



The Auxiliary

Spirit





Issue 8

Volume 39

March 2025





"For the Heart of the Matter"

Colors—Purple (Represents Ambition & Determination); Accent Color(s) Pink, Yellow, Blue (Represents Fun & Energy

Flower— Daisy (Represents New Beginning & Cheerfulness)

American Legion Auxiliary 2024-2025 Department President

The 44th Annual Mid-Winter Conference was held at Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV beginning with a joint session on Friday, February 7th as we welcomed National ALA President Trish Ward (Kansas) and trailing candidate for Commander of TAL, Jay Bowen (Colorado). On Saturday, February 8th, we kicked off the day with an inspiring Leadership Workshop. A special thank you to Dr. Rosemary Thomas for her hard work and presentation and I hope that you all took some of the information that she shared back to your units and districts. We then followed up with our membership awards of units who had achieved targets and celebrated all of you who had achieved GOAL unit of 100% or more as of 1/31/2025. What a wonderful surprise that Willy Wonka's cousin "Walter" (aka National President Trish Ward) also made an appearance and joined in the fun!

We finished up the afternoon with President Trish delivering her "Department of Excellence" initiative where she challenged the Department to achieve 85% or more of our membership by March 15th! I am happy to report that as 2/14, we are sitting at 81.01%!! Fantastic job everyone and keep pushing!!

Looking forward to seeing you all this spring at district conferences!

For the Heart of the Matter,

Laura Clark Department President 304-939-3607 Ala.lauraclark@gmail.com

"We are the music-makers, and we are the dreamers of dreams"- Willy Wonka

Department Officers 2024-2025

President-Laura Clark 1st Vice President-Kim Mellie 2nd Vice President-Stephanie Handley Secretary/Treasurer-Susan Brown Chaplain– Peggy Swartz Historian-Rebecca Farley

District Presidents

1st District-Paulette Anderson 3rd District-Margaret Yost 4th District-Patsy Greiner 5th District-Beth Kilgore 6th District-Peggy Swartz 10th District-Diana Teter

District Vice Presidents

1st District-Christy Bland 3rd District-Sandra Harper 4th District-Rebecca Farley 5th District –Lisa Harbour 6th District-Mary Spence 10th District-Jill Davis





Department Headquarters

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<u>Mandatory Funds:</u> (Unit's General Fund)- Bonding (\$5.00), Education (Scholarship), & Girls State Project (any amount the unit can afford or wish to donate);

Unit's Welfare Fund - Veterans' Welfare Fund (any amount the unit can afford or wish to donate), & 10% of Poppy Proceeds. If your unit has a little extra money please consider donating to the Cheer Parties and Gift Shops.

THE UNIT'S MANDATORY FUNDS HAVE TO BE PAID TO KEEP THE UNIT IN GOOD STANDING WITH DEPARTMENT. IF YOU ARE UN-SURE OF YOUR UNIT'S STATUS CALL THE OFFICE—Thank you

Directory Update: Sistersville #67— Officer & address change: Bonnie Braggs new address— 308 South Chelsea St., Sistersville WV 26175 New Secretary/Treasurer: Shawna Richeson, 109 High Street Sistersville WV 26175

Follansbee Unit #45—Please mail all communications for Carla Lada-Hull to the Unit's Post Office Box. Carla Lada-Hull PO Box 31 Follansbee WV 26037

ALA MIS user invoices will be mailed the week of February 24th. Payment is due upon receipt—Thank you

Full access or Write users I do not need new applications that have been entered by these users. They are for your records. Make sure that all information is complete when accept this new applications. There might be a time that Department will audit your unit for compliance.

ALA MIS system—it is not mandated by National nor Department that a Unit MUST use the system. A Unit needs to make a request to Department for usage. The Department will take it under consideration whether the Unit will be give permission.

Reminder—The Unit's membership count for 2025 restarted on August 1, 2024, not on January 1, 2025. If you have done this. You need to update the Unit's information. Thank you! The Department membership team is in the process of contact all unpaid members in each unit. This would be a good time to audit your own unit. Make sure that your count and Department count matched, if not contact Department.

American Legion Auxiliary's Salute to Service members Award is now open. A simple narrative (no more than 1000 words), a picture of the person, and the endorsement from their command group are the only requirements. The goal is to have at least one submission per Department. Website for submitting is: https:// www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicewomen-Award. For further information contact Lisa D Williamson @ williamsonlisad@gmail.com.

New members—when sending in a new application please make sure they are completed. If you are unable to read the new application, how am I suppose to read it. Please clarify illegible writing. **The ON-LY time that the unit secretary can sign an application is when a female veteran is joining under herself—No Exceptions! Applications will be returned.**

Reminder—Constitution Article VIII, section 4—All Department officers, Department Executive Committee and Chairmen of Standing Committees must be in good standing in their Units. Dues shall be paid to Department by November 1st.

Just a small note; Posts and Units may meet on the same day. They just do not hold their business sessions together.

Department Headquarters

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:30am-3:30pm

Phone 304-845-7410 alawysec@frontier.com

Department Address: 2172 Grandview Road Moundsville, WV 26041

Department Website: <u>www.wvaux.org</u>

Rhododendron Girls State Website www.wvgirlsstate.org

The American Legion Department of WV wvlegion@suddenlinkmail.com

American Legion Auxiliary National Website <u>ALAforveterans.org</u>



Spring Conventions

1st District—April 27th Cameron #18 Reg. 9 am—meeting 10 am 3rd District—March 15th Shinnston #31 (J) Reg. 9am—meeting 10 am

4th District—March 23rd Pt. Pleasant #23 (J) Reg. 9 am-meeting 10am

5th District—March 29th Barboursville #177 (J) Reg. 9 am-meeting 10 am

6th District—April 6th Welch #8 Reg. 9 am—meeting 10 am 10th District– March 22th Capon Bridge #137 (J) auxiliary reg. 9 am—meeting 10 am



Mason County Unit #23 Point Pleasant, WV

At a regular meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of West Virginia, Mason County Unit #23, held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. at American Legion Post #23, Epling Hall, in Point Pleasant, WV, the membership unanimously approved the endorsement of Rebecca S. Farley for the office of Department Chaplain for the 2025–2026 administrative year.

