

"Angels in the Outfield, Caring for others"

December 2025,

HAPPY HOLIDAYS.

We hope you all enjoyed Fall Conference! If you couldn't attend there was a lot of great information presented on our programs.

Department Open House will be on January 3rd from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Please bring a dish to share.

The office will be closed December 24th and 25th for Christmas. And January 1st for New Years Day.

ALAMIS billing will be sent out for 2026 in February. If any changes need to be made, they must be done by December 31st.

We have upgraded the Dept. website. It will be the same web address but more up to date. Our old website is no longer supported by our web host. Anyone with website experience, with an emphasis on Go Daddy, that would like to volunteer to help webmaster Deb Munchbach (be a backup/assistant) with the website once updated please let us know.

We are also upgrading our phone system, so please bear with us. Please if you leave a message for us, and we do not respond in a timely manner, please email us and ask us to call you. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT: President Dolores's project this year is **Caregivers and Hospice**. Dawn Davidson from Unit 45 is the PSP Chairman. You can reach her at, aladawndavidson@gmail.com, if you want her to visit your Unit or District, or to get more information.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership is everyone's job. 2026 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

MANDATES: The 2025-2026 mandates are on the website. Please pay your mandates sooner than later. There were several Units who did not pay their mandates 30 days before the Department Convention; therefore, they lost their voting rights at 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 need units to start making poppies for Department. I have 3 veterans making poppies and two of them have just started. A shout out to Roger Munchbach, who supplies Department with 98% of the poppies the units order.

Unit Goals: 2026 Unit Goals are in the new 2026 membership report and in the directory. Good luck to all Units in achieving 100% for President Dolores.

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

Rae Hopf
Department Membership Processor

Secretary1@aladeptaz.org

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 !!!!!

President's Message

November 2025

It has been a whirlwind ride since coming back from National Convention in Florida and it doesn't seem to want to stop, didn't think the ride was going to be that bumpy, hopefully the road ahead will get smoother soon.

As I started my travels, with my riding partner Dawn Davidson, special project chairman our first stop was at Unit 8 in Casa Grande. We were gracefully welcomed and met a group of wonderful auxiliary members. My husband and I attended the Bike and Car Show at Post 105, it was awesome to see so many different styles of bikes and cars, met a lot of ALR members and Auxiliary members and of course my husband won some of the raffles being held by the auxiliary, we had a great time visiting.

Dawn and I made a trip up to Payson for installation of a new unit. We had an awesome lunch and welcomed the new unit, Rose and Stacey did a wonderful job installing the new members, even got a junior member installed.

Made my 1st official visit to District 5 in Safford in late October, had a nice visit with old friends and met several auxiliary members of District 5, we had a wonderful lunch that was provided by unit 32. Dawn did a presentation on my special project.

Made my 2nd official visit to District 8 in Cottonwood, we were welcomed with open arms and had a great lunch provided by unit 25. This was a great and meaningful trip because my husband and I got to stay and visit with a dear cousin in Camp Verde who is not doing well.

Then it was off the Tucson for the Fall Conference, I didn't realize that there was so much that goes into putting this conference together. It was great to see so many auxiliary members dressed in their district membership theme, some awesome outfits, what a fun time and awesome display boards on auxiliary programs and a great luncheon we had.

Thank you everyone who attended the Fall Conference, I was so overwhelmed, Arizona Auxiliary Rocks!!! I wish everyone a safe and Blessed Thanksgiving.

For Service, NOT SELF

Dolores Chavez

AZ Dept. President

President Volores Chavez's Special Project 2025-26

From PSP Chairman Dawn Davidson

With the 2025 Fall Conference this week, we are gearing up for the "kick-off" presentation on Saturday afternoon November 7th! In advance, we'd like to thank you for opening your hearts and using your 'Angel Wings" to make President Dolores Chavez's Special Project a success. Madam President Dolores has tasked me with the chairmanship of these of efforts that are near and dear to both of our hearts. Caregiving AND Hospice/end of life care.

ALA Dept. of AZ President Dolores Chavez has had a heart for caregiving since the age of 5. She didn't realize it at the time, but her heart continued to grow for caregiving on going. She recognizes that ALA members have a heart for caring for others and 99% of us are doing caregiving tasks, whether we recognize it or not. We all Have hearts for caring for others! This year we are going to acknowledge the work you do, connect our members to resources that can assist and help us. Also, let's recognize the caregiving happening around us. Getting information in you and your unit's hands, so we can better support one another in caregiving of our veterans, Family, Legion Family, and friends.

This President's Special Project also is addressing the need for Hospice Support and "End of Life" Education. We are going to be encouraging our units and districts to support Hospice organizations in your areas. Hospice needs our help in fundraising for donations, recognizing hospice staff for their hard work, and donating items that can be given to the Hospice patients, showing that the ALA cares about end-of-life services. Especially recognizing the VAMC's intuitive that "No Veteran Dies Alone" How can the PSP funds raised help with Hospice? President Dolores intends to fulfill Hospice needs, focusing on veterans and Arizona's underserviced rural areas.

Madam President and the President's Special Project committee are asking that you send donations to Department and state it is for the PSP. And if your

District or Unit wants their funds to go a specific Hospice organization, please include that request with your donation, so the PSP committee can proceed with your request at the end of the program year. If your donation or volunteer time is something given directly to the Caregiver or Hospice organization. Please complete the following form so that your efforts and work can be acknowledged. This year's PSP is focused fully on getting the Faces of the ALA seen and recognized in the community of Caregiving and Hospice. Showing we care by sharing our time AND donations. Let us know what you're doing in your community, both as individuals and units! If every unit adds one volunteer to the Hospice efforts. We would have 88 new volunteers in the State of Arizona who care about those who are caregiving and those who are receiving 'End Of Life' services in hospice. It would be wonderful for the ALA Dept of AZ to achieve that goal this year. Let's Help the American Legion Auxiliary be visible in the community through these efforts. See you all at Fall Conference!

Sincerely,

Dawn Davidson - PSP Chairman 2025-26

ALADawnDavidson@gmail.com

763-221-8047

PLEASE EMAIL COMPLETED FORMS FOR EVERY EFFORT TO THE PSP to PSP CHAIRMAN- <u>ALADawnDavidson@gmail.com</u> OR

SNAIL MAIL TO --11070 S. CaminoSanClemete, Vail, AZ 85641

Today's DATE
UNIT or DISTRICT from
CONTACT Person for UNIT or DISTRICTphone contact and email
WHAT ACTIVITY OR PROJECT WAS PREFORMED FOR THE PRESIDENT'S
SPECIAL PROJECT?
WHO PARTICIPATED?
DATE OF DONATION / ACTIVITY- EFFORT FOR PSP

Unit 95 Solomon Meeting Date change to 1st Thursday at 4:30 pm

TIDBITS FROM THE WEBSITE MANAGER

Unit 78 Corrected Address PO Box 128 Humboldt, AZ 86329

Remove as Community Service Chairman and switch to Past Presidents Parley Chairman Patricia Lugo 602-475-0208 plugo1@yahoo.com

In PDP Directory correct email Ginger Cox gingercee42@gmail.com

In Department Contacts please use new generic email for Historian Stephanie McMullen historianaladeptaz@gmail.com

New Unit 35 President Marcy Carter 480-421-8219 marcyj64@gmail.com



We have received notice of the passing of Kathy Szakonyi, Unit 109 in Vail, AZ. Kathy was a long-time VAVS Representative at the Tucson Southern Medical Center. Our Condolences to her friends and family.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DOMINGO BONILLA FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025

Funeral Services: 5 December, 12:30 p.m., Cave Creek National Cemetery

2929 E Pinnacle Peak Rd Phoenix, AZ 85024

Celebration of Life: (Immediately following) 5 December, 3 p.m., Post 35

2240 W Chandler Blvd Chandler AZ 85224

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO:

The American Legion 4701 N. 19th Avenue, Ste. 200 Phoenix, AZ 85015-3799 (602) 264-7706 oratorical@azlegion.org Paul G. Johnson (623) 399-0633 pjchef2000@gmail.com

> Open at this time Area "A" Chairman

Jim Borgman (847) 456-1843 jaborgman9@gmail.com Area "B" Chairman

Jeri Strande (928) 301-9581 jeristrande21@gmail.com Area "C" Chairman

Jim Borgman (847) 456-1843 jaborgman9@gmail.com SAL Chairman

Wanda Amado (623) 251-1709 lenwanamado@gmail.com ALA Chairman

Open at this time ALR Chairman

ENTRY FORM:

Students may submit the proper Entry
Form to participate in the program between
October 2025, and January 31, 2026. Apply
online at
www.azlegion.org/programs/oratorical.

2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS 88th ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

www.azlegion.org/programs



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA

oratorical@azlegion.org Department of Arizona Commander Gary Vaughan

Paul G. Johnson, Chairman
Department Oratorical Committee
The National Contest Rules Govern
Department Contests (See National Contest
Brochure) http://www.legion.org/oratorical

THE DEPARTMENT of ARIZONA PRIZES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

First Prize - \$2000.00 plus an additional \$2000.00 Scholarship upon participation in the First Round of the National Finals in Hillsdale, Michigan.

All Contestants at the Department Finals receive Cash Scholarships.

The Department (State) Oratorical champion will automatically advance into the National American Legion Oratorical Competition. The FIRST and SECOND ROUNDS of the National Contest will be held on May 15-17, 2026, Hillsdale Michigan

The NATIONAL FINALS will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2025, followed by a banquet honoring all the contestants. 1st Place \$25,000, 2nd Place \$22,500, 3rd Place \$20,000, Contestant and one guest may accompany to Nationals.

ORGANIZATION

The contest will be under the direct supervision of The American Legion Oratorical Committee, appointed by the Department (State) Commander. Final authority on all issues raised shall remain with the Committee.

LOCAL, DISTRICT, AND AREA CONTESTS
Students will compete multiple times. Contests are progressive, will be held during the months of late February - March, (your choice of weekends) but must be completed on or before MARCH 22, 2026.

The locations of each student's contests are based on where they attend school. The dates and locations vary throughout the state. CONTACT THE CHAIRMAN OF YOUR DISTRICT FOR DATES AND LOCATIONS OF YOUR CONTESTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

The State is divided into American Legion "Districts and Areas" as follows:

Area A: (Southern AZ) Districts 2, 3, 4, and 5 Area B: (Phoenix Metro and Yuma) Districts 1, 11, 12 Area C: (Northern AZ) - Districts 6, 7, 8

EACH AREA SENDS TWO CONTESTANTS TO THE ARIZONA FINALS.

THE ARIZONA FINALS CONTEST Will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2026. A maximum of two contestants from each "Area" compete in the Finals. A monitary award will be given to all contestanst reaching the finals

The winner of this Contest will compete in the *National Finals in Hillsdale, Michigan, May 15-17, 2026.*

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible participants in The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program must be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States. All contestants must be bona fide students herein described as any student under the age of twenty (20) years on the date of the National Finals Contest, who is currently enrolled in high school (public, charter, parochial, military, private, or home-schooled) in which the curriculum of said high school is considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade nine (9) and terminating

with grade twelve (12). Students must be enrolled in high school during the time of participation at any level of The American Legion National High School Oratorical Scholarship Program.

PREPARED ORATION

All contestants shall be required to deliver a PREPARED ORATION, which must be the original effort of each contestant, and must require not less than eight (8) nor more than ten (10) minutes for delivery. It must be delivered in the English language. Singing is NOT allowed. Before the contestant starts their oration, they will give the title of their Prepared Oration to the Chairman of the Contest. Quotations must be indicated as such. Where quotations are more than ten words in length, the author's name must be given both orally and in the manuscript. The penalty for plagiarism will be disqualification. The Prepared Oration must be based on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States which will give emphasis to the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. The same Prepared Oration is to be used throughout all levels of the Contests.

ASSIGNED TOPICS FEATURE

All contestants must participate in both the Prepared Oration and the "ASSIGNED TOPIC" features at all levels of the Contest. The Assigned Topic discourse must consume not less than three (3) nor more than five (5) minutes for delivery. The Prepared Oration quotation rule must be observed. The purpose of the Assigned Topic feature is to test the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of his/her research, and the ability to discuss with minimal preparation the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution. Each contestant speaks on the same topic, which is drawn by the Contest Committee at the Contest. By action of the National Americanism Commission, the Assigned Topics to be used in this year's contest are the following:

2026 ASSIGNED TOPICS

AMENDMENT IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

ARTICLE III

Section 3. Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court. The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

ARTICLE IV

Section 4. The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.

ARTICLE VI

<u>Clause 3.</u> The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

CONTEST REGULATIONS

<u>DRESS-</u>Business attire is required. (No Tennis Shoes)

ORDER OF APPEARANCE-Contestants shall draw for the order in which they appear the drawing to be conducted by the Chairman, who will introduce the speakers as Number 1, 2, etc.

NOTES AND ROSTRUMS-The use of notes, amplification, lectern or speaker's stand by contestants, or prompting in any manner, is not permitted. Props are not permitted. Singing is not permitted.

THE PREPARED ORATION AND ASSIGNED TOPICS MUST BE COMMITTED TO MEMORY.

DEPARTMENT OF AZ PAST CHAMPIONS

2025 Tanish Doshi, Oro Valley 2024 Mary Sanapu, IIEA, Phoeniz

2023 Kaleb Rasor, BASIS Oro Valley 2022 Kaleb Rasor, BASIS Oro Valley

2021 Hannah Shin, BASIS Oro Valley

2020 Caleb Doerksen, Verrado HS

2019 Cassandra Lawson, BASIS Oro Valley

2018 Kylie Cochrane, Scottsdale

2017 Juliana Martinez, Pusch Ridge

2016 Elizabeth Baxter, AZ Lutheran

2015 Chetan Bafna, Kofa High School 2014 Chetan Bafna, Kofa High School

2013 Alex Kate Halvey, Pusch Ridge

2012 Rachel Moses, Home Schooled

2011 Rachel Moses, Home Schooled

2010 Nicholas Everetts, Fountain Hills H.S.

2009 Clayton Masterman, River Valley H.S.

2008 Michael Fleming, Mesa H.S.

2007 Ronni Stirling, Coronado H.S.

2006 Michele O'Shea, Cactus H.S.

2005 Michele O'Shea, Cactus H.S.

2004 Michele O'Shea, Cactus H.S.

2003 Thomas Joraanstad, Brophy Preparatory-

2002 Thomas Joraanstad, Brophy Preparatory 2001 Thomas Joraanstad, Brophy Preparatory

2000 Sarah Joraanstad, Xavier Preparatory

1999 Joshua Deahl, Mountain View H.S.

1998 William Self, Mountain View H.S.

1997 Katherine Forrest, Mountain View H.S.

1996 Kaleen Love, Mountain View H.S. -

1995 Shira Shafir, Sunnyslope H.S.

1994 Shira Shafir, Sunnyslope H.S.

1993 Soraya Ali-Akbarian, Sunnyslope H.S.

1992 Jimi Jo Story, Mingus H.S.

1991 Michael Wawro, Sunnyslope H.S.

1990 Jamie Lee Wagner, Chaparral H.S.

1989 Mark Light-Orr, Deer Valley H.S. 1988 William Gates, Deer Valley H.S.

1987 William Gates, Deer Valley H.S.

1986 Matthew Ortega

1985 Steven R. Houbek

1984 H. David Preston

1983 James F. Ireland

1982 Matthew Fitzgerald, Casa Grande H.S.

1981 Matthew Fitzgerald, Casa Grande H.S.

1980 Bartholmew Fitzgerald, Casa Grande H.S.

1979 Victoria Fimea

1978 Randi-Jean Hedin

1977 Thomas R. Harrell

1976 Arleen Armstrong

1975 Sari Lisa Horwitz 1974 Joyce Helen Weaver

1966 Ronald T. McCoy, Phoenix AZ

1938 John Jansen, Nogales AZ

ALA Arizona Auxiliary – Monthly Chaplain Message November 2025 Dear Auxiliary Members,

As November unfolds, we enter a season of reflection and gratitude. This month, we honor our veterans on *Veterans Day*, Nov 11, let's give thanks during *Thanksgiving* and prepare our hearts for the coming holidays. It's a time to pause, remember, and uplift one another.

November reminds us of the power of service and sacrifice. Let us offer prayers of gratitude for our veterans, active-duty service members and their families. May we also remember those who are no longer with us – whose legacy lives on in our hearts and in the freedoms we cherish.

Please take a moment this month to honor the memory of Auxiliary members who have passed. Consider lighting a candle or sharing a moment of silence at your next meeting. Their contributions continue to inspire us.

I encourage each of you to write a note or a card of appreciation to a veteran or service member this month. A simple message can bring warmth and encouragement beyond measure.

May our hearts continue to be filled with gratitude this month, and may we serve with compassion and purpose.

NOTE to ALL District and Unit Chaplains - please join our Chaplains Circle on the Band app so that we can all be united in prayer. Scan with your phone the QR below. If you have any questions or issues please reach out to me at AzDeptChaplain@gmail.com or 562-370-0080 (text). (P.S. Chaplains Circle on the Band App is open to any auxiliary member)



With grace and gratitude, DeDe ALA Arizona State Chaplain

Children and Youth

Program Engagement Plan 2025-2026

What is the Children and Youth Program and What is Its Purpose?

The purpose of the Children & Youth Committee is to work collaboratively with The American Legion to promote programs that protect, care for, and support children and youth, especially those of our military and veterans.

- The Children & Youth program emphasizes protecting, caring for, and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans' and military families.
- To recognize and reward the positive actions of our children and youth, the American Legion Auxiliary has two special national awards bestowed to youth nominated by units: the Youth Hero Award and the Good Deed Award.
- Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2) is an initiative honoring military children who may be experiencing a separation from one or both parents, whether deployed to a war zone, having a short tour or on an extended temporary duty assignment.
- The American Legion Auxiliary Children & Youth program strives to support and promote the Children & Youth program of the American Legion.

Duties of the Unit Children & Youth Chairman

- Make sure the pledge of care and protection for children of veterans is carried out through service work, or through direct cash assistance to needy families if necessary.
- Provide leadership for the unit on all matters pertaining to children.
- Cooperate with other responsible organizations and agencies of the community whose work is in the interest of children.
- Submit mid-year and annual reports of C&Y activities and plans, to the membership of the unit, and to the district or department C&Y chairman.

