



The Auxiliary Spirit



Volume 40

November 2025

Issue 4



American Legion Auxiliary
2025-2026
Department President



OHANA-means family. Family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten especially the men/women who fought for our freedom!

Colors— Coral, (as a mixture of red and yellow) & tropical colors (red, yellow, blue, green, purple)

Department Officers 2025-2026

President-Kim Mellie
1st Vice President-Stephanie Handley
2nd Vice President-Peggy Swartz
Secretary/Treasurer-Paulette Anderson
Chaplain- Rebecca Farley
Historian-Holly Adams

District Presidents

1st District-Mary Richards
3rd District-Margaret Yost
4th District-Patsy Greiner
5th District-Lisa Harbour-Adkins
6th District-Peggy Swartz
10th District-Jill Davis

District Vice Presidents

1st District-Michelle Powell
3rd District-Sandra Harper
4th District-Rebecca Farley
5th District-Pat Withrow
6th District-Mary Spence
10th District-Chantel Ricketts

Happy November!

It has been quite a busy month! 5 District Conferences with one to go! I have immensely enjoyed traveling to all of the Districts. The kindness that I have experienced is overwhelming. I am proud to belong to this organization! We need to spread the word and grow our "family"!

Our next goal is 60% by November 10th which is our very own ALA Birthday! **Congratulations** to Buckhannon Unit 7 for being the first Unit to hit 100%! Amazing job President April Wallace. Way to go McMechen 5, Paden City 86, Pickens 122, Morgantown 174, and Charles Town 63 for already reaching the Nov. 10 goal of 60%! You guys rock! Please shout out to me if you need anything. District 3 is at 51.7% already!

Let's celebrate our Auxiliary birthday in style by reaching 60% or more!

If there is one thing that I have learned, publicize what you are doing, let people see what fun we can have, while supporting our cause! Unity is key and we need to support the success of each other, as our mission states Service NOT Self! Celebrate and uplift each other!

My homecoming is Nov. 1st and there is a link on our Facebook page click on Featured and the link should pop up.

Midwinter is February 13 and 14th. Would love to see you all there! Unfortunately, Pam Ray is visiting WV Feb. 4, 5, and 6th. Let's put our heads together and finalize a plan for her visit! I'm sure what we plan will be Epic!

I hope you all enjoy the upcoming holidays and remember to check in with our Veterans, military families and any member who may be alone. We should really do this monthly!

I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

I am always here if you need anything.

For God and Country,

Kim Mellie



Department President
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of WV
304-216-9943
President@aux.org

"Our military families are the backbone of their service members. We are there to support, encourage and love".





Our Mission matters to Navigate Life's Waters

Department 1st Vice President

Fall to ya'll Starfish,

I would like to thank Clarksburg for a lovely fall conference. I was glad I could attend and see all those from District 3 that were on attendance.

I know membership has been slow but it should be picking up with National having sent out renewal notices.

District Presidents, please reach out to those units who have not reported any membership or low membership numbers to see if they are in need of any assistance. Keep up the great work Starfish.

If you do need anything or have any questions please feel free to reach out to myself or anyone on the membership team.

God Bless,
Stephanie Handley
stephaniehandley@msn.com



Department 2nd Vice President

Hi Sand Dollars:

I attended the Sixth District and Fourth District Fall Conference and had a great reception. I am planning on attending the First District Conference on the 25th of October.

Sand Dollars we must work just a little harder. I just received the new target sheet and the Star Fish is a head of us they have 38.86% and we have 32.72%. I noticed that some unit have 0 membership so lets work a little harder on membership.

If I can help you in any way just call me or text me.

God Bless Everyone.
Peggy Swartz, Sand Dollar
2nd Vice President



HISTORIAN

Hello ladies,

Happy Fall! let's get all those wonderful ideas, plans and events down on paper. Please share all your wonderful programs and events with me so that I can add to our departments' rich history book that continues to support our Veterans, Youth and community.

God Bless
Holly Adams
Department Historian
Hollyadam847@gmail.com



Chaplain

As your Department Chaplain, it is both an honor and a heartfelt responsibility to lift our members and their families in prayer. Our Auxiliary family is built on care, compassion, and faith in action and one of the most meaningful ways we live "Service, Not Self" is by holding one another close in prayer through both joy and hardship.

I would love to know when one of our members is facing illness, surgery, loss, or other difficult circumstances so that I may offer personal prayers and send a card on behalf of the Department of West Virginia. Likewise, please share any celebrations, births, weddings, anniversaries, or milestones, so that we may rejoice together in God's blessings.

