



AMERICAN  
**LEGION**  
AUXILIARY

# The Auxiliary Spirit



The American Legion Family



Volume 40

April 2026

Issue 9



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!***

March travel season has begun! I am so excited to see everyone. The only District Conference I will not be able to attend is District 1 and 6 as I will be going on Honor Flight (Bus) that weekend. Hate to miss them but Veterans are why we are here!

**Congratulations** to the whole Department as we hit 85% before March 15! All of you volunteers are AMAZING! We have 13 Units who are 100% or more! District 1 is so close to 100%. I would love to see all Units at 100%! We can do this!

**Congratulations** to Charleston 20 who leads at 153%. Next, we have Paden City 86 -144%, Wheeling 1- 135%, Morgantown 174 - 128%, Logan 19-116%, Bridgeport 68 - 107%, Bluefield 9 - 105%, Capon Bridge 137-104.55, Buckhannon 7-104.44%, Shinnston 31-101%, New Martinsville 28-100%, Chester 121-100%, and Keyser 152 -100%

I can't wait to award 100% ribbons at Convention! Amazing job! Keep it up!

National President Pam Ray will be here May 11-13. We have planned to stop at some of the VA's. More information to follow. I will be contacting Units to arrange visits too!

Have a wonderful March and remember your program reports are due April 15th by email to the chair with a cc to [president@wvaux.org](mailto:president@wvaux.org) This is the time for your Unit to Shine! Looking forward to all the positive reports!

"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@wvaux.org](mailto:president@wvaux.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

#### WAY TO GO STARFISH!!!

I want to say what an awesome job everyone has done for membership!! All the hard work is paying off and it shows. Give yourselves a big pat on the back for achieving the numbers that you have.

Let's continue the momentum and keep increasing those numbers. These numbers prove the dedication to our organization that you all have.

Congratulations to District 3 for going over 100% as a district. Kudos to Morgantown 174 for reaching 128.03% and Capon Bridge 137 for reaching 104.55%. A big shout out to Charleston 20 at 153.33% and being tops in membership for the department. Congratulations to all the Units that are so close to reaching 100% goal. You can do it, I know you can.

Starfish, let's finish this year on top!!!

I would like to apologize to all you Starfish for not attending your spring conferences. I so much wanted to be there to congratulate you in person on all the amazing things you have done, but unfortunately I was not able to get the time away from work to attend due to the dates corresponding with events taking place at work. You all make me proud to be a Starfish!!!

God Bless,  
Stephanie Hanley



### Department 2nd Vice President

Hello Sand Dollars

Just received the Target Sheet and we are still running behind, but I think we can catch up. I see a few units are running behind in membership. The District Presidents might be able to help the units get caught up.

Congratulation to Wheeling #1, New Martinsville and Paden City for having a Goal unit and we have some that are running close.

Thank everyone for trying so hard . We can catch the Starfish.

God bless all.  
Peggy Swartz



### HISTORIAN

Happy Spring Ladies,

April is an important busy month for us as we all prepare our reports and preserve our History. Remember our mission is to help document and record those moments that matter!

Last month there was a pictorial history recommendation document attached to the spirit. This is a new possibility on the horizon it is encouraged and there is criteria but no judging rubric adopted yet.

Our department has a separate scrapbook category that is not the same.

Be sure to send your written reports they may include 3 to 5 pictures and a narrative.

Happy Spring,  
God Bless  
Holly Adams  
Department of WV  
Historian  
[Historian@wvaux.org](mailto:Historian@wvaux.org)



### Chaplain

As we step into spring here in West Virginia, we are greeted with a quiet but powerful reminder: seasons always change. After months of gray skies, cold winds, and blankets of snow, the earth begins to soften, awaken, and bloom again.

Winter may have felt long and heavy for many of us. Some of us found ourselves in seasons of rest, reflection, or even uncertainty. Like the ground beneath us, we may have been still or waiting or even gathering strength beneath the surface.

But just as nature does not rush its timing, neither should we.

Spring reminds us that growth often happens where no one can see it first. Roots deepen before flowers appear. What once looked barren begins to show signs of life, color, and purpose.

If you find yourself in a season of regrouping or learning, take heart. There is beauty being formed within you. There is purpose in the pause.

Opportunities to bloom are all around us, sometimes quietly, sometimes boldly, but always right on time.

I also invite each of you to share a prayer for our Department Prayer Book. It would be a blessing to have every unit represented, each voice adding to a collective spirit of hope and faith.

Because just like spring, you were made to bloom.

Rebecca Farley  
Chaplain

[Chaplain@wvaux.org](mailto:Chaplain@wvaux.org)

### Membership Chairman

#### Membership Milestone Celebration!

What an incredible showing across the department as we reached our March 15th target date! An incredible 30+ units stepped up in a big way, achieving **85% or greater of their membership goals**—a true reflection of dedication, teamwork, and belief in our mission. Because of you, we are sitting at an impressive **88.85% department-wide** and still climbing!

