Subscriptions 6 @ \$40.00	240.00		600.14	Computer Software	3,000.00	
	Total Department Office Basic Overhead Income		\$1,240.00		Total Department Office Basic Overhead Income		\$46,079.00
410.00	Officer Expenses			620.00	Officer Expenses		
	Department President's Reimbursement (to be paid \$400.00 per quarter)	0.00		620.01	Department President's Reimbursement (to be paid \$ 400.00 per quarter)	1,600.00	
	Department Christmas Cards & Postage	0.00		620.02	Department Christmas Cards & Postage	100.00	
	Past Department President's Pin and N.E.C. Sash	0.00		620.03	Past Department President's Pin/ N.E.C. Sash/Name Tags	1,100.00	
	Postage (to be paid half in Aug & half in Dec annually)				Postage upon presentation of receipts		
	Department President	0.00		620.04	Department President	100.00	
	Department Vice President	0.00		620.00	Department VP/Membership Chairman	100.00	
	Department Chaplain	0.00		620.00	Department Chaplain supplies & postage	225.00	
	Department Historian supplies & postage	0.00		620.12	Department Historian supplies & postage	100.00	
	Department Scrapbook supplies & postage			620.00	Department Scrapbook supplies & postage	100.00	
	Honorary Dept. Jr. Pres. mileage to the Jr. Convention in April annually	0.00		661.00	Honorary Dept. Jr. Pres. Mileage to Jr. Convention in April annually	25.00	
	Unit Membership Incentives	930.00		620.08	Unit membership incentives - Requires receipts	400.00	
	Fall Conference round trip mileage only for Dept. Officers, Parliamentarian, District Presidents, Jr Hon Pres from their Post Home to conf \$.60 per mile	0.00		620.09	Fall Conference round trip mileage only for Dept. Officers, Parliamentarian, District Presidents, Jr Hon Pres from Post Home to conf \$.60 per mile	2,000.00	
	Department Convention round trip mileage for all Dept. Officers, Parliamentarian, District Presidents and Jr Hon Pres. From their Post Home to Convention \$0.60 per mile	0.00		620.10	Department Convention round trip mileage for Dept. Officers, Parliamentarian, District Presidents, Jr Hon Pres. from their Post Home to Convention \$0.60	2,000.00	
	Past President's Luncheon for 2026 June Convention (to pay for 16 active Past Department Presidents @ \$30.00 per person)	0.00		620.11	Past President's Luncheon for 2026 June Convention (to pay for 16 active Past Department Presidents @ \$30.00 per person)	900.00	
	Department Finance Committee mileage @ \$.60. per mile	0.00		620.14	Department Finance Committee mileage @ \$.60. per mile	2,000.00	
	Total Officer Expenses		\$930.00		Total Officer Expense		\$10,750.00
	National Guest Entertainment Package			667.00	National Guest Entertainment Package		
	Western Division National Vice President (includes gift, room, luncheon @ Fall Conference, meals, postage to mail gifts corsage)	0.00		667.01	Western Division National Vice President (includes gift, room, luncheon @ Fall Conference, meals, postage to mail gifts, corsage)	\$1,000.00	
	National President (includes gift, room, meals, postage to mail gifts, corsage, entertainment)	0.00		667.02	National President (includes gift. Room, meals, postage to mail gifts, corsage, entertainment)	2500.00	
	N.E.C. or Disting. Guest Chairman expenses (\$400.00 per guest, includes room, meals, mileage, airport parking)	0.00		667.03	N.E.C. or Disting. Guest Chairman expenses (400.00 per guest, includes room, meals, mileage, airport parking)	1500.00	
	NP Dinner (Comp Dinners)	0.00		667.04	NP Dinner (Comp Dinners)	300.00	
	Total National Guest Entertainment Package		\$0.00		Total National Guest Entertainment Package		\$5,300.00

	National Convention Travel Fund				National Convention Travel Fund		
	National Convention 2027 Kansas City, MO				625.02 National Convention 2027 Kansas City, MO		
407.30	Registration - 32 @ \$40.00 Alternates & Guests	1,280.00			625.03 Registration - 32 @ \$40.00 Delegates & Alternates & Guests	1,280.00	
	Department President's room	0.00			625.02 Department President's Room	1,200.00	
	Incoming President's	0.00			625.02 Incoming President's Room	1,200.00	
	Secretaries room (8 days)	0.00			625.02 Secretaries room (8 days)	1,600.00	
	NEC Room (1/2)				625.02 NEC Room (1/2 Expense)	700.00	
	Auxiliary Sr. member of the Year Per Diem 2 nights housing	0.00			625.02 Auxiliary Sr. member of the Year - 2 nights housing	400.00	
	Transportation:				Transportation:		
	Air Fare & Ground Transportation for 4 includes bag fee (Pres, Sec, In.Pres, Member of the Year)	0.00			625.02 Air Fare & Ground Transportation for 4 includes bag fee (Pres, Sec, In. Pres, Member of the Year)	4,400.00	
414.40	Other National Convention 2027 Related expenses (flowers, supplies, etc.)	3,000.00			625.25 Other National Convention 2027 Related expenses (flowers, supplies, States Dinner etc.)	\$4,350.00	
	Total National Convention	4,280.00			Total National Convention	\$15,130.00	
	Juniors Fund (JAPC & Jr. Donations)	3,180.00			661.00 Juniors Fund (JAPC & Jr. Donations)		
	National Jr. Meeting Las Vegas, NV				657.00 National Jr. Meeting Las Vegas, NV		
418.00	Delegate & Chaperon Air & bag fee or mileage which is lowest	0.00			657.00 Delegate - Air Fare/Mileage	410.00	
	Delegate & Chaperon Ground	0.00			657.00 Delegate & Jr. Chairman Ground	0.00	
	Delegate & Chaperon Per Diem (1 days @ \$200.00 each)	0.00			657.00 Delegate & Jr. Chairman	400.00	
	Delegates Registration (9 @ \$50.00) online.				Delegates Registration Jrs,		
	Reimbursement JR registration to Units for the JRs that attended the National Meeting	450.00			657.40 Reimbursement for JR registration to Units for the JRs that attended the National JRs Meeting	450.00	
418.00	Honorary National Officer (except National President)	0.00			657.50		
	Total National Jr. Meeting Income	0.00					
	Total Proposed Junior Fund	\$3,630.00			Total National Jr. Meeting 2026-2027 Expense	1,260.00	
	Total National Convention/National JR Meeting		\$5,660.00		Total National Convention/National JR Meeting		\$16,340.00
403.01	National Travel Fund				National Travel Fund		
	National Children & Youth Conference Indianapolis, IN				National Children & Youth Conference Indianapolis, IN		
	Air Fare & Ground Transportation for Chairman & bag fee	0.00			625.31 Air Fare & Ground Transportation for Chairman & bag fee	925.00	
	Per Diem for Chairman	0.00			625.31 Per Diem for Chairman 3 days	600.00	
	Total Children & Youth Conference	0.00			Total Children & Youth Conference	\$1,525.00	
	Department Leadership National Conference Indianapolis, IN				Department Leadership National Conference Indianapolis, IN		
	Air Fare & bag fee for President, Secretary & Membership Chairman	0.00			625.11 Air Fare & bag fee for Membership Chairman	900.00	
	Ground for President, Secretary & Membership Chairman	0.00			625.11 Ground for President, Secretary & Membership Chairman	0.00	
	Hotel for President, Secretary & Membership Chairman	0.00			Three Nights Lodging	1,200.00	
	Per Diem for Membership Chairman for 4 days	0.00			625.11 Per Diem for Membership - w/ Receipts	400.00	
	Total Department Leadership National Conference	0.00			Total National President's and Secretaries Conference	\$2,500.00	
	THIS BUDGET IS FOR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR				*** THIS BUDGET IS FOR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR		
	National Girls State Directors Meeting (1/2 to come from Girls State Acct): Indianapolis, IN				National Girls State Directors Meeting (1/2 to come from Girls State Acct): Indianapolis, IN		
	Half Air Fare for Department Girls State Director	0.00			625.14 Half Air Fare for Department Girls State Director	600.00	
	Half Ground Fare for Department Girls State Director	0.00			625.14 Half Ground Fare for Dept. Girls State Director + mileage to airport	100.00	
	4 day Per Diem for Department Girls State Director	0.00			625.14 4 day Per Diem for Dept. Girls State Director + half registration	1,000.00	
	Total Girls State Meeting	0.00			Total National Girls State Directors Meeting	\$1,700.00	
	National Mission Training Las Vegas, NV				626.00 National Mission Training Las Vegas, NV		
	Registration Pres & Dept Sec	0.00			626.00 Registration Pres, VP & Dept Sec- 3 @ 85	255.00	
	Two Nights Lodging Pres, VP & Dept Exec. Director 2 days	0.00			626.00 Two Nights Lodging Pres, VP & Dept Exec. Director	1,200.00	
		0.00				1,455.00	

