The Auxiliary Spirit

The American Legion Family

Volume 41 *November 2026* *Issue 4*



Stephanie Handley
American Legion Auxiliary
Department President
2026-2027

Department Theme

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work .



Department President Stephanie's

Special Project

The American Legion Baseball

Colors

Red, White and Blue

Team, it's time to step up to the plate! As we work together to build our **All-American Team**, our first goal is to reach **50% of our membership goal by Veterans Day.**

We can reach this milestone by working together, one member at a time. I challenge every unit to review its membership numbers, reach out to members who have not yet renewed, and personally invite eligible veterans' family members to join our Auxiliary.

Don't underestimate the power of a phone call, a friendly reminder, or a personal invitation. Every renewal count, every new member matters, and every conversation is an opportunity to strengthen our team.

Let's make Veterans Day more meaningful by showing our commitment to the veterans we serve through a strong and growing membership. Encourage your fellow members, share your enthusiasm, and keep the momentum going!

Our first goal is 50% by Veterans Day—and together, we can make it happen!

Let's get in the game, work together, and show what our All-American Team can accomplish! One Team. One Mission. One Goal. Let's bring home a membership win!

I would like to thank everyone who attended my homecoming. I appreciate the show of support and the wonderful team that I have in my dugout. It was a very special evening, and I appreciate all of you for taking the time to be there and those who reached out but could not attend in person.

God Bless,
Stephanie Handley
Department President

Department Officers

President-Stephanie Handley
First Vice President-Peggy Swartz
Second Vice President-Rebecca Farley
Secretary/Treasurer-Paulette Anderson
Chaplain-Holly Adams
Historian-Andrea Snyder

District Presidents
First District-Rhonda Best
Third District-Sandy Harper
Fourth District-Rebecca Farley
Fifth District-Lisa Harbour-Adkins
Sixth District-Peggy Swartz
Tenth District-Jill Davis

District Vice Presidents
First District-Susan Brown
Third District-Kim Mellie
Fourth District-Andrea Snyder
Fifth District-Patti Withrow
Sixth District-Mary Spence
Tenth District-Pam Gustines

"THE GREAT ALL-AMERICAN TEAM"

Department 1st Vice President

Hello Team Members

Hope this note finds everyone well.

Let's get our members to first base so we can move on up and help our 2nd base coach and this will help us to have goal units.

It looks like we are getting ahead of 3rd base coach we have 38.2 %, let's keep moving up.

I attended President Stephanie homecoming this past weekend and we had a great time. Thanks, Stephanie, for the good food and having lots of fun. I am planning on attending the Commander Homecoming this weekend. I will try to get over to Moundsville for their District Meeting on the 25th of October.

Just remember to get your membership on 1st base as soon as we can.

God bless everyone.

Peggy Swartz,
1st Vice President
304-448-2394 or 304-800-3060

Membership Chair

The Great All-American Team: Hitting It Out of the Park!

Our American Legion Auxiliary West Virginia membership team is stepping up to the plate, and we're celebrating the units leading the way! A big round of applause to our district leaders as of October 15:

****District 1**: Paden City Unit 86 – 51.90%
****District 3**: Pickens Unit 122 – 94.94%
****District 4**: Spencer Unit 21 – 28.57%
****District 5**: St. Albans Unit 73 – 51.61%
****District 6**: Cowen Unit 62 – 38.10%
****District 10**: Petersburg Unit 78 – 60.94%
*****Pickens Unit 122 is our Department MVP**, leading the entire state at an incredible 94.94%! What a HOME RUN!

Our next big milestone is **50% membership by November 11, 2026 — Veterans Day!** What better way to honor our veterans and their service than by renewing your ALA membership?

Every renewal matters. Every member counts. Every unit plays a vital role in our success!

Questions about our newly expanded membership eligibility? Please reach out to me! Let's welcome new members to our team!

Together we swing for the fences! Teamwork makes the Dream Work!