A **special shoutout to our top unit**, *Charleston Unit #20*, for absolutely leading the way with an outstanding **153.33% of their goal**—setting the bar high for all of us!

And let's hear it for **District 3**, our top-performing district, surpassing their goal at **102.08%**—a huge accomplishment and a testament to strong leadership and commitment across every unit.

To the membership team and members—thank you for your hard work, passion, and persistence. This milestone isn't just a number—it represents lives impacted and a mission moving forward.

Let's keep the momentum going!

Laura Clark (aka Maui)  
Membership Chairman  
Email: [membership@wvaux.org](mailto:membership@wvaux.org)  
Phone: 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. 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](mailto:department@alawvaux.org)  
If you wish to receive spirit by mail

**YEAR END REPORTS ARE ON THE WEBSITE: [www.wvaux.org](http://www.wvaux.org)**

## Spring Conferences

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

Sixth District: April 25, 2026  
Beckley Unit #32  
201 Eisenhower Drive

Hei Hei



Articrafts

**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.

**Unit Reports:** Due to Chairmen by April 15th. You can download from the Department website.

**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**

## *Endorsements for Department Officers For 2026-2027*

**President: Stephanie Handley  
Chester Unit #121**

**First Vice President: Peggy Swartz  
Welch Unit #8**

**Second Vice President: Rebecca Farley  
Pt Pleasant Unit #23**

**Secretary/Treasurer: Paulette Anderson  
New Martinsville Unit #28 (3 year term)**

**Chaplain: Holly Adams  
Chester Unit #121**

**Historian: Andrea Snyder  
Pt Pleasant Unit #23**

## Department Headquarters

**Office Hours**  
Monday-Friday  
8:30am-3:30pm  
Lunch 12:00-12:30

Phone 304-398-2070  
[department@wvaux.org](mailto:department@wvaux.org)

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

**Department Website:**  
[www.wvaux.org](http://www.wvaux.org)

**Rhododendron Girls State Website**  
[www.wvgirlsstate.org](http://www.wvgirlsstate.org)

**The American Legion  
Department of WV**  
[wvlegion@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:wvlegion@suddenlinkmail.com)

**American Legion Auxiliary  
National Website**  
[ALAforveterans.org](http://ALAforveterans.org)

## *Remember Our Legion Fami-*

Iris Jean Duckwall, Berkeley Springs Unit #60 got hurt on the Sunday that she came back from Mid-Winter and will be in a brace for 3-6 months.

Cards can be sent to her at:

Iris Jean Duckwall  
PO Box 272  
Berkeley Springs WV 25411

Ann Buchanan, CDNVP and PDP, has been ill and in and out of the hospital. She is home now.

Cards can be sent to Ann at:

Ann Buchanan, CDNVP  
105 Cheyenne Trail  
Ona WV 25545



## Department Commander 2025-2026

Greetings Legion Family,

It has been a whirlwind start to March! It began with our trip to DC for the Washington Conference. We met with Senators Capito and Justice to talk about the Legislative agenda the American Legion is promoting. We also met with Congressman Moore and left information for Congresswoman Miller with her aide.

After returning, we drove back to DC to pick up National Commander Dan Wiley. We visited Charles Town 71 on Sunday for dinner. Martinsburg 14, Berkeley Springs 60, Capon Bridge 137, Paw Paw 128, Ridgeley 136, and Morgantown 174 were visited on Day 1. On Day 2, we visited Chester 121, Newell 114, Weirton 10, Follansbee 45, Wellsburg 34, Benwood 46, and Moundsville 3. Day 2 ended with a dinner at Wheeling 1.

Commander Wiley was impressed with the participation at each of the visited posts, especially on a Monday and Tuesday during the day.

I would like to personally Thank every member of the Legion Family who came out to welcome us during our visits. It was my first time at Martinsburg, Capon Bridge, Paw Paw, and Ridgeley. Hopefully, it won't be my last.

For God and Country  
Richard Crumm  
Department Commander



National Commander Dan Wiley  
Department Commander Rich Crumm

## Legislative

Every Voice Matters!  
Tell Congress What You Think!

Reminder! Your Unit Legislative Annual Report is due no later than April 15, 2026. Let's get 100% reporting this year. Even if your Unit only sent 1 email report it. Any report received after the April 15th deadline WILL NOT be considered for an award.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by my information table at mid-winter. If you could not make it to mid-winter or the information table and you would like more information on Every Voice Matters initiative let me know and I will email you the information.

250 Challenge: don't forget the West Virginia Auxiliary Legislative 250 Challenge. As part of the American Legion Family USA250 Challenge I challenge each Auxiliary member to make at least 250 contacts with your representatives. These contacts include email, phone, letter, or in person visits: at any level local, state, or national. Any combination of contacts and levels count. Eighteen days of Grassroots Action Center emails will quickly get you to 250. Don't forget to include participation in this challenge in your annual report.