	National Chaplains Conference Indianapolis, IN					National Chaplains Conference Indianapolis, IN		
	Air Fare for Chaplain, bag fee & ground transportation	0.00			625.34	Air Fare for Chaplain, bag fee& ground transportation	\$1,000.00	
	Per Diem for Chaplain	0.00			625.34	Per Diem for Chaplain - 2 days @ \$200	\$400.00	
	Total Chaplain Conference					Total National Chaplains Conference	\$1,400.00	
	NEC Indianaoplis, IN NEC & President					NEC Indianaoplis, IN NEC & President		
	N.E.C & President. Per Diem 3 days @ \$110 per day	0.00			625.17	N.E.C & President. Per Diem 3 days @ \$200 per day	600.00	
	N.E.C.& President Registration and Luncheon	0.00			625.17	N.E.C.& President Registration and Luncheon	150.00	
	President & Secretary Air Fare,bag fee & ground	0.00			625.17	President & NEC Air Fare,bag fee & ground	1,200.00	
	Total NEC Meeting	0.00				Total NEC Meeting	\$1,950.00	
	Total National Travel Fund Excluding National Convention		\$0.00			Total National Travel Fund Excluding National Convention		\$10,530.00
	Special Project				636.00	Special Project Expense		
	Donations for Department President's Special Project 2026-2027					Donations for Department President's Special Project 2026-2027		
	Unit donations	1,000.00			636.10	Unit donations	\$1,000.00	
	Department Donation	500.00				Department Donation	\$500.00	
406.10	Total Special Project		\$1,500.00			Total Special Project		\$1,500.00
406.00	Department Payroll		\$0.00			Department Payroll		
					601.01	75 % from General Fund	\$92,500	\$69,375.00
	Employer Share Taxes		\$0.00		603.00	Employer Share Taxes		\$3,600.00
	Workman's Compensation		\$0.00		606.00	Workman's Compensation		\$1,550.00
	Sec./Treas. Car Reimbursement (figured on \$150.00 monthly)		\$0.00		609.00	Sec./Treas. Car Disbursemnt (figured on \$150.00 monthly)		\$1,800.00
	Medical Insurance Reimbursement		\$0.00		679.00	Medical Insurance Reimbursement		\$1,920.00
	Outside Accounting Moore & Giese, Winning Edge		\$0.00		614.02	Outside accounting check (Moore & Giese) ; Annual tax return & Financial Statement Monthly review fee \$350.00 (Winning Edge) X 13		\$6,000.00 \$4,550.00
	Outside payroll service (ADP)		\$0.00		614.03	Outside payroll service (ADP)		\$1,700.00
	Corporation Commission annual fee		\$0.00		613.00	Corporation Commission annual fee		
	Department				613.10	Department	10.00	
413.00	10 Districts @ \$10.00		\$100.00		613.30	10 Districts @ \$10.00	100.00	\$110.00
	Estimated Investment Income (25% to Welfare)		\$0.00			Estimated Investment Income (25% to Welfare)		\$0.00
	Return to Investment Account				607.00	Return to Investment Account		\$0.00
	Funds to cover deficit					To Reserve Fund		\$20,800.00
	TOTAL ESTIMATED INCOME		\$535,820.50			TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENSES		\$515,020.50

 **American Legion Auxiliary – Department of Arizona**

Chaplain's Message – May 2026 “Memorial Day”

May is the month of remembrance and community. As we approach Memorial Day, we honor the men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation. Please consider offering special prayers, moments of silence, or support to families who feel this season deeply. This month also invites us into a season of renewal. Across Arizona, we see reminders of blooming in the desert, warming days, and communities preparing for summer rhythms. As chaplains, we are called to notice these signs of hope and help others see them too.

This month, consider offering moments of quiet reflection to those you serve. Encourage gratitude practices, gentle routines, and conversations that help people reconnect with purpose. Many are carrying invisible burdens; your presence may be the calm they need.

This is also a time when many in our communities face transitions – school years are ending, traveling beginnings, and routines shifting. Your chaplaincy can provide grounding and reassurance during these changes.

Let us continue to serve with compassion, courage and steady hearts.

Thank you for your continued ministry across Arizona's VA hospitals, clinics, bases, congregations, communities, and Legion Posts.

NOTE: Don't forget your annual chaplain report and award narratives were due to me by May 1st. If you didn't get it done – please do so ASAP.

AzDeptChaplain@gmail.com or 480 S Calvary Way, Cottonwood Az 86326

In service and faith,

DeDe Dexter

Department Chaplain

American Legion Auxiliry

Department of Arizona



Education June 2026



I wish to express my thanks to all the Units who participated in the Education Program this year, especially those who took the time to turn in a report and/or narrative. I look forward to recognizing some of your Units for their hard work at the Department Convention in June.

As the Auxiliary year comes to a close, please continue to keep the Education Program in mind. The future success of our schools and children depends on you.

Hopefully, we have all helped National achieve their goals for this year:

1. Enhance respect for the sacrifices of our military heroes among school children by scheduling Veterans in the Classroom programs at local schools.
2. Promote American Legion Auxiliary scholarships, and award local scholarships at the department and unit levels.
3. Build a relationship with your local schools — focus attention on “Give 10 to Education,” American Education Week and Teacher Appreciation Week.
4. Assist and support veterans pursuing higher education and vocational education.
5. Assist and support military children with educational opportunities.

Thank you all for everything you have done to make my year as Chairman of the Education Program a success.

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

Julie Vietri

Julie Vietri, Chairman

jvietri@msn.com

480-495-1558

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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

May 2026

Issue #9

FROM THE 2025-2026 NATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Creating a Unit / Department Scholarship



Our students are the future, and if your unit or department has considered setting up a scholarship, we want to share criteria to help you get started.

Establish the scholarship fund:

- Create a designated scholarship fund.
- Set a fixed award amount.
- Identify a reliable funding source.

Set eligibility criteria for applicants:

- Relationship: Veteran and/or Auxiliary member.
- Membership: American Legion Auxiliary, The American Legion, or Sons of The American Legion
- Residency: In-state and/or state resident; or member of the department American Legion Family.
- Financial need: Require documentation?
- GPA: Minimum required (if any).
- Student Status: High school senior and/or returning/adult student.
- Institution Type: In-state required (or not)? Must be accredited.
- Application due date.

Application requirements:

- Completed form: Name, address, city, state, zip, telephone number, date of birth, membership number, qualifying veteran name/relationship.
- Essay: Topic, length, and format (typed, double-spaced).
- Signature of the sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary unit president.
- Community service: Required (with verification)? If yes: Required hours and timeframe (e.g., during high school or the last 12 months).
- Proof of a qualifying veteran's military service.

Information from a high school applicant:

- Letters of recommendation: Faculty/administrators/counselor/clergy/community (not relatives).
- Academics: GPA, class rank, transcript, SAT/PSAT/ACT (as applicable).