Unit and District Chaplains, I also invite you to email me updates, reports, or special things you are doing in your chaplaincy. Whether it's a devotional, prayer circle, or a note of encouragement, your ministry matters and deserves to be shared. Let's continue to be a light to one another. You can reach me by email at chaplain@wvvaux.org. Together, we'll keep our Auxiliary family surrounded in faith and love.

Rebecca S Farley
Department Chaplain



Membership Chairman

Membership season is in full swing, and we're so proud of the dedication across the Department of West Virginia! Every new member brings us closer to our goals—your efforts truly matter.

A huge congratulations to Buckhannon Unit 7 for being the first unit to reach 100% of their membership goal for the 2025-2026 year—what a fantastic achievement!

Special shout-out to 3rd District for leading the entire Department with an impressive 51.73% in membership—way to go! Let's keep the momentum rolling!

As of October 15th, the Starfish are swimming ahead with 38.86%, while the Sand Dollars are holding strong at 32.72%. The race is on—keep it up!

Be sure to check our Facebook page every Monday and Friday for membership tips, ideas, and inspiration to help reach your goals.

And don't forget—our next target date is 60% by November 10th, the ALA Birthday! Let's make it a celebration to remember.

Keep working hard, West Virginia—you're doing an amazing job! As always your Membership team is here to assist you.

Ohana Means Family,
Laura Clark (aka Maui)
Department Membership Chairman
Call/Text: 304-939-3607
Email: membership@wvvaux.org





Department Headquarters

Hei Hei



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

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: If you wish to receive spirit by email, please send me your email to: **department@alawvaux.org**
If you wish to receive spirit by mail please fill out form on back, and send \$20.00 to the address listed.

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

When you receive your new roster make note of any changes to your juniors

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 ONLY 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.**

Please use the department email address for all correspondence, as my personal email is no longer used for department.

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

REMINDER TO ALL DEPARTMENT OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Spirit articles can not be any longer then **200** words. Single spacing and 10 fonts.

Due into Department by the **17th** of each month. Department President, Membership Chairman, Department Vice Presidents, and District Presidents and Vice Presidents will receive their target sheet on the 15th of each month.



Hei Hei

Articrafts

Department Headquarters

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
9:00am-3:30pm
Lunch 12:00-12:30

Phone 304-398-2070
department@wvvaux.org

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

Department Website:
www.wvvaux.org

Rhododendron Girls State Website
www.wvgirlsstate.org

The American Legion
Department of WV
wvlegion@suddenlinkmail.com

American Legion Auxiliary
National Website
ALAforveterans.org

Remember Our Legion Family

Francis Rayl, President McMechen Unit #5 had been in the hospital and is now home. She is asking members to keep her in your prayers as she recovers.

Bill Kyle and Bill Combs were in an automobile accident in Columbus Ohio while coming home from Fall meetings. Bill Combs has a broken back with a vertebrae sticking out, and bruised ribs. He is home.

Cards can be sent to:
Bill Combs
462 Dixie Dr.
Pt. Pleasant WV 25550

Bill Kile had a broken left hip and had it replaced. He is in Canal Winchester Rehab Center 6800 Gender Rd. Canal Winchester Ohio 43110 for 3 weeks for Rehab.

You can also send cards to his home:
Bill Kile, NEC
PO Box 307
Petersburg WV 26847

1st District Vice President

Greetings 1st District Members,

We are closing in on Fall with cooler days and nights. Winter is right around the corner. Burr!

With that being said this is the start of a busy time of year with Halloween, and Thanksgiving and Christmas are approaching very fast. What a great time to give Auxiliary membership to a loved one as a gift and support our Veterans.

By now all Unit officers should have paid their dues.

Don't forget our second target date of 60% by 11/10/25. "Happy Birthday American Legion Auxiliary!"

Reminder Veterans Day is November 11, 2025 this should be a reminder also to pay your dues to honor your Veteran who served this Great Country of ours, and gave you your freedom to join the American Legion Auxiliary.

Until next month.

God Bless America!

Michelle Powell

1st District Vice President

304-639-5379

mythreelabs@comcast.net

5th District Vice President

As you know, November is the month to honor Veterans! As we prepare to celebrate 250 years of the United States, there are several ways for your Unit to honor our country and her veterans. Share all your activities on social media at the Unit and District levels.