Capito - <https://www.capito.senate.gov/contact/contact-my-office>  
Justice - <https://www.justice.senate.gov/contact/>  
Miller - <https://millerforms.house.gov/contact/>  
Moore - <https://rileymoore.house.gov/contact>  
Elaine Sampson  
Legislative Chair  
[legislative@wvaux.org](mailto:legislative@wvaux.org)



## AUXILIARY NEC

From my mid-year meeting, I'll give you a heads up, there are again going to be several proposed changes to governing documents. Some due to house keeping and clean up, but not all. Reminder to all, keeping your governing documents up to date is important. We are a volunteer based organization, however, we are also a business and need to operate as such. In today's world, it is important to protect, your Unit/business, your members, your EIN status and your finances. Governing documents play a role in that. So does filing E990's. As well as a host of other things.

Department Chairman, in case you haven't heard yet. New this year, when you submit your report to National, you will be also given the option to check that your report is also to be used as an award submission. Reports are do into National by May 15th, award submission if done separately from the report is due June 1 by 5pm est.

Again this year Division chairs will not be judging their own divisions. I know in VA&R the Western Division Chairman will judge Central Division.

Lisa Cadwallader  
NEC

[Lisac.ala71@gmail.com](mailto:Lisac.ala71@gmail.com)

## Endorsements for National Committee

**Lisa Cadwallader**  
Charles Town Unit #71

**Laura Clark**  
Huntington Unit #16

hello  
spring!

### ***1st District Vice President***

Hello Members!

While we celebrate this milestone of achieving 93.61% in District 1 our work is not done. The final push toward 100% membership is underway, and every new member strengthens our ability to serve.

We encourage current members to continue sharing the Auxiliary's mission with friends, family, and neighbors. Together, we can finish the year stronger than ever.

Michelle Powell  
Vice President  
District 1  
304-639-5379

### ***3rd District Vice President***

Thank you to Shinnston Unit 31 and Post 31 for hosting the District 3 Spring Conference. Great job to all, (especially the donuts)

Membership keeps climbing, it is so exciting to see every Unit to continue to grow, and by growing more ideas arrive in ways we can continue to help our Veterans and Military.

To the Units that were present at the Spring Conference, I did bring a bag of candy for each and pass them out to the ones that were present, to the other ones, I will drop off at your Post for you or mail them to you, I still need to get Elkins Unit 29, Braxton County Unit 33, Bridgeport Unit 68, Belington Unit 96 and Pickens Unit 122 delivered.

I always say this, but you all are doing amazing, If there is anything I can help with, please let me know,

Make sure to make your room reservations for Summer Conference on July 9 through 12th, you can register for just the days you will need to stay,

Every membership you enter is another one towards our Goal!

Thank you  
Sandra Harper  
Vice President District 3  
[Sandy.harper265@gmail.com](mailto:Sandy.harper265@gmail.com)

### ***6th District Vice President***

Feels like Spring is coming in early with all the Tulip and Ornamental pear trees blooming, but looks like ole man winter doesn't want to let go.

Hope everyone will have a great Easter with family and friends.

As I spoke to several unit representatives, I understand that several units are close to meeting their membership goal. Congratulations to Bluefield Unit 9 by using their magic wand in attaining 105.56% collected in membership dues! They have really worked hard.

#### **Dates to remember:**

District 6 meeting: April 25th ALA Unit #32 Beckley, 201 S. Eisenhower Drive, Beckley.

Girls State: June 7-13, 2026 Davis & Elkins College

Continue to pray for our State and Nation during this difficult time. Prayers for all to be safe.

Mary E. Spence  
Vice President  
District 6

### ***10th District Vice President***

It was wonderful seeing everyone at our District Spring Conference. Thank you to Berkeley Springs for being such an amazing host. Your hospitality, delicious food, and warm welcome truly made the conference special.

Congratulations to all the units in our district who have reached 85% membership. Your dedication and hard work are greatly appreciated. For those who have not yet reached their goal, remember that it is still achievable. There is still time, and your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

If any unit needs assistance, please reach out. Be sure to utilize the ALA Benefits Hub and ALA Academy to learn more about our programs and the tools available to support you.

Remember that some members may struggle financially to maintain their membership. Consider holding a small fundraiser to help cover dues for members who may need assistance.

We are here to lift one another up, and together we can continue to grow and strengthen our Auxiliary.

Chantel Ricketts  
District 10 Vice President

### ***4th District Vice President***

As we step into spring, we also step into one of our greatest opportunities for membership growth. District 4, you are doing an incredible job, and now it's time to finish strong.

Spring brings open houses, community events, and parades. These are perfect moments to set up a table, share information, and connect with the public. Pair your outreach with Poppy distribution, and use it as a meaningful conversation starter. Share how those contributions directly support veterans in your communities.

When speaking with others, invite them into the story. Ask about the heroes in their lives, those who served and made a difference. These conversations often open the door to eligibility and create a personal connection that truly matters.

Membership is also about care and connection within our units. Take time to review your roster and reach out to members who may not have renewed. A simple phone call can remind someone that they are valued and missed.

