



**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**

The Auxiliary Spirit



The American Legion Family



Volume 40

March 2026

Issue 8



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!

Wishing You All a Marvelous March!

I want to sincerely thank everyone for an amazing Mid-Winter Conference. Our Membership Workshop was superb! Credit goes to Membership Chair Laura Clark, PDP; 1st Vice Stephanie Handley; 2nd Vice Peggy Swartz; Chaplain Rebecca Farley; Historian Holly Adams; and all the District Vice Presidents — Michelle Powell, Sandra Harper, Rebecca Farley, Patricia Withrow, Mary Spence, and Chantel Ricketts.

Our Leadership Workshop was interactive and phenomenal — complete with certificates, pens, pins, and even a rose at the end. Thank you, Rebecca Farley! Kudos Chantel Ricketts of Unit 14 for participating in over 50 National Webinars to learn more about our great organization!

Many thanks as well to Roxie Nicholson, Irene Weber, and Shirley Davis for your hard work. The Poppy hats were beautiful, and the silent auction netted over \$1,700 — a fantastic job!

We were honored to have our wonderful guest, Central Division National Vice President Ann Buchanan.

And an overwhelming THANK YOU to Paulette Anderson — none of this would have been possible without her dedication and leadership! Finally, thank you to my wonderful family for their constant support, and to my husband who surprised me with flowers during the meeting. All in all, I hope everyone truly enjoyed Mid-Winter!

As we move forward, please be mindful of your communication style. Let's remember to put personal feelings aside for **OUR VETERANS**.

Now we gear up for Birthday Dinners and Spring Conferences. Please be thoughtful about who you elect — this is not a popularity contest. We need leaders who have the HEART to serve Veterans and the ability to face adversity with a positive, forward-thinking attitude.

We need just 3% more to reach 85% by March. I would absolutely love for us to reach 100% by July 4th!

Reports are due to the respective Chair with a cc to me by April 15th.

Prayers for all who need them.

Truly love you all!

"The World is changed by your example, not by your opinion" Simon Sinek

For God and Country,
Kim Mellie



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

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 -Patti Withrow
6th District-Mary Spence
10th District-Chantel Ricketts



Our Mission matters to Navigate Life's Waters

Department 1st Vice President

Hello Awesome Starfish,

It was great to see all of you that attended Mid-Winter Conference. Thank you President Kim Mellie for a wonderful conference. I hope all in attendance left with some wonderful and interesting information to take back to their units.

Congratulations to all the units who have reached or exceeded 100% in membership: Buckhannon #7, Shinnston #31, Bridgeport #68, Morgantown #174, Charleston #20, and Keyser #152. Great work and there are many units not far from reaching 100%.

Keep up the great work so we stay ahead of the Sand Dollars in membership!!

Stephanie Handley
1st Vice President
Department of WV



Department 2nd Vice President

Hello to all my Sand Dollars

It was great to see everyone that attended Mid-Winter. I hope everyone had a great time and learned a lot.

Our Sand Dollars had a lot of 100 % and 95%. District 1 had the most % handed out and I cannot forget Welch and Gary units, just keep up the hard and all of us could be 100%.

Please reach out to your membership and get them to pay so President Kim can be 100%.

Everyone please stay well and God Bless each and everyone of you.

God Bless America.

Peggy Swartz

Department 2nd Vice President



HISTORIAN

Hello Ladies,

As we move quickly into March we celebrate woman's history month. To every woman or gentleman that has volunteered at events, visited a hospitalized veteran, visited a veterans home, donated to a veterans organization a fundraiser, mentored and educated a junior member or student. Thank you!! Your dedication reflects the very heart of our mission. As we celebrate women's history month together we honor the past, serve the present and inspire the future.

Please share all you do in your units with me so we can preserve our History Remember reports due April 15, 2026.

God Bless

Holly Adams

Department Historian



Chaplain

During our Mid-Winter Conference, we gathered together in the Chapel of the Four Chaplains service, and for a moment, the world seemed to slow. In that quiet and sacred space, we remembered four faithful servants from different traditions who chose love over fear and service over self. Their final acts aboard the USAT Dorchester were not only heroic, they were deeply human, reminding us what it truly means to care for one

As we sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth," the words settled gently into our hearts. Peace is not something far away or beyond our reach. It begins in the small moments, in a kind word, a patient response, a helping hand extended when someone needs it most. It begins with each of us.

The Four Chaplains stood arm in arm, united in faith and compassion, showing us that even in life's darkest moments, love can shine brightest. Their example invites us to live with grace, to choose understanding, and to carry kindness wherever we go.

As members of the American Legion Auxiliary, may we continue to be reflections of that peace, nurturing it within our homes, our Units, and our communities, allowing it to grow, beginning with me, and beginning with you. e go. another.