Rebecca S. Farley is eligible for membership through the military service of her grandfather, George D. Sturm, a World War II veteran. She joined our unit in 2022 and currently serves as Unit President. Over the past three years, Rebecca has been a dedicated and dependable member, always stepping up to help wherever needed.

As Unit President, Rebecca has worked tirelessly to grow and strengthen Mason County Unit #23. She has spearheaded successful membership drives, developed programs that encourage greater participation, and fostered a collaborative environment where every member feels valued. Her ability to engage and motivate members has ensured the success of various service projects and initiatives benefiting veterans, military families, and the local community. Rebecca leads by example, consistently demonstrating her passion for the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

In her role as Department Historian, Rebecca has excelled at preserving and documenting the Auxiliary's legacy in West Virginia. She has ensured that the stories and accomplishments of units, members, and veterans across the department are captured in a meaningful and lasting way. By creating engaging reports, presentations, and historical archives, she has highlighted the dedication of Auxiliary members and the impact of their work. Her efforts not only honor the past but also inspire others to continue the Auxiliary's mission.

Rebecca has demonstrated her commitment to the Auxiliary on all levels. She regularly attends District meetings, Department and National conventions, and completes online learning opportunities through the ALA Academy. In addition to her service as Department Historian and Unit President, Rebecca is also the Chairmen of Public Relations and Vice President of District 4. Additionally, she served as a National Page at the National Convention in New Orleans.

Beyond her work with the Auxiliary, Rebecca is an active and valued member of her community. She serves on the board of directors for Main Street Point Pleasant as the chair of organization and development. She is deeply rooted in her faith and actively involved in her church. She is pursuing the creation of a nonprofit organization designed to connect veterans with prospective families to form lasting bonds of love, care, and support throughout the year. She is the proud mother of three daughters and is called "Mumzie" by her four grandboys.

Rebecca is also the owner of Coach Rebecca, LLC. She is a dedicated empowerment specialist committed to fostering personal and professional growth. Through tailored coaching services and inspiring speaking engagements, Rebecca helps individuals and teams unlock their potential, elevate leadership, and embrace meaningful transformation. For the past 17 years, she has empowered countless individuals and organizations across the country to thrive.

We are honored and proud to present Rebecca S. Farley as our candidate for the office of Department Chaplain for the 2025–2026 administrative year. Her dedication, leadership, and passion make her an outstanding choice for this important role.

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Miriam Greer, Unit 23 Treasurer

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Edie Legg, Unit 23 Secretary

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As the current District 4 Vice President, Rebecca has demonstrated exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment to the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. She fosters collaboration across the district, supports unit activities, and actively promotes the ALA's programs and initiatives. Her ability to inspire others and strengthen community engagement has made a lasting impact on District 4.

Rebecca's dedication to the Auxiliary extends to all levels. She regularly attends District meetings, Department and National conventions, and has completed online learning opportunities through the ALA Academy. In addition to her role as District Vice President, she currently serves as the Department Historian and Chairmen of Public Relations. Rebecca also served as a National Page at the National Convention in New Orleans.

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Miriam Greer, Unit 23 Treasurer