Here's a few ideas: display the ole' red, white and blue at your post; hand out poppies and American flags to the public; celebrate with patriotic songs; hold pray vigils for our veterans in need and our country; and honor our veterans on November 11th.

Also, remember we have another Membership goal coming up this month. On November 10th, the American Legion Auxiliary's birthday, our target goal is set at 60%! Please get those dues into the department without delay. Currently, St Albans is closest to goal with 51.61%, and Huntington in second place with 44.09%.

Keeping working on getting members.

Have a great month!

Patti Withrow

District 5 Vice President

304-415-4686

3rd District Vice President

Thank you Clarksburg Unit #13 for hosting District 3 Fall Conference. CONGRATULATIONS to Buckhannon Unit #7 for being the first to reach 100%!

It is always nice to see everyone and visit, to learn what your Units are up to

After looking at the target sheets, I can see that all Units are working hard on their membership, THANK YOU!

November is upon Us and there are a lot of special days that you can work on your membership. Hello goes along way, it starts your "elevator talk". Always have a membership form on you,

Next membership goal is on November 10th, (AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY 106TH BIRTHDAY) HOW EXCITING TO MAKE YOUR UNIT GOAL ON OUR BIRTHDAY.

Keep up the great work.

Thank you
Sandra Harper
304-694-2067

6th District Vice President

Hoping everyone is still safe and healthy. Casper reported that he hopes that everyone will have a safe and enjoyable Halloween and that our ghosts and goblins will be taking a rest now and will be gone.

All members should have received their Membership booklets with the 2025-2026 cards by now. You should have started processing membership renewals for 2025-2026 year. Let's give a big SHOUT OUT congratulations to the following auxiliaries, Gary #38 at 55.17% and Beckley #32 at 50% for reaching a strong lead on their membership goal.

I know that Fall is upon us and the leaves are falling, but don't fall short on collecting your dues in order to meet your November 2025 Birthday date of the American Legion Auxiliary and target membership goal of 60%.

I was able to make contact with several representatives from District 6 Auxiliary Units. I was happy to hear that most units were making plans on collecting dues, meetings and holidays projects.

Wish everyone has a successful Thanksgiving Day celebration with family or friends. Don't eat too much turkey.

Prayers for all to be safe
Mary E. Spence
Vice President
District 6

4th District Vice President

Thank you to every member, officer, and guest who showed up and showed out for our recent District 4 meeting! The spirit of Ohana was felt in every conversation, idea shared, and laugh exchanged. Together, we are stronger, and your presence made all the difference.

I am thrilled to announce that Williamstown Unit will proudly host our Spring District 4 Meeting. I know it will be another wonderful time of connection, learning, and celebrating our Auxiliary mission in action.

Also, please mark your calendars, our District 4 Oratorical Contest will be held January 17 in Epping Hall, Point Pleasant. I need your help getting information about this program to schools before Thanksgiving break, so that our students have time to prepare and participate. This contest is such an inspiring way to showcase the power of young voices and patriotism.

And as always keep processing those memberships! Keep rocking those percentages! Every renewal, every new member, every conversation about who we are and what we do moves our mission forward.

Thank you, District 4, for your energy, your heart, and your continued dedication. Let's keep shining bright together!

Rebecca S Farley

District 4 Vice President

10th District Vice President

🌺 Aloha, District 10 'Ohana! 🌺

Thank you Jackson-Perks Unit 71 Charles Town for hosting our District 10 Fall Conference. Membership:

Wow — what a splash! Many of you have already cruised past the **25% membership goal by September 15th** way to ride

that wave! 🌊 To those still paddling toward shore, we see your effort your dedication and spirit shine bright like the island sun. ☀️

As we celebrate our nation's **250th anniversary**, let's keep that momentum rolling toward our next goal **60% by November 10th (11/10)**, the **birthday of our American Legion Auxiliary!** 🎂

🌸 **Recruitment Challenges:**

👤 **Family of 3** – bring in three from your 'ohana (family).

👥 **Recruit 10** – add ten new members to grow our Legion family strong.

Don't forget to share the **Welcome Flyer** so new members can join the fun, stay informed, and feel the aloha from day one! 🌺

Let's keep growing — **one member, one family, one community at a time.**

Together, District 10, we'll keep riding the wave of success! 🌊👏

District 10 Vice President

Chantel Rickett

1st District President

As the season for fall conferences is coming to a close, we need to stay focused on our organizations needs to help keep it running smoothly.

Have you reviewed your Constitution? Standing Rules? Bylaws? Annual Budget?

