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ALA eNEWS: *CONNECTING WITH YOU MONTHLY*



NOVEMBER 2025

Want to serve on a national ALA committee?

The application process for 2026-2027 national committee appointments is now open! National committee chairs and members are appointed annually and confirmed by the National Executive Committee to serve on a wide variety of ALA committees for you to explore. All members are eligible to apply. The application window is through Jan. 1, 2026.

[Apply here!](#)

[Go to our blog](#) to learn more about the various positions and their responsibilities!

Winter dates for Mission Training and national Junior meetings just around the corner

Winter national Junior meetings are approaching alongside Mission Training. Interested in learning more about our mission and becoming a stronger ALA member? Plan on going, then bring a Junior, or Juniors, along to learn valuable information and become well-rounded members and individuals. Juniors will have their own meetings happening where they'll do service projects, meet new friends, and — most importantly — have fun!



What's happening in the 2025-2026 national Junior meetings?

- Hats for Heroes — a service project developed by ALA National President Pam Ray to give personal hygiene products to homeless veterans

- Learning the Pledge of Allegiance in American Sign Language
- Crafts, such as beaded keychains and America's 250th birthday hats
- Receiving *A Life of Service: The Story of Senator Tammy Duckworth* book about a U.S Army veteran with many firsts in Congress

To learn more about the national Junior meeting activities, [click here](#).

Winter meetings and trainings listed below:

- Jan. 31: Las Vegas
- Jan. 31: Indianapolis*
- Feb. 7: Atlanta*

Register [here](#) for both national Junior meetings and Mission Trainings.

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

ALA ACADEMY

Save the date: Governance webinar scheduled for December

When: Dec. 3 @ 12:30 p.m. ET

What: ALA Constitution & Bylaws: Post-Convention Updates and Guidance for Department and Unit Bylaws

Join us for an informative webinar as we recap the adopted changes to the National Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules. We'll walk through what was approved at the National Convention, discuss how these updates affect departments and units, and provide guidance on the adjustments you may need to make to your own governing documents.

[Register here!](#)

Join the USA 250 Challenge to celebrate America's birthday

Join this challenge culminating with America's birthday on July 4, 2026. Participants have three areas — fitness, mental wellness, and/or community service — they can engage in as part of a team, like an ALA unit, or as an individual. You can do one category or go the extra mile and do all three!



Register here for \$30 and get a USA 250 Legion Family T-shirt and donate to a good cause. For more information on ways to fulfill the categories, go to **the USA 250 Challenge website**.

For community service ideas, check out **National President Pam Ray's video!**

American Legion Auxiliary celebrates America250 with US...



ALA National Headquarters wants to hear from you!

Are you currently doing something, or planning on doing something, for the USA 250 Challenge? The ALA National Headquarters Communications & Marketing Division wants to hear about your plans, whether as a unit, post, or individual to complete the challenge. Your responses may be used in national ALA media. Email us at **PR@ALAforVeterans.org**.


MEMBER BENEFITS




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Benefits and allowance amounts vary by plan. Please call for more details.

*<https://www.medicare.gov/basics/get-started-with-medicare/get-more-coverage/joining-a-plan/special-enrollment-periods> Wellcare is the Medicare brand for Centene Corporation, an HMO, PPO, PFFS, POF plan with a Medicare contract and is an approved Part D sponsor. Our D-SNP plans have a contract with the state Medicaid program. Enrollment in our plans depends on contract renewal. 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. Louisiana D-SNP prospective enrollees: For detailed information about Louisiana Medicaid benefits, please visit the Medicaid website at <https://dh.la.gov/medicaid> or <https://www.louisianahelthconnect.com>. To request a written copy of our Medicaid Provider Directory, please contact us. Notice: TenetCare is not responsible for payment for these benefits, except for appropriate cost sharing amounts. TenetCare is not responsible for guaranteeing the availability or quality of these benefits. Any benefits above and beyond traditional Medicare benefits are applicable to Wellcare Medicare Advantage only and do not indicate increased Medicaid benefits.