Information from a college applicant:

- Letters of recommendation: Faculty/administrators/counselor/clergy/community (not relatives).
- Academics: Current cumulative GPA, class rank (if available), and transcript to date.

Judging:

- Form a selection committee with diverse perspectives.
- Judges' decisions are final.
- Set criteria and a rubric before reviewing applications

Can a student apply more than once?

- One-time award (one scholarship per applicant, lifetime).
- Renewable award (define renewal requirements).

Promote & award scholarship:

- Notify applicants: How and when? Celebrate winners publicly (with permission).
- Payment: Student or school financial aid office?
- Disbursement: Before first semester, after first semester, or split?
- Use-by: Must funds be used within a set period?

Tip: Consider an endowment so investment earnings fund awards while preserving principal.

Submitted by Karyl Horn, Eastern Division Education Chair



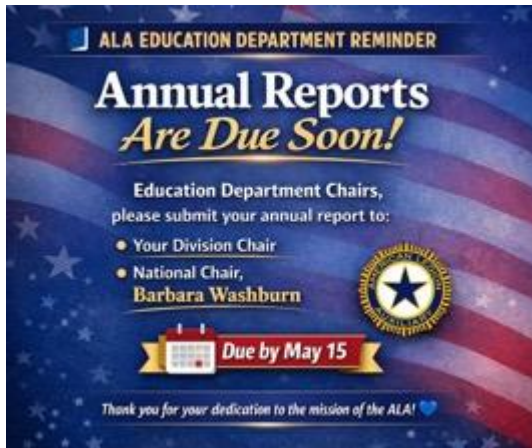
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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

May 2026

Issue #9

FROM THE 2025-2026 NATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE



REMINDERS: Year-End narrative reports from Department Education Chairs are due May 15th to your Division Chair and National Chair, Barb. **NEW FOR 2026!!** You can submit your year-end narrative report via the Formstack link below, and it will be automatically counted as an entry for Best Department Education Program, but it must be submitted by **May 15th**. If you prefer to wait, your award entry is due by 5 PM Eastern Time on June 1st.

<https://member.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

We challenge all Department chairs to submit a year-end report by May 15th so the Education Committee can be 100% reporting. Division chairs will be calling if they have not received your report. We look forward to reading your stories and seeing pictures of “Education in action”. You never know who might be featured on the big screen during the National Convention.

The winners of the four National Scholarships will be announced soon. Notifications will be sent to winners and their departments in early May. Winners will be posted on the National website during May.



It's not too late to show your appreciation for teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4 – 8. Here are some ideas from Units across the country:

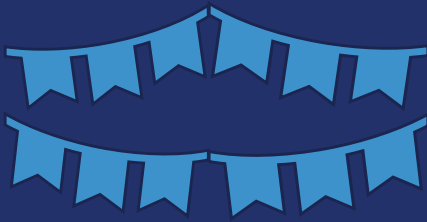
- Baking cookies all week for different schools
- Baked goods, goody bags with a drink, chocolate, fruits, and Thank You notes
- Desserts for teachers on May 6
- Coupons for a local ice cream shop, which also benefits a local community business
- Providing breakfast or lunch for teachers
- Gift cards for local businesses and Amazon

If you would like to share your stories and pictures or see what others are doing to support the Education Program, join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAEducation>



CONGRATULATIONS

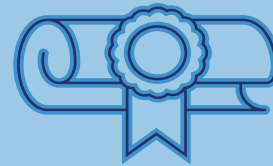
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!



NATIONAL EDUCATION CHAIR, BARBARA WASHBURN, AND THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2025-2026 NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIPS! THANK YOU TO ALL WHO TOOK PART IN JUDGING!

CHILDREN OF WARRIORS NATIONAL PRESIDENTS' SCHOLARSHIP (\$5,000)

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Rachel Anderson | Alaska |
| Brooke Neider | Arizona |
| Ruby McBride | Colorado |
| Elisabeth Howell | Kansas |
| Sutton Sherrard | Kentucky |
| Ava Moore | Mississippi |
| Sophia Luraschi | Missouri |
| Jacqueline Stoner | Nebraska |
| Alexander Iglesias | New Jersey |
| Drew Burris | North Dakota |
| Christina Massouh | Pennsylvania |
| Sanaa Sanders | Texas |
| McKinley Keaffaber | Vermont |
| Madeline Pelczar | Washington |
| Skyлар Hook | West Virginia |



MEMBER LOYALTY SCHOLARSHIP (\$2500)

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Hailey Bopp | Arizona |
| Marissa Gong | California |
| Evelyn Hinshaw | Indiana |
| Zoie Crupper | Kansas |
| KayLynn Novak | Nebraska |
| Emma Davidson | New Hampshire |
| Mackenzie Brotherson | New Jersey |
| Hannah Ahart | South Dakota |
| Tiffany Lowry | Texas |
| Ella Ridgway | Virginia |

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP (\$2000)

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Amanda Rossignol | Arizona |
| Olivia Aldridge | Massachusetts |
| Jai-san Williams | Missouri |
| Raylie Pourier | Nebraska |
| Amanda Nieto | Oklahoma |



SPIRIT OF YOUTH DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP (\$1000)

Emelia Lagousis	California
Ava Donaldson	Florida
Lauren Booth	Georgia
Jessie Davis	Indiana
Kyla Schaapveld	Iowa
Hattie Burgio	Kansas
Lindsey Jahn	Maryland
Samantha Gross	Michigan
Elliana Britt	Missouri
Natalia Thoendel	Nebraska
Neely Roy	New Hampshire
Elydie Johnson	North Dakota
Kristi Yeager	Ohio
Marlie Gaudette	Oklahoma
Abigail Anthony	Pennsylvania
Gracyn Kadlec	South Dakota
Alyssa Thomas	Texas
Cadence Rose	Wisconsin



Congratulations to all the 2025-2026 American Legion Auxiliary scholarship winners! The ALA is proud to support you in your educational endeavors, and we wish you the best in your future career path.

Congratulations to our American Legion Auxiliary scholarship winners!

SPIRIT OF YOUTH NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP (\$5000)

Prestley Skelton	Alabama
Elyzabeth Small	Arizona
Katherine Whitmore	Colorado
Naomi Cordova	Illinois
Annabelle Johnson	New Jersey



THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY AND OUR SCHOLARSHIPS. APPLICATIONS FOR 2027 WILL REOPEN IN SEPTEMBER.

May 1, 2026

Good Morning,

Here are your most recent standings. Not a lot changing, but we are soooo close to goal. Keep up the effort. We have one month before Department standings are pulled for awards And even longer for National standings.

Thank you for all the reports sent in. Some great ideas were shared that I will be putting together for the Western Division report and my report back to you.

Have a great weekend.

Marge

May 8, 2026

Happy Friday!

- 9 of our 10 Districts (22 Units) increased membership this past week. It is so important to keep processing applications and renewals every week! Thank you for your efforts to stay current.
- We had 2 Units reach 100% this week and both from District 12. Unit 27 Apache and Unit 65 Phoenix. Unit 65 jumped 11 percentage points when they renewed their Junior members!
- **District 11** continues to lead the pack at 102.13%. Dang nab!
- In 2nd, **District 1** at 100.61%-- yahoo!
- 3rd place goes to **District 6** at 99.31%. 5 more members to go to reach goal!!!!
- 4rd Place: **District 7** is right behind at 99.23%! 12 more members and you will be at 100%. YAY!!!
- In 5th: **District 5** at 98.58%. Only 5 more members to reach 100%. You can do it!
- Right behind in 6th is **District 6** at 98.17%. 13 members to go!!!
- In 7th Place is **District 12** at 97.87%. They are sneaking up the rail—8 Units increase membership last week and they moved up a whole percentage point!!! No quitters in District 12.
- **District 3** is at 96.52%. Just 40 more to reach goal.
- **District 2** is at 95.42%. Some refueling may in order???
- **District 8** is at 94.43%. Don't give up!
- **District 4** is making progress.... Bit by bit is making a difference.