Educate and mentor younger and newer members of your Units. Let them know the importance of the words on the sheets of paper you lay before them.

Always in the forefront of our concerns is our veteran's needs, their families, as well as our active members and families.

Due to our government "shutdown", there are many in this nation that are suffering. Needlessly. We are humans, no matter Democratic or Republican. We have needs for survival.

Ask members in you Post, your neighbors, friends and members of your church and other organizations if they have relatives or are friends of military personnel. Help in anyway you are able. A telephone call to say "Hi". A ride to an appointment, pick up their prescriptions and even do their grocery shopping. Be active in your community and willing to openly support the needs of our Military. City Council meetings. Community events. Be active. Make your representatives aware. Service, not Self.

Mary Richards
District 1 President
alteroftheangels@gmail.com



3rd District President

I wish to congratulate Buckhannon unit 7 on being the first in the District and first in the State to reach 100% and GOAL. So ladies we need to get busy and show Unit 7 we can do it too. There are Units who have not turned in any dues at the time of the conference and so who have turned in very few. Ladies, we need to get busy.

Also if you have not turned in your roster of new officers, you need to do so, NOW.

I wish to thank the units and Department Officers who came to the Third Districts Fall Conference. We had a very good time and enjoyed a very good meal.

Don't forget that Department President, Kim Mellie's Homecoming is at ALA Unit 31 in Shinnston on November 1st. Tickets are \$20.00. See either Kim or Roxie Nicholson about them.

So, until next time, get those dues in!!!!

For God and Country
Margaret Yost
304-629-0688

5th District President

Happy Thanksgiving everyone,

It's hard to believe we are already in the month of November. We are now hitting the busiest time of the year.

Please make sure you are keeping track of all your units activities and hours. Now is the time to get out in the community to let them know we are there for our community and our veterans.

Keep up the great work on membership. I appreciate all your hard work and all that you do for our veterans. I see that Charleston, St. Albans, and Huntington are really working towards our next target date of 60 % on November 10th. Keep up the great work.

If you need anything please call or email me and I will see what I can do.

Have a great Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving.

Lisa Harbour
wvbravesfan@gmail.com
304-633-0530

4th District President

District Four held a Fall Conference in Pt. Pleasant on October 4th. Department guests were President Kim Mellie, 2nd Vice President Peggy Schwartz, and Chaplain Rebecca Farley. Past Department President/Past National Historian Diane McClung also attended.

Rebecca warmly welcomed all members and guests. She talked about leadership and encouraged members to lead with purpose and to train members. Rebecca is also the Department Chaplain. She said we have a prayer chain in the Department. Please let her know if any member needs prayer.

Auxiliary unit #21 of Spencer won the prize for travel. President Rose Epling donated the prize to the district. Junior member Rosa White, her mother Sheridan Roush and Jane Whytsell also attended. (Rose, Rosa, and Sheridan are 3 generations.)

Rebecca Farley District Membership Chairman gave an updated report on district membership. Rebecca presented a membership certificate to Spencer Unit #21.

Kim's theme is "Our Mission Matters to Navigate Life's Waters." Her special projects are Warrior Project Pearl and Veterans "Honor Flights."

Peggy Schwartz talked about membership. Districts 1, 4 and 6 are in her group.

Thanks to Auxiliary Unit #23 for the beautiful setting and wonderful lunch. We appreciate you

Patsy Greiner
4th District President



10th District President

Happy Thanksgiving everyone.

I want to take a few minutes and congratulate The Family of American Legion Post 14 on their new building. What a wonderful day that was.

Congratulations to the units that made the first goal, keep getting those renewals. Good job to the 7 units that are at or above 25% and all the other units that are working on getting their memberships in. Please don't hold them, it is ok to pay prior to getting your renewal letters.

Our next goal for 60% is November 10th, come on 10th District, I know we have it in us to get this goal achieved.

I want to Thank everyone for the hard work and dedication that you give to this organization. If you have sold all of your tickets or are having a hard time selling them, please contact me. There are some units looking for more. I will meet you to receive the money and the tickets. I have two units at this time that have sold all of theirs. So I am rethinking when to get the winner drawn. I don't believe this is going to be able to wait until March.

I hope everyone has a wonderful time together and don't forget your veterans.

See you soon at Mid-Winter (I hope).

Jill Davis
10th District President

Constitution & Bylaws

Remember Auxiliary Units our Constitution and Bylaws are very important for us being a successful organization.