Edie dee

Edie Legg, Unit 23 Secretary































~~~~ Membership in the American Legion Family... How Sweet It Is !!!~~~~~

Membership Chairman

The following units have met the 85% goal before March 15th:

1st District—Wheeling Unit #1, Weirton Unit #10, New Martinsville Unit #28, and Wellsburg Unit #34.

3rd District—Buckhannon Unit #7, Shinnston Unit #31, Bridgeport Unit #68, and Morgantown Unit #174

4th District—Parkersburg Unit #15, Point Pleasant Unit #23, New Haven Unit #140, and Williamstown #159.

6th District— Gary Unit #38, Cowen Unit #62, and Richwood Unit #97.

10th District—Berkeley Springs Unit #60, Moorefield Unit #64, Petersburg Unit #78, and Capon Bridge Unit #137.

I know there will be more before March 15th.

Come on Barboursville Unit #177 only one member to be a GOAL Unit.

District Vice Presidents please let me know how you are recognizing your units that meet membership goal.

Ann Buchanan Membership Chairman AnnBuch@aol.com

Department 1st Vice President

Hope everyone had a wonderful day full of love in their hearts! You missed an AMAZING Mid-Winter with great leadership. Thank you, Dr. Rosemary Thomas for your inspiring presentation. National President Trish Ward is an extremely inspirational leader. We had a Wonka-licious sweet time with President Laura! Shout out to District 3 who made the 85% goal by March 15! Bridgeport 68 is leading the way with 122%, Morgantown 174 is close behind with 109%, Buckhannon 7 is 97% and Shinnston 31 with 87%. Your Units are leading the way! Next Target date is 95% by May 23 -Shinnston the challenge is on! District 5 goal was met by Barboursville 177 with 99% - Amazing job. All other Units in District 5 strive to meet the next goal in March. District 10 great job Capon Bridge 137, Berkeley Springs 60, Moorefield 64, and Petersburg 78 who are all 90% or higher. Keep up the superb work! Strive for 100% We got this....lets make goal for President Laura - we only need 197 more

members! If every Unit tried to renew /rejoin 4 members we would hit goal! WV Renew Crew is on a mission! Have a wonderful March! For God and Country, Kim Mellie Department First Vice President American Legion Auxiliary Department of WV 304-216-9943 kmellie@comcast.net

Historian

Department 2nd Vice President

Hello to all the Fun Dips,

It was great to see everyone who was in attendance at Mid-Winter Conference. I hope everyone enjoyed the program and all the information they received. Everyone has worked hard on getting membership, but the work is not done yet. We need to reach out to the members who have yet to pay their dues and get them current. Some may just need a little reminder that they have yet to pay. We need to really push to reach our next goal of 85% for Department and we are only 197 members from that goal. Unit membership chairs please reach out to those who have yet to pay their dues. Let's get those numbers up for Department President Laura.

God Bless, Stephanie Handley Department 2nd Vice President



What has your unit done this year to preserve its history? Have you archived records, documented current events, and recorded key milestones? Every achievement, anniversary, award, and community partnership will add to the rich story of our organization. As we approach Women's History Month, take this opportunity to celebrate the incredible women in your unit, past and present. Share their stories on social media and highlight historic women in your community. Engage your Juniors by encouraging them to earn the History Patch, fostering their connection to our mission. Looking for a meaningful project? Participate in the Veterans History Project through the Library of Congress, preserving the voices and experiences of those who have served. Lastly, your annual report is due to the department by April 15, 2025. This history report should flow like an essay, telling the full story of your unit. If you haven't started, there's still time. Go old school, start by free writing everything you can remember your unit doing. Ask for your members' input then organize all memories into a written history. Be a part of WV's Epic history! Get those memories on paper!

Rebecca S Farley 304-674-9908

dccoachrebecca@gmail.com

3rd District Vice President

I hope everyone who went to Mid Winter Conference takes the information back to your Units and shares, It was truly and awesome conference

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK ON MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE KEEP UP THE HARD WORK, IT WOULD BE TRULY AWESOME TO GET WEST VIRGINIA ON THE NA-TIONAL STAGE. THE NEXT GOAL FOR DEPARTMENT IS MARCH 15,2025

Make sure to wear your branding when you are out and about, PIns, Auxiliary clothing, etc. You will be asked about it and what it is for and what you do, there are pamphlets you can carry also.

Make sure to always have a membership application on you, You never know where you will run into your next Member.

If I can help you with anything please let me know Sandra Harper 3rd District Vice President 304-694-2067 sandy.harper265@gmail.com

4th District Vice President

This message is all about celebration! Our district is just 142 members away from reaching our goal, and our department is 197 members short of hitting 85%, we are so close! We are leading the Fun Dip Team in percentages and holding strong at 2nd place overall! What an incredible achievement! Special shout-out to Point Pleasant, which soared past goal at 100.47%, amazing work! Williamstown has stepped up to 87.84%, with Parkersburg close behind at 86.35% and New Haven right on their heels at 86.29%! Notably, Spencer and Sistersville are rocking their numbers! Spencer needs just 9 more, and Sistersville only needs 12 to reach their goal. Tyler County is on the rise, and I know you all have what it takes to push across that finish line! To every unit and every member, thank you for your commitment and dedication. If you need help, I'm here for you, just give me a call! Let's keep this momentum going, finish strong, and celebrate reaching our goals together! District 4, You've Got This! Hope to see you at our meeting on March 23, 2025, in Point Pleasant! Rebecca S Farley 304-674-9908 dccoachrebeca@gmail.com