Leadership in membership is about relationships. It's about showing up, sharing our mission, and inviting others to be part of something meaningful.

Let's continue to grow, connect, and serve, together.

Happy Spring, District 4!  
Rebecca Farley  
District 4 Vice-President  
[Dccoachrebecca@gmail.com](mailto:Dccoachrebecca@gmail.com)

### ***5th District Vice President***

District 5 is beginning to gain ground with membership. We are currently at 86.98% and are in third place in the Department! Congratulations to Charleston #20 for their 153.33% and welcome to their eight new members. Logan #19 has achieved 116.67% and welcome to their two new members. Huntington #16, Barboursville #177 and Ceredo-Kenova #93 all meet the March 15th goal of 85%. The Starfish units are currently leading the Sand Dollars units.

Keep up the good work!

Remember that Unit Year End Reports are due on April 15, 2026. As the year winds down, please keep our Veterans in your hearts and our current deployed troops in your prayers.

Patti Withrow  
District 5 Vice President  
304-415-4686

### ***1st District President***

District 1 Spring Conference is taking place at Chester Post home #121 on April 25th, address 404 Carolina Avenue. Registration is 9:00 am to 10:00 am, and will go into session at 10:00 am. All units are asked to bring a list of your units activities for the year and a memorial list of your units lost members. Election of officers is to take place and certificates for membership goals from Mid-Winter in February will be awarded to those who were unable to attend Midwinter.

We will be anticipating a great turn out and a day full of not only meeting business, but a wonderful day of activities with all the members of District 1. Please complete your registration and credentials as soon as you are able to get them sent in to make planning less complicated.

Looking forward to seeing so many of you and to meeting so many more. Remember our raffles and 50/50.

If you are uncertain, contact President Holly Adams at Unit #121.

Safe Travels and Happy Spring  
District 1 President,  
Mary Richards

### ***3rd District President***

Good morning Ladies. I hope this finds everyone well with all the sickness going around.

We had a very nice Third District meeting, with it being Sunday not a big attendance. I wish to thank Department President Kim Mellie and Sec/Treas Paulette Anderson for their attendance, and Past Department Presidents Roxie Nicholson and Dortha Parsons.

I wish to congratulate the new 2026-2027 District officers: President Sandra Harper and Vice President Kim Mellie. **GOOD LUCK LADIES!!**

I wish to congratulate all the units that have reached 100%. Way to go ladies, keep up the good work. Congratulations to the DEPARTMENT for reaching 85%, Now let's get the other 15%.

Ladies, don't forget that year end reports are due into department chairmen by April 15, 2026. They are to be emailed to them if at all possible.

If you have any questions or need help with anything please call me or Sandra Harper.

**FOR GOD AND COUNTRY**  
Margaret Yost  
304-629-0688  
[mdyost2010@gmail.com](mailto:mdyost2010@gmail.com)

### ***4th District President***

Hello All,

District 4 held a Spring Conference, March 7th at Williamstown Post #159. A joint opening was held. The auxiliary meeting featured special guests, Department President Kim Mellie; Department Secretary Treasurer & PDP Paulette Anderson and Department Chaplain/District V.P. Rebecca Farley. Rebecca gave a district membership report followed by a rallying Leadership program. District Chaplain Melinda Paxton presented a lovely memorial ceremony.

An election of officers was held. Rebecca Farley was elected District President. Katie Simpkins was elected Vice President. These officers will be ratified at the Department Convention in July.

Department President Kim talked about her special projects. "Project Pearl." Kim has a flier about Pearl. She also talked about another special project. "Honor Flights" Information packets were distributed to auxiliaries at registration.

Department Secretary/Treasurer Paulette Anderson discussed auxiliary unit obligations and mandatory fees. She had blank forms for auxiliary units. For more information contact Paulette.

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](mailto:Patsygirl2@gmail.com)



### ***5th District President***

With the arrival of spring, I would like to extend my appreciation to Unit 16 for their contributions in ensuring the success of the district meeting luncheon.

It was a pleasure to see everyone, despite demanding schedules. Charleston Unit #20 demonstrated exceptional performance with a completion rate of 153.33%, and Logan Unit #19 achieved 116.67%. Congratulations to both units on these accomplishments. The district currently stands at 86.98%; let us continue our progress.

Paulette, Department Secretary/Treasurer, has noted that only three units have remitted their mandatory fees to date. Please ensure these fees are paid by 30 days before convention to maintain eligibility to vote at the July Department Convention. Nominations and Elections will occur soon. Kindly submit officer forms as soon as possible. I will distribute forms via email to anyone who was unable to attend the meeting.

The district election results are as follows: President—Lisa Harbour-Adkins; Vice President—Laura Clark. I am seeking individuals for the Children & Youth and National Security Chair positions. Please contact me if interested.

Reports are due by April 15th and are available on the website.

Lisa Harbour-Adkins  
[wvbravesfan@gmail.com](mailto:wvbravesfan@gmail.com)  
304-633-0530

### ***6th District President***

Hello Everyone

Hope everyone has survived the cold weather, guess everyone feels like I do. I hope soon spring gets here.