How can you work the Children and Youth program and be successful? Here are just a few ideas but please do not limit yourselves to these. Our members have such great ideas I cannot wait to see what you come up with!

Encourage local high school students to participate in the Oratorical program. School debate teams are a great place to start. Mention that a lot of scholarship money can be earned.

• Monitor your local newspapers, TV, and radio stations for news about young people who performed acts of physical valor. Schools and churches are another source for good news.

Youth Hero/Good Deed Awards- Created in 2002 by the National Children & Youth Committee, these awards are presented annually throughout the year to recognize the heroism and helpfulness of youths under age 18. In the past three years alone, more than 1,000 Youth Hero and Good Deed awards have been presented to deserving youth. Nominations are accepted by local ALA units. If you know of someone deserving of one of these awards, submit a nomination.

Award Criteria

- Youth Hero Award- Youth Hero Award winners receive a medal and a certificate.
- May be a Junior Auxiliary member or someone eligible for membership, but eligibility is not a criterion for consideration.
- Demonstrates a physical act of valor (Heimlich, CPR, first aid, rescuing from fire or water peril.)
- Serves as an inspirational role model for the organization and the community.

o Good Deed Award

- May be a Junior Auxiliary member or someone eligible for membership, but eligibility is not a criterion for consideration.
- Donates time and/or money for a worthy cause (such as troop support, raising money to help homeless veterans, a food drive, etc.).

Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2- Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2) is an initiative honoring military children who may be experiencing a separation from one or both parents, whether deployed to a war zone, having a short tour or on an extended temporary duty assignment. Recognition buttons or stickers with "I'm a Hero 2" can be distributed to these kids to recognize their sacrifices.

- What can you do? Host an event to recognize these military children Be sure to include the Legion family, especially your Juniors. Have a supply of the "I'm a Hero 2" buttons or stickers ready to hand out. You might also want to have on hand the "Proud Parent/Grandparent of a Military Child" button. o Coordinate with family readiness groups for button distribution during family days.
- Coordinate with Legion family members on local community days/fairs, etc.
- Have an activity day/dinner for military families at your post

home.• KDH2 buttons may be ordered through a commercial vendor or made yourself. You can download a file for KDH2 with instructions. There is an order form for the "Proud Parent/Grandparent" buttons.

- April is the Month of the military Child (#momc)
- April 15 is Purple Up Day for Military Children
- The Department will have a fundraising item for sale with profits to benefit The Child Welfare Foundation.

You can also join the Children and Youth Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAChildrenandYouth

Collaborations-More information can be found at www.alaforveterans.org visit the My Auxiliary members portal → Sign-in →Committees →Children and Youth. (If you need help logging in, please let us know. We are happy to help!)

Additional Resources on the National Website

- Youth Hero/Good Deed Award information nomination form & media release template.
- I'm a Hero 2 sticker template.
- Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 information and printable certificate.
- Proud Parent of a Military Child Button order form.
- ALA Halloween coloring book.
- Military child's table setting ceremony.
- Youth programs brochure.
- Child Welfare Foundation information.

Important Due Dates

- Year-end Unit reports are due to the District Chairman by April 15th.
- Year-end District reports are due to the Department Chairman by May 1st.

Personal Chairman Award:

Awarded to the District submitting the most Youth Hero OR Good Deed Awards. Please include pictures with your reports. Please send pictures directly to me but remember they must be in their original form and of the highest resolution possible.

National Awards:

Available for Units that have an outstanding Children and Youth program. Visit www.ALAForVeterans.org for more details or let me know you are interested. I am happy to help how I can with your submission.

Barbara Whitney, Dept of AZ Children and Youth Chairman 12556 E. 50th Lane Yuma, AZ 85367 Barbaraw527@icloud.com

The Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony

Posted On: Monday, 17 April 2017

"When an Air Force officer was asked what he needed in Iraq, he said, 'Please don't send cookies, care packages, or socks. Just help take care of our children.' Our country has always supported its military in times of war through community efforts," said First Lady Laura Bush during a White House speech in 2004. "We have a great capacity to care for the home front. Now is the time for a new victory garden. In this garden we can tend to the needs of the military child."

The American Legion Auxiliary emphasizes protecting, caring for, and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans and military families. Show your support for military children during April – Month of the Military Child.

The Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony is a unique program to involve Auxiliary Junior members and younger Sons of The American Legion to honor the sacrifices of their military child friends and classmates. The ceremony is inspired by the POW/MIA remembrance table ceremony. Our military answer the call to service every day as they defend freedom around the world. That service often comes at a great personal sacrifice, not only for the servicemember, but also for their children.



ALA Mission Statement

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

The nontraditional place setting of the Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony includes:

- The potted flowering plant symbolizing that a military child may flower and flourish where they are planted
- The hand spade recognizes that they may be transplanted to a new place in the world at a moment's notice.
- The birthday hat and unlit candles, along with the baseball and glove, and ballet slippers represent special occasions that are missed.
- The family photo depicting a child with his/her uniformed parent demonstrates our country's strength.
- The final touch to the table setting is the American flag to remind us that families are united in their commitment to national service, at home or away.

April is Month of the Military Child. This is one of several posts throughout the month of April celebrating military children.

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Children & Youth Western Division Newsletter

November 2025

Welcome to the 2025-2026 Children & Youth Year

Welcome to our year together as 2025-2026 Children & Youth (C & Y) chairs. What a wonderful ALA program that we get to do.

The purpose of the C & Y Newsletter is to share ideas for working the program and to highlight what the Units are doing in your department. I am asking that you submit to me by the 15th of each month something related to C & Y that happened in your state.

It can be a synopsis of the activity to include the Unit name and number. Pictures are definitely welcomed. I would be thrilled if every Department submitted something each month.

ALA CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAM

The ALA Children & Youth program promotes our mission to enhance the lives of U.S. veterans, military, and their families. The Children & Youth Program has 4 Key Program Statements:

- The Children & Youth program emphasizes protecting, caring for and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans' and military families.
- To recognize and reward the positive actions of our children and youth, the American Legion Auxiliary has two special national awards bestowed to youth nominated by units: the Youth Hero Award and the Good Deed Award.
- Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2) is an initiative honoring military children who may be experiencing a separation from one or both parents, whether deployed to a war zone, having a short tour, or on an extended temporary duty assignment.
- The ALA Children & Youth program strives to support and promote the Children & Youth program of The American Legion.

"Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future." — John F. Kenned

ALA Children & Youth Facebook Page

Communication is an important part of all levels of the ALA. One way to stay in touch with our members is through **social media**. Facebook groups are now a main method of communicating with members. Make sure to join our Facebook group, ALA Children & Youth at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/

The American Legion Auxiliary Children & Youth program Western Division Department Chairs:

Alaska – Mary Scaturchio
Arizona – Barbara Whitney
California – Barbara Toth
Hawaii – Caitlyn Beauchamp
Idaho – Leslie Kaiser
Nevada – Trishia Eubanks
New Mex. – Candace Williams
Oregon – Genene DeMoss
Utah – Julie Hattabaugh
Washington – Laura Bondurant

Child Well-being Foundation

Established in 1954, The American Legion Child Well-being Foundation was developed as a repository of funds from individuals who wished to contribute to the betterment of children in this country. Our foremost philanthropic priority is to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth by aiding progress in the field of child welfare through research, studies, surveys, projects, or by supporting programs and activities benefiting the welfare of children and youth.

Not all American children grow up inside the comfortable definition of normal childhood development. For thousands, each day is a challenge marked by pain, prayer and perseverance. Many of these children require specialized care. To overcome their obstacles, they need help from you and The American Legion Child Well-being Foundation.

Key Program Statements:

To educate members and the general public about the Child Well Being Foundation (CWF), its mission, and to provide financial assistance to The American Legion in their efforts to award grants to youth-serving nonprofit organizations.

Save the Dates

C & Y Quarterly Zooms

Tuesday, December 16 – 4:30PM Wednesday, March 18 – 4:30PM

Final Pre-Convention TBA

All members of the ALA are invited to attend our quarterly Zoom Meetings, please share with your unit members.

Key Resources

Children & Youth Facebook Group:

https://www.facebook.com/ groups/ALAChildren and Youth/

Youth Hero/Good Deed Awards:

https://member.legionaux.org/youth-hero-gooddeed-awards

Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2:

https://member.legionaux.org/member/committees/ children-andyouth/recognize-kids-ofactive-military

Liaison to Child Well-being Foundation:

https://member.legionaux.org/member/committees/chi ldren-and-youth/liaison-to-childwelfare-foundation

National Chairman:

Melanie Taylor 457 Muscat Drive Cloverdale, CA 95425 (707) 953-7240 mtaylor95425@gmail.com

THIS AND THAT

- Share this newsletter with your Department President and Units.
- If you have ideas or activities, please share them with me to share with the other Department Chairs.
- 4 Any needs or questions, please ASK! I am here to help you have a successful C & Y year!
- Let's make this a FUN and REWARDING year!!

In the event that you did not receive the ALA e-NEWS, I wish to inform you as C&B National Chair about the forthcoming ALA Constitution & Bylaws: Post-Convention Updates and Guidance for Department and Unit Bylaws Webinar. I ask if you would take the time before Thanksgiving to disseminate this information to your respective units, as this informative webinar is accessible to all ALA members.

ALA members are invited to attend an informative national webinar on December 3, 2025, from 12:30-1:30 EST, which will review the adopted changes to the National Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules. National will walk through what was approved at the National Convention, discuss how these updates impact departments and units, and offer guidance on the adjustments you may need to make to your own governing documents.

The registration link for the webinar: https://cvent.me/974YmA

Also, please include this information for your members from National Headquarters, as there is still time for members to apply for a national appointment:

The application process for 2026-2027 national committee appointments is open through Jan. 1! 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. Learn more by reading the ALA blog at www.ALAforVeterans.org/blog.

In the Spirit of "Service, Not Self", Sallie Rossman ALA National C&B Chair

Education December 2025

ATTENTION: ALL NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED ONLINE THIS YEAR BY 11:59 P.M. MARCH 1, 2026!

Welcome to the exciting world of education! Education is a lifelong process that starts at birth and continues to the last breath of life. This year you have the opportunity to make an impact on the lives of students and educators. Brainstorm, be creative, and encourage your members to do the same. How many lives can we touch? We are limited only by the number of people living in our communities, states, and nation.

The following items are available on the Department and the National website:

- 1. Rules for National and Department awards in Education: <u>Education Program National Awards</u> (<u>legion-aux.org</u>) and <u>Dept Awards/Narratives</u>.
- 2. The **Education Year-end report** form to be submitted to the Department Chair by **May 1, 2026**<u>Department Report Forms.</u>
- 3. The applications for the **Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship, The Non-Traditional Student Scholarship, The Spirit of Youth Scholarship,** and **The Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship** are available at <u>Scholarships (legion-aux.org)</u>.
- 4. A copy of the rules and application for the **Wilma Hoyal-Maxine Chilton Memorial Scholarship** is also available at <u>Hoyal-Chilton Memorial Scholarship.pdf</u>.
- 5. A printable scholarship brochure is available on the Education page of the Department website. AZ Legion Family Scholarship Pamphlet.pdf

The entire information packet for Education can be found on the Department website <u>Education Fall</u> <u>Conference packet</u>.

Further information can be found on the National website https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/education

Please feel free to contact me for further information or assistance. I look forward to seeing the creative ways that the Units promote the Education Program. Be sure to continue to update me with your activities related to your education program so that I can pass on your achievements on to the Division Chairman.

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

Education Chairman
Department of Arizona
jvietri@msn.com

Julie Vietri

480-495-1558



Education 2025-2026



Welcome to the exciting world of education! Education is a lifelong process that starts at birth and continues to the last breath of life. This year you have the opportunity to make an impact on the lives of students and educators. Brainstorm, be creative, and encourage your members to do the same. How many lives can we touch? We are limited only by the number of people living in our communities, states and nation. The Education packet can be found on the Department website: aladeptaz.org (Member Resources)

Included in the packet, you will find:

- 1. Rules for National and Department awards in Education.
- 2. A copy of the **Education Year-end report** form to be submitted to the Department Chair by **May 1**, **2026**.
- 3. Links to access the applications for the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship, The Non-Traditional Student Scholarship, The Spirit of Youth Scholarship, and the Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship. (Printable scholarship pamphlets are available on the Department website.)
- 4. A copy of the rules and application for the Wilma Hoyal-Maxine Chilton Memorial Scholarship.
- 5. Suggestions for Give 10 to Education.
- 6. A printable pamphlet on the available scholarships.

The resources from the National Education Chairman, can be found on the American Legion Auxiliary website: https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/education

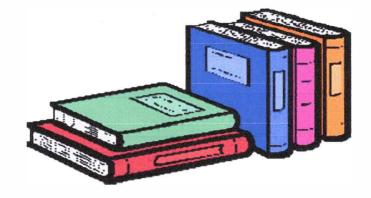
Don't forget - - November 17-21 is American Education Week and May 4-8 is Teacher Appreciation Week. Please show your support for your local schools, educators and support personnel. The students of today will be the leaders of tomorrow.

Please feel free to contact me for further information or assistance.

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

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

Tulie Vietri



National Scholarships and Awards

Scholarships

All National scholarships should be submitted online by March 1, 2026. Applications are available for completion on the National website, www.legion-aux.org/Scholarships

A. Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship

- Awarded to children of veterans who served in the armed forces during the eligibility dates for The American Legion.
 - Three \$5,000 scholarships will be awarded in each division.
- Fifteen outstanding students will be awarded a total of \$75,000 to further their higher education.
- The applicant must complete 50 hours of community service during his/her high school years to be eligible for one of these scholarships.

B. The Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

- One scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded in each American Legion Auxiliary division.
- Applicant must be a member of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion and shall have paid dues for the two preceding years and for the calendar year in which the application is made.

C. Spirit of Youth Scholarship

- One Junior member in each division will receive a \$5,000 scholarship.
- Applicant must be a senior in high school, have held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the immediate past three years, hold a current membership card and continue her membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during the four-year scholarship period.

D. Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship

- Two scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 will be awarded in each American Legion Auxiliary division.
- Applicants must have been a Junior member of the American Legion Auxiliary, held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the past three consecutive years and be a paid member for the current membership year. Winners must continue membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during the scholarship period.
- Applicants must be a traditional student with no interruption in education, at least in the first semester of college but not yet attained a bachelor's degree.

E. Member Award: Give 10 to Education

- a. Award: Printable citation
- b. Presented to: Participants of Give 10 to Education
- c. Materials and Guidelines:
 - Recognition certificates are available to download and print at www.ALAforVeterans.org on the Education Committee page.

F. Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Education Program

- a. Award: Citation plaque
- b. Presented to: One unit in each division (5)
- c. Materials and guidelines:
 - i. Awarded to the unit in each division with the most outstanding Education program.
 - Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words. Include specific examples of how your unit worked the Education program, including Veterans in Community Schools.
- iii. May include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc.

G. Department Award: Best Department Education Program

- a. Award: Citation
- b. Presented to: One department in each division (5)
- c. Materials and guidelines:
 - i. Awarded to the department in each division that conducted the best overall Education program.
 - Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words. Include specific examples of how your department worked the Education program, including Veterans in Community Schools.
- iii. May include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc.

How To Sheets

- How to Organize a Veterans in Community Schools Event
- How to Create a Unit Scholarship Fund

Additional Resources You Can Use

- 1. American Legion Auxiliary scholarship applications: www.ALAforVeterans.org/Scholarships
- 2. Educational resources through the Americanism and Children & Youth Commission of The American Legion: www.legion.org/education
- 3. Free online tutoring for military children: www.tutor.com/military
- 4. Student Veterans of America: www.studentveterans.org
- 5. Your national Education committee members (see Education program page on the national website or Annual Supplement for contact information).
- 6. The national Education Committee Facebook group, search ALA Education

National Education Awards

Education Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements:

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Just three simple steps to add your part to our national success story:

- 1) Please follow instructions as you fill out the National Report and Awards Cover Sheet found in the awards section of the National website.
- 2) Provide details/examples about the activity as outlined in the award's materials and guidelines section.
- 3) Submit as indicated on the Education page of the National website.

National Report and Awards Cover Sheet, deadlines, and Education committee contact information may be found on the Education committee page on the national website, https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/education

EDUCATION YEAR-END REPORT FORM 2025-2026

Unit Number	Total Membership
Chairman Name	
Address	
Phone Number	e-mail address
S	Supporting the Program
Number of Unit Members involved in sur	pport of the program
Number of Juniors involved in support of	the program
Number of Legionnaires involved in supp	ort of the program
How did the Unit promote the National S	cholarships?
Scholarship?	ent Scholarship, the Wilma Hoyal-Maxine Chilton Memorial
Number of Unit Scholarships awarded	Dollar value
Did your Unit participate in American Edu	ucation Week? Briefly describe the activities.
Did your Unit participate in the <i>Give 10 to</i> certificates were given in your Unit?	o Education program? How many Give 10 to Education Briefly describe the activities.

Did your Unit present the <i>Veterans in the Classroom</i> program? Briefly describe the activities.
Did your Unit actively support any Veterans associations on college or university campuses? Briefly describe the activities.
Did your Unit help assist needy students? Briefly describe the activities.
Did your Unit involve the Legionnaires, the Sons and the Legion Riders? How many of each group participated? In what way did they participate?
What were the other community resources or activities your Unit used to assist students, teachers or support personnel?

You may use separate paper, if needed.

Please return this form to the Education Chairman, Julie Vietri, 7663 E. 6th St., Scottsdale, AZ 85251 or jvietri@msn.com, on or before May 1, 2026.

Reminder: A typed narrative, not to exceed 1000 words, must be submitted to be eligible for the **Jean Batley Plaque** or the **Chrysteen Fritzinger Plaque**.

Department of Arizona Education Awards & Scholarship Rules

All areas of the National Organization's education program should be emphasized and Units are encouraged to participate.

The Department winners of the *Children of Warriors National*Presidents Scholarship, Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members,
Non-Traditional Student Scholarship, and Junior Member Loyalty
Scholarship will each receive a \$25 cash award, and these awards will be included in the annual Department budget as a separate line item.

The Department has established the Wilma Hoyal/Maxine Chilton Memorial Scholarship. There are three scholarships awarded annually; one to Arizona State University, one to The University of Arizona, and one to Northern Arizona University.