Rebecca Farley

Department Chaplain

Chaplain@wvvaux.org

304-674-9908



Membership Chairman

Our membership drive continues to build great momentum across the Department, and it's exciting to see the progress being made! We're proud to recognize the top-performing unit in each district, and we encourage every unit to keep their eyes on our next milestone—**March 15th**. Working together, we can absolutely reach (and surpass!) **85%**!

Top Unit in Each District:

A big congratulations to these outstanding units leading the way:

- **District 1:** Paden City Unit #86 – **140.30%**
- **District 3:** Morgantown Unit #174 – **122.73%**
- **District 4:** Point Pleasant Unit #23 – **77.97%**
- **District 5:** Charleston Unit #20 – **100%**
- **District 6:** Bluefield Unit #9 – **94.44%**
- **District 10:** Keyser Unit #152 – **100%**

The March 15th Challenge:

We're so close to our **85% goal**, and every single renewal makes a difference. Units are encouraged to do a quick renewal push—make a few personal phone calls, send reminders, or follow up with members who've said they plan to renew. Those small efforts add up fast!

Let's finish strong and celebrate reaching this milestone together by **March 15th!**

Thank you to every unit and every member for your dedication and hard work. What we do matters, and growing our membership strengthens our ability to support veterans, their families, and our communities.

Laura Clark, aka Maui

Call/Text: 304-939-3607

Email: membership@aux.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. Updated Mandatory Funds Form has been updated and will be given out at Conferences.

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

YEAR END REPORTS ARE ON THE WEBSITE: www.wvaux.org

Spring Conferences

First District: April 25, 2026
Chester Unit #121 Post Home

Third District: March 15, 2026
Shinnston Post #31 (Joint)
Legion Birthday Dinner March 8th
Shinnston Post #31 TBA

Fourth District: March 7, 2026
Williamstown Post #159 (Joint)

Fifth District: March 14, 2026
Huntington Post #16 (Joint)

Sixth District: April 25, 2026
Welch Unit #8 Post Home

10th District: March 21, 2026
Berkeley Springs Post #60 (Joint)

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.

Remember Form Stacks are on the National Website for Units to fill out their Narrative Reports to National if applying for a National Award.

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

Winner of the Silent Auction Raffle Basket was Jim Davis, PNVC, PDC, Benwood Post #46. A Collection of \$325.00 was made.

Silent Auction: many beautiful items were donated to the Silent Auction to help our veterans. A total of \$1,310.00 was made. Thank you everyone!!

Past Department President's Drawing: Irene Weber won the Drawing held at Midwinter. A total of \$480.00 WAS made with half going to the Welfare Fund.

Thank you all for contributing to help our Department Welfare Fund! The veterans appreciate it.

Special Olympics: a collection was taken up for the Polar Plunge held at Oglebay Resort the same weekend as Midwinter. The amount collected was: \$29.00 to be sent to Wendy Miller, of Barboursville Unit #177. She is also over Special Olympics.

**Renewal Drawing:
Dues paid by 12/31/25
Linda Moore
Pine Grove Unit #81**

Department Headquarters

**Office Hours
Monday-Friday
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**

Remember Our Legion Family

Roxie Nicholson, PDP, Shinnston Unit #31 fell at Midwinter Conference. She will be laid up for about 6-8 weeks. Cards can be sent to her at:

Roxie Nicholson, PDP
PO Box 14
Shinnston WV 25431

Debbie Michael, PDP, Berkeley Springs Unit #60 has been in the hospital with medical issues. Cards can be sent to her home at:

Debbie Michael, PDP
234 Breedens Addition Lane
Berkeley Springs WV 25411

Her son will take them to the hospital to her.

Melanie Shanbaugh, AEF Chairman, fell and hurt her leg. She is laid up for several weeks. Cards can be sent to her at:

Melanie Shambaugh, AEF Chairman
635 Orleans Rd.
Great Cacapon WV 25422

Rocky Fox, Past Detachment Commander has been ill for awhile.

Cards can be sent to him at:

Rocky Fox, Past Detach. Commander
874 Longview Dr.

Beth Kilgore, Children & Youth Chairman has been having some medical issues and wasn't able to attend Midwinter.

Cards may be sent to her:

Beth Kilgre, C & Y Chairman
3609 Hughes St. Apt. 9
Huntington WV 25704

1st District Vice President

Hello Sand Dollars,

It was nice to see everyone at the mid-winter conference. Thank you, President Kim Mellie and Chaplain Rebecca Farley, for the inspirational leadership workshop.

Congratulations to all the units receiving 85%, 95% , and 100% in membership. So many of the units are very close to your goal. Let's call or check on our members to see if they are alright or need our help .

Let's get out in your community and promote the American Legion Auxiliary. Many may want to join and don't know how to do this. Always have an application with you.