Now is the time to make your move on the Road Trip! The finish line is in sight!!!!

Have a great weekend,

Marge

May 15, 2026

Hi All

Arizona continues to rock membership!

Your reports tell the story:

- Persistence is the key to renewals. Call, text, email, snail mail all work to reach members since members all have their own way of getting information. If one tactic doesn't work—try another. Don't give up!
- Public events at your Post Home (bingo, fish fries etc) and military/patriotic events in the community are the most effective to recruit new members. People like one-on-one interactions with people who demonstrate their passion. Have you got your best foot forward for these opportunities?

This week's "numbers" highlight:

- DISTRICT 4 jumped 10 percentage points to 88.94%! Thank you, Unit 9 in Florence for adding 42 members this past week! What seemed impossible last week is now within reach—District 4 only needs 47 more to reach 100%. GO BARBIES!!

Three Districts are over goal:

- District 11 continues to hold first place with 102.88%. Unit 115 reached 100% this week. Awesome.
- District 6 moved up to second place reaching 102.07% (look out District 11!). Unit 69 in Payson processed 20 members and has reached 100%. WOW!
- District 1 is in 3rd place at 101.21%. So cool.

Three Districts almost there:

- District 7 needs 11 members to reach goal!
- District 5 needs 5 members to reach goal!
- District 12 needs 39 members to reach goal. Unit 39 in Gilbert hit goal this week!
- District 3 needs 30 members to reach goal!

District 8 had two Units reach 100%: Unit 90 Black Canyon and 140 Prescott Valley! District 8 is now at 95.94% with only 54 more members to go to meet goal.

District 2 is at 95.82%-- right behind District 8. Who will be making moves this next week????

May 27 is the deadline for Department membership awards (30 days before Convention!). If you have applications or renewals, process them to get credit!

Please remind Units to submit their Recruit 10 forms to Department! Members who recruit/rejoin 10 members will get a special gift from the National Membership Chair. Don't miss out!

Thank you for your continued commitment to growing our membership. Our members are our organization!

Marge

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

May 22, 2026

Happy National Poppy Day!

Many of you are having Memorial Day events this weekend. Be sure to wear your “membership hats”! Memorial Day is a perfect illustration of what our organization is about. Get those family members to actually join—not just sit on the sidelines as guests. Share your passion in one-on-one conversations. Wear your poppy wherever you go! Every member counts.

- **District 8** made big moves this past week! Last week, they needed 54 members to reach goal. This week they only need 35! Thank you Unit 25 in Cottonwood for adding 18 new members this past week!
- **District 2's** Unit 59 in Tucson reached 100% of goal this week. Persistence matters!
- Our top 3 Districts are all over 100%. **District 11** remains in First Place with 103.55%; **District 6** remains in 2nd with 102.90%; and **District 1** is in 3rd with 101.21%.
- **District 7** is at 99.42%. Last week they needed 11 members to reach goal, but now they are down to 9. GO GO GO!
- **District 5**- you are only 5 members from goal! Review your reports (or ask me to help you get reports) and find members to haven't renewed.
- **Thank you to all Districts who increased membership this past week.**

May 27 is 30 days before convention.... If you have renewals or new applications be sure to process them ASAP to be counted for this year's convention and awards! Speaking of which, I'm looking forward to seeing you at Convention and at the Installation of 2026-2027 Officers.

Marge

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

MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS 5-22-26 with 5-15 comparison

		UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT 5/22	PERCENT 5/15/26
		0100	Phoenix	140	3	155	158	112.86%	111.43%
		Total		140	3	155	158	112.86%	111.43%
	Total			140	3	155	158	112.86%	111.43%
01		0019	Yuma	182	7	183	190	104.40%	104.40%
		0046	Bouse	63	1	64	65	103.17%	103.17%
		0056	Yuma	72	1	61	62	86.11%	86.11%
		0113	Quartzsite	13	0	17	17	130.77%	130.77%
		Total		330	9	325	334	101.21%	101.21%
	Total			330	9	325	334	101.21%	101.21%
02		0007	Tucson	46	1	34	35	76.09%	76.09%
		0036	Tucson	243	2	239	241	99.18%	98.35%
		0059	Tucson	127	7	120	127	100.00%	97.64%
		0066	Green Valley	883	0	852	852	96.49%	95.92%
		0068	Tucson	56	3	49	52	92.86%	92.86%
		0073	Tucson	25	1	16	17	68.00%	68.00%
		0109	Vail	440	14	418	432	98.18%	98.18%
		0125	Tucson	15	1	13	14	93.33%	93.33%
		0131	Green Valley	601	0	586	586	97.50%	96.51%
		0132	Oro Valley	77	2	66	68	88.31%	88.31%
		Total		2513	31	2393	2424	96.46%	95.82%
Total			2513	31	2393	2424	96.46%	95.82%	
03		0011	Douglas	116	4	123	127	109.48%	109.48%
		0016	Bisbee	48	0	44	44	91.67%	91.67%
		0024	Tombstone	450	11	427	438	97.33%	97.11%
		0045	Benson	45	4	43	47	104.44%	104.44%
		0052	Sierra Vista	183	1	154	155	84.70%	84.70%
		0141	Pearce	20	0	22	22	110.00%	110.00%
		Total		862	20	813	833	96.64%	96.52%
	Total			862	20	813	833	96.64%	96.52%
04		0008	Casa Grande	27	1	29	30	111.11%	111.11%
		0009	Florence	191	1	148	149	78.01%	78.01%
		0051	Coolidge	72	11	60	71	98.61%	98.61%
		0054	Coolidge	81	1	74	75	92.59%	92.59%
		0129	Queen Creek	31	1	28	29	93.55%	90.32%
		0133	Maricopa	23	2	23	25	108.70%	108.70%
		Total		425	17	362	379	89.18%	88.94%
	Total			425	17	362	379	89.18%	88.94%
05		0004	Globe	42	2	36	38	90.48%	90.48%
		0028	Clifton	89	2	82	84	94.38%	94.38%
		0032	Safford	139	0	144	144	103.60%	103.60%
		0095	Solomon	82	6	75	81	98.78%	98.78%
		Total		352	10	337	347	98.58%	98.58%
	Total			352	10	337	347	98.58%	98.58%

06		0030	Springerville	94	1	95	96	102.13%	101.06%
		0037	Holbrook	36	0	31	31	86.11%	86.11%
		0069	Payson	112	0	116	116	103.57%	103.57%
		0086	Overgaard	468	12	467	479	102.35%	101.28%
		0147	Payson	13	1	21	22	169.23%	169.23%
		Total		723	14	730	744	102.90%	102.07%
	Total			723	14	730	744	102.90%	102.07%
07		0003	Flagstaff	68	3	64	67	98.53%	98.53%
		0013	Williams	74	3	62	65	87.84%	87.84%
		0014	Kingman	131	5	120	125	95.42%	94.66%
		0022	Golden Valley	146	4	131	135	92.47%	92.47%
		0042	Grand Canyon	42	5	34	39	92.86%	92.86%
		0057	Ash Fork	68	2	64	66	97.06%	97.06%
		0081	Lake Havasu City	759	4	708	712	93.81%	93.81%
		0087	Bullhead City	124	3	179	182	146.77%	145.97%
		0088	Dolan Springs	39	0	53	53	135.90%	135.90%
		0103	Meadview	53	0	64	64	120.75%	120.75%
		0123	Seligman	35	0	22	22	62.86%	62.86%
		0136	Yucca	15	2	13	15	100.00%	100.00%
		Total		1554	31	1514	1545	99.42%	99.29%
Total			1554	31	1514	1545	99.42%	99.29%	
08		0006	Prescott	304	6	346	352	115.79%	115.79%
		0025	Cottonwood	336	6	305	311	92.56%	87.20%
		0040	Chino Valley	97	0	91	91	93.81%	93.81%
		0078	Humboldt	148	1	125	126	85.14%	85.14%
		0079	Yarnell	172	0	160	160	93.02%	93.02%
		0090	Black Canyon City	65	1	64	65	100.00%	100.00%
		0093	Camp Verde	117	0	101	101	86.32%	85.47%
		0108	Prescott Valley	31	3	29	32	103.23%	103.23%
		0135	Cornville	42	6	31	37	88.10%	88.10%
		0140	Prescott Valley	17	6	13	19	111.76%	111.76%
		Total		1329	29	1265	1294	97.37%	95.94%
Total			1329	29	1265	1294	97.37%	95.94%	
11		0001	Phoenix	114	1	105	106	92.98%	92.98%
		0005	Phoenix	61	1	66	67	109.84%	109.84%
		0012	Wickenburg	219	1	221	222	101.37%	101.37%
		0029	Glendale	240	8	206	214	89.17%	88.75%
		0053	Buckeye	38	0	42	42	110.53%	110.53%
		0061	Avondale	239	2	247	249	104.18%	103.35%
		0062	Peoria	1122	18	1213	1231	109.71%	108.73%
		0105	Phoenix	299	10	280	290	96.99%	96.99%
		0115	Glendale	37	6	33	39	105.41%	100.00%
		0145	Peoria	25	0	19	19	76.00%	76.00%
		Total		2394	47	2432	2479	103.55%	102.88%
Total			2394	47	2432	2479	103.55%	102.88%	