Laura Clark
membership@wvaux.org

Department 2nd Vice President

Calling my All-American National Teammates District 1, 4, 6!

Your 3rd Base Coach is waving you HOME! The season is underway, and we've got some bases to fill, teammates to rally, and membership goals to knock OUT OF THE PARK!

As of October 15, our scoreboard reads: District 1: 29.26% District 4: 13.29% District 6: 6.31%. District 1, keep swinging! District 4 let's build that momentum! District 6, it's time to get those runners moving! Our first big target is 50% by November 11, and I want to see every unit in the game! Now, as your 3rd Base Coach, I'm not just watching the scoreboard. I'm cheering you on, encouraging every play, and ready to wave our members HOME! Because here's the real winning strategy: Membership isn't just about numbers. It's about PEOPLE! Let me know how I may assist you and or your members.

Every renewal strengthens our team. Every new member brings fresh energy. Every connection keeps our mission moving forward. We don't need spectators. We need teammates willing to step up, swing for the fences, and help bring our members HOME! Make ONE more call. Extend ONE more invitation. Reconnect with ONE more member. Small plays create BIG innings! And remember, you don't have to hit a home run every time you step up to the plate. Sometimes a single is all it takes to bring someone HOME! Let's get those bases loaded, those membership numbers climbing, and our National League team moving toward victory!

KEEP THOSE RUNS COMING!

Happy Thanksgiving, I am thankful for each of you!

Rebecca S Farley
Department 2nd Vice President
National League 3rd Base Coach
304-674-9908
2ndvice@wvaux.org

Chaplain

Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers

November is a special time of year when we pause to reflect on our blessings, remember those who have served our great nation, and give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy.

As American Legion Auxiliary members, we have a special responsibility to honor our veterans, not only on Veterans Day, November 11, but throughout the entire year. Behind every uniform is a story of courage, sacrifice, and love of country. Many veterans carry memories of their service that we may never fully understand. A kind word, a visit, a heartfelt thank-you, or a helping hand can remind them that their service has not been forgotten.

Veterans Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

We come before You with grateful hearts, asking Your blessings upon the brave men and women who have served our country. We thank You for their courage, their sacrifices, and their dedication to protecting the freedoms we hold dear.

Please watch over our veterans, whether they are at home, in hospitals, in nursing homes, or facing challenges that others cannot see. Bring comfort to those who are hurting, strength to those who are struggling, and peace to those who carry painful memories of their service.

Bless the families who have stood beside our service members through times of separation, worry, and sacrifice. Comfort those who have lost loved ones and help us always remember the fallen heroes who gave their lives for our freedom.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, remind us to be thankful not only for our blessings but also for the men and women whose service helped preserve them.

May our veterans always know that they are appreciated, respected, and never forgotten. Amen

Please send me any special needs and prayers you and your fellow unit members are in need of prayers.

God Bless
Holly Adams
chaplain@wvaux.org

Department Headquarters Scorekeeper



Mandatory Funds
(Unit's General Fund): Bonding ($5.00), Education (Scholarship), and Girls State project (any amount the unit can afford
(Unit Welfare Fund): Veterans Welfare Fund and 10% Poppies (any amount the unit can afford
These are a must for Mandatory Funds.

Reminder: Members dues are based on a member's age the year.
Ex; if a junior is turning 18 by January 1st, then she is considered a senior member for the membership year.

NEW MEMBERS: when sending an application please make sure they are completed. Make sure they are legible.
If no application is signed by member, Post Adjutant, or Unit Membership Chair, they will be returned. It is your responsibility to see that they are completed.
Don't send DD214's to office. After you verify, return to the new member.
If the veteran that the new member is joining under, I MUST have their **ID #,** or I can't send it to National.

Spirit Messages are not to be any longer than 200 words in article. PLEASE adhere to this. Articles are due by the 17th of each month, unless it falls on a weekend, then it will be that following Monday.

