AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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

November 2026 2026-2027 National Leadership Newsletter Issue #3

2026-2027 National President
Dr. Coral May Grout



Kyrese Johnson
Eastern Division Leadership Chair

Learn about the Power of the ALA Academy!

The ALA Academy portal on the official American Legion Auxiliary website is an online training platform for ALA members. It provides leadership training, and professional development for both new and existing ALA members.

The ALA Academy offers a wide variety of both self-paced courses and live webinars. By tapping into these resources, you can unlock incredible advantages:

- Courses are free
- You can take them on your own time
- They take less than 45 minutes to complete
- You will receive a certificate upon completion

The Academy also has a course specifically designed for Junior Members!

ALA Juniors E-Learning Course is designed with younger members in mind. Juniors will learn about the purpose of the program, how to excel as leaders, tips for speaking to groups, and much more!

As you can see, there are many training opportunities available that you can take advantage of at no cost to you! These training courses will increase efficiency for your units, develop future leaders and provide answers to questions you may have about the organization.

Ready to Dive In?

Your journey toward making a bigger difference can start today. Simply log in to your portal at ALA for Veterans Online Profile and navigate to the ALA Academy tab to begin expanding your knowledge today!

Mission Training Dates
November 14, 2026 Omaha, NE
January 30, 2027 Albany, NY
January 30, 2027 Springfield, IL
February 6, 2027 Atlanta, GA
February 6, 2027 Las Vegas, NV

What Does Leadership Look Like to You?



Mindi Rue
Department of Ohio President

Leadership, to me, is helping others grow, find their confidence, and step into leadership roles of their own. That is what truly makes a difference. It looks like providing resources for our members to feel equipped—not overwhelmed—to lead their units. It's putting the needs of our members and organization in front of my needs. Leadership means having the courage to make difficult decisions, accepting responsibility when things do not go as planned, and being willing to learn from mistakes. It means having the creativity to find a way to keep programs relevant . Leadership isn't always easy. It takes patience, humility, and the willingness to admit when you don't have all the answers.

Leadership looks like service. It looks like encouragement from the back of the room, when you see something in someone that they can't see themselves. It looks like the moment that something clicks and it all comes together for someone you were mentoring. It looks like pride on the face of someone with whom you've shared a victory. It looks like joy when your team wins, and taking responsibility when they don't.

Self-paced courses include:
2026 National Committee Member Training
A Wills & Estate Planning Seminar for ALA Members
AEF Disaster Preparedness: Resources, Readiness, and Relief
ALA 101
ALA Academy ALA Academy Live Recording: Exploring Leadership Styles
ALA Academy ALA Academy Live Recording: Involving Juniors in Poppy, Americanism and other ALA programs
ALA Academy ALA Academy Live Recording: Prepared to Serve: CERT, Disaster ReSelf-Paced Learning Moduleonse & the ALA National Security Mission
ALA Academy ALA Academy Live Recording: SmileAssociate Goes National: A New Fundraising Opportunity for Every ALA Entity
ALA Academy: Promoting The American Legion Legislative Priorities and Engaging ALA Members in Local Advocacy
ALA Branding and Why it Matters to Me!
ALA Communication Methods
ALA Compliance Matters
ALA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
ALA Girls State DE&I Training
ALA Juniors E-Learning Course
ALA Leadership Series: So, You're a Department Chair. Now What?
ALA Leadership: Mentoring
ALA Mythbusters: Membership & Governance Edition
Building a Strong Membership Strategy – Engagement, Retention, & Year-Round Planning
Celebrating the Month of the Military Child
Celebrating Women of Service
Choosing a Medicare Advantage Plan
Constitution & Bylaws: Post-Convention Updates and Guidance for Dept and Unit Bylaws
Creative Arts, Veteran Wellness & You: Understanding the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival
How to Apply for an Auxiliary Emergency Fund Grant
Introduction to Conflict Resolution
Junior Mentor Series: Getting Started with Juniors (ALA ALA Academy Live Recording Recorded Session) (Course 1)
Junior Mentor Series: Junior Meetings (ALA ALA Academy Live Recording Recorded Session) (Course 4)
Junior Mentor Series: Juniors and The Legion Family (ALA ALA Academy Live Recording Recorded Session) (Course 3)
KDH2 (Kids of Deployed are Heroes, Too)
Mastering Media Presence Locally
Mission DeALA Academy Live Recordingry through Caregiver Support
National Executive Committee (NEC) Appeal Process
NFP Insurance Information for ALA Girls State Programs
Planning and Hosting a Successful American Legion Family Day
Remember. Honor. Teach. Wreaths Across America
Science of the Samsung Scholarship
Supporting Military Families in your Communities
Tax-Exempt Status: Revocation and Reinstatement
The Membership Advantage - Discover your ALA Benefits
Understanding the Differences Between National Security and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
Using Poppy Funds to Serve Our Mission
Using Social Media to Promote Your Local ALA
Vacation Hacks & Member Perks: Unlock Your ALA Travel Advantage
Veterans Project Funds Grant Writing
Youth Hero and Good Deed Awards

