



“Engaging our Youth in Patriotism, for our Veterans”

October 2026,

Fall Conference will be November 6-8, 2026, at Doubletree Reid Park in Tucson. Registration forms are now on the website. Please bring your Juniors they will be having their Conference on Saturday. Speaking of Saturday, don't miss out on the breakout sessions forms to register for those are also on the website. We will be hosting the National Western Division Vice President Ellen Nathan of Utah.

Department dues will be going up for the 2027 Membership Year! Units will send \$30.00 to cover Department and National dues. Membership is everyone's job. Membership renewals, re-joins and new members can be sent to the Department.

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

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

Department, NO LONGER HOLDS MEMBERSHIP CREDITS!!! ONLINE AND OVER/UNDERPAYMENTS ARE REIMBURSED MONTHLY. DO NOT WRITE USE CREDIT ON YOUR MEMBERSHIP WHEN YOU SEND IT IN. If the check, we send you is not cashed within 90 days of issuance the bank automatically voids it and you **WILL NOT BE ISSUED ANOTHER ONE!**

If you have changed your Unit Mailing address, we need to know the new one. We are getting a lot of undeliverable mail back from the USPS saying undeliverable mail or unknown residents.

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT: President Marge's project this year is **Engaging our Youth in Patriotism, for our Veterans**. Kim Lindsey from Unit 5 is the PSP Chairman. You can reach her at, scoutermomkim@yahoo.com, if you want her to visit your Unit or District, or to get more information.

MANDATES: . The 2026-2027 mandates are posted on the website under Finance; Units have also been sent an invoice.

We are doing something new this year, I will be invoicing and snail mailing Units and Districts for their mandates, I will also be emailing the invoice to the Unit/District Treasurer. Remember a Poppy mandate

was past at convention and a Due date of March 1st for both Department and District mandates or your Unit will have no vote and will Not be eligible for awards at next year's convention. If you have any questions regarding Mandates, contact the Department Office.

2026 DIRECTORY: Is on the Department website: **www.aladeptaz.org**. If your Units information is blank, that means we did not receive your new officer information. Please email us with the information and we will get you entered.

POPPY: We no longer have purchase by date, due to the new Poppy mandate. Order when you need them. And yes, you must pay for what you order. The mandate qualifies all units for awards and eliminates the 10% net profit payment to Department.

The Office is open, and we are here to help. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4p.m. Evenings by appointment. (please don't be afraid to ask).

Rose Ficklin
Department Secretary/Treasurer

Secretary1@aladeptaz.org

Rae Hopf
Department Membership Processor

membership@aladeptaz.org

PLEASE REMEMBER !!!!!

No one representing the American Legion Auxiliary will ever send an email or text asking you for money or to purchase gift cards for them because they are busy or "in meetings".

PLEASE ALWAYS DELETE THEM AND IGNORE ANY SUCH REQUEST !!!!!
PLEASE let your members know to be diligent!

It has come to my attention that some units are holding membership cards after the member has joined and/or renewed. Once you have processed the application and/or renewal you must send the card to the member. I understand that some units place them behind the bar in the canteen for the member to pick up, and other units mail them. This practice is fine. You may NOT hold the card of members to coerce them to come to an initiation at the unit. Initiations are beautiful and well deserved but they are completely voluntary. To hold someone membership card hostage is for lack of a better word, theft. The members paid for that card, and they deserve to receive it promptly and with no strings attached.

This also means that membership MUST BE processed weekly, DO NOT HOLD MEMBERSHIP!!! A member may need to apply for AEF or a scholarship and if they paid the unit in October and in December it still hasn't been processed, the member will call department or National and then we call you. Please process your membership in a timely manner.

If you are signing up new members and the veteran, they are signing up under is alive they MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION and we MUST have their membership number on the application to process. The Post Adjutant/officer must sign the application, and the unit must keep the application for the life of that member.

The National judge advocate has stated that unit membership chairs/secretaries may sign off when the veteran is deceased if the proper documentation has been shown. DO NOT KEEP DD214's Return them to the members.

In the Spirit of Service Not Self,

Rose



Engaging our Youth
in Patriotism for our
Veterans

REGISTRATION IS OPEN for Fall Conference

Juniors will join us for opening & closing sessions and have their own meeting room in between with fun and educational activities:

- Fill educational and patriotic ruck sacks for National President Coral Grout's "Give 20" Service project! With the help of Units, Juniors will provide these ruck sacks for the National President to distribute during her visit to Arizona. **YOU CAN HELP THE JUNIORS!** Find the Junior's patriotic Amazon wish list here and bring the items to Fall Conference:

https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/T91BU0RJD7KA?ref=cm_sw_r_apan_ggr-subnav-share_67575Y3X0XDH9KPNYPBB&language=en-US

- "Learn & Earn" cool embroidered patches
- Create a poppy wreath for the Junior President to present at the Sunday Legion Family Memorial

Junior/SAL members 8 to 17 are encouraged to attend & bring a friend if they want!

The **Senior** Conference has some new features:

- ALA program walk-thru to engage youth in patriotism for our veterans
- Professional presentation about "Servant Leadership"
- Artificial Intelligence: Getting started; Do's and Don'ts
- Resources Available to You: National, Department websites, Facebook groups, ALA Academy, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, ALA Foundation connections
- Membership processing breakout
- Year-end Report & Awards breakout

AND SO MUCH MORE: We are working on some fun activities: some we will unveil when we get them ready, some will be a surprise! You won't want to miss it! Find out more and register on the website: [15. Fall Conference 2026](https://www.aladeptaz.org) at www.aladeptaz.org

Thank you for posting on the Department's Facebook Page: Ring Your Bell Arizona. Everyone loves to see the mission at work!

Yours in Service,

Marge

Marge Christianson, President, Department of Arizona, American Legion Auxiliary

P.S. My travel schedule is now on the Department website—please contact me at alaunit62az@gmail.com if your Unit or District would like to get on the schedule!

September 12, 2026

Hello Department Chairmen and Committee members!

Fall Conference is coming up and planning is underway. I will be able to share a lot more information in a couple of weeks, but wanted to share what I can now:

- One of the presentations will include a walk-thru of the Department website. Please review your program information on www.aladeptaz.org and make sure it's accurate and up-to-date. Are your bulletins current? Do you have pictures you'd like on the site? Wish lists current? Important upcoming events and dates included? I don't want anyone caught off guard if we click on your page.
- As previously communicated, please bring a simple program board that hits the high points of your program—especially as they engage youth in patriotism. We will again set those up around the room perimeter. If you want to have a game or give-away, that's great, but **we will not have time to pull raffle tickets**—so make sure you are self-reliant on your ideas.
- As leaders, how you dress is important. Please think "Business casual". Branded clothing is always welcome, but please no jeans, tank tops or shorts!
- More soon!!!

Meanwhile....

As I was perusing the National ALA Academy course list, I came across one that I thought would be of interest to each of you! It's from 2024, so the log-in process is a bit different (now you can click on "member portal" and get to the committee page without logging in) and it talks a little about "Unit Member of the Year" which is a Leadership award and doesn't apply to other programs. But the other information is very helpful! Here's the course description and link to the Academy catalog (click on the link and just keep scrolling until you find it).

ALA Leadership Series: So, You're a Department Chair.

Now What?

<https://alaacademy.alaforveterans.org/topclass/searchCatalog.do?catId=0>

This course contains a recorded webinar that will provide you with tips and ideas to help you excel in your role as an ALA Chair, especially at the Department level. Whether you're new to your leadership role or a seasoned veteran, you'll gain insights into leveraging resources available for your ALA program and discover effective strategies for ensuring your Department and Units receive the recognition they deserve for their service, dedication, and hard work. If you want to enhance your leadership skills and make a meaningful impact in your new leadership role, this course is for you!

Learning Objectives:

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- Recognize effective strategies to maximize communication with committee members.
- Apply available resources to ensure success in their ALA leadership role.
- Know the correct process of completing Year-End Reporting and Award Submissions.

Thank you for all you do! I'm looking forward to seeing you in November.

Yours in Service,

Marge

SEPTEMBER TIDBITS FROM THE WEBSITE MANAGER

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

Unit 39 now has an historian, Karen Burwell email is: burwellk@gmail.com

Unit 64 add Bev as Membership Chairman and correct her phone number under Treasurer
Bev Shillinger, 971-672-6976 bevshillinger@outlook.com

Unit 93

new meeting day and time 1st Thursday 10:00 am

new Secretary

Kathleen Andersen, 928-707-3255 heart.rt@gmail.com

Here's some updates for the **Chairmen** directory:

Advisory Committee: Add Jane Shoemaker, 623-707-6647, jshoe1954@gmail.com

Community Service: Add: Barbara Whitney, 602-326-2484, alalegislativaz@gmail.com

Add Christina Choffat, 602-751-2060 unit27communitychair@gmail.com

Add Susan Sanders, 480-251-3659 vxe561@yahoo.com

also change Barbara Whitney email under **Children & Youth** to Barbaraw527@icloud.com

Legislative: Add: Barbara Whitney, 602-326-2484, alalegislativaz@gmail.com

Poppy Committee: Add Leslie Cuning, 927-250-2880, leznkids3468@gmail.com

President's Special Project Committee: Add Lisa Tinnin-Young, lmby_02@msn.com

Update Joanie Whitsett contact info: 707-478-2102, joanieala86@gmail.com

Update Courtney LaMaster contact info: courtneylamaster@gmail.com (correct spelling of Courtney's last name)

Public Relations: Add Patricia Lugo, 602-475-0208 plugo1@yahoo.com

Scrapbook Chairman: Linda West email is alalwestp@yahoo.com

For **Dolores Chavez NEC activities** use ala.db.chavez@gmail.com

all other positions use chebeesj@cox.net

SPECIAL NOTICES

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA LEADERSHIP/MISSION TRAINING 2026-2027 SCHEDULE

Sat. September 26, 2026
aburdaaz@gmail.com

Irving B. Selmer Unit 107
20001 N. Cave Creek Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85024

Anna Burda
602-810-6754

Sat. October 3, 2026
orbitzbk@gmail.com

Overgaard-Heber Unit 86
2068 Lumber Valley Rd.
Overgaard, AZ 85933

Martha Raether
602-809-0972

Sat. November 14, 2026
gcushing@cox.net

Earl E. Mitchell Unit 29
6822 N 57th Dr
Glendale, AZ 85301

Jan Cushing
623-544-0797

Sunday, December 13, 2026
karentaylor1960@yahoo.com

Apache Unit 27
1018 S Meridian Rd
Apache Junction, AZ 85220

Karen Gregory
602-643-5278

Sat. January 30, 2027
evelyn100547@gmail.com

Quartzsite Unit 113
Contact Evelyn Wilson for
more information

Evelyn Wilson
951-403-3358

President Marge Travel Schedule

Date	Event	Notes
August 27, 2026	Tucson Creative Arts	
August 28- Sept 5	National ALA Convention	
Sept 6-21, 2026	Family Vacation	
Oct 3, 2026	Ho Down Tea Party Unit 61 11:00am-1:00pm	Contact: Tina Ganados
Oct 10, 2026	ALA Foundation Board Meeting	
Oct 13, 2026	Unit 39 Gilbert General Mtg 6:00 pm	Contact: Christine Paplaczky
Oct 15, 2026	VAVS Phoenix Meeting Post 1	
October 23, 2026	Unit 32 Safford Early Bird Dinner 5:00	Contact: Wendy Hackney
October 24, 2026	District 5 Meeting (Safford) noon	Contact: Wendy Hackney; Also attending: Kim Lindsay
November 6-8, 2026	Fall Conferences Tucson	
November 11, 2026	Unit 1 Veteran's Day Parade	
November 14, 2026	District 8 Meeting time 11:00 lunch (Yarnell)	Contact: Peggy Miller
November 15, 2026	District 3 Meeting 11:00 (Benson)	Contact: Maggie Montijo
November 17, 2026	Unit 66 2:00	Contact: Mary Johnson, President
November 17, 2026	Unit 131 3:00	Contact: Ann Bracco, President
December 14, 2026	Unit 25 Cottonwood General Meeting 5:00	Contact: Peggy Miller
December 23, 2026	Prescott Gift Shop	Contact: Trish Aljets
Jan 2, 2027	Department Open House	
Jan 16, 2027	Maricopa Home Show Unit 115/District 11 Booth	Contact: Lori Muldner
Jan 17, 2027	Unit 91 Meeting 9:00 District 2 Meeting 1:00 (Unit 68)	Contact: Valerie Goodwin, Pres Contact: Jessica Bird
Feb 5-7, 2027	Nat'l Mission Training	
March 18-22, 2027	National President Visit	
June 23-27, 2027	Department Convention- Chandler	

If you would like to have Marge visit your Unit or District, please contact her at alaunit62az@gmail.com

FROM PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT CHAIRMAN KIM LINDSEY

Good afternoon !

