



# The Auxiliary Spirit









Volume 39 **April 2025** Issue 9





American Legion Auxiliary 2024-2025 Department President

"For the Heart of the Matter"

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

Flower— Daisy (Represents New Beginning & Cheerfulness)

Happy Early Spring, West Virginia! I hope everyone is looking forward to warmer days and opportunities to spend more time outdoors. Spring is my absolute favorite time of year, and I love that it symbolizes growth and renewal. With that being said, I am so incredibly proud of how hard the Department worked to achieve National's goal of 85% by March 15th. Every renewal and every new member helped us grow and reach our goal! The acronym TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) describes the hard work, perseverance, and dedication your units and districts have displayed so far. But we are NOT finished! Please make sure you are NOT holding onto memberships and sending them in ASAP to be processed as our next goal is 95% by May 23rd (Poppy Day)!

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at Spring Conferences and then of course at the Department meeting in July. As always, please reach out anyone of my officers and membership team if you have any questions or need assistance. Continue being amazing and doing great things for our veterans, active military, and your communities.

For the Heart of the Matter,

Laura Clark Department President

"So much time and so little to do. Wait a minute. Strike that. Reverse it."- 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**



Mandatory Funds: (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 UNSURE OF YOUR UNIT'S STATUS CALL THE OFFICE—Thank you

Directory Update: Milton Unit #139—New Secretary Amy Ashworth 71 McDermott Rd Ona WV 25545 304-654-5606

The website is update with the Year-End Reports. If you are unable to print the reports, please call the office and I will mail you one.

The 2026 Unit Membership Data form is in this Spirit. This form needs back to this office by April 22.

Full access or Write users I do not need new applications that have been entered by you. They are for your records. Make sure that all information is complete when accepting 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.

The Department phone is not a cellphone, it is a landline. You can not text a landline. Please do not text, because if you do it will not go anywhere —Thanks

#### **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:** www.wvaux.org

Rhododendron Girls State Website www.wvgirlsstate.org

The American Legion
Department of WV
wvlegion@suddenlinkmail.com

American Legion Auxiliary National Website ALAforveterans.org

#### **Spring Conventions**

1st District—April 27th Cameron #18 Reg. 9 am—meeting 10 am 4th District—March 23rd Pt. Pleasant #23 (J) Reg. 9am-meeting 10 am

6th District—April 5th Welch #8 Reg. 9 am—meeting 10 am 10th District—March 22nd Capon Bridge #139 (J) Reg. 9 am—meeting 10 am



#### Chester WV Unit 121 PO BOX 121 Chester WV 26034

RE: Endorsement for Department Historian

March 6, 2025

A regular meeting of American Legion Auxiliary Chester Unit 121, Chester WV was held on March 6, 2025 at 7:00PM at the Post home. The Unit unanimously endorsed Holly Adams for the office of Department Historian for the administrative year of 2025 – 2026.

Holly joined our Unit in 2013 through the eligibility of her Father Albert M. Ober who was in the Marines during the Vietnam era. She has been an active member of our Unit since joining.

Holly has served as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President in our Unit and 1<sup>st</sup> District President. She is currently serving as President. She has served on various committees over the years and is very active in all committees. She has always been proactive with all of our projects and very dedicated to serving our Veterans in our local community.

We are very proud to present Holly Adams as our candidate for Department Historian for the 2025-2026 administration.

Our Very Best Regards,

### **Shana Adams**

Cindy Gadd

Shana Adams, Secretary

Cindy Gadd, Treasurer

Chester Unit 121

Chester Unit 121



# American Legion Auxiliary Barboursville Unit 177

P.O. Box 83 – 6024 Rt. 60 East Barboursville, WV 25504 (304) 733-0177

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

During our regular business meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary, Barboursville Unity 177 on March 3, 2025, the membership unanimously approved the endorsement of Lisa Harbour-Adkins for the office of Department Historian for the 2025-2026 administrative year.

For those of you who do not know Lisa, we are honored to share the following. Lisa has been an AL Auxiliary member since 2021. She is currently serving as the Unit Constitution and Bylaw Chairman; Lisa has also served as our Unit's Secretary and Historian.

Lisa also serves as District 5 Chaplain, and is currently District 5 Vice President.

Beyond her work with the Auxiliary, Lisa is an active member in her community. She serves with the VFW Auxiliary and has carried many roles and responsibilities both within the unit, district and beyond, including serving as the State VFW Color Bearer for four years. She is also a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, holding Recorder of Military Awards, Registrar, Secretary and President. She also pours her heart into the Guyandotte Civil War Days and has served in the Treasurer, Vice President and President roles.

Lisa enjoys working with the membership, and is a valued asset to our Unit and District. We know she looks forward bringing her dedication and passion and will faithfully serve our Veterans and our communities in this new position.