Just want to let everyone know that Beckley Unit 32 will be hosting 6th District Spring meeting. The meeting is April 25, 2026. The meeting will be held at the **Old State Police Bldg. Located at 201 South Eisenhower Street across from the Armory.** The new name for the place is **Veterans Museum**, but if you are using a GPS you must put in the **State Police**. The lunch will be spaghetti and will cost \$10.00 per person. Registration is from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM.

Hope to see everyone at this meeting. So until next time God Bless all.

Peggy Swartz  
President  
6th District

### **10th District President**

Spring is almost here, that means sunny warm days and the ability to go see people without freezing or watching the weather. Never forget to check in on your members and your veterans, as we are living in hard times. As Auxiliary, we are here to help our veterans and members. I want to congratulate all units that have met goal. Congratulations to Keyser #152 for making 100% and Capon Bridge #137 for making 104.55%.

Thank you, each and everyone for coming to the Spring Conference and learning with me. We can be seasoned and still have the ability to learn. Thank you for being family to me as well, without you, I could not do this alone. You know how we say it takes a village to raise a child? Well it takes a village to help our veterans and their families as well. Remember your reports are due this month. Email them to the chairperson. We need these reports to help our veterans. I hope that everyone kept their hours, these are just as important. The veterans are the reason you are FREE today. Life can be so busy that sometimes we get self absorbed and busy that we forget the reason we are in this fabulous organization. So many of you do so much for this organization and forget to count the hours or forget to jot down what you did. I understand, do your best to keep accurate records for this time of the year.

Don't forget your girls for girl state, I hope everyone has at least one girl to send if not more. Watch your spirit for the information on the Summer Convention, I hope everyone has their membership card with them at ALL times. If you plan to come, be sure you have it so we can move you quickly through the line.

I am always here if you need me, even if it is just to vent. Please feel free to email me anytime.

Jill Davis  
10th District President

### **Auxiliary Emergency Fund**

Fellow Auxiliary Members,  
Tornado Safety Tips

**\*\*Take Shelter!** Find a storm shelter or basement, get to the lowest level possible.

**\*\*Take Cover!** Get to an interior room.

**\*\*Added Protection!** Use blankets, pillows, cushions, etc.

**\*\*Stay Tuned!** Watch local weather channels to stay aware of weather conditions.

**\*\*Be Prepared!** Carry a phone, weather radio, flashlight and shoes.

**\*\*Be Cautious!** Avoid all electric lines.

**\*\*Get Out!** Don't stay in any mobile home.

**\*\*Don't keep driving and Don't take shelter under a bridge.**

And remember, a **tornado watch** means tornadoes are possible so be alert to changing conditions.

A **tornado warning** means a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar so take shelter immediately!

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  
[aef@wvvaux.org](mailto:aef@wvvaux.org)

### **Community Service**

Hope everyone is staying well and well rested after mid-winter.

I would like to say thank you for all the prayers and text messages when my dad passed away.

Now we have work to get all the great reports ready to help our great Veterans more, with all the hours we volunteer. Remember to send pictures with your reports .

If you would send reports to both of my emails , I am still working on reminding myself of the new email.

[Communityservice@wvvaux.org](mailto:Communityservice@wvvaux.org)  
[Kitbasket@hotmail.com](mailto:Kitbasket@hotmail.com)

Wishing everyone a blessed Easter .  
Kelli A Immel  
(304)-283-5092

### **Americanism**



American Legion Family Day is April 25,2026. This is a perfect opportunity to celebrate with our Legion Family, showcase what we do, and share the WHY we serve in the American Legion Auxiliary.

America will be turning 250 years old this year, plan a celebration at anytime throughout the year to celebrate our Country turning 250 years old.

Themes to choose from:

**\*\*Stars & Stripes Forever / America the Beautiful / Red White & YOU**

Plan activities:

**\*\*Patriotic parade or flag-raising ceremony**

**\*\*Citizenship essay contest winners' recognition**

**\*\*Family-friendly games and music**

Americanism Year End Reports are due by April 15th by email and pictures must be in **jpeg**.

The Year End Reports are on the website: [department@wvvaux.org](mailto:department@wvvaux.org)

Scroll down to media then scroll down past the Spirit newsletter and you will see Miscellaneous forms, through this list you will see the Year End Report forms, if you need to print them off.

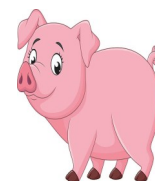
There is also a program section if you need more information.

Looking forward to learning from all the reports of what everyone has been doing this year to serve our Veterans and Military

Thank you  
Sandra Harper  
Americanism Chair  
[americanism@wvvaux.org](mailto:americanism@wvvaux.org)

### **Child Well-Being Fund**

**DON'T FORGET TO SEND YOUR DONATIONS TO DEPARTMENT CONVENTION OR IF YOU WISH SEND A CHECK TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AND EARMARK CHILD WELL-BEING FUND**



## Constitution & Bylaws

Hello Members,

Remember to review your governing documents. Here are a few good points units should keep in mind.

