



AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

The Auxiliary Spirit



Volume 40

January 2026

Issue 6



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

Wishing you all a **wonderful New Year** to come!

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through "our" year!

I have had a wonderful time visiting all of the VA Gift Shops. Our organization is truly made up of an incredibly talented group of individuals. The creativity, dedication, and talent across our organization are truly inspiring!

I would love to have included pictures, but we don't have enough space.

Congratulations to District 3 who is almost 85% goal! Keep up the amazing work.

District 1 is on your heels with 71.49%.

Superb job

Paden City 86 with 128.36%

Morgantown 174 110.61%

Buckhannon with 100%

We have 3 months to reach 85%! We can do it!

I witnessed the most caring individuals at the Giftshops, Pearl Harbor Ceremony and Wreaths Across America. We have so much to be proud of and so much to celebrate.

I challenge all of you to reach out to the Posts that don't have Auxiliary; my visual on Facebook explains the areas, share with them our successes. Can we start one new Unit this year? I would love to help in any way.

Status quo is not about complacency; it is about stewardship- protecting what works, respecting those who came before us, and moving forward thoughtfully rather than reactively. Your involvement matters, and your presence can make a difference!

Plans for Pam Ray's visit are in the works. I hope to do a zoom call for all Unit Presidents and DEC after Christmas to solidify plans and ratify the members of the Risk and Compliance.

For God and Country,

Kim Mellie



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

You have power over your mind - not outside events. Realize this, and you will find strength. If you are distressed by anything external, the pain is not due to the thing itself, but to your estimate of it; and this you have the power to revoke at any moment. It is not death that a man should fear, but he should fear never beginning to live. The first rule is to keep an untroubled spirit. The second is to look things in the face and know them for what they are.
Marcus Aurelius, Meditations





Our Mission matters to Navigate Life's Waters

Department 1st Vice President

To all the Starfish,

I want to wish everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!! It is hard to believe that this year is almost over.

We have all worked hard to obtain our membership goals so far and our work continues.

Congratulations to Buckhannon #7 and Morgantown #174 for reaching 100%.

Each district has one unit that seems to be struggling with membership. District #3 we need to reach out to Belington#96: and District #10 we need to reach out to Piedmont #52, to see why they maybe struggling and how we might assist them with membership. I'm proud of all the hard work you have put in to obtaining membership. Continue the great work so that we can help President Kim reach 100% membership.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season!!!

Stephanie



Department 2nd Vice President

Wishing everyone a Happy Year, and hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas.

Remember if you haven't paid your Auxiliary dues yet this year, you will be delinquent come December 31,2025, so get them paid soon.

God bless our veterans and Auxiliary members

Peggy Swartz
Dept 2nd Vice President



HISTORIAN

Happy New Year!

Remember documenting facts and details of our organizations deep history is necessary to report. But imagine hearing of it through the eyes of its membership we all learn a deeper sense of who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

We all need to work together to continue to preserve our great history and expand our future.

Please email activities, events as they occur so we can all add to our History together.

God Bless
Holly Adams
Department Historian
Hollyadams847@gmail.com



Chaplain

As we step into a brand-new year, we are given a sacred pause, a moment to breathe, reflect, and begin again. The turning of the calendar is more than a date change; it is an invitation. An invitation to release what no longer serves us, to carry forward the lessons we've learned, and to open our hearts to what is yet to come.

A new year reminds us that God is always doing a new thing, often quietly, often patiently, but always with purpose. Each sunrise of this year is a fresh opportunity to grow in faith, extend kindness, and serve with intention. We are not asked to have everything figured out; we are simply asked to take the next faithful step.

May this year be one where hope rises higher than fear, where gratitude grounds us, and where love leads our actions. Let us enter this season with courage in our hearts and compassion in our hands, trusting that even small steps forward can lead to something truly great.

As your Chaplain, I wish you a Happy New Year filled with peace, purpose, and promise. May this be a year of renewed strength, deepened connections, and abundant blessings, for you, your family, and all those you serve.

Rebecca S Farley
Department Chaplain
chaplain@wvaux.org
304-674-9908



Membership Chairman

As we welcome the new year, the American Legion Auxiliary family in West Virginia has much to celebrate! Our December 15th membership report reflects the power of teamwork and community spirit across every district. Let's recognize our shining stars and keep the momentum going toward our 2026 goals.

Top Units:

****District 1: Paden City #86 – 128.36% **District 3: Morgantown #174 – 110.61%**

****District 6: Bluefield #9 – 94.44% **District 10: Charlestown #63 – 82.35% (Kirby #134 & Keyser #152 close behind at 82.14%)**

****District 4: Williamstown #159 – 70.51% **District 5: Logan #19 – 75.00%**

Top Districts:

****District 3: 82.38% **District 1: 71.49%**

Department Momentum:

****Goal: 4,672 members**

****Current: 3,065 (65.60%)**

****Target by March 15: 85% (3,971 members)**

We're just **906** members away from our next target!

Every call, invitation, and story grows our Auxiliary family. Units like *Paden City #86* and *Morgantown #174* prove that teamwork drives success. Let's rally together, welcome new members, and finish strong!

Celebrate your achievements, encourage your fellow units, and keep the momentum going. Together, we'll make this a year of record-breaking growth and service.