Let's help President Kim reach 85% goal by March 15, 2026.

We can do it!

Michelle Powell

1st District

Vice President

3rd District Vice President

It was great to see everyone at the Mid- Winter Conference, There was a lot of good information shared and learning. THANK YOU TO ALL! There was a lot of hard work put into getting it ready.

DISTRICT 3 YOU GUYS ARE ROCKING THE MEMBERSHIP! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK !!

District 3 won as the top district, and we were awarded a nice caddy with candy. This will be shared at our Spring Conference meeting on March 15th at Shinnston Post 31.

I say this quote and it has stuck with me and really says a lot, because basically at the end of day and all the hard work we put in, we want our Veterans and Military and Children and youth to come out on top.

"THE GREATEST GIFT OF LEADERSHIP IS BUILDING A TEAM THAT WANTS EACH OTHER TO WIN"

By winning on all accounts we continue to WIN for the SERVICE WE PROVIDE.

Sandra Harper

District 3 Vice President

sandy.harper265@gmail.com

304-694-2067

6th District Vice President

Hello to our District 6 members. Hoping everyone had a wonderful Valentine's Day. I hope that the groundhog's prediction is false too and that Spring is just a few weeks away. May the spring flowers bud soon.

I understand those that were able to attend enjoyed the Mid-Winter Conference, sorry I missed it. I'm sure it was a great success.

Our Units should be exploring candidates for Girls State and also work on recruiting for new members.

A lot of our clubs are hoping to get back into the swing of things. The weather wasn't exactly good for trying to meet this last month.

March 15th, 2026 our membership target is 85% of all dues collected. Congratulations to Bluefield Unit #9 with 94.44% and Welch Unit 8 with 87.50%.

Dates to remember:

Girls State June 7-13th

David Elkins College

Hope all of you have an enjoyable St.

Patrick's Day. Look for the pot of gold.

Pray for Our Country

Mary Spence

6th District

Vice President

10th District Vice President

What an exciting time for all at Mid-Winter. The energy, fellowship, and dedication on display reminded us just how strong our American Legion family is when we come together.

Thank you to all who made Mid-Winter such a success. The trainings were educational, interactive, and memorable, and the time and effort put into planning and participation did not go unnoticed.

As we head into March, our next membership goal is March 15th—85%, as we celebrate the birthday of The American Legion. Many have already met or are close to meeting their goals—let's keep the momentum going and push for 100% in our district.

Remember to utilize the Benefits Hub when recruiting. It's a valuable tool to highlight the benefits available to our veterans and their families.

District 10 Vice President

Chantel Ricketts

4th District Vice President

Congratulations to the Units across the Department who have met and even exceeded the 100% membership goal. Your dedication, persistence, and belief in our mission truly make a difference. Each renewed member represents continued service to veterans, families, and our communities, and that is something worth celebrating.

For the rest of us, the journey continues. Membership is more than numbers on a report. It is about connection. As we make our calls and reach out, let us do so with caring and compassionate hearts. Dues certainly help elevate our program funding and allow us to carry out meaningful work, but the true strength of the American Legion Auxiliary is found in the voices and stories of our members.

Take time to listen. Sometimes a member may be carrying a burden we cannot see. A simple conversation can remind someone that they still belong and that they matter. Consider encouraging members to sponsor a Junior member or renew a shut-in who may no longer be able to attend meetings but still holds the Auxiliary close to their heart.

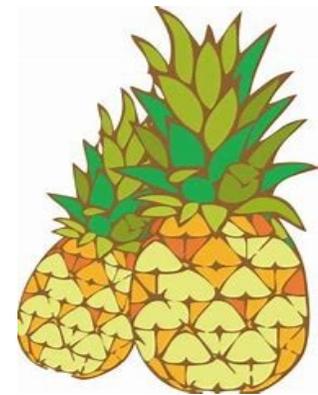
Together, through kindness, understanding, and personal outreach, we continue to grow not only our membership, but the spirit of service that defines us.

Rebecca S Farley

District 4 Vice President

dccoachrebecca@gmail.com

304-674-9908



1st District President

This Mid-Winter was a great learning experience. AGAIN! Our Leadership Rocks!

First District, another great Hospitality Suite!

This conference, the annual convention, leadership gatherings and Spring conferences are fantastic learning tools along side of all the digital online information.

The membership body keeps the information at a steady flow and you can never be without an answer.

If you have the initiative to get started, it is all right there in front of you waiting to be put into action.

It is time for Spring Conferences to begin. Support your Districts and attend whenever possible. Meet great people and make long lasting friendships with great information to be shared.

I heard a couple of comments of members not knowing where to find the most recent updates from around our state. Make sure everyone has access to the monthly SPIRIT and share at your meetings. Make sure they are aware a copy may be available at your Post.