I was in a quarterly meeting this month with the National Constitution and Bylaws Committee. We had division breakouts which provided valuable insights to many questions. Please if you haven't looked at your governing documents in the last three years you should have your unit governing documents committee review them. Also National is hoping by November to get the updated Constitution and Bylaws on their website and that a printed version by February 2026 to Emblem Sales.

Michelle Powell
Constitution & Bylaws Chairman
304-639-5379
mythreelabs@comcast.net

NEC

National now has the updated Constitution, Bylaw and Standing Rules on line. You can download it from:
<https://www.legion-aux.org/Member/Guides/Constitution-Bylaws>

Article III, Membership Section 6, in the Constitution reads:
Section 6. **Membership can only be offered upon an affirmative vote of the unit members. Unless an alternate procedure is set forth in the unit bylaws.** This means Units must vote on members coming into their Unit, new or transfers, unless the Unit Bylaws state how new and/or transfers are accepted. If the Unit does not vote, the acceptance process must be in the Unit Bylaws.

There is a whole section on Discipline, you might want to review as well.

Lisa Cadwallader
NEC
Lisac.ala71@gmail.com

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Fellow Auxiliary Members,

When used properly, portable and standby generators are a great option to provide backup power during power outages. In order to use them properly and safely though please do the following: Always keep generators at least 20 feet away from your home. Never operate a generator in an enclosed space. Make sure the generator has 3-4 feet of clear space above and on all sides for proper ventilation. Keep generators away from doors, windows, and vents. And always direct exhaust away from your home.

If I can be of assistance to you or your Unit in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Blessings,
Melanie Shambaugh
AEF Chairman
sham4wv@aol.com

Americanism



Just keeping you in the know:
I love to be in a room and hear The Pledge of Allegiance recited in unison. One thing about The Pledge of Allegiance I would like you to consider, is that it is phrased as One Nation under God; no comma.

One Sunday, several Presidents attended the church Lincoln attended to celebrate Lincoln's birthday. On February 7, 1954, with President Dwight D. Eisenhower sitting in Lincoln's pew, Docherty, the church's pastor, delivered a sermon based on the Gettysburg Address entitled "A New Birth of Freedom." He argued that the nation's might lay not in arms but rather in its spirit and higher purpose. He noted that the Pledge's sentiments could be those of any nation: "There was something missing in the pledge, and that which was missing was the characteristic and definitive factor in the American way of life." He cited Lincoln's words "under God" as defining words that set the US apart from other nations.

One Nation under God, not One Nation, under God. There is a difference.

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



Community Service

Purpose: The purpose of the Community Service Committee is to promote the American Legion Auxiliary's commitment to making our communities better places to live by supporting local service projects. Standing Rules #6, National Committees Mission Outreach

I know we will have great reporting coming up in the next few months with Veterans Day & Holidays season will be in full force.

Remember I would love to see all of the great pictures we're doing in our community.

Hope everyone has a great Veterans Day as we honor each and everyone.

Our family would like to wish each of you a blessed Thanksgiving.

Blessing,
Kelli A Immel

Junior Activities

West Virginia Juniors Rock! In a recent online meeting, I participated with junior chairmen from all over the United States. We heard from junior leaders on the national, national districts, and department levels. We got to share ideas for increasing membership, hands on community projects, as well as military craft ideas and the National junior patch program.

Several holidays are right around the corner. It's a time to remember and celebrate our Veterans and active military. Take time to plan events on Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Pearl Harbor Day, Wreaths Across America Day, Christmas and New Years Day.

Don't forget: Every Day is Veterans Day!

Senior members, please invite your juniors to participate in your projects and events and then report them to me! I want to be able to share the joy and enthusiasm of your junior members.

Junior members are the future generations of America.

God Bless our Veterans, Active Military and their Families. Please keep them all in your prayers during these uncertain times of World turmoil!

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



Education

Happy fall everyone. I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful weather.

School has been in session for a couple of months, and I know that the units have stepped up and helped with school supplies. Now is a wonderful time to talk with the teachers and principals about what they need. Please remember these points when making promises. Ask them what they need and how they would benefit from having us in their schools. Make it worth their time to listen to you. Always keep your promises. Be on time for the activity. Maintain a positive relationship with them and volunteer for school activities to show them how important they are to you and your unit. Be prepared to go through some safety procedures, but do not get discouraged just remember all of that is for the safety of all the children.

Look for homeschools and see what you can do with them. They are always looking for opportunities to learn from others.

If you need some ideas for things to do, please feel free to contact me at my new email, instant message, or text me.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Veterans Day and a happy thanksgiving.