This scholarship is renewable provided the student meets the outlined criteria. Recipient must file an application through the American Legion Auxiliary Department office. Applications for this scholarship may be secured by the student through the University office or the Department of Arizona American Legion Auxiliary website.

Recipient must be enrolled as a second year or an upper-division student in Political Science, Public Programs, or Special Education.

Rules and requirements for these scholarships will be provided with the application form.

Nursing Scholarships are awarded through the Past Presidents Parley Committee.

CHRYSTEEN FRITZINGER PLAQUE

Units with membership of 151 and over.

The purpose of this award is to stimulate interest in good participation in the Education program of the American Legion Auxiliary by giving recognition to the Unit which makes the most use of the available ideas in education, scholarship and loan possibilities.

RULES:

- 1. Any Unit in the Department of Arizona may receive this award in this membership category.
- 2. This award shall become the permanent property of that Unit which wins it for three (3) consecutive years. It is understood that the permanent winner of this plaque will place another one in the Department of Arizona for competition following the same rules. The name of the plaque shall remain the same each year.
- 3. The judging of the reports shall be made prior to the time of the annual Department Convention. Three (3) judges are to be appointed by the Department Education Chairman, none to be selected from the Auxiliary members belonging to Units competing for this award.
- 4. Judging will be actual participation in Scholarships, both Loan and Gift, Educational program in both high school and grammar schools, and extra activity done.
- 5. Unit Education reports must be into the Department Education Chairman on or before deadline date for reports or date designated by the Department Chairman.
- 6. A narrative report of the work accomplished in this program must be included with the report to be eligible for this award. The narrative must be typewritten, not to exceed 1,000 words. Newspaper clippings, pictures, programs, etc. may be included in a separate section from the narrative.

JEAN BATLEY PLAQUE

Units with membership of 150 and under.

The purpose of this award is to stimulate interest in good participation in the Education Program of the American Legion Auxiliary by giving recognition to the Unit which makes the most use of the available ideas in education, scholarship and loan possibilities.

RULES:

- 1. Any Unit in the Department of Arizona may receive this award in this membership category.
- 2. This award shall become the permanent property of that Unit which wins it for three (3) consecutive years. It is understood that the permanent winner of this plaque will place another one in the Department of Arizona for competition following the same rules. The name of the plaque shall remain the same each year.
- 3. The judging of the reports shall be made prior to the time of the annual Department Convention. Three (3) judges are to be appointed by the Department Education Chairman, none to be selected from the Auxiliary members belonging to Units competing for this award.
- Judging will be actual participation in Scholarships, both Loan and Gift, Educational program
 in both high school and grammar schools, and extra activity done.
- 5. Unit Education reports must be into the Department Education Chairman on or before deadline date for reports or date designated by the Department Chairman.

(Revised 1989)

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA

WILMA HOYAL-MAXINE CHILTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

One (1) annual scholarship of \$3000.00 is available to a student at each of the following schools: Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, the University of Arizona, and Grand Canyon University enrolled as a second year or upper division student in Political Science, Public Programs or Special Education. (A total of 4 scholarships per year is possible.)

Applicant must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of Arizona for at least one (1) year. Honorably discharged veterans or immediate family members of a veteran will be given preference.

Application must be sent to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona Headquarters office by May 15th preceding term to be commenced in the fall.

Final selection will be made by the American Legion Auxiliary through the Department President and committee of three (3) Past Department Presidents. Recipients will receive awards through the appropriate school offices for each academic year in the following manner. One half (½) of award will be made available to the recipient at the beginning of fall and spring semesters, dependent on proper enrollment with the university.

Applicant must complete at least 12 hours with a grade average of "B" or better, and be enrolled as a full-time student.

Selection for assistance will be made on the following basis:

Submit application with attachments in the following order:

Scholarship 25% Financial Need 40% Character 20% Leadership 15%

I maneral reed 40/0 Leadership 1.

- 1. Completed application.
- 2. Resume of not more than 300 words giving family background, civic, social, school, and church activities, including statement of applicant's career goals.
- 3. Three (3) letters of reference from persons who can testify to character, aptitude, initiative, and need, e.g. Instructors, Counselor, Financial Aid Director, Clergyman or Employer.
- 4. Transcripts of previous year's grades.

Former recipient continuing degree programs as listed above may re-apply provided applicant complies with rules, submitting new application data.

Assemble the preceding data in folder form with the application following this page and send to:

American Legion Auxiliary Department Headquarters 4701 N. 19th Ave. Suite 100 Phoenix, AZ 85015-3727

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY WILMA HOYAL-MAXINE CHILTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name of Applicant				
Address				
City				
Date of Birth				
Martial Status				
PERSONAL INCOME/SOU	RCE \$_			
IMMEDIATE FAMILY INC	OMES	SOURCE: \$		
Is an immediate family mem	ber a ve	teran?	Living?	
Relationship (self, father, gra	andfathe	er, mother, brother,	etc.)	AND
	estructuras participante de la constitución de la c			
Brief statement of service				
-				
Have you applied for other s	cholarsh	nips?		
If so, give amount	альный учественняй править из весеностью править из весеностью править в пра	_		
Have you been awarded other	r schola	arships?		
If so, give amount		_		
Name of University attendin	g:			



American Legion Auxiliary Give 10 to Education Suggested Donation Items and Tracking Sheet

Suggested Item	Quantity	Monetary Value
Books		
Backpack/Book bag		
Loose Paper		
Notebooks		
Folders		
3-Ring Binders		
Pencils		
Pens		
Erasers		
Highlighters		
Crayons		
Colored Pencils		
Markers		
Pencil Box/Pencil Case		
Scissors		
Glue/Glue Sticks		
Ruler		
Calculator		
Craft Supplies		
Kleenex/Paper Towels		
Hand Sanitizer		
Disinfecting Wipes/Baby Wipes		
Mentoring/Reading		
Donation to School		
Donation to Library		
Donation to Scholarship		
Clothing		
Patriotic Item		
Sports Equipment/Games		
Box Tops 4 Education		
	Totala	
	Totals:	















THE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA **AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY**

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF SCHOLARSHIPS AND EDUCATIONAL **OPPORTUNITIES**

For Veterans, Their Families, Our Members, and the Community

Information on the following AMERICAN LEGION scholarships at legion.org/scholarships

AMERICAN LEGION LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

Available to children of Post 9/11 military fallen or Post 9/11 veterans with a 50% or higher VA disability rating.

SAMSUNG SCHOLARSHIP

Available to high school juniors the year they attend Boys or Girls State and are direct descendants of veterans. Awards up to \$10,000.00.

EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Eagle Scout can receive up to \$10,000.00.

ORATORICAL CONTEST

Constitutional Speech Scholarship Contest. Awards up to \$25,000.00.

LEGION BASEBALL SCHOLARSHIP

Awards from \$500.00 to \$5,000.00.

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP

Awards up to \$5,000.00

ANAVICUS SCHOLARSHIP

(Army/Navy/Air Force Veterans in Canada and United States) \$1500.00 scholarships available.

alleca-az.org

ALLECA

Any AZ student, ages 14-19, male and female. A one-week mini-police academy / military boot camp.

azlegion.org/programs/the-junior-reserve-officers-training-corps-jrotc/

JROTC

Elective course at high school level motivating good citizenship in a structured environment. Instructors are retired or reserve members of the US military.

azlegion.org/boysstate

BOYS STATE

A citizenship training program teaching city, county, and state civics in a learn-by-doing format. For students between Junior and Senior year of high school.

Information on the following **AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY** scholarships at **legion-aux.org/scholarships**

CHILDREN OF WARRIORS NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP

Available to high school Seniors who are direct descendants of a veteran. Fifteen (15) \$5,000.00 awards.

SPIRIT OF YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS

Available to high school Seniors who have at least 3 years of Junior membership in the American Legion Auxiliary. \$1000.00 each awarded to 47 students. \$5,000.00 each awarded to 5 students. Spirit of Youth Fund also provides scholarships to the Junior Members of the Year and Girls Nation citizens.

MEMBER LOYALTY SCHOLARSHIPS

Available to current college students who have maintained Junior Auxiliary membership (transitioning to Senior membership) for at least 3 years.

NON-TRADITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Available to members of Legion family, veterans, and spouses of veterans or active duty. Student is returning to college after an interruption in attendance. Five \$2000.00 scholarships.

Information on the following scholarships at

aladeptaz.org/6.--scholarships---educational-opportunities.html

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY NURSES SCHOLARSHIP

Available to nursing students in at least second year. \$1000.00.

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY SCHOLARSHIP IN HEALTH CARE OCCUPATIONS

Available to students working toward certification or degree in an affiliated health care field. \$1000.00.

WILMA HOYAL/MAXINE CHILTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Four (4) \$3000.00 awards, one each to ASU, U of A, NAU, and Grand Canyon University.

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

Grades 3-12, also Special Needs category. Topic changes annually.

volunteer.va.gov/parkescholarship.asp

JAMES H. PARKE MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

Available to student volunteers (10th grade to less than 19 years old) at VA Medical Centers. Award for at least 100 hours during the year up to \$20,000.00. A second award for summer only volunteers is also available.

azgirlsstate.com

GIRLS STATE

A citizenship training program teaching city, county, and state civics in a learn-by-doing format. For students between Junior and Senior year of high school. Arizona Alumni Association awards two \$200.00 scholarships every year to girls attending.

legion.org/scholarships

SAMSUNG SCHOLARSHIP

Available to high school juniors the year they attend Boys or Girls State. Must be a direct descendant of a veteran. Awards up to \$10,000.00.

SCHOOL CONTACTS FOR MAILING

On this form please supply the following information by December 15, 2025

Send to:

Arizona Girls State

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona

4701 North 19th Avenue Suite 100

Phoenix, Arizona 85015

Unit Name & Number	
Address	
Email	Phone
	s State packet, otherwise it will be sent to Principal/Counselor. We have the was made. Most information will be sent by email.
School	
Contact	
Email	Phone
School	
Contact	
Email	Phone
School	
Contact	
Fmail	Phone

Contact	
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Email	Phone
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School	
Contact	
Email	Phone
School	
Contact	
Email	Phone



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ARIZONA GIRLS STATE COMMITTEE

Penny Maklary, Director 1354 12th Street Douglas, Arizona 85607 Phone (520) 850-1951 alaazgirlsstate@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Donna Aronoff Alisha Matteson Mary Jo Ficklin Glendale Phoenix Mesa

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dolores Chavez Marge Christianson Lynda Griffin Stacey Mayberry

Peoria Phoenix Phoenix

Benson

Governor of Arizona Girls State 2026 Ava Campbell – Mesa

Secretary of State 2026 Aarna Dahria - Chandler

LEGION AUXILIARY

Arizona Girls State

Dolores Chavez President

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona

May 31-June 7, 2026 University of Arizona Tucson, Arizona

PURPOSE and OBJECTIVE

Girls State is a citizenship education program privately sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona open to junior girls in high school. The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program provides a nonpartisan participatory program that teaches eligible high school females responsible citizenship grounded in ethics, the principles of our nation's founders and respect for God and Country. It educates young women on the privileges, rights and duties of American citizenship in order to grasp an understanding of the responsibilities they will assume as adults. Girls State is a positive and tangible program in Americanism.

American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State was established by the American Legion Auxiliary in 1947, and is an annual program designed as a practical experience in self-government, based on Arizona State Government. Girls State is non-partisan and non-political, in that no existing party is promoted.

The purpose of American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls Sate is threefold:

- To emphasize the importance of government in modern life.
- To educate young women in the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship.
- To awaken a sincere conviction that a well informed, intelligent, participating citizenry is vitally needed to protect and preserve our American institutions and our democracy.

These goals are achieved by actual participation in a simulation of the political and governmental process.

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State is designed so that each citizen may participate in the programs electoral process, have an opportunity to hold public office and be encouraged to share in the formulation of public policy within the program.

Each citizen can be a definite and integral part in the function of American Legion Auxiliary Girls State and will have an opportunity of learning for herself that government is what she makes of it. It is the hope that American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State citizens will complete the program with a mature appreciation for the basic strengths and weaknesses of the American system of government. It is further hoped that these young women will have a firm resolution to make government an effective and responsible servant of the people, and that as citizens, they will exercise the many rights accorded them.

It is an honor and privilege not a right to be selected to attend Arizona Girls State. A girl selected, has the right to decline the invitation if uncomfortable with requirements and objectives/observances of the program. A girl is not forced to attend this Auxiliary program and attends with the full knowledge of what will be expected of her as a delegate.

PERSONNEL AND SUPERVISION

The 2026 American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State program will represent 198 high schools in Arizona. The girls will live as self-governed citizens with adult supervision during the full period of Arizona Girls State. Arizona Girls State personnel are in attendance throughout the entire session. Capable women and counselors will supervise the delegates.

Citizens will not be allowed to leave the campus area assigned to Arizona Girls State as they are covered by Girls State insurance only when in these designated areas.

Any girl guilty of misconduct or leaving a designated area, except with the permission of the Girls State Director, will be subject to immediate dismissal and school notified of girl's action. Security of all participants is most important and practiced through established

American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State rules, policies and code of conduct.

SELECTION of PARTICIPANTS

Eligibility

Although Arizona Girls State is a program privately sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, eligibility to attend is not confined to daughters or relatives of The American Legion family, military dependents or former alumnae.

A girl in the junior class of high school that meets the necessary qualifications and requirements is eligible TO BE CONSIDERED as a citizen of Arizona Girls State.

The basic qualifications for Arizona Girls State selection are leadership, scholarship and community service. Selection should also be based on **character** and excellence in leadership, scholarship or extra-curricular activities and

Girls State is strenuous, both physically and emotionally; therefore, the ability to adequately cope with these conditions should be seriously considered.

Qualification Requirements

achievements.

- A junior (11th grade) who will complete her senior year of high school and have at least one semester of high school remaining.
- May not have participated in a previous session of American Legion Auxiliary Girls State.
- Must be able to participate fully in all phases of the fast-paced program.
- Must remain for the entire session including the awards ceremony on Sunday morning.
 Should indicate an interest in government; be cooperative, and have the ability to follow
- directives and established rules
 Must attend one of the orientations.

- Notarized signature of parent or guardian on registration card. Signature of parent on medical form and media/bullying policy.
- Required to report to her sponsoring Unit in writing or in person after attending.
- Must provide own transportation to and from Arizona Girls State. Citizens driving cars to Arizona Girls State must turn their car keys into the Director and purchase a University of Arizona parking permit.
- WILL NOT be excused during the session or early for testing, activities, appointments or classes.
- The Director, prior to registration, must approve all special requests.

The Board of Directors of American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State may accept or reject any application for Girls State participation.

Since American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State is a privately funded/sponsored program receiving NO government funds, whose preamble states "For God and Country", citizens participate in flag ceremonies and show respect for non-denominational activity/prayer. If a girl has a problem with these requests, maybe this is not the program for her.

Medical Requirements

Medical information must be on file with Arizona Girls State Medical Personnel for each Delegate in case of illness or the need for emergency treatment. Each girl will have a wellness check-up by a health care provider within the 4 weeks prior to attending Girls State; the results recorded on the proper form and turned in at registration. Sports or other physical examinations not done within 4 weeks of the session are not acceptable.

Appointment for the check-up can and should be made in advance.

A girl may not be admitted without this medical form and if not in good health at the time she presents herself for admission.

Precautions will be taken to avoid accidents or illness. There will be registered camp nurses on duty 24 hours a day. In case of illness, or need to be seen by the nurse, the parent/guardian and/or doctor will be contacted immediately. Limited sickness and accident insurance coverage is provided. Arizona Girls State, and University of Arizona waive all liability for any illness or injury.

ACTIVITIES

Upon arrival each Delegate is a Citizen assigned to a mythical City, County and Political Party. There are four Counties, each composed of three Cities.

The Citizens are instructed in the duties of various public offices; learn the function of each office, its powers and limitations, including the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches. The citizens then nominate and elect the various City, County and State officials from their peers. It is learning by doing. Arizona Girls State conforms to the structure of state government as specified by Arizona's state constitution.

Campaigning, pictures, Glee Club, Talent Show, Newspaper/Yearbook and Pizza Party are some of the scheduled activities.

GIRLS NATION

Climaxing the Arizona Girls State program is American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation. Arizona elects two Citizens to attend this program on the Federal government process. The two Citizens elected as Girls Nation Senators will attend a week-long trip to the Nation's Capital.

REGISTRATION FEE

The fee is \$500 for the week of Girls State. This fee includes 2 shirts, meals, housing room and all educational materials.

NO ONE on staff receives any compensation from this fee. Registration and the fee which is accompany non-refundable must application and sent to Unit Sponsor or Penny Maklary, Director of Arizona Girls State before Registrations received after March 1, 2026. March 1st may be charged a late fee and subject to limited bed space. Alternates are used as delegate replacements when necessary and are vital to the program. All Units are responsible for extra requirements. All checks should be made payable the AMERICAN LEGION to AUXILIARY OR ARIZONA GIRLS STATE.

SAMSUNG SCHOLARSHIP

Samsung Scholarship information: www.legion.org

Website...www.azgirlsstate.com



Hello...

Please let us introduce ourselves. We are the American Legion Auxiliary, the oldest patriotic membership organization. We believe that training our youth about the basic ideals and principles of our system of government will help to ensure the survival of our republic. Through a unique citizenship-training program, Auxiliary members teach the youth of our nation to understand, comprehend and appreciate their roles as United States citizens. The program is called **AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ARIZONA GIRLS STATE**. Many confuse us with **AMERICAN LEGION BOY STATE**. We are **two** separate and distinct organizations. This answers the question why we cannot send out the same information to promote our programs. The funding and requirements for each program are also different. Each program is held at a different University which has its own requirements. Both programs have the same premise of citizenship education, but each are entities unto themselves.

For over seventy-five years, the American Legion Auxiliary has succeeded in giving girls the finest citizenship training program possible.

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State has grown from a few hundred participants to nearly 25,000 delegates annually. Each summer, these approximately 25,000 enthusiastic young women participate in American Legion Auxiliary Girls State sessions across the nation in each state. At Girls State, the "delegates" (girls selected to attend) study city, county and state government processes. They do this by setting up their own miniature city, county and state government and govern themselves according to the rules and procedures set by their particular state's laws. American Legion Auxiliary Girls State affords participants an opportunity to live together as self-governing citizens by informing them about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship. This learning experience will better familiarize the participant with their duties as United States citizens and will encourage their participation in the democratic processes as they progress into adulthood.

