



The Auxiliary

Spirit





Issue 12

Volume 39

July 2025







"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)

As I write my final Spirit article as your Department President, I am filled with gratitude for the absolute honor and privilege of working alongside each of you in your units and districts. Watching your growth and witnessing firsthand the incredible work you do for our veterans, communities, and youth has been truly inspiring. This past year has enriched my life, and I am a better person for having known all of you. Congratulations to all the units who have reached their membership goals— what an amazing achievement! For those still striving, remember, the work is not finished. Many of you are so close, and I have every confidence that you will succeed. Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary this year. I look forward to a wonderful 2025-2026 administrative year and am excited to see what the future holds for our organization. Serving as your Department President has been a true highlight, and I am deeply appreciative of your leadership and commitment to the American Legion Family.

For the Heart of the Matter,

Laura Clark Call/Text: 304-939-3607 Email: ala.lauraclark@gmail.com

"Don't forget what happened to the man who suddenly got everything he always wanted

... He lived happily ever after."- Willy Wonka

Department Officers 2024-2025

President-Laura Clark 1st Vice President-Kim Mellie 2nd Vice President-Stephanie Handley Secretary/Treasurer-Paulette Anderson 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

<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

The Department Credential Certification is the Spirit. Please note the date that you base your Unit's delegates and alternates on which is June 10th. If you have question contact this office.

The Department convention is right around the corner. Reminder—Are your Unit's Mandatory Funds paid? You can not be seated if they are not. Reminder—**Remember to bring your** 2024/2025 membership card with you. They will be checking at registration.

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.

<u>Member dues are based on a</u> <u>member age on January 1 of the</u> <u>Membership year. (Example—A</u> <u>Junior member that is 17 on January 1, 2026 will be billed as a</u> <u>junior member for 2026 membership year. If she turns 18 after</u> <u>August 1, 2025 to December 31,</u> <u>2025 she will changed to a Senior</u> <u>member for the 2026 membership</u> <u>year.</u>

When you receive your new roster make note of any changes to your juniors 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 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 9:00am-3:30pm Lunch 12:00-12:30

Phone 304-398-2070 department@wvaux.org

Department Address: 1251 Doolin Run Rd. New Martinsville WV 26155

> 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 <u>ALAforveterans.org</u>



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

Membership Chairman

Ladies, I know that our membership is at a full at this time due to our change in Department Secretary. The office is now operating and can receive your dues. Please get those last minute dues in ASAP. We still have time to make July 4th Goal of 100%.

Congratulations to: Wheeling #1, Weirton #10, Point Pleasant #23, Williamstown #159, Buckhannon #7, Bridgeport #68, Morgantown #174, Huntington #16, Barboursville #177, Martinsburg #14, Berkeley Springs #60, and Capon Bridge #137. District #3 and District #4 are 100%.

We still have a few days to get in those paid members. It is important to our organization to get these members in ASAP.

Thank you to the members for your support this year

"How sweet each member is to us"

Ann Buchanan AnnBuch@aol.com



Department 1st Vice President



Huge congratulations to all Units that have 100% and beyond-your dedication and hard work are absolutely inspiring! We're thrilled to announce that 11 Units have exceeding 100%-an amazing accomplishment! **Top Performers:**

Bridgeport Unit #68 ia leading the charge with an incredible 151%-absolutely crushing it! Wheeling Unit #1 follows strong at 123%

Morgantown #174 is right behind at 120%

Barboursville Unit #177 rounds out the top with a solid 110% Keep up the amazing momentum

everyone.

But hey, Laffy Taffy, we still have some catching up to do-the Fun Dips are ahead. Let's rally together, especially Districts 5 and 10—lets push to reach 100% by July 4th!

You've got this—let's finish strong! I had the distinct pleasure of attending Girls State and meeting some of the most individuals! What a wonderful opportunity it was to help encourage and shape young minds into future leaders. Their enthusiasm, passion and drive were absolutely exhilarating. Iv'e come away from this experience with a renewal sense with purpose and inspiration. I'm already looking forward to returning next yeartruly excited for what's to come!

Kim Mellie

Department 2nd Vice President

Hello Fun Dips,

Please keep everyone who was affected by the devasted flooding here in our state in your thoughts and prayers. This has been another blow to our state, family and friends. We will get through this difficult and challenging time by helping and supporting each other.

On a good note, I want to congratulate all the units on their great work with what you have done with membership. There are several units who have reached and even surpassed 100%. Congratulations to Wheeling #1-128.08%, Weirton #10-101.47%, Point Pleasant #23-113.49%, Sistersville #67-128.13%, and Williamstown #159-102.70%. Congrats to District #4 for reaching 104.11%. There were 10 units who reached or surpassed the 90% mark. What an awesome job Fun Dips!!!! If you are still receiving late coming Memberships, please get them in as soon as possible. Every little bit helps. This has been a great year and I appreciate getting to work and seeing all the Fun Dips!! Looking forward to seeing you at Summer Convention in July.