Thank you for your dedication—side by side, unit by unit, district by district!

Membership Matters,

Laura Clark, PDP

Email: membership@wvaux.org

Call/Text: 304-939-3607



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 included, and send

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.**

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

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

Department Headquarters

Office Hours

Monday-Friday

NEW HOURS: 8:30am-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

ALAforveterans.org

2025-2026

Endorsements are now open to be placed in spirit

NEW INFORMATION

On the 1st page you will see **New Hours for office**. It started Monday the 15th. I have been working these hours for some-time, catching up on items.

On last months' calendar it stated that the office will be closed **New Years Eve** and New Years Day. The office will be **open New Years Eve** and will be closed New Years Day and the **next day. (Friday).**



Articrafts

Hei Hei

1st District Vice President

Hello Ohana,

The holidays are now behind us.

Everyone has been working hard on membership. Our next the target date is March 15th, 2026 at 85%.

Paden City#86 you are at 128.36%. Way to go, keep up the hard work. We have Wheeling #1 and New Martinsville #28 over the 85% goal. We can do this District #1. We are currently in second place in all the district's.

Mary Richards 1st District President and I have been contacting units who need some help. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to help the units.

One way to try to meet your goals is to hold a membership drive with your Post and Sal's. Work together to achieve all your family's goals.

Everyone is doing a fantastic job!

Stay warm and safe!

Michelle Powell
304-639-5379

5th District Vice President

As we are coming to the close of 2025, please send in all membership dues that you can by the end of the month!

It looks like District Five is currently at 60.34%, which is second to last place. Logan's paid membership tops District Five at 75%. St Albans is in second place at 74.19%. Keep working hard to collect current Unit membership dues and sign up as many new members as you can.

If your Unit has any holiday celebrations for our Veterans, please post pictures and narrative to your Unit and District Facebook pages.

Our next membership goal of 85% is on The American Legion's birthday, March 15, 2026. Let's work hard to have all Units reach that goal.

Have a Merry Christmas and safe and happy New Year!

Patti Withrow
District 5 Vice President
304-415-4686

3rd District Vice President

Here we are ringing in the New Year with a lot of new Members according to the target sheets, this is AMAZING to see all your hard work at renewing and recruiting members to be able to serve our Veterans and Military.

THANK YOU BRAXTON CO UNIT 33 for having Margaret Yost Dist. 3 President and myself at your Christmas Unit meeting. The food was amazing, and the company was better, being able to talk with you all and learn about your Unit, Thank you for the beautiful card and gift.

Always be prepared with a membership form in your possession, you never know where you will meet the next new member of your Unit,

Always be prepared to share WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO! Print off pamphlets specific to your Unit, use Facebook to share with the community what is going on in your Unit as far as events go.

Look forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter.

Thank you
Sandra Harper
sandy.harper265@gmail.com

6th District Vice President

Hello to all our District 6 members.

Hoping everyone will have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. I'm sure everyone was able to get up all their Christmas decorations and will be having family and friends over to celebrate. Please have your stockings hung by the chimney with care in hopes that St. Nick shows up there.

I know with the Holidays upon us, we will need to take extra effort to make contact with our members and make a concerted effort to collect the dues.

I want to toot the horn for Bluefield Unit #9 with 94.44%, Cowen Unit #62 at 76.19%, and Welch Unit 8 at 75.0%.

For all of you that have to travel, our travels prayers are with you. Stay safe and be careful. Enjoy your holiday time with your family and friends.

Pray for Our Country.
Mary Spence
Vice President
District 6

4th District Vice President

A new year is here, bringing fresh momentum, renewed focus, and a powerful opportunity to finish strong together. Now is the moment to get the word out, reach out, and rally our members as we move toward 100% membership!

Reaching 100% is about pride and purpose. Pride in your Unit. Pride in your leadership. Pride in knowing you showed up for one another and for the mission we all serve. Every renewal fuels our programs, strengthens our impact, and keeps our collective voice strong at every level.

This is where leadership shines. Pick up the phone. Send the text. Write the message. Make the connection. A personal touch can be the spark that reminds someone why they joined, and why they still belong.

District 4, I believe in you. Your energy, commitment, and teamwork make a difference. Let's finish this year strong, celebrate every win, and proudly cross that 100% finish line together.

Let's rally. Let's reconnect. Let's get it done, together.

Rebecca S Farley
District 4 Vice President
dccoachrebecca@gmail.com

10th District Vice President

Now that the holiday hustle and bustle has passed, we can start fresh as we welcome the new year. Let's hop on the express of membership and grow to the next level! Hold a membership drive or host a membership themed event encourage, invite, and recruit new members.

Our next major goal is the celebration of the American Legion's birthday. Let's work together to build momentum and strengthen our Legion family as we move toward this important milestone.

Don't forget to utilize our "New Member Welcome Flyer" and share about our amazing ALA member benefit. Visit the ALA

Academy and take the benefits training to keep up with latest benefits available to our members.

Chantel Ricketts
10th District
Vice President

1st District President

Seasons Greetings:

Wishing everyone around the world in defense of our great Nation a very Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years..

Membership! Wow! Keep up the great work everyone.

We need to keep our youth in our thoughts. They are our future and the grants available to help further their education is a very important role that we can help fulfill.