Remind all your committee chairs that end of year is drawing near and it may be easier to start compiling your data now, if not already a work in progress.

Keep your memberships rolling in. Great work EVERYONE!
District 1 President
Mary Richards

4th District President

Hello All,

District Four membership is lagging. At 74.14% we have not yet reached the March 15th Membership Target of 85%. We can do it! Recruit, retain and re-instate members. Go through your rosters. Are there members who need a little help paying dues? If your unit can help, please pay the dues for members in need.

Again, thank you to all the units that are doing such a great job posting stories and pictures about the work they are doing for our Veterans and their families.

District four will be holding a Spring Conference, March 7th at Williamstown Post #159. Registration will be at 9 a.m. Meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m. Registration fee is \$15.00. Lunch will be served at the close of business meetings. District Chaplain Melinda Paxton will lead a memorial ceremony. Please bring a current list of deceased unit members.

Year-end reports due to department chairmen by April 15th. No exceptions. Please submit program reports and include a narrative for consideration of national judging.

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans and their families.

For God and Country!

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

5th District President

Spring is just around the corner! It was wonderful seeing everyone at Midwinter—I had a fantastic time and learned a lot.

Our Spring District meeting will take place on March 14 at Huntington Post 16. Registration begins at 9 am, followed by the meeting at 10 am. We'll have door prizes, a Memorial Service, and district officer elections. Lunch will be provided after the meeting. I encourage everyone to attend—it's important that each unit has a representative so everyone stays informed.

Report forms are due April 15. Please complete them, and don't hesitate to contact me or the chairmen with any questions—we're here to help. These reports highlight both your unit's activities and what our department is accomplishing. Let's showcase West Virginia's achievements at the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky this year!

Please submit memberships promptly. Congratulations to Charleston Unit #20 for reaching 100%—excellent job! I'm confident District 5 will achieve 100% before the Department Convention. Keep up the great work!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the District meeting.

If there is anything I can assist with, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Wishing you all a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

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

3rd District President

Hello Ladies

It was nice seeing everyone at Mid-Winter and I hope everyone got home safe and sound.

I want to Congratulate Shinnston Unit 31 on reaching GOAL. Ladies we only need 8 more renewals to be a GOAL District, so come on. I have two renewals to send in, so if three more units match me, we will make it.

Third District Spring Conference will be Sunday, March 15th at Shinnston Post 31. Registration to begin at 9:00 am. Be thinking about who you may want to be District President. I will be getting the registration and credential forms out in the next few days.

Don't forget that Department dues go up \$2.00 in 2027.

If any Unit needs help with anything please let me or Sandy Harper know.

Have a good day.

For God and Country

Margaret Yost

Third District President
304-629-0688
mdyost2010@gmail.com

10th District President

Thank you Department for such a wonderful Mid-Winter Conference.

Congratulations to all Units in every district that has met 100% and above, as well as already making the 85%. Keep those memberships coming in.

Our Spring Conference is March 21 in Berkeley Springs, be sure to get your credentials in to me by March 14th as well as the hosting unit. This is important to having a voting right. We welcome all from all units.

Always be kind and understanding to others members or non-members. After all, we are family! You are a leader and leaders are supposed to be nice, kind, and loving.

Jill Davis
10th District President

NEC

At the end of February we gear up for our mid-year meeting. I've already registered and received my 300 page packet.

Their Finance, Risk and Compliance, Auditors and other Committee's have been busy reviewing and preparing for this upcoming meeting. Several of the topics we will discuss and vote on will later hit the floor during national convention.

There is a large amounts of time these volunteers put in to try to protect our organization. I'm sure you have heard me say "yes, we are a volunteer organization that does for our veterans. However, we are also a business and need to follow not only National and Department as well as IRS, state and federal laws about non-profits". The work these Committee's do play large roles in the business side.

Remember protecting your Unit, is the same.

Lisa Cadwallader
NEC 2024-2026
Lisac.ala71@gmail.com

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Fellow Auxiliary Members,

Here are some Post-Storm Safety Reminders:

****Road Conditions** - Even after plows pass, roads can refreeze. Remember that bridges and overpasses freeze first. Watch for Black Ice - The storm may have passed, but roads can still be slick. Give yourself extra time and space.

****Vehicle Check** - Clear all snow/ice from your car. Check tire pressure and make sure your wipers and defroster are working properly.

****Emergency Kit** - If you got stuck during the storm, now's the time to refresh your supplies

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
aeaf@wvaux.org

Americanism



JUST A REMINDER,
PLEASE SEND YOUR AMERICANISM ESSAYS BY MARCH 30,2026. THIS WILL GIVE ME TIME TO GET THEM INTO CENTRAL DIVISION'S DUE DATE,OF APRIL 15,2026.