5th District Vice President

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Valentine's Day. It was also so great to see everyone at mid-winter. It was a great conference and I know I learned a great deal. National President Trish Ward did an awesome presentation. In membership, our numbers are slowly climbing up. Department needs to be at 85% by March 15 along with each unit. Barboursville Unit 177 is again in the lead and has within their reach the 100% goal. Way to go Barboursville! But Ceredo-Kenova Unit #93 and Milton Unit #139 aren't far behind. I'm really proud on how hard everyone is working. Keep up all the great work you are doing both in membership and in all the work you do for our veterans. Again if I can be in any help, please feel free to contact me. Have a wonderful St. Patrick's Day and I know everyone is ready for Spring. Lisa Harbour wvbravesfan@gmail.com (304)633-0530

10th District Vice President

Mid-Winter Conference was so much fun!!! It was so nice to see everyone again. We had so many new members come, which was awesome. I hope everyone made it home safe.

I want to congratulate everyone that got a certificate for Membership. I also want to say what a fine job everyone is doing on their membership. It is a difficult job to get members to pay, however, everyone is doing a great job at trying to make their goal. You still have time to make 100 percent. WV needs 365 more members to renew or become a member; I know we can do this. March 13th is the next target date. We are ahead of the Fun Dips; let's get those members to pay.

Reminder, 10th District Conference is March 22nd, registration is at 9 am and the meeting starts at 10 a.m. I encourage anyone that would like to hold a position at the District level to get your credentials in. If you are not interested, please still come and be with other units. Each unit does such a good job for their veterans, community, juniors, and other members. Keep up the good work!

Let your voice be heard this meeting is a voting meeting, you and your unit input are important. I hope to see you there.

Jill Davis 10th Dist. VP

1st District President

Hello to First District! First District Conference will be held on Sunday April 27th at Cameron Unit #18. Registration will be from 9:00-10:00. and the meeting will start at 10:00. Memorial Services, Election of Officers, and Unit Reports will be held at this conference. All Department Officers are welcome. Please let me know if you plan to attend, so I can let Cameron know.

We still have 2 units under 10 members. Please get them in! Congratulations to Wheeling #1 for being first to Goal in our District! They stand at 115.39%. Our second target is 85% on March 15th. and 3 units have met this target; Weirton #10 at 92.65%, New Martinsville #28 at 86.73%, and Wellsburg #34 at 86.96%. Others are close. Keep up the good work. Paulette Anderson First District President

4th District President

Greetings, Comrades and Sisters! District Four has picked up the pace and our membership statistics are improving every day! Each of us can do our part be recruiting a new member, re-instating and retaining members. If you know of a member who needs help, please let your auxiliary unit know. Paying dues for a member who is unable, is a way to provide. Times are difficult. We love our veterans and families. Let's show that love by helping one another. Mid-Winter conference was a huge success! Thanks to all who were able to attend and participate. National President Tish Ward is an amazing lady. The stories she shared were motivational and reminded us what the American Legion organization is all about. Membership is the life blood of our organization. Carry an application with you every day. Tell people about the American Legion organization. Invite potential members to attend an American Legion event. Every day is Veterans Day! Patsy Greiner 4th District President 304-483-8296 Patsygirl2@gmail.com

5th District President

WOW! What a weekend we just had at Midwinter Conference. If you were unable to attend , you missed a lot of information fun and fellowship with units from across the state. A leadership session by Dr. Rosemary Thomas and a membership session by National President TrIsh Ward were informative and fun. All of Willy Wonka's cohorts made an appearance, as well as Walter, Willy Wonka cousin.

If you have Facebook, go to the department of West Virginia posting and look at all the pictures that were submitted for the weekend.

A push it on for membership for the department to make 85% by March 15. If you have memberships that you were holding or possible members, please send those in as soon as possible. We are so close to making goal as a department. If you know of someone who has expressed an interest get in touch with them about joining.

As always, if you have any questions, please give me a call at 304-654-7750.

Membership so close to Beth Kilgore, 5th District President

10th District President

What a GREAT time at the Mid-Winter conference.

Thank you Laura and all that were involved in making this a really good time. It was so fun to see Willy Wonka and the characters of the movie. It was wonderful meeting Trish Ward our National President who had a good slide presentation on how The American Legion Auxiliary has seen in recent years that small-town rural environments are struggling, leadership capacity is dwindling, membership is aging and churning, and infrastructure is weakening.

I would encourage everyone to come and learn.

It will be so nice to see everyone at the District 10 Conference at Post 137 on March 22, 2025.