As part of The PSP Marge was given 60 ruck sacks to fill and distribute We are going to try and get all Units and the Juniors involved in this, the Units by purchasing the items and the Juniors to fill the sacks at fall conference !!

I am attaching the flyers for the item purchasing and the one for the Juniors for your approval and knowledge. These will go out in the bullitens please share with your Units and Juniors too The Amazon list is not the only way to purchase items, you can or the Units can use it for suggestions We will be distributing them when National President Coral visits us. Any questions please feel free to call or email me at 602-574-1318 Or scoutermomkim@yahoo.com.

As part of
National President Coral's
Education Project
in conjunction with
President Marge's Special Project

Stronger
Brighter
Together

CELEBRATING
10 FOR 20TH YEAR

Let's get **20** supplies
for the **20 for 20** program!

Calling All Units! Help us fill **60 RUCK SACKS**
with patriotic supplies for
school aged children.

Suggested Items:

- ★ Notebooks
- ★ Pencils & Pens
- ★ Markers
- ★ Crayons
- ★ Erasers
- ★ Glue Sticks
- ★ Stickers
- ★ Small Toys
- ★ Activity Books
- ★ and more!

Check out our
Amazon Wish List!

Check out this Gift List I just created.
https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/T91BUORJD7KA?ref_=cm_sw_r_apann_ggr-subnav-share_67575Y3X0XDH9KPNYPBB&language=en-US

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH ★ BUILD BRIGHTER TOMORROWS ★ STRONGER TOGETHER

As part of
National President Coral's
Education Project
in conjunction with
President Marge's Special Project

Stronger
Brighter
Together

FILL THE RUCK SACKS

Bring Your Juniors
TO FALL CONFERENCE

Let's work together to fill
60 RUCK SACKS
for school aged children.

Kids
Helping
Kids
Build a
Brighter
Future!

Make
A
Difference!

YOU BRING THE JUNIORS...
We'll Bring the Supplies!

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH ★ BUILD BRIGHTER TOMORROWS ★ STRONGER TOGETHER



AMERICAN
LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
VETERANS ★ SERVICE ★ COMMUNITY

2026
DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
CONFERENCE
HONORING OUR PAST ★ BUILDING OUR TOMORROW

6-8 NOVEMBER 2026

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL
TUCSON – REID PARK
445 S. ALVERNON WAY, TUCSON, AZ 85711

SERVICE | LEADERSHIP | ADVOCACY | COMMUNITY

★ AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY PRESENTATION ★

Leading Beside Them, Not Above Them

★

*Using Servant Leadership
to Connect with Members
and Youth*

★ — **NOVEMBER 7** — ★

Presenter: Kimberly Walker, M.Ed.

Join us for an engaging presentation on how servant leadership can build trust, create meaningful relationships, and strengthen connections among generations.



★

*An inspiring conversation on
service, mentorship, and youth engagement.*



**American Legion Auxiliary Fall Conference
November 6-8, 2026
Double Tree Reid Park, Tucson, AZ**

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

PLEASE RETURN FORM WITH CHECK MADE OUT TO:

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

UNIT NUMBER _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

NAME (PRINT)

POSITION/TITLE (PRINT)

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

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE OCTOBER 30, 2026

NO REFUNDS OR SUBSTITUTIONS

NAME _____

UNIT _____ (SELECT SESSION)

_____ 9:00 to 9:45 **Kimberly Walker**

Membership begins with Leadership

Learn about the “Servant Leadership” style, Presented by Kimberly Walker NAU graduate

_____ 10:00 to 10:45 P.M.

Deb Munchbach/Shannon Mead

Mission Program Resources

Everyone says “Just go to the website”—but WHERE? If you’d like a hand-on approach to finding information on the Department or National website.

_____ 1:00 to 1:30 P.M. **Kim Lindsay**

Engaging Youth in patriotism for our Veterans

Find out more about this year’s special focus!

_____ 1:45 to 2:15pm **Mikaela Anderson**

AI: How does this apply to my Unit?

Artificial Intelligence is all the rage, but where do you begin?

_____ 9:00 to 9:45 A.M. **Rose/Rae**

Membership Processing & the New ALAMIS (session 1)

Learn the nuts and bolts of the new ALAMIS system.

Priority Registration: Select

- ___ Unit Membership Chairs
- ___ Unit Membership Processors
- ___ District Membership Chairs
- ___ Others as space available

Participant Limit: **30**

_____ 10:00 to 10:45 A.M. **Rose/Rae**

Membership Processing & the New ALAMIS (session 2)

Learn the nuts and bolts of the new ALAMIS system.

Priority Registration: Select

- ___ Unit Membership Chairs
- ___ Unit Membership Processors
- ___ District Membership Chairs
- ___ Others as space available

Participant Limit: **30**

_____ 1:00 to 1:30 P.M. **Deb**

Reports/Awards/Narratives

Confused about how to find and complete year-end reports?

Suggested Registration:

- Unit Presidents
- Unit Chairmen
- District President
- Department Chairmen

Limit: **30**

_____ 1:45 to 2:15 P.M. **Deb**

Reports/Awards/Narratives

Confused about how to find and complete year-end reports?

Limit: **30**

Hello members,

Here it is September already. Hope all is well with everyone. Not much to report on with the AEF program. If you know of anyone who is need of help, please contact me at 320-282-0896 or by email at pjhplace@aol.com. You can also find the information on the Department website or National website. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Patti Hartfiel

AEF Chairman.

American Legion Department of Arizona Americanism Attic

Preserving Our History · Inspiring Our Next Generation
October 2026 | Bulletin



The "BER" months are officially here! September, October, November, and December offer fantastic opportunities to celebrate, educate, remember, and serve.

One of the best ways to build a successful Americanism program is to plan ahead. Don't wait until an observance appears on the calendar—look at what your Unit, Post Family, and community already have planned and ask: "How can we add a little Americanism?" Sometimes it only takes adding a small activity, sharing a piece of history, involving a veteran, or engaging local youth.

Here is a look at the upcoming observances for the "BER" months:

OCTOBER — CELEBRATE & ENGAGE

- **October 13** – U.S. Navy 251st Birthday: Invite a Navy veteran to share memories, create a display, share history on social media, or ask a veteran to explain to youth what the Navy does.
- **October 26** – National Day of the Deployed: Recognize those serving away from home and their families through cards, care packages, or a recognition display.
- **October 31** – Put Americanism in Halloween: Add red, white, and blue stickers or patriotic bookmarks to treat bags, hand out patriotic coloring sheets, or display small flags.

NOVEMBER — EDUCATE, HONOR & GIVE THANKS

- **November 3** – Election Day: Encourage civic participation and nonpartisan education.
- **November 10** – Dual Birthdays: Celebrate the U.S. Marine Corps Birthday and the American Legion Auxiliary Birthday!
- **November 11** – Veterans Day: Start contacting schools, Scout troops, and youth groups now to plan youth engagement.
- **November 26** – Thanksgiving: Host a "Thankful for Our Veterans" activity, support veterans who may be alone, or include veterans in community holiday projects.

DECEMBER — REMEMBER, CELEBRATE & SERVE

- **December 7** – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day: Honor the day of remembrance (consider visiting the USS Arizona Memorial at the Gardens at Salt River).
- **December 19** – Wreaths Across America: Get involved early to help remember and honor veterans in local ceremonies.
- **December 20** – U.S. Space Force Birthday: Highlight our newest military service branch to educate youth about modern service.

- **Christmas Festivities:** Incorporate Americanism into existing holiday parties with patriotic ornament-making tables, card-writing stations for veterans, or special recognition for attending veterans.

Let's start planning today to make these upcoming months impactful for our community and our veterans!

IT'S HERE!!!

2026 Americanism Essay Contest Title: ***"How can you be a beacon of light for our veterans?"***

It is time to begin engaging and contacting local schools and teachers.

Think about what tools or materials you need. Options may include a formal letter to school administrators or promotional posters for teachers to display to alert students. If you plan to visit schools in person, now is the time to schedule those appointments.

Additionally, we are introducing the \$200 Wish List this year. More information will be provided in the coming months.

Please note that the deadline for submissions to the Department Americanism Chair is March 13, 2027 (via electronic submission or postmark). Please use the link for entry forms and further details: [Americanism Committee](#)

What is your Unit doing to inspire Americanism?

Unit 86 Heber – Overgaard
Honored the 25th Anniversary of Patriot's Day (9/11) with a bulletin board at Mountain Meadows Elementary School!
Great job Unit 86!
See Ring Your Bell on Facebook for more info



Resources for your use:

American Legion website:
legion.org

AL Auxiliary website:
alaforveterans.org

Wreaths Across America:
wreathsasscrossamerica.org

Military Branches
Information:
www.usa.gov

LOOKING AHEAD... Americanism doesn't have to be its own event! Add Americanism to an event you are already having! It all counts! Share your ideas, they might inspire another Unit.

It's never a bad idea to start looking ahead – don't wait; don't hesitate! Look at least three months ahead – start planning now. As October begins, it may be too late to plan for a separate event but incorporate Americanism into an already planned event, and then look at November and December. And while you're planning December...Start peeking at January! A new year means new opportunities to Honor · Educate · Serve · Inspire

**In unity for God and Country,
Service, Not Self**

Amber Sanchez

Americanism Chairman 2026-2027

Email: Ambers.AL14@yahoo.com
cell phone: 626-506-8941

American Legion Auxiliary – Department of Arizona
Chaplain's Bulletin – September 2026

The sweet voices of the children, teens and young adults ring through the classrooms, halls, cafeterias, dining halls, and common areas, of our schools and colleges across Arizona and at the nation.

Please take a few moments to pray for these precious individuals as well as the Principals, Deans, Teachers, Instructors, Administrators, Food service workers, Janitorial staff , Security and anyone who will come in contact with our future leaders.

This September brings a somber reminder of the acts the brought our nation to its knees. It is now 25 years after the September 11, 2001 attacks, and we will never forget. We honor the brave and remember the lost. Please continue to pray for our nation, our people and our peace.

Gentle Reminder: Chaplain duties include compiling information for year-end reporting. Report forms can be found on the aladeptaz.org website. The form is used to track the years activities by all Unit, District, and Department Chaplains.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to reach out to me for assistance at 480-430-3577.

In service and faith,
Barbara Aubrey
Department Chaplain
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
barbaravpala@gmail.com

**American Legion Auxiliary – Department of Arizona
Chaplain's Bulletin – October 2026**

The crisp autumn air brings a welcome change to our Arizona weather and landscape. Smiles appear all over the state as the summer weather is coming to an end. The leaves change colors and fall from their branches. As the season changes let us remember not to fall back on our prayers as they are an important part of our daily lives.

In your own faith encouraging words are often, prayed and/or said for our families, our friends, our veterans and their families, active duty service men and women and their families, the families of our service members that have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country, our service members who have not returned, and our community, state and nation.

Chaplains you play an important role in helping our American Legion family navigate the ups and downs of their lives. Lending a hand, a shoulder to catch the tears, kind words, a much needed hug, warm thoughts in a card or letter, and so much more. Thank you for all that you do for the American Legion Auxiliary, the American Legion Family, our community, and our state.

Gentle Reminder: Chaplain duties include compiling information for year-end reporting. Report forms can be found on the aladeptaz.org website. The form is used to track the years activities by all Unit, District, and Department Chaplains.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to reach out to me for assistance at 480-430-3577.

In service and faith,
Barbara Aubrey
Department Chaplain
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
barbaravpala@gmail.com

Happy October, Department of Arizona!

We are heading into one of the busiest times of the year for many of us, with holiday planning, activities with our Post family and friends, and traveling to spend time with family out of state.

As you go about your busy schedules, I encourage you to keep an eye out for a child who is going above and beyond. You may know a young person who has performed an extraordinary act of kindness, helped someone in need, or demonstrated courage and compassion. They may be eligible for the Youth Good Deed Award or the Youth Hero Award.

These are wonderful opportunities to recognize the amazing young people in our communities and let them know that their actions matter.

You can find all the details and requirements for these awards here:

[Youth Hero & Good Deed Awards](#)

I also want to give a special shout-out to **Unit 91** for their amazing donation of school supplies to Hartford Elementary School! Thank you for continuing to support our schools and the children in our communities. Your generosity truly makes a difference.