We, the members and Officers of Barboursville Unit 177 sincerely ask for your support by voting for our candidate.

Respectfully,

Wendy Miller

President, 177

Heather Isaacs

Secretary, 177



American Legion Auxiliary Parkersburg Unit #15 2505 Garfield Avenue Parkersburg, WV 26101

At a regular meeting held March 10, 2025, the members of American Legion Auxiliary Parkersburg Unit #15 unanimously endorsed Patsy Greiner for the office of District Four President for the 2025 – 2026 administrative year.

Patsy has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for 35 years. She is a PUFL (paid up for life) member. Patsy joined under the eligibility of her late father, William A. Young, who served in the Korean War.

Patsy has served as Auxiliary Unit #15 President, District President, Department Junior Activities Chairman and has held several auxiliary leadership positions.

Patsy has been an ordained minister with the American Fellowship Church since 2017. She retired from the West Virginia Lottery after nineteen (19) years of service in the Licensing and Security Divisions. Patsy has served as a volunteer for over fifty years. She has held multiple leadership roles for the American veterans community.

Parkersburg Unit #15 is honored to endorse Patsy Greiner for District Four President for the 2025 – 2026 year.

Sincerely,

Member ()

Unit Member

and S Harmon



### American Legion Auxiliary Barboursville Unit 177

P.O. Box 83 – 6024 Rt. 60 East Barboursville, WV 25504 (304) 733-0177

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

During our regular business meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary, Barboursville Unity 177 on March 3, 2025, the membership unanimously approved the endorsement of Lisa Harbour-Adkins for the office of 5<sup>th</sup> District President for the 2025-2026 administrative year.

For those of you who do not know Lisa, we are honored to share the following. Lisa has been an AL Auxiliary member since 2021. She is currently serving as the Unit Constitution and Bylaw Chairman; Lisa has also served as our Unit's Secretary and Historian.

Lisa also serves as District 5 Chaplain, and is currently District 5 Vice President.

Beyond her work with the Auxiliary, Lisa is an active member in her community. She serves with the VFW Auxiliary and has carried many roles and responsibilities both within the unit, district and beyond, including serving as the State VFW Color Bearer for four years. She is also a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, holding Recorder of Military Awards, Registrar, Secretary and President. She also pours her heart into the Guyandotte Civil War Days and has served in the Treasurer, Vice President and President roles. Serving in a role as important as District President is a role that she is more than capable of performing.

Lisa enjoys working with the membership, and is a valued asset to our Unit and District. We know she looks forward bringing her dedication and passion and will faithfully serve our Veterans and our communities in this new position.

We, the members and Officers of Barboursville Unit 177 sincerely ask for your support by voting for our candidate.

Respectfully,

Wendy Miller

President, 177

Heather Isaacs

Secretary, 177

#### Membership Chairman

Congratulations to the Department for reaching 85% by March 15th!
Our next goal of 95% is by May 23rd (Poppy Day). The following units have reached that goal or beyond:
1st District- Wheeling Unit #1, Moundsville Unit #3, Weirton Unit #10
3rd District- Buckhannon Unit #7,
Bridgeport Unit #68, Morgantown Unit #174

4th District- Pt. Pleasant Unit #23, Sistersville Unit #67

5th District- Barboursville Unit #177 6th District- None

10th District- Berkeley Springs Unit #60, Capon Bridge Unit #137 Many units are VERY close to reaching that 95% target. Now is the time to call

that 95% target. Now is the time to call your members who have not renewed and invite them to your meetings and/or events this spring.

Congratulations to all the units who have reached goal and you will receive your goal ribbon and certificates at either the District Meetings or Summer Department Convention.

Please reach out to your District Vice Presidents or anyone on the membership team for assistance!

Ann Buchanan Membership Chairman annbuch@aol.com

#### Chaplain

Please send prayers for the President prayer book.

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:9-10

Peggy Swartz, Chaplain

#### Department 1st Vice President

Amazing job Auxiliary! Our first goal of 85% by March 15th was met! Please don't stop trying to get new members. Our Department wants to reach 100% as soon as we can! 95% goal on March 23rd which is National Poppy Day 100% goal by July 4th Independence Day We can do this! Sandy Harper (Dist. 3 Vice) and I had the pleasure of awarding Bridgeport Unit 68 with President Laura's Golden Ticket for the first Unit in the State to hit 100%. It was great to see Alice Oldaker and Bethany Lister at their first District Conference. Thank you District 3 for your hospitality! Thank you for our 92% total

three Units are 100% or more! District 5 and District 10, you reached the 85% now let's strive for 100! Barboursville 177 is the only Unit in District 5 to reach 100! Awesome Job! Capon Bridge 137 and Berkeley Springs 60 are so close to 100! You got this!! I hope to see you all at your District Conferences.

