



LEADERSHIP

Program Engagement Plan

2024-25 Leadership Committee

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The purpose of the Department Leadership Committee is to find new leaders, develop existing leaders, and enhance members' knowledge to better equip members with the confidence and skills to carry out the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. This is in accordance with the National Constitution & Bylaws, Standing Rule #6 *National Committees – Member Organization and Support*.

The key to good leadership is to build confidence in those you lead, treat all members with dignity and respect, and to be a good listener.

No matter the experience, education, or technical skills, anyone can be trained to be a leader if they are willing to make a commitment, devote their time and energy to listen, learn, and communicate.

ALA Unit Member of the Year Award:

American Legion Auxiliary units all have hardworking, dedicated members who give their time and talent to further the mission of the organization but have no desire to serve beyond the unit level. To recognize such dedicated service, each unit may select one candidate for Unit Member of the Year of its unit. The unit will submit their unit member of the year to the Department Secretary and Department Leadership Chairman. The Leadership committee will select a department member of the year from all submitted members of the year for the Department's Member of the Year. The Department Member of the Year will be recognized at the Past Presidents Parley Luncheon at the Department Convention. The Leadership Chairman will submit the Department Member of the Year to National, where the member of the year will be recognized at the ALA Luncheon at the National Convention.

Raise awareness of ALA leadership development opportunities:

- **Encourage members to attend the American Legion Auxiliary Mission Training.**
This year's Southern Division Mission Training will be November 16th, in Nashville, TN. More details will be shared when they become available.
- **After the Mission Training –** Share the information, you received with your members.
- **Encourage members to attend the Department Leadership Conference and to host Leadership training in their units, and districts.**
- **Promote participation in the ALA Academy Online courses.**
 - These courses are available through your *MyAuxiliary* member portal at <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/memberprofile>, and they are free to members.
 - Go to the ALA Academy
 - Available courses include many topics – leadership, communication, mission outreach, etc.
- **Be aware of ALA leadership opportunities in your community:**
 - Speak to other community organizations about veteran support and the ALA mission.

- Speak to high schools about veterans to help develop your own leadership abilities.

Enhance knowledge about ALA history, programs, and organization:

- Attend district/department training sessions/workshops.
- Participate in the ALA Academy – these courses are self-paced and designed to help you learn about the ALA online and at no cost to you.
- Participate in Mission Training – this is a one-day, interactive conference geared toward learning more about the ALA's core programs and deliver our mission.
- Download/purchase and become familiar with the:
 - Unit Guidebook
 - Constitution & Bylaws
 - Department Operations Guide
 - Parliamentary Procedure
 - And other ALA guidebooks available to enhance your knowledge of and promote our organization.

Deadlines/Important Dates:

- May 1 – Unit reports due to Department Leadership Chairman
- May 15 – Department Leadership Report due to Divisional Chairman, cc: National Leadership Chairman.
- June 1 – Deadline for submission of National Unit and Department Southern Division Leadership Awards and submission of Department Member of the Year.