Let's continue to shine our light on Arizona's youth and recognize those who are making a difference in the lives of others!

Thank you for all you do for our Children & Youth!

Charlotte Sullivan, Chairman
azalaunit105@gmail.com

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH

ENGAGING OUR YOUTH: ACTIVE SIMULATED ELECTION VOTING

Simulated voting programs offer young people an interactive, hands-on introduction to democratic engagement, transforming civic education from passive learning into active practice. By simulating real elections, the youth learn how to evaluate candidates, understand balloting procedures, and analyze public issues before they reach voting age. Participating in these practice polls demystifies the electoral system and builds early civic confidence, instilling lifelong habits of voter participation.

Beyond the ballot box, simulated voting inspires youth to examine local community issues and see firsthand how government decisions impact their daily lives. School-based and youth group elections encourage civil debate, critical thinking, and respectful dialogue among peers with differing viewpoints. Empowering young citizens to express their voices through simulated elections strengthen civic literacy and prepares the next generation to serve as thoughtful, active contributors to American democracy.

HOW TO:

LawForKids.org is a non-partisan civics education initiative administered by the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education (the charitable arm of the State Bar of Arizona). Through its signature “Kids Voting AZ” program, the organization collaborates with community partners -- including local schools, public libraries, and youth groups --to immerse young people in hands-on election simulations. By guiding the youth through voter registration, policy research, and realistic ballot processes, LawForKids.org has vast ways to support this **call to ACTION!**

- ◆ **Multiple Department Chairmen:** Remember, when organizing an event, or program, the more American Legion Auxiliary members we involve, the stronger our impact -- let's share the workload!
- ◆ **Invitation:** Reach out to fellow chairmen within your Unit to collaborate. For example, the Department Chairmen of Legislative, Children & Youth, and Community Service are currently partnering to plan a simulated election process. Once details are finalized, we encourage all ALA Units to participate by reporting through LawForKids.org, so results can be combined. Let us know how your Unit is taking part!
- ◆ **Alternative Resource:** Partnering with your local county recorder's office allows Auxiliary Units to host hands-on simulated elections that give young participants a complete, realistic voting experience. By using official voting equipment, authentic ballots, and standard election procedures, youth gain direct insight into civic participation, electoral integrity, and the power of their voice in a democracy.

- ◆ **Testimony of Youth Engagement:** An auxiliary member serving as Head Judge during a recent primary election helped make a young girl's dream a reality. While waiting in line with her father, the nine-year-old girl eagerly anticipated casting a ballot; however, upon learning she was ineligible to vote, she became visibly upset. To keep her enthusiasm for the democratic process alive, the Head Judge received her father's permission to let her simulate voting on a real ballot, turning a potential disappointment into a meaningful moment of civic engagement.
- ◆ **Updates:** As developments happen there will be updates to the October bulletin; therefore, please check back soon!

For God and Country

JoJo Baldwin
Department of Arizona
Community Service Chairman

Barbara Whitney
Department of Arizona
Legislative Chairman

HELLO ARIZONA ALA UNITS!

SPECIAL ATTENTION TO COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMEN

*Participating in a **9/11 Day of Service** honors the history of Patriot Day by turning a solemn national memorial into a powerful movement of **COMMUNITY RENEWAL**.*

*As you know on **September 11, 2001**, our nation experienced unfathomable tragedy, but in the hours and days that followed, we also witnessed the extraordinary courage of first responders and the quiet strength of neighbors helping neighbors. Congress officially designated **9/11** as a **National Day of Service and Remembrance** to ensure that this spirit of unity and selfless sacrifice lives on as a lasting tribute to those we lost.*

*For the **AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**, coming full circle to serve our communities on this day is a natural reflection of our core mission. When Unit Community Service Chairmen organize local **9/11 GIVE BACK projects**, we transform remembrance into **ACTION** - strengthening our towns, supporting our veterans, and inspiring the next generation.*

HERE ARE A FEW WAYS TO PUT HONOR INTO ACTION:

Don't Forget: **Record hours & activities for year-end reporting!*

- **ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL PLEDGE OF SERVICE ON THE 9/11 DAY OF SERVICE WEBSITE.** Keeping the spirit of service and remembrance in mind & pass your pledges on thru social media to encourage others to join. See... 911day.org.
- **DELIVER MEALS TO LOCAL EMERGENCY PERSONNEL.**
- **ORGANIZE A PARK OR CEMETERY CLEANUP.**
- **PARTICIPATE IN A VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY OR PROJECT OF WHICH THE UNIT IS ALREADY A PART & ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO JOIN (LEGION FAMILY).**
- **HOST A SUPPLY DRIVE FOR A LOCAL OR NEARBY WEATHER RELATED DISASTER.**
- **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES CAN BE DISCOVERED AT americorps.gov/serve/volunteer/911-day.**

*Every act of service rekindles the **UNITY** that defines our country in the aftermath of **9/11**. Let's encourage every Unit across our Department to step up, designate a project, and show the power of community in action this September. How will Arizona ALA Units participate in the **9/11 GIVE BACK**? Share your project plans below to inspire others!*

For God and Country

*JoJo Baldwin, Vice President Apache Unit 27
Department of Arizona Community Service Chairman*



Education October 2026



Everyone is well into the school year. Each month I will focus on one of the areas mentioned in the August newsletter. This month: **Enhance respect for the sacrifices of our military heroes among school children by scheduling Veterans in Community Schools programs at local schools.**

Information on the Veterans in Community Schools program is available in the publications, *Veterans in the Classroom: History in the First Person*, on the Legion's website at [Veterans in the classroom: an educational activity of The American Legion | Digital Archive](https://www.legion.org/magazine/162500/hardest-year) and [Veterans in the classroom: history in the first person | Digital Archive \(legion.org\)](https://www.legion.org/magazine/162500/hardest-year). They contain helpful hints on starting this program in your area.

- Collaborate with your local American Legion post to present this program in your schools.
- Contact your local school teachers to see if they would be interested in hosting a Veterans in the Classroom event.
- Provide information to the teacher hosting your program about the challenges facing today's military families.
- The teacher can introduce the topic before your unit's presentation. It may be helpful to reference the article that was published in the Legion's magazine at <https://www.legion.org/magazine/162500/hardest-year>.
- Promote your Veterans in the Classroom event through local media and on your own social media accounts.
- Volunteer to provide transportation to and from the school for the veteran speaking in the classroom.
- Wear your American Legion Auxiliary apparel when you visit classrooms.

"The American Legion believes that our military veterans are living textbooks of American History. Their accounts of experiences in a uniform of the United States Armed Forces should be preserved and shared with others, especially with students in America's schools." (American Legion Publication No. 23-015, Rev. 1-2012)

I'm looking forward to hearing about the creative ways in which your Units and Members promote the Education Program.

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

Julie Vietri

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

Inquiring minds want to know Arizona ALA:

- Unit Mandates are payable to ALA Department of Arizona and Invoices were mailed in early August. Department Close of Books Membership totals determine the base for assessment. Please note that Department Mandates are due March 1, 2027. District Mandates are a separate item and each District determines its price. Do not mail District Mandates to ALA Department.
- The Poppy Mandate is \$30.00 per Unit and is a flat fee. There is no minimum order due by September 30. A Unit can order poppies at any time of the year. The cost is \$15.00 per 100 or \$150.00 per thousand.
- ALA Department of Arizona accepts funds for the following – Welfare Pledge(Veterans Programs and direct aid to Veterans), Christmas Pledge (designate the VA Medical Center of your choice in the memo portion of your check), Hospital Parties (designate the Medical Center of your choice), VA Gift Shop, Past Presidents Parley (nursing and health care occupation scholarships), Spirit of Youth (Spirit of Youth scholarships for Juniors), Auxiliary Emergency Fund (assistance to ALA members during financial crisis or a natural disaster), Juniors (Junior activities), Girls State, Arizona Leadership Fund (helps with expenses when Arizona has a candidate for National Office), Department Overhead Expense, Cavalcade of Memories (funds to furnish materials and supplies for Arizona history) and Department Special Project (this year Department President Marge Christianson has designated Engaging Youth in Patriotism as her Special Project)

Do you have any questions? Contact the Department Office and this Chairman. Our mission is to help you.

Yolanda Bonilla, Chairman, 602-989-3321, yodobo@msn.com

Penny Maklary, Member, 520-364-5038, ahhpenny@aol.com

Barbara White, Member, 602-908-2980, barbara.white99@gmail.com

Virtue of Office: Marge Christianson, President, Dolores Chavez, NEC, Rose Ficklin, Executive Director of Operations (no vote)

DISTRICT MANDATES 2026-2027 PAID BY EACH DISTRICT TO DEPARTMENT

DISTRICT	BOND FEE	INCORPORATION FEES	TOTAL
1	\$11.00	\$10.00	\$21.00
2	\$27.50	\$10.00	\$37.50
3	\$16.50	\$10.00	\$26.50
4	\$19.25	\$10.00	\$29.25
5	\$11.00	\$10.00	\$21.00
6	\$13.75	\$10.00	\$23.75
7	\$33.00	\$10.00	\$43.00
8	\$27.50	\$10.00	\$37.50
11	\$27.50	\$10.00	\$37.50
12	\$49.50	\$10.00	\$59.50

DUE NOVEMBER 1, 2026

THE MANDATES ABOVE ARE PAID TO
THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA BY THE DISTRICT.
4701 N 19th AVE, PHOENIX, AZ.

2026-2027 DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA UNIT MANDATES

THE MANDATES LISTED HERE ARE PAID BY EACH UNIT TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

Rehabilitation Per Capita (RPC), Delegate Per Capita (DPC), Junior Activities Per Capita (JAPC), and Junior Delegate Per Capita (JDPC) are based on the "Close of Books" July 31st 2026.

The Flat Fee Poppy Mandate is in Lieu of the 10% net profit and 100 Minimum Order by September 30 date.

Please make check payable to: ALA Department of Arizona

4701 N. 19th Ave. Suite 100

Phoenix, AZ 85015

DUE MARCH 1, 2027

Unit #	# JR's	#SR's	RPC	DPC	JAPC	JDPC	POPPY MANDATE	BOND	TOTAL	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP
1	1	105	\$21.00	\$42.00	\$21.20	\$0.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$119.90	106
2	0	87	\$17.40	\$34.80	\$17.40	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$105.10	87
3	3	68	\$13.60	\$27.20	\$14.20	\$0.60	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$91.10	71
4	2	36	\$7.20	\$14.40	\$7.60	\$0.40	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$65.10	38
5	1	65	\$13.00	\$26.00	\$13.20	\$0.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$87.90	66
6	6	348	\$69.60	\$139.20	\$70.80	\$1.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$316.30	354
7	1	34	\$6.80	\$13.60	\$7.00	\$0.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$63.10	35
8	1	29	\$5.80	\$11.60	\$6.00	\$0.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$59.10	30
9	1	150	\$30.00	\$60.00	\$30.20	\$0.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$155.90	151
11	4	134	\$26.80	\$53.60	\$27.60	\$0.80	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$144.30	138
12	1	232	\$46.40	\$92.80	\$46.60	\$0.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$221.50	233
13	3	64	\$12.80	\$25.60	\$13.40	\$0.60	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$87.90	67
14	5	123	\$24.60	\$49.20	\$25.60	\$1.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$135.90	128
16	0	46	\$9.20	\$18.40	\$9.20	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$72.30	46
19	7	188	\$37.60	\$75.20	\$39.00	\$1.40	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$188.70	195
22	4	131	\$26.20	\$52.40	\$27.00	\$0.80	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$141.90	135
24	11	428	\$85.60	\$171.20	\$87.80	\$2.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$382.30	439
25	6	310	\$62.00	\$124.00	\$63.20	\$1.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$285.90	316
26	2	219	\$43.80	\$87.60	\$44.20	\$0.40	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$211.50	221
27	11	2048	\$409.60	\$819.20	\$411.80	\$2.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$1,678.30	2059
28	2	87	\$17.40	\$34.80	\$17.80	\$0.40	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$105.90	89
TOTAL	72	4932	\$986.40	\$1,972.80	\$1,000.80	\$14.40	\$630.00	\$115.50	\$4,719.90	5004