Registration starts at 9:00. Meeting starts at 10:00.

Please remember this is a voting meeting.

If you are interested in being District 10 President or Vice President please request to be nominated.

Continue to BE THE ONE.

Diana Teter District 10 President



Americanism

It was great seeing everyone at MId Winter conference.

Thank you all for being a part of the challenge" YOUR A GRAND OLE FLAG"

I did send out a challenge to each of your Post and Units to send in your rendition of your challenge, it will be exciting to see all of these and this will be forward

onto Nationals, it would be so exciting for West Virginia to be going across the big screen,

The words to the song are posted on a separate paper for you all to have. February was AMERICANISM MONTH, Please share to me what your

Units have done to celebrate. AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST: This is still time to promote this. Find the details on https://www.legionaux.org/americanism-essay-contest Department winners essays are due to your Divisional Chair by April 15,2025. They MUST include the Americanism Essay Cover Sheet. UNITS YOUR ESSAYS NEED TO BE TO ME BY MARCH 15,2025 SO THAT I CAN GET THE WINNERS TURNED INTO DEPARTMENT BY APRIL 15.2025 SANDRA HARPER AMERICANISM 304-694-2067

sandy.harper265@gmail.com

Child Welfare Foundation

Feed the pig! I only had one unit turn money into me for CWF at Mid Winter Conference I hope other units are sending a donations directly to Sue Brown in the Department Office. Any amount helps. These children need your help so make your donation today.

Beth, Kilgore Chairman

"Grand Old Flag" Lyrics

YOU'RE A GRAND OLD FLAG. YOU'RE A HIGH FLYING FLAG;

AND FOREVER IN PEACE MAY YOU WAVE.

YOU'RE THE EMBLEM OF THE LAND I LOVE.

THE HOME OF THE FREE AND THE BRAVE.

EVERY HEART BEATS TRUE UNDER RED, WHITE & BLUE

WHERE THERE'S NEVER A BOAST OR BRAG

BUT SHOULD AULD AC-QUAINTANCE BE FORGOT

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE GRAND OLD FLAG.





Auxiliary Emergency Fund

When disaster strikes, we have the power to make a difference Donating to the Auxiliary Emergency fund helps ALA members facing financial hardship or suffering the effects of a natural disaster. Together, we can help rebuild lives and bring hope where it is needed most. Remember, we are Members helping Members.

Blessings, Melanie Shambaugh AEF Chairman sham4wv@aol.com 304-258-3307

Children & Youth

April will be here before we know it. I hope every Unit is planning an activity for children and youth month. Also remember that April 15 is purple up day In honor of our military children. Please encourage your members and others to wear purple on that day. Don't just leave it at that. Be sure to tell why you are wearing purple.

There are so many things that you can do as a unit for the children of your community. It is unbelievable the need a lot of children face in today's society. There are children who will get a meal at school on Friday and will get nothing else until they return to school on Monday. A lot of communities do a backpack program where they send a backpack home on Friday full of food for that child. I have heard horror stories of parents who will eat the food instead of getting it to the child. Please talk to teachers and school counselor about the needs of children in their school. There are several other things that can be done for the child. If you need some ideas, please give me a call at 304-654-7750. Don't forget to send me any pictures taken during your events Peace, love and happiness! Beth Kilgore

Community Service

Well, hello American Legion Auxiliary family I missed each of you at midwinter. this year. I've been told we had a great time and learned a lot which we always do. We have a lot coming up the next couple months getting our end of year reports ready for Summer Convention which each report helps our Veterans on Capitol Hill so we will keep helping our Veterans of West Virginia which is what we are here for.

Remember February is Heart Health Month.

Which is a great time to have blood pressure checks at post, blood drives ,training on stopping the bleed & CPR. Make sure we know the signs of a heart attack in women which are different them

men . 1.Chest discomfort

2. Discomfort in other areas of the upper body

3. Shortness of breath

4. Other signs could be lightheaded, nausea Or breaking out in cold sweat. Remember President Laura special project this month also for more AED. God Bless, Kelli A Immel Kitbasket@hotmail.com (304)-283-5092

Junior Activities

Thank you to all auxiliary members who brought Junior members to the Mid-Year Conference at Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, West Virginia. What a good time we had! National ALA President Trish Ward was so excited to join the junior members in our meeting. She gave each junior her national president's pin. The girls listened to every word and talked about the meaning of President Trish's pin after she left the meeting. Special thanks to Lynda Lancaster-Loyd for her participation in a special game of "Little Sally Walker."

Our next meeting will be the Department Convention in July. There will be an election of honorary officers. Please encourage your juniors to attend the convention. We always learn something new and have a good time sharing about the veterans in our lives.

Be safe and pray for our veterans and military families.

Patsy Greiner Junior Activities Chairman 304-483-8296 Patsygirl2@gmail.com

Education

I hope everyone has been safe and well during the weather we have Been having.

I know it has been hard keeping in touch with schools lately, but I Want to stress the deadlines are near.

If you personally know a student that would be interested, approach Them about the scholarships available. Information is on the National Website.

If you need my help, call me at 304-592-0247 or email me at carlajwilfong@gmail.com.