For God and Country, Kim Mellie Department First Vice President American Legion Auxiliary Department of WV 304-216-9943 kmellie@comcast.net

membership. Let's get to 100%

Follow the lead of Bridgeport 68, Mor-

gantown 174, and Buckhannon 7. All

#### Department 2nd Vice President

Hello My Fun Dip Team, Great job in helping the Department meet the 85% membership target by March 15, 2025. Don't stop now just because we reached this target. Keep working on getting membership. The majority of units are above the 50% mark for membership but a few units need more work to reach this. In 1st District, McMechen #5, you are at 53.3% but you only need 7 more members and you can reach goal. In 4th District, Tyler County #48, you need to do some work. You are only at 2.22% for membership. If you have membership, but have not processed it, please do a soon as possible. Please reach out to you members to give them a little reminder that they still need to pay. A Big Shout Out goes to several units that have reached goal and some have even surpassed goal. Awesome work Wheeling #1 at 119.23%; Weirton #10 at 100%; Pt. Pleasant #23 at 105.12% and Sistersville #67 at 103.13%. Amazing job!!! There are several units that need less than 10 members to reach goal. This membership year is not over, so don't slow down now. Keep up the good work everyone.

God Bless, Stephanie Handley Department 2nd Vice President stephaniehandley@msn.com



#### **HISTORIAN**

I have the privilege of preserving our incredible legacy while ensuring that future generations understand the impact of our organization. Spring is a time of renewal, a moment to reflect on where we've been and how we continue to serve with unwavering dedication. Our history is filled with stores of resilience, patriotism, and service. From the Auxiliary's founding in 1919 to our ongoing efforts supporting veterans, military families, and communities, every member contributes to a story worth telling. Each unit's projects, events, and initiatives are threads in the fabric of our legacy. It is up to us to document there moments, ensuring that our mission and impact are never forgotten.

I encourage every member to take an active role in preserving our history. Share your stories, capture moments, and honor those who have come before us. Whether through photos, newsletters, or social media, every piece of history recorded today will inspire those who follow.

As we move forward, let's continue to be Star Strong, Shine Bold, and be proud of the legacy we are building together. The future of the American Legion Auxiliary is in our hands, let's make it one to remember.

Happy Easter! Rebecca S Farley 304-674-9908

#### 3rd District Vice President

#### GREAT JOB TO EVERYONE!!

West Virginia American Legion Auxiliary made it's 85% membership goal for the National deadline of March 15,2025. The challenge was put out to Us all to work harder and get our Units where they needed to be. You all have done a wonderful job.

Although according to the last target sheet, "Laffy Taffy" we have fallen behind "Fun Dip". WE CAN"T let this happen, so I am asking for our Units to dig a little deeper to increase their membership, I know I sound like a stuck record, but it's only because I love seeing us all succeed and I love seeing the smiles on the faces of the Units as they get their certificates.

District 3 Spring conference went really well, I want to Thank you for feeling that I can do the job of District 3 Vice President for the upcoming year 2025-2026.

Please reach out if I can help in any way.

It takes the whole Unit working together to keep our Membership rolling.

It is important to keep our Juniors/ Sons members involved in order to keep our Units rolling, they are the key to American Legion Auxiliary being around in the future.

Sandra Harper District 3 Vice President sandy.harper265@gmail.com

#### 4th District Vice President

I am beyond proud of the dedication and commitment our units have shown toward membership growth. To those units that have already reached 100% membership, CON-GRATULATIONS! Your hard work, outreach, and engagement have set the standard for success. You have not only preserved our legacy but ensured that our mission carries forward into the future. Take a moment to celebrate this achievement, you've earned it! For those still working toward their goal, keep pushing forward! Well done, Sistersville and Point Pleasant! Williamstown needs iust 9 more. Spencer Unit is only 9 away, New Haven needs 17, Parkersburg is only 22 away, and Tyler needs 44. So close! You are almost to 100%! Membership isn't just about numbers; it's about connections. Every conversation, every invitation, and every shared story has the power to inspire someone to join us. Let's continue reaching out, following up, and welcoming new members into our ALA family. As we move closer to our overall membership goals, remember: Together, we are unstoppable. Let's continue to Star Strong, Shine Bold, and Be the One to grow our organization and make an even greater impact! Keep up the great work, District 4, we're stronger because of YOU!

Rebecca S Farley 304-674-9908



#### 5th District Vice President

Happy Spring everyone. I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful weather after this winter. Thanks Barboursville Unit #177 for a great district meeting.