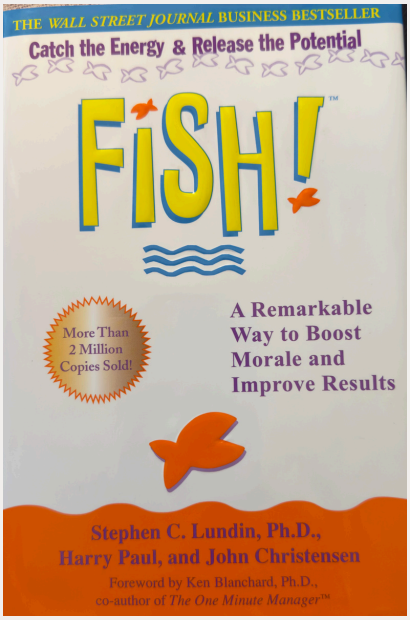
https://www.legion-aux.org/ala-academy

Log in to the ALA website to access the academy



FISH! Reeled me in!

As a leadership coach, I love a book that makes you think, makes you smile, and gives you something simple to put into practice. This quick, motivational read by Stephen C. Lundin, Ph.D., Harry Paul, and John Christensen does all three and you can easily finish it in a day or less! The fish market examples, complete with tossing fish, singing, and having fun, brought the message to life. My biggest takeaway? Be present, choose your attitude, and look for ways to make someone's day. We have opportunities every day to bring more intention and joy into how we show up. An easy read with a meaningful reminder: making the day great can begin with you. This one gets a cheerful recommendation! Catch the Energy & Release the Potential!
-Rebecca S Farley, WV





What Does Leadership Look Like to You?



Dr. Deborah Blanch
Department of Virginia President

A leader inspires their organization through communication. Your organization needs an enthusiastic leader who inspires and provides the confidence, stability, and guidance your team needs. Fairness and consistency build trust and inspire your people to give 100% on their tasks. Leading by example is also key, especially by being fair and providing constructive feedback. Sometimes you may need to provide individual guidance when making changes; always remember to "Praise in public and criticize in private." Communication skills are pivotal to setting achievable goals for your organization. Strong organizational skills empower your team, motivate them, and boost productivity. You will work with various personalities, and you may need to adjust your management style to deliver the same message of guidance or direction. Leaders have a clear, compelling vision and cheer on their team. They prioritize development, growth, and learning to build the organization's future. Incentives can improve your people's productivity. Leadership has its rewards, as these efforts produce new leaders who carry on the organization's legacy. "Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality." -Warren Bennis



Amy Luft
Department of Wisconsin President

It's being a servant leader and placing others first. It's setting a good example and exhibiting qualities that define leadership such as honesty, integrity, empathy, accountability, respectfulness, confidence - even when things are challenging. I've learned that leadership isn't about knowing everything and accepting that I won't always be the smartest person in the room. I try to remind myself to see those times as an opportunity to grow and learn - not as a threat. Good leadership means being fair, even though it may make me seem "too nice" at times or "difficult" at others. I also found that I have to give myself and others some grace. Leadership is doing what's right, even when others may not agree with my choices while providing my team the right tools so they can best do their jobs. Leadership also means inspiring others to want to lead, because even though becoming a leader takes drive and passion, it also takes guidance from others.

"Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it."
General Dwight Eisenhower