God Bless, Stephanie Handley Department 2nd Vice President

HISTORIAN

Thank you, West Virginia American Legion Auxiliary, for placing your trust in me and electing me as your Department Historian for the 2024–2025 year. As the "new kid on the block," I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve in this role and for the warm welcome I received from every corner of this great Department.

Working alongside such a dedicated and passionate team has been an absolute joy. The highlights of my year have been many, meeting incredible souls with a deep love for our mission, reconnecting with old friends, and strengthening relationships that have grown through the years. From laughter that echoed in hallways to tears shared in sacred moments, each memory has left a lasting impression.

Thank you to every member who helped preserve and share our story this year. Being your historian has not only filled my notebooks but also filled my heart.

I will forever cherish the year I spent being Willy Wonka's Nerd, capturing the spirit of service, the power of purpose, and the heartbeat of the Auxiliary.

Here's to honoring the past, celebrating the present, and documenting the difference we continue to make.

Rebecca S Farley

1st District Vice President

Hi everyone!

This is my final article as 1st District VP!

It's been an honor and privilege to work with all the wonderful members of our 1st District! You all are rock stars. Your work on membership has been superb and I'm so proud of our Units! Such energy, and enthusiasm! Great job to Stephanie Handley for being such a fantastic leader and making membership fun! Thank you all for a great couple of years! See you all in Huntington!

Christy Bland

Convention Chairman

Hello Members,

We're only a few weeks until the Dept. Convention in Huntington, West Virginia. Just a few reminders. I'm still in need of help at the registration table on Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning. To be seated as a delegate to the convention you must be a member in good standing and your unit must have all mandatory funds paid. If you're in good standing and unit not you may still attend as a guest. One last thing be sure to bring your membership cards. We'll be checking for your valid membership.

I'm asking districts, units and individuals to bring door prizes. More the merrier. See everyone July 10,11 and 12. Safe travels. Convention Chairman, Debbie Fox

3rd District Vice President

I am always excited when the target sheets come out and see how well the Units and Districts are doing from Month to Month, you all have been doing amazing work and it shows, Share what you have been doing to increase your Membership. Make sure you continue to wear your branding; people do take notice. Share a smile when someone walks into your post or just simply standing in line at the store or work or at a visit.

You never know when a "hello" can lead to a membership of the Auxiliary or the Legion Family. July the 4th will have picnics and celebrations; this is a great opportunity to work on your

membership.

Please reach out if there is anything I can help you with.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the Summer Conference. You still have time to add to your Unit membership, American Legion Auxiliary is never done when it comes to adding members and Increasing our Juniors/Sons members, they are our future.

Thank you, Sandra Harper sandy.harper265@gmail.com 4th District Vice President

What an incredible honor it has been to serve as your District 4 Vice President for the 2024–2025 year! I want to sincerely thank the membership for placing your confidence in me.

Serving alongside President Patsy Griner has been a privilege, and I am especially grateful for the little soldier she gave me, yes, Patsy, he's still in my wallet! That small token continues to remind me of our greater mission with the American Legion Auxiliary.

And what a mission it has been! District 4 is proud to stand tall at 101.11% membership, a tremendous achievement and a true testament to your hard work, dedication, and determination. We are officially a goal district, and that deserves a round of applause!

But let's not stop here. Let's keep this momentum going. Because ready or not, the 2025–2026 year is just around the corner, and I know District 4 will continue to rise, recruit, and reach even higher. Let's start strong and finish spectacularly, because that's the District 4 way!!

Rebecca S Farley

Community Service

I would like to say thank you to Mrs Laura for a great year and also for the appointment of Community Service Chairman. Can't wait to see everyone in Huntington. Summer festivals will be here sson, so remember to wear your American Legion items and wear your name tags.

Safe travels to everyone.

Blessings Kelli

Most of you have already elected new officers. Congratulations to those who have taken on an officer role. As you start your new year, it's a great time to get familiar with your governing documents (Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Rules). These govern how your Unit and Officers how they conduct business.

NEC

While getting familiar, review them for any needed changes.

Do you know the difference between Executive Session and Executive

Committee Meeting? Executive Session deals with more sensitive matters. When an Executive Session is called, the only ones who attend are Executive Committee members and and only those who are invited. The topics discussed are not to be discussed with anyone, they do not leave the meeting. This type of meeting may be called to discuss a member who's conduct is unbecoming or to handle discipline matters. Keep in mind, you can not remove an elected officer in these sessions. You can discuss a proposal that you present to the membership at a special meeting. Only membership can remove an officer who was elected by membership..