Great work 5th District for all your hard work on getting your membership up. Congratulations to Barboursville Unit #177 for hitting 100% plus going beyond to be 106.08%. Hamlin Unit #111 is in second with 90%. St. Albans Unit #73. Ceredo-Kenova Unit #93. Milton Unit #139, and Huntington Unit #16 all hit their 85% goal by March 15. Great work everyone. I know everyone else is working hard to get their membership goals. Again, please don't hold membership. They need to be turned in as soon as possible.

Shout out that our Department has reached the 85% goal before March 15. Keep up the great work you are doing.

Don't forget reports are due April 15. Please report. Your auxiliary is doing all this work so please; please report to show all your hard work that you are doing for our veterans and their families.

I hope that everyone had a great St. Patrick's Day and that you'll have an awesome Easter.

If I can be of any help, please feel free to contact me.

Lisa Harbour-Adkins wvbravesfan@gmail.com (304)633-0530

#### 10th District Vice President

Everyone is doing a nice job on membership. Congratulations to the ones that have made 85% and up. They were units #60 Berkeley Springs, #64 Moorefield, #78 Petersburg, #136 Ridgeley, and #137 Capon Bridge.

Units #14 Martinsburg, #52 Piedmont, and #91 Romney were very close to making the Target Date. We have all units above 50%, there is still time to make the last goal of 100%. Fun Dip is ahead of us, lets go out and get those new members and rejoins.

The only way to get these members to rejoin and/or become a member is to reach out to them in a friendly way and include them in activities that you are doing. Ask for your new members help, sometimes members won't just step in and do things needed to be done for the fear of stepping on someone's toes or overstepping boundaries.

Always be kind and remember your tone when you are answering questions. Not everyone perceives things the same. 10th District Conference is Saturday March 22, 2025. Hope to see you there! Safe travels for all.

Jill Davis

10th District Vice President



Good Day to all of the First District! Congratulations to Weirton #10 for being 100%! Wheeling #1 is at 119.23%.

Congratulations to the units who made the 85% Target: Moundsville #3 (97.36%).

Cameron #18 (87.20%), New Martinsville #28 (89.38%), Wellsburg #34 (86.96%),

Follansbee #45 (88.52), Wheeling #89 (90%), Newell #114 (85%), and Chester #121 (92%)!!

Next target is May 23rd at 95%. We already have 3 units who have made it. Come on, we can do it!!

Don't forget our Spring Conference at Cameron Unit #18 on Sunday April 27th. Credentials and Registrations should have been sent out to you by email or mail. Memorial services and Elections will be held.

Paulette Anderson First District President

#### 3rd District President

Hello Ladies:

For those of you who did not make the Third District's Conference on Saturday, March 15th, you missed a good meeting and meal, if I do say so myself

Ok down to business, your officers for the coming new year 2025-2026 are the same as this year.

I was approached about doing Bingo or another activity at the WV Veterans Nursing Home, going to contact the Activities Director and will get back to you in the near future.

Department Secretary/Treasurer Susan Brown. was at the meeting and stated that the Awards Manual and Year End reports are on the Department's Website, www.wvaux.org., so please go on the site, download them, fill them out and send them to the Department by April 15, 2025.

So until next time for God and Country Be Safe

Margaret Yost Third District President 304-629-0688



#### 4th District President

Greetings, Comrades and Sisters,

Congratulations District Four for making the 85% target goal by March 15, 2025. I am so proud of the unit chairmen and the members for all they do to increase membership each month. Thank you!

Looking at the Target sheet we can see there are a couple of units in the Department that are still struggling. If someone needs assistance with membership, please contact your District President, or the Department Membership Chairman Ann Buchanan. Department Secretary/Treasurer Susan Brown is always available to answer any membership questions. Contact Susan in the office at 304-845-7410 or by email at alawysec@frontier.com.

District and Unit elections are coming up. If you have ever thought about becoming an officer, now might be the time for serious consideration. You can find more information about officer's duties and responsibilities in the revised 2024 Unit Guide Book.

Be a "membership angel" by paying another member's dues. Carry a membership application with you every day. Make membership a priority in your unit.

Remember - Every day is Veterans Day!

Patsy Greiner 4th District President 304-483-8296 Patsygirl2@gmail.com

#### 5th District President

#### INVITATION:

I would like to invite anyone interested in attending to our 5th District Spring conference on Saturday, March 29th. It will be held at Barboursville unit 177. If you are interested in going, please let me know so I can let 177 know food count. The meeting begins at 9 AM with registration and the business meeting at 10 AM.

This is our election meeting and I would like to see the meeting well attended.

Fifth District is sitting at 87.16% of our goal for membership.
Congratulations to the following:
Barboursville unit 177 106.08%
Hamlin unit 111. 90%
Saint Albans unit 73. 87,88%
Ceredo-Kenova unit 93. 85.85%
Milton unit 139. 85.29%
Huntington unit 16. 85.07%
We have a couple of units that are struggling, but I don't doubt that they can make goal by July 1. Keep up the good work.