Carla Wilfong

Education Chairman

Legislative

Remember to visit the Grassroots action center to send the daily emails to our representatives in Congress. https://www.votervoice.net/mobile/ AmericanLegion/home Click on Major Richard Star Act and send a message to Congress. This act is attempting to allow combat-injured veterans to receive both their retirement pay and disability compensation without offset. Our veterans deserved this! As of now they lose their retirement pay for every dollar of disability compensation they receive. Send everyday so Shelly Capito, Jim Justice, and Riley Moore hears our message.

Also in WV we need to contact our local state delegates to express your support for SB4. It has reached the Military Committe. This bill will help combat claim sharks. We need to encourage that SB4 becomes a law!

Try to attend Veterans Visibility Day with the Legislature Monday February 24th 9am at our Capitol Building in Charleston.

or

The American Legion Washington DC Conference is Monday-Wednesday February 24-25th. Let's keep fighting for our Veterans! Have a great March and God Bless. Kim Mellie Legislative Chair 304-216-9943 kmellie@comcast.net



Music

Good Day to All Members, I hope you are surviving this wintry weather. Here we didn't get what was predicted, and I for one am glad. The Midwinter Conference was another success!! President Laura, her Membership Team, and Dr. Rosemary Thomas did an outstanding job! There were plenty of nice auctions to bid on, and the Poppy Wreaths were Beautiful!!! Sorry to say we didn't have time to do the "Membership Song" at the Conference. So I am making a challenge to each unit: Video the Membership Song either by your unit, or district, or a member of your unit; no more than a minute long. Send to my cell phone 304-771-0984 no later than May 15th. For those that compete I will give a small gift to either the unit, district or member. The winner will be announced at the Department Convention. Paulette Anderson

Music Chairman

National Security

DoD POLICY ALLOWS VETERAN AND MILITARY SERVICE ORGANI-ZATIONS GREATER ACCESS

Helping servicemembers transition from the military world to civilian life is among the top priorities of The American Legion Family.

The Department of Defense (DoD) has made access to troops and their families easier than ever. At the urging of The American Legion and organizations, DoD approved 2 policy memoranda that direct military services to allow veteran and military service organizations (VSOs/MSOs) greater and more standardized access to installations, their troops and families. The American Legion worked with DoD staff to shape the policy to increase the presence of service officers at installations and to create greater troop and military family awareness of The American Legion support programs, such as Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW), transition assistance, career support and more.

The American Legion Family departments, districts and posts/units are encouraged to use this publication as a resource for working with military installations to help troops ease the transition from military to civilian life.

April D Wallace, Chairman aprilwallace0513@yahool.com

Poppy

At the Mid-Winter Conference there were nine poppy wreaths from units. A total of \$1,036.00 was raised. The three winners were First Place-Wheeling Unit 1, Second Place-Morgantown Unit 174 and Third Place--New Martinsville Unit 28. Units contributing photos for the Chairman's Choice Award were St. Albans Unit 73, Point Pleasant Unit 23, and Morgantown Unit 174. Each brought 4 photos illustrating how the poppy was used in their unit. The Poppy Poster Contest was a success with 16 posters entered.

A Miss Poppy was in attendance at the conference. It would be ideal if units had a Miss Poppy, but it's not always possible. What about younger members of the Sons of The American Legion? Why not welcome them to be POPPY AMBASSADORS? What exactly is a POPPY AMBASSA-DOR? They are a member of the Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion, ages very voung to age 17 with no requirements for specific costume. A unit may provide a hat and/or sash for them. Units can decide when and where these POPPY AMBASSADORS will participate. There are parades, ceremonies, National Poppy Day, local poppy distributions, and much more. Your young members will certainly remember the experience!

Shirley Davis Chairman

Mid-Winter Silent Auction

We would like to say thank you to everyone that support the Silent Auction. Basket and 50/50 drawing.

Between the Silent Auction, basket and 50/50 drawing we deposited an additional \$1,188.00 to the Welfare Fund.

THANK YOU!!!!

Public Relations

This Public Relations Chairmen needs your stories! Every event, service project, and act of kindness you share showcases the incredible impact of the American Legion Family. Your work deserves to be seen and heard, not just within your local community, but across the division and even at the national level. Did you see the supercool WV PR flow chart? When posting on social media, be sure to tag me or the department page so we can amplify your efforts. Your dedication inspires others and strengthens our mission. As we continue making a difference, don't forget that reporting deadlines are fast approaching. All reports must be submitted to the department by April 15, 2025. These reports are vital in highlighting our collective achievements and ensuring our efforts receive the recognition they deserve. Keep up the momentum and finish strong! If you have any questions. I'm just a call away. Remember, your light is shining bright, let's make sure the world sees it! Keep on Rocking it! Rebecca Farley 304-674-9908 dccoachrebecca@gmail.com

VA&R

