

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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

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Issue #1

FROM THE 2026-2027 NATIONAL CHAIR OF THE EDUCATION PROGRAM



A message from the National Education Chairman

Welcome, and thank you for being part of the American Legion Auxiliary Education Program!

The Education team is excited for the year to come working with all of you! As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of Give 10 to Education, we are excited to introduce "Give 20 to Education"—a special way to honor this wonderful tradition and continue making a difference in the lives of students and our communities. I encourage everyone to join in the celebration by giving 20 school supplies, 20 dollars, or simply finding 20 ways to support education.

Together, let's make this anniversary meaningful, fun, and impactful. Let's Give 20 and keep the spirit of education growing!

Debra Rumery
National Chairman-Education

Welcome to the 2026 – 2027 NW Division Education

I asked myself, "do we look at Education through History, or do we have History because of Education?"

September Kicks off Give 10 to Education but this year we promote Give 20 in recognition of the 20th anniversary of this fantastic program to donate 20 of the same items to our Educators. You could extend the time of your drive and drop them off throughout the year. I'm sure educators would appreciate being able to replenish their supplies.

September is also the perfect time to contact your local schools and start coordinating events for Veterans Day. November will be here before we know it.

A little bit of history on education ... Did you know? In the early years of the nation, schooling was haphazard. Many children were excluded based on income, race or ethnicity, gender, geographic location, and other reasons.

Without a formal system for funding education, local schools were dependent on parents' tuition payments, charitable contributions, property taxes, fuel contributions, and in some cases state support. At the time of the American Revolution, some cities and towns in the Northeast had free local schools paid for by all town residents, but this was not the norm. Today, we live in a society where every child is entitled to a free public education.

I look forward to hearing from all of you about what the Units are doing to enhance the Education programs in your State. I know it will be an exciting year to work with all of you – let me know if there is anything I can do help you enjoy a successful program.

Yours in Service and Education
Cavalene Regan-NW Division Education Chair

SAVE THE DATE -
quarterly meeting November 3rd
Link to follow



Welcome to the Western Division 2026-2027 Education

Welcome to the exciting world of education! Education is a lifelong process that starts at birth and continues to the last breath of life. This year, you have the opportunity to make an impact on the lives of students and educators. Brainstorm, be creative, and encourage your members to do the same. How many lives can we touch?

The Education Program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's role to assist in providing quality education for children and adults through classroom activities, literacy programs, scholarship opportunities, and support of education beyond high school, especially for military children.

What can you do?

- Promote quality education for children, especially for military children, and adults
- Encourage schools to invite veterans to speak in their classrooms
- Provide scholarships for students who desire a college education
- Support legislation that establishes new scholarship opportunities
- Support the Education program and scholarship opportunities of The American Legion Family

More information on the activities, programs and awards for the Education Program will be forthcoming in future bulletins. Thank you in advance for all your work in making this a successful year for the Education Program. I look forward to sharing ideas and working with all the Departments in the Western Division.

Yours in Service and Education
Julie Vietri-Western Division Education Chair

Welcome to the 2026-2027 Central Division Education

I am thrilled to work alongside all of you as we promote quality education for children—especially military children—and adults. Together, we will encourage veteran participation in classrooms, promote scholarships for students pursuing post-secondary education, support expanded scholarship opportunities, and strengthen the Education programs of The American Legion Family.

Please share your successes throughout the year! Reporting is important, but you don't have to wait until spring. Please send me photos and a short description of your education activities **anytime** so we can celebrate and highlight the great work happening across the Central Division, throughout the year. Sharing ideas and opportunities makes our education program stronger.

I look forward to working with the amazing Central Division throughout President Dr. Coral's administrative year, as we share resources, celebrate successes, and open doors through education. Great things happen when we connect people with opportunities. Let's make education a priority, scholarships a possibility, and 2026-2027 a fantastic year!

Yours in service and Education
Dr. Christine Johnsen-Central Division Education Chairman

Welcome to the 2026-2027 Eastern Division Education

Welcome Department Education Chairs to an exciting new year service with the American Legion Auxiliary! I am honored to introduce myself as your Eastern Division Education Chairman, Tina Haggerty.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you. Together, we have a great year ahead of us, working with and supporting our students, educators, and communities.

In honor of our 20th anniversary, we are raising the bar! Instead of "Give 10 for Education" this year we are promoting "Give 20 for Education", Let's strive to double our impact by encouraging members, units and department to contribute 20 school supplies, 20 gift cards, or \$20.00 donations to support our teachers and students.

Let's keep our Auxiliary Education goals front and center. Remember to promote Veterans in the classroom, not only do our students get to learn, but it also gives our veterans time to tell their stories. Some dates to remember to are; American Education week November 15-19 by spreading awareness to the community, and to remind them to thank the teachers, staff, aides, and bus drivers. Send a letter to the editor of the local paper to thank educators and honor them for all they do. Promote Purple Up day April 15th which honors the children for those serving in the military, as well as Teacher Appreciation Week, May 3 – May 7, 2027, send gift cards for coffee, office supplies, buy snacks, or do a classroom restock, dry-erase markers, erasers, tissues, or wipes. All of these dates are essential for supporting education.

We have an amazing team in the Eastern Division, and I know that we can achieve great things. Let's Make our division shine and make Madame President Dr. Coral May Grout proud!

Yours in Service and Education
Tina Haggerty-Eastern Division Education Chairman

Welcome to the 2026-2027 Southern Division Education

I know that you all are working hard to promote Give 20 to Education. The ALA's Give 20 to Education program is to collect needed items in multiples of 20 — 20 notebooks, 20 rulers, 20 glue sticks, or anything a school may need. Teachers spend a lot of their own money on supplies, so they appreciate our donations. The school materials that are supplied do not last all year, so continuing to donate supplies throughout the year is always appreciated.

A couple of upcoming dates that you can start planning for are; November 11th Veteran's Day. Now would be a great time to encourage and organize Veterans speak at local schools. (Information on how to organize a Veterans in The Community Schools can be found on the National website www.legion-aux.org). November 16th-20th is American Education Week, where you recognize school administrators and staff with special treats.

I am a retired Elementary Education Teacher of 20 years. Teaching is my passion and I am committed to learning, leadership, and service. I am honored and excited to be working with all of you and looking forward to a great year.

Yours in Service and Education
Charlotte Bass-Southern Division