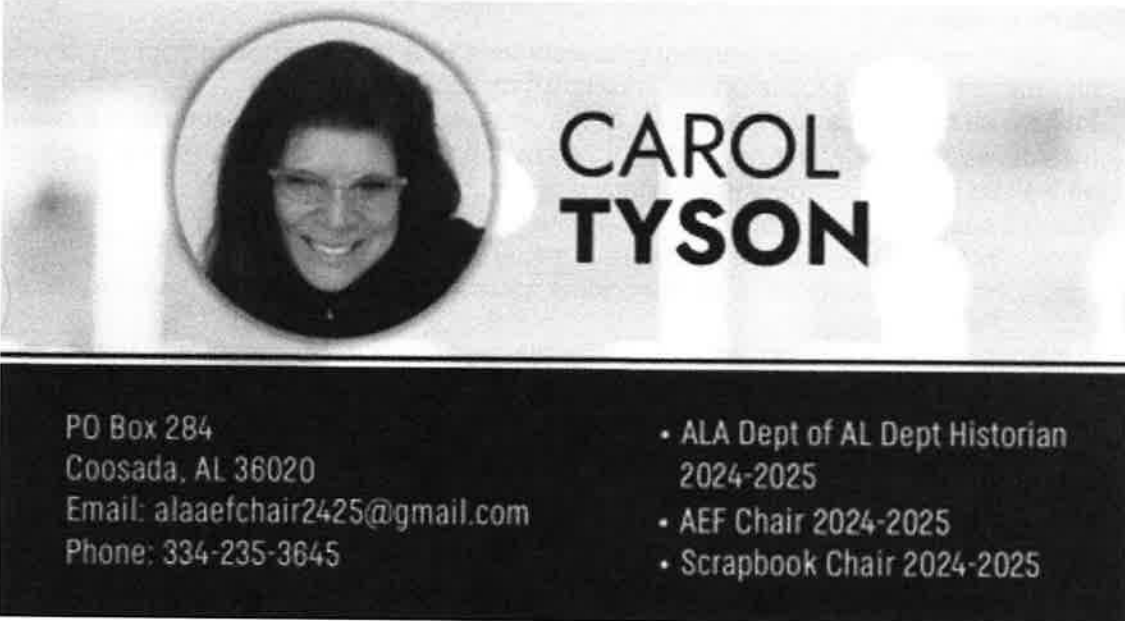


Department Historian 2024-2025

Program Engagement Plan:



PO Box 284
Coosada, AL 36020
Email: alaaefchair2425@gmail.com
Phone: 334-235-3645

- ALA Dept of AL Dept Historian 2024-2025
- AEF Chair 2024-2025
- Scrapbook Chair 2024-2025

Historians play a vital role in preserving the legacy of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) by documenting the unit's activities and accomplishments throughout the year.

Their responsibilities include:

- Assist in developing a system to archive important communications such as newsletters, handbooks, guidebooks, brochures, and program information
- Work with Junior Activities chairman to promote the History Patch available to Junior members in the 9th-12th grades
- Encourage Junior and Senior Historians to participate in the Veterans History Project and the "Members Remember" Project
- Archiving important communications and historical documents
- Recording noteworthy events and achievements of ALA members
- Submit mid-year reports by January 5, 2025 and annual reports by May 1, 2025 to the Department Historian.

Here are some tips:

- Write the history in a third-person narrative. Your job is that of an intermediary – someone who witnessed the events and then describes them for the reader. Do not include your thoughts or comments on the events – only the occasion, the people involved, and what occurred.
- Be sure to start recording events as soon as the department president is sworn in at your department convention. Include the theme for the year and how it relates to the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

- Include current events that impact the American Legion Auxiliary (local and globally). These events have a cause and effect on the Auxiliary, resulting in new or resurrected projects and programs.
- Department president visits to units are important, so be sure to include examples of what the department president did to support veterans, military, their families, and communities.
- Should the national or department president visit your Unit, include in your history how she helped your unit focus on the Auxiliary's mission.
- Include all member activities as part of the unit history, not just activities of the president.
- Include awards your Unit have been given by the national and departmental organization as well as those from the communities.
- Record special events that occur during the year. Examples:
 1. Your state government passes a declaration for Poppy month.
 2. Your unit conducts a big fundraiser for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.
 3. Current events that affect the Auxiliary members in your state and the Auxiliary's response to that event. For example, if there is a weather disaster, write about how your members went above and beyond to help in the community, etc.
- Any time your unit gets media coverage (i.e., a PSA on the radio or press release in the paper).
- Pick out impressive statistics from other Unit committees.
 1. Examples:
 2. Your AEF funds greatly increase
 3. The number of girls attending ALA Girls State
- Be sure to include the failures as well as the successes as we all learn from errors. For example, the unit tried a new project, but it didn't go as well as hoped. Include why the project failed. Future members may see the value of the project but need the details so they can make a success of the project.
- Include all amendments and resolutions that were carried and those that didn't. If one didn't pass, include the discussion so that others may learn why it failed.

Below are some important dates to remember - and record in your Unit history if you participate in or contribute to any. Please include events in chronological order. Please remember that your history is in written form only.