Beth Kilgore

5th District President

#### 6th District President

#### Hello Everyone

Hope these few lines find everyone well. For us in McDowell County we were hit very hard with the flooding that we had in February. It really is a mess here, but we will survive because we are fighters here. Hope everyone else survived the storm. Sending prayers for everyone.

Sixth District will be hosted by Welch Unit 8 on Saturday, April 5, 2025, registration will be from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM and will be at the Post home located at 150 McDowell Street, Welch, WV hope to see a lot of members in attendance. We haven't decided on a price yet but it will be very cheap.

Hope our President did well with her surgery she had on or around the 1st of March.

Hope everyone is working on membership and let's try to be a gold Unit. This is going to be short but wanted to let you know about our District Meeting. Let's keep our members and our Veterans in our prayers. So until next time God Bless Each of you. Peggy Swartz, President Sixth District

#### 10th District President

It is that time of the year again when we look forward to changes.

We see changes all around us but the one thing that should never change is our interest in the 4 pillars of the American Legion and Auxiliary; Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.

To understand these areas better it is of great importance that we find time to attend Conferences, Conventions, and Workshops.

There is so much to learn and do and the more knowledge you have the better. There is always someone who has a question and it is important we know and share. For those of you are faithful attendees, thank you. For those of you who are just starting to join in these meetings, thank you.

If at any time I can help with anything, always feel free to contact me. If I do not know the answer, I will get it for you or direct you to the correct resource.

God Bless you all

Diana Teter, District 10th President Dteter40@gmail.com



#### Americanism

The Americanism program of The American Legion embraces a multiplicity of activities. It necessitates real, honest, unselfish effort on the part of all members of The American Legion. Auxiliary members of the American Legion Auxiliary can effectively make patriotism a personal matter and they can select and successfully carry out projects adaptable to the needs of their communities.

The American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Program is educationally based divided into three phases: work with the youth, the adult, and work with the community.

All matters pertaining to the flag or patriotic education are rightly classified as Americanism

activities.

I am just sharing this reminder of what all Americanism covers due to the fact that sometimes I think

we need a recharge of our committee's duties and what it stands for.

As I attend conferences and listen to other Units talk about what all is going on in their

Unit, I want to THANK YOU for sharing and teaching other units what you may be doing that

would benefit their unit.

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!

Sandra Harper

Americanism

sandy.harper265@gmail.com

#### Child Welfare Foundation

I hope everyone is keeping an eye on their piggy bank that you have set on your bar for collection in CWF. Child well-being foundation. The money is collected for this program are used to help youth whose family are in need of a log up. If you have not set canisters on your bar, please consider doing so and check at least once a month, if not sooner to see if your members are donating.

I hope everyone is looking forward to the coming of Spring

Beth Kilgore

Chairman

#### **Community Service**

Good Day Family:

Hope everyone is enjoying the springtime along with our Spring Conferences. Please start your work on our end of year reports to help our Veterans. Remember to make sure we have something that says we're with American Legion Auxiliary when we're in the public to show off our great Family.

For God and Country

Blessing

Kelli A Immel

Kitbasket@hotmail.com

#### Children & Youth

April has been designated as children & youth month. I hope every Unit # is planning some type of activity to celebrate the children in your community. Take pictures and send them to me so I can see all the great things going on in the units.

REMINDER-April 15 is purple update. Please consider wearing purple on that day to support our military children.. The color purple was chosen, because if you mix the colors of all the military services you will get the color purple. If you're wearing purple on that day, please use it as an opportunity to explain to others why you are wearing purple.

As always, I'm here to help you. You can get in touch with me by calling 304-654-7750 or emailing me at 3609MBK@gmail.com
Beth Kilgore

Chairman

#### Education

Here it is end of the year report time. I know this is a very busy time For everyone, but please take an hour or so to fill out these reports. As of to day St. Patrick day I have received only two scholarship turned

In to me. Come on ladies I know we could have done better this year. Even though it is the end of the year, take time and work with our Kids they are the future of the American Legion Auxiliary. If you need my

Help please call me at 304-592-0247 or email me: carlajwilfong@gmail.com.

Carla Wilfong

Ala Dept. of West Virginia Education Chairman.



#### Junior Activities

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, and Purple up! Day, a day to honor and support military children, falls on April 15, 2025.

Purple Up! Is a way to recognize the sacrifices and contributions of military families, with a focus on the experiences of their children.