Lisa Harbour-Adkins
Education@wvvaux.org
304-633-0530



Leadership

Each session will be held live via Zoom, allowing for real-time learning and interaction, but don't worry if you can't attend during the scheduled time!

Every registered participant will automatically receive a recording link at the conclusion of each webinar. So even if life's schedule doesn't allow you to join live, make sure you register anyway, you'll still have full access to watch, learn, and grow at your own pace.

This year's focus is on how we can lead within each of our ALA programs, discovering meaningful ways to make a difference while growing leaders at every age and stage. Whether you're mentoring juniors, guiding new members, or inspiring your community, leadership begins with you.

The Lead with Purpose Series flyer is available now please download it, share it, and sign up! Participants completing all 12 sessions will receive special recognition at Mid-Winter Conference.

Rebecca S Farley
Department Leadership Chairman

Public Relations

Branding is often misunderstood as just a logo, but it is so much more. Branding is the personality of an organization, it's how people feel when they interact with us. Do they trust what we're saying? Do they feel inspired by our message? Do our words and actions reflect the American Legion Auxiliary in a positive light?

When the answer is "yes," we build credibility, trust, and pride which leads directly to stronger membership.

If we unite as leaders and support every unit in our shared mission of service, not self, we will excel in helping those who need us most.

The Department of West Virginia deserves to thrive, and our first step is forming a true image of who we are. Together, we can show what service is truly capable of achieving.

Katie Simpkins
Public Relations
Co-Chairman

Legislative

Every Voice Matters! Tell Congress What You Think!

Congratulations! Through the efforts of everyone participating in the Grassroots Action Center email campaign, WV made the top 5 of all departments twice in September. Keep up the great work! If you have something more to say you can also email or call your Congressional Representative directly, see websites below.

If you don't know what to say – speak from your heart on why the issue is important to you. As a Veteran, the Pay Our Troops Act is important to me, service members should not go without pay while being required to work during a government shutdown.

Current campaigns include: Love Lives On: Support our Gold Star Spouses, Major Richard Star Act, GI Bill Parity Act, SHIPS for America Act, Pay Our Troops, and Service Dogs Assisting Veterans (SAVES) Act.

Also, a special campaign: Tell Your Members of Congress to Fully Fund the Government – Protect Veterans' Services.

I urge everyone to contact their representatives. Adding your voice to the thousands of others sending messages through the Grassroots Action Center shows the importance of these acts.

Capito - <https://www.capito.senate.gov/contact/contact-my-office>

Justice - <https://www.justice.senate.gov/contact>

Miller - <https://millerforms.house.gov/contact>

Moore - <https://rileymoore.house.gov/contact>

Elaine Sampson
Legislative Chair
Legislative@wvvaux.org

National Security

Hello to all!

The purpose of the National Security Committee is to promote a strong national defense.

National President Pam Ray encourages us to be mission-driven and family focused.

****Focus for our National Security Program is to:**

****Raise awareness of POW/MIA's.**

****Supporting and strengthening our military service members and their families.**

****Support military families by working with Family Readiness Groups (FRG).**

****Support the Legion Family and partner initiatives that strive to improve the Quality of Life (QoL) of our service members and their families.**

For now, please go to nationalsecurity@ALAforVeterans.org for any information

Soon you can go to our department site for all info. nationalsecurity@wvvaux.org

Hugs to All!

Debbie Michael

Poppy

On Veterans Day, November 11, wear a little red Poppy as red as can be, to show that you remember those who fought for us. Veterans Day celebrates all US soldiers. Wear a red poppy and make a donation that supports veterans and their families.

Donate books to your local library.

Teach the history of the poppy and its significance to veterans and the American Legion family. A good book explaining Veterans Day for children is Veterans Day by Rich Linville, available on Amazon. There are five (5) pages on the Poppy and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Encourage school children to make cards for veterans. Juniors can make cards too and put a poppy in the card. Encourage your Junior members to distribute poppies at parades and other celebrations.

Stimulate enthusiasm for the poppy program by holding fun activities like a poppy themed party. Encourage school children to participate in the Poppy Poster Contest. Juniors may participate in the Little Miss Poppy contest and the Poppy Poster Contest too.

Share the poppy story in your community.
WEAR A POPPY—REMEMBER A VETERAN!

Shirley Davis
Chairman
psdavis1524@msn.com
304-544-1838



VA&R

The **NEW** Department email for the var committee is **var@wvvaux.org**. please address all var emails to the new email.