Important Dates in 2024:

- Independence Day (Fourth of July) - July 4
- Department of Veterans Administration Created - July 21
- Hire a Veteran Day - July 25
- Armed Forces Unification Day - July 26
- Anniversary of the Army Chaplain Corps - July 29
- Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary - July 29
- National Aviation Week - August 15-21 (Always during the week of Orville Wright's Birthday on August 19)
- US Coast Guard Birthday (USCG) - August 4
- Hiroshima Day - August 6
- Purple Heart Day - August 7 (More Info: Purple Heart Foundation: <http://www.purpleheartfoundation.org/>)
- National Spirit of '45 Day - August 11, 2024 (Second Sunday in August)
- Military Marriage Day - August 14

- V-J Day - August 14 (Japan Surrenders)
- V-J Day - August 15 (Japan's Surrender Announced to the World)
- Bennington Battle Day (State of Vermont) - August 16
- National Airborne Day - August 16
- National Aviation Day - August 19
- Marine Corps Reserve Birthday - August 29
-
- V-J Day - September 2 (Ceremony & Formal Signing of Japan's Surrender) (See August 14 and 15)
- 9/11 Remembrance Day - September 11
- Patriot Day - September 11
- Defenders Day (State of Maryland) - September 12
- US Air Force Birthday (USAF) - September 18
- National POW / MIA Recognition Day - September 20, 2024 (Third Friday in September)
- Gold Star Mother's Day - September 29, 2024 (Last Sunday in September)
- Agent Orange Awareness Month - October
- Alvin C. York Day (World War I Hero) - October 8
- General Pulaski Memorial Day - October 11
- US Navy Birthday (USN) - October 13
- National Pets for Veterans Day - October 21
- Day of the Deployed - October 26
- National Military Family Month - November
- National Veterans and Military Families Month - November
- US Marine Corps Birthday (USMC) - November 10
- Armistice Day - November 11
- Veteran's Day - November 11
- Veteran Owned Business Anniversary - November 11
- Civil Air Patrol Birthday (USAF Auxiliary) - December 1
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day - December 7
- US National Guard Birthday - December 13

Important Dates: 2025

- New Years - Jan 1
- Inauguration Day - Jan 20
- Martin Luther King Day - Jan 20
- Lincoln's Birthday - Feb 12
- Presidents Day - Feb 17
- National Vietnam War Veterans Day - March 29
- Military Appreciation Month - May
- National Teacher and Nurses Appreciation Day - May 6
- Victory in Europe Day - May 8
- Native American Day - May 9
- Military Spouse Appreciation Day - May 9
- Armed Forces Day - May 17
- Memorial Day - May 26

Historian Program Awards:

- Best Unit Senior History Book
- Best Unit Junior History Book

- Certificate for each Senior Unit Historian that forwards as copy of a veteran's history using the Veterans History Project
- Certificate for each Junior Unit Historian that forwards as copy of a veteran's history using the Veterans History Project
- Certificate for each Senior Unit Historian that participates in the "Members Remember" history project
- Certificate for each Junior Unit Historian that participates in the "Members Remember" history project

Please forward your written History report, via email to alaaefchair2425@gmail.com. Please send important activities in as they happen, to be included in the chronological timeline for the Department History Book.

Presidents Project:

Veterans History Project

The Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress collects, preserves and makes accessible the firsthand recollections of U.S. military veterans who served from World War I through more recent conflicts and peacekeeping missions, so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand what they saw, did and felt during their service.

Veterans from all branches and ranks who served at any point since WWI are eligible to participate, even if they didn't see combat. Anyone, including students ages 15 or older, may volunteer to record an oral history interview or gather and donate a veteran's original photographs, correspondence, or other materials.

Participating in the Veterans History Project is easy to do. The entire VHP Field Kit is available as a fillable PDF document, as well as in audio and braille formats. The step-by-step process is presented on the loc.gov website but is also contained in the Field Kit. Follow each step to ensure your submission meets all requirements.

The Veterans History Project (VHP) offers several special events, exhibits, discussion panels, webinars and more which highlight the collection and provide a platform for veterans and those whose work supports them to share their insights with the public. Engage with VHP in person or online and stay in the know through a host of news releases, event videos and webinars.

<https://www.loc.gov/static/programs/veterans-history-project/documents/vhp-field-kit-complete.pdf>

Department of Alabama
UNIT HISTORIAN REPORT

Please complete and return on or before, Jan 5, 2025, for Mid-Winter and May 1 for end of year
Department Convention to the Department Historian via email at:

alaaefchair2425@gmail.com.

Date: _____ Unit: _____

Unit historian's name: _____

1. Did your senior unit historian submit a History Book for judging? _____ (yes or no - department convention only)
2. Did your junior unit historian submit a book for competition? _____ (department convention only)
3. How many histories were recorded for the "Member's Remember" History project total for the year? _____
4. How many members participated in the Veteran's History Project total for the year?

5. How many veteran histories did senior members record total for the year?

6. How many veteran histories did Junior members record total for the year?

7. Please outline the methods you used to promote the importance of keeping a thorough and complete record of activities and accomplishments in your department

8. Do you have any ideas or suggestions on to make writing a unit history more enjoyable?

Thank you for your participation and assistance in recording this history of the ALA, Dept of Alabama

- Carol Tyson
- ALA Dept of AL Historian 2024-2025