Purple is chosen as the color to represent all branches of the military, as it combines the colors of the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Wearing purple is a visible way for everyone to show support and thank military youth for their strength and sacrifices. On April 15th, wear purple clothing, accessories, or anything purple to show your support. Promote the Month of the Military Child by sharing information about the Month of the Military Child and Purple up! Day with your community. Recognize military children at school, church, or community events. Let them know you support them and their military

Please take a moment to pray for military children and their families.

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



#### Legislative

Calling all West Virginians!

We need to voice our opinions to our State Legislature. Our Clarksburg Veterans Home is having major issues paying nurses competitive wages! Technically the nurses are State employees, and their salaries are capped. They are talking about privatizing to be able to pay their nurses a competitive wage. As of now they spent 4 million extra dollars paying for traveling nurses to come in and provide care. The VSO officer at District 3 conference mentioned they were trying to introduce a bill to allow leeway for the State to pay more. We need to let our representatives know this is unacceptable, we need the legislation to provide better care to our Veterans Home tenants. Remember to keep using the voter voice and the grassroots action center. Support: (just to name a few) Major Richard Star Act Veterans' Access Act National Defense Authorization Act I had the pleasure of meeting Shelley Moore Capito, Jim Justice, Riley Moore while in DC with our Legion counterparts. We discussed concerns with each of them. I was appalled as the Legionnaires

our military. It is frightening. I got to witness the shaping of Veteran Policy and had a wonderful, learning experi-

expressed their concern by the weakness of

Lots of information but only 200 words... Any questions, feel free to call or text. Remember to be working on your Legislative.

God Bless Kim Mellie Legislative Chair 304-216-9943 kmellie@comcast.net

ence.

#### National Security

Southwest was honored to fly their loyal friend, Hurricane, home to rest after a lifetime of service and hard work. Hurricane, a retired Secret Service Dog, is the most decorated K-9 in U.S. History, having been awarded the PDSA Order of Merit in 2019 for protecting the then President and First Family from an intruder who attempted to gain access to the White House in 2014.

April D. Wallace Chair



#### Past President Parley

Hello to all!

It appears that Spring is very close. I think we are all ready for it

I hope you are working with your past presidents to help with your year-end reports. They have the knowledge to help those new chairmen, who may have questions when filling out the reports or writing the narratives.

Remember to be eligible for the Total Participation award, you must have done something in All programs. It's not too late to form a PPP, if you don't have one.

I hope your unit will submit someone for the "Twyla Finley Timeless Award". This award has not been presented for several years because there have been no nominees. Requirements: Any current member who has shown dedication, supported and helped the American Legion Auxiliary in her lifetime. All units have that special member who goes above and beyond helping their unit. The member CANNOT be a current department officer. See the Awards Manual for complete details. We want to present this award this year!

If I can help you, just contact me.

PPP Chairman Debbie Michael

katndebbie@gmail.com 304-839-7721

#### **Poppy**

It's that time of the year when we gear up for National Poppy Day and Memorial Day – but we all know that every day is Poppy Day!

The main focus of poppy distribution around National Poppy Day (May 24, 2025) is fast approaching. Please make sure you get permission when distributing outside of businesses or events. Auxiliary units are not the only ones distributing poppies or some other token; therefore, permission should be gotten so as not to interfere with other groups. Working within guidelines of businesses or events such as ball games, community events, etc. enhances our respect within our communities. Send a thank you to businesses that allow distribution.

Please remember pictures of your events. We need them in digital form. The National organization wants to highlight your enthusiasm for our poppy. Please show your members in action. Share photos.

We have an obligation to support our veterans, active military, and their families. Remember, we never "sell" poppies. We distribute, educate and collect donations for poppies. Donations are encouraged but not required. Give a poppy to everyone and tell them the Poppy Story.

Poppy reports are due to Department Chairman Shirley Davis by April 15, 2025.

#### Public Relations

Every event we host, every act of service we perform, and every veteran we support is a powerful message that deserves to be heard. It's up to us to make sure our communities know who we are, what we do, and why we do it. Public relations isn't just about press releases and social media, it's about building connections. It's in the conversations we have, the photos we share, and the way we represent the ALA in our daily lives. When we actively promote our mission, we inspire others to join us, support us, and stand beside us in service. This month, I challenge each of you to be a voice for the Auxiliary. Share your impact online, invite friends to our events, wear your ALA apparel with pride, and talk about why you serve. Every small effort adds up to a stronger, more visible organization. Together, let's stay Star Strong, Shine Bold, and Be the One to amplify our message. The world needs to hear about the incredible work of the ALA, let's make sure they do! Rebecca S Farley 304-674-9908



#### VA&R

As we are starting to work on reports, please remember when submitting pictures, to email the original photos taken to me. Do not send the copy on Facebook. And please if you have questions while working on reports, just reach out.