The American Legion Auxiliary is solely responsible for the program's content and operation. American Legion Auxiliary Girls State receives **NO** financial government assistance. American Legion Auxiliary members provide a variety of different activities that encompass education, recreation and friendship. Junior Counselors, who were former Girls State citizens, return to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with the girls. Elected Officials provide firsthand knowledge through speeches and activities. All work done before, during and in preparation for a Girls State session, **is done by volunteers...no one, from Director to Staff receives a salary or is paid** in the Girls State Program.

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State has provided a valuable learning experience for hundreds of thousands of accomplished women. They left Girls State less intimidated by government...able to see it for what it is ...ordinary people working for the betterment of society.

American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State will be held May 31 – June7, 2026, on the campus of the University of Arizona in Tucson. The cost for a girl to attend is \$500.00, which covers the cost of her room, meals, educational material, 2 shirts and insurance. We hope you will consider becoming part of this very worthwhile program that is "LAYING a SOLID FOUNDATION for a STRONGER TOMORROW" through "Learning by Doing". If you would like us to give a presentation or a former Girls State Citizen to speak and answer questions, we would be most happy to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Penny Maklary

Penny Maklary...Arizona Girls State Director alaazgirlsstate@gmail.com

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS STATE

The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program is a marquee program of the American Legion Auxiliary that has been training female high school students for civic leadership since 1937. Through a week-long "simulated government" immersive learning experience, America's future leaders assume roles in the fictional "National" and "Federal" political parties, run for and hold offices that mirror their state's elective offices, and in one jam-packed week learn fundamentals about the legislative process, the three branches of government and parliamentary procedure. Students selected to participate in this prestigious program learn life-long lessons in leadership grounded in civility, teamwork, advocacy, consensus-building and respect. They have fun. They make lasting friendships. They leave enriched, using what they learn throughout their lives for the betterment of our country.

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State is a nonpartisan participatory program that teaches young women responsible citizenship grounded in ethics, the principles of our nation's founders and respect of God and Country. American Legion Auxiliary Girls State is among the nation's most respected educational programs of government instruction and leadership development for U.S. high-school students.

Since the inception of the ALA Girls State program in 1937, nearly one million young women have had the opportunity to learn firsthand how their state and local government work. The program has grown from a few hundred participants to some 25,000 annually.

The American Legion sponsors a separate but similar program for young men called American Legion Boys State, first established in 1935. Currently, both American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs operate in all states.

High-school juniors are selected and sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary units to participate in the program. Local businesses or community organizations may help contribute to participants' expenses. Because the structure of state and local government varies from state to state, American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs may vary in content and method of procedure, but each adheres to the same basic core values in teaching government from the township to the state level.

Female students who demonstrate leadership, character, scholarship, loyalty and service in their school and community should be considered. ALA Girls State participants are to be selected on the basis of merit and ability.

Girls State brochure and other printed material provide further explanation of the program.

ARIZONA GIRLS STATE May 31-June 7, 2026 ARIZONA GIRLS STATE CHECK LIST

Letter with allotment
Appointment made with school counselor or contact for instructions
* Name of school counselor or contact sent to Department by 12-15-2025 A must for school contacts.
Letter/letters mailed to possible contributors
Follow up on letter/letters
Select method of selection of Girls State Delegate by Unit
* Check to make sure information packet with cards arrived at school after 1-15-2026
Paperwork necessary to apply for Girls State to counselors (Units methods) Can be attachments
Interview/EssayDATE SETEarlier the Better
Interviews (In person or virtual) your choice. Some schools do selection.
* Give School results of selection & when you will pick up cards signed with all necessary information
Process Delegate/Alternate paperwork (make sure all signatures on applications are complete) application paper, and picture are included
* Notarized cards signed by Unit, Pictures, Fees, Sizes and Application Paperinformation legible with one check to Director by 3-1-20261 check from the Unit Prior to Spring Break
Unit contact name and phone number given to each Delegate/Alternate
Orientation required for all Delegates/Alternatespossibility of membershipcheck Girls State web site for further information. Samsung Scholarship sent out in April.
* Delegate attendance to Girls State. Make contact and check the day before to ensure girl/girls are prepared. Notify Director immediately if not attending.
Alternate contacted if needed and notify Director
AFTER SESSION
Make contact with Delegates
Report to Unit
* Very Important Items and a must



AZ Girls State Foundation has been approved for Fry's Rewards.

To Use the Fry's Community Rewards Program visit https://www.frysfood.com/

Sign in or set up an Account Go to My Account Choose Community Rewards

Search for American Legion Auxiliary AZ Girls State Foundation either by name or PG305 and then click Enroll

REMEMBER, purchases will not count for our organization until after you register your rewards card. You must swipe your registered Fry's rewards card or use the phone number that is related to the registered Fry's rewards card when shopping for each purchase to count.

You are required to re-enroll your Fry's V.I.P Card on an annual basis.

MANY THANKS TO FRY'S AND THE KROGER CORPORATION FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE ARIZONA GIRLS STATE PROGRAM.



Arizona Girls State Stars 2026

SUPPORT GIRLS STATE BE ONE OF OUR STARS!

Thank you so much for becoming an ALA Girls State Star!

Our Program is as successful as it is because of our amazing members and donors!

Name/Unit:	
Contact Email:	
☐ GS Pens: \$15	☐ City Supplies: \$75
☐ Badge Materials: \$20	☐ Counselor Costs: \$100
☐ Clinic Supplies: \$25	☐ Delegate Shirts: \$200
☐ Lanyards: \$50	☐ Other Amount: \$

All Girls State Stars will be recognized on the ALA AZ Girls State Facebook page, website, and in our yearbook!





Arizona Girls State Complete the sponsorship form above and mail with payment to:

Checks made out to: Arizona Girls State

Mail to: American Legion Auxiliary - Dept of Arizona

4701 N. 19th Ave., Suite 100

Phoenix, AZ 85015



Arizona Girls State Yearbook 2026

SUPPORT GIRLS STATE DELEGATE SPUTLIGHT

Highlight your delegate in this years AZ Girls State Yearbook.

Send a shout out to your favorite
Arizona Girls State delegate with a nice
congratulations including photo and words of joy!

Oh and do not forget the photo in full color!

ADVERTISING RATES

Single Space

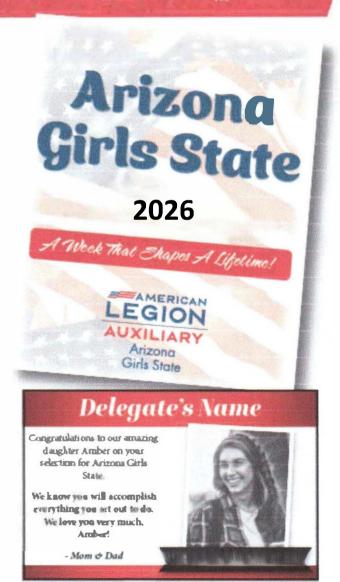
(3.94"X 2.54") \$15

(Ads can be camera ready or we can design for you)

Sales Deadline is June 13th, 2026 Art deadline is June 20th, 2026



Arizona Girls State



NOT ACTUAL SIZE

For more information or to place your ad, call: Shannon Mead at 623-521-1263



Arizona Girls State Yearbook 2026

SUPPORT GIRLS STATE

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS

Showcase your business in this year's Arizona Girls State yearbook.

Help support Arizona Girls State and advertise your business at the same time in our full color yearbook!

Give a shout out to our delegates and let everyone know about your amazing business!

ADVERTISING RATES

 Full page
 (8° X 10.5°)
 \$100

 1/2 page Vertical
 (3.94° X 10.5°)
 \$75

 1/2 page Horizontal
 (8° X 5.2°)
 \$75

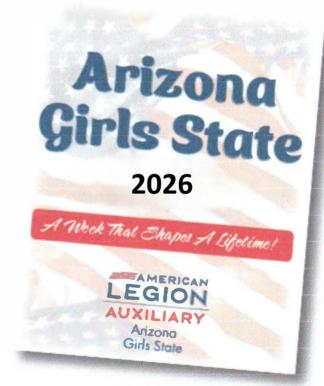
 1/4 page
 (3.94° X 5.2°)
 \$50

(Ads can be camera ready or we can design for you)

Sales Deadline is June 13th, 2026 Art deadline is June 20th, 2026



Arizona Girls State





For more information or to place your ad, call:
Shannon Mead at 623-521-1263

Historian Report December 2025 By Stephanie McMullen – AZ Department Historian Happy Holidays,

It was great seeing everyone at Fall Conference.



Serve. Honor. Advocate. Educate. These words embody the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. For more than a century, ALA members have volunteered selflessly to help our veterans, military, and their families. Today, our mission-outreach impact exceeds \$2 billion annually, our sustaining commitment to honor our country s past, present, and future veterans.

The responsibility of the historians of the Auxiliary is not only to the women and men of the organization today but to the women and men of the future, and to the America of the future. It is through their work that the Auxiliary will live long after its last member has gone to their grave and that its ideals will be transmitted to generations of Americans yet unborn. They have a task worthy of their best efforts, and which will give scope to their fullest talents. To do this I need help please mail or email me your meeting minutes for each district and each unit of AZ!

IMPORTANT!!!! - Since Fall Conference I have set up a new email address for the rest of this year, and hopefully the future Historians will use it too.

LET MAKE HISTORY FOR AZ COUNT!

I want YOU
in the Department History
Be sure to post on Ring Your Bell
And send me your meeting minutes!

Stephanie McMullen
AZ Department Historian
historianaladeptaz@gmail.com
(623) 910-4716

MEMBERSHIP NOVEMBER 28, 2025

		UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT
		0100	Phoenix	166	3	118	121	72.89%
		Total		166	3	118	121	72.89%
	Total			166	3	118	121	72.89%
01		0019	Yuma	182	3	111	114	62.64%
		0046	Bouse	63	0	15	15	23.81%
		0056	Yuma	72	0	37	37	51.39%
		Total		317	3	163	166	52.37%
	Total			317	3	163	166	52.37%
02		0007	Tucson	46	1	11	12	26.09%
		0036	Tucson	243	2	162	164	67.49%
		0059	Tucson	127	2	83	85	66.93%
		0066	Green Valley	883	0	534	534	60.48%
		0068	Tucson	56	2	36	38	67.86%
		0073	Tucson	25	1	9	10	40.00%
		0109	Vail	440	1	223	224	50.91%
		0125	Tucson	15	0	0	0	0.00%
		0131	Green Valley	601	0	381	381	63.39%
		0132	Oro Valley	77	2	49	51	66.23%
		Total		2513	11	1488	1499	59.65%
	Total			2513	11	1488	1499	59.65%
03		0011	Douglas	116	2	80	82	70.69%
		0016	Bisbee	48	0	24	24	50.00%
		0024	Tombstone	450	6	306	312	69.33%
		0045	Benson	45	1	23	24	53.33%
		0052	Sierra Vista	183	0	46	46	25.14%
		0141	Pearce	20	0	22	22	110.00%
		Total		862	9	501	510	59.16%
	Total			862	9	501	510	59.16%
04		8000	Casa Grande	27	1	22	23	85.19%
		0009	Florence	191	0	20	20	10.47%
		0051	Coolidge	72	0	1	1	1.39%
		0054	Coolidge	81	0	41	41	50.62%
		0129	Queen Creek	31	0	12	12	38.71%
		0133	Maricopa	23	0	2	2	8.70%
		Total		425	1	98	99	23.29%
	Total			425	1	98	99	23.29%

05		0004	Globe	42	2	18	20	47.62%
		0028	Clifton	89	0	42	42	47.19%
		0032	Safford	139	0	93	93	66.91%
		0095	Solomon	82	6	68	74	90.24%
		Total		352	8	221	229	65.06%
	Total			352	8	221	229	65.06%
06		0030	Springerville	94	1	53	54	57.45%
		0037	Holbrook	36	0	17	17	47.22%
		0069	Payson	112	0	16	16	14.29%
		0086	Overgaard	468	7	307	314	67.09%
		Total		710	8	393	401	56.48%
	Total			710	8	393	401	56.48%
07		0003	Flagstaff	68	3	32	35	51.47%
		0013	Williams	74	1	34	35	47.30%
		0014	Kingman	131	5	86	91	69.47%
		0022	Golden Valley	146	3	73	76	52.05%
		0042	Grand Canyon	42	4	25	29	69.05%
		0057	Ash Fork	68	2	42	44	64.71%
		0081	Lake Havasu City	759	3	415	418	55.07%
		0087	Bullhead City	124	1	100	101	81.45%
		0088	Dolan Springs	39	0	31	31	79.49%
		0103	Meadview	53	0	27	27	50.94%
		0123	Seligman	35	0	11	11	31.43%
		0136	Yucca	15	2	13	15	100.00%
		Total		1554	24	889	913	58.75%
	Total			1554	24	889	913	58.75%
08		0006	Prescott	304	5	236	241	79.28%
		0025	Cottonwood	336	6	228	234	69.64%
		0040	Chino Valley	97	0	55	55	56.70%
		0078	Humboldt	148	1	75	76	51.35%
		0079	Yarnell	172	0	62	62	36.05%
		0090	Black Canyon City	65	0	20	20	30.77%
		0093	Camp Verde	117	0	61	61	52.14%
		0108	Prescott Valley	31	1	15	16	51.61%
		0135	Cornville	42	5	26	31	73.81%
		0140	Prescott Valley	17	4	4	8	47.06%
		Total		1329	22	782	804	60.50%
	Total			1329	22	782	804	60.50%

11		0001	Phoenix	114	0	25	25	21.93%
		0005	Phoenix	61	0	25	25	40.98%
		0012	Wickenburg	219	0	108	108	49.32%
		0029	Glendale	240	6	147	153	63.75%
		0053	Buckeye	38	0	38	38	100.00%
		0061	Avondale	239	1	147	148	61.92%
		0062	Peoria	1122	17	697	714	63.64%
		0105	Phoenix	299	6	142	148	49.50%
		0115	Glendale	37	4	15	19	51.35%
		0145	Peoria	25	0	10	10	40.00%
		Total		2394	34	1354	1388	57.98%
	Total			2394	34	1354	1388	57.98%
12		0002	Tempe	101	0	64	64	63.37%
		0026	Mesa	251	0	141	141	56.18%
		0027	Apache Junction	2039	9	1395	1404	68.86%
		0034	Cave Creek	318	1	151	152	47.80%
		0035	Chandler	295	5	180	185	62.71%
		0039	Gilbert	636	6	316	322	50.63%
		0041	Phoenix	351	5	174	179	51.00%
		0044	Scottsdale	314	0	195	195	62.10%
		0058	Fountain Hills	411	4	302	306	74.45%
		0064	Phoenix	16	0	9	9	56.25%
		0065	Phoenix	358	11	102	113	31.56%
		0084	Sacaton	60	5	45	50	83.33%
		0091	Chandler	308	15	214	229	74.35%
		0107	Phoenix	215	3	143	146	67.91%
		0114	Scottsdale	9	1	5	6	66.67%
		0117	Phoenix	243	0	127	127	52.26%
		0124	Guadalupe	29	5	26	31	106.90%
		0138	Mesa	138	2	42	44	31.88%
		Total		6092	72	3631	3703	60.78%
	Total			6092	72	3631	3703	60.78%
Total	Total			16714	195	9638	9833	58.83%

November 28, 2025

Happy Holidays Membership Chairs:

As we head into the holiday season and toward year-end, now is a good time to think about gifting membership: please consider those in need, long-time members (especially those with a history of volunteering!), Junior members turning into seniors, active military families, etc. What a wonderful patriotic gift for our veteran & military families!

While everyone seems busy during the holidays, it is a good time to remind members that they are close to membership expiration. Ask your forward-facing members (servers, bartenders, bingo callers etc) to remind members to renew. Make sure there is a process for accepting those renewals!

Please process membership in a timely manner—members will need their new cards and will likely "not understand" any delays (if you know what I mean.... and I think you do!).

At overall Department level:

- •We have signed up almost 1000 new members! Unfortunately, our rivals in Florida have signed nearly triple that!
- •Western Division is in 4th place out of 5 Divisions.
- •In the Western Division, Arizona has sadly dropped to 4th place behind Hawaii, Idaho and California! Let's reinvigorate our focus on membership as we head into year end!!!

MEANWHILE, two more District 5 into the 60% Club: **Congratulations District 8 and District 12! District 2 and District 3 are at 59+%. Let's get every District over that threshold this week!**

Thank you for all your efforts to build our patriotic future through membership!

Marge

Marge Christianson VP/Membership Chair Department of Arizona American Legion Auxiliary (763) 234-9852 call or text Good Morning Member Leadership,

We had some big moves following Veteran's Day!

- ●District 5 went from 6th place right into FIRST PLACE jumping over 10 percentage points to 62.78% and is the First District to reach 60%. Kudos: Unit 4 (Globe), Unit 28 (Clifton), Unit 32 (Safford) and Unit 95 (Solomon) and especially Leslie and Lydia for their enthusiasm and leadership (Facebook post attached).
- ●District 12 is in 2nd and is so close to 60%! Congratulations Guadalupe Unit 124 at 106.90%.
- ●Amazingly, **Districts 2 and 8** are tied for 3rd place at 58.62%.
- •Nearly tied for 4th place are **District 3** (58.12%) and **District 7** (58.11%).
- •Closing fast are **District 11** (57.69%) and **District 6** (56.34%).

Nearly half of Units are over the 60% mark, but some of our Units are really dragging down the District (and overall Department) percentages. District leaders, please stay in touch with these Units and let's see if we can't (gently) get them moving!

On December 9th, another set of "Renew Now" emails will go out. So important to get email addresses correctly into the system for these to be most effective. America 250 renewal Post cards are also still available through Department. Please offer these to your Units, especially those that are struggling. \$2.50 for 25 cards.

Meanwhile, thank you for all you are doing to encourage our organization's growth. I know that much of what you are doing isn't immediately evident in the "numbers". It is your daily commitment and encouragement that creates a strong and thriving organization. We are getting better everyday because of your efforts and for that I am grateful.