**\*\*State Regulations:** Each state has different rules for nonprofits. You can find this information in the following places:

WV Secretary State Office website

Law Library Guide to Law- Go to Google put in West Virginia corporate codes for nonprofit. You should find useful information.

**\*\*Unit's Governing Documents:**

Remember to review Unit's documents. They serve as guidelines for Unit's leadership, processes, and procedures. They outline how things should be done.

Any amendments or modifications must adhere to the directions provided in these documents.

**\*\*Departments Governing Documents:**

The Unit's Constitution and Bylaws must align with those of the Department. When changes are made at the Department level, Units need to review their documents.

**\*\*National Constitution and Bylaws:**

The Constitution and Bylaws of both Unit and Department must be consistent with the National governing documents. Changes at the National level will necessitate a review if updates are needed at Department and Unit levels. If additional guidance is needed, you should refer to Robert's Rules of Order.

Michelle Powell  
Constitution & Bylaws Chairman  
304-639-5379

## Children & Youth

Good day, everyone. I hope you're enjoying the spring like day, Wait a minute, I mean winter day, I mean summer day I mean fall day. Will someone please tell the weather not to send us all four seasons in the same day. Tell her to make up her mind!

I hope everyone is working on a project for Children Youth in your community. April is Children & Youth month. I need you to send me your ideas for those that are doing a project.

Remember also that April 15 is **Purple Up Day**. When you're wearing your **purple T-shirt** that day, make sure you tell everyone that is in honor of The military Child. They are all innocent victims, and we tend to forget what they're struggling through

Hope to hear from you soon. Feel free to call me or text me or send me an email. Thank you.

Best Kilgore, Chairman

## Education

Happy Spring to all! With the changing of the seasons, it's clear we're all eager for warmer weather.

The scholarship deadline was March 1. Here's a look at the application numbers by category and district:

Spirit of Youth – 0, Member Loyalty – 0, Non-traditional – 1, Children of Warriors - 10

District 1 – 0, District 3 – 1, District 4 – 0, District 5 – 5, District 6 – 1, District 10 - 3

While I was hoping to see entries from our juniors, we didn't receive any this time. By sharing these numbers, my hope is that next year we can aim for participation in every category and district. I also received only one renewal for the state's scholarship.

April 15: Reports are due and it's

### Purple Up Day.

May 3–9: Teacher Appreciation Week. Cards are available online on the National site to send to schools.

Your dedication is valued and noticed. Please submit your reports to highlight what your unit and our state have accomplished. Include photos is encouraged. If your photo is selected for submission to the National level, I will contact you for permission. Be sure that a photo release statement is signed and only children's first names are included in captions.

Lisa Harbour-Adkins  
[education@wvvaux.org](mailto:education@wvvaux.org)

304-633-0530



## Junior Activities

National Junior Conference meetings have been held with reports of huge successes. Lots of activities both group and individual have had the girls active and engaged.

I am looking forward to receiving reports from Junior girls units in the Department of West Virginia. Now is the time to let the whole department know about the accomplishments our Junior girls have made.

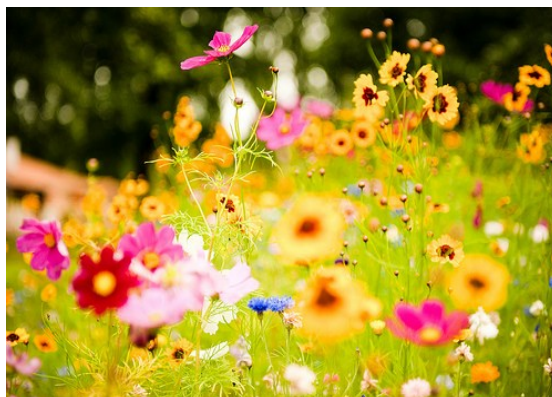
Reports are to be sent to [juniors@wvvaux.org](mailto:juniors@wvvaux.org).

All award entries will be judged by the Junior Activities Chair with input from Department President Kim Mellie; Department Secretary/Treasurer Pauline Anderson; and Past Central Division National Vice President, Lynda Lancaster – Loyd.

All Department reports and photographs are due to Junior Activities Chair, Patsy Greiner by April 15, 2026. You may copy the 3 people above: Kim, Paulette, or Lynda. Remember if I do not receive your reports and submissions, I cannot judge your reports.

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



## Leadership

Leadership is not just a title, it is action, intention, and connection. As we continue moving through this year, I want to remind each of you that the Lead with Purpose WV series remains available to you. All 12 sessions are designed to strengthen your leadership journey, and I encourage you to take advantage of this resource. Once completed, please send me an email so I can recognize your commitment at Department Convention.

Our ALA Academy Challenge is still underway! Round two is from Department Mid-Winter Conference, on February 10 through July 9, members are encouraged to log in to the national website, access the ALA Academy, and complete as many courses as possible. We will celebrate another winner who embraces growth and learning.