ESSAY TOPIC:
"CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY AND THE VETERANS WHO FOUGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM"

If anyone needs a copy of the cover sheet please let me know and I will get it sent to you.

Renewing Our Patriotism in this New Year, that binds us together as Proud AMERICANS.

Our programs are designed to intertwine and work together, advancing the mission set forth by the American Legion Auxiliary.

Thank you
Sandra Harper
Americanism Chair
americanism@wvaux.org

Child Well-Being Fund

The pig is getting hungrier by the minute. We don't want him to start wasting away. Did anyone bring their change or dollars to midwinter and turn it in? If so, let me know. I was unable to attend all the sessions this weekend, and Paulette was able to collect the donations for me.

Beth Kilgore
Chairman

I AM STARTING TO FEEL FULL WITH WHAT DONATIONS WERE BROUGHT TO ME AT MIDWINTER CONFERENCE.
\$370.00 !!!
SEE YOU AT CONVENTION!!!



Community Service

Looks like everyone had a great mid-winter.

Hope everyone is working in getting all your end of reports done and sent into your chairman.

Remember April 25 is The American Legion Community Day. I hope your units & post family will be doing something special.

Blessing,
Kelli Immel



Constitution & Bylaws

Hello Auxiliary Members,

The National Constitution and Bylaws had a 2nd Quarterly zoom meeting on January 28, 2026. We discussed "What is an Amendment"-under the Robert's Rules of Order a proposed amendment can be amended by a secondary amendment also known as an amendment to the amendment.

The amendment notification process varies by department. You must check the governing documents to the rules on this matter.

The Auxiliary recommends using the three-column amendment template. Column one shows the current wording of the section of the document you want to amend. Column two shows the current wording of the proposed amendment, with changes or additions which you can mark through words or add words in red. Column three shows how the amendment will read if the amendment is adopted. There is a space at the bottom to provide the amendment rationale reason.

There is also an Amendment webinar on the academy site. If you need a template, I can email you one.

Michelle Powell
Constitution & Bylaws Chairman

Children & Youth

I heard the midwinter conference was very good. Unfortunately I was unable to attend. I hope that you learned a lot from the sessions.

A reminder that April is Children & Youth month and that an activity should be planned geared to the children in your community at that time. April 15 is **Purple Up Day**, and everyone is asked to wear purple on that day. Just wearing purple is not enough, make sure that people know you are wearing purple in honor of all military children. They are the innocent ones in any military situation.

If you need help coming up with a project for children and youth month, give me a call at 304- 654-7750 and I will help you brainstorm to come up with an idea.

Beth Kilgore
Chairman

Education

Happy Spring. Warmer weather should be coming soon.

Updates from the National Education Newsletter are posted on the Department Facebook page.

All Units and Departments should submit year-end reports to show our impact on students. Highlight activities like teaching about veterans or awarding scholarships, and mention participation in events such as Give 10 to Education or Teacher Appreciation Week. Recognize outstanding members or Units.

Describe your scholarship promotions—include details about your scholarships, eligibility, amounts awarded, and how you shared information on National Scholarships with students. Celebrate those who received scholarships. Attach high-resolution (300 DPI or higher) photos with captions and member names. Select "actual size" when sending images; your photo could be featured at the National Convention.

The Science of Samsung ALA Academy – February 25, 2026, 7:00 PM Eastern
Join our webinar for a brief overview of the Samsung Scholarship and its application process. We'll cover main requirements and guidance for ALA members helping ALA Girls State/TAL Boys State participants complete their applications.

Scholarship Application Deadline – March 1, 2026, 11:59 PM Eastern

To share news about ALA National Scholarships, view the new one-page flyer on the National ALA website's Education page, located under Education Key Resources. The flyer is clear and informative.

Lisa Harbour-Adkins
education@wvaux.org
(304)633-0530



Junior Activities

What a weekend!

February 14, 2026, the Department of WV Juniors and SAL were invited to Mid-Winter Conference at the Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV. We had an action-packed conference. Juniors and SAL members joined the Senior Auxiliary members for their opening. We led the Preamble and Mission Statement. We presented the Military Child Table Setting. We observed the Four Chaplains presentation by Department Chaplain, Rebecca Farley.

Junior Vice President, Clara Michael, opened the Junior's business session. Ava Bryant gave the opening and closing prayers. Lilly Michael, Sergeant-At-Arms maintained order. A first aid program was presented and personal first aid kits were distributed. World globes were distributed and the children scrambled to locate specific continents and countries. SAL members excelled in this adventure!

Fifty cards were signed for our honor flight veterans. Special thanks to Lynda Lancaster-Loyd. A special Valentine craft project was completed. Thanks to helpers Lynda and April Tallman for their patience and assistance.