How you handle disciplinary actions should be documented in your governing documents. If not you must follow what's in Roberts Rules of Order.

Lisa Cadwallader

Lisac.ala71@gmail.com

10th District Vice President

Hello 10th District! I hope to see everyone at the convention, I sure hope you have your

rooms booked. Congratulations to the 5 units that not only made the 95% but to those have made over 100%. Great job to: Martinsburg #14 @ 101.47%, as well as Congratulations on your new Home! Moorefield #64 @ 100%, Petersburg #78 @ 98.39%, Capon Bridge #137 @ 106.77%. Ridgeley #136, you were so close at 92.75%.

Everyone still has time to make the 100% mark, I know we can do it. There is only 1 unit that is not in the 80%. Please, if you need my help, I am always here. I am just a call or an email away. I will do what I can to help you.

I would like to Congratulate District 3, as a team, you made 100%, All districts can do this!! Let's all try to make 100% as a district.

Don't forget to get those memberships in and not hold them. The longer you hold them, the longer it takes to make goal.

I am very excited to see everyone from 10th District at Convention! I hope everyone has safe travels and stays cool. It sure has cranked in the heat lately. I pray all are safe through these storms and no one is washed away. See you soon.

Jill Davis

10th District Vice President

1st District President

First District held their Spring Conference on Sunday April 27th at Cameron Unit #18. There were six units represented. Department President Laura, and First Vice Kim attended, as well as the Department Secretary/Treasurer Susan and 2nd Vice Stephanie. District and Department Committees reported information to the members. After new business elections were held. Congratulations to the new District President Mary Richards, Moundsville #3 and Michelle Powell, Wheeling #1!. They will take over after the convention in July. Thank you Cameron Unit #18 for hosting the conference! Thank you for my special gift as outgoing President. Looking at the target sheet for May 15th I see there is one Goal District, District #3. Congratulations!

We have two units who are very close to reaching 100%. Our District stands at 913 members 91.67%. Come on We Can Do It!! May 23rd is the next target at 95%; three units are close. Check your roster for unpaid members and see if you can get your membership up. Fall Conference will be hosted at Weirton Unit #10.. Date TBD. Paulette Anderson First District President

3rd District President

Hello Ladies,

Way to go!! We did it again this year, being the first district to make GOAL in the state. I am very proud of you all. I have to congratulate Buckhannon 7, Bridgeport 68 and Morgantown 174 for being at goal or over. We have a couple of other Units very close, so come on ladies lets get to work. If any of the Units need help with anything at all, please contact me, Margaret Yost at 304-629-0688 or Sandra Harper at 304-694-2067. For God and Country God Bless Margaret Yost Third District President 304-629-0688 mdyost2010@gmail.com

4th District President

Hello All,

Congratulations to District 4 for achieving 101.44% membership; we had a great year! Thank each one of you for your efforts. We have begun to recover from the pandemic and the loss of many of our members. Next year we will really be rocking this membership! I am so proud of all the Auxiliary units in our district. We still have until July 4 th to reach the 100 % target goal. We are not done yet!

Leadership in District 4 has far surpassed previous years. We have beautiful, dedicated, members who have stepped up to take program leadership roles. Our focus is on Americanism, Child Welfare, Education, Legislative, Poppy, Public Relations and VA&R. I hope you all made time to create a scrapbook to showcase the activities your unit was involved in this year! Our history is an important part of the work we do for our veterans and their families.

Remember, it is the "Spirit of Service Not Self." For God and Country, we will honor the sacrifices of our veterans, our active military, and their families.

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

5th District President

Lisa Harbour of Barboursville Unit #177 will be your District President in the coming year. Patti Withrow from St. Albans Unit #73 will serve as Vice President with Lisa.

Both of these ladies are willing and anxious to help each unit in their needs. Feel free to call upon either one of them.

Beth Kilgore



Americanism

6th District President

Hello Everyone

Guess I slept through a month and didn't get this in and I want to do it now, Sixth District had their spring conference which was hosted by Welch Unit 8, we had members from Gary Unit 38, Bluefield Unit 9, and Welch Unit 8. We were lucky to have the 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and our Department Secretary Sue Brown, who gave us a lot of information thanks Sue. We also had a person in attendance that was running for Historian. Hope everyone is having good weather here we are having rain. Hope everyone is working on membership. Guess everyone has gotten in their reports and have gotten your girls state forms in. Please keep all our Veterans in your prayers and all members in the ALA.. So until next time I will say a prayer for each of us. Thank you, Peggy Swartz, President

Sixth District

It sure has been a rainy spell. We are so thankful for God's mercy during these times, especially. Hope all made it through the flooding ok.