Leadership begins with communication, and communication is leadership. At every level of our organization, our strength depends on how well we listen, share, and connect. Being a leader means creating space for others, inviting voices to be heard, valued, and respected.

When we lead with purpose and communicate with intention, we build stronger units, stronger communities, and a stronger Auxiliary.

Let's continue to grow, together.

Rebecca Farley  
Leadership Chair  
[Leadership@wvaux.org](mailto:Leadership@wvaux.org)

## Public Relations

Did you know there are 2.3 billion monthly active users on Facebook. What a great platform for us to promote our American Legion Auxiliary brand and the great work we do!

Visit and like the national American Legion Auxiliary Public Relations page at [www.facebook.com/groups/ALAPublicRelations](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAPublicRelations) for new ideas and the latest webinars available.

There are multiple Public Relations courses available for free at the ALA Academy, Mastering the Media and Using Social Media to Promote Your Local ALA are a couple of examples of webinars currently available. Please use these resources to educate your unit members on the importance of promoting their good work for Veterans.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAPublicRelations/>  
Patti Withrow  
Public Relations Chairman  
304-415-4686

## Poppy

On the Friday before Memorial Day, wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nation's uniform. National Poppy Day is May 22 this year. The American Legion Family honors the sacrifices of our servicemembers and veterans by wearing a red poppy.

Lace up your running/walking shoes and support National Poppy Day. Leading up to this significant day, a virtual 5K will happen throughout May to raise awareness and support. Keep a lookout on ALA National Headquarters' social media for more information. Members may participate virtually by walking, running, swimming, hiking, etc. The 5K may be broken up in segments (5K is 3 miles which can be walked in about an hour in totality or broken up in segments) Walk or run on a treadmill, swim laps, ride a bike,

Get a group of members to join in the challenge. Take photos of the walk or run and submit to American Legion Auxiliary website.

Registration will open on April 1, 2026.

The run must be completed by May 22, 2026.

National suggests a \$25 donation to Unit/Dept. Welfare Fund after completion of the run/walk. Certificates and medals will be awarded.

Shirley Davis

## VA&R

I've had lots of questions about pins, and hour bars since Mid-Winter. When I first took on this committee, I could not locate a cumulative accounting of hours reported to date. So I have been working on building that from what was in the head office. 90 pages, some were what was ordered, others what units reported. It's gotten much better. However, remember the Department Chairman uses what is turned in with the annual report. That report needs to include a list of volunteers and hours broken down by VA (hospital) work and Service to Veterans.

List Format: One list for VA Hospital & another list for Service to Veterans

Member Name as it appears on roster | Member # | Number of hours

VA hours can include shopping and preparation time. However, the hours must be recorded at the VA.

Pins are given when 50 hours are reached. Hour bars are given at 50, 100, 300, 500, very 1000 up to 20,000, 25,000 and a special life time pin at 35,000.

To receive pins and hour bars: members must turn hours in to the Unit, the Unit must turn them into the Department VA&R chairman.

Reports are due April 15th. Please send to [Var@wvaux.org](mailto:Var@wvaux.org)

The Washington Conference had great information and I'll addressing my next article due to length of this one. There are a lot on suicide, Be The One, resources and Veterans signing up before they die with the National Cemetery and even writing their own obituary if they care to.

Lisa Cadwallader  
VA&R Chairman  
[Var@wvaux.org](mailto:Var@wvaux.org)



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY WV RODODENDRON GIRLS STATE

## Rhododendron Girls State

Wow, here it is APRIL. Before you know it Girls State will be here. As of April 1 a little over 65 days. Reminder to please get your applications and funding into Paulette.

Speaking of funding, I hope you have secured your funding and/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 are intergalactic in providing 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  
304-771-2283

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 February winners! We 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 out standing checks and will be cancelled after 6 months of receiving them.

We are sending checks out 2 times a month to keep up with the winners.