Enjoy Thanksgiving and all we have to be thankful for—so very, very much.

Marge

Marge Christianson
VP/Membership Chair
Department of Arizona
American Legion Auxiliary



November 14, 2025

Good Morning All,

At a Department level, we are holding our second-place position with behind Hawaii (oh well.....) and just ahead of California in the Western Division. We didn't make the 60% goal, but I am confident that with the momentum we have, we will make our final goal of 102% of objective. GO TEAM!

Overall, Arizona is in 17th place—but our secret weapon is our winters! While Northern States are huddling inside, we are OUT AND ABOUT gaining membership. I've attached some recruiting ideas from our National Membership Chairman. Please share with your Units (we will also put it on the website). Also, please, pass on that I would love to hear if they employ any of these ideas and how they did! (Pro tip: my year end report request will be all about what Districts and Units did to increase membership—early bird ideas, holiday promotions, community events etc).

And now for this week's standings:

- ●In First Place: District 12 at 57.04%. Will they be first to reach 60%?
- •Second Place: District 8 jumped over 3 percentage points in one week to 56.66%. Amazing what a membership challenge will do! Will District 8 beat District 12 to 60%?
- ●Third Place: District 3 held on to 3rd by also jumping 3 percentage points to 56.30%. SO CLOSE to moving up and making 60%!!!

What do these high performing Districts have in common? Perhaps a number of things, but one thing that stands out to me: **All Units in the District are performing**. Please be sure to reach out to Units that are struggling with their numbers. Please be kind and helpful—sometimes life can be difficult and our programs have to take a backseat. But maybe they are just struggling on membership processing and need a helpful hand. Department is ready to help as needed!

Keep up the great work and thank you for all you do—on membership and ALL THE OTHER WAYS YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Marge

Marge Christianson
Vice President/Membership Chair
Department of Arizona
American Legion Auxiliary
(763) 235-9852 (call or text)

NOVEMBER 12, 2025

Good Morning!

First, let me thank each of you for your enthusiastic support for President Dolores' Fall Conference! I hope each of you enjoyed it as much as I did. I will send District photos that I took out in a separate email.

THE CHALLENGES:

EVERYONE IS A WINNER since all the challenge proceeds go to support President Dolores's Special project of Caregiving and Hospice. Thank you so much for participating in the challenges and supporting such a great cause. Please send your checks to the Department of Arizona with a note that they are for the President's Special Project "Challenges".

By the way: we are open to "REMATCHES". Get creative—the challenge does not have to be \$\$..... but, of course, financial support is always appreciated!

Drum roll please......

District 11 will be donating \$100 to the President's Special project: Amazingly close, District 8 is at 55.91%, District 11: 55.14%. WOW. Great numbers for both Districts. Thank you!

Unit 62 will be donating \$100 to the President's Special project: Unit 25 really outdoing themselves with 69.35% vs 62 cutting over the 60 mark with 60.25%. Amazing. Thank you.

Unit 65 will be donating \$100 to the President's Special Project: Unit 41 is at 40.17% vs Unit 65 at 31.28%. Maybe there is a rematch in this twosome?

District 11 will be donating another \$100 to President's Special Project: District 12's 56.04% barely beat District 11's 55.14%. Tow great Districts!

Unit 41 will be donating \$100 to the President Special Project: Unit 117's 49.79% beat Unit 41's 40.17%. Unit 41: you win some, you lose some!

Unit 24 will be donating \$25 for the President's Special Project: Unit 11 knocked it out of the park with 70.19% vs Unit 24 at 64.00% -- both great performances!!!

Unit 56 will be donating \$25 for the President's Special Project: Unit 19 is at 57.14% while Unit 56 is at 51.39%. GO YUMA!

Attached is the Facebook post, but feel free to do your own! THANK YOU ALL and keep up the great work!

Marge

Marge Christianson Vice President/Membership Chair Department of Arizona American Legion Auxiliary (763) 234-9852 (call or text)

Veteran's Day Challenges: Contributions to the President's Special Project: Caregivers and Hospice

District 11: \$200

Unit 62: \$100

Unit 65: \$100

Unit 41: \$100

Unit 24: \$25

Unit 56: \$25

Thank you for your generosity!!!!

Membership Boost

As we approach the holidays and the end of the year, there are some fun and creative ways you can use to retain, renew, and recruit new members for your units:

- 1. **Holiday Promotions** The holiday season is a time when many people are looking for a great deal. Consider these ideas:
 - a. Discounted Rate: Set a goal to offer a certain dollar amount off membership if completed by Thanksgiving, Black Friday, Cyber Monday, etc.
 - b. Referral Bonuses: Offer a discount to members who bring in a new guest. You might even extend the discount to both the member and the guest if they join during one of the upcoming holiday shopping
 - c. Friends and Family Discounts As we know, many grandmothers handle memberships for their kids and grandchildren. Offer a friends-and-family discount for memberships completed by Thanksgiving.

2. Host a Festive Activity:

- a. Have pamphlets available about the ALA and include membership applications.
- b. If you're hosting a drive-thru dinner, include your unit's calendar of events, examples of how you've made a difference in the lives of veterans, active military, and their families, and express gratitude for community support. Highlight how membership helps sustain your organization's success.
- 3. Raffles and Prizes Everyone loves a chance to win!
 - a. Membership raffles for new members can include prizes such as a free membership, a gift basket, or even being "spoiled" at a meeting. The possibilities are endless.
- 4. **Social Media Engagement** Don't forget the power of social media! Run contests for likes, shares, or the best post. Have fun and be creative while showcasing the ALA and recruiting new members.
- 5. Share Your Story Use your personal testimony to share what the ALA means to you and why you are a member.

6. Know Your Audience:

- a. For a busy mom, make her feel welcome at meetings. If all she can do is bake cookies, be sure to thank her and show appreciation for her contribution.
- b. For a 50-year-plus member, offer her a ride, include her in the group, and give her a meaningful role to help.
- Say Thank You! One of the most important things we can do is express gratitude.
 Everyone in our organization is here for the same purpose, even as we celebrate our differences.

This is the perfect time to have fun recruiting, retaining, and renewing. Our veterans are depending on us to keep moving forward and to continue fighting for them.

Celebrating 250 Years What is your "Why ALA"?

Mother, there's no need to feel down
I said, sister, pick yourself off the ground
I said daughter, cuz you're new in town
There's no need to be unhappy!
Spouse, there's a place you can go
I said, granddaughter, when you're short on your dough
You can meet there and I'm sure you will find
Many ways to have a good time!

Sing to
Sing t

What is your Why A.L.A?
I am asking you Why A.L.A?

Cuz we have everything
Maybe even some bets
YOU CAN HELP OUT ALL THE VETS

What is your Why A.L.A? I am asking you Why A.L.A?

You can get yourself seen
You can volunteer
You can even have a beer!

People, are you listening to me?
I said, People, are you happy you're free?
Well then join us and honor your vet
You can make a difference you bet
No one does it all by themselves
I said, people, believe in yourself
And just go there, join the ALA
Don't wait, do it today!!!

Repeat Chorus



AMERICA



"Building our Patriotic Future"

Membership Program

POLL: What is the Membership Program about?

If you build it, they will come Increasing the number of new members If you build it, they will stay **Retaining existing members** If you build it, I will count it! **Endless numbers and percentages Endless numbers and percentages Engaging members in our mission**

Imagine yourself at a Unit General meeting.....

When the President asks if there are any guests, there are 3. One is introduced by a member as her cousin, who came because she's heard so much about the Auxiliary. Another is introduced as a granddaughter: grandma invited so she'd see patriotism at work. Another is a winter visitor and a member from an out of state Unit who someone invited to come.



Getting New members:

When members are engaged with the Unit and the work it does—they naturally bring others into the Unit.

During the meeting, a member at large announces that she has found a teacher who wants her students to participate in the Americanism essay contest. She moves for cash prizes. After thoughtful discussion representing all points of view, the motion is voted upon based on information presented. She then asks for members to judge submissions.



Keeping Members:

Members are seeking mission opportunities that align with their skills and interest– giving them a sense of purpose. They feel respected and fairly heard regardless of vote outcome.

Pro tip: watch what happens after the meeting closes

Members Recruiting **New** Members

Welcome Walk-ins: BE FRIENDLY & KNOWLEDGABLE

Be ready for chance meetings-Elevator Speech (AKA "What Is Your Why ALA?)



Invite acquaintances- Always have applications with you

They've joined-now what?

Member Lifecycle

New Member



- Personality & interest development
- Where do I fit?
- Learning about the mission, organization & Unit
- Found "Comfort zone"
- Takes responsibility for "happiness"
- Bring in friends



TIME

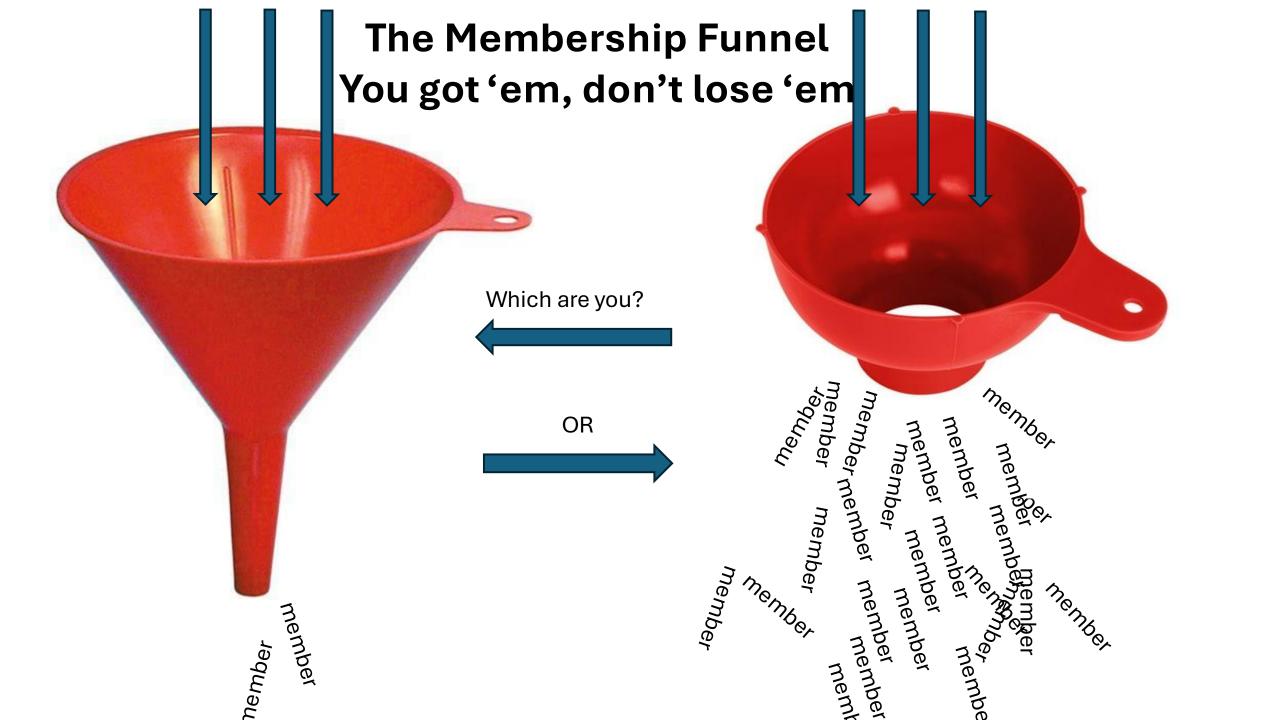
Every timeline occurs at a different rate!

Unit Leadership

- Individual care
- Get to know them
- Offer "nopressure" volunteer opportunities
- Invite to meetings

- Observe & give feedback
- Engage & recognize them in efforts
- Look for leadership capabilities/ interest

- Meet them where they are
- Provide "interesting" opportunities
- Leadership development?
- Notice when they're gone





Come on home to celebrate reaching our goals !!!!



LEGION 2026: RECRUIT/REJOIN 10

Members who recruit and/orrejoin 10 junior or senior Auxiliary members for the 2026 membership year. Rejoins must not have paid membership dues since 2022 or earlier.

One entry per recruiter.

Certified <u>forms must be received</u> at ALA National Headquarters by <u>June 6, 2026</u>.

<u>Please send this form to your department headquarters office no later than</u>

one week prior to the deadlines.

New members must be paid in ALAMIS by June 1, 2026.

ENTRY/CERTIFICATION FORM

Please type or print legibly and fill out the form completely. Incomplete forms may not be processed.

Recruiter's Name:		Member ID#:	
		Email:	
Names of <u>New/Rejoined</u> Members	ALTERNATION OF THE PROPERTY OF	Names of <u>New/Rejoined</u> Members	
1		6.	
2			
3		8.	
4		9.	
5		10	

Certified by Department Secretary:	DATE:
Department Secretary	
Printed Name:	Dept:
Dept Secretary Signature (required):	
*I certify that all 10 members are new or rej	oined into the 2026 year.
*I've provided or verified member ID numb	ers and that the form is
filled out legibly and completely.	
DO NOT SEND INCOMPLETE FORMS or	more than 1 form per
recruiter.	

Units: Send form to your department secretary.

Departments:

Please either scan and email to: <u>membership@ALAforVeterans.org</u> (Subject line: Recruit 10/ Member Name & ID)

Or

Fax: (317) 569-4502 (Attn: Membership)

*Must be received at NHQ no later than midnight June 6, 2026.

Each recruiter will receive a special gift selected by the 2026 National Membership Committee Chairman.

One award per recruiter.



National

Incentives

FAMILY 3

Members who recruit 3 New Legion members, 3 New Auxiliary members and 3 New SAL members for the 2026 membership year.

One entry per recruiter.

Certified <u>forms must be received</u> at ALA National Headquarters by <u>June 6, 2026</u>.

Please send this form to your department headquarters office no later than one week prior to the deadline.

New members must be paid by June 1, 2026,

Please type or print legibly an	2007/10/00/2	FICATION FORM completely. Incomplete forms may not be p	rocessed.		
Recruiter's Name:		Member ID#:			
Recruiter's Department:	Unit #:	Email:			
Names of 3 New Auxiliary Members	Member ID#	Names of 3 New Legion Members	Member ID		
1		1.			
2		2.			
3		3			
Auxiliary Unit Officer Signature - Verify	ing Membership	Legion Post Officer Signature - Verifyin	ng Membership		
Names of 3 New SAL Members	Member ID#	Forms must be signed by off TAL, ALA & SAL to be			
1 2		Please email forms membership@alaforveter			
3		Or Fax: (317) 569-4502 (Attn: M	lembership)		
		Please do not send incomple	ete forms.		

Each recruiter will receive a special gift selected by the 2026 National President. One award per recruiter.

JULY 4, 2026

250TH BIRTHDAY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

* * *

RENEW YOUR COMMITMENT TO YOUR VETERAN

REJOIN THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

PLEASE TRACK!!!

We want to know how well this concept works!

5 free in your mailbox

PreOrders with Rae

More available: 25 for \$2.50

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MATTERS:

Your membership represents influence-in legislation, community and support services for veterans and their families.

You can make a difference!

Renew or rejoin today:

Call 317-569-4570 to talk with a real person or



drop by your local American Legion Post



Leadership/Arizona Mission Training

December 2025

We wish the most Blessed Holiday season to each and every one of you. I know that many Units are working to put together needed items for your Veterans and your community. Those of you who attended Fall Conference should have taken away information on programs, President's Special Project and much more. However, a large part of it was about **Service** and **Be Kind**. Please no Drama and self-serving. Let's just work together to help whomever needs it.

The members of Department of Arizona are being asked by this committee to take one or more of the many seminars available to everyone. An **ACADEMY AWARD** award is being offered to a member, or Unit who completes the most courses. Please send it to me by May 1 st. There will be 1 st. 2 nd & 3 rd place prizes awarded at convention. Go to alaforveterans.org, click on department awards and find the Leadership program. Scroll down to Academy Award. I hope that you got Deb Munchbach's (gold) sheet with all the information on where to find what you need. The additional awards for Leadership are there also. An alphabetized list of National courses is available. Take a look at them to see what reaches out to you. So much information is available.

You are encouraged to attend or hold an Arizona Mission Training; we never stop learning. All you need to do is choose a date and an alternate date, contact me and we will set it up. You need to have a site for the training, 10 members minimum, \$10 each and information sent to department 10 days prior to training. It is a day of learning and fun.

Please let me know if your Unit is doing a unique activity that would include Leadership. Post on Ring Your Bell as often as you can. We need to publicize what we do for our Veterans and our Community.

Karen Smith, Chairman

(520) 249-1119

ksmith111@cox.net

American Legion Auxiliary

ALA Academy Courses available on www.alaforveterans.org

ALA 101: Member Orientation

ALA Academy Scholarships

ALA Branding and Why it Matters to Me

ALA Communication Methods

ALA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

ALA Juniors E-Learning

ALA Junior Patch Program

ALA Leadership Series: So, You're a Dept. Chairman, Now What?

ALA Leadership and Mentoring

ALA Leadership: Living our Motto Service Not Self

ALA and Wellcare Medicare Advantage

Celebrating the Month of the Military Child

Celebrating Women of Service

Compliance Matters

Establishing an ALA Culture of Good Will

How to Apply for an Auxiliary Emergency Fund Grant

Introduction to Conflict Resolution

Junior Mentor Series: Getting Started with Juniors

Junior Mentor Series: Junior Meetings

Junior Mentor Series: Juniors and the Legion Family

Mission Delivery: Basic Training

Mission Delivery Through Caregiver Support

Mission Delivery – Veterans Creative Arts

National Executive Committee (NEC) Appeal Process

National Poppy Day

NEP Insurance Information for ALA Girls State Program

Tax Exempt Status: Revocation and Reinstatement

Understanding the Differences Between Natl. Security and VA & R

Unit Fundraising: Moving the Mission Forward by Engaging Your Community

Unit Fundraising and ALA Foundation Grants

Unlocking Your ALA Benefits

Using Poppy Funds to Serve our Mission

Using Social Media to Your Unit's Advantage

VAVS (VA Voluntary Service) Department Orientation

Veterans Project Funds Grant Writing

Wreaths Across America

Youth Hero and Good Deed Awards

2023 Holiday Shopping Tips and Ship Thrifty Overview

2025 National Committee Member Training

Courses taken from National website as of 10/31/2025

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA LEADERSHIP/MISSION TRAINING 2025-2026 SCHEDULE

February 21, 2026 Ilrbecky@gmail.com This is a new date for Unit #32 Swift Murphy Unit #32

Becky Miscovich 702-413-5554





November 2025 Issue 3

Preparing Care Packages

Pam Seelye, 2025-26 Western Division National Security
Chair

When sending care packages to military bases, consider including appreciated and safe items. Common choices are:

- Non-perishable food: Snacks like protein bars, trail mix, and canned goods.
- Personal care items: Travel-sized toiletries, sunscreen, and baby wipes.
- Entertainment: Books, magazines, and small games.
- Letters and photos: Personal notes and pictures from home for morale.