The children practiced properly folding the American flag as they discussed facts about the flag.

Thank you for doing all you do to support our Junior girls and SAL members. We appreciate you.

For God and Country
Patsy Greiner
Junior Activities Chair
juniors@wvaux.org





AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY WV RODODENDRON GIRLS STATE

Rhododendron Girls State

Before you know it – RHODODENDRON GIRLS STATE WILL BE HERE!

I hope by now, you have secured your funding or donations by now. This year's girls state session will be held June 7-13, 2026 at Davis & Elkins College in Elkins, WV.

Once again, the registration fee is \$300 per citizen. You provide an amazing once in a lifetime opportunity for your citizen (s) to become a more engaged citizen (s) as they learn and experience hands-on about leadership, patriotism, and more of our democracy, both local, county and state.

We look forward to providing another great and successful year but we need your help in providing the citizens.

It's not too early to contact your school principals and guidance counselors. Introduce yourself and let them know about our extraordinary program that is available.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or your district representative.

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. — Laura Clark
4023 Piedmont Rd.
Huntington WV 25704
304-939-3607

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 January winners! We had a \$100.00 winner on the first of January! We also had a \$200.00 winner.

If you haven't sent your stubs and money to Dept yet, please do so ASAP. Drawings started in January.

If you have won any money from the ticket sales, especially in 2025, please cash your check! There are some outstanding checks.

If you have any questions please email me or call Department Headquarters.

Paulette Anderson
Christy Bland



2026 January Ways and Means Winners

Name	#'s	City	State	Date	\$\$\$
Vicky Wade	040	Cameron	WV	1/1/26	100.00
Kim Young	524	Vienna	WV	1/2/26	25.00
Dawn Lewis	139	Romney	WV	1/3/26	25.00
Gary Cogle	825	Harpers Ferry	WV	1/5/26	25.00
ALA Moundsville Unit 3	463	Moundsville	WV	1/6/26	25.00
	494			1/7/26	
ALA First District	819	New Martinsville	WV	1/8/26	25.00
Lawrence Groves	544	Augusta	WV	1/9/26	25.00
Christopher Tumblin	637	Rippon	WV	1/10/26	25.00
Ellen Hopkins	520	Capon Bridge	WV	1/12/26	25.00
Shirley Baker	503	Moorefield	WV	1/13/28	25.00
JoAnn Camp	300	Spencer	WV	1/14/26	25.00
Kim Sage	657	Cuba	NY	1/15/26	25.00
Shauna Walker	257	Bellaire	OH	1/16/26	25.00
Jennifer Thompson	959	Cameron	WV	1/17/26	25.00
Jack Ledsome	502	Morgantown	WV	1/19/26	25.00
Cheryl Harwood	757	Moorefield	WV	1/20/26	25.00
Joy Kidwiler	769	Charles Town	WV	1/21/26	200.00
Jerry Giffin	121	Capon Bridge	WV	1/22/26	25.00
Roger Campbell	921	Wheeling	WV	1/23/26	25.00
Sharon Burton	813	Paden City	WV	1/24/26	25.00
Robyn Wolford	701	Romney	WV	1/26/26	25.00
Jennifer Dixon	729	Dellslow	WV	1/27/26	25.00
Donna Peer	759	Winchester	VA	1/28/26	25.00
Ken Gibson	953	Wind Ridge	PA	1/29/26	25.00
Yvonne Sentner	432	Pittsburgh	PA	1/30/26	25.00
David Reid	941	Capon Bridge	WV	1/31/26	25.00



OUR MISSION MATTERS to NAVIGATE LIFE's WATERS



TAL Birthday Target Date 3/15/2026 85%
Department Goal 4672— Membership to Date— 3856 82.53%
Department Unit 200 Goal 149— Membership to Date— 93
Updated 2/18/2026

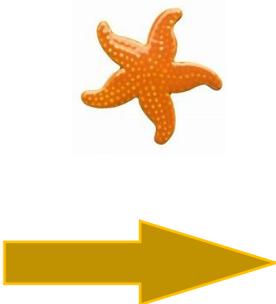


Peggy



Stephanie

Table with 4 columns: Unit, 2026 Goal, 2026, % of Goal. Rows include District 1 units like Wheeling #1, Moundsville #3, etc., and a TOTALS row.



Starfish Goal— 2460 To Date—2081 84.59%

Membership Chairman Maui



Sand Dollars

Goal 2063 To Date 1682 81.53%



Table with 4 columns: Unit, 2026 Goal, 2026, % of Goal. Rows include District 4 units like Parkersburg #15, Spencer #21, etc., and a TOTALS row.

Table with 4 columns: Unit, 2026 Goal, 2026, % of Goal. Rows include District 6 units like Welch #8, Bluefield #9, etc., and a TOTALS row.

