



**NATIONAL SECURITY CHAIR  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
2025-2026  
NORMA TRAMM**

Greetings Department National Security Chair,

On April 9, 2026 we had our quarter 3 zoom meeting. I know everyone was not able to attend so here is a recap of the meeting.

We shared information on Awards – Unit, Department and Servicemember of the Year. If you are not sure about these awards, check out the April newsletter as the information was included there. Remember these are all done through Formstack's. Need help, just ask.

Something new this year is included in the Department Award – if you submit on or before May 15<sup>th</sup> you can check the box and you will be submitting for the Department award, and also your Year-End report. One and Done!!

Year-end reports are due on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We are excited to read all the accomplishments of your department. If you do not submit the department award by May 15<sup>th</sup>, you must email your year-end report to your division chair and cc me – [normatramm@gmail.com](mailto:normatramm@gmail.com) on or before May 15, 2026. We love pictures and they need to be separate from your written report.

The breakout sessions were very informative.

## **Central Division – April Kollmorgan – Division chair**

### **In attendance:**

Iowa - Paige Copple

Indiana - Roxy Stoner

Kansas - Tracy Kinnick

Michigan - Deb Weatherbee

Missouri - Shanna Jelinek

Wisconsin - Bob Shappell

**Shanna (Missouri)** had some technical issues and her wife dropped out, so I asked her to email me an update from her Department.

Sorry I couldn't get my internet to be stable enough for the zoom. I'm working on switching to a new provider. I live in a rural area and it's a struggle sometimes.

Units in Missouri are proudly wearing their red every Friday for RED Fridays. We love to show our support for active military.

I am still encouraging units to submit a Salute to Servicemember award application. I haven't received word from anyone that they have completed it though.

One thing that I found out which will help promote more next year is that our incoming president is choosing to support the AS-YMCA at Fort Leonard Wood in the middle of our state. That will bring a ton of awareness to this mission for years to come.

That's about it for now. Sorry again I couldn't get it to work tonight. - Shanna Jelinek-Missouri

**Tracy (Kansas)** reported that they were finishing up another care packages drop of over 400 packages to send to troops overseas. They have also set up collection boxes around the state for Legion Family to contribute anytime. She has been invited to a Yellow Ribbon event and will report back on it.

**Bob (Wisconsin)** reported that they have sent out 128 Blue Star Banners, with more to come soon. They have attended 4 recent deployments. With local businesses around the State, a Yellow Ribbon campaign has started to wrap trees etc. with yellow ribbons to show support. Through a new partnership with the USO, they are also participating in USO baby showers and other events for troops.

**Deb (Michigan)** reported that they have been putting together packages for National Guard members, as well as had border patrol attend some meetings to speak. They also showed the DPAA video at Department and District, and a few Unit meetings. They will also be attending SAL meetings coming up to show it as well. There is a new campaign to promote this around the State.

**Paige (Iowa)** reported that Iowa recently had over 500 National Guard members come home around the State and they have been welcoming them. They attended the recent mid-winter conference and connected with members about National Security and what they can be doing in their Units. They are also working on their report system and getting full reporting.

**Roxy (Indiana)** reported that they have been working on a letter writing and card sending campaign for troops. They are also starting to set up for America 250 for Anniversary activities this summer. Districts are collecting 250 bears to hand out to active duty and first responders. They are also pushing out Blue Star Banner ads in local papers to have families reach out to receive one.

After this, we talked through the annual reports and awards process and dates briefly, as it was also addressed in the main zoom. We talked about keeping communications going strong through the end of the year. Continue sending out newsletters and emails to Units. Continue to push the National Facebook page and Warrior Wednesday.

We then had just a general Q&A and exchange between Chairman with ideas or more information about things they shared from their programs.

#### **Northwestern Division – Deb Albers Chair**

Present were Yvonne Kostecky, Montana; Tracy Trujillo, Colorado; LoAnn Dick, North Dakota; AnnaMae Warnier, South Dakota; Amanda Washburn, Nebraska; Ann Eelles, Minnesota. Absent was a representative from Wyoming. Other guests attended were Norma Tramm and Coral Mae Grout.

A welcome was extended to the NWD members of the National Security Team.

Warrior of the Week nominations: None had made nominations. I did let them know that I had sent the information to an acquaintance from South Dakota who is serving in the Military.

Service Member of the Year Nominee. Questions were asked about it.

What have your Departments been doing during the past quarter as far as National Security?

Colorado shared about their Blue Star Ceremony where they presented 47 Blue Star Banners to the families of 26 active-duty military members. One was a member of Space Force. They had a “shipper Ceremony.” 100 Christmas Cards which included Gift Cards to active-duty military members. \$1200 was spent on the project. They are planning a program “Are you ready for a Natural Disaster.”

North Dakota shared that Christmas Bags were given to Veterans in Posts. Care Packages were sent. LoAnn has included the National Security Newsletter to members in their Department Newsletter. She included that Wreaths Across America were done in many Units.

South Dakota has had Baby Showers for female Veterans. Christmas Cards were sent to Active-Duty Service Members. Units have used the Missing Man Table.