Get into your schools, contact the school booster club parents and coaches, as well as the counselors. Present the information you have available to your local school boards.

Talk to all the kids and share with them the options that are available to help support them through their education as well as Girl State and Boy State.

For Senior members: Remember to share all the benefits available to membership, all the information of how activities work at Unit meetings and activities. Ask them if they would like to volunteer and be a part of our organization.

The winter weather is upon us. Remember to check on your family, friends and neighbors. Make sure they are not going without necessities because they may be too embarrassed to ask for help.

Happy Holidays
District 1 President
Mary Richards

4th District President

Hello All,

Any auxiliary officer who has not paid their annual dues by December 31, 2025, is no longer a member in good standing. All units in the district are responsible for paying their annual mandatory funds. If you have any questions about these funds, please contact me. If you prefer, you may contact the Department Treasurer, Paulette Anderson, at 304-398-2070.

Membership is an important part of our organization. Please contact members who are delinquent. It is important to retain, recruit, and reinstate members. If you are interested in becoming a PUFL (paid up for life member) please contact Paulette Anderson for fee information. Please carry membership applications with you wherever you go.

District 4 continues to grow in membership and experience. Members are going online to research and take courses to increase knowledge and get a better understanding of the American Legion Auxiliary organization. Please check out the online resources available on the National website.

Thank you for continuing to use Facebook to post pictures, reports, and stories about the work and events your units have done.

Our Veterans and their families appreciate you!

Patsy Greiner
4th District President
304-483-8296 (cell)
Patsygirl12@gmail.com

5th District President

Happy New Year to all.

I trust everyone enjoyed a pleasant holiday season. At this time, please reach out to those members who have outstanding dues and remind them of their status regarding good standing. Logan Unit #19 currently leads at 75%, followed by St. Albans, Unit #73 with 74.19%, and Huntington Unit #16 with 70.87%. It is important that we diligently strive toward our overall goal of 85% by March.

Please also ensure all mandatory funds are remitted in a timely manner.

As warmer weather approaches, preparations for poppy drives, memorial services, and additional initiatives to promote awareness of our esteemed organization will begin.

If you are aware of a veteran in need, consider offering your support; often, companionship or simply listening can make a meaningful difference.

At your January meeting, consider ways to connect with others.

Valentine's Day and the Mid-Winter Conference are approaching. Check the upcoming dates. We hope you'll join us at these events.

Keep up the excellent work!

If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to reach out. Stay safe and warm—I look forward to seeing everyone at midwinter.

Lisa Harbour-Adkins
5th District President
wvbravesfan@gmail.com
(304)633-0530

6th District President

Wishing everyone a Happy Year. I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas.

Remember if you haven't paid your Auxiliary dues yet this year, you will be delinquent come December 31, 2025, so get them paid soon.

God bless our veterans and Auxiliary members.

Peggy Swartz
6th District President



10th District President

Time sure does fly when you are busy. Membership is rolling for most; some seem to be having a little difficulty. I am asking if you are having trouble. Please reach out to those that have not paid at this time.

Our next target date is March 15th for 85%. We can all make this; we just need to put a little bit more effort into it.

Just a reminder, be kind, we all have feelings, we should be like family. If we look at each other as our sons or daughters, we would probably be a little nicer. Think about that, act like the other members are your children (in your heart), and say kind things. I hear a lot of things that people say and do that are not so kind, it saddens me. Yes, we do have different personalities and not all of them get along. Let's do better; we want to be known as a great organization. Being nasty is not the way.

Remember Mid-Winter is just a few short weeks; I hope everyone has their reservations and is getting their bags packed. If you are spending the money to stay at the motel, please come to the meetings. We need and want to see your face.

I pray that everyone has a wonderful Holiday, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

10th District President
Jill Davis

Children & Youth

As we welcome a new year, let's renew our commitment to the American Legion Auxiliary Children & Youth Program! Our youth are the heart of our communities and the future of our nation.

This year, let's make it our resolution to support, mentor, and empower them through meaningful projects and activities. Whether it's hosting educational programs, organizing safety initiatives, or providing resources for families in need, every effort makes a difference.

How is your Unit helping the children and youth in your area? Share your stories and inspire others! We encourage all Units to send high-resolution photos of your activities and projects so we can showcase the incredible work being done across our organization.

Together, we can ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive. Let's make 2026 a year of impact, compassion, and service for the next generation!

Beth Kilgore
Children & Youth Chairman

NEC

Hope everyone is staying warm in this bitter cold!

Have you checked out the ALA Academy yet? They offer various self-paced courses, registration for upcoming webinars or review past webinars. All help get you learn and understand various portions of the ALA. Any Auxiliary member at any level can take advantage of these offerings.

Link: <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/online-training>

National Committee applications are being taken through January 1.

Anyone can apply.

Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/Blog/Apply-today!-2026-2027-ALA-national-committee-appl>

Happy Holidays, and try to stay warm!
Lisa Cadwallader
Lisac.ala71@gmail.com
NEC

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

As winter sets in, remember that older adults lose body heat faster. Older adults often make less body heat because of a slower metabolism and less physical activity. Check your home's temperature and dress warmly to avoid hypothermia.

During freezing temperatures, check on elderly friends and neighbors often to make sure their homes are heated properly.