Table with 4 columns: Unit, 2026 Goal, 2026, % of Goal. Rows include District 3 units like Buckhannon #7, Clarksburg #13, etc., and a TOTALS row.

Table with 4 columns: Unit, 2026 Goal, 2026, % of Goal. Rows include District 5 units like Huntington #16, Logan #19, etc., and a TOTALS row.

Table with 4 columns: Unit, 2026 Goal, 2026, % of Goal. Rows include District 10 units like Martinsburg #14, Piedmont #52, etc., and a TOTALS row.

March 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7 <i>4th District Conference Williamstown Post 159</i>
8 <i>Shinnston Post 31 Birthday Dinner</i>	9 <i>Cheer Party Checks Mailed</i>	10	11	12	13 <i>Office Closed at 12:00 for Conference Travel</i>	14 <i>5th District Conference Huntington Post 16</i>
15 <i>The American Legion Birthday 60% Target 3rd Dist. Conf. Shinnston Post 31</i>	16 <i>Target Sheet</i>	17 <i>Articles Due</i> 	18	19	20 <i>Spirit Out</i>	21 <i>10th District Conference Berkeley Springs Post 60</i>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	30	31	R.E.D Fridays Until They Come Home	Program of Month Community Service Auxiliary Emergency Fund		



Pictorial History Recommendations

Submitting a Department Pictorial History is an optional submission. It is not a requirement, but Historians are encouraged to participate.

If you wish to participate, please complete and return on or before June 15th to the National Historian via electronic submission - email at

historian@legion-aux.org

Photo books, Scrapbooks and Historical Picture Books will be accepted by an electronic version of the book or e-mailing separate attachments: between 20 - 25 pages (not the entire book)

The pages sent, must be electronic version, can be screenshot copies or photos of the entire page and must include from the list below 1.) — 3.) a. — k. is required (l. , m. & n. are optional)

- 1.) The cover of the Book (preferably has the ALA Logo on the front cover.) 2.)
- 2.) Title Page that includes:
 - a American Legion Auxiliary Department of
 - b ALA Administration year: _____ year — year
 - c Full Name of Historian, Address, contact info and can include home Unit/ County / Council/ Area/ District and Department.
- 3.) Body Content (due to the nature of the book, these pages can be combined to include all requirements and additional subject matter or embellishments.)
 - a Forward or Dedication
 - b A Prayer
 - c Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America
 - d First Verse of the National Anthem — "Star Spangled Banner"
 - e Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary
 - f Photo and Name of Department President.
 - g Photo of elected and/or appointed Department Officers for the current administrative year with names listed.
 - h Photo of Chairman or Committee appointments with names listed.
 - I List or photo of National Officers and appointed Committee Members from your Department for the current administrative year.
 - j List of Department or National awards received at the previous convention.
 - k Photos and or Pages in book of events and activities in chronological order.
 - l Brochures, Pamphlets, Clip art, Graphics, Drawings, Bulletins, Illustrations, Programs and extra materials can be added.
 - m Highlighting National ALA Initiatives or Programs



Mason County Unit #23

Point Pleasant, West Virginia

At a regular meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of West Virginia, Mason County Unit 23, held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 4:00PM at the American Legion Post 23, Epling Hall, Point Pleasant, West Virginia, the membership unanimously approved the endorsement of Rebecca S. Farley for the office of District 4 President for the 2026-2027 administrative year.

Rebecca S. Farley is eligible for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary through the military service of her grandfather, George D. Sturm, a World War II veteran. She joined Mason County Unit #23 in 2022 and has since demonstrated exceptional dedication, leadership, and commitment to the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Rebecca currently serves as Department Chaplain and has previously served as Department Historian. She has also served as Department Public Relations Chairman and is currently serving as Department Leadership Chairperson. In this role, she created and launched *Lead With Purpose*, a twelve-session leadership development series designed specifically for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of West Virginia. This program strengthens leadership skills, promotes collaboration, and equips members at all levels with practical tools to lead effectively.

At the local and district levels, Rebecca serves as Unit President of Mason County Unit #23 and Vice President of District 4. As Unit President, she has worked diligently to strengthen membership, increase participation, and foster a welcoming environment that encourages engagement and service. Her leadership has resulted in successful programs and meaningful service projects benefiting veterans, military families, and the community.

Rebecca remains committed to education and involvement. She regularly attends District meetings, Department and National conventions, annual mission trainings, completes ALA Academy courses, and has served as a National Page at the National Convention.

Beyond the Auxiliary, Rebecca is active in her community and faith. She serves on the Board of Directors for Main Street Point Pleasant, chairs Organization and Development, is active in her church, and sings in the church choir. She is pursuing the creation of a nonprofit organization to connect veterans with families and is developing a caregiver support project to assist those who care for our nation's veterans. She is the proud mother of three daughters and "Mumzie" to her four grandsons.