Times like these help us to remember the conditions our soldiers have endured during their time of service. Please remember to be kind and thoughtful to all as we do not ever know the struggle of any of our sisters or brothers.

Be thankful you are able to help even when it feels like you are overwhelmed. Think of the blessing you can be to others.

It has been a wonderful year. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Convention.

Strive to be all you can be for those that were all they could be for you. Thank you for a good year. Diana Teter

10th District President

So excited to get this next year started and make it better than last year, Everyone that sent Americanism Essay in for the contest, I have mailed the kids a Certificate of their appreciation and a little gift for them. I am hopeful we can get more for next year and get more Children from West Virginia in the running for this award.

July 4th, also called the Fourth of July, Independence Day marks the historic date in 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress. It was written that the American colonies were tired of being ruled by Great Britain. They wanted to become their own country.

Here are some quotes: "Give me liberty, or give me death!", Patrick Henry

"Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your Country." John F. Kennedy.

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY JULY 4TH HOLIDAY Continue all your amazing work in our Pillar of Americanism, Please share any ideas you may have for the upcoming year.

Thank you Sandra Harper 304-694-2067 Sandy.harper265@gmail.com



10th District President

Education

I would like to thank Department President Laura Clark for giving me the opportunity to being her Education this past year. I have learned a lot.

It is my pleasurer to say that this year we will be giving two scholarships for the State Department Scholarship. I will announce the winners at Department Convention in July.

If you need my help with anything please call me at 304-593-0247 or email me at carlajwilfong@gmail.com

God Bless America and Our Veterans Carla J Wilfong Education Co-Chairman

Children & Youth

As we near the end of the 2024,-2025 here. I hope all units are planning a calendar for the coming year. And doing so please remember the children in your community and activities that might affect them.

Consider these: April is Children & Youth Minth

April 15th is Purple Up to honor the military children in your community

Back to school activities

Holiday parties such as Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter The possibilities are endless.

If you want to discuss your activities or need suggestions please call me at 304-654-7750 and we will discuss all possibilities. I am here for you and will help in any way I can.

Beth Kilgore Chairman

Junior Activities

The ALA Convention and Junior Girls Convention is held in July at the same time, in the same hotel. The junior girls will hold an election of honorary officers on Friday, July 11, 2025. Senior auxiliary members will install the new honorary officers. This is an exciting time for all junior auxiliary members.

We have invited junior members of the Sons of the Legion to join us during the activities part of our meeting at the Department Convention.

Special thanks to everyone who supported the 269 West Virginia junior girls. There are 42 Junior girl's units. I received reports stating we have 21 new Junior members this year. Two new Junior Units reported this year. We received 10 junior activities reports. Units reported a total of 1,688 hours of activity.

During the year I rarely hear about Junior girls' activities. After reading all the fantastic reports senior members submitted, I am encouraged by the activities and photographs that were submitted. Junior members are the future members of this organization, please include them in meetings and events your auxiliary units are involved in. Patsy Greiner Junior Activities Chairman

304-483-8296 (cell and text) Patsygirl2@gmail.com

Child and Well-Being Fund

The pig still needs to be fed! I will accept any donation to the Child Well-Being Fund at Department convention in July. If your unit would like to donate to this worthy cause please put your unit name and number on your envelope when giving to me. All forms of donations will be accepted– paper, bills, and any change. Please don't let our pigs go hungry!

Beth Kilgore Chairman



Legislative



Our Legionnaires are fighting for our Veterans on Capitol Hill. VA & R Director Cole Lyle, Andrew Petri, and Commander James LaCoursiere Jr. testified 3 times June 9,11, and 12. The Livestream can be seen on the Legion website. The following are the 6 points of interest for our Legislative agenda.

House Bill 1815 will provide a one-time bailout for veteran homeowners who are struggling to make their mortgage payments and are in a delinquent status,

The American Legion supports H.R. 2605 and S. 1441, the Service Dogs Assisting Veterans (SAVES) Act, based on Resolution No. 134: Service Dogs for Injured Service Personnel and Veterans with Mental Health Conditions. We want to ensure that veterans have access to service dogs!

The American Legion endorses the Shipbuilding and Harbor Infrastructure for Prosperity and Security (SHIPS) for America Act in order to improve the maritime security of the United States.

The last three we have reported on repeatedly. Major Richard Star Act, Love Lives On- to support Gold Star Spouses, and finally the GI Bill Parity Act.

Keep visiting the Grassroots action center and sending those emails.

Thank you, President Laura, for this appointment, it has been a truly inspiring position.

Kim Mellie

Poppy

"KEEP THE POPPY GOING!"

Each month features at least one military holiday, one day of remembrance, or one day of historical significance. Choose a specific day each month to distribute poppies and educate your community about how the funds support military personnel, veterans, and their families. Wear ALA branded items. It will get people curious enough to ask about our organization.