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

Child and Well-Being Fund

I AM HUNGRY!!

**PLEASE FEED ME SO I CAN
BE FATTER AT MIDWINTER!!**



Americanism



American Flag Etiquette

- 1-The Flag should be raised "Briskly" and lowered "Ceremoniously"
- 2-It's customary to only display the flag from sunrise to sunset, you can display for 24hrs if properly illuminated at night by a light
- 3-The Flag should never touch anything beneath it, Means no ground, floor, water
- 4-When the flag is displayed against a wall the union (AKA stars) should be situated to the uppermost left corner, same goes when it's displayed in a window
- 5-Unless your flag is labeled all-weather, it should not be displayed in inclement weather
- 6-ONLY display the Flag union down in time of distress, extreme danger to life
- 7-When the Flag is flown half-staff, raise to peak then lower back down to half-staff, when lowering the flag, raise back to peak then lower for the day.
- 8-Always let the flag be aloft and free, you can carry to display area
- 9-Stars and stripes should not be draped over the hood, sides, top or back of a vehicle, or railroad train or boat

Just a few quick tip reminders of the proper Etiquette for our Flag

Thank you,
Sandra Harper
Americanism@wvaux.org

Community Service

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year:

I'm looking forward to seeing all the great things everyone did over the holidays for their community.

Everyone, please stay warm & safe with winter being here.

Remember we're here for our Veterans, our community & youth.

Blessing,
Kelli A Immel
(304)-283-5092

Education

Please remember to review the National Education Newsletter, which you can find on the Department's Facebook page. The newsletter contains important information about available scholarships.

Every year, the National offers various gift scholarships for students enrolled in accredited colleges, universities, or trade schools. Your help sharing details about the \$182,000 in scholarship funds for eligible applicants is greatly appreciated.

Some of these scholarships need letters of recommendation and proof of military service, so students should start gathering the required documents early. Holiday breaks are an excellent time to prepare applications and avoid rushing near the deadline.

Among our 52 departments, one student from each division will receive a \$5,000 scholarship, and an additional 47 departments will award \$1,000 scholarships. To be eligible, applicants must be current or former Junior members with three consecutive years of membership (2023–2025) and maintain active status through 2026. In honor of the nation's 250th anniversary, candidates must also write an essay explaining how the mission of the Auxiliary has shaped their views on veterans, service members, and their families, and describe how this legacy motivates them to serve their communities and society at large.

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



Junior Activities

On December 3, 2025, I participated in the second quarter zoom meeting for Department Chairs. Members shared so many program ideas for Juniors. Senior members are encouraged to work with Juniors. Juniors can post colors at meetings, lead opening ceremonies such as the Pledge, prayers, National Anthem, and ALA Preamble.

Plan a craft event. Veterans in nursing homes look forward to the tray favors our Juniors make. There doesn't have to be a special holiday. January can be a snowflake event! The elderly love to talk to youngsters. Involve the girls when you visit VA centers or CBOC facilities.

Mid-Winter conference is coming up. Encourage Juniors to make poppy posters!

Junior meetings can be fun. Seniors, tell the poppy story and distribute poppies when you visit nursing homes. Singing Junior songs, found in the official "Junior Handbook," are popular when you visit nursing homes and VA facilities. Elderly folks love to receive handwritten cards, thank-you cards, and hand-made crafts.

Get involved in learning opportunities such as the ALA Juniors eLearning Course.

Thank you for all you do to support our Junior members. We appreciate your dedication.

Patsy Greiner
Junior Activities
304-483-8296
patsygirl12@gmail.com



Leadership

Congratulations to each participant of the Lead with Purpose WV Leadership Series. Your commitment to growth, learning, and service reflects the very heart of leadership within the American Legion Auxiliary. Choosing to invest time in developing your leadership skills is not just a personal achievement, it strengthens our Units, Districts, and Department as a whole.

For those who were unable to attend live, sessions are recorded and are available for viewing. This provides a wonderful opportunity to complete the series prior to Midwinter and still receive your Leadership Certificate and special gift in recognition of your accomplishment. If you would like access to the recordings or have questions about completing the series, please reach out to me at leadership@wvvaux.org.

One of the most powerful takeaways from this series is a simple but profound truth: communication is leadership, and leadership is communication. How we listen, speak, write, and share our mission shapes trust, inspires action, and builds stronger teams. Every conversation is an opportunity to lead with clarity, respect, and purpose.

Thank you for showing up, leaning in, and leading boldly. Your willingness to grow ensures the future of our organization remains strong, connected, and purpose driven.

Rebecca S Farley
Leadership Chairmen
Leadership@wvvaux.org
304-674-9908

Music



Sing with melody in your heart. If you feel you can't carry a tune, then try anyway. No one cares as long as you sing. Practice in a mirror to give you confidence.

Remember we will be singing the National Anthem at Midwinter, and I want you all to sing loud and clear!

If you plan to do a video with Hawaiian music either by singing or dancing style, don't forget to send it to me @ 304-771-0984.

Paulette Anderson
Music



Constitution & Bylaws

Hello ALA Members,

The National Constitution and Bylaws committee on Dec 3rd 2025 had a zoom meeting I attended.