Avoid sending perishable goods, alcohol, aerosols, or hazardous items. Always check the latest restrictions before packing.

How to Send a Care Package

- Know the timeline: Priority mail packages typically take 10 to 14 days for delivery, but this may vary due to delays and weather.
- Check size and weight restrictions: Keep packages within shoebox size and under 108 inches in total circumference. Free Priority Mail shipping boxes are available at the post office.
- Package details: List the quantity, weight, and value of items. Include a contents list and a card with your name and the recipient's name for repackaging if necessary.
- Prevent spills: Use heavy plastic zipper-lock bags for items that might leak. Cushion fragile items with reusable materials like tissue or popped popcorn bags.
- Address properly: Include the service member's full name, unit name, and the complete APO/FPO address with a nine-digit ZIP code if available. Avoid sending perishables to warm climates in spring or summer.
- Check deadlines: Review USPS deadlines and holiday cut-off dates to ensure timely delivery.

What Food or Drinks Can You Send

Powdered drink mixes are great for water. In colder months, send hot drinks like cocoa, instant coffee, and tea; in warmer months, consider sweetened mixes like lemonade and iced tea

For flavor, include seasoned salt, hot sauce, mustard, relish, and ketchup.

Care Packages Cont.....

Quick protein options are energy bars, tuna, sardines, and non-perishable beef jerky. For snacks, use hard containers for chips, pretzels, and nuts. If using large bags, include zip-locks for portioning. Snack cakes, cheese crackers, and cookies are also welcome.

Candy and gum should avoid chocolate in warm climates, as it melts. Send gum and candy in zip-lock bags to prevent them from becoming gooey.

What do they Actually Need?

When sending essential items, opt for small, travelsize containers of personal care products and avoid using aerosol cans. To prevent liquids from spilling, cover the container's opening with plastic wrap, then reclose it before shipping.

Fun Things to Send

In every care package, be sure to include a personal note or other special reminders of home. Photographs, drawings, the Sunday comics from your local newspaper, paperback books, current magazines, and comic books are some ideas.

What can't you send in a care package?

When preparing your care packages, keep in mind that there may be restrictions on certain items based on your service member's location. Additionally, be aware that there could be limitations on including religious materials, depending on the region to which you are sending the packages.

<u>Reference</u>

https://shipthrifty.com/resource/care-packing-event-checklist/

Watch Ship Thrifty's webinar on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwUTbM3J1Zo

ALA has a Blog

https://www.legion-aux.org/Blog/Shipping-to-military-installations-requires-additi

National Security Resources

Facebook – Follow us on Facebook! Don't forget to answer the questions...

https://www.facebook.com/groups/915563745139663/

National Security email address

nationalsecurity@ALAforVeterans.org

Supporting Wreaths Across America

Remember - Honor - Teach

Wreaths Across America (WAA) will take place on Saturday, December 13, 2025. Over 2 million volunteers and supporters are expected to participate in more than 5,200 cemeteries across all 50 states. This year, wreaths cost \$17 each and can be purchased through their website: http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org. The deadline for orders is December 2, 2025.

I have been a volunteer and supporter of WAA for over 15 years, actively involved in fundraising and securing donations for two local cemeteries. As a retired funeral professional, my primary source for donations comes from local funeral homes. Our unit has been successful in raising over \$500 in donations for wreath purchases, which is more than enough for us to place wreaths on veterans' graves. Don't hesitate or feel intimidated when asking local businesses for donations; a great incentive for donors is the free advertisement they receive! I emphasize to businesses that they will be recognized for their contributions during the ceremony.

Quilts of Valor Foundation

At the end of the National Convention in 2024, it was announced that the American Legion Auxiliary would partner with the Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF). Across the United States, the Legion Family has been awarding Quilts of Valor to recognize the service of those currently in the Military as well as Veterans. "A Quilt of Valor is an award, not a gift."

Walter Reed Medical Center was the site for the awarding of the first Quilt of Valor in November 2003. On that day, many Quilts of Valor were awarded to young soldiers suffering from wounds and mental trauma. It was the dream of Founder Catherine Roberts to wrap soldiers "touched by war" in comforting quilts. The idea came to her in a dream when she noticed that her son, after returning from Iraq, was comforted by a quilt.

Today, it has grown into the Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOV), and it has been extended to serve Veterans as well as those actively serving in the Military, National Guard, or Reserve. When a Quilt of Valor is awarded to someone currently serving, we benefit National Security; when we award Veterans, it becomes a program of Veterans Affairs.

You or your unit can assist in many ways. Make a quilt; be sure to follow the rules set by QOV. The quilt can be given to someone in your community, or many have been nominated and are waiting for a quilt. Monetary donations and fabric are accepted. Check out the website for other opportunities to make a difference.

To date, over 420,000 quilts have been awarded. Some standards must be met to create a quality quilt, as far as size, with a specific label attached. The quilt must be hand-quilted or machine-quilted, not tied. When awarded, the following words are repeated: "Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor in serving our nation." More information can be found on QOVF.com.

Respectfully submitted by
Deb Albers
ALA 2025-26 National Security Northwestern Division Chair

WAA Continued.....

Historically, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) has excelled in fundraising efforts. We are an organization filled with creative and innovative members who get the job done! I highly recommend starting your fundraising initiatives early and ordering your wreaths well before the December 2nd deadline.

Some of our units may have the funds to purchase wreaths but lack a local cemetery to volunteer at. No problem! You can contact Wreaths Across America (WAA) Headquarters at 877-385-9504 to find out which cemeteries in your state are participating, and how you can donate to the cemetery of your choice.

If you've experienced a shortage of volunteers from your unit or TAL Family but still have funds available to purchase wreaths, there's no dilemma there either. At WAA ceremonies, you'll find plenty of people ready to lay the wreaths. including WAA regents, other veteran service organizations, scouting troops, and dedicated patriots from our communities. They are there to support you, ensuring that a beautiful aromatic spruce wreath with a crimson bow is solemnly placed on a veteran's grave. Remember to SAY THEIR NAMES!

Jane McKnight
ALA 2025-26 National Security
Southern Division Chair



DEADLINE: JUNE 1, 2026



POPPY REPORT DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA November 2025

Thank you to all the members for your continued support of this program. In 2023 I took over for Josephine Herrera and put in half a year. Your reports and narratives assisted with putting together the narrative to National for the Department Award which was accepted as a winner. I proudly displayed that plaque from November through June, and asked Patsy Lugo to accept that National Department Plaque and display it at Unit 41.

Yeah!! In 2023-2024 Unit 1 William Bloys won the National Unit Award. Unit 86 had two Poppy Poster National winners. Good Job!!

This year (2024-2025) a power point was placed on the website to assist with this program placing all the national and department awards in one place with other pertinent poppy information. Hopefully this helped those working on this program this year. Unfortunately, the year that started out great had to depend on the initiative and perseverance of the Unit memberships to continue as life had many challenges for me to get through.

A review of the reports provided shows Units worked diligently throughout the year on this program and aided many veterans through monetary donations and inkind services. There were more units making their own poppies.

Seven Units provided narratives this year. A lot of information was gathered from those narratives and the Unit reports for the submission of the National Department Award. One Unit was chosen for the National Unit Award.

Yeah!!! Arizona did it again!! National Unit winner is Unit 86 Heber Overgaard. Arizona is the National Department winner again!!! Who would have guessed we could do it two years in a row. Kudos, and many thanks to all of you! All I did was compile the information based on what National was asking to be in the report. Units pat yourself on the back, you did all the work.

The Poppy Poster part of this program increased by one Unit, with four Posters sent for national consideration. Unit 86 had three Posters and Unit 32 had one Poster. Shocker!! Unit 32 received a National Poppy Poster Award! Unfortunately, 86 did not place this year.

Again, there were no books sent in from Miss Poppy Juniors for consideration.

My report of the stats for this program was submitted for the Book of Reports.

CONVENTION AWARDS

Marie Townshend Plaque winner – **Unit 86 Carol Stant** Runner Up – **Unit 35 Stacy Riebold**

Marie Cooney Memorial Plaque winner – **Unit 86 Carol Stant** Runner up – **Unit 62 Jean Ellison**

Nita Kimball Community Poppy Awareness Award winner – Unit 24 Linda Vanik

Patriotic Poppy Decoration Plaque winner – **Unit 44**Runner Up – **Unit 39**

Poster Contest Winner – Unit 86 for classes I, II, III Carol Stant Unit 32 class VI Janice Smith

Little Miss Poppy Winner – No entries submitted

Special Hat contest winners

Silly/Funny winner — Unit 25

Bling winner – Unit 86 2nd Unit 25

Elegant winner – Unit 19

Job Specific winner - Unit 86

UPDATE: Current information concerning the Poster Contest and will be on the website, and at Conference.

Kat Sticklin, Department Poppy Chair <u>katsticklin2025@gmail.com</u> 928-322-1550

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

HOW DO I START A POSTER CONTEST?

- 1. Review the rules and classes for this project.
- 2. Do you have enough time or enough help to complete this project.
- 3. Start the project prior to the start of school if possible.
- 4. Survey the schools in your area.
- 5. How many can you handle adequately.
- 6. Get to know the principals and superintendents.
- 7. Have a copy of the rules to disseminate.
- 8. Meet with one of them to discuss the project.
- 9. Ask who they might consider as likely candidates to want to participate.
- 10. Meet with the teacher to discuss and promote the project.
- Make sure you set your end date well in advance of the time you need to turn in your project.
- 12. Regularly check on the progress of the contestants
- 13. Have a judging strategy. Who, when, where.
- 14. Have a plan for returning those posters you will not be advancing.
- 15. Coordinate a plan to award the local winners in conjunction with the department chair.
- 16. Be sure you have a certificate for the teachers and the school participating.
- 17. Complete the national cover sheet for the posters that are winners only and send with the original posters.
- Take photos of the posters for next year's promotion of the project.
- 19. Send in the original winning posters to the chair prior to the date stipulated.
- 20. Watch the national poppy pre-convention meeting for results.

Poppy Poster Contest Rules

Units shall sponsor contests in local schools. When schools do not conduct activities, other youth groups — including Junior members — may participate under direct supervision of the unit.

Contest Classes

- Class I: Grades 2 and 3
 Class II: Grades 4 and 5
 Class III: Grades 6 and 7
- Class IV: Grades 8 and 9Class 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. Articles "a", "and," "an", "the" are not to be counted as words. The words "buddy" and "buy" cannot be used.
- 2. The words "American Legion Auxiliary" must be used in the design of the poster and will not be counted in the 10-word count.
- 3. Each poster must include a red poppy.
- 4. The department shall determine the closing date of the unit contest. The poster shall be on 11x14" poster board. (Drawing paper will not be accepted).
- 5. The United States flag may be used as long as there are no infractions of the flag code.
- 6. Posters will be judged using the following criteria:
 - 50% poster appeal (layout, message, originality)
 - 40% artistic ability (design and color)
 - 10% neatness
- 7. Media used shall be watercolors, crayons, powder or oil paint, handmade paper cutouts, ink or textures, acrylics, pencils, and markers.
- 8. Written in ink on the back of the poster (not attached) shall be the class in which the entry is submitted, the name, address, age, and grade of the contestant and the name of the department.
- 9. 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.

- 10. The poster shall be the work of only one individual.
- 11. The label "In Memoriam" from the veteran-made poppy may not be used.

Poppy Poster Contest Judging and Awards

- 1. Each department shall establish its own procedure for judging.
- 2. A citation will be given for the most outstanding poster in each classification within the five divisions.
- 3. Unit members should follow deadlines and process for the department. All department entries are due to the division chairman by June 1.
- 4. While ALA representatives will do their best to return all posters, it is not guaranteed. We recommend participants take a picture or scan their poster for their records.
- 5. Submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary. Through submission of artwork, contestants and their legal guardians grant nonexclusive 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.



POPPY POSTER CONTEST COVER SHEET

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors a Poppy Poster Contest for students in grades 2-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into seven classes. One award in each of the seven classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund. National winners will be posted at www.ALAforVeterans.org after national convention.

Poster Classes:

Class	Grade Level		
I	2 and 3		
П	4 and 5		
III	6 and 7		
IV	8 and 9		
V	10 and 11		
VI	12		
VII	Students with		
	special needs		

Class competing in:
Sponsoring ALA unit:
Due date for student to return to ALA unit:
To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:
Student Name:
Address (Street, City, State, Zip):
E-mail Address:
Phone:
School Name:
City/State of School:
Parent or Teacher Name and Signature:
Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.):
Sponsoring Unit Name/Number:
Signature of Unit Poppy Chairman/President:
Unit winner due to Department on:Department:
Signature of Department Chairman:
Department winner due to National Poppy Division Chairman by June 1

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona Public Relations 2025-2026 Fall Conference Packet

In this packet you will find useful tips, tricks and information to utilize throughout your year as Public Relations Chairman.

There are still so many wonderful and useful things our the National website so please be sure to really go through the website and find all the templates, guides and information you need for each one of your amazing events.

Should you have any questions, concerns or would like help with any of your Public Relations needs please do not hesitate to reach out to me at any time throughout the year. I am always happy to help and assist when and if I can.

I look forward to an amazing year as your Department Public Relations Chairman.

Now get out there and get involved!!

Shannon Mead
Department of Arizona
Public Relations Chairman
American Legion Auxiliary
8938 W. Hilton Avenue, Tolleson, AZ 85353
shannonmead@live.com
623-521-1263

Public Relations Useful Links

www.legion-aux.org/ - Log into your member login.

National ALA website has all of the listed useful links and templates to aid you in promoting your events, meetings and getting you out there into the public eye.

Useful templates include

- Flyer and newsletter pdfs and word docs ready to use
- Media Templates for Holiday events, Poppies, Girls State and National Awards
- Poster Templates for holidays, events and promotions
- Parade and building banners
- Donation can labels and donation letter templates
- Power Point templates for presentations with emblems

The PR Tool Kit (downloadable from National Site):

- PR guide and Tips for Volunteer Recruitment
- ALA Declaration Flyer
- ALA Declaration Color Sign
- Media Templates and samples
- ALA Emblem Use Approval Request Form
- ALA Branding information

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona Public Relations 2025-2026 End of Year Report

Unit #_	Unit Name:	Membership:
Public	Relations Chairman:	email:
1.	Does your Unit have an online present	ce?YesNo
	Website address:	Social Media: @
2.	Does your Unit have a monthly bullet	n or newsletter?YesNoAvailable Online
3.	Will your Unit be submitting a Press I	Book at Convention?YesNo
4.	Did you find the tools and packet prov Public Relations Chairman?Yes	rided from Fall Conference useful during your year asNo
5.		ndations on the PR Packet for next year?YesNo
6.	Did you coordinate with your local me If so how:	edia outlets to help cover your events?YesNo
7.	If our Department President visited yo	ur Unit, how did you promote her visit?

Year end reports are due to the Department PR Chairman no later than May 1, 2026

Shannon Mead, Department Public Relations Chairman 8938 W. Hilton Avenue, Tolleson, AZ 85353
shannonmead@live.com
623-521-1263 for questions

A Closer Look at the ALA Branding Guide

You see red and yellow throughout the building. You can picture the big golden arches. You go there to get food served quickly.

You know the place being described is McDonald's. You know all of this because of intentional and effective branding.

Our American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) brand is our identity. It's our reputation, our promise. It's how the public recognizes us. It's our big picture and our message..

We, as an organization, need to focus on our branding and use that brand to educate the public on who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

Because the American Legion Auxiliary's units and departments are spread across the United States and its territories, we need to develop a strong and cohesive brand.

We want to enhance our identity, maintain and build upon consistency, and simplify and update our look and feel. By producing materials that are uniquely ours, the American Legion Auxiliary will easily be recognizable no matter where material is produced or in what format it's published.

The ALA Branding Guide was recently updated and is a great learning tool for members when producing ALA-related materials. The guide covers a wide variety of topics — the ALA emblem and its usage, branding style, photography, video, design, social media, website, editorial, brand promise, and voice.

Here are a few highlights covered in the guide:

Emblem

- Use of the American Legion Auxiliary emblem is controlled by the national organization. All requests for approval to use the emblem must first be sent to the department secretary. The request letter must state who will perform the duplicating (manufacturer), the name of the product, its intended use, and the exact amount being ordered. Additional quantities require new authority. The department secretary indicates her acknowledgement and affixes her signature before forwarding the request to the national secretary.
- The American Legion Auxiliary emblem should always be prominently displayed at the top of any production with nothing placed above it. Except in some rare instances, the American flag is permissible to be placed above our emblem.
- There are five color versions of the American Legion Auxiliary emblem available for use: the four-color, two-color, one-color, grayscale (black), and reversed emblem.

Font

- Approved ALA typefaces: The American Legion Auxiliary has chosen the Adobe Garamond Pro and Helvetica type families because of their clean, professional appearances, and readability. If your computer does not come with Adobe Garamond Pro, we recommend similar fonts from the Garamond family such as Garamond or ITC Garamond, or other substitutions can be used such as Palatino, Minion Pro, or Times New Roman. A substitution for Helvetica is Arial.
- Boldface type should be used only for titles, headlines, to make words stand out, and, very rarely, for emphatic use.
- Use font sizes from 9-pt. to 14-pt. for most standard size documents.

Photography

- Try to use photos with smiling, positive people engaging in our mission. Use subject matter that will resonate well with our audience.
- Include a wide range of demographics and ethnicities.
- Pictures should be provided in maximum resolution in JPEG format with captions provided.
- Don't cut people off at the edge of a photo.
- -Ensure good lighting. Do not use photos that are too dark.