Unit #	# JR's	#SR's	RPC	DPC	JAPC	JDPC	POPPY MANDATE	BOND	TOTAL	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP
29	8	223	\$44.60	\$89.20	\$46.20	\$1.60	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$217.10	231
30	1	100	\$20.00	\$40.00	\$20.20	\$0.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$115.90	101
32	0	151	\$30.20	\$60.40	\$30.20	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$156.30	151
34	1	303	\$60.60	\$121.20	\$60.80	\$0.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$278.30	304
35	7	290	\$58.00	\$116.00	\$59.40	\$1.40	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$270.30	297
36	2	247	\$49.40	\$98.80	\$49.80	\$0.40	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$233.90	249
37	0	34	\$6.80	\$13.60	\$6.80	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$62.70	34
39	14	631	\$126.20	\$252.40	\$129.00	\$2.80	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$545.90	645
40	0	97	\$19.40	\$38.80	\$19.40	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$113.10	97
41	14	335	\$67.00	\$134.00	\$69.80	\$2.80	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$309.10	349
42	5	34	\$6.80	\$13.60	\$7.80	\$1.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$64.70	39
44	0	284	\$56.80	\$113.60	\$56.80	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$262.70	284
45	4	43	\$8.60	\$17.20	\$9.40	\$0.80	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$71.50	47
46	1	64	\$12.80	\$25.60	\$13.00	\$0.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$87.10	65
51	11	60	\$12.00	\$24.00	\$14.20	\$2.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$87.90	71
52	1	169	\$33.80	\$67.60	\$34.00	\$0.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$171.10	170
53	0	42	\$8.40	\$16.80	\$8.40	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$69.10	42
54	1	74	\$14.80	\$29.60	\$15.00	\$0.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$95.10	75
56	1	65	\$13.00	\$26.00	\$13.20	\$0.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$87.90	66
57	2	64	\$12.80	\$25.60	\$13.20	\$0.40	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$87.50	66
58	6	421	\$84.20	\$168.40	\$85.40	\$1.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$374.70	427
59	7	122	\$24.40	\$48.80	\$25.80	\$1.40	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$135.90	129
61	3	252	\$50.40	\$100.80	\$51.00	\$0.60	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$238.30	255
62	19	1237	\$247.40	\$494.80	\$251.20	\$3.80	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$1,032.70	1256
64	0	15	\$3.00	\$6.00	\$3.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$47.50	15
65	55	314	\$62.80	\$125.60	\$73.80	\$11.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$308.70	369
66	0	864	\$172.80	\$345.60	\$172.80	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$726.70	864
68	3	50	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$10.60	\$0.60	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$76.70	53
69	0	119	\$23.80	\$47.60	\$23.80	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$130.70	119
TOTAL	166	6704	\$1,340.80	\$2,681.60	\$1,374.00	\$33.20	\$870.00	\$159.50	\$6,459.10	6870

Unit #	# JR's	#SR's	RPC	DPC	JAPC	JDPC	POPPY MANDATE	BOND	TOTAL	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP
73	1	16	\$3.20	\$6.40	\$3.40	\$0.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$48.70	17
78	1	125	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$25.20	\$0.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$135.90	126
79	0	166	\$33.20	\$66.40	\$33.20	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$168.30	166
81	4	724	\$144.80	\$289.60	\$145.60	\$0.80	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$616.30	728
84	5	45	\$9.00	\$18.00	\$10.00	\$1.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$73.50	50
86	13	479	\$95.80	\$191.60	\$98.40	\$2.60	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$423.90	492
87	4	189	\$37.80	\$75.60	\$38.60	\$0.80	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$188.30	193
88	0	53	\$10.60	\$21.20	\$10.60	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$77.90	53
90	1	65	\$13.00	\$26.00	\$13.20	\$0.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$87.90	66
91	24	346	\$69.20	\$138.40	\$74.00	\$4.80	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$321.90	370
93	0	103	\$20.60	\$41.20	\$20.60	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$117.90	103
95	6	75	\$15.00	\$30.00	\$16.20	\$1.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$97.90	81
103	0	64	\$12.80	\$25.60	\$12.80	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$86.70	64
105	10	288	\$57.60	\$115.20	\$59.60	\$2.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$269.90	298
107	5	240	\$48.00	\$96.00	\$49.00	\$1.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$229.50	245
108	3	29	\$5.80	\$11.60	\$6.40	\$0.60	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$59.90	32
109	14	432	\$86.40	\$172.80	\$89.20	\$2.80	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$386.70	446
113	0	17	\$3.40	\$6.80	\$3.40	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$49.10	17
114	1	7	\$1.40	\$2.80	\$1.60	\$0.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$41.50	8
115	6	33	\$6.60	\$13.20	\$7.80	\$1.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$64.30	39
117	2	215	\$43.00	\$86.00	\$43.40	\$0.40	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$208.30	217
123	0	23	\$4.60	\$9.20	\$4.60	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$53.90	23
124	5	35	\$7.00	\$14.00	\$8.00	\$1.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$65.50	40
125	1	13	\$2.60	\$5.20	\$2.80	\$0.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$46.30	14
129	1	28	\$5.60	\$11.20	\$5.80	\$0.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$58.30	29
TOTAL	107	3810	\$762.00	\$1,524.00	\$783.40	\$21.40	\$750.00	\$137.50	\$3,978.30	3917

Unit #	# JR's	#SR's	RPC	DPC	JAPC	JDPC	POPPY MANDATE	BOND	TOTAL	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP
131	0	589	\$117.80	\$235.60	\$117.80	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$506.70	589
132	2	66	\$13.20	\$26.40	\$13.60	\$0.40	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$89.10	68
133	2	26	\$5.20	\$10.40	\$5.60	\$0.40	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$57.10	28
135	6	31	\$6.20	\$12.40	\$7.40	\$1.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$62.70	37
136	2	13	\$2.60	\$5.20	\$3.00	\$0.40	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$46.70	15
138	3	121	\$24.20	\$48.40	\$24.80	\$0.60	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$133.50	124
140	6	13	\$2.60	\$5.20	\$3.80	\$1.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$48.30	19
141	0	22	\$4.40	\$8.80	\$4.40	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$53.10	22
145	0	22	\$4.40	\$8.80	\$4.40	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$53.10	22
147	1	21	\$4.20	\$8.40	\$4.40	\$0.20	\$30.00	\$5.50	\$52.70	22
TOTAL	22	924	\$184.80	\$369.60	\$189.20	\$4.40	\$300.00	\$55.00	\$1,103.00	946

GRAND TOTAL	367	16,370	\$3,274.00	\$6,548.00	\$3,347.40	\$73.40	\$2,550.00	\$467.50	\$16,260.30	16,737
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**PLEASE REMEMBER THERE IS A “THIRD” MANDATE WHICH MUST BE PAID BY EACH
UNIT TO THEIR DISTRICT. TO RECEIVE THE AMOUNT FOR THIS MANDATE, PLEASE CONTACT
YOUR DISTRICT TREASURER.**

IT IS ALSO DUE BY MARCH 1, 2027, BUT SEND TO YOUR DISTRICT.

American Legion Auxiliary – Department of Arizona Historian’s Message – Sept 2026

Historians/Secretaries you are the keeper of our Unit and District story. Your work honors every veteran we serve and every member who gives their heart to our mission. May God bless your efforts as you preserve the legacy the Arizona American Legion Auxiliary.

Historian Responsibilities:

- Document events, maintain records, prepare annual histories
- Write in **Third person**
- Keep tone factual, respectful and mission-centered
- Avoid opinions, exaggerations, or personal commentary

Key elements to include:

- Installation of Officers
- Membership efforts
- Veteran support activities
- Girl State involvement
- Community service projects
- Fundraisers and donations
- Special events (i.e. 9/11 ceremonies)
- Recognition of members
- Legion Family collaborations
- Chaplain and Spiritual moments

What do we do with our minutes:

ALA minutes are important records. You should send a copy of your minutes to your District President/Historian and **YES** please send a copy to me in a reasonable time after your meeting. Without these minutes I cannot write the Arizona Department History accurately.

History Reports are more than paperwork. They are a legacy. They help future members understand how we served, why we served, and how our compassion shaped the Auxiliary in Arizona. Please continue submitting your monthly updates to me with care, clarity and pride. Your stories matter and they inspire others to carry the mission forward.

DeDe Dexter deb Dexter2010@yahoo.com or Unit 25, 480 S Calvary Way, Cottonwood Az 86326. Feel free to call or text with any questions you may have: 562-370-0080

In service,

DeDe Dexter

ALA Department of Arizona Historian

Leadership/Arizona Mission Training

October 2026

Engaging Our Youth in Patriotism for our Veterans''

Let us proceed in planning activities for our Unit/District that will promote Department President Marge's theme. Many or most of our programs support youth besides the designated Children and Youth and Junior Activities. Communication and Mentorship give us countless opportunities to engage everyone.

National President Coral Mae Grout wants us to be a "Beacon for Veterans." Her priority is Education. Make contact with your schools to let them know we are willing to interact with administration and students to promote our programs and scholarships. Education within our units is promoted. We recommend, of course, holding a Mission Training. There is a wealth of information on the department website aladeptaz.org and alaforveterans.org, our national website. We have five trainings scheduled as of today.

The Leadership committee is once again awarding an "Academy Award" to member or unit participating in or taking courses from national headquarters. Courses are on the national website under Events. They really are informative and interesting. Why not keep learning? Just keep track of those taken and send to me by May 1st.

Another priority is Mentoring. This committee has always stressed using this practice. A mentor can be defined as a counselor who helps our members evolve into a promising and active member. A good and reliable mentor is indeed a blessing and in the Department of Arizona we have many who are willing to step up and help. Most units have at least one and more throughout the state. I will be glad to help you and also find someone for specific questions. Part of our end of year report asks if your unit involves mentors and mentoring.

Check out the Mission Training schedule on the department website. You can attend any and/or all. Please contact me if you have questions or wish to schedule a training. Please TEXT or email if I do not answer. My voicemail is not always reliable. Until next month!

Karen Smith, Chairman

520-249-1119

ksmith111@cox.net

LEGISLATIVE INTRODUCTION

October 2026

Hello, my name is Barbara Whitney, and I am a member of Floyd George Jefferson Unit 56 in Yuma. I am honored to serve as your 2026-2027 Department of Arizona Legislative Chairman.

I'm also very active in District 1, my Unit and Girls State. I look forward to working with all of you this year.

If you have any questions about the Legislative program, please contact me. My contact information is listed below and on the ALA Department website.

As Always, remember to vote, and don't forget to sign up for the Legion Grassroots on the National Legion webpage.

For God and Country, Service Not Self

Barbara Whitney

Legislative Chairman 2026-2027

Email : alalegislativeaz@gmail.com

602-326-2484

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN — Why Legislative Matters in the ALA & How to Join Grassroots Advocacy

The American Legion Auxiliary was founded on service — service to veterans, military families, and our communities. One of the most meaningful ways we carry out that mission is through the Legislative Program. It isn't about politics, parties, or taking sides. It's about making sure the voices of veterans and their families are heard where decisions are made.

Every benefit our veterans receive today — health care, caregiver support, education, housing, mental health resources — exists because someone spoke up. Someone wrote a letter. Someone made a phone call. Someone cared enough to advocate.

That "someone" can be us.

Why Legislative Should Be Part of Your ALA Routine

When we participate in the Legislative Program, we strengthen the ALA's ability to support veterans. Here's why it matters:

- It honors our mission. Advocacy is part of the ALA's founding purpose. We serve veterans not only through hands-on projects, but by ensuring their needs are understood by lawmakers.
- It amplifies our impact. A single Auxiliary member contacting a legislator is powerful. A whole Unit or District doing it together is impossible to ignore.
- It keeps us informed. Legislative Alerts help us understand what issues affect veterans right now — and how we can help.
- It's easy and nonpartisan. We don't endorse candidates or parties. We support issues that directly affect veterans, service members, and their families.

When members participate regularly, our Department's voice becomes stronger, our reporting improves, and our veterans benefit.

What Is Grassroots Advocacy?

Grassroots Advocacy is the ALA's simple, effective system for staying informed and taking action. When you sign up, you receive Legislative Alerts directly from National. These alerts explain:

- What issue is being discussed
- Why it matters to veterans
- What action you can take
- Who to contact
- Sample wording you can use

It's quick, easy, and designed for busy members.

Most actions take less than 5 minutes — but they make a real difference.

How to Join Grassroots Advocacy

Joining is simple:

1. Visit ALA National's website (<https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>)
2. Sign up for ALA Legislative Alerts

3. Check your email for confirmation

4. When an alert arrives, take action — even a short message helps

Why We Need YOU

Every member who joins Grassroots strengthens our Department's voice. When we report participation, it shows National that Arizona is active, engaged, and committed to supporting veterans beyond our local projects.

Your voice matters. Your service matters. Your advocacy matters.