12	0002	Tempe	101	0	86	86	85.15%	85.15%
	0026	Mesa	251	2	215	217	86.45%	85.66%
	0027	Apache Junction	2039	11	2038	2049	100.49%	100.15%
	0034	Cave Creek	318	1	292	293	92.14%	91.82%
	0035	Chandler	295	5	280	285	96.61%	96.61%
	0039	Gilbert	636	14	628	642	100.94%	100.94%
	0041	Phoenix	351	11	324	335	95.44%	95.44%
	0044	Scottsdale	314	0	284	284	90.45%	90.45%
	0058	Fountain Hills	411	6	418	424	103.16%	101.70%
	0064	Phoenix	16	0	15	15	93.75%	93.75%
	0065	Phoenix	358	55	307	362	101.12%	100.56%
	0084	Sacaton	60	5	45	50	83.33%	83.33%
	0091	Chandler	308	24	342	366	118.83%	118.51%
	0107	Phoenix	215	5	236	241	112.09%	110.70%
	0114	Scottsdale	9	1	8	9	100.00%	100.00%
	0117	Phoenix	243	2	212	214	88.07%	86.42%
	0124	Guadalupe	29	5	35	40	137.93%	137.93%
	0138	Mesa	138	2	108	110	79.71%	79.71%
		Total		6092	149	5873	6022	98.85%
	Total		6092	149	5873	6022	98.85%	98.42%
AZ	Total		16714	360	16200	16560	99.08%	98.55%

Supporting Those Who Serve: Understanding the Quality of Life of Our Troops

Submitted by April Kollmorgen, Central Division Chairman

The men and women who serve in the United States Armed Forces dedicate their lives to protecting our freedoms. While their mission is vital, it often comes with personal sacrifices that impact their overall quality of life. As members of the American Legion Auxiliary and specifically a part of the National Security program, we are uniquely positioned to advocate for and support those who stand in defense of our nation.

As John F. Kennedy once said, *“A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers.”* Honoring our troops means more than words—it means action.

Quality of life for service members includes physical and mental health, financial stability, family support, and access to strong community networks. Military life often brings frequent relocations, extended separations, and the stress of operational demands. These challenges can affect not only the service member, but their families as well.

The American Legion Auxiliary’s National Security program emphasizes the importance of maintaining a strong, prepared nation—and that begins with ensuring the well-being of those who serve. A ready military is not just well-trained and well-equipped, but also well-supported at home.

Today’s service members face evolving challenges, including mental health concerns, financial strain among junior enlisted personnel, and the difficulties military families encounter with employment, childcare, and education due to frequent moves. When troops face hardships at home, it can impact morale and readiness—making quality of life a matter of national security.

What Can We Do as Auxiliary Members?

Promote Awareness of National Security: Educate ourselves and others about the connection between troop well-being and a strong national defense. Share information through meetings, newsletters, and community outreach.

Support Troops and Their Families: Send care packages, write letters, and participate in programs that uplift deployed service members. Locally, offer support to military families through community events or volunteer efforts. Even one night of babysitting or a dinner with kid activities at your Post can mean so much.

Advocate for Strong Policies: Follow along with the Legislative program and The American Legion Legislative agenda. Engage with legislators and community leaders to support policies that improve military pay, housing, healthcare, and family services.

Partner with Like-Minded Organizations: Work alongside other veterans’ groups and military support organizations to expand our impact and resources. Work together for the biggest impact possible.

As Ronald Reagan reminded us, *“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.”* Supporting our troops today ensures that future generations continue to live in freedom.

Supporting the quality of life for our troops is not just an act of kindness—it is a critical component of national security. Through advocacy, education, and service, we honor those who serve and reinforce the foundation of our country’s strength. Together, as American Legion Auxiliary members, we can ensure that no service member or military family stands alone.

May Dates to Remember

- **Month of the Military Caregiver**
- **Mental Health Awareness Month**
- **May 8th Military Spouse Appreciation Day**
- **May 16th Armed Forces Day**
- **May 22nd National Poppy Day**
- **May 25th Memorial Day**

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)

Submitted by Pam Seelye, Western Division

The **Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)** is an agency whose mission is to recover and identify unaccounted Department of Defense personnel listed as prisoners of war (POW) or missing in action (MIA) from designated past conflicts, from countries around the world.

Formed on January 15, 2015, as the result of the merger of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, and parts of the United States Air Force's Life Sciences Lab.

The Vision, Mission, and Values of the DPAA -

Compassion: We conduct our work and communication with empathy.

Integrity: We live our lives with truthfulness and objectivity.

Teamwork: We are committed and willing to do all we can to assist each other, thereby strengthening our collective ability to partner with family organizations, veterans, public and private entities, foreign governments, and academia to achieve our mission.

Respect: We always demonstrate the utmost regard for one another, our partners, and our missing personnel and their families.

Innovation: We apply fresh thinking and continuously improve everything we do.

The mission of the DPAA is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation.

When American personnel remain captive, missing, or otherwise unaccounted for at the conclusion of hostilities, the DoD accounting community becomes the responsible agent for determining the fate of the missing.

For those killed-in-action, the accounting community is charged with locating, recovering, and identifying their remains. More than 81,000 Americans remain missing from World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, and the Vietnam War.

The term "fullest possible accounting" is a significant, historically rooted, and motivated description of the U.S. Government's commitment to determining what happened to U.S. personnel who are unaccounted-for from past conflicts.

Unaccounted-for personnel are commonly referred to as "missing."

According to Section 1513, Title 10, United States Code, and Department of Defense (DoD) policy, unaccounted-for DoD personnel from past conflicts may only be "accounted for" if they are returned alive or their remains are recovered and identified.

Agency teams deploy to countries throughout Asia, the Pacific, and Europe, as well as to sites in the United States. The agency also performs humanitarian missions worldwide to recover and identify individuals as directed by Pacific Command. The DPAA is made up of more than 700 scientists, historians, mountaineers, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), translators, archeologists, dentists, logistics, and support staff. Scientific laboratories are maintained at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, and Joint Base Pearl Harbor–Hickam, Hawaii, with their headquarters located at The Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday in September. In 2026, that date is September 18th. It honors those who were prisoners of war (POWs) and those who are still missing in action (MIA). A national-level ceremony is traditionally held at the Pentagon; it features members from each branch of the military services. In addition to the national-level ceremony, "observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day" are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools, and veterans' facilities.