Design

- Image resolution is either dots per inch (dpi) or pixels per inch (ppi). Computer displays, for example, operate upwards of 100 ppi. For sharp, high-quality press printing, 300 dpi is optimum for both color and grayscale images.
 - ! Computers, digital cameras, and scanners save files in red, green, blue (RGB) colors, whereas press printing is most often done in a four-color process cyan, magenta, yellow, black (CMYK).

Social media

- Facebook: It's great for posting a variety of content, including videos, photos, blogs, links, and general updates.
- **Twitter:** It allows for short text updates (240 characters or fewer) with videos, photos, and links. Twitter is ideal for sharing news quickly and easily interacting with others.
- **Instagram:** Users are only able to post videos and photos. Instagram is an ideal platform to promote events and volunteer activities.
- **Snapchat:** This is a strictly visual form of social media. It does not have a hashtag option or allow for sharing, so only users who have added you are able to view your content. This social media platform is great for capturing moments during events like ALA Girls State.

Having a cohesive ALA brand is important for many reasons: It heightens public awareness of our organization, increases our credibility with professionalism, and differentiates us from similar organizations.

This is just a snapshot of the many helpful tips available to help you in this guide. To download the full ALA Branding Guide, visit www.ALAforVeterans.org and search "ALA Branding Guide."

Big tips for better ALA branding

As American Legion Auxiliary members prepare for the centennial celebration of our organization, it's vital to focus on our brand and building brand loyalty for the future of the ALA and our longstanding mission of serving veterans, the military, and their families.

Branding is more than just wearing an Auxiliary T-shirt to a unit event or community function. The ALA brand is what others think of us when they see us in our ALA attire. They see the ALA name, but they remember our attitudes and how we act. They associate the name American Legion Auxiliary and our conduct with the ALA brand.

In short, YOU are the ALA brand and can help our organization build brand loyalty among current and future members by making small branding changes that add up to big differences.

Below are a handful of ways you can use branding to bolster ALA Centennial Strategic Plan Goal 5 (With The American Legion, Build Brand Loyalty) and Goal 1 (Enhance Membership Strength):

- Social media: Name your social media page or group so it clearly identifies your ALA entity (department, unit, program, etc.). For example, a Facebook page named American Legion Auxiliary Unit 43 provides no clue into what state or region it's in. A better profile name is American Legion Auxiliary Unit 43, La Grande, Oregon.
- Website: Design your unit/department website to be similar to the ALA national website and/or use red, white, and blue colors that are consistent with the overall look of our brand versus a website with a lime green or hot pink background, for example. We are the world's largest women's patriotic service organization! Have a consistent look and feel between your website, social media, and other branded materials for the benefit of both members and nonmembers.
- Email signature: Close your email messages with a signature that has a professional, readable font and includes all the necessary contact information where prospective members and the public can reach you conveniently and quickly (i.e.; name, ALA title/position remember to include the administrative year phone number, fax number if applicable, and unit/department website address). Avoid using animated GIFs and other clipart images that are otherwise distracting.
- Emblem: Use the ALA emblem consistently, and follow the ALA Branding Guide. In the end, your efforts will help with overall recognition of our organization. If the emblem is distorted, stretched, or manipulated in any way, it makes it difficult for both members and the public to identify who we are. Log in to the Members Only section at ALAforVeterans.org to download a free copy of the ALA Branding Guide for more information on emblem usage.
- **Proper name for a premier program:** Use "ALA" in front of all ALA Girls State references so it's clearly identified as an American Legion Auxiliary program. Many alumnae do not know the American Legion Auxiliary presents ALA Girls State. Let's make sure our ALA Girls State program branding becomes a strong opportunity to recruit new members as well as alumnae of the program to become donors. Brand our program proudly!
- Apparel: With any apparel items, maximize your print area! Having shirts or accessories created to complement your upcoming ALA activity or event? Ask your artwork vendor what your print area is, and fill it up with the ALA emblem so you are easily recognizable as a member. Arizona ALA Unit 62 had artist aprons made as part of an American Legion Auxiliary Foundation grant bene fiting women veterans, so ALA National Headquarters advised members to use a large, round Auxiliary logo as opposed to a small, horizontal version for maximum emblem exposure on the aprons.

With these tips, and support from the ALA Branding Guide, your unit and department can become better brand ambassadors to help members, prospective members, and the public move forward with a clearer picture of who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

Our brand is our identity, our message, our reputation, and our future. How we display it and how we behave every day, good or bad, reflects on our brand — it has a lasting impact and affects how others perceive us and view the ALA.

The newest ALA Academy course, ALA Branding and Why It Matters to Me, is now available! Learn more about branding and its role in the future of the ALA. Visit www.ALAforVeterans.org to log in and get started today!

This article was originally published in the November Auxiliary magazine.

Approval Request – American Legion Auxiliary Emblem Use

The American Legion owns the names and trademarks of the American Legion Auxiliary. The American Legion Auxiliary is entrusted by The American Legion with protecting the name and official marks of the ALA. Use of the emblem must be approved by American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters. If approval is granted, it is a one-time, limited use. The following information must be completed in full and **submitted to your department secretary.**

Requesting Mem	iber Name & Unit & Em	ail:		
Manufacturer/Ve	endor Name:			
Vendor Address:				
City:	State:		Zip:	
Vendor Contact (Email:			
Type of Product(s) Emblem is to be used	d on:		
Intended use:				
Exact Quantity of	f Item(s) to be Ordered	*:		
*Ordering new q	uantities requires a nev	v authorization.		
		ink to your website or vei n Auxiliary emblem use n		
Department Secr	retary Signature	State	Date	

Department Secretary: submit completed form to emblem@ALAforVeterans.org

Better branding: Why your website design, content matters

A great way to let the public know more about your American Legion Auxiliary unit is through a website.

Many ALA units have websites. If an interested community member wants to know more and clicks on a link to go to your page, what do they often see? A website that lacks Auxiliary branding, leaving the viewer with no clear indication of who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

But, this can change!

By making a few simple adjustments to your website, you can better educate the public about the Auxiliary, which could result in more members, volunteers, and donors, leading to a bigger difference made in our communities across the country.

DESIGN/APPEARANCE

Color scheme

The American Legion Auxiliary is a patriotic veterans support organization. Website colors that reflect this branding would be red, white, and blue — a visual way to give the viewer a quick idea of our organization before reading any text. If your webpage has hot pink, lime green, or teal colors, for example, it doesn't give the sense that you're part of a service organization dedicated to veterans, military, and their families. Some simple color changes will go a long way in helping website viewers better identify what our organization is about.

ALA emblem on homepage

It's very important for the American Legion Auxiliary emblem appear up front and on the homepage of your website to immediately identify that it's a website of an Auxiliary unit. Prominent placement of the emblem will help people associate who we are with what we do. Also, make sure the emblem is large so a person doesn't have to search for it. Display the emblem proudly!

Take it a step further and use the emblem on each page throughout your website, so if someone first comes to your site through a page other than the homepage, they still see the emblem and know you are with the American Legion Auxiliary.

CONTENT

Who we are

Once someone looks at your website, they will start delving into your content. It's important to have who we are, what we do, and why we matter front and center. People don't like to click on multiple tabs to search and may give up if it's too cumbersome.

Need content ideas for your homepage so it's immediately clear who the Auxiliary is and what we do?

- Mission statement: in the spirit of Service Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.
- Vision statement: The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace, and security.
- The world's largest patriotic service organization: For nearly a century, the American Legion

Auxiliary has been serving, helping, and meeting the needs of our nation's veterans, military, and their families — both here and abroad.

Also be sure to include tabs at the top of your homepage for important pages such as "About Us," "Programs," and "Membership/How to Join."

Links to ALA national documents

It's great when units have important documents from ALA National Headquarters on their websites. But, a word of caution — don't download a national document onto your website because if it gets revised, you will allow an old version to circulate. Rather, include a link to the document's location on the national website. That way, if there are any revisions, your website links to the newest version.

Contact information

If someone is interested in joining, volunteering, or donating to your ALA unit, be sure to always have contact information that is up to date and visible on your website. You don't want to lose out on any opportunities because your contact information was inaccurate or difficult to find!

TIPS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA BEST PRACTICES

It's important to efficiently utilize social media to share the ALA's message of who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

Here are a few general best practices for social media when posting about the American Legion Auxiliary on pages the public sees, such as your unit/district/ department pages:

Think before you post

Use common sense. Think twice before posting something that may hurt the image of the American Legion Auxiliary or compromise your privacy, and never post confidential or proprietary information. Be aware that courts may judge certain material as proprietary, copyrighted, defamatory, libelous, or obscene.

Start talking ... er, posting

Social media is meant to be social — think of it as an ongoing conversation. Engage with others by including a call to action such as sharing, retweeting, liking, or commenting on your posts to encourage social sharing. Comment where appropriate to keep the conversation going.

Know the etiquette

Ever get an email written in uppercase letters and find yourself taken aback? In social media, there are also cultural norms, expectations, and conventions that govern user interactions. Failure to observe them may compromise your credibility or make you come across as a negative person when that never may have been your intention.

Get the ALA out there

Talk about the American Legion Auxiliary, our programs, volunteers projects, and mission. Share examples of activities going on in your unit or department, keep your content fresh, and update it often.

Graphics help get you noticed

Your followers see a lot of text when they sign in to Facebook or Twitter — you want to stand out! Research has shown that using visuals such as photos and videos with social media posts greatly increases engagement. See what software is available online — apps like Canva offer free, attractive templates to design, collaborate, and share on social media.

Celebrate!

Share good news, celebrate milestones, congratulate members, and post other happy occasions. Audiences want to celebrate your victories with you, no matter how small.

Social Media Do's and Don'ts

Did you know there are 2.3 billion+ monthly active users on Facebook? What a great platform for us to promote our American Legion Auxiliary brand and the great work we do! Listed below are lots of do's and a few don'ts that will assist you in creating the best social media page ever.

DO:

- Create a page with a name that is easy to remember and that reflects our brand. For example, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 201, Sayville, Ky. lets them know who you are and where you are. Another page name to consider is: ALA Unit 201, Sayville, Ky. Always put our location because each state could have the same unit number.
- Always put our emblem on the page correctly and in a prominent position. (See emblem usage for guidelines, found on the national website under Public Relations)
- Tell our story by promoting positive pictures and words explaining your activities.
- Before creating a page, make sure there isn't a page already established for your purpose. If there is a page, find the administrator of the page so you can gain access. When a person searches for your page, they shouldn't see several pages with the same or almost identical names. This causes confusion and is more prevalent than you think.
- If you are the administrator for a social media account and step down or take another position, transfer the administrator rights to the new person to ensure continuity.
- Complete the "about page" and "our story" page to further communicate our mission.
- Refresh your page on a consistent basis with pictures, stories, quotes, and positive American Legion Family items that will draw the viewer in and make them want to visit often.
- Share your page with friends, family, and others to promote our organization.
- It is better to use only a select few pictures that are in focus and clearly show the event and what it was about than to use many photos that are just candid shots with no particular meaning.
- Visit and like the national American Legion Auxiliary Public Relations page at www.Facebook.com/groups/ALApublicrelations.

DON'T:

- Don't post pictures that show American Legion Family members drinking alcohol.
- Don't post rants or criticisms of members or other organizations.
- Don't create a page and then never update it. A Facebook page is an ongoing history of your organization.
- Don't post pictures of events without a title. Make sure you post your unit name, number, city, and state. Someone from Ohio could be viewing something from a unit in North Carolina, but have no clue where it is based on only a unit number.
- Don't forget to SMILE in your pictures and put your best Auxiliary face forward.
- Don't use site for your personal use for instance to promote your business. You can do that on your own Facebook page. The PR page is to tell about the great works of the Auxiliary.

Tips on how to take high-quality, publishable photos

American Legion Auxiliary members are serving our veterans, military, and their families every day, working these mission-in-action moments to show who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

One of the best ways to show what this organization is all about is through photos of mission moments, such as ALA volunteers handing out items to veterans at a stand down, awarding a deserving child our Youth Hero Award, or contacting legislators to advocate for veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

ALA National Headquarters and local media outlets want these photos of the ALA in action. Unfortunately, many photos submitted are not usable for print publication — some are out of focus, others are too light or too dark, and some have inappropriate subject matter, or other issues that render the photo unusable.

Examples of inappropriate subject matter include:

- Alcoholic drinks in photos
- Signs advertising alcohol
- Using alcohol boxes to store items for care package distribution or donations to homeless shelters

It's very important when taking a photo to look at the background and what all would be in the shot. It's OK to move items out of the way or re-angle yourself to take the photo.

The goal is to help all members capture photos that show an ALA 'Service Not Self' mindset. Below are a few tidbits to point you in the right direction when it comes to showcasing our organization visually.

Steps for Selecting Photographs

- Does the photo illustrate mission movement?
- Is what's happening in the picture authentic and positive?
- Are the subjects being genuine?
- Can our audience and/or the public relate to the picture quickly and with ease?
- Is the photo free of items such as alcoholic beverages or political signs?

When submitting photos, it's important to show and not tell, which can be illustrated through action shots. Be sure to take photos of members working the mission, whether that's painting a fence for a community service project, scooping out mashed potatoes at a dinner fundraiser, or helping a veteran visit various stations at a job fair — showing action is key.

You can still take those ceremonial shots with the traditional grip-and-grin pose for your own records, but be sure to send the mission-in-action shots to national and local media outlets.

Hi-resolution photos matter

Most news media outlets want to have hi resolution images for printing. This means 300dpi or greater

and a large photo if possible. Most cameras today can be set for hi resolution shooting as well as specific dpi. If you are using your camera phone to take pics please make sure to send the image at full size to the media outlet. Do not use funny filters or snap chat filters with your images. Clean, clear and crisp photos are always best.

Use our branding whenever possible

Whenever possible, try to include ALA branded elements in photos (shirts, hats, pins, etc). This helps the public easily identify which organization is hosting the event or activity.

Bonus tip: Wear ALA-branded clothing to a non-Auxiliary event in your community to represent the organization. You may end up being in the event photos/video taken by your local media, or even better, you may get a member out of it who asks about the ALA and is eligible to join, all because you're wearing a branded shirt!

Don't be afraid to ask for pics from media

If you have a great, mission-focused event and you weren't able to take your own photos, but a photographer from a media outlet was there, be sure to reach out to that person for reprint permissions so you can share the image with National Headquarters, on your social media pages, or in your newsletters. Don't miss out on an opportunity to showcase our organization!

To see more of the photography guidelines that can help you take better photos to submit to national or your local media, download the ALA Branding Guide at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

Showing who we are, what we do, and why we matter is so important for our current members, future members, and financial supporters in our communities. Let's do it right by taking high-quality photos, one of the best ways to showcase the American Legion Auxiliary.

Quick Tips

- Try to capture smiling faces when appropriate.
- Include at least two subjects unless the action in the photograph is done alone.
- Try to capture the moment get real emotions and interactions, not staged ones.
- People should almost always be the focus.
- Capture intimate moments of interaction between volunteers and those being served.
- Naturalism and realism are important in terms of lighting, setting, interacting, etc.
- Minimal editing is OK for most photographs. Don't make them appear artificial in any way. If the photograph requires too much editing to make it usable, don't use it. And always be respectful when editing.

What Not to Do

- Don't force interactions, emotions, reactions, settings, or smiles.
- Don't crop or cut people off at the edge of a photo.
- Ensure good lighting. Do not use photos that are too dark.
- Don't include tobacco, alcohol, obscene gestures, or brand names/logos/emblems.
- Don't make relationships between subjects appear ambiguous.



TIPS FOR CREATING YOUR UNIT PRESS BOOK

USING PRINT AND DIGITAL MEDIA

- Your books are to be no larger than 12x15 (Scrapbook size). Go all out but make sure it fits your Unit's personality and character.
- Front page of the book MUST have the name and address of the Unit, total membership and Chairman's information. This page can have a background but no stickers.
- Cut out media NICE AND NEAT for best look unless the article or other media is a full page.
- You may decorate but keep it clean and professional. BACKGROUNDS AND STICKERS ONLY.
- All of your articles and digital media must be in order by date.
- All articles must state (1 of) American Legion Family, American Legion Auxiliary, or Unit. Photos are great all the way around as long as a Unit member is in it or it goes with the article. If you can be certain that the Unit was present but not listed please make note.
- Start your press book early. Don't wait until the last minute. Do it a month at a time and it helps make it easier and less stressful.
- REMEMBER YOU MAY ONLY USE PHOTOS THAT HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED.

ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF MEDIA FOR YOUR PRESS BOOK

- Newspaper & Magazine Articles
- Fliers, Posters & Hand-Outs
- Bulletins and Newsletters print and online
- Programs from Events
- Written copies or web copies or radio and tv spots
- Social Media Postings of events.

 (Alerting your members to up coming events.)
- Photo copies of all of the above are acceptable as well

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR SAMPLES

SOCIAL MEDIA EXAMPLES

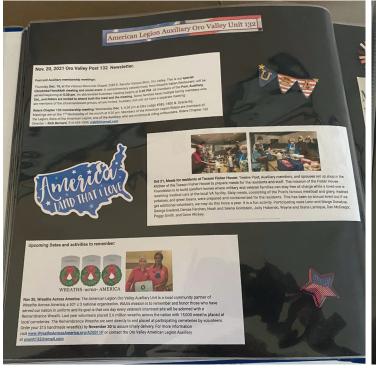
Postings must be an advertisement of an event or an alert to an event with the event details





NEWSLETTER AND ARTICLE EXAMPLES

These can be originals or photo copies but must have folio, date and origination







This is year as Department Public Relations chairman I will be giving out certificates to those units that create a new website or social media account.

The website and social media accounts must have been created between July 1, 2025 and June 1, 2026 in order to be considered for the certificates.

Please sent a link to your website or social media account to me at: shannonmead@live.com with details of your unit and the PR chairman.

These awards will be presented at Convention in June 2026.

Let's see how many new sites we can get going to get us out there and known.

Best of luck!!



KITCHEN PUBLICITY PLAQUE membership less than or equal to 150 LUCY QUINN PUBLICITY PLAQUE membership greater than or equal to 151

Department awards to be presented by the Public Relations Chairman.