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by showing up where it matters most.

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AUXILIARY MEMBERS NEED YOUR HELP

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The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) provides critical financial assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members during times of crisis, including help with housing, utilities, and other essential expenses. Your gift today ensures that when members need help most, the ALA is there to lend a hand. [Click here to donate!](#)

SAVE THE DATE

GIVINGTUESDAY



DEC | 2 | 2025

AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY
FOUNDATION

Join us on Dec. 2, Giving Tuesday, as we come together to strengthen the future of the American Legion Auxiliary's mission. Funds raised will benefit the ALA Mission Endowment Fund, helping ensure lasting support for programs that honor and serve veterans, military, and their families for generations to come. Mark your calendar and be part of this global day of generosity!

GOOD TO KNOW

November Mission Trainings and national Junior meetings start this week! If you're registered for Mission Training and your Juniors and young Sons are registered for a national Junior meeting in Albany, N.Y., or Minneapolis, Minn., don't forget that they're happening Saturday, Nov. 15. [Learn more here.](#)

See how members impacted the American Legion Auxiliary's mission of serving veterans, military, and their families. The 2024-2025 Corporate Report is [now available online](#). Featured in the digital publication: administrative year in review, impact numbers, financial statement, and listings of our donors and award recipients.



Missed an October webinar? They are posted in the ALA Academy. Learn, or review, about ALA scholarships, leadership styles, and the Wellcare Medicare

Advantage healthcare plan. Click [here](#) to access the courses!



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

Variety of messaging tools helps your unit get the word out

Pamela Oliver-Shepherd, Unit 828 in Texas, is a dual member of the American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion. She serves as the post home's adjutant and social media manager and offers these tips on communicating with members.

[Read more.](#)



GI Joan Project provides advocacy, support for women veterans

There are women veterans who grapple with recognition as veterans — even among themselves — so they don't seek out the assistance that could address mental health and other challenges they may face.

[Read more.](#)



SAVE THE DATE



November: National Veterans & Military Family Appreciation Month
November: National Family Caregivers Month
Nov. 16-22: Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week
Nov. 22: International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day
Nov 17-21: American Education Week
Nov. 22: International Family Volunteer Day
Nov. 24-30: National Family Week
Nov. 27: Thanksgiving
Dec. 2: Giving Tuesday
Dec. 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities
Dec. 5: International Volunteer Day
Dec. 7: National Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Day

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

What did your ALA Junior membership mean to you?

“It connected me to a community of strong, service-minded individuals. I am so grateful I had the opportunity to be an ALA Junior member, and I am honored to be a part of this community and will always carry this part of my life — doing whatever I can to support our military servicemen and women.”

— Alyssa Enriquez, former ALA Junior member and current ALA adult member

LEGION FAMILY NEWS

Be the One online training available for the Legion Family

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

These trainings will teach participants how to:

- Use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to determine at-risk individuals
- Identify risk factors and warning signs

- Outline the types of suicidal ideation and four behaviors that indicate imminent risk
- Effectively communicate with individuals who may be at risk of hurting themselves

Upcoming dates:

- Nov. 17 @ 2:30-4 p.m. ET
- Nov. 19 @ 5:30-7 p.m. ET

Go [here](#) to learn more about the training and register.

American Legion annual Holiday Blood Drive approaching

Starting Nov. 28 through Dec. 31, The American Legion is encouraging the Legion Family to donate blood and host blood drives as a part of their annual American Legion Blood Donor Program.

Go [here](#) to learn more.



ALA Membership

Where does your department stand in Auxiliary membership?
[Click here to log in and view the latest reports.](#)

Legion Family Merchandise

Show your support by buying from American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales.
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The American Legion Legislative Center

The ALA supports the legislative agenda of The American Legion.
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