Let's make Legislative a regular part of our ALA process — and show our veterans that we stand with them in every way we can.

Until next month,...

For God and Country, Service Not Self

Barbara Whitney

Legislative Chairman 2026-2027

alalegislativeaz@gmail.com

602-326-2484



Getting Involved with the ALA LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



Ready to make a difference? The ALA Legislative Program is all about keeping members informed, engaged, and ready to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion.

 *Here are a few ways to get involved:*

- ★ Visit the ALA Legislative page and explore the resources available.
- ★ Check out the "Get Involved" resources and ideas.
- ★ Encourage members to sign up for The American Legion Grassroots Action Center.
- ★ Learn about current legislative priorities.
- ★ Share your legislative events and successes!

 Have legislation in action? Share those high-resolution photos and let us know what your department is doing!

★ *Stay informed. Stay engaged. Make your voice heard!* ★

#AmericanLegionAuxiliary #ALA #Legislative #Advocacy



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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

September 2026

Issue #1

FROM THE 2026-2027 NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

2026-2027 ALA National President Dr. Coral May Grout



American Legion Auxiliary member Dr. Coral May Grout of the Department of Massachusetts became National President of the American Legion Auxiliary at the 105th National Convention, held Aug 29th - Sep 3rd, 2026, in Louisville, Kentucky.

National President's Focus

The 2026-2027 ALA administrative year emphasizes education, expanding the Spirit of Youth Scholarships to two military spouses, and celebrating the 20th anniversary of Give 10 to Education. To mark that anniversary, we are also adding Give 20 to Education.

Read more here: <https://member.legion-aux.org/National-President-focus>

SAVE THE DATES

Legislative Quarterly Zooms

Q1 - October 14, 2026, at 7:00 PM ET

Department Legislative Chairs register here: <https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/legislative-quarterly>

Q2 - January 26, 2027, at 7:00 PM ET

Q3 - April 27, 2027, at 7:00 PM ET

Washington, DC Conference: February 27-March 3, 2027

2026-2027 Mission Training

November 14, 2026 –Omaha, NE*

January 30, 2027– Albany, NY* & Springfield, IL

February 6, 2027 – Atlanta, GA & Las Vegas, NV*

ALA Mission Training & National Junior Meetings

*Events will be held with The American Legion National Information Conference and the SAL Regional Meeting.

Register at: <https://www.legion-aux.org/Meetings/Mission-Train>

2026 Legislative Agenda, Point Papers, and Priorities now available

As we start our year together, please ensure your members are familiar with The American Legion's legislative priorities by visiting this site:

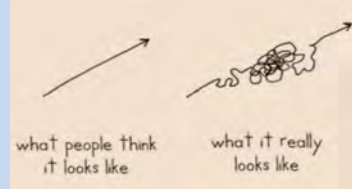
<https://www.legion.org/advocacy/legislative/legislative-agenda-point-papers>

Register for the Grassroots Action Center to contact lawmakers directly and receive updates on priorities. Stay tuned for upcoming newsletters with more information.

<https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>



Who remembers **School House Rock**? “I’m just a bill, and I’m sitting on Capitol Hill!” The good old days when the legislative process looked easy and with a catchy tune.



Unfortunately, the legislative process looks more like this.....

Our voters and we on the legislative team often get frustrated with the red tape and the long timeframes it takes for our bills to reach committees. I've been working on a bill in New Jersey for nearly four years to get it through the Transportation and Appropriations Committees. We need to remember and remind others that legislation is not a sprint; it is a marathon. While we can't force legislation to speed up single-handedly, we can exert our momentum onto other targets.

Track Active Bills: Follow the progress of current legislation at Congress.gov. Search to see where a bill is stalled and what committees are delaying its motion.

Contact Your Representatives: Call or email your lawmakers directly. Track down your state representative using the Congress.gov Member Directory to let them know which pieces of legislation you want them to prioritize.

Get Involved Locally: Policy often changes faster at the local level. You can reach out to your local city and county representatives to advocate for more localized policy updates.

Most importantly, keep up the good work! What you are doing matters! Rosa Parks said, “To bring about change, you must not be afraid to take the first step. We will fail when we fail to try.”

Submitted by ShannonLee Widmer, Eastern Division Chair



We want to hear from **YOU**! How is your department advocating for local, state, and national legislation that impacts veterans, military, and their families? Send your division chairs stories and pictures so we can all share new ideas. Remember our purpose: The purpose of the Legislative Committee is to provide information and assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion.

2026-2027 Legislative Committee Contacts:

National Chair

Barb Washburn (NE) bwashburn827@gmail.com

National Vice-Chair

Sonia Wiley (KS) s.wiley160@gmail.com

Central Division Chair

Brittany Schofield (IN) Brittany.schofield@duke-energy.com

Eastern Division Chair

ShannonLee Widmer (NJ) bestill46.10@aol.com

Northwestern Division Chair

Jean Walker (MN) jmwalker1992@hotmail.com

Southern Division Chair

MaryAnn Paul (TX) mapminmol@gmail.com

Western Division Chair

Kathy Amery(AZ) luv2p8@gmail.com

National HQ Program Liaison

Clay Wright legislative@ALAforVeterans.org

Want to learn more about the ALA Legislative program? Check out the GET INVOLVED tab on the National website using the link below:

[GET INVOLVED!](#)

Join us on Facebook:

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

Advance Armed Forces Lethality

Maintain U.S. military superiority through modernization.

Congress Must:

- Increase defense R&D funding
- Invest in the National Defense Strategy
- Expand shipbuilding capacity
- Secure critical minerals through domestic and allied supply chains

Pass H.R. 3151/S.1541 – Shipbuilding and Harbor Infrastructure for Prosperity and Security (SHIPS) for America Act

End Veteran Homelessness

Veteran homelessness stems from complex, interrelated challenges requiring a comprehensive response.

Congress Must:

- Increase project-based HUD/VASH vouchers
- Permanently authorize Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program
- Fully fund the Grant Per-Diem program as authorized

Pass H.R. 1957 – End Veteran Homelessness Act

Pass H.R. 3869 – Every Veteran Housed Act

Strengthen our Domestic Supply Chain and Promote Veteran Entrepreneurship

Veterans face barriers to pursuing entrepreneurship, especially in gaining access to start-up capital and competing in federal contracting.

Congress Must:

- Strengthen veteran entrepreneurship and domestic economic opportunity
- Create opportunities to provide veterans with access to capital
- Prioritize veteran-owned small businesses in federal contracting

Pass H.R. 865, The Service Disabled Veteran Opportunities in Small Business Act.

Pass S. 3171, Veteran Entrepreneurship Empowerment Act



Protect the U.S. Flag

Since a 1989 Supreme Court decision defined deliberate acts of U.S. flag desecration as protected by the First Amendment, The American Legion has led efforts to restore penalties for physical desecration of the U.S. flag.

Pass H.J.R. 101/S.J.R. 58 – Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States

The American Legion's Legislative Agenda & Point Papers

Scan the QR code to read the full list of legislative priorities of The American Legion.



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The American Legion Legislative Agenda

For the 119th Congress,
2nd Session



THE AMERICAN LEGION is the largest of all U.S. veteran service organization with nearly 1.4 million members working through more than 11,000 local posts in communities worldwide. We proudly advocate for veterans, military strength, youth and patriotic values. The following priorities for the second session of the 119th Congress are presented here, in no particular order, followed by the legislation The American Legion supports that can address these issues. They are all important and driven by resolutions passed by the organization's all-volunteer, all-veteran membership.

Winning the War Within

Veteran suicide remains a national crisis and The American Legion's top legislative priority. Barriers such as access to care, social isolation and economic stress continue to put veterans at risk.

Congress Must:

- Expand community-based outreach and prevention
- Fund evidence-based mental health treatment

Permanently authorize the SSG Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program

Pass H.R. 3627 – Justice for America's Veterans and Survivors Act

Pass S. 3346 – Freedom to Heal Act

Pass H.R. 4837/S. 3314 Written Informed Consent Act

Balance Community Care

The American Legion supports the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) as the primary coordinator of care, with community care as a necessary option when VA services are unavailable.

Congress Must:

- Protect access to community care
- Strengthen VA-community provider coordination
- Expand transportation options
- Improve oversight of the Office of Community Care
- Expand telehealth through partnerships and rural broadband grants

Pass S. 275/H.R. 740 – Veterans ACCESS Act

Pass H.R. 1107 – Protecting Veteran Access to Telemedicine Services Act



Improving Compensation & Pension Exam Processes

Compensation and Pension (C&P) exams are the gateway to VA health care and disability benefits. Inconsistent quality of Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs), often due to insufficiently trained or unqualified examiners, has created barriers and unequal access for veterans within a system that now fulfills 93% of VA exam demand at a cost of approximately \$5 billion annually.

Congress Must:

- Improve examiner qualifications and training
- Strengthen quality control and oversight of DBQs

Pass S. 2493 – Medical Disability Examination Improvement Act of 2025

Improve Care for Women Veterans

Women are the fastest-growing veteran population, totaling 2.3 million nationwide. Many face age-related and service-connected health challenges that remain under-researched.

Congress Must:

- Invest in gender-specific care at the DoD and VA
- Increase research on reproductive health

Pass S. 1245 – Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support (SAVES) Act

Pass S. 609 – Building Resources and Access for Veterans' Mental Health Engagement (BRAVE) Act

Pass H.R. 219 – Improving Menopause Care for Veterans Act

Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity

National Guard and Reserve members serve at home and abroad yet lack equal access to earned education benefits.

Pass H.R. 1423 – Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2025

Strengthen Defense, Honor Service

Rising costs of living and limited access to services undermine retention, recruitment and readiness.

Congress Must:

- Pass FY27 NDAA amendments addressing housing, dining facilities, childcare, spouse employment, and education benefits
- Correct an inequity for combat-injured, medically retired veterans by authorizing full concurrent receipt of DoD retirement pay and VA disability compensation

Pass H.R. 1827/S. 847 – Child Care Availability and Affordability Act

Pass H.R. 2102/S. 1032 – Major Richard Star Act



DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP - September 25, 2026

Unit	City	Objective	Junior	Senior	Total	Percent
100	Phoenix	153	0	31	31	20.26%
Total		153	0	31	31	20.26%

1

19	Yuma	192	1	21	22	11.46%
46	Bouse	65	0	3	3	4.62%
56	Yuma	66	0	6	6	9.09%
113	Quartzsite	18	0	0	0	0.00%
Total		341	1	30	31	9.09%

2

7	Tucson	35	0	1	1	2.86%
36	Tucson	241	2	45	47	19.50%
59	Tucson	129	2	17	19	14.73%
66	Green Valley	860	0	191	191	22.21%
68	Tucson	53	3	6	9	16.98%
73	Tucson	18	1	8	9	50.00%
109	Vail	432	2	80	82	18.98%
125	Tucson	15	0	0	0	0.00%
131	Green Valley	586	0	115	115	19.62%
132	Oro Valley	68	0	12	12	17.65%
Total		2437	10	475	485	19.90%

3

11	Douglas	138	0	16	16	11.59%
16	Bisbee	44	0	4	4	9.09%
24	Tombstone	438	4	81	85	19.41%
45	Benson	47	0	4	4	8.51%
52	Sierra Vista	163	0	34	34	20.86%
141	Pearce	22	0	0	0	0.00%
Total		852	4	139	143	16.78%

4

8	Casa Grande	30	0	5	5	16.67%
9	Florence	151	1	19	20	13.25%
51	Coolidge	71	0	1	1	1.41%
54	Coolidge	75	1	13	14	18.67%
129	Queen Creek	29	0	8	8	27.59%
133	Maricopa	25	0	1	1	4.00%
Total		381	2	47	49	12.86%

	Unit	City	Objective	Junior	Senior	Total	Percent
5							
	4	Globe	38	0	0	0	0.00%
	28	Clifton	84	0	2	2	2.38%
	32	Safford	151	0	2	2	1.32%
	95	Solomon	81	4	27	31	38.27%
	Total		354	4	31	35	9.89%
	Total		354	4	31	35	9.89%

6							
	30	Springerville	102	0	7	7	6.86%
	37	Holbrook	31	0	2	2	6.45%
	69	Payson	119	0	9	9	7.56%
	86	Overgaard	484	1	100	101	20.87%
	147	Payson	23	0	3	3	13.04%
	Total		759	1	121	122	16.07%