An important holiday, JULY FOURTH, is coming up. Set up a poppy distribution at a local festival or parade. Give out poppies and copies of <u>In Flanders Fields</u> poem. Hand out informational brochures and applications for ALA membership to those qualified. Tell the public how poppy funds will be used. Partner with your American Legion Post, Sons of the American Legion, or Riders. Do not forget Junior members—select a "Miss Poppy" for your unit. The opportunities are endless!

Shirley Davis, Chairman Department of West Virginia

VA&R

We are less than a month away from Department Convention. I hope to see many there. We are almost at the end of the 1st quarter of the new year. If you have not started tracking your hours, you need to. It's so much easier at report time. Do you know, at a VAMC you don't only count your time at the VA, you also count the time spent shopping for the event, or the time it takes to assemble things such as treat bags or other items? Do you know that the time spent helping your Post goes under Community Service not VA&R? However if you help your Post with an event that helps raises funds for things like Comfort Warriors, those hours do count for VA&R. I know this complicates things and makes things confusing. If you have questions please reach out. Lisa Cadwallader Lisac.ala71@gmail.com

Public Relations

It has been an honor to serve as your Department Public Relations Chair for the 2024–2025 program year. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Department President Laura Clark for entrusting me with this role and allowing me the opportunity to grow and serve in this meaningful capacity. Throughout the year, I've enjoyed learning even more about branding the ALA way, how we consistently present who we are, what we do, and why it matters. From social media campaigns to press releases and newsletters, each story we share is a spark that lights the way for others to see the heart of our mission. Thank you to every member, unit, and district who submitted photos, updates, and information for the year-end public relations report. Your contributions helped tell the incredible story of our Department, and I'm proud to share that the report has been submitted for national award consideration.

Remember, each of you plays an important role in making this organization shine. Whether you're behind the scenes or up front and center, your voice and actions are part of our legacy. Thank you again for a wonderful year. Keep shining, sharing, and serving.

Rebecca S Farley

National Security

Thanks everyone who submitted reports on you national security events through out the year. It is almost time for convention and I will see everyone in Huntington.

April Wallace National Security Chair

Scrapbook

I hope all the units are working on their scrapbooks. It would be nice to see several books there this year.

See you at convention in July with those scrapbooks.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Margaret Yost Scrapbook Chairman 304-629-0688 mdyost2010@gmail.com

Attention PDP's who requested a new Award plaque in their name:

Please if you requested a new award in your name, have your picture, theme, special project and any memorable information to me no later than mid-June. That allows time for me to get the file ready and bring with me to Department Convention to apply.

Thank You,

Lisa Cadwallader

PDP 2017-2018

Lisac.ala71@gmail.com





American Legion Auxiliary WV Rhododendron **Girls State**

Rhododendron Girls State

Wow, thank you to all who made this another successful Girls State Session. You made this a once in a lifetime opportunity to the leaders of today.

A huge thank you to Director Rosemary and Assistant Director Kate Garlick and their team in leading these young ladies of learning and a lifetime of friendships.

What a rewarding experience to witness these young ladies as they come in on Sunday and transformation in of themselves and awareness of their surroundings of events surrounding them on Saturday.

Congratulations to the newly elected Rhododendron Girls State Governor Caitlin Hall of Hedgesville, and to the Girls Nation Senators Shaila King and Michelle Maduafokwa.

Girls State Girls Will Always Be Til the End Of Time!

Lynda Lancaster-Loyd



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



I, Legal Guardian

Give permission for my daughter _____

American Legion Daughter to be photographed for the use of the Department of West Virginia American Legion Auxiliary Junior Auxiliary, Etc: (Facebook, Newspaper (local & national), newsletters, and any website for the Auxiliary.

Parent or Guardian_____

Datr_____

Unit

Ways and Means

May 2025 Ways and Means Winners

Congratulations to thw winners for May!

Signature cards had to be uploaded in the system. Ways and Means winners for April and May will be mailed out as soon as signatures are completed. Please let anyone know who purchased tickets. Thank you for your patience.