Toot your horns! We received no items at Mid-Winter in the comfort drive room. Units are taking items directly to VA's, CBOC's, and Veterans in Nursing Homes. I did a preliminary report at midwinter, with only about 8 units turning in the comfort drive form, a little over 19,000 items and 39,000 inkind and monetary. Some units will continue their drive through February and some said they would send the form to me. Please have all forms in no later than March 10, so I can provide a final report in the next newsletter. Units who do not have a VAMC close can reach out the nursing homes and service veterans in local nursing homes or the CBOC's, which are off site VA treatment centers. We are still in the cold, check to see if blankets, hats, gloves, or food bank items are needed for the homeless veterans.

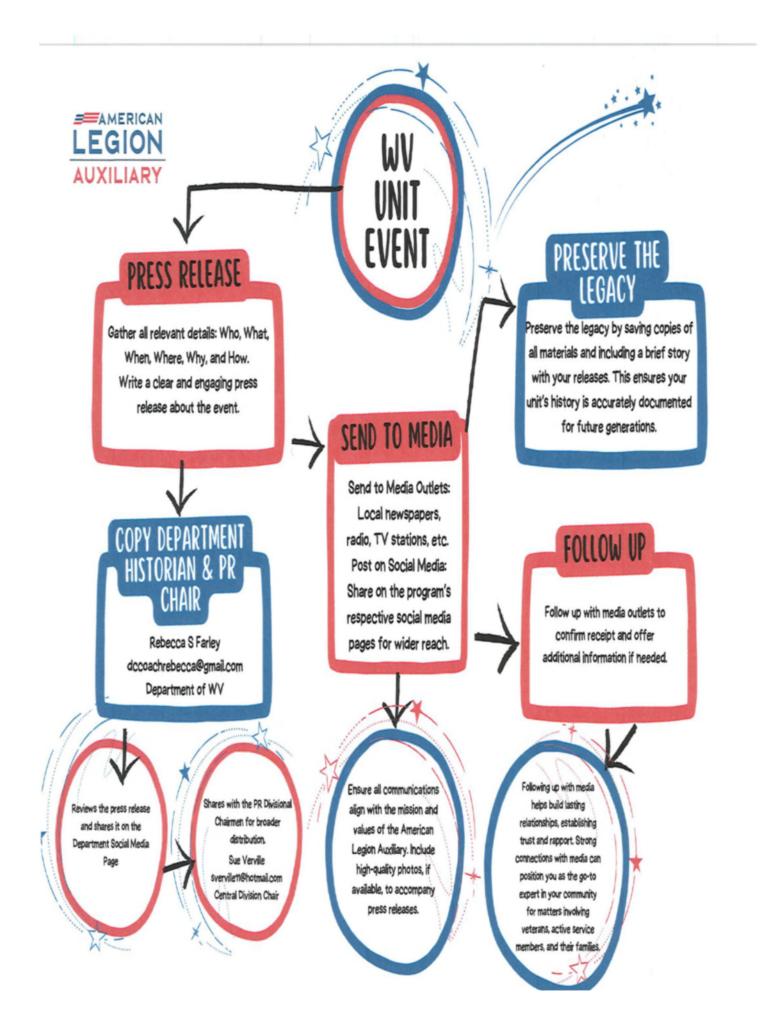
Lisa Cadwallader VA& R Chair Lisac.ALA71@gmail.com

NEC

I'm hoping after our meeting later this month, I'll have more to share with you. However, if you have not checked out any of the webnars or trainings under the National Academy section, you should. They are full of information. Also, If you missed mid-winter, you missed a fun weekend with President Laura theme and membership and the National President Trish Wards visit.

Lisa Cadwallader NEC 2024-2026







To President Laura and the American Legion Auxiliary Officers in the Department of Wist Virginia,

Thank you all so much for the lovely and Very generous array of West Virginia collectables. I can't wait to dig Into those Pepperoni Rolls with a Fabulous Taste of that Blackberry Wine. I so enjoyed my time in your beautiful state and I an't thank you all enough for malling my visit so awesome and epic in every way. I can't Wait to visit again. I congratulate you all on your amazing leadership and effort to make west Virginia soar in the Centon Division. Keep ut the great push for membership. I know you can make the 85% by March 15. See you all in Tampa Bay!

> Sincerely Trish Ward ACA National President 2024-2025

Membership Song (To the tune of Oompha Loompha Willy Wonka 1971 Movie)

> Willy Wonka doesn't ask much Asking Slugworth to keep in touch Laffy Taffy and Fun Dip Asking For Our Membership

What Do You Get When You Work at It Setting An Example for All to Do Wonka Bar and Scrumpdiddlyumptious Too What Do You Think of That? Working on Our Membership

Oomph Loompha Don't Forget Them Golden Tickets Ready to Send Working, Working All Year Long Runt in Department Keeping It Strong

Membership In The ALA---How Sweet It Is!!!



American Legion Auxiliary WV Rhododendron **Girls State**

Rhododendron Girls State

Time is fast approaching. This years Girls State Session will be held June 8-14, 2025 at Davis & Elkins in Elkins, WV.

I hope donations have been secured and you are in contact with the schools whether by principal, guidance counselors or government teachers. Each Unit works Girls State a little different. However, you choose and works for you – that is great!

If you have not started securing contributions: here are some suggested organizations but not limited to: League of Women Voters, Women's Club, VFWs, Elks, Moose, Lions, Rotary Club in your communities. All you need to do is ASK!

Please remember your contributors from various businesses and organizations to send them a thank you or a certificate of appreciation.

The impact you have on a deserving young lady is a once in a life-time opportunity. They will remember attending Girls State for years to come but only you can help secure the funding and getting their applications submitted. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your district representative or myself.

Lynda Lancaster-Loyd Girls State Chairman 304-676-3979



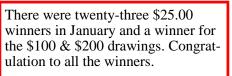


District Representatives

- 1st Dist. Susan Brown 2172 Grandview Rd. Moundsville WV 26041 304-845-5122
- 3rd Dist. Mary Jo Thomas 279 Rock Lake Road Fairmont WV 26554 304-366-2912
- 4th Dist. Cathy Post 308 Main Street Middlebourne, WV 26149 304-758-5114
- 5th Dist.— Ann Buchanan 105 Cheyenne Trail Ona WV 25505 304-654-9932
- 6th Dist. Peggy Swartz P O Box 124 Gary WV 24836 304-448-2394
- 10th Dist.— Debbie Fox 874 Longview Drive Berkeley Springs, WV 25411 304-258-5804

Ways and Means

There were twenty-three \$25.00	Name	#'s	City	State	Date	\$\$\$
vinners in January and a winner for he \$100 & \$200 drawings. Congrat-	Gina Hines	673	Augusta	WV	1/01/2025	100.00
lation to all the winners.	Sarah Staley-Gibbs	897	Moorefield	WV	1/02/2025	25.00
There has been 877 tickets sold this		877			1/03/2025	
year with 123 still available for pur-	Leslie Jenkins	894	Moorefield	WV	1/04/2025	25.00
hase. Department has 5 tickets. Linda & I would like take this op-	Cynthia McDaniel	357	King	NC	1/06/2025	25.00
portunity to say thank to each of you elling tickets this year.	James Spence	715	Welch	WV	1/07/2025	25.00
ening tickets this year.		168			1/08/2025	
Once again this year the committee	Mary Allen	311	Cameron	WV	1/09/2025	25.00
vill be offering a cash prize for the ndividual and unit that sells the	Linda Osborne	801	Follansbee	WV	1/10/2025	25.00
nost Ways & Means tickets.		607			1/11/2025	
Please cash your checks! We still	Mike Desmond	435	Harpers Ferry	WV	1/13/2025	25.00
have outstanding check from 2024 hat have not be cashed. We will be	Jill Davis	181	Capon Bridge	WV	1/14/2025	25.00
ending out reminder to those that	Stacie Starnes	691	Capon Bridge	WV	1/15/2025	200.00
have not cashed their check to do so.	Bruce Nicolson	457	Springfield	WV	1/16/2025	25.00
had a phone call at Midwinter ask-	Jeff Coddington	229	St. Clairsville	OH	1/17/2025	25.00
ng how someone could see who has von. I lost that voice mail, if you	Cindy Fridley	531	Harpers Ferry	WV	1/18/2025	25.00
know who that might be ask them to	Daryl Lorram	385	Yellow Springs	WV	1/20/2025	25.00
all the office—thank you	Tammy Durrah	633	Glen Dale	WV	1/21/2025	25.00
	Sandra Harper	485	Morgantown	WV	1/22/2025	25.00
NOTICE—Please mail check and tubs to:	Meredith Charlton	156	Verona	VA	1/23/2025	25.00
Susan Brown	Helen Sirk Bell	843	Romney	WV	1/24/2025	25.00