7							
	3	Flagstaff	71	0	4	4	5.63%
	13	Williams	67	1	17	18	26.87%
	14	Kingman	127	1	30	31	24.41%
	22	Golden Valley	135	1	4	5	3.70%
	42	Grand Canyon	39	4	12	16	41.03%
	57	Ash Fork	66	0	2	2	3.03%
	81	Lake Havasu City	724	2	89	91	12.57%
	87	Bullhead City	185	1	21	22	11.89%
	88	Dolan Springs	53	0	2	2	3.77%
	103	Meadview	64	0	11	11	17.19%
	123	Seligman	22	0	0	0	0.00%
	136	Yucca	16	0	1	1	6.25%
	Total		1569	10	193	203	12.94%

8							
	6	Prescott	354	5	151	156	44.07%
	25	Cottonwood	311	2	53	55	17.68%
	40	Chino Valley	97	0	16	16	16.49%
	78	Humboldt	127	0	2	2	1.57%
	79	Yarnell	162	0	34	34	20.99%
	90	Black Canyon City	65	0	7	7	10.77%
	93	Camp Verde	101	0	15	15	14.85%
	108	Prescott Valley	32	0	2	2	6.25%
	135	Cornville	37	0	12	12	32.43%
	140	Prescott Valley	20	0	0	0	0.00%
	Total		1306	7	292	299	22.89%

	Unit	City	Objective	Junior	Senior	Total	Percent
11							
	1	Phoenix	106	0	9	9	8.49%
	5	Phoenix	67	0	7	7	10.45%
	12	Wickenburg	230	0	18	18	7.83%
	29	Glendale	214	0	28	28	13.08%
	53	Buckeye	42	0	10	10	23.81%
	61	Avondale	255	1	40	41	16.08%
	62	Peoria	1236	6	189	195	15.78%
	105	Phoenix	298	4	49	53	17.79%
	115	Glendale	39	2	6	8	20.51%
	145	Peoria	20	0	1	1	5.00%
	Total		2507	13	357	370	14.76%

12							
	2	Tempe	86	1	21	22	25.58%
	26	Mesa	217	0	23	23	10.60%
	27	Apache Junction	2062	5	218	223	10.81%
	34	Cave Creek	300	0	22	22	7.33%
	35	Chandler	292	3	49	52	17.81%
	39	Gilbert	644	0	115	115	17.86%
	41	Phoenix	343	5	75	80	23.32%
	44	Scottsdale	286	0	30	30	10.49%
	58	Fountain Hills	425	0	31	31	7.29%
	64	Phoenix	16	0	0	0	0.00%
	65	Phoenix	363	5	95	100	27.55%
	84	Sacaton	50	8	49	57	114.00%
	91	Chandler	366	12	101	113	30.87%
	107	Phoenix	241	2	70	72	29.88%
	114	Scottsdale	10	0	1	1	10.00%
	117	Phoenix	214	0	67	67	31.31%
	124	Guadalupe	40	2	8	10	25.00%
	138	Mesa	118	0	28	28	23.73%
	Total		6073	43	1003	1046	17.22%

Department Totals			16732	95	2719	2814	16.82%
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October Membership Bulletin



[Weekly Membership Report](#) - Please accept my apologies for not sending the first weekly standing on Friday, September 11th. The national system is currently down, and they are working to resolve the issue.

I will check daily for updates. At this time, National is still showing the 2026 numbers. I will send the report as soon as the system is restored.

New eligibility resolution expands ALA membership - Check out the [ALA blog](#) to learn more. This is for Female or Male Veterans family members not only Female Veterans. (If you have any questions regarding eligibility, please contact Department.) This will also be covered more at Fall Conference.

At the 2026 American Legion National Convention, delegates adopted new membership eligibility language for the American Legion Auxiliary — expanding eligibility and allowing more family members to join the ALA.

The Legion has authority over the ALA's membership eligibility; this language change allows more people into our organization — strengthening our ability to better serve our veterans, military, and their families.

Following is the updated text from The American Legion that reflects the updated eligibility provisions for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary:

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:

Section 2. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to:

(1) grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of members of The American Legion; and

(2) grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of all servicemembers who served in either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, and any time after December 7,

1941, who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of their entry therein served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge;

(3) grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of all servicemembers who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941, who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during either eligibility period and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and

(4) to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

The revisions to the ALA's eligibility mentioned above allow individuals the potential to be members of both the Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. The Legion's national judge advocate has confirmed that this dual membership does not constitute a conflict of interest with The American Legion.

The eligibility changes are effective immediately. Updated membership applications, brochures, and additional membership resources are available at www.ALAforVeterans.org, or [National ALA Membership Committee site](#)

Important Dates

- 50% Department Goal Award Deadline: November 11, 2026
- Highest Percentage of New Members per capita Award Deadline: January 1, 2027
- 100 % Unit Award Deadline: January 31, 2027

For God and Country
Lynda Griffin
1st Vice President
Department Of Arizona
Lynda4ala@azdot.gov
(623) 349-3979

★ THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ★ MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY GUIDE

1.

1. RELATIVES OF AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERS



Grandparents, Parents,
Siblings, Spouses,
Children, Grandchildren
(Direct or Adopted)

Within two degrees
of consanguinity

2.

2. RELATIVES OF ALLIED SERVICEMEMBERS (WWI)



Grandparents, Parents,
Siblings, Spouses, Children,
Grandchildren of US citizens
who served on active duty with
ALLIED GOVERNMENTS

April 6, 1917 – Nov 11, 1918

Died in line of duty OR
after honorable discharge

3.

3. RELATIVES OF US SERVICEMEMBERS (WWI & SINCE WWII)



Grandparents, Parents,
Siblings, Spouses, Children,
Grandchildren of those who
served on active duty in the
US ARMED FORCES

April 6, 1917 – Nov 11, 1918
Since Dec 7, 1941 (Present)

Died in line of duty OR
after honorable discharge

4.

WOMEN ELIGIBLE FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION



To women who,
in their own right, are
**ELIGIBLE FOR
MEMBERSHIP IN THE
AMERICAN LEGION**

JOIN US!

HONOR. SERVE. SUPPORT.

VISIT www.ALAforVeterans.org

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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

September 2026

Issue # 1

FROM THE 2026-2027 NATIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIR – TRACY KINNICK



National Security Team

Introducing your 2026-2027 National Security Team:

Chair – Tracy Kinnick (KS) tracykinnickala@gmail.com
VC – Linda Dupont (NH) linda.dupont90@yahoo.com
Central Div – Sue Verville (MI) sverville11@hotmail.com
Eastern Div – Sue Britton (NY) suemb13@aol.com
NW Div – Rose Kraft (SD) sdmemberrose@gmail.com
Southern Div – Mary Johnson (TN) mjhnsn59@att.net
Western Div – Dorothy Hazen (NM) dorhazen@gmail.com

This is an amazing group of ALA members, give them a warm welcome! We encourage you to reach out with questions, we are here to support and mentor you.

Welcome to National Security 2026-2027

Welcome to National Security 2026-2027, the purpose of the National Security committee is to help in promoting national defense. While also working to raise the awareness of POW/MIAs, and support military service members and their families.

We will work to focus on not only supporting our military service members, their families, we will work on ideas and events to strengthen our communities, both home and away.

We look forward to an exciting year of mentoring, sharing ideas and growing together in strengthening our ALA National Security Mission.



Hero Spotlight



We need your help to spotlight our heroes around us who don't always wear the same uniform.

These nominations can be active service members, law enforcement, firefighters, EMS personnel, and military spouses.

Tell us about your hero and why you think they should be a spotlight on our FB postings.

Submit your hero here:

https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/hero_spotlight

Salute To Service Members

Every year we have a goal to recognize each active service member from every branch of the military, guard and reserve. Let's make that happen this year! Start now looking for outstanding service members in your communities who you feel should be recognized with this award.



[ALA National Security | Facebook](#)

Upcoming Events:

9/25

Department Kudos and monthly reports due to your division chair.

10/13

Navy Birthday

10/25

Department Kudos and monthly reports due to division chair.

10/28

First Responders Day

Quarterly Zoom Calls:

ALL ZOOM CALLS ARE 7:00PM EST TIME

QTR. 1 : 10/20/2026

QTR. 2: 1/5/2027

QTR. 3: 4/20/2027

QTR. 4: PARECON TO BE ANNOUNCED

Resources:

[National Security Committee](#)

[National Security Program Awards](#)

[National Security Annual Reporting Guidelines](#)

[Defense POW MIA Accounting Agency](#)

[Missing Man Table](#)

[Plan Ahead for Disasters | Ready.gov](#)

[Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program](#)



POPPY OCTOBER 2026 DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA

October is here and it seems like just last week we were submitting reports for recognition. The months of May, June, July, August, and September were filled with events where poppies could be utilized to remember and honor our veterans and active military.

In the upcoming months we have many events that are sacred to our country and veterans where we can distribute poppies. It is up to each Unit to choose which events they can support as many of the units have small or growing membership. Although the Poppy Program has several facets, units are encouraged to participate in what their membership allows.

This year we are encouraging units to be part of the Poppy Poster Program and making connections with teachers and schools. To assist with this effort, we are currently working on a Poppy Poster flier that can be given or posted at all schools in your area. This flier will explain the new enhancement of the \$200 for each state division winner. This flier will be posted to the website when completed and is to be printed on legal size paper. We will have these fliers at the Conference in November,

The Miss Poppy part of this program started in May right after reports to give the Juniors the necessary activities to participate a full year. For those that have just signed up Juniors please get them started so they can decide how much time they have available to spend on this part of the program, please ensure they are also completing those parts of the Junior Program associated with poppies. Although they cannot be considered for state or national award since they were not members by June 1st, they can learn what this part of the program is about.

The Poppy Program has several parts; making poppies for Unit use and other units, Miss Poppy for state and National recognition, Poppy Poster for unit, state and national recognition, a Special Hat Contest, and awards for Marie Cooney window or public display, Nina Kimball for community distribution of poppy information, Patriotic Display utilizing poppies in a display, Marie Townshend Memorial narrative about interest and activity during the year for Department Unit recognition, and the National Unit and Department recognition.

The Poppy Power Point is under revision with updated information and should be available shortly. The year-end report is also under revision.

For God and country.

Kat Sticklin, Department Poppy Chair
katsticklin2025@gmail.com
928-322-1550

Leslie Cuning, Committee Member
lenzkids3468@gmail.com
928-250-2880

Wendy Hackney, Co-chair
wendy9rs@gmail.com
480-510-6824

Jeannie Booth, Committee Member
jeannie.ala105@gmail.com
623-680-6818

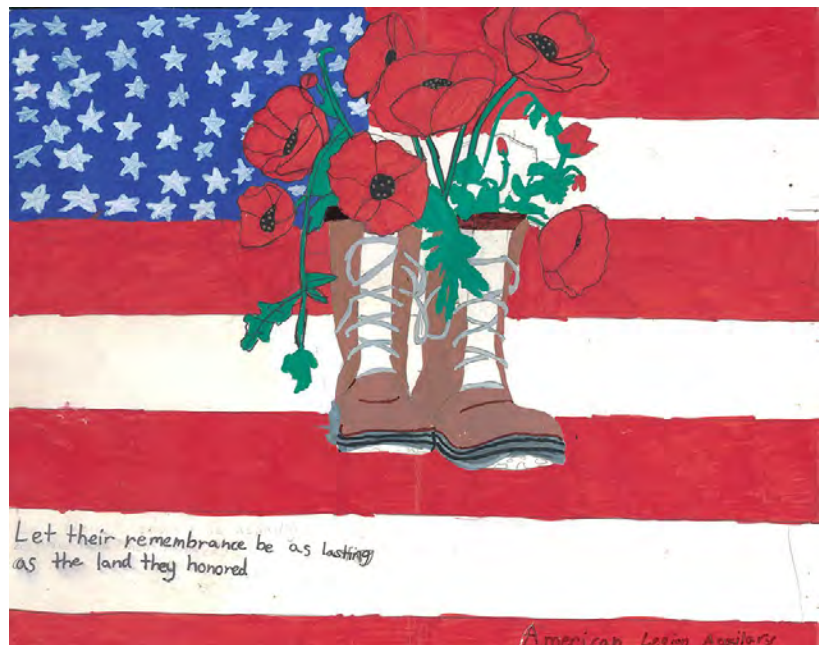


WESTERN DIVISION POPPY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS FROM ARIZONA

Above Class II

Right Class III

Below Class IV





AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY POPPY POSTER CONTEST

The Arizona American Legion Auxiliary is encouraging all schools and teachers to consider participating in the Poppy Poster Contest started eighty-seven years ago with seven divisions broken out by age. This year the Auxiliary is proud to announce the classroom of the state winners in each age group will be awarded \$200 educational wish list.