Paulette Anderson Linda Crumm



Name	#'s	City	Stat	Date	\$\$\$
			e		
Angie Weimer	090	Ridgeley	WV	5/1/25	25.00
CJ Tumblin	738	Rippon	WV	5/2/25	25.00
Denise Flynn	081	Romney	WV	5/3/25	25.00
Chuck Pearce	257	Gore	WV	5/5/25	25.00
Jo Anna Camp	391	Spencer	WV	5/6/25	25.00
Jean Thomas	137	Upperglade	WV	5/7/25	25.00
Tina Ruckman	619	Rio	WV	5/8/25	25.00
Evelyn Murphy	777	Buckhannon	WV	5/9/25	25.00
George White	473	Bel	WV	5/10/25	25.00
Debra Fox	484	Berkeley Springs	WV	5/12/25	25.00
Donald Coby	697	Moorefield	WV	5/13/25	25.00
Josh Michael	069	Berkeley Springs	WV	5/14/25	25.00
Michael Sherman	842	Petersburg	WV	5/15/25	25.00
William Campbell	896	Romney	WV	5/16/25	25.00
Alice Wilmouth	415	Morgantown	WV	5/17/25	25.00
ALA Unit #3	094	Moundsville	WV	5/19/25	25.00
Allen Robbins	171	Wheeling	WV	5/20/25	25.00
Helen Turner	873	Romney	WV	5/21/25	200.00
	591			5/22/25	
Stacy Steward	152	Springfield	WV	5/23/25	25.00
Paul Rowzee	846	Paw Paw	WV	5/24/25	25.00
Alice Coe	294	Lebhnon	VA	5/26/25	25.00
Betty Delawder	537	Old Fields	WV	5/27/25	25.00
Nina Mason	295	Rio	WV	5/28/25	25.00
Larry Ferguson	373	Elkins	WV	5/29/25	25.00
Donna Lawler	568	Rifgeley	WV	5/30/25	25.00
Debra Champ	770	Old Fields	WV	5/31/25	25.00

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

Date 6/16/2025 Department Goal 4923 — Membership to Date— 4613 Department Unit 200 Goal 232 — Membership to Date— 105 Target 100% - July 4, 2025

Stephanie

District 1			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Wheeling #1	26	32	123.08%
Moundsville #3	265	258	97.36%
McMechen #5	15	8	53.33%
Weirton #10	68	69	101.47%
Cameron #18	125	115	92%
New Martinsville #28	113	111	98.23%
Wellsburg #34	23	20	86.96%
Follansbee #45	61	57	93.44%
Pine Grove #81	68	58	85.29%
Paden City #86	77	65	84.42%
Wheeling #89	10	9	90%
Newell #114	20	17	85%
Chester #121	125	120	96%
TOTALS	996	939	94.28%

District 4			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Parkersburg #15	381	379	99.48%
Spencer #21	30	21	70%
Pt. Pleasant #23	215	244	113.49%
Tyler County #48	45	35	77.78%
Sistersville #67	32	41	128.13%
New Haven #140	124	115	92.74%
Williamstown #159	74	76	102.70%
TOTALS	901	911	101.11%

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	90	96.77%
Cowen #62	20	19	95%
Richwood #97	28	24	85.71%
TOTALS	229	200	87.34%



"Laffy Taffy" Team Goal—2565 To Date— 2458 95.83%

SLUC WORTH

Membership Chairman

				10202770
	Clarksburg #13	46	39	84.78%
	Elkins #29	108	96	88.89%
	Shinnston #31	271	255	94.10%
	Braxton County #33	32	28	87.50%
	Bridgeport #68	66	100	151.52%
•	Belington #96	16	10	62.50%
	Pickens #122	20	14	70%
	Morgantown #174	120	144	120%
	TOTALS	723	731	101.11%
	District 5			
	Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
	Huntington #16	134	124	92.54%
	Logan #19	20	11	55%
	Charleston #20	28	14	50%
	St. Albans #73	33	29	87.88%
	Ceredo-Kenova #93	212	195	91.98%
	So. Charleston #94	10	5	50%
	Hamlin #111	40	38	95%
	Milton #139	68	65	95.59%
	Barboursville #177	148	163	110.14%
	TOTALS	693	644	92.93%

Kim

2025 Goal

44

% of Goal

102.27%

2025

45

District 3

Buckhannon #7

Unit

"Fun Dip" Team Goal—2126 To Date 2050 96.43%



District 10			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Martinsburg #14	68	69	101.47%
Piedmont #52	22	18	81.82%
Berkeley Springs #60	197	200	101.52%
Charles Town #63	38	32	84.21%
Moorefield #64	84	84	100%
Charles Town #71	151	132	87.42%
Petersburg #78	62	61	98.39%
Romney #91	155	133	85.81%
Paw Paw #128	43	31	72.09%
Kirby #134	32	26	81.25%
Ridgeley #136	69	64	92.75%
Capon Bridge #137	192	207	107.81%
Keyser #152	36	26	72.22%
TOTALS	1149	1083	94.26%

Credential Certification

The following members of our Unit have been duly elected delegates and alternates to the 103rd Annual Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of West Virginia to be held in Huntington, WV