For further information, go to the DPAA website www.DPAA.Mil

References: www.dpaa.mil and Wikipedia

American Legion Auxiliary Salute to Servicemembers Award

<https://member.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers-Award-Form>

The American Legion Auxiliary has officially opened nominations for the **2026 ALA Salute to Servicemembers Award**, an annual honor presented at National Convention to recognize up to seven outstanding servicemembers — one from each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserve. The award highlights individuals who stand out among their peers and make meaningful contributions both in and beyond their military careers.

Any ALA member, Unit, or Department may submit a nomination, allowing nominators to tell the story of why their chosen servicemember exemplifies exceptional service and community impact. Requirements are intentionally simple — a narrative of up to 1,000 words, a photo (preferably an official DoD image), and an endorsement from the nominee's command group.

Nominations are open now through **June 1, 2026**, and the online form is currently live. This award reflects the ALA's mission of honoring those who serve and strengthening communities through recognition, advocacy, and service. If your newsletter readers know a servicemember who goes above and beyond, this is their chance to help shine a spotlight on that dedication.

For more information, visit the ALA National Security Facebook Page and review the file Salute to Servicemember Informational Handout, or reach out to any of your National Security Committee members.



**NATIONAL SECURITY CHAIR
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
2025-2026
NORMA TRAMM**

Greetings Department National Security Chair,

On April 9, 2026 we had our quarter 3 zoom meeting. I know everyone was not able to attend so here is a recap of the meeting.

We shared information on Awards – Unit, Department and Servicemember of the Year. If you are not sure about these awards, check out the April newsletter as the information was included there. Remember these are all done through Formstack's. Need help, just ask.

Something new this year is included in the Department Award – if you submit on or before May 15th you can check the box and you will be submitting for the Department award, and also your Year-End report. One and Done!!

Year-end reports are due on May 15th. We are excited to read all the accomplishments of your department. If you do not submit the department award by May 15th, you must email your year-end report to your division chair and cc me – normatramm@gmail.com on or before May 15, 2026. We love pictures and they need to be separate from your written report.

The breakout sessions were very informative.

Central Division – April Kollmorgan – Division chair

In attendance:

Iowa - Paige Copple

Indiana - Roxy Stoner

Kansas - Tracy Kinnick

Michigan - Deb Weatherbee

Missouri - Shanna Jelinek

Wisconsin - Bob Shappell

Shanna (Missouri) had some technical issues and her wife dropped out, so I asked her to email me an update from her Department.

Sorry I couldn't get my internet to be stable enough for the zoom. I'm working on switching to a new provider. I live in a rural area and it's a struggle sometimes.

Units in Missouri are proudly wearing their red every Friday for RED Fridays. We love to show our support for active military.

I am still encouraging units to submit a Salute to Servicemember award application. I haven't received word from anyone that they have completed it though.

One thing that I found out which will help promote more next year is that our incoming president is choosing to support the AS-YMCA at Fort Leonard Wood in the middle of our state. That will bring a ton of awareness to this mission for years to come.

That's about it for now. Sorry again I couldn't get it to work tonight. - Shanna Jelinek-Missouri

Tracy (Kansas) reported that they were finishing up another care packages drop of over 400 packages to send to troops overseas. They have also set up collection boxes around the state for Legion Family to contribute anytime. She has been invited to a Yellow Ribbon event and will report back on it.

Bob (Wisconsin) reported that they have sent out 128 Blue Star Banners, with more to come soon. They have attended 4 recent deployments. With local businesses around the State, a Yellow Ribbon campaign has started to wrap trees etc. with yellow ribbons to show support. Through a new partnership with the USO, they are also participating in USO baby showers and other events for troops.

Deb (Michigan) reported that they have been putting together packages for National Guard members, as well as had border patrol attend some meetings to speak. They also showed the DPAA video at Department and District, and a few Unit meetings. They will also be attending SAL meetings coming up to show it as well. There is a new campaign to promote this around the State.

Paige (Iowa) reported that Iowa recently had over 500 National Guard members come home around the State and they have been welcoming them. They attended the recent mid-winter conference and connected with members about National Security and what they can be doing in their Units. They are also working on their report system and getting full reporting.

Roxy (Indiana) reported that they have been working on a letter writing and card sending campaign for troops. They are also starting to set up for America 250 for Anniversary activities this summer. Districts are collecting 250 bears to hand out to active duty and first responders. They are also pushing out Blue Star Banner ads in local papers to have families reach out to receive one.

After this, we talked through the annual reports and awards process and dates briefly, as it was also addressed in the main zoom. We talked about keeping communications going strong through the end of the year. Continue sending out newsletters and emails to Units. Continue to push the National Facebook page and Warrior Wednesday.

We then had just a general Q&A and exchange between Chairman with ideas or more information about things they shared from their programs.

Northwestern Division – Deb Albers Chair

Present were Yvonne Kostecky, Montana; Tracy Trujillo, Colorado; LoAnn Dick, North Dakota; AnnaMae Warnier, South Dakota; Amanda Washburn, Nebraska; Ann Eelles, Minnesota. Absent was a representative from Wyoming. Other guests attended were Norma Tramm and Coral Mae Grout.

A welcome was extended to the NWD members of the National Security Team.

Warrior of the Week nominations: None had made nominations. I did let them know that I had sent the information to an acquaintance from South Dakota who is serving in the Military.

Service Member of the Year Nominee. Questions were asked about it.

What have your Departments been doing during the past quarter as far as National Security?

Colorado shared about their Blue Star Ceremony where they presented 47 Blue Star Banners to the families of 26 active-duty military members. One was a member of Space Force. They had a “shipper Ceremony.” 100 Christmas Cards which included Gift Cards to active-duty military members. \$1200 was spent on the project. They are planning a program “Are you ready for a Natural Disaster.”

North Dakota shared that Christmas Bags were given to Veterans in Posts. Care Packages were sent. LoAnn has included the National Security Newsletter to members in their Department Newsletter. She included that Wreaths Across America were done in many Units.

South Dakota has had Baby Showers for female Veterans. Christmas Cards were sent to Active-Duty Service Members. Units have used the Missing Man Table.

Nebraska had had several present Blue Star Banners, Quilts of Valor to Active Duty service members, POW/MIA Tables.

Minnesota have sent letters, Care packages, Quilts of Valor and Wreaths Across America.

Montana Units have given Blue Star Banners, sent Care Packages to Fort Harrison, and held Baby Showers.

A conversation ensued about Wreaths Across America and Quilts of Valor belonging with VA&R. If Quilts of Valor are given to Active-Duty Service members, it does belong in National Security. The original program gave them to Veterans at military hospitals but was expanded to include Veterans.

Southern Division – Jane McKnight Chair

We began the meeting with a roll call and a discussion about the Salute to Servicemember Award.

Attendees received information and were asked how they planned to share this information with their members.

I provided a few suggestions for obtaining nominees, such as reaching out to their Legion for any active-duty members,

contacting the Warrior Wednesday submission for enlisted personnel and asking officers if they had anyone under their command they would like to nominate.

Once we covered all the items on the agenda, each Department present had the opportunity to discuss what they are doing for National Security within their respective Departments.