We are honored and proud to endorse Rebecca S. Farley for the office of District 4 Vice President. Her proven leadership, dedication to the mission, and ability to inspire others make her exceptionally well qualified to serve in this role.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed by:
Katie Simpkins
1583564F04C9497...

Katie Simpkins, Unit 23 Vice President

Signed by:
Andrea K. Snyder
ED47D84D56364D9...

Andrea Snyder, Unit 23 Secretary



Mason County Unit #23
Point Pleasant, West Virginia

At a regular meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of West Virginia, Mason County Unit 23, held on Sunday, December 21, 2025, at 4:00P.M. at the American Legion Post #23, Epling Hall, Point Pleasant, West Virginia, the membership unanimously approved the endorsement of Rebecca S. Farley for the office of Department 2nd Vice President for the 2026-2027 administrative year.

Rebecca S. Farley is eligible for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary through the military service of her grandfather, George D. Sturm, a World War II veteran. She joined Mason County Unit #23 in 2022 and has since demonstrated exceptional dedication, leadership, and commitment to the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Rebecca currently serves as Department Chaplain and has previously served as Department Historian. She has also served as Department Public Relations Chairman and is currently serving as Department Leadership Chairperson. In this role, she created and launched *Lead With Purpose*, a twelve-session leadership development series designed specifically for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of West Virginia. This program strengthens leadership skills, promotes collaboration, and equips members at all levels with practical tools to lead effectively.

At the local and district levels, Rebecca serves as Unit President of Mason County Unit #23 and Vice President of District 4. As Unit President, she has worked diligently to strengthen membership, increase participation, and foster a welcoming environment that encourages engagement and service. Her leadership has resulted in successful programs and meaningful service projects benefiting veterans, military families, and the community.

Rebecca remains committed to education and involvement. She regularly attends District meetings, Department and National conventions, annual mission trainings, completes ALA Academy courses, and has served as a National Page at the National Convention.

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We are honored and proud to endorse Rebecca S. Farley for the office of Department 2nd Vice President. Her proven leadership, dedication to the mission, and ability to inspire others make her exceptionally well qualified to serve in this role.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed by:
Katie Simpkins
1583564F04C9497...

Katie Simpkins, Unit 23 Vice-President

Signed by:
Andrea K. Snyder
ED47D84D56364D9...

Andrea Snyder, Unit 23 Secretary



Mason County Unit 23
Pt. Pleasant, West Virginia

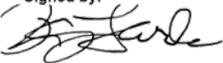
The Executive Committee of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of West Virginia, Mason County Unit #23, held a vote on Monday, February 16, 2026, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved the endorsement of Andrea K. Snyder for the position of American Legion Auxiliary Department Historian for the 2026-2027 administrative year.

Andrea Snyder has been a dedicated member of the American Legion Auxiliary since 2024 and has consistently demonstrated a commitment to our mission of "Service, Not Self". Andrea Snyder is eligible for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary through the military service of her grandfather, Eugene Mohler "Doc" Holliday, a World War II veteran, who served in the Navy and was awarded a Purple Heart for being wounded in action by gunshot. As our Unit Secretary, she has meticulously documented our meeting minutes and serves as our Unit Service Records Coordinator. She is experienced in management of records. She possesses the skills, organization, and dedication necessary to serve the Department effectively by ensuring that our history will be recorded accurately and in a compelling narrative form.

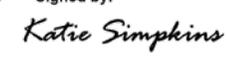
Andrea currently serves as American Legion Auxiliary Unit #23 Secretary and Unit Services Records Coordinator and as a member of the Department's Risk and Compliance Committee. Andrea regularly attends Unit and District meetings, participates in workshops and conventions, and she takes advantage of all available training opportunities, including the online ALA Academy courses and the Lead With Purpose WV Leadership Series.

Andrea Snyder possesses the passion, organizational skills, and attention to detail necessary to capture the story of our Department's history. We believe she will bring energy and accuracy to the role of Department Historian. Beyond the Auxiliary, Andrea is active in her community and faith. She serves as a Sunday School Teacher for Pre-K and Kindergarten children at New Hope Bible Baptist Church, and she serves as a member of their year-round clothing ministry team and their annual VBS ministry team. Andrea has worked for the Technology Division of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia since 2008, where she is currently the IT Service Delivery Manager. She is the proud mother of three daughters and "Nonna" to her first granddaughter, all of whom are members of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signed by:

3D1505A324124D2...

Rebecca Farley
President Unit 23

Signed by:

1583564F04C9497...

Katie Simpkins
Vice President Unit 23

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.wvaux.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: _____