DELEGATES			ALTERNATES
1	1		
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
REGISTRATION FEE IS \$20.00 PER (Please pre-register) (Registration at door will be \$25.00) MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:			Name and Number
Department Treasurer, ALA			
MAIL TO:			
Department Headquarters, ALA 1251 Doolin Run Rd. New Martinsville WV 26155	OR		Unit President 2024-2025 Unit Secretary 2024-2025
			Unit Secretary 2024-2025
**************************************	to be given for	r paid	***********
*****	*****	******	******
NUMBER OF MEMBERS PAID INTO I HEADQUARTER BY JUNE 10, 2025	DEPARTMEN	NT	(<u>VOTING STRENGTH</u> - each Unit is entitled to 2 plus one for each 50 members or frac- tion thereof, whose 2025 dues have been paid one month prior to Convention.
VOTING STRENGTH ENTITLED			

(DUE INTO DEPARTMENT ON OR BEFORE JUNE 26, 2025)

CALL FOR HUNDRED-THIRD ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA, INC.

The Hundred-THIRD Department Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary is hereby called in conformity with Article IX, Section 1 of the Department Constitution and Bylaws which provides, "That the Department Convention be held annually concurrent with the Convention of The American Legion, Department of West Virginia." The Convention will meet in Huntington, West Virginia on July 10, 11, 12, 2025 at the Doubletree by Hilton.

PURPOSE

The Convention is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, amending the Department Constitution, receiving reports of Department Officers and Chairperson, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before it.

REPRESENTATIVES

Representation at the Convention shall be by Units. Each Unit shall be entitled to two delegates, and one additional delegate for each fifty (50) members or major fraction thereof, whose dues have been paid and received by the Department Headquarters one month prior to the Convention for which they were elected. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. <u>No Unit unrepresented</u> <u>shall have a proxy vote</u>. The elective officers, all Past Department Presidents, in good standing shall be delegates-at-large to the Department Convention, with vote to be exercised with their Units, provided said officers are present at the Convention.

ALTERNATES

Each Unit is entitled to one alternate for each delegate. The alternate will have power to vote **ONLY** in the absence of the regular Delegate.

CREDENTIALS

<u>Membership cards must be presented by delegates and alternates.</u> <u>Certification</u> of the election of the delegates and alternates **MUST** be mailed to Department Headquarters **no less than two weeks** prior to Convention, and **SHALL BE** accompanied by the Convention fee of \$20.00 for each accredited delegates so certified.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Pre-Convention Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday July 10, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Doubletree by Hilton in the Virginia-Maryland Room. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Department Elective Officers, NEC, the Eight District Presidents, all Past Department Presidents, and Chairmen of all standing committees. All members of standing committees, exclusive of the chairmen, may attend the Executive Committee Meeting with the privilege of discussion but without vote. Any member in good standing may attend the Executive Committee Meeting with the privilege of discussion but NO vote.

DEPARTMENNT FINANCE COMMITTEE

This committee will meet on Thursday July 10, 2025 at 1:00 pm in the Virginia Room. Those to attend this meeting are the three (3) members of the Finance Committee and the Department President and Department Secretary/Treasurer who are ex-officio members without vote.

Convention Chairman Convention Recorder Sergeant at Arms	Dede Kelly, Clarksburg Unit #13
Personal Pages	Holly Adams, Chester Unit #121
	Shana Adams, Chester Unit #121
Floor Pages	
	Carla Wilfong, Shinnston Unit #31
Distinguished Guest Committee	
	Chairman Paulette Anderson, PDP, New Martinsville Unit #28
	Debbie Michael, PDP, Berkeley Springs Unit #60
Rules & amp; Order of Business	
Credentials Committee	
	Beth Kilgore, Huntington Unit #16
	Jill Davis, Capon Bridge Unit #137
Election Committee	
	(Chairman)
	Rhonda Best, PDP, Moundsville Unit #3
	I Irene Weber, PDP, Romney Unit #91
Courtesy Resolutions	Diane Teter, Capon Bridge Unit #137
Judging Committee	Gail Thompson, Barboursville Unit #177
	Melanie Delawder, Moorefield Unit #64
	Christy Bland, New Martinsville Unit #28
Standing Rules	
	Paulette Anderson, PDP, New Martinsville Unit #28
	Holly Adams, Chester Unit #121
	Mellie, Dept. 1st Vice President, Shinnston Unit #31
Stephanie H	andley, Dept. 2nd Vice President, Chester Unit #121
	Peggy Swartz, Dept. Chaplain, Welch Unit #8
Resolutions	. Roxie Nicholson, PDP, Shinnston Unit #31
	Christy Bland, New Martinsville Unit #28
	Wendi Colliflower, Barboursville Unit #177
Constitution & Bylaws	Peggy Swartz, Chairman, Welch Unit #8
	Kim Elliott, Chester Unit #121
	Michelle Powell, Wheeling Unit #1
Music	Paulette Anderson, PDP, New Martinsville Unit #28
Parliamentarian	Shirley Davis, PCDNVP, PDP