Five areas we talked about:

A. Eligibility for membership in the ALA is determined by?

1. President of the United States
 2. The Unit president for which the member intends to join
 3. The American Legion
- Answer (3)

B. Duties of a department or unit officer captured in the bylaws cannot be changed unless changes receive prior approval by said Officer. True or False

Answer (False)

C. As they pertain to the National Constitution, Bylaws, & Standing rules, Department's governing documents should not what?

1. Be written in Latin, that's a dead language
 2. Contain pictures, it takes away from the wording
 3. Be in direct conflict with them
 4. Be copied verbatim, how unoriginal
- Answer (3)

D. Department Headquarters Units do not have officers, therefore members of the Dept Headquarters cannot be disciplined.

True or False

Answer (False)

E. Who can officially CANCEL a unit charter?

1. The unit secretary
 2. The department
 3. The village town folk
 4. The National Executive Committee
- Answer (4)

If you need assistance for your unit, please don't hesitate to contact the C/B committee.

Michelle Powell
Constitution and Bylaws Chairman
304-639-5379

Public Relations

Let's start the calendar year of 2026 with as many posts on social media as we can to promote our Veterans and the American Legion Auxiliary! I would love to see each and every one of your posts, so invite me to join your Unit's page. I'm listed as Patti Randolph Withrow.

Every event you host, every service you participate in, and every veteran organization we support should be documented and shared. Please make sure everyone gives you permission to use their photos online!

Facebook Groups are not the only place to promote our Veterans. Call the local newspaper, TV stations or use Instagram and Snapchat. You can also share within local community chat pages to announce events at your post. Individual Community chat groups provide an arena for organic discussion about your local programs or services and present the opportunity to cultivate brand awareness.

Visit the Public Relations Facebook Group for templates, how-to sheets, ideas, and more. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAPublicRelations/>

Patti Withrow
Public Relations Chairman
304-415-4686

VA&R

While gift shops are over yet still fresh, can the chairman please send me the number of veterans and number of gifts for my report to National?

When reporting hours at the end of the year, Paulette has asked that you list members with names as listed on your membership roster and to provide their membership number. This makes it easier on both of us.

I know there has been lots of activities done for Veterans this time of the time, please jot them down now so you have for reporting later. Same with Comfort drive items delivered.

Merry Christmas
Lisa Cadwallader

Legislative

Every Voice Matters! Tell Congress What You Think!

Congratulations! Thanks to the efforts of everyone participating in the Grassroots Plan and the Every Voice Matters! Tell Congress What You Think initiative the Department of West Virginia continues to be recognized in the weekly Grassroots Newsletter. The first week of December had WV in 7th, ahead of many much larger departments. Keep up the amazing work. Continue to spread the word through your Unit, Post, and Squadron. If we all work together we can make the top 10 every week.

Veterans Visibility Day at the West Virginia State Capitol will be sometime in January, watch the Department Auxiliary Facebook page for more information.

The Major Richard Star Act continues to be one of five priority pieces of legislation highlighted in the Grassroots Action Center. "This long-overdue reform – backed by the American Legion and more than 60 other military and veteran organizations – would ensure that combat-injured retirees can receive both their Department of Defense retirement pay and the disability compensation earned through their sacrifices."

Please take a few minutes out of your day to show your support of all five of these pieces of legislation.

<https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>

Elaine Sampson
Legislative Chair
Legislative@wvaux.org





Chester WV Unit 121
PO BOX 121
Chester WV 26034

RE: Endorsement for Department President

November 13, 2025

A regular meeting of American Legion Auxiliary Chester Unit 121, Chester WV was held on November 6, 2025, at 7:00PM at the Post home. The Unit unanimously endorsed Stephanie Handley for the office of Department President for the administrative year of 2026/2027.

Stephanie joined our Unit in 1996 through the eligibility of her Grandfather Carl A. McCurdy who was a WWII veteran. She has been an active member of our Unit since joining and very proud to be part of a family that has three generations of veterans. Stephanie's Grandmother, Belva Morris, was a PDP and her Mother-in-law, Patricia Emmerling, is a past District President.

Stephanie has served as Secretary, Treasurer and President in our Unit and is currently serving our Unit as Membership Chair. She is currently Department 1st Vice President and has served as Department 2nd Vice President, Department Historian and Chaplain. She also has served as 1st District President and 1st District Vice President. She has served on various committees over the years. She has always been proactive with all our projects and very dedicated to serving our Veterans in our local community.

We are very proud to present Stephanie Handley as our candidate for Department President for the 2026/2027 administration.

Our Very Best Regards,

Holly Adams

President Chester Unit 121

Cindy Gadd

Treasurer, Chester Unit 121

American Legion Auxiliary
Jackson-Perks Unit 71
Charles Town, West Virginia 25414

A regular meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary, Jackson-Perks Unit 71 of Charles Town, West Virginia was held September 25, 2025 at 7 P.M. at the Post Home. The Unit unanimously endorsed Lisa Cadwallader for the office of National Executive Committee (NEC) for the administrative 2 year term of 2026 – 2028.

Lisa has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for 48 years, having joined as a Junior member in Wheaton Maryland Unit 268. Lisa's eligibility is through her grandfather who was a WWII Veteran. He was a member of the 595th aircraft warning battalion and served in New Guinea and Luzon. He received the good conduct medal, American Theater Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign ribbon, the Philippines Liberation Ribbon, Marksmanship badges and the WWII Victory Medal. Lisa's father was a Korean War Veteran and her husband, was a Vietnam Veteran.