Warmer weather is starting to

come our way along with grass, flowers, gardens and birds. Veterans who find it difficult to mow, or plant may need assistance. Resident veterans who are in VAMCs or nursing homes, may want to get outside a while. Or maybe they like watching the birds. Check with the facility, see if you can walk or wheel them out for a while. Ask if you can place a bird feeder or some flowers outside their windows. Things we do for veterans does not have to be veterans in VAMC's. They can be in nursing homes, or even in their own homes. We do not always have to do things for them or take items to them. Sometimes just something as simple as spending time, listening to them, chatting with them, or playing cards, board games or helping with a puzzle maybe all they need. Lisa Cadwallader VA&R Chair

Lisac.ala71@gmail.com

#### **NEC**

We had our mid-year meeting. We will see changes to National's Governing documents during National Convention in August. NEC's have been provided with a packet and are asked for input, so what we received will change by the time Convention rolls around. I will provide more details on this in the coming months. However, National is working more with what's call Consent Agenda. It's a way to group several items on the agenda together and approve that portion without discussion on each item. Keep in mind, material has been distribute it in advance for review. Items needing discussion or clarification can be requested to be removed from the consent agenda. National offers online selfpaced courses and live webinars. Webinars are posted 2 to 3 weeks later on the website for those who can not attend the zoom. They have new ones offered every month. On the National website search for ALA Academy. In April one of the webinars being offered is: Elements of Leading an Effective Meeting which will present basic guidelines for running a successful meeting using the tools and resources available on the national website at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

Lisa Cadwallader NEC Lisac.ala71@gmail.com

#### **Convention Chairman**

Hello Everyone,

We're only a few months until our department convention in July. Just a couple of reminders. Anyone running for department office should bring a photo president may have a photo 8x10 everyone else should have a 5x7 or less snapshot professional photo whatever you want for the display board.

I'm asking districts, units and individuals to bring door prizes for the convention. Also remember to be seated as a delegate your unit needs to have all mandatory funds paid. Otherwise you may come as a guest.

Finally I'll be needing help at the registration table. Please consider volunteering.

For God and Country,

Debbie Fox

Conversation Chairman



# American Legion Auxiliary WV Rhododendron Girls State

#### Rhododendron Girls State

Time is fast approaching to submit your applications.

This years Girls State Session will be held June 8-14, 2025 at Davis & Elkins in Elkins, WV. The cost once again is \$300 which includes the parade t-shirt.

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 what 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 note or present them with 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-two \$25.00 winners in February and a \$200 drawing winner. Congratulation to all the winners.

Once again this year the committee will be offering a cash prize for the individual and unit that sells the most Ways & Means tickets.

Please cash your checks! We still have outstanding check from 2024 that have not be cashed. We will be sending out reminder to those that have not cashed their check to do so.

I had a phone call at Midwinter asking how someone could see who has won. I lost that voice mail, if you know who that might be ask them to call the office—thank you

NOTICE—Please mail check and stubs to:

Susan Brown 2172 Grandview Rd Moundsville WV 26041

Check Payable to: ALA Ways & Means

Thanks! Susan Brown Linda Crumm

#### February 2025 Ways and Means Winners

Name	#'s	City	State	Date	\$\$\$
CJ Tumblin	738	Rippon	WV	2/01/2025	25.00
Jeremiah Putman	718	Augusta	WV	2/03/2025	25.00
JoAnna Camp	608	Spencer	WV	2/04/2025	25.00
Rene Kirk	121	Bluefield	WV	2/05/2025	25.00
Lisa McBee	304	Berkeley Springs	WV	2/06/2025	25.00
Teri Blanchard	362	Kearneyville	WV	2/07/2025	25.00
George Callow	404	Reedy	WV	2/08/2025	25.00
Chuck Clark	428	Shadyside	ОН	02/10/2025	25.00
	984			2/11/2025	
Anne Quinn	724	Charles Town	WV	2/12/2025	25.00
Michael Correll	483	Buckhannon	WV	2/13/2025	25.00
Michelle Powell	508	Wheeling	WV	2/01/2025	25.00
Earl Shopmaker	025	Burlington	WV	2/15/2025	25.00
Marilyn Correll	369	Buckhannon	WV	2/17/2025	25.00
Judy Chapman	095	Thorpe	WV	2/18/2025	25.00
Mary Spence	518	Welch	WV	2/19/2025	200.00
John Powell	811	Wheeling	WV	2/20/2025	25.00
Russell Dotson	498	Cameron	WV	2/21/2025	25.00
Miles Epling	422	Pt. Pleasant	WV	2/22/2025	25.00
Hazen Pyles	992	Cameron	WV	2/24/2025	25.00
Josh Michael	069	Berkeley Springs	WV	2/25/2025	25.00
Kim Sparks	328	Webester Spring	WV	2/26/2025	25.00
Linda Riggleman	561	Augusta	WV	2/27/2025	25.00
Sharon Orndorff	442	Augusta	WV	2/28/2025	25.00