Contest Divisions

- Class I: Grades 2 and 3
- Class II: Grades 4 and 5
- Class III: Grades 6 and 7
- Class IV: Grades 8 and 9
- Class V: Grades 10 and 11
- Class VI: Grade 12
- Class VII: Students with special needs defined as:
 - a. Those in special education classes.
 - b. A student recommended for special education classes, but who has not been admitted due to a waiting list or various other factors.
 - c. A child identified as having a disability, but not in a special education class due to lack of facilities; identification contingent upon discretion of school officials.



Poppy Poster Requirements

1. Each poster shall have a fitting slogan not to exceed 10 words.
2. Articles “a”, “and,” “an”, “the” are not to be counted as words.
3. The words “buddy” and “buy” cannot be used.
4. The words “American Legion Auxiliary” must be used in the design of the poster and will not be counted in the 10-word count.
5. Each poster must include a red poppy.
6. The poster shall be on 11x14” poster board. (Drawing paper will not be accepted).
7. The United States flag may be used as long as there are no infractions of the flag code.
8. Media used shall be watercolors, crayons, powder or oil paint, handmade paper cutouts, ink or textures, acrylics, pencils, and markers.
9. The poster shall be the work of only one individual.
10. The label “In Memoriam” from the veteran-made poppy may not be used.
11. **Printed in ink** on the back of the poster (not attached and not a computer-generated sticker) the class as listed above for which the entry is submitted, the name, address, age, and grade of the contestant and Department of Arizona.
12. The Poppy Poster Cover Sheet must be completed and submitted with each entry.

Submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary. Through submission of artwork, contestants and their legal guardians grant non-exclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted and agree to have their names and artwork published for commercial use without additional compensation or permission.

Each Auxiliary Unit shall judge the entries in their area and forward their division winners to the state level for further judging. Entries forwarded to the state level cannot be returned. State winners will be notified in July. Winners shall receive a certificate, and the **classroom shall have a \$200 educational wish list fulfilled.**

Winning state entries will be forwarded for National consideration, and winners shall be notified in September. National individual winners will receive \$50 upon notification, and a framed certificate in November.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit: _____

Unit Poppy Poster Contact Information: _____

Unit Poppy Poster Due Date: _____



Veterans' Gift Shop

Dec. 7th, 8th, & 9th
8am to 4pm



BRING

Veteran's ID or VA Medical Card

VETERANS RECEIVE A FREE GIFT FOR THEMSELVES,
THEIR SPOUSE, & CHILDREN UNDER 18 LIVING IN
THEIR HOME.

HOST
POST

American Legion Post 1-
364 N 7th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85007

AMERICAN LEGION **AUXILIARY** | DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
October 2026
By 2nd Vice – Stephanie McMullen

The VA&R program is a cornerstone of the American Legion Auxiliary and serving veterans is our purpose. We will continue our focus on the Be the One mission. What can we do? We can register for the free online Suicide Prevention Training accessible <https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/be-the-one-training> to learn how to recognize those at risk, and what measures to take if you do. We are not expected to become mental health professionals, but we can connect individuals to the right resources in a timely manner. If one of the training sessions doesn't fit your schedule, check back often so you don't miss out. Participate in Buddy Checks. You never know when your call can make a difference. We also want to increase our volunteer footprint in VA Medical Centers, Clinics and beyond, including our service to veterans in the community. Also, please check out the first quarterly meeting recap on the next page that addresses our external partnerships. We'll be sharing more details about each of those in upcoming newsletters, so stay tuned. There is a lot we can do and many ways to do it. Be sure to track your activities and hours – reporting matters.

We will continue to promote the Be the One mission. It's important for us to remember that it is a stand-alone phrase and should not be used as part of a theme or as a tagline. It should be reserved for use when it directly relates to suicide prevention. Ways we can focus on the Be the One mission are through participation in Buddy Checks and bringing greater awareness of the suicide problem and reducing the stigma associated with asking for help. We can take the Suicide Prevention Training offered online at no cost through the American Legion.

Another area of focus is to increase our footprint in our volunteer service, both within and outside of VA facilities.

I would also like to give a shout out to Trish Aljets and the Units supporting the Prescott VAMC for their successful Creative Arts Festival this past weekend. I look forward to seeing pictures.

Stephanie McMullen
2nd Vice President, Department of Arizona
623-910-4716
Aladeptaz2ndvp.varchairman@gmail.com

Tucson VAVS Representative: Jennifer Turner-Jones

520-910-1009 jturnerjones.alaunit36az@gmail.com

Days of Caring: SAVAHCS will be participating in the United Way “Days of Caring” in October. We are looking to match with an organization to help support our Patriot Pantry with a food drive and bag assembly day prior to the October 16, 2026. Those interested can sign up utilizing this link:

<https://my.unitedwaytucson.org/v/tucson-va-patriot-pantry>.

The Week of Veterans Day – November 8-14, 2026:

Veterans Day week is a meaningful opportunity for our VAVS organizations to show support and strengthen engagement across our wards, clinics, Community Living Center, Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program, Southwestern Blind Rehabilitation Center, and Community Based Outpatient Clinics. We encourage each organization to sponsor an activity—whether hosting a coffee-and-treats social, organizing comfort cart rounds, offering a creative arts or hobby mini-session, coordinating a small appreciation visit in outpatient clinics, facilitating a game or music hour, leading a wellness activity, or providing patriotic tokens and “thank you for your service” cards to Veterans. Even simple gestures like snack stations, root beer floats, craft sessions, or small-group visits can brighten someone’s day. Your involvement reinforces our shared mission of honoring, uplifting, and connecting with the Veterans we proudly serve.

Support needed for the Gathering of American Indian Veterans: This is a vital day-long outreach program that connects Native American Veterans many of whom reside in rural, harder-to-reach areas with essential medical screenings, speaker presentations, and a full room of resource tables coordinated in partnership with numerous community organizations. As this event enters its 17th

year, it continues to grow in impact and concludes with a deeply meaningful blessing ceremony that is consistently appreciated by attending Veterans. VAVS Members can make a powerful difference by supporting volunteer roles such as escorting Veterans, assisting with meals, and providing general event help, as well as contributing raffle or door prize donations that keep attendees engaged throughout a full day of programming featuring 6–8 speakers. By lending their support, VAVS Members help ensure that Native American Veterans receive dignified, culturally respectful outreach and meaningful connection to the services they deserve. This event will take place on Saturday, November 14, 2026, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the Casino of the Sun, Sunset Room. [7406 S Camino De Oeste, Tucson, AZ 85746](#)

Military Mothers Baby Showers: The Women's Clinic will be hosting a special Military Mothers Baby Shower on November 20, 2026, celebrating and supporting the growing families of our women Veterans and active-duty mothers. This meaningful event will provide expectant and new mothers with helpful resources, wellness information, and thoughtful baby items, all in a warm and welcoming environment. We invite our VAVS organizations to help make this day even more memorable—whether through volunteering, contributing baby essentials, or sharing supportive messages for the mothers we serve. Your partnership ensures these families feel honored, encouraged, and connected as they embark on this new chapter. See attached Women Veterans Needs List.

Holiday Stocking Event: The Holiday Stocking Stuffing Event is a wonderful opportunity for our VAVS members to bring joy and comfort to Veterans during the holiday season, and we warmly encourage every organization to take part. We plan to assemble the stockings on Tuesday, December 22, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Auditorium, Bldg 4. Your participation whether through donating items from the Holiday Gift List, helping assemble stockings, or supporting the event through volunteer engagement directly contributes to creating meaningful holiday moments for Veterans across our wards, clinics, Community Living Center, Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program, Southwestern Blind Rehabilitation Center, and Community Based Outpatient Clinics. Even small contributions make a lasting impact, and your involvement ensures our Veterans feel appreciated and remembered during this special time of year. Attached is the Holiday Gift List. Please consider selecting one or more items to take responsibility for the donation and deliver to the Tucson VA by the deadline of December 11, 2026.



2026 Holiday Gifts for SAVAHCS Veterans

This year SAVAHCS CDCE hopes to give out 385 holiday stockings to our inpatient, residential, and outpatient Veterans. We are asking for the items below to help make these stockings possible. If there are any questions, please contact TucsonCDCE@va.gov

#	Item	Description/Possible Options	Amount Requested
1	Hat	New Baseball Hats	400
2	Cold Weather	Beanies, Scarves, Gloves (1 item per stocking)	340
3	Toiletry	Travel Size Hygiene Items: After Shave, Body Spray, Body Wash, Chap Stick, Lotion, Beard/Mustache Brush-Comb, sunscreen (1 item per stocking)	400
4	Games	Arcade Games, Playing Cards, Card Games, Travel size Games (1 item per stocking- 25 LARGE PRINT)	400
5	Puzzle Book & Pen	Variety of Holiday and Winter Themed Puzzle Books, Paint by Number, etc (1 item per stocking- 25 LARGE PRINT)	400
6	Personal Care	Back Scratcher, Toiletry or make up bag Approx. 9x5x2	340
7	Light	Small Hand-Held Flashlights or Plug-In Night Light	340
8	Fidget Toys	Stress Relief Fidgets, Stress Balls, Handheld Brain Teasers (such as Rubik's Cubes). (1 item per stocking)	400
9	Token	Carabiner clips, Patriotic/Veteran Key Chains, Charging Cord Holder, Cable Ties, Magnifying Glass, Reading Light, Hand Warmers (one-time use)	
10	Gift	\$10 Gift Cards, Watches, Blue Tooth Speakers, Headphones, Multitools, Mini Toolsets, Wallets, Phone Stands, Grip Strengthener and Hand Exercisers, mini massage gun (1 item per stocking)	340
11	Stationary	Pocket Calendars or Journal	400
12	Holiday Cheer/Décor	Table top decorations, battery-operated decorations	400

Distribution Goals:

Patient Area	# of Stockings
Acute Care	100
CLC	60
SWBRC	25

Patient Area	# of Stockings
MH Residential Programs	50
Dialysis	50
Hem/Onc	100



ARIZONA STATE VETERANS HOME – TUCSON

As we enter a new year with new officers and chairmen, I would like to introduce myself my name is Nancy Morrow, and I am the Chairman for the Arizona State Veterans Home – Tucson. Been a American Legion Auxiliary member since 2010. I have been in various rolls within unit and district and in the past been co chairman for the Arizona State Veterans Home-Tucson.

Our goal is to provide activities, companionship, and support for the veterans who live at the Home. We offer a variety of activities throughout the month, including:

- Bingo
- Arts and crafts
- Game Hour
- Puzzle Day
- Outings
- Shopping trips to Walmart and Family Dollar
- Restaurant outings
- Other community activities

Every **second Tuesday of the month**, we have our **Pizza and Beer Party**, which gives the residents an opportunity to socialize, enjoy some food, and spend time together.

The **third Thursday of each month** is the residents' **Birthday Party**, hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary. I also reach out to the American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, and VFW to see if they would like to sponsor a month. When a group chooses to sponsor a month, it helps us continue providing these special celebrations for the residents.

Everything we do is **for our veterans**. We all share the same goal: to support, honor, and bring joy to the veterans who call the Arizona State Veterans Home their home.

Upcoming Dates at the Veterans Home

October 16th | 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Fall Halloween Carnival

November 27th | 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Tree Decorating

December 19th |

American Legion Auxiliary & Friends Christmas Party

Set-up begins at **12:30 p.m.** and the party begins at **2:00 p.m.**

Volunteers Needed

We are always looking for more volunteers to help support our veterans.

Please encourage your Units to have their members stay for the monthly birthday parties. The Residents truly enjoy having people visit with them. They love when we take the time to talk with them, listen to their stories, and engage with them.

Sometimes something as simple as sitting down and spending time with a veteran can make their day.

It is all about our veterans, and together we can make a difference. NO I in TEAM!



FALL HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

DONATION NEEDED

WE ARE IN NEED OF



CAKES
for the
CAKE WALK



& CANDY
to give out
as prizes

DONATION DROP-OFF DATES

COOKIE & CAKE DONATIONS
NO EARLIER THAN
THURSDAY, OCT. 1ST &
NO LATER THAN
THURSDAY, OCT. 15TH

DONATION OF CANDY
can be left at the Security
Desk starting September 1st

Arizona State Veterans Home - Tucson | 555 E Ajo Way, Tucson, AZ

If you are able to donate,
★ **CONTACT:**
★ **Sam Nanez**
(520) 603-9612 | (520) 683-2150



FALL HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

MUSIC, GAMES, FACE PAINTING, RIDES,
FOOD, CAKE WALK, COSTUME CONTEST

**FOUNTAIN
COURTYARD**

Friday October 16th
530p-830p

Arizona State Veterans Home-Tucson
555 E Ajo Way

Contact Sam for donations & volunteer info
(520) 603-9612 or (520) 638-2150



American Legion
Auxiliary
Presents

Deck the Halls & Dazzle Us with Your Creativity!