Lisa served as Unit President during the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 years. She has also served on special committees raising funds so our Unit could support and donate too many Veterans and helping others in need. Lisa started our care package program and organized efforts to bring veterans from the local VA hospital in for dinner, when times allowed. Lisa took a large role in getting our Unit back on their feet. She encouraged involvement across all programs in our Unit. Lisa has been chairman on many of our programs; Americanism, Constitution and Bylaws, Past President's Parley, National Security, and VA&R, just to name a few. She encourages involvement across all programs in our Unit. At the Department Convention, July 2005 and at National Convention, August 2005, Lisa was honored with the Unit Member of the Year award. Lisa also volunteered once a month at the Martinsburg VA Medical Center before COVID.

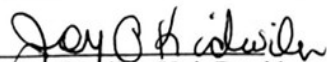
Lisa served as District Chairman for Americanism, Constitution & Bylaws, and National Security off and on over the years and served as 10th District Vice President during 2008-2009.

Lisa served as the Department Children and Youth Chairman during the 2007-2008 year and worked closely with other organizations that support veterans and their families on a Welcome Home the Troops event. She attended the first National Children and Youth Conference in Indianapolis during that year. She served as the Department Community Service Chairman during the 2008-2009 year. That year our Department won a Central Division award at National Convention. Lisa served as the Department Poppy Chairman and the Department Chaplain during the 2009 – 2010 year. Lisa served as National Security Chairman during the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 years, Legislative Chairman during 2013-2014, again from 2018 – 2022, Public Relations Chairman 2014-2015, Education Chairman and AEF Chairman 2015-2016, Education Committee from 2012- 2017, Constitution & Bylaw Chairmen from 2022 – 2024 and as the VA&R Chairman 2023-2024. Lisa has attended National Conventions as a delegate since 2007.

Lisa served as part of the National, National Security Committee in 2012-2013, as the Central Division AEF Chairman for the 2013-2014 year, Central Division Leadership Chairman during the 2014-2015 year, and Central Division Community Service Chairman for the 2016-2017 year. Lisa served as NEC 2018-2019 and 24-26.

Lisa was also very active raising funds with her Relay For Life team "The Patriotic Angels". She is also member of the VFW Auxiliary 3522. Lisa was employed as a Sr. System Analyst for one of the nation's top 10 survey research companies, Westat, based in Rockville, Maryland for 29 years.

We are very proud to present to you Lisa Cadwallader as our candidate for the 2026 - 2028 term for the office of NEC so she can continue her service to our organization.


Joy Kidwiler, Unit President


Michelle Bunda, Unit Second Vice President



At the regular meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary, Huntington Unit 16, held on November 4, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the Post Home, the membership unanimously endorsed **Laura Clark** as a candidate for the office of **National Executive Committee (NEC)** for the 2026–2028 term.

Laura Clark is eligible for membership through the military service of her grandfather, Glen R. Hogan, a U.S. Navy veteran of the Korean War. She is married to Brandon Clark and is the proud mother of three children—Trae Caudill, Katie Beth Caudill, and Alexander Caudill—all active members of the American Legion Family. Laura joined Huntington Unit 16 in 1982 and has demonstrated unwavering dedication to the Auxiliary and its mission for over four decades.

Within Unit 16, Laura has served in numerous roles, including Chaplain, First Vice President, and currently Unit President. She has actively participated in programs such as Poppy Day, Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Wreaths Across America, National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, Veterans Stand Down, and monthly bingo at the West Virginia Veterans Home. She has also served as Junior Activities Chairman, fostering engagement among younger members.

Laura's leadership extends beyond the unit level. She has served as District Vice President and District President, and at the Department level, she has held positions including Junior Activities Chairman, National Security Chairman, Department Chaplain, First and Second Vice President, and Department President. She currently serves as Department Membership Chairman under Department President Kim Mellie.

Additionally, Laura was recently appointed Central Division Americanism Chairman for the 2025–2026 administrative year by National President Pam Ray.

Her commitment to service reaches into her community as well. Laura is an active member of Madison Avenue Christian Church, where she has served in various leadership roles. She has raised funds for childhood cancer research through Headbands of Hope, volunteered with the Huntington City Mission, supported the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign, and coordinated fundraisers for the WV Breast Health Initiative and local animal shelters. During her tenure as Department President, Laura spearheaded efforts to purchase five Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to provide life-saving equipment for our nation's heroes.

American Legion Auxiliary Huntington Unit 16 proudly endorses **Laura Clark** for the office of National Executive Committee for the 2026–2028 term. Her proven leadership, dedication, and service exemplify the values and mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Huntington Unit 16 1st Vice President
Ann Buchanan

Huntington Unit 16 Secretary
Yvonne Sargent



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY WV RODODENDRON GIRLS STATE

Rhododendron Girls State

Wow, where has the year gone!
The 2026 Girls State program will be held June 7 -13, 2026 at Davis & Elkins College in Elkins WV. Wow, it's almost 2026 and you know what that means? The Girls State Session will be approaching soon.

Once again the registration fee will be \$300 per citizen. What an amazing opportunity you provide these citizens to witness from the time they arrive until they leave. They find themselves more engaged in leadership, patriotism and being an informed citizen and many new friends around the state.