Sgt. at Arms and Pages are to wear white blouses, navy blue skirts or dress slacks

(NO JEANS)



103rd ANNUAL CONVENTION

Tentative Program

Thursday July 10, 2025

12:00– 6:00 pm	Registration	Lower Foyer
1:00 pm	Department Finance Meeting	Virginia/Maryland Room
2:30 pm	Convention Committee Meetings	
-	Constitution & Bylaws Committee	
	Standing Rules Committee	
	Policy & Procedures Committee	
	Resolutions Committee	
	Credentials Committee	
7:00 pm	Pre-Convention Department Executive Board Meeting	Virginia/Maryland Room

Friday July 11, 2025

Juniors

9:00 am	Registration for Junior Department Convention	Lower Foyer
9:30-2:20 pm	Junior Department Convention	Huntington Boardroom
3:30 pm	Installation of Junior Officers 2025-2026	-

Friday July 11, 2025

Auxiliary

8:00-4:00 pm	Registration	Lower Foyer
8:15 am 8:30 am	Department/District Officers Line Up Processional District Vice Presidents District Presidents	Virginia/Maryland Room
	Past Department Presidents Department Officers	
	Presentation of Gavel to	Laura Clark, Department President
	By	Debbie Fox, Department Convention Chairperson
	Call to Order	Laura Clark, Department President
	Advancement of Colors	Sandra Harpe, Sgt. at Arms
		Sherri Sanders, Sgt. at Arms
	Invocation	Peggy Swartz, Department Chaplain
	Moment of Silence	Laura Clark, Department President
	Pledge of Allegiance	Sandra Harper, Americanism Chairman
	National Anthem	Paulette Anderson, Music Chairman
	Preamble	Peggy Swartz, Constitution & Bylaws Chairman
	Draping of the Charter	Peggy Swartz, Department Chaplain
	Roll Call	Susan Brown, Department Secretary
	Rules & Order of Business	Susan Brown, Department Secretary
	Report of Policy & Procedures Committee	Kim Mellie, Chairman
	Constitution & Bylaws	Peggy Swartz, Chairman
	Report of Credentials Committee	Lynda Lancaster-Loyd, Chairman
	Report of Resolutions Committee	Roxie Nicholson, Chairman
	Standing Rules Committee	Rhonda Best, Chairman
	Presentation	Rosemary Thomas, Leadership Chairman

"West Virginia Unit Member of The Year"

Friday July 11th (continue)

9:30 am Presentation and Remarks

Americ Auxilia Chapla Childre	Traveling Plagues and Aw canism ury Emergency Fund in en & Youth unity Service ion	ards: Junior Activities Leadership Legislative Music National Security Past Presidents' Parley Poppy Public Relations	Ann Buchanan, Chairman and Membership Team Scrapbook Unit Presidents Award V A & R Total Participation Ways & Means
11:30 am		LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
1:00 pm Joint S 2:00 pm Reconv	ession with The American Trene	Legion	Grand Theatre Virginia/Maryland Room
Presental	tion of Timeless Award		Debbie Michael, PDP, Past Presidents Parley
4:00 pm Recess Practic	e for Installation		
9:00 pm Karaol	ce		Grand Ball Room
		Saturday July 12, 202	
8:00-12:00 pm 8:00	Registration Session Reconvene Call to Order		2nd Floor Lower Foyer Laura Clark, Department President
8:15 am	Memorial Service		Peggy Swartz, Chaplain
9:00 am	Greetings		J Jeff Wisley, Department Commander Herb Churchman, Detachment Commander
Department Sec	Appointment of Personal	ons ion & Bylaws Resolutions	Roll call for Elections Lynda Lancaster-Loyd, Chairman Roxie Nicholson, Chairman Peggy Swartz, Chairman Diana Teter , Chairman
12:00 pm 1:00 pm 2:00 pm Conver 2:15 pm Post Ex	Recess Reconvene Installation of 2025-2026 Closing Remarks Retirement of Colors ntion Adjourned cecutive Board Meeting	5 Officers	Laura Clark, Department President
4:00 pm Religio	ous Services		Grand Theatre
6:00 pm Comm 9:00-12:00 Kara	anders and Presidents Banq loke	luet	Grand Ballroom Cash Bar

July 2025 Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2	3	4 4th of July Office Closed	5
6	7	8	9 Leave For Convention Office Closed	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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

	X	
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 BAYARIE AND MAIL TO:

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 \$20.00 Starting with 25-26 Year

Runs August through July Each Year

MAIL TO:

American Legion Auxiliary Department of West Virginia 1251 Doolin Run Rd. New Martinsville WV 26155

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