RULES: FOR PRESS BOOK

- 1. Inside pages must NOT exceed 12 x 14 inches unless using Scrapbook ordered from National Emblem Sales as pages may vary. Cover may be of your own choosing, as the cover will not be judged.
- 2. Leave one inch margin on each of the four sides of every page.
- 3. The first page will be a fly leaf with nothing on it.
- 4. The second page will have the name of the Unit, the number of the Unit, City and State, followed by the dates of the year involved.
- 5. Articles must pertain to activities in the Unit, either alone or in cooperation with other organization.
- 6. The name of your Unit or the number of the Unit, not necessarily both, MUST be mentioned in each article used. Arrange the clippings by date and month according to the date of the issue of the paper in chronological order.
- 7. Clip the name and date of the paper in which an article appeared and paste (do not scotch tape these) immediately above the article. DO NOT PRINT OR STAMP THIS INFORMATION ON THE PAPER.
- 8. Please total number of inches of publicity and total number of pictures on the last page of the book.
- 9. Include all articles concerning both Junior and Senior activities appearing in any newspaper or magazine, if they have either the name or number of the Unit in them.
- 10. A committee of judges, composed of three persons not affiliated with the American Legion Auxiliary, will be appointed by the Department Chairman. Quality of publicity, not quantity, will be a major factor in judging press books.
- 11. Press Books must be in to the Department Public Relations Chairman by deadline date.
- 12. This award shall become the permanent property of the Unit which wins it for three (3) consecutive years. The permanent winner of the plaque will place another one in the field for competition following the above rules. The names of the plaques will remain the same.

(Revised 1992)

MAXINE CHILTON MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Department award to be presented by the Public Relations Chairman.

Report to cover Publicity, Press Book, and written narrative.

The purpose of this award is to stimulate interest in good publicity and public relations, giving recognition to the Unit which makes the MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF ALL AVAILABLE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

- 1. Any Unit in the Department may receive this award.
- 2. Plague shall NOT become the permanent property of any Unit at any time.
- 3. The judging of the Reports and Press Book shall be made prior to the time of the annual Department Convention. Three (3) judges are to be appointed by the Department Chairman.
- 4. The entries for this award shall consist of the Press Book which includes newspaper clippings, bulletins to members, etc., and your typewritten narrative of not more than 1,000 words of outstanding activities.
- 5. Judging will be on originality and quality of material, not on quantity of material.
- 6. Unit Public Relations narratives competing for the plaque must be in the possession of the Department Chairman by the specified date the Chairman designates.
- 7. Cover sheet for narrative mush include name of Unit and Number, Department of Arizona, Unit Chairman's name and address. NO Press Book articles will be adhered to any page of the narrative.

Veterans' Gift Shop Dec. 1st,2nd, & 3rd 8am-4pm



BRING

Veteran's ID or VA Medical Card

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

HOST POST American Legion Post 1-364 N 7thAve., Phoenix, AZ 85007

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA

MONDAY 8AM - NOON

DECEMBER 1 MONDAY, NOON

10.12.11,0.				
	NAME	UNIT	NAME	UNIT
Gift Wrapping			Gift Wrapping	
Gift Wrapping			Gift Wrapping	

TUESDAY, 8AM - NOON

DECEMBER 2

TUESDAY, NOON - 4PM

NAME	UNIT	NAME	UNIT
Gift Wrapping		Gift Wrapping	
Gift Wrapping		Gift Wrapping	

WEDNESDAY, 8AM - NOON

DECEMBER 3 WEDNESDAY, NOON - 4PM

NAME	UNIT	
Gift Wrapping		
Gift Wrapping		

NAME	UNIT
Gift Wrapping	
Gift Wrapping	

Chairperson: Viki Jackson Email: viki_jackson@outlook.com Phone or Text: (541) 979-6850

Northern AZ VA Health Care System

500 HWY 89 North in Prescott

Whipple Gift Shop

Our Gift Distribution is scheduled for **December 17, 2025**. Our plan this year is to have a holiday activity in the Community Living Center (CLC) in the morning and to have a holiday party for the Domiciliary (DOM) during the afternoon. These events will provide an opportunity for many volunteers to be involved. If your unit/post is interested in helping for either the morning in CLC or the afternoon with the Dom, please call or text me at 928-632-2290 or e-mail me at trishaljets@outlook.com. I will contact you directly once our plans are complete.

We are accepting new quilts or plush throws to be given to each Veteran residing at the facility during the holiday (170 needed). Tied fleece blankets would also be most welcome as well. If you are interested in donating, please make sure the item is at least 48"x72". If crocheting or knitting, we ask that items are tightly knitted or crocheted so that the item does not have holes that can get caught on wheelchairs, fingers or toes and cause a tripping hazard.

I will be picking up donations of blankets/throws during the Fall Conference or donations could be delivered to my home at 7132 North Viewscape Drive in Prescott Valley. Please make sure that any donations are clearly marked with your unit information. The parties will provide an opportunity to thank our Veterans in person and to wish them health and happiness during the holidays and the coming year.

Please contact me at 928-632-2290 or <u>trishaljets@outlook.com</u> by **December 8** if you or members of your post/unit would like to volunteer to help. I will contact volunteers by December 12 with final arrangements. I will need to know the following:

- If you prefer to volunteer for the morning (9:00 Noon) or afternoon (1:00 4:00).
- The number of volunteers

Following is the agenda for the day.

9:00 AM Meet in the **Community Living Center** (CLC) first floor dining room. We will have a small gathering with Veterans who are able to join us to receive their gifts and then we will visit the rest of the Veterans in their rooms. CLC staff asked that we provide flannel shirts as the primary gift – already purchased. I will also include a few small treats. As we pass out gifts and chat with each Veteran, we will also provide Christmas cookies and sparkling cider. **I am looking for 6 volunteers to assist with this morning's distribution.**

12 Noon-1pm Lunch for all volunteer helpers in CLC first floor dining room.

1:00 PM We will meet at the Domiciliary to prepare for their distribution and party. The party will consist of music, refreshments, gifts, etc. I will be looking for 8-10 volunteers to help with this activity. The primary gift at the Dom is a backpack – already purchased. Veterans will also receive their choice of other items, fleece throws and treats. The DOM Party will run from 2-3:00 with clean up after.

Trish Aljets

Trishaljets@outlook.com

928-632-2290

P.S. The Prescott VA Veterans can always use new hoodies, sweatpants, long sleeve T-shirts and men's shoes. We do not need any handmade hats or scarves or socks for men or women for this winter. Monetary donations to the Recreation Therapy program are also needed.



Christmas Gift Shop for Veterans December 3 - 5, 2025

VA Southern Arizona Healthcare System <u>Auditorium</u>, 3601South Sixth Ave, Tucson, AZ 85723

Christmas Gift Shops, historically hosted at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and veterans homes, offers veterans in these facilities an opportunity to send gifts to their loved ones at no cost.

A cherished tradition since 1928, American Legion Auxiliary volunteers collect donations or purchase gifts items for veterans. ALA Gift Shops may be placed in a specific location within a VA facility, may take the form of a cart full of gifts, or they may travel from one physical location to another.

While Christmas Gift Shops may look different at each location, the experiences for volunteer and veteran are very similar. ALA volunteers help Veterans select items when they visit the Gift shop. We make sure that veterans confined to their rooms are able to participate & offer to shop for them. For Veterans who may not see their loved ones over the holidays, we can ship their gifts at no cost.



Please email Melani by the middle of NOV with a list of the items you are donating... We need kids, girls & boys gifts.... Toiletries, head-sets, alarm clocks and fun stuff



Let's honor the Veterans in our community again this season by offering items that our veterans can proudly give to members of their family. To reach this goal we are asking each of the 28 Units assigned to support Tucson VA Medical Center to shop for or donate funds to our ALA Gift Shop.

Items we would like to see in our Shop include, but are not limited to:

- Clothing items (most popular are small, medium, large, XL, as well as 2X & 3XX)
- Hoodies, Sweatshirts & pants, Jackets, etc
- Sleepwear & Loungewear: all sizes
- Hats/gloves/scarves: adults & children (female/male)
- Toiletry & Nail Care Kits (for both males & females
- Head-sets, alarm clocks, Christmas items....

- Basketballs, footballs, baseball gloves/mitts, soccer balls
- Lap blankets and Throws
- Toys for the youngsters
- Games for the family
- Adult & Children's books
- Coloring Books/markers/crayons

We also need a bit of your time on the first week in December. Help set-up on **Tuesday**.

Wed-Thurs-Fri: Come meet ALA members from other Units. Accompany the Veterans while they select gifts for their families. Help wrap gifts while the Veterans wait. More importantly, thank every Veteran for their service to us and our Country, with wishes for a wonderful Christmas holiday!

Set-up Tuesday, Dec 2: 12p – 4pm

Ribbon-cutting Ceremony Dec 3: 8:45am

Gift Shop: 9am – 2pm: Wednesday–Thursday 9am – 1pm: Friday



Deck the Halls SAVAHCS Holiday Decorating



VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE) Let's make 2025 Holidays special for VA Veterans & Visitors

HELP SPREAD THE WORD tell Co-workers, Neighbors, Friends, Book Club & Bowling League Members, Fellow School & Sports Club Parents! *** ALL ARE WELCOME Young & Old, Veteran, VA Employee, Volunteer, Families, Schools, Groups & Clubs of all kinds!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – set-up & decorate trees Tree takedown & clean-up after the holidays

NEW for 2025 Holiday Decorating!

VA Hospital is looking for talented community members to PAINT winter scenes & holiday messages on windows!

Decorations & Supplies will be provided.

Decorating - 11/28/25 to 12/07/25 Take-down & Clean-Up - 12/27/25 to 01/07/26

(evenings or weekends are an option if necessary)

For more information or to volunteer contact: SAVAHCS CDCE Office - Bldg. 58

E-mail: TucsonCDCE@va.gov

Phone: 520-629-1822

American Legion Family Christmas For the AZ Veteran's State Home!!!

CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME!!!

SATURDAY DEC. 13TH
SET UP AT 11:30 AM

PARTY

1 - 3 PM

PLEASE BRING TREATS, SNACKS, AND DESSERTS TO SHARE WITH THE VETERANS!

Meet at the Home- 555 E Ajo Way, Tucson-on VAMC Campus
Gate will open for you!!

WEAR YOUR BEST CHRISTMAS GEAR AND YOUR SWEETEST SMILES TOO!!

ALL LEGION FAMILY WELCOME, BRING YOUR POST & UNITS BROTHERS AND SISTERS. It will be a fun event together!!

??????'s text Nancy Morrow, ALA State HM Chair 520-278-9257



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

November 2025 Issue # 3

FROM THE 2025-2026 NATIONAL CHAIR OF THE VA&R PROGRAM

Upcoming Events

2025-2026 ALA Mission Training & National Junior Meetings

November 15: Albany - SOLD OUT

November 15: Minneapolis
January 31: Las Vegas
January 31: Indianapolis
February 7: Atlanta

Register at https://www.legion-aux.org/Meetings/Mission-Training

Volunteering at VA Medical Centers

Volunteers are vital to optimizing the experience of our Veterans at VA Medical Centers nationwide. By donating your time and talents, you can make a difference to their hospital stays, or make their visits to clinics less stressful. Essential services are provided by VA, but by volunteering and donating, you are helping to provide more than that, either through direct patient support or indirectly through staff support. Direct support may include escorting patients or family members from place to place, visiting to provide social interaction, providing refreshments in waiting areas, or helping with food selections or recreational activities like Bingo or Movie Night parties. Volunteers can provide indirect support through assisting staff in offices with filing or answering phones or other administrative duties as appropriate. (continued on page 2)

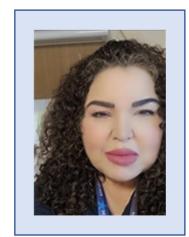
Focus on Women Veterans

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, there are over 2.1 million women veterans in the United States, and they are the fastest growing cohort within the veteran population. In 2000, they comprised 4% of all veterans, in 2023 they made up 11.3%, and they are projected to account for approximately 17.2% by 2043. These women have served across all military branches, are racially and ethnically diverse, and represent a wide range of ages. Almost 1 million are between 20 and 49, with 1.1 million over the age of 50. About 22.5% are 65 or older, with 2.2% being 85 or older. What that tells us is that with such a diverse group, there are many ways to recognize and honor their service. Wondering how your Unit can focus on women veterans? First find out who they are in your community. Once you learn that, you can determine what activities or events would be best suited. Some ideas are more broadly applicable while some others are specific to a particular group. (continued on page 2)



Member Spotlight

Sabina Iniguez is a member of Thunderbird Unit 41 in Phoenix, AZ who truly knows the meaning of *Service, Not Self.* She is passionate about honoring the sacrifice of those who have served and are currently serving and supporting them and their families. She volunteers at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center at least three times per week. It is said that the veterans light up when they see her coming and miss her whenever she is not with them. She has been known to say she misses them just as much on those days as well.



Send us your nominee for the next Member Spotlight!

(continued from page 1)

Volunteering at VA Medical Centers

There are also specific programs and activities that ALA members can take part in, and some of those include *Clothes Closet* programs that provide clean and gently used clothing to Veterans in need, National *Salute to Veteran Patients*, the *Red Coat Ambassador* program, Chaplain services, patient transport and feeding, *Christmas Shops* and *Christmas Wrap* events, and local *Veterans Creative Arts Festivals*. It is important to remember that not all opportunities are available at all VA Medical Centers, but it is easy to find out which ones are available to you from your local VAMC's Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE).

So, how can you get involved? Visit the VA volunteer website at https://www.cdceportal.va.gov/volunteer_at_facility/ and complete the online application to volunteer and someone from the local CDCE staff will contact you, or you can contact the CDCE office at a VAMC near you for an application form. Either way will initiate the process that will include an interview to determine what volunteer assignment you are best suited for, an orientation, and general on-boarding.

A wide variety of opportunities available at VA Medical Centers allows individuals to volunteer when and how they are best suited to give back to America's heroes with a welcoming presence.

Lisa Chaplin Darlene Allen
VA&R Chair Committee Member

On behalf of the VA&R Committee, we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!

Lisa Chaplin

(continued from page 1)

Things to consider that have a successful track record in multiple locations:

- Learn how to support women in veterans' shelters.
- Host a Women Veterans Recognition Luncheon at your Post home.
- Coordinate with your local VAMC Women Veterans
 Program Manager to learn what the specific needs of their women veterans might be. It may be as simple as a need for "white noise" devices in exam rooms to enhance privacy when discussing sensitive subjects with their healthcare providers.
- Collaborate with your local VA Maternity Care Coordinator to host a Baby Shower.
- Include women veterans in all veterans recognition events.

Lisa Chaplin Chris Harvey
VA&R Chair NW Division Chair

The 2025-2026 VA&R Committee

Dr. Lisa Chaplin, Chair (VA) lisachaplin@lexacom.net

Pat Kranzow, Vice Chair (IL) pkranzow@att.net

Darlene Allen, Committee Member (NM) da_abq@yahoo.com

> Gwenda Shroeder-Zulch Central Division Chair (OH) gweniesue@yahoo.com

Lauren Lloyd
Eastern Division Chair (DC)
laurenloyd@gmail.com

Chris Harvey
Northwestern Division Chair (CO)
harvett@yahoo.com

MaryAnn Paul Southern Division Chair (TX) mapminmol@gmail.com

Elaine Roach (WA) Western Division Chair livehappy73e@gmail.com

Chrystal Daulton, Director of Programs VA&R Liaison (IN) CDaulton@ALAforVeterans.org VAR@ALAforVeterans.org

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation December 2025 By 2nd vice – Lynda Griffin



National Wreaths Across America Day this year is December 13th

It was really nice seeing everyone at Fall Conference, and if you were not able to make it, you missed a good time. We are now in the Holiday Session and that means Gift Shop Time.

ALA Christmas Gift Shops vary from location to location and department to department. Traditionally, American Legion Auxiliary volunteers and units and departments work together to collect donations or purchase items that are considered suitable gifts a hospitalized veteran can giver to a family member or love one. Gift Shops may be in a specific location, may take the form of a gift cart, or may travel from one physical location to another. At a VAMC, the rep or Chief of Voluntary Services is the best source for the history and tradition of this program at that facility. With the wave of new veterans entering the VA system, these gift shops will become more critical than in years past. Gift Shop sponsors should consider offering more age-appropriate gifts that will appeal to young families and small children.

Tucson Gift Shop Information

December 3 - 5, 2025

VA Southern Arizona Healthcare System Auditorium 3601 S. 6th Ave. Tucson, AZ 85723 Set-up Tuesday December 2, 2025 12:00pm – 4:00pm Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony: December 3, 2025 8:45am

Phoenix Gift Shop Information

December 1-3, 2025 8:00am – 4:00pm American Legion Post 1 364 N. 7th Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85007

Prescott Gift Shop Information

Information is coming

Please check out the National VA&R Newsletter attached to this month's Bulletin.

Mark Your Calendars

2025 – 2026 ALA Mission Training & National Junior Meetings January 31, 2026 Las Vegas NV January 31, 2026 – Indianapolis IN

2025-2026 ALA Mission Training & National Junior Meetings
January 31: Las Vegas

Let us all remember the ALA Mission Statement in everything we do!

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

SHARE:

Join Our Email List

View as Webpage



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 VegasJan. 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!

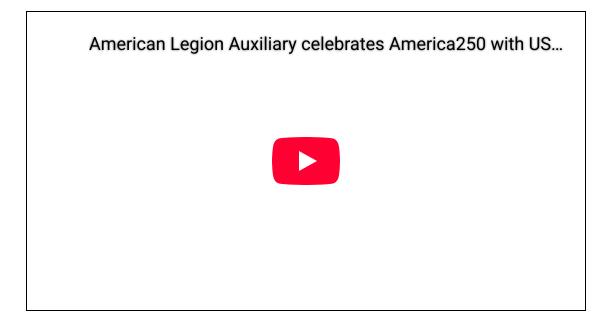
Join the USA 250 Challenge to celebrate America's birthday

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!



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

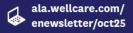


Wellcare Medicare Advantage & more of the benefits you deserve.

See how a Wellcare Medicare Advantage plan works seamlessly to give you more of the benefits you can use every day.

The Annual Enrollment Period ends December 7.









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

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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!



GIVINGTUESDAY



DEC

2

2025



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



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-Shepheard, 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.





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.

Shop now

The American Legion Legislative Center

The ALA supports the legislative agenda of The American Legion.

Get involved.









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

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