We are starting to move towards colder weather, now is a great time to collect blankets, gloves, and hats for homeless veterans and help with stand downs at the VA. Remember local CBOCs may also take a supply of these items for veterans in their area.

Sending Military mail and care packages this holiday. U.S. Customs and Border Protection now requiring HS codes for all overseas military shipping to APO, FPO, and DPO addresses. Additionally, military mail needs to follow both domestic and international mail requirements. This site helps under what a HS code is and offers a look up to locate it: <https://www.trade.gov/harmonized-system-hs-codes>

Please keep a log of what comfort drive items and value you donate to local VAMC's and CBOC's, so you will have it to report during the mid-winter comfort drive.

Lisa Cadwallader
VA&R Chairman
Var@wvvaux.org





Please come share in the fun!

**My Homecoming will be
November 1st Social at 5 and
Dinner 6-8pm
Post 31 Legion Family
76 Bridge Street
Shinnston, WV 26431**

**Tickets will be on sale for \$20
Veterans are free!**



**Please rsvp by text to
304-216-9943**

November 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	R.E.D Fridays Until They Come Home					1 Presidents' Homecoming Shinnston #31
2 Daylight Savings Time Ends	3	4 Election Day	5	6	7	8
9	10  ALA! Target Sheet Out Cheer Party Cchecks Out	11 Office Closed  Veterans Day	12	13	14	15
16	17 Articles Due	18	19	20	21 Spirit Out	22
23	24	25	26	27  Closed Thanksgiving Day	28 Office Open	29
30				Program of Month Membership Public Relations		



American Legion Auxiliary WV Rhododendron Girls State

Rhododendron Girls State

Lynda Lancaster-Loyd is on a cruise with her husband Harry.

Even though she isn't able to do an article this month, she is still wanting you to be working with your schools, and sponsors to select the Rhododendron Girls State Citizens for the 2026 year.

We hope you are able to attend the Girls State meeting at Midwinter Conference in February to learn more.



District Representatives

1st Dist. — Christy Bland
217 Maple Ave.
New Martinsville WV 26155
304-771-2253

3rd Dist. — Mary Jo Thomas
279 Rock Lake Road
Fairmont WV 26554
304-366-2912

4th Dist. — Patsy Greiner
708-45th Street
Vienna WV 26105
304-483-8296

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

Congratulations to September winners!

2026 Department Fundraiser tickets were at the Fall Workshop and at conferences. If units or members need them mailed out, PLEASE send me an email and I will get them to you. I still have a few tickets in the office.

Please remember I need the ticket stubs with money in the office no later than the 20th of December to get them recorded for the new year.

All ticket holders for 2025 have been mailed out through September.

If you have anyone who has contacted you regarding their ticket winnings, please have them call the office at 304-398-2070.

Paulette Anderson
Christy Bland



September 2025 Ways and Means Winners

Name	#'s	City	State	Date	\$\$\$
Linda Osborne	801	Follansbee	WV	9/1/25	25.00
Mike Durr	153	Keyser	WV	9/2/25	25.00
Rex Hefner	740	Holly Hill	WV	9/3/25	25.00
Gene Kirk	417	Bluefield	WV	9/4/25	25.00
Pamela Hebb	488	Myrtle Beach	SC	9/5/25	25.00
Betty Slater	383	Wardensville	WV	9/6/25	25.00
Mike Smith	356	Mt Airy	MD	9/8/25	25.00
Daniel Kirk	627	Bluefield	WV	9/9/25	25.00
David Barnes	363	St. Clairsville	OH	9/10/25	25.00
Barbara Sheetz	960	Springfield	WV	9/11/25	25.00
Jean Duckwall	412	Berkeley Springs	WV	9/12/25	25.00
Brenda Shoemaker	138	Purgitsville	WV	9/13/25	25.00
Nancy Haggerty	971	Purgitsville	WV	9/15/25	25.00
Frances Shemon	358	Moorefield	WV	9/16/25	25.00
Becky Gregory	079	Moundsville	WV	9/17/25	200.00
Cathy Whitt	097	Augusta	WV	9/18/25	25.00
Sonja Adkins	664	Hurricane	WV	9/19/25	25.00
	668			9/20/25	
	668			9/22/25	
Maggie Gray	645	Wheeling	WV	9/23/25	25.00
D J Johnson	172	Romney	WV	9/24/25	25.00
Brenda Grey	281	Harpers Ferry	WV	9/25/25	25.00
Jason Robbins	041	Wheeling	WV	9/26/25	25.00
Betty Cutlip	141	Princeton	WV	9/27/25	25.00
Barbara Riffle	877	Gassaway	WV	9/29/25	25.00
Judy Chapman	444	Thorpe	WV	9/30/25	25.00