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATION

NOVEMBER 27TH 9 AM TO ?
ARIZONA STATE VETERANS HOME TUCSON
555 E. AJO IN BUILDING ONE

LET ME KNOW WHOS ALL COMING THAT WAY I CAN
ORDER ORANGE JUICE
AND BREAKFAST BURRITO FOR EACH VOLUNTEER.

The poster features a large, decorated Christmas tree on the left, a smaller tree in the center, and several wrapped gifts at the bottom. The background is white with gold stars and red ornaments hanging from the top.



AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

ARIZONA STATE VETERANS HOME
TUCSON

*American Legion Auxiliary
and Friends
Merry*

CHRISTMAS PARTY

19
DEC

The Grinch | Gifts | Food
Set up 12:30 | Starts at 2pm

*Party in the
Community Room*

The poster is decorated with a festive border of red ornaments, gold stars, and snowflakes. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner, with the event title in large, bold letters.

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

[View as Webpage](#)

ALA eNEWS: CONNECTING WITH YOU MONTHLY



SEPTEMBER 2026

New eligibility resolution expands ALA membership

At the 2026 American Legion National Convention, delegates adopted new membership eligibility language for the American Legion Auxiliary — expanding eligibility and allowing more family members to join the ALA. The Legion has authority over the ALA's membership eligibility; this gender-neutral language change allows more people into our organization — strengthening our ability to better serve our veterans, military, and their families. The eligibility changes are effective immediately. Check out the [ALA blog](#) to learn more.

Auxiliary members needed for 9/12 nationwide cemetery cleanup

Carry The Load with the National Cemetery Administration of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is organizing a national service event on Sept. 12 to honor and pay respects to those affected by the tragedy of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Across the nation at 141 participating cemeteries, volunteers will clean headstones with provided materials. ALA members have been called on to lend a helping hand with this day of service to help honor the 25th anniversary of 9/11.



To learn more and to register, check out the [ALA blog](#). If you have plans to participate in this day of remembrance, please email PR@ALAforVeterans.org — your experience could be featured in ALA national media.

Business Spotlight: Wellcare



More Medicare Advantage coverage and the support you want.

Visit ala.wellcare.com to learn how Wellcare can support your unique needs.

If you have Medicare and Medicaid, limited income, recently lost employer coverage, are turning 65, or you just moved, you may be eligible for one of many qualifying events that allow you to enroll now.

Call now to learn more
877-592-2856 (TTY: 711)
 8 a.m.-8 p.m., 7 days a week

 **AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

Washington residents: "Wellcare" is issued by Coordinated Care of Washington, Inc. Washington residents: Health Net Life Insurance Company is contracted with Medicare for PPO plans. "Wellcare" is issued by Health Net Life Insurance Company. Washington residents: "Wellcare" is issued by WellCare Health Insurance Company of Washington, Inc. Y0020_WCM_6878947E_C_FINAL1 Internally Approved 08112026

You've spent your life caring for others. Through service and dedication, members of the American Legion Auxiliary strengthen communities every day. At Wellcare, we believe your health deserves to be a priority, which is why our partnership with the American Legion Auxiliary is so meaningful.

Wellcare offers Medicare Advantage plans with a focus on simplifying the healthcare experience for our members and offering coverage that goes beyond Original Medicare. Together, Wellcare and the American Legion Auxiliary share a commitment to supporting veterans and the families who stand beside them. Auxiliary members often play a key role in guiding healthcare decisions, and we're proud to provide trusted education and resources to help navigate Medicare Advantage plan options with confidence.

If you have Medicare and Medicaid, limited income, recently lost employer coverage, are turning 65, or you've just moved, you may be eligible for one of many qualifying events that allow you to enroll now.

Call, or visit us online, to learn more about a Wellcare Medicare Advantage plan!

877-592-2856 (TTY: 711)

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

ala.wellcare.com

Y0020_WCM_6878947E_C_FINAL1 Internally Approved 08112026

Washington residents: "Wellcare" is issued by Coordinated Care of Washington, Inc. Washington residents: Health Net Life Insurance Company is contracted with Medicare for PPO plans. "Wellcare" is issued by Health Net Life Insurance Company. Washington residents:> "Wellcare" is issued by WellCare Health Insurance Company of Washington, Inc. For language assistance visit go.wellcare.com/NOA.

Save the date for these ALA Academy webinars

Preparing for AEP

When: Sept. 23 @ 4 p.m. ET

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

During the session, your host will:

- Give an overview of the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period (AEP).
- Review the requirements of joining a Medicare Advantage plan.
- Talk about the different types of plans available.
- Provide suggestions to prepare for AEP.

To register, go [here](#).

Wreaths Across America: 'Remember, Honor, Teach' - How ALA Units Can Get Involved

When: Sept. 29 @ 1 p.m. ET

Discover how your ALA unit can turn the Wreaths Across America mission of REMEMBER, HONOR, and TEACH into meaningful local action. This webinar will explore the ALA-WAA partnership, Sponsorship Group options, cemetery and wreath-laying opportunities, fundraising tools and submission methods, and year-round programs, such as the TEACH Program and Mobile Education Exhibit. Attendees will leave with practical resources and ideas to expand community involvement, honor veterans, and strengthen their unit's participation.

To register, click [here](#).

Get the lowdown on what happened at ALA National Convention

ALA members from all over came together in Louisville, Ky., to engage and learn more on how to promote *Service Not Self*. Here are some highlights:

- Meet newly elected 2026-2027 ALA National President Dr. Coral May Grout of Massachusetts! Learn more about Coral [here](#).

- Visit the [ALA blog](#) to see a collection of stories on recipients of the Public Spirit Award, Salute to Servicemembers Award, Unit Members of the Year, Department Merit Medallion winners, and more. See a listing of the 2025-2026 committee award winners [here](#).
- Recordings of general session livestreams and installation of national officers are available [here](#).
- Keep your eyes peeled for the November issue of *Auxiliary* magazine to read more in-depth storytelling. A digital copy of the magazine will be available on our [website](#).



Add these Mission Training and national Junior meeting dates to your calendar



Do you want to gain a new perspective on the ALA mission and broaden your ALA network? Check out our Mission Training dates! Learn more about ALA programs and new ways to implement them in your unit, district, and department. Don't forget to invite your Juniors and young Sons of The American Legion age 8 and older to join in on the fun of the national Junior meetings. National Junior meeting attendees will engage and learn about the Legion Family's mission, while making friends and having fun.

2026-2027 Mission Training and national Junior meeting dates:

- Nov. 14: Omaha, Neb.*
- Jan. 30: Albany, N.Y.*
- Jan. 30: Springfield, Ill.
- Feb. 6: Atlanta
- Feb. 6: Las Vegas*

*These events will be held with The American Legion National Information Conference and the SAL Regional Meeting.

Special Labor Day Week discount: If you register by Sept. 13, you can save \$5 on your registration fee with code **LABOR** at checkout.

To register, click [here](#).

Save the date for Veterans Day of Giving



This Veterans Day, let's come together to honor the courage and sacrifice of those who have served our country. By giving to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, you help fund Veteran Projects Fund grants that support programs across the nation — creating brighter lives for veterans, military, and their families. Your generosity ensures that those who gave so much for our freedom continue to feel the care and gratitude of a thankful nation.

MEMBER BENEFITS

AUXILIARY MEMBERS NEED YOUR HELP.



Auxiliary members need your help

The devastating flooding across Indiana is a powerful reminder that disasters can change lives in an instant. For American Legion Auxiliary members facing unexpected hardship, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) provides critical financial assistance when it's needed most.

Whether recovering from a natural disaster, a house fire, or another unforeseen crisis, eligible members can turn to the AEF for help with immediate, essential expenses while they get back on their feet.

Your gift today ensures that when one of our own needs help, the American Legion Auxiliary family is ready to respond with compassion, hope, and support.

Please make a gift to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund today. Together, we can help our members weather life's unexpected storms. [Donate here.](#)



What if your everyday Amazon purchases could help fund your American Legion Auxiliary department, district/county, or unit at no additional cost to you? With SmileAssociate, they can.

Simply start your shopping through your ALA entity's unique SmileAssociate page, and a portion of eligible purchases is shared with your organization to support its programs and mission.

It's an easy way to turn everyday shopping into meaningful support for the ALA community you care about most.

Find your ALA entity and start shopping today! Click [here](#).

What does staying connected look like for you?



AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

Hello
by Grouper

Engage in live and on-demand classes.

Enjoy daily puzzles & brain games.

Explore health content and special events.

Maybe it's learning something new. Maybe it's moving a little more, finding a new hobby, joining a conversation, or meeting people who share your interests.

Hello by Grouper brings these opportunities together in one welcoming online community included with your ALA membership.

You don't have to do it all. Just find something that feels like you.

Discover Hello by Grouper today: Click [here](#).

GOOD TO KNOW

Updated national president photo available: With a new administrative year starting and the 2026-2027 ALA national leadership elected, a downloadable photo of National President Dr. Coral May Grout is available. American Legion post homes and ALA offices traditionally hang photos of the national president and other ALA national leadership. To download the national president photo, go [here](#). Learn more about the new national officers [here](#).

Assistance for ALA members: If you or a fellow Auxiliary member has been affected by the recent natural disasters or are facing financial hardship, the national organization can help! Eligible members can apply for an Auxiliary Emergency Fund grant up to \$3,000. For eligibility requirements and to apply, go [here](#). This financial assistance is only available because of your generous support. To donate to AEF, please click [here](#).

It's a new admin year — don't forget to renew! Your ALA membership positively impacts our nation's 18 million veterans and over 2 million military personnel through

mission outreach and advocacy. There are three easy ways to renew: mail your payment to your unit, call National Headquarters by phone at (317) 569-4570, or pay online via your My Auxiliary account. To learn more, go [here](#).



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

Free apps address health challenges of women veterans

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has designed two apps for women veterans that meet their specific needs. The apps are free and secure, and no personal information is required or shared with the VA. And women veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA to use the apps.

[Read more.](#)



North Carolina Auxiliary unit works with homeless veterans

Words can't describe the devastation to parts of North Carolina after Hurricane Helene ripped through in September 2024.

[Read more.](#)



SAVE THE DATE



September: National Suicide Prevention Month
 September: National Recovery Month
 September: National Literacy Awareness Month
 Sept. 10: World Suicide Prevention Day
 Sept. 11: Patriot Day
 Sept. 13: Uncle Sam Day
 Sept 16: National Uniform Day
 Sept. 17: Constitution Day and Citizenship Day
 Sept 18: U.S. Air Force Birthday
 Sept. 18: National POW/MIA Recognition Day
 Sept. 21-25: Buddy Check Week
 Sept. 27: Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

What advice would you give other Legion Family members about working together throughout all levels (unit to national)?

"If you feel called to try a leadership role, don't be afraid to step up. Many members are available to help, answer questions, and bounce ideas off. My greatest learning came from members who challenged me, made me research, and reach out. Leadership is not about 'I,' it's about 'we.'"

— Maggie Geiger, Wisconsin

LEGION FAMILY NEWS

Resources to help with National Suicide Prevention Month and promote Be the One

With September as National Suicide Prevention Month, the Legion Family's Be the One mission is an important one to share. To learn more about offered trainings, event plannings, advocacy, and more, click [here](#).

The American Legion wants to hear how you're honoring the 25th anniversary of 9/11

Sept. 11, 2001, is a day no one will forget. As the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attack approaches, American Legion Family members are encouraged to share how they plan to honor and pay respects.

To share, please email event details to sbrooks@legion.org and feel free to put your stories and photos on [Legiontown](#). To learn more, go [here](#).

Restored Humvee up for grabs through American Legion sweepstakes

Drive 4 Freedom Sweepstakes provides an exclusive opportunity and fundraiser to support our veterans, military, and their families by running a drawing — free to enter but donations encouraged — for a restored Humvee. Deadline is Dec. 19 at 11:59 p.m. Void in Montana, Washington, and where prohibited by law. To enter, you must be 21 or older. Learn more [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.](#)



ALA eNews is an American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters publication. Your unit and department also may send you ALA-related content. Please review carefully before unsubscribing.

American Legion Auxiliary | 3450 Founders Rd | Indianapolis, IN 46268 US

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