2172 Grandview Rd Moundsville WV 26041	Gary Cogle	600	Harpers Ferry	WV	1/25/2025	25.00
	ALA—Unit #14	856	Martinsburg	WV	1/27/2025	25.00
Check Payable to: ALA Ways & Means	Cathy McDaniel	917	Wardensville	WV	1/28/2025	25.00
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		268			1/29/2025	
	James K Teter	491	Capon Bridge	WV	1/30/2025	25.00
	CJ Tumblin	738	Rippon	WV	1/31/2025	25.00
			1	1	i	1



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January 2025 Ways and Means Winners

March 2025



Red Shirt Friday— Every Friday						1
2	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday	6	7	8
9 Daylight Saving Time Begins	10	11	12	13	14	15 3rd District— Shinnston Oratorical Finals Shinnston. The American Legion Birthday
16 Shinnston Birth- day Dinner	17	18	19	20	21	22 10th District Convention Capon Bridge
23 4th District Con- vention Point Pleasant	24	25 (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995) (1995)	26	27	28	29 5th District Convention Barboursville
30	31		Commun Auxiliary	s of Month ity Service Emergency und		VIETNAM Juste yn fyr yter purte

"Membership in the American Legion Family...How Sweet It Is!"

Date 2/14/2025 Department Goal 4923 — Membership to Date— 3988 Department Unit 200 Goal 232 — Membership to Date— 95 Second Target Date 85% - March 15, 2025

Stephanie

District 1			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Wheeling #1	26	30	115.39%
Moundsville #3	265	207	78.11%
McMechen #5	15	8	53.33%
Weirton #10	68	63	92.65%
Cameron #18	125	105	84%
New Martinsville #28	113	98	86.73%
Wellsburg #34	23	20	86.96%
Follansbee #45	61	50	81.97%
Pine Grove #81	68	47	69.12%
Paden City #86	77	57	74.03%
Wheeling #89	10	6	60%
Newell #114	20	15	75%
Chester #121	125	104	83.20%
TOTALS	996	810	81.33%

District 4			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Parkersburg #15	381	329	86.35%
Spencer #21	30	21	70%
Pt. Pleasant #23	215	216	100.47%
Tyler County #48	45	1	2.22%
Sistersville #67	32	20	62.50%
New Haven #140	124	107	86.29%
Williamstown #159	74	65	87.84%
TOTALS	901	759	84.24%

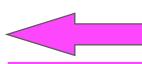
District 6			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Welch #8	45	38	84.44%
Bluefield #9	23	16	69.57%
Beckley #32	20	11	55%
Gary #38	93	81	87.10%
Cowen #62	20	17	85%
Richwood #97	28	24	85.71%
TOTALS	229	187	81.66%



"Laffy Taffy" Team Goal—2565 To Date— 2137 83.31%

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Membership Chairman



"Fun Dip" Team Goal—2126 To Date 1756 82.60%

Kim	

District 3			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Buckhannon #7	44	43	97.73%
Clarksburg #13	46	36	78.26%
Elkins #29	108	82	75.93%
Shinnston #31	271	237	87.45%
Braxton County #33	32	27	84.38%
Bridgeport #68	66	81	122.73%
Belington #96	16	0	0
Pickens #122	20	1	5%
Morgantown #174	120	131	109.17%
TOTALS	723	638	88.24%
District 5			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Huntington #16	134	103	76.87%
Logan #19	20	11	55%
Charleston #20	28	10	35.71%
St. Albans #73	33	26	78.79%
Ceredo-Kenova #93	212	180	84.90%
So. Charleston #94	10	5	50%
Hamlin #111	40	32	80%
	40	52	
Milton #139	68	56	82.35%
	-	-	82.35% 99.32%

District 10			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Martinsburg #14	68	56	82.35%
Piedmont #52	22	18	81.82%
Berkeley Springs #60	197	184	93.40%
Charles Town #63	38	30	78.95%
Moorefield #64	84	76	90.48%
Charles Town #71	151	89	58.94%
Petersburg #78	62	56	90.32%
Romney #91	155	114	73.55%
Paw Paw #128	43	23	53.49%
Kirby #134	32	24	75%
Ridgeley #136	69	51	75.36%
Capon Bridge #137	192	181	94.27%
Keyser #152	36	26	72.22%
TOTALS	1149	929	80.86%

2025 AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONVENTION RESERVATION INVOICE

AUGUST 22 - AUGUST 28, 2025

EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON TAMPA DOWNTOWN CONVENTION CENTER

513 SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE

TAMPA, FL 33602

NAME(S) OF ATTENDEE(S)

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

E-MAIL:

King/Doubles (\$149 per night plus 13.5 % hotel tax) tax rate subject to change

Parking rate per day---Valet Only \$29 per day

PLEASE MAIL PAYMENT BY MAY 1, 2025

ARRIVAL DATE TO HOTEL	
DEPARTURE DATE FROM HOTEL	
KING OR DOUBLE	
	Quanity

ONE NIGHT'S ROOM DEPOSIT @	\$169.12	\$0.00
ADDITIONAL OCCUPANT IN ROOM PER DAY - \$20 Per person; Rollaway N/A		\$0.00
REGISTRATION FEE @	\$35.00	\$0.00
NATIONAL COMMANDER'S BANQUET @	\$65.00	\$0.00
SOUTHERN BLOC BREAKFAST @	\$60.00	\$0.00
HOSPITALITY ROOM FEE @	\$25.00	\$0.00
TOTAL		\$0.00

FIRST NIGHT'S DEPOSIT REQUIRED. We will bill you for other charges.

If arrival date is not provided on form, then arrival date will be August 22th If departure date is not provided on form, then departure date will be August 28th

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:

Total

THE AMERICAN LEGION

PO BOX 3191

CHARLESTON WV 25332

If you have any questions, please contact Department Headquarters at 1-888-534-4667

First Night Deposit Required

PLEASE RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE"

THANK YOU

*You will not be charged for the Delegate fee. If you are not elected as a

delegate at your District Convention or on the floor at the State Convention,

Department Headquarters will bill you for the \$35.00 registration fee after State Convention.

The SPIRIT is emailed to all **Unit Contacts** and any **Unit Officers or member** with an email address, and has asked for the Spirit to be emailed to them.

All Department Officers, Department Chairmen, District Presidents/Vice Presidents, Past Department Presidents with email addresses. Spirits are posted monthly on the website: <u>www.wvaux.org</u> Unit Presidents with no email contact will receive a free copy by mail.

Subscription will Cost \$18.00

Runs August through July Each Year

MAIL TO:

American Legion Auxiliary Department of West Virginia 2172 Grandview Road Moundsville, WV 26041

NAME:	
STREET ADDRESS OR PO BOX:	
CITY:	STATE:
ZIP:	