AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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

November 2026 Issue #2

FROM THE 2026-2027 NATIONAL CHAIR OF THE EDUCATION PROGRAM

A message from our National Education Chair-Debra Rumery

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all our amazing American Legion Auxiliary members for your hard work, dedication, and continued support of our Give 20 to Education program! Your efforts are truly making a difference in the lives of students and educators across our nation.

As we celebrate American Education Week, November 16–20, 2026, we want to hear from YOU!

What is your Unit, District, or Department doing to celebrate and support education? Please share your activities, ideas, stories, and photos on our National Education Facebook page so we can celebrate your efforts and inspire one another!

Together, we are making a difference, one student, one classroom, and one community at a time!

With gratitude - Debra A. Rumery

Reminder a live scholarship webinar will be held on November 17, 2026 at 12:00 pm CDT. Register for the webinar at this link:

https://web.cvent.com/event/website/4a187336-5abc-46a2-84fe-33344ab4a273/landingPage?RefId=Newsletter&utm_campaign=Newsletter&utm_medium=Newsletter&utm_source=Newsletter

Scholarship applications will be available soon! We appreciate everyone's patience as the information is prepared for distribution. ALA National Headquarters is working with a new platform for scholarship applications. This enhanced format will make the process easier for students. Email education@ALAforVeterans.org with any questions.

American Education Week is November 16-20, 2026! Activities to recognize teachers and other school staff is encouraged everywhere! Here are some ideas to consider:

- Write personalized thank-you notes or give certificates of appreciation to teachers.
- Give gift baskets with small gifts or treats for teachers, administrators or support staff.
- Partner with local businesses to provide discounts or gifts for educators during the week.

National Education Committee quarterly meeting is November 3rd

Please register to attend this meeting

The Eastern Division is highlighting The Department of Massachusetts who has shown some exemplary commitment to the program, Unit 279 sponsored a classroom and donated over $300.00 of supplies, other units have really shown how the Give 20 to Education should work. Another unit donated proceeds from a fundraiser for the Education program. All units are working hard at collection items, promoting scholarships, and getting veterans in the classroom, to include our National President's Unit 193. Great job, Department of Massachusetts!

I look forward to hearing how your Departments and Units promote the Auxiliary scholarships

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Tina Haggerty – Eastern Division Education Chair

The Central Division is highlighting The Department of West Virigina – (news article below)

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 14 donates backpacks to local schools

American Legion Auxiliary Berkeley/Martinsburg Unit 14 recently donated 22 backpacks filled with school supplies to students at Berkeley Heights Elementary School and Burke Street Elementary School in Martinsburg.

The donation is part of the Auxiliary's ongoing commitment to supporting local children, families and schools. Members collected and prepared the backpacks to help students begin the school year with essential classroom supplies and added confidence.

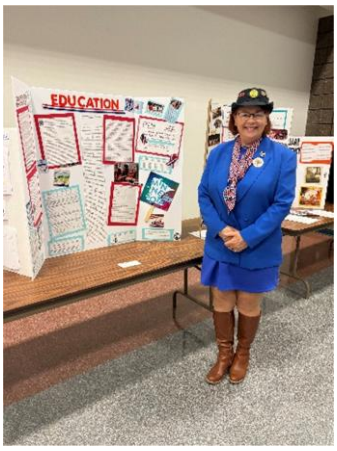
Representatives from the two elementary schools expressed appreciation for the contribution and for the Auxiliary's continued support of the community. The backpacks will be distributed to students who can benefit from the extra assistance.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 14 regularly participates in service projects throughout Berkeley County, with a focus on veterans, youth and community needs. Members said the backpack donation is one way the organization can make a direct difference for local students and help ensure they are prepared for a successful school year ahead.

The Western Division is highlighting The Department of Arizona has been busy supporting the Education Program! The Department President is supporting National President Dr. Coral Grout's National Project by filling the rucksacks received from National with school supplies. All branches of the American Legion Family will be involved at the Fall Conference.

I look forward to hearing how your Departments and Units promote the Auxiliary scholarships.

Julie Vietri – Western Division Education Chair



The NW Division is highlighting Kelly Kauss from Minnesota who has been reaching out to all her Units through District training, the Department Fall Conference, and newsletter flyers. She has prepared a breakdown of each scholarship available through her State Department, and the National program. She has also researched the history of Minnesota and other State sites to identify opportunities for improvement. Congratulations Kelly on the wonderful job you are doing.

Cavalene Regan – NW Division Education Chair

Welcome to the 2026-2027 Southern Division

The Southern Division is highlighting the 15th District and the amazing donation they provided. Please read their story below:

"Sometimes it takes more than one Unit to make a difference, and our Fabulous 15th District recently proved just that! When a Hillsborough County teacher reached out with a need for 20 tablets for her exceptional students, Unit 152, Tampa, President and 15th District Education Chairman, Sheryl Kinsler, knew this was a mission that would take some extra help. She reached out to Unit Presidents throughout District 15, asking if they could lend a hand. And boy, did they deliver! In just FOUR DAYS, all 20 tablets were secured and on their way to the students! What started as one teacher's request turned into a wonderful example of what happens when our Auxiliary family works together. Our Education Program is about so much more than backpacks and school supplies. It's about recognizing a need and finding a way to make a difference in a student's life. Unit 152 started the mission, our Fabulous 15th District came together, and MISSION ACCOMPLISHED." By Dawn Davis - Department of Florda Education Charman

Yours in Service and Education
Charlotte Bass-Southern Division