

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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

October 2025

Issue #2

FROM THE 2025-2026 NATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Promoting Veterans in the Classroom

Inviting veterans to share their stories in the classroom can be an informative and meaningful experience for students; while providing the veteran with a sense of pride in his/her service, The history and sacrifice associated with the veteran's service help students gain a real-world perspective on what it means to be in service to our country. It can also help them learn the importance of public service and civic duty. While Veterans Day is an obvious time to host a veteran, any time during the school year can be considered. Here are some helpful hints on promoting this program in your area.

- Contact your local school to gauge interest in hosting veterans in the classroom or assembly. Start with the principal or someone who may be a member of the American Legion Family. The article, Veterans in Community Schools, provides a brief overview of the program to those unfamiliar with it.
- Work together with your American Legion to identify veterans willing to speak about their experiences.
- Prepare a plan for the activity by choosing a date that is convenient to the school. Provide a list of questions that are appropriate for students to ask.
- Share the list of questions with the veteran to help in preparing the talk. Be sure to give a time limit. The veteran could give the presentation at a unit meeting first to get comfortable talking in front of people and answering questions.
- If the event is open to the public, promote it through local media outlets and on social media. Be sure to clear this with the school ahead of time.
- Be branded! Wear your American Legion Auxiliary apparel for this event and every time you visit the school.

There are a variety of resources available to help you prepare for and hold your event. The bulletin below provides an excellent roadmap for an event, complete with sample questions, agenda, and additional resources to help ensure success with your event.

[How to Organize a Veterans in Community School Event](#)

Submitted by Barb Washburn, National Education Chair



EDUCATION DATES:

Education Quarterly Zooms

Q1 - October 7, 2025, at 7:00PM Eastern / 6:00PM Central 5:00PM Mountain / 4:00PM Pacific

Register here: https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/20252026education_q1meeting

Q2 - January 27, 2026

Q3 - April 7, 2026

National Scholarships Webinar:

October 14, 2025, at 7:00PM Eastern / 6:00PM Central 5:00PM Mountain / 4:00PM Pacific

Register here: [National Scholarships](#)

Veterans Day: November 11, 2025

**American Education Week:
November 17-21, 2025**

[Join us on Facebook:](#)

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



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE LIVE!

We have four (4) American Legion Auxiliary National scholarships. Be sure to check out the eligibility requirements on our website at <https://www.legion-aux.org/scholarships>

- ❖ CHILDREN OF WARRIORS NATIONAL PRESIDENTS' SCHOLARSHIP
- ❖ SPIRIT OF YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS
- ❖ NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP
- ❖ MEMBER LOYALTY SCHOLARSHIP

!! NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY !!

We want to hear what your departments are doing to support education. Please post to our Facebook group and send to your division chair. We have included a sample from Facebook of activities some departments have done recently.



Read the story of the American Legion Family Department of Arizona working the Education Program together at Legiontown U. S.A. [Legiontown U.S.A. Story](#)

Submitted by *Julie Vietri,*
Department Education Chair, Arizona



Town and Country Memorial Unit 152 Tampa Florida held a school supply drive to support education one mind at a time.

Submitted by *Sheryl Kinsler*



On September 5, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 269, Haslett Michigan proudly donated school supplies to Haslett Public Schools, supporting their students, teachers, and community as part of their service mission.

Submitted by *Patti Leppanen DeNike*



ALA Unit 511 of Dallas, Texas sponsored the annual Back to School Bash. Children received backpacks full of school supplies. Families enjoyed BBQ, snow cones, and other resources that were provided.

Submitted by *Elizabeth Whee-Smith*

2025-2026 Mission Training

November 15, 2025 –
Albany, NY & Minneapolis, MN

January 31, 2026 –
Indianapolis, IN & Las Vegas, NV

February 7, 2026 – Atlanta, GA

ALA Mission Training & National Junior Meetings

[To register now: Click here and select your city](#)

Committee on Youth Education (COYE) Recap

The Committee on Youth Education (COYE) met in Indianapolis, October 4-5. The primary focus of this fall meeting was to ratify the 101 recipients of the 2025 Samsung scholarships. Winners will be notified during October. Essay questions for the 2026 application are under development and the application will be available in early 2026. Department winners of the Teacher Appreciation Certificate were approved and will be receiving their certificates. This is a unique opportunity for members of the ALA Education committee to work side-by-side with our American Legion peers.

Committee Contacts:

National Chair: Barb Washburn
National Vice-Chair: Judy Ackerman
Committee Member: Nancy Babis
Central Division: Teri Miller
Eastern Division: Karyl Horn
Northwestern Division: Mary Kuperus
Southern Division: Carol Westergren
Western Division: Valerie Hardy
Program Liaison: Laura Arand

Education@alaforveterans.org