Nebraska had had several present Blue Star Banners, Quilts of Valor to Active Duty service members, POW/MIA Tables.

Minnesota have sent letters, Care packages, Quilts of Valor and Wreaths Across America.

Montana Units have given Blue Star Banners, sent Care Packages to Fort Harrison, and held Baby Showers.

A conversation ensued about Wreaths Across America and Quilts of Valor belonging with VA&R. If Quilts of Valor are given to Active-Duty Service members, it does belong in National Security. The original program gave them to Veterans at military hospitals but was expanded to include Veterans.

#### **Southern Division – Jane McKnight Chair**

We began the meeting with a roll call and a discussion about the Salute to Servicemember Award.

Attendees received information and were asked how they planned to share this information with their members.

I provided a few suggestions for obtaining nominees, such as reaching out to their Legion for any active-duty members,

contacting the Warrior Wednesday submission for enlisted personnel and asking officers if they had anyone under their command they would like to nominate.

Once we covered all the items on the agenda, each Department present had the opportunity to discuss what they are doing for National Security within their respective Departments.

Department	Representative	Present	Recap of Activities
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Alabama	Leslie Ginther		
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Arkansas	Sonja Clark	X	Red Shirt Friday Campaign, Shared Servicemember Award at Mid-Winter, Treats for Troops - sent care packages to National Guard Members deployed to Washington D.C., Stars Family Reception (Blue & Gold Star Banners).
Florida	Julie Kay	X	Help a Hero Project - 5,500 USO Grab Bags; Monthly Educational Virtual Calls; Trivia Tuesday
Georgia	Gail Ramey	X	Honoring Gold Star Families, Repatriation Ceremony
Kentucky	Bonita Robey	X	Salute to Servicemembers on a monthly basis; Red Shirt Friday; Blue & Gold Star; Better Reporting, and including only what is in the National Security Program
Louisiana	Amy Watts	X	Salute to Servicemembers flyers at District Conf.
Mississippi	Ellen Paul	X	Red Shirt Friday; Servicemember Award on Facebook and Newsletter, will be pushing it at District Conf.
North Carolina	Carolyn Donnelly	X	
Oklahoma	Tracey Smith	X	Red Shirt Fridays; Gold Star & Blue Star Families; Forwards Newsletters; Care Packages to Service Members
Puerto Rico			
South Carolina	Louise Dixon	X	Coupons for Troops; Post to the Department FB Page and Dept. Newsletters; handouts at District Meetings
Tennessee	Patricia Wallace		
Texas	Matry Peters	X	Red Shirt Friday; Dept Pres Project gives to Active Duty needs; ASYMCA active in El Paso; Stay in touch with the recruiters; Care Packages
Virginia	Crystal Cross	X	Red Shirt Friday: Raising funds for troops who were bombed in Bahrain

### **Western Division – Pam Seelye Chair**

We were small in numbers but really working on the program.

Alaska – Brenda Fiddick, chair - One unit has submitted a Service Member Award, and they are hoping for more. They are working in conjunction with the USO to start the first

ever USO at a Coast Guard Station. This will be in Kodiak, Alaska, which is largest Coast Guard Station. Alaska has a lot of area to cover.

Arizona – Stacey Mayberry, chair - They have had two submissions for Service Member Award. They shop, pack and mail 25 care packages a week to our service members. Stacey shares our National Security newsletter on their Department website each month.

California – Jennifer Turner, chair - When Headquarters sent out a response needing 70 Blue Star Banners California stepped up and provided 30 which they sent to National Headquarters. They are working on a possible Space Force nominee for the Service Member Award.

Hawaii – Brister Thomas, chair - Not in attendance

Idaho – Kristal Tighe, chair - Not in attendance

Nevada – Courtenay Burns, chair - Was unable to take part in the conversation due to being at work but she was in attendance.

New Mexico – Carolyn Alexander, chair - Not in attendance

Oregon – Yvonne Drury, chair - Not in attendance

Utah – Carey Fisher, chair (unable to attend but sent in the following) - Units continue to donate to the Airman's Attic food pantry at Hill Air Force Base and provide assistance to National Guard members in the Vernal, UT area. I sent an email to the Hill Air Force Base Top Three (top 3 NCO's on base) to see if they have anyone interested in the Servicemember award - included the link to the form. I will contact my Air National Guard person - she just returned from a 6 week class. I've asked the principal at Hill Field Elementary (90% military families) to see if we can provide anything for Month of the Military Child. Putting reminders for Purple Up and MOMC in the department newsletter

Washington – Lora Shanahan, chair – Not in attendance

We discussed the Service Member Award, filling out year-end reports and submitting units and departments for National awards and communicating with members. It was fun, lots of information and a great bonding experience.

**Conclusion:**

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend. We hope to see all of you again in August when we have our pre-convention meeting.

You will soon be completing your year-end reports, however this does not mean that your national security program is completed. Our Servicemembers are protecting us 24/7 and we will continue to support them 24/7. Thanks for all you do to uplift their spirits and assist their families.

Keep our service members in your hearts and prayers.

For God and Country

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