We look forward to providing another great and successful session.

It is not too early to contact your school principals and counselors. Introduce yourself and let them know what our extraordinary program is all about. Start securing the funding now and you may have share sponsorships per citizen.

If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me or your district representative.

Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and the best for 2026!

Lynda Lancaster-Loyd
Girls State Chairman



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 the November winners!

If you haven't sent in your 2026 tickets yet, time is running out. Remember January 1st will be the first drawing for 2026. It will be worth \$100.00. So get your tickets in.

If you plan to send the tickets and money in the mail, scan you tickets and email to me so I can have them for the system. I will wait to pay the winner when I receive money and original tickets.

Christy and I wish the best to you and yours this joyous season.

Merry Christmas
and Happy New
Year!
Paulette Anderson
Christy Bland



2025 November Ways and Means Winners

Name	#'s	City	State	Date	\$\$\$
Lenny Cooley	714	Welch	WV	11/1/25	25.00
Lynette Buckley	459	Romney	WV	11/3/25	25.00
Crystal Hartwig	710	New Martinsville	WV	11/4/25	25.00
Teri Blanchard	573	Kearneysville	WV	11/5/25	25.00
Fran Rayl	543	Reedsville	WV	11/6/25	25.00
Jill Davis	181	Capon Bridge	WV	11/7/25	25.00
Chandler Koger	771	Rodgerfield	WV	11/8/25	25.00
Miles Epling Scholarship	422	Athens	GA	11/10/25	25.00
Kim Mellie	601	Morgantown	WV	11/11/25	25.00
Heather Hock	553	Augusta	WV	11/12/25	25.00
Elisa Letterman	905	Romney	WV	11/13/25	25.00
Bruce Whipkey	728	Cameron	WV	11/14/25	25.00
JJ Charlton	734	Capon Bridge	WV	11/15/25	25.00
Stacie Starnes	691	Capon Bridge	WV	11/17/25	25.00
Alfred Robey Jr	209	Buckhannon	WV	11/18/25	25.00
Fred Buchanan	004	Huntington	WV	11/19/25	200.00
Kay Turner	848	Augusta	WV	11/20/25	25.00
	769			11/21/25	
Sandy Hott	818	Augusta	WV	11/22/25	25.00
Benda Grey	281	Harpers Ferry	WV	11/24/25	25.00
Lisa Kettler	670	Wheeling	WV	11/25/25	25.00
Carla Lada-Hull	020	Follansbee	WV	11/26/25	25.00
Linda Sanders	625	Morgantown	WV	11/27/25	25.00
	678			11/28/25	
Jay Frost	855	Cumberland	WV	11/29/25	25.00



OUR MISSION MATTERS to NAVIGATE LIFE's WATERS



TAL Birthday Target Date 3/15/2026% 85%
Department Goal 4672— Membership to Date— 3065 65.60 %
Department Unit 200 Goal 149— Membership to Date— 86
Updated 12/15/2025



Peggy



Stephanie

District 1			
Unit	2026 Goal	2026	% of Goal
Wheeling #1	28	24	85.71%
Moundsville #3	260	164	63.08%
McMechen #5	12	9	75.00%
Weirton #10	71	52	73.24%
Cameron #18	118	82	69.49%
New Martinsville #28	107	94	87.85%
Wellsburg #34	21	9	42.86%
Follansbee #45	59	23	38.98%
Pine Grove #81	60	34	57.67%
Paden City #86	67	86	128.36%
Wheeling #89	10	1	10.00%
Newell #114	19	2	10.53%
Chester #121	122	90	73.77%
TOTALS	954	682	71.49%



Starfish
Goal— 2460
To Date—1637
66.55 %

Membership
Chairman
Maui



Sand Dollars

Goal 2063
To Date 1342
65.05 %



District 4			
Unit	2026 Goal	2026	% of Goal
Parkersburg #15	380	240	63.16%
Spencer #21	22	8	36.36%
Pt. Pleasant #23	236	153	64.83%
Tyler County #48	37	1	02.70%
Sistersville #67	42	14	33.33%
New Haven #140	110	73	66.36%
Williamstown #159	78	55	70.51%
TOTALS	905	544	60.11%

District 3			
Unit	2026 Goal	2026	% of Goal
Buckhannon #7	45	45	100.00%
Clarksburg #13	41	28	68.29%
Elkins #29	98	72	73.47%
Shinnston #31	253	196	77.47%
Braxton County #33	30	14	46.67%
Bridgeport #68	93	79	84.95%
Belington #96	11	0	
Pickens #122	18	14	77.78%
Morgantown #174	132	146	110.61%
TOTALS	721	594	82.38%

District 5			
Unit	2026 Goal	2026	% of Goal
Huntington #16	127	90	70.87%
Logan #19	12	9	75.00%
Charleston #20	15	8	53.33%
St. Albans #73	31	23	74.19%
Ceredo-Kenova #93	199	118	59.30%
So. Charleston #94	10	1	10.00%
Hamlin #111	40	20	50.00%
Milton #139	67	32	47.76%
Barboursville #177	152	93	61.18%
TOTALS	653	294	60.34%