Department	Representative	Present	Recap of Activities
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Alabama	Leslie Ginther		
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Arkansas	Sonja Clark	X	Red Shirt Friday Campaign, Shared Servicemember Award at Mid-Winter, Treats for Troops - sent care packages to National Guard Members deployed to Washington D.C., Stars Family Reception (Blue & Gold Star Banners).
Florida	Julie Kay	X	Help a Hero Project - 5,500 USO Grab Bags; Monthly Educational Virtual Calls; Trivia Tuesday
Georgia	Gail Ramey	X	Honoring Gold Star Families, Repatriation Ceremony
Kentucky	Bonita Robey	X	Salute to Servicemembers on a monthly basis; Red Shirt Friday; Blue & Gold Star; Better Reporting, and including only what is in the National Security Program
Louisiana	Amy Watts	X	Salute to Servicemembers flyers at District Conf.
Mississippi	Ellen Paul	X	Red Shirt Friday; Servicemember Award on Facebook and Newsletter, will be pushing it at District Conf.
North Carolina	Carolyn Donnelly	X	
Oklahoma	Tracey Smith	X	Red Shirt Fridays; Gold Star & Blue Star Families; Forwards Newsletters; Care Packages to Service Members
Puerto Rico			
South Carolina	Louise Dixon	X	Coupons for Troops; Post to the Department FB Page and Dept. Newsletters; handouts at District Meetings
Tennessee	Patricia Wallace		
Texas	Matry Peters	X	Red Shirt Friday; Dept Pres Project gives to Active Duty needs; ASYMCA active in El Paso; Stay in touch with the recruiters; Care Packages
Virginia	Crystal Cross	X	Red Shirt Friday: Raising funds for troops who were bombed in Bahrain

Western Division – Pam Seelye Chair

We were small in numbers but really working on the program.

Alaska – Brenda Fiddick, chair - One unit has submitted a Service Member Award, and they are hoping for more. They are working in conjunction with the USO to start the first

ever USO at a Coast Guard Station. This will be in Kodiak, Alaska, which is largest Coast Guard Station. Alaska has a lot of area to cover.

Arizona – Stacey Mayberry, chair - They have had two submissions for Service Member Award. They shop, pack and mail 25 care packages a week to our service members. Stacey shares our National Security newsletter on their Department website each month.

California – Jennifer Turner, chair - When Headquarters sent out a response needing 70 Blue Star Banners California stepped up and provided 30 which they sent to National Headquarters. They are working on a possible Space Force nominee for the Service Member Award.

Hawaii – Brister Thomas, chair - Not in attendance

Idaho – Kristal Tighe, chair - Not in attendance

Nevada – Courtenay Burns, chair - Was unable to take part in the conversation due to being at work but she was in attendance.

New Mexico – Carolyn Alexander, chair - Not in attendance

Oregon – Yvonne Drury, chair - Not in attendance

Utah – Carey Fisher, chair (unable to attend but sent in the following) - Units continue to donate to the Airman's Attic food pantry at Hill Air Force Base and provide assistance to National Guard members in the Vernal, UT area. I sent an email to the Hill Air Force Base Top Three (top 3 NCO's on base) to see if they have anyone interested in the Servicemember award - included the link to the form. I will contact my Air National Guard person - she just returned from a 6 week class. I've asked the principal at Hill Field Elementary (90% military families) to see if we can provide anything for Month of the Military Child. Putting reminders for Purple Up and MOMC in the department newsletter

Washington – Lora Shanahan, chair – Not in attendance

We discussed the Service Member Award, filling out year-end reports and submitting units and departments for National awards and communicating with members. It was fun, lots of information and a great bonding experience.

Conclusion:

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend. We hope to see all of you again in August when we have our pre-convention meeting.

You will soon be completing your year-end reports, however this does not mean that your national security program is completed. Our Servicemembers are protecting us 24/7 and we will continue to support them 24/7. Thanks for all you do to uplift their spirits and assist their families.

Keep our service members in your hearts and prayers.

For God and Country

Norma Tramm /American Legion Auxiliary/ National National Security Chair 25-26/ 29052
County Road 50, Cold Spring, MN 56320/ 320.685.8510 home/ 320.493.8509 cell/
normatramm@gmail.com

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

June 2026

By 2nd Vice – Lynda Griffin



**NATIONAL VETERANS
CREATIVE ARTS COMPETITION**

Thank You! Thank You!

It is an honor to express my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to serve as your 2nd Vice President. It has been a true honor, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your trust and support.

I would like to extend a special thank you to all of the Chairmen and volunteers under Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) for your incredible dedication. I am truly grateful for the hard work of our veterans across all locations:

- **Creative Arts:** Anita Ritter (Phoenix), Sally Fine (Prescott), and Theresa Marks (Tucson).
- **Service to Veterans:** Sara Decker.
- **VAMC Facilities:** Sabina Iniguez (Phoenix) and Trish Aljets (Tucson and Prescott).
- **State Homes:** Candy Neagle (Phoenix), Nancy Morrow (Tucson), Lojray Alvarez (Flagstaff), and Trish Aljets (Prescott). Gift Shops: Viki Jackson (Phoenix), Melani Pyland (Tucson), and Trish Aljets (Prescott)
- **Gift Shops:** Viki Jackson (Phoenix), Melani Pyland (Tucson), and Trish Aljets (Prescott)

You have all done an awesome job. To our chairmen and our wonderful volunteers: Thank you for everything you do and continue to do to support our veterans.



Phoenix Creative Arts Festival Competition



2025 National Winners!



Felix Fortuna
Destroyer of Valor
Military Service



Daniel Combs
The Seuss Amongst Us
Printmaking

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.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA



Help us celebrate our **250th Anniversary** with Veterans that are hospitalized &/or receive on-going treatment.

WHEN: Tuesday JUNE 30 & Wednesday JULY 1, 2026

WHERE: VA MEDICAL CENTER, 3601 So Sixth Ave, Tucson

HOW: Assembling & Delivering Red/white/blue Gift Bags

Each bag will contain 3-4 items from the list below.

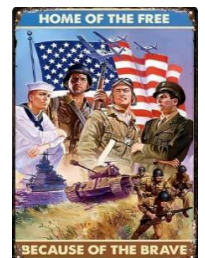
- Freedom Wristbands
- Protein bars / Trail Mix
- Cooling Towels
- Flags: USA & Combat
- Lightweight Blankets
- Key chains
- Patriotic themed Cupcakes
- USA Hats/caps
- Puzzlebooks

WHAT WE NEED TO MEET OUR COMMITMENT TO VETERANS:

- Donations/funds will help to purchase the Gift Items
- ALA volunteers on JUNE 30 to assemble the Gift Bags
- ALA volunteers on JULY 1 to deliver gifts to Veterans
- 2-3 hours of your time on both days!

“BE the ONE”

**Bring a smile to our Veterans!
A thank you Gift will be given for
their service to Country!**



Contact Melani Ruiz-Pyland, ALA Unit 132 | (520) 237-4585 | mrp810@aol.com



MAY 2026

The National Poppy Day® 5K is in full bloom! Spread the fun and share your photos on social media

It's the month of the poppy! Throughout May until National Poppy Day® on May 22, a virtual 5K is being held to raise awareness and support for the meaning behind the poppy. Participants are encouraged to participate however they can and to wear poppy gear.



Take loads of pictures and share them on social media to help the poppy take root in the U.S. While sharing, don't forget to post in the **American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program** Facebook group.

Email high-resolution, actual-size pictures to Poppy@ALAforVeterans.org. Once you've emailed, you will receive a certification of completion to fill out and print.

To learn more about National Poppy Day®, go [here!](#) To learn more about the National Poppy Day® Virtual 5K, visit [the ALA blog!](#)

Innovate yourself and your unit with these ALA Academy courses

Prepared to Serve: CERT, Disaster Response, and the ALA National Security Mission

When: May 19 @ noon ET

Learn more about CERT Training and its role in disaster response. Learn how your unit can support your community after a national disaster. Identify the needs and opportunities for collaboration with other organizations in your community

To register, [click here.](#)

Involving Juniors in Poppy, Americanism, and other ALA programs

When: May 26 @ noon ET

This workshop is designed to teach unit members how to engage Junior members in ALA programs, particularly Poppy and Americanism. Upon successful completion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

- Know which programs and activities in which to include Juniors
- How to include Juniors
- Why it's important to include Juniors

To register, click [here](#).

SmileAssociate Goes National: A New Fundraising Opportunity for Every ALA Entity

When: June 9 @ noon ET

The American Legion Auxiliary is expanding its partnership with SmileAssociate to give departments, districts, counties, councils, and units a new opportunity to raise funds through everyday Amazon shopping. Each participating ALA entity can now have its own SmileAssociate page, allowing supporters to shop in a way that directly benefits their local Auxiliary programs — at no additional cost to them. National Headquarters will provide oversight, quarterly reporting, and promotional support to help drive participation across the organization. Watch for additional details on how your ALA entity can enroll and begin turning routine shopping into meaningful support for our mission.