# **April 2025**

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Red Shirt Friday— Every Friday		FCOLS	2	3	4	56th District Convention Welch
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 <b>1</b>	16	17	18 Good Friday	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 1st District Convention Cameron	28	29	30			
				of Month		

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

# Date 3/15/2025 Department Goal 4923 — Membership to Date— 4253 Department Unit 200 Goal 232 — Membership to Date— 102 Target 85% - March 15, 2025

# Stephanie

District 1			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Wheeling #1	26	31	119.23%
Moundsville #3	265	258	97.36%
McMechen #5	15	8	53.33%
Weirton #10	68	68	100%
Cameron #18	125	109	87.20%
New Martinsville #28	113	101	89.38%
Wellsburg #34	23	20	86.96%
Follansbee #45	61	54	88.52%
Pine Grove #81	68	49	72.06%
Paden City #86	77	60	77.92%
Wheeling #89	10	9	90%
Newell #114	20	17	85%
Chester #121	125	115	92%
TOTALS	996	899	90.26%

District 4			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Parkersburg #15	381	359	94.23%
Spencer #21	30	21	70%
Pt. Pleasant #23	215	226	105.12%
Tyler County #48	45	1	2.22%
Sistersville #67	32	33	103.13%
New Haven #140	124	107	86.29%
Williamstown #159	74	65	87.84%
TOTALS	901	812	90.12%

District 6			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Welch #8	45	39	86.67%
Bluefield #9	23	16	69.57%
Beckley #32	20	12	60%
Gary #38	93	81	87.10%
Cowen #62	20	17	85%
Richwood #97	28	24	85.71%
TOTALS	229	189	82.53%





"Laffy Taffy" Team Goal—2565 To Date— 2251 87.76%

#### STU&WORTH,

Membership Chairman



"Fun Dip" Team Goal—2126 To Date 1900 89.37%



#### Kim

District 3			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Buckhannon #7	44	44	100%
Clarksburg #13	46	36	78.26%
Elkins #29	108	87	80.56%
Shinnston #31	271	237	87.45%
Braxton County #33	32	27	84.38%
Bridgeport #68	66	85	128.79%
Belington #96	16	10	62.50%
Pickens #122	20	1	5%
Morgantown #174	120	139	115.83%
TOTALS	723	666	92.12%

District 5			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Huntington #16	134	114	85.07%
Logan #19	20	11	55%
Charleston #20	28	12	42.86%
St. Albans #73	33	29	87.88%
Ceredo-Kenova #93	212	182	85.85%
So. Charleston #94	10	5	50%
Hamlin #111	40	36	90%
Milton #139	68	58	85.29%
Barboursville #177	148	157	106.08%
TOTALS	693	604	87.16%

District 10			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Martinsburg #14	68	56	82.35%
Piedmont #52	22	18	81.82%
Berkeley Springs #60	197	193	97.97%
Charles Town #63	38	30	78.95%
Moorefield #64	84	77	91.67%
Charles Town #71	151	101	66.89%
Petersburg #78	62	55	88.71%
Romney #91	155	127	81.94%
Paw Paw #128	43	27	62.79%
Kirby #134	32	24	75%
Ridgeley #136	69	60	86.96%
Capon Bridge #137	192	187	97.40%
Keyser #152	36	26	72.22%
TOTALS	1149	981	85.38%

# 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		W
	Quan	ity
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.

# 2026 UNIT MEMBERSHIP DATA FORM <u>Do Into Department by April 22, 2025</u> Processing into National after this Date

I understand that the Unit Dues amount listed below will be printed on the upcoming Membership Renewal Notices that will be mailed to each Senior member of our Unit. Below is the address to be printed on each Renewal Notice showing where our members are to mail their dues for this Unit.

It is understood that no change to the amount of dues or the address to which the dues are to be sent can be made after a deadline which Department Headquarters will establish on the requirements of National Headquarters. If so Unit will have to pay \$30.00 for changes.

Unit Name		Unit Number	
Senior Dues Amount Junior Dues Amount		(at least \$25.00) (at least \$3.75)	
Name of individual in the U	nit to receive membersh	ip dues	
Address			
City		State	Zip Code
() Area Code	Telephone Number		
Area Code	r elephone (vamber		
Date	Signature		Title
** E Mail Addr	1866		
EMAIL OR MAIL TO:	2172 Mou	artment Treasu 2 Grandview R Indsville, WV vsec@frontier	.d. 26041-5126

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: <a href="www.wvaux.org">www.wvaux.org</a> 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

STATE:	_