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

Thanks!  
Paulette Anderson  
Christy Bland



## *2026 February Ways and Means Winners*

Name	#'s	City	State	Date	\$\$\$
Sue Jasinski	845	Moundsville	WV	2/2/26	25.00
Joni Shawver	857	Bluefield	WV	2/3/26	25.00
Jeff Wisley	178	Lavalette	WV	2/4/26	25.00
Charles Harris	322	Levels	WV	2/5/26	25.00
Lucuis Michael	586	Berkeley Springs	WV	2/6/26	25.00
Shannon Harshberger	745	Huntington	WV	2/7/26	25.00
Devin Davis	536	Capon Bridge	WV	2/9/26	25.00
Deborah Supthin	641	Henderson	WV	2/10/26	25.00
Charles Pearce Jr.	538	Gore	VA	2/11/26	25.00
Brian McKinney	122	Bluefield	VA	2/12/26	25.00
Peggy Swartz	120	Gary	WV	2/13/26	25.00
J. Lonager	680	Buckhannon	WV	2/14/26	25.00
Brittany Christian	890	Gilbert	WV	2/16/26	25.00
Jo Ann Camp	578	Spencer	WV	2/17/26	25.00
Tim Anderson	390	Welch	WV	2/18/26	200.00
Joseph Charlton	540	Capon Bridge	WV	2/19/26	25.00
Megan Kirk	835	Huntington	WV	2/20/26	25.00
Zach Yeater	298	Morgantown	WV	2/21/26	25.00
Gerald Wilcox	203	Romney	WV	2/23/26	25.00
Doris Burkey	518	Berkeley Springs	WV	2/24/26	25.00
ALA Unit #3	082	Moundsville	WV	2/25/26	25.00
Wendy Wander	117	Welch	WV	2/26/26	25.00
Dave Barnes	031	St. Clairsville	WV	2/27/26	25.00
Amy Cullison	863	Morgantown	WV	2/28/26	25.00



OUR MISSION MATTERS to NAVIGATE LIFE's WATERS



TAL Birthday Target Date 3/15/2026 85%
Department Goal 4672— Membership to Date— 4,151 88.85%
Department Unit 200 Goal 149— Membership to Date— 98



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—2263 91.99 %

Membership Chairman Maui



Sand Dollars

Goal 2063 To Date 1788 86.67 %



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.

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.

# April 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p><b>R.E.D Fridays Until They Come Home</b></p>			<p><b>1</b> <i>April Fools Day</i></p> <p><i>Passover Begins Sunown</i></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><i>Good Friday</i></p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p><i>Easter</i></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b> <i>Cheer Party Checks Out</i></p> <p><i>Passover Ends Sunown</i></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><i>Target Sheet Out</i></p> <p><i>Purple Up!!</i></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><i>Articles Due</i></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>
<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><i>2027 Dues Due</i></p> <p><i>Spirit Out</i></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> 	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><i>6th District Conf. Beckley</i></p> <p><i>1st District Conf. Chester</i></p>
<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><i>Program of Month</i></p> <p><i>Children &amp; Youth</i></p>	



Mason County Unit 23  
Pt. Pleasant, West Virginia

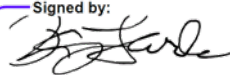
The Executive Committee of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of West Virginia, Mason County Unit #23, held a vote on Monday, February 16, 2026, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved the endorsement of Andrea K. Snyder for the position of American Legion Auxiliary Department Historian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

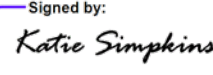
Andrea currently serves as American Legion Auxiliary Unit #23 Secretary and Unit Services Records Coordinator and as a member of the Department's Risk and Compliance Committee. Andrea regularly attends Unit and District meetings, participates in workshops and conventions, and she takes advantage of all 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



**Department of West Virginia  
Marne Unit #28  
New Martinsville WV**

At a regular meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary, Marne Unit #28 New Martinsville held at the Post Home, the endorsement of Paulette Anderson for the office of Department Secretary/Treasurer for the 2026-2029 year, was unanimously approved.

Paulette is eligible under her husband John who is a Vietnam Era Veteran. She is a 37-year member of Marne Unit #28. John is a 40-year member of Marne Post 28, New Martinsville WV.

Paulette has held several offices on Unit capacity, serving as President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Chaplain. She has been Chairman of various committees.

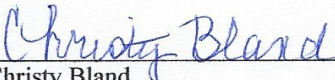
Paulette served as 1<sup>st</sup> District President and Vice President.

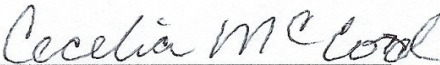
Paulette served in Department on several Committees and served as in-house auditor for 7 years. She served as Department Chaplain, Department 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and became President in the year 2005-2006. She served as National Committee member. She retired July 31, 2021, as Department Sec/Treas. where she held that position for 10 years.

Paulette served as National Central Division Chairman on Membership, Education, Poppy, and Children & Youth.

Paulette has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren.

We ask you to consider Paulette Anderson as our candidate for 2027-2029 year for the position of Department Secretary/Treasurer, so she may continue in her service to our department.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christy Bland  
Unit #28 President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cece McCord  
Unit #28 Secretary

# THE AMERICAN LEGION

Veterans Strengthening America

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

PO BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN, 46206-1055 • WWW.LEGION.ORG • P: (317) 630-1200

F: (317) 630-1223

## DD214 RETENTION FOR AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Effective immediately, the Adjutant or Secretary at each Unit shall verify a member's eligibility by reviewing documentation such as a DD214, then promptly return the document to the individual. No copies or electronic records containing Personally Identifiable Information shall be retained.

Some Units currently maintain decades of archived DD214s, including those of deceased members. These records should be securely destroyed to reduce exposure to identity theft and mitigate potential legal liability.

This policy should be communicated to all membership staff and incorporated into Unit and Department procedures effective February 4, 2026.

Regards,



Mark C. Seavey, J.D.  
National Judge Advocate

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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_