District 6			
Unit	2026 Goal	2026	% of Goal
Martinsburg #14	67	33	49.25%
Piedmont #52	20	0	
Berkeley Springs #60	199	149	74.87%
Charles Town #63	34	28	82.35%
Moorefield #64	86	64	74.42%
Charles Town #71	127	83	65.35%
Petersburg #78	63	42	66.67%
Romney #91	137	84	61.31%
Paw Paw #128	33	18	54.55%
Kirby #134	28	23	82.14%
Ridgeley #136	66	41	62.12%
Capon Bridge #137	198	161	81.31%
Keyser #152	28	23	82.14%
Totals	1086	749	68.97%

January 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

R.E.D Fridays Until They Come Home	<div>Program of Month</div> <div>National Security Legislative</div>			1 <i>Office Closed</i>	2	3
						
4	5	6	7	8	9 <i>Cheer Party Checks Mailed</i>	10
11	12	13	14	15 <i>Target Sheet Out</i>	16	17 <i>Articles Due</i>
18	19 <i>Martin Luther King Birthday</i>	20	21 <i>Spirit Out</i>	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

44th Annual Mid-Winter Conference
American Legion Auxiliary Conference Program
February 13-14th Oglebay, Wheeling WV

Friday, February 13th, 2026

Noon	Comfort Items Open_____	Seneca Room
12-4:30	Silent Auction Open_____	Ballroom West 3
1:00-7	Registration_____	Banquet View
1:00-2:00	Membership_____	Fort Henry Room
1:30-2:00	PPC meeting_____	Seneca Room
2:00-4:00	Risk and Compliance/Standing Rules/C&B_____	Fort Henry Room
4:00-5:30	Girls State Executive Board Meeting_____	Fort Henry Room-
7:00-9:00	Opening Joint Session_____	Ballroom West 1 and 2

Saturday, February 14th, 2026

8:00-Noon	Registration_____	Banquet View
8:00-Noon	Comfort Items_____	Seneca Room
8:00-2:00	Silent Auction_____	Ballroom West 3
9:00am	Opening Session_____	Fort Henry Room
	Call to Order_____	Kim Mellie, President
	Prayer_____	Rebecca Farley, Chaplain
	Moment of Silence_____	Kim Mellie, President
	Pledge of Allegiance_____	Sandra Harper, Americanism Chair
	National Anthem_____	Paulette Anderson, PDP, Music Chair
	Preamble of Constitution_____	Junior Auxiliary Members
	Mission Statement_____	Junior Auxiliary Members
9:15	Welcome_____	Kim Mellie, President
9:20	Military Childs Table Ceremony_____	Patsy Greiner/Juniors
9:30	Four Chaplains Program_____	Rebecca Farley, Chaplain
10:00	Juniors Excused	Spruce Room
10:00-11:00	Membership "Navigating Life's Waters one wave at a time"	
11-1	Lunch (reconvene at 1)	
1:00-2:30	Leadership Program_____	Rebecca Farley
2:30	Ways and Means 2025 Report_____	Paulette Anderson, PDP Chairman
2:45	Q&A, Reporting	
3:00	Poppy Poster and Poppy Hat Contest_____	Shirley Davis, PCDNVP, PDP, Chair
3:15	Comfort Item Report_____	Lisa Cadwallader, NEC, PDP
3:30	Silent Auction Report/ and 50/50 Drawing	
4:00pm	Church Services	
6:00pm	Commander's and President's Reception_____	Ballroom West 1,2,3
9:00	Dance & Karaoke_____	Ballroom West 1,2,3



LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE!



Participate in the ALA Academy classes online at
<https://www.legion-aux.org/ala-academy>

for an opportunity to win a stunning prize basket that honors your dedication to leadership and service. The individual who completes the most verified classes will be declared the winner, with the announcement occurring at the Mid-Winter Leadership Conference on **February 13, 2026**.

Please submit your completion report by email to Leadership Chairperson, Rebecca Farley, at **leadership@wvaux.org** for classes completed by **February 10, 2026**.

**Invest in yourself.
Strengthen your Auxiliary.
Shine as a leader.**



POPPY POSTER CONTEST COVER SHEET

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors a Poppy Poster Contest for students in grades 2-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into seven classes. One award in each of the seven classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund. National winners will be posted at www.ALAforVeterans.org after national convention.

Poster Classes:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>
I	2 and 3
I	4 and 5
II	6 and 7
IV	8 and 9
V	10 and 11
VI	12
VI	Students with special needs

Class competing in: _____
Sponsoring ALA unit: _____
Due date for student to return to ALA unit: _____

To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:

Student Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip) _____

City/State of School: _____

Parent or Teacher Name and Signature: _____

Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.):

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: _____

Signature of Unit Poppy Chairman/President: _____

Unit winner due to Department on: _____

Signature of Department Chairman: _____

Department winner due to National Poppy Division Chairman by June 1

Midwinter Silent Auction

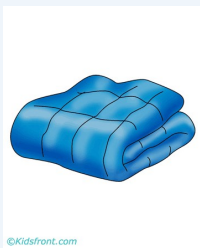
OPENS FRIDAY FEB 13TH AT 12:00-4:00

SATURDAY 14TH AT 8:00-2:00



Bring your favorite items
to auction off.

All proceeds will benefit
our veterans.



©Kidsfront.com



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: _____