To register, click [here](#).



Get recognized for your AEF contributions and share with ALA National Headquarters

The ALA recognizes outstanding generosity to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) each year through national awards that highlight the collective impact of members, units, and departments in supporting Auxiliary members in times of need. Awards are based on donations received at National Headquarters between June 1 and May 31, with honors presented to the unit contributing the largest total annual amount on a per capita basis, as well as to the department with both the highest overall giving and the highest per capita contributions. Individual member donations count toward their unit totals, and unit contributions in turn support their department's totals, demonstrating the power of participation at every level. To be included in the 2025-2026 AEF awards, all donations must be received at National Headquarters by May 31. For questions or more information, please contact AEF@ALAforVeterans.org.

American Legion Family Day Citation signed by national leadership to commemorate Family Day events

With American Legion Family Day festivities coming to an end, American Legion Family leadership encourages all family members to share their events. Share how all factions of the Legion Family were represented and worked together for your American Legion Family Day on April 25 or within the month of April. Submit your Legion Family event by June 1 at 5 p.m. ET.

To submit your information, click [here](#). To get answers for your questions, email communityservice@ALAforVeterans.org. For more information on American Legion Family Day and its impact, go [here](#).



Go for gold, ALA departments: The ALA Foundation 2026 award season is approaching

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation once again will recognize outstanding departments with two special honors in 2026. The Donor Champion Award will be presented to the department with the highest per capita giving to the Foundation, while the Veterans Champion Award will recognize the department with the greatest number of approved grants supporting veterans and their families.

Both awards will be determined based on grants awarded and donations received from June 1 through May 31. Departments are encouraged to continue supporting the Foundation's mission and applying for grants that make a meaningful difference in the lives of veterans, military, and their families.

Honor an extraordinary servicemember: Nominations accepted now for ALA Salute to Servicemembers Award

We made it easy to submit for the Salute to Servicemembers Award! An ALA member/entity simply makes the nomination to effectively tell the story of why they feel this person is head and shoulders above their peers and worthy of this award.

A narrative of no more than 1,000 words, a picture of the servicemember (preferably their official military photograph), and the endorsement from their command group are the only requirements.

The nomination form is live now, and you have until June 1 to complete. [Click here to fill out the form!](#) This award acknowledges the servicemember's contributions that go beyond their military career, displaying their impact on their community. The goal is to have every branch of the military represented: Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Space Force, along with the National Guard/Reserve.

Less than two months left to join USA 250 Challenge

Join this challenge culminating with America's birthday on July 4. 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](#).

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

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

Special awards available for fundraising!

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

- For \$250 in donations raised, participants receive a USA 250 Challenge hat pin.
- For \$500 in donations raised, participants receive a USA 250 Challenge coin and a personalized certificate of appreciation.

For \$2,500 in donations raised, participants receive a personalized plaque signed by American Legion National Commander Dan Wiley.

MEMBER BENEFITS



Support your local ALA entity directly with this SmileAssociate benefit expansion

The American Legion Auxiliary is introducing a new way for departments, districts, units, and ALA Girls State programs to raise funds through everyday Amazon shopping. Through our partnership with SmileAssociate, each ALA entity now has a dedicated shopping page, allowing supporters to start their purchases through a unique link that generates donations, at no additional cost to them. This simple, passive fundraising opportunity works with shopping habits already in place and provides quarterly contributions along with transparent reporting. By sharing your link and encouraging consistent use, ALA entities can create a steady stream of support for programs that serve veterans, military families, and communities nationwide.

Get started by visiting www.smileassociate.com/alanational and find your ALA entity today! For questions or more information, please contact Carley Schutz at cschutz@ALAforVeterans.org.

MEMORIAL DAY

Let's honor what was given.

Remember the service and
sacrifice of the fallen.



Learn how



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.

Call 866-224-1991 (TTY: 711)

8 a.m.-8 p.m., 7 days a week

ala.wellcare.com

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GOOD TO KNOW

Continued mailing suspension to military and Diplomatic Post Offices (DPO):
All mailing services to several military and DPO ZIP codes have been suspended by

the USPS until further notice. To see the updated suspended codes, go [here](#).

Missed a webinar? 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.

The May *Auxiliary* magazine has hit mailboxes! Read features about mentoring new leadership and members with multiple memberships in The American Legion Family. A digital copy is available on our [website](#). Tell us your thoughts on this edition by emailing PR@ALAforVeterans.org.



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

Female veterans have experience of a lifetime being honored, recognized for their service

The American Legion Auxiliary-sponsored all-female veteran Lone Eagle Honor Flight traveled to various memorials and monuments in Washington, D.C. with 46 Vietnam and Korean era veterans. Veterans on the trip had the opportunity to make lasting connections with each other and be honored in our nation's capital.

[Read more](#)



Wreaths Across America curriculum aligns with ALA mission

The American Legion Auxiliary has a unique relationship with the Wreaths Across America program. Many American Legion Auxiliary members and their families have participated in the December program of laying wreaths at our servicemembers' gravesites. BUT... did you know there is even more to this amazing organization?



[Read more](#)

SAVE THE DATE



May: Military Appreciation Month
May: Month of the Military Caregiver
May: Military Spouse Appreciation Month
May: Mental Health Awareness Month
May 13: Children of Fallen Patriots Day
May 14: The Stars and Stripes Forever Day
May 15: International Day of Families
May 16: Armed Forces Day
May 22: National Poppy Day
May 25: Memorial Day
June 6: D-Day Anniversary

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

“We always talk about the sacrifice that many military members make, but it’s a sacrifice at so many levels. It’s not just the ultimate sacrifice. There are sacrifices on the family level, being away from your hometown, the time spent in training, and deployments themselves. You’re sacrificing a part of your life to go serve your country, and that’s very real.”

— Austin Holmes, U.S. Navy veteran, entrepreneur, and *OverPressure* podcast host

LEGION FAMILY NEWS

Be the One online training available for the Legion Family

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

These trainings will teach participants how to:

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

Upcoming dates:

- May 14 @ 5 p.m. ET
- May 19 @ 11:30 a.m. ET

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

Download the Be The One Suicide Prevention Mobile App for more resources from this training. The American Legion-sponsored app is a more veteran-focused version of the Columbia Protocol app.

[Go here to download from the Apple Store.](#) [Go here to download from Google Play.](#)

American Legion Riders escorting U.S. flag from Pittsburgh to U.S. capital to celebrate USA 250th

As part of the United States' 250th birthday, Riders will escort the flag in a one-day trip to Washington D.C. This flag will have traveled to 26 countries, being flown over U.S. military memorials and cemeteries under the American Battle Monuments Commission's guard. This escort is the final leg in its international tour, Sojourn 250. Sojourn 250 is looking for 275 riders, and registration will close once that number is hit. There's a registration fee of \$250 per rider and \$50 for passengers. Registration is only online.

To register to be one of the escorts, click [here](#). To learn more, go [here](#). If you have any questions, please email legionriders@legion.org with the subject line **Sojourn 250**.

New Legion Meetings app released

American Legion National Headquarters has released a new mobile app for Spring and Fall Meetings and Washington Conference. TAL National Meetings is a smaller-scale version of the national convention app.

[Go here to download from the Apple Store](#). [Go here to download from Google Play](#). To learn more about the features of this app, click [here](#).

Engage with servicemembers, veterans, and their families' stories with the American Legion podcast *Tango Alpha Lima*

This podcast aims to engage veterans and the American Legion Family with authentic stories, education, and entertainment, while also building a virtual community.

Available on various listening platforms, such as [Spotify](#), [YouTube](#), [Amazon Music](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), and [iHeartRadio](#). To learn more about the podcast, [click 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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