OUR MISSION MATTERS to NAVIGATE LIFE's WATERS



ALA Birthday Target Date 11/10/2025 60.00%
Department Goal 4672— Membership to Date— 1688 36.13%
Department Unit 200 Goal 149— Membership to Date— 57
Updated 10/15/2025



Peggy



Stephanie

District 1			
Unit	2026 Goal	2026	% of Goal
Wheeling #1	28	12	42.86%
Moundsville #3	260	125	48.08%
McMechen #5	12	9	75.00%
Weirton #10	71	5	07.04%
Cameron #18	118	35	29.66%
New Martinsville #28	107	60	56.07%
Wellsburg #34	21	7	33.33%
Follansbee #45	59	7	11.86%
Pine Grove #81	60	3	.05.00%
Paden City #86	67	43	64.42%
Wheeling #89	10	1	10.00%
Newell #114	19	2	10.53%
Chester #121	122	32	26.23%
TOTALS	954	341	35.74%



Starfish
Goal— 2460
To Date—956
38.86%

Membership
Chairman
Maui



Sand Dollars

Goal 2063
To Date 675
32.72%



District 3			
Unit	2026 Goal	2026	% of Goal
Buckhannon #7	45	45	100.00%
Clarksburg #13	41	7	17.07%
Elkins #29	98	43	43.88%
Shinnston #31	253	123	48.62%
Braxton County #33	30	12	40.00%
Bridgeport #68	93	45	48.39%
Belington #96	11		
Pickens #122	18	14	77.78%
Morgantown #174	132	84	63.64%
TOTALS	721	373	51.73%

District 5			
Unit	2026 Goal	2026	% of Goal
Huntington #16	127	56	44.09%
Logan #19	12		
Charleston #20	15	6	40.00%
St. Albans #73	31	16	51.61%
Ceredo-Kenova #93	199	14	07.04%
So. Charleston #94	10	1	10.00%
Hamlin #111	40	5	12.50%
Milton #139	67	15	22.39%
Barboursville #177	152	36	23.68%
TOTALS	653	149	22.82%

District 10			
Unit	2026 Goal	2026	% of Goal
Martinsburg #14	67	22	32.84%
Piedmont #52	20		
Berkeley Springs #60	199	103	51.76%
Charles Town #63	34	21	61.76%
Moorefield #64	86	49	56.98%
Charles Town #71	127	42	33.07%
Petersburg #78	63	14	22.22%
Romney #91	137	17	12.41%
Paw Paw #128	33	13	39.39%
Kirby #134	28	14	50.00%
Ridgeley #136	66	26	39.39%
Capon Bridge #137	198	110	55.56%
Keyser #152	28	3	10.71%
Totals	1086	434	39.96%

District 4			
Unit	2026 Goal	2026	% of Goal
Parkersburg #15	380	146	38.42%
Spencer #21	22	6	27.27%
Pt. Pleasant #23	236	84	35.59%
Tyler County #48	37	1	02.70%
Sistersville #67	42	5	11.90%
New Haven #140	110	6	05.45%
Williamstown #159	78	13	16.67%
TOTALS	905	261	28.84%

District 6			
Unit	2026 Goal	2026	% of Goal
Welch #8	40	16	40.00%
Bluefield #9	18		
Beckley #32	12	6	50.00%
Gary #38	87	48	55.17%
Cowen #62	21	3	14.29%
Richwood #97	26		
TOTALS	204	73	35.78%



Join Our Virtual Leadership Series

Engage in our 12-session online leadership series, designed to empower you to lead with purpose throughout your ALA journey. Each live session will focus on practical strategies to boost your leadership confidence, support your role within each Auxiliary program, inspire others to serve passionately, and foster lasting connections.

- All sessions are virtual and will be recorded.
- If you can't join us live, please register anyway! Every registrant will receive a link to the recording following each session.
- Complete all 12 sessions to earn special recognition at the Mid-Winter Convention!
- Tuesdays 11:00 AM (EST) Beginning October 28, 2025 Ending January 13, 2026



Register at: <http://www.wvaux.org>

**Together, we are nurturing leaders of all ages and stages.
Let's GO WV!**

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: www.wvvaux.org 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: _____