Directory Updates:
Page 9, 13, 15, 16, 17: Laura Clarks' mailing address is 4023 Piedmont Rd.
The rest is the same.
Andrea Snyder's phone # should read 304-593-0249
Page 14: Under 10th District President Jill Davis phone # 540-303-6907. Pam Gustines' address should be 42 Villa Lane.
Andrea Snyder Phone # 304-593-0249.
Page 17: Under Nichole Shepherd emails should be wvalaunit60@outlook.com
Page 22: Sixth District Officers:
Sec/Treas-Alice Ann Sarver, 1336 Lebanan St. Bluefield WV 24701
304-952-1246
Chaplain-charity Martin, 208 Wood St., Bluefield WV 24701 304-887-2758
Americanism- Marsha Riffe, 1295 Orchard Rd. Ballard WV 24918
304-755-5951
Children & Youth- Montessa Esters, 210 Wood St. Bluefield WV 24701
304-952-5191
VA & R-Sheila Rose, PO Box 38 Gary WV 24836, 304-448-1279

Page 23: Membership for Auxiliary is 4,611
Page 24: Martinsburg VA Medical Center Terry **Stotler**
Page 26: Parkersburg Unit #15:
President-Patsy Grener, 708 45th St. Vienna WV 26105, 304-483-8296
Secretary-Kim Young, 701 37th St. Vienna WV 26105
Treasurer-Pam Harmond, 230 Cramer Dr. Marietta OH 45750, 740-374-0515
Mason County Unit #23:
Meetings-4th Tuesday 6:00pm, Juniors 5:30 pm.
Page 28: Charles Town Unit #71 email should read gmail.com
President Sue Paulin address should be **Ct**. not **Dr.**
Treasurer Lisa Cadwallader area code is: 304
Petersburg Unit #78 Secretary
Lou Rhonda Ours, street Number is **4772**
Page 29: Pickens Unit #122: Secretary is Charlott Hull, 21178 Adolph Rd. Helvetia WV 26224
Page 30: New Haven Unit #140 correct email is **floridaroush71@yahoo.com**

November Updates:
The office will open later on the 16th, 19th, and 23rd due to physical therapy. Approximate time will be 10:30 am. During these days the office will be closing at 4:30 pm.

Lynda Lancaster-Loyd recently had knee surgery. Lynda and Harry are at her mother's home while she recuperates.
Cards can be sent to Lynda at;
Lynda Lancaster-Loyd, PCDNVP
PO Box 1511
Mathews WV 23109

Ann Buchanan is still under the weather. Please keep her in your prayers.

Patricia Moore, PDP, is in Rosewood Nursing Home.
Cards can be sent to Patricia at:
Patricia Moore
c/o Rosewood Nursing Home
Grafton WV 26354

Department Headquarters

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8:30-3:30 pm
Phone: 304-398-2070
Email:
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@suddenlink.com

American Legion Auxiliary National Website
ALAforveterans.org

1st District Vice President

Congratulations to New Martinsville #28 and Paden City #86 for making 50% before the district conference held in Moundsville on October 25th. Moundsville #3 you're not that far off, being at 44.62%.

At this time of the year all unit officers' membership dues should be paid. I will be calling all units this month to see where I can be of help in their membership.

Until then
Happy Thanksgiving to each of you!
Susan Brown
First District Vice President

5th District Vice President

Thank you to the Barboursville Post and Unit #177 for hosting our District 5 meeting last week. Unfortunately, we had very low attendance. Please try to represent your Unit at the next district meeting.

As we approach our first membership goal of the new year on November 11th, District 5 is currently in 4th place in the state. St Albans Unit 73 (51.61%) and Huntington Unit 16 (38.34%) lead District 5 in dues paid. Please work to collect and process as many paid memberships as possible by Veterans Day to meet the first goal!

With the changes to membership eligibility now in effect, the opportunity to get more people interested in joining is possible. Appeal to others' sense of community to find prospective members.

Good luck in your search for new members!

Work with your committees to document all the good work your Unit does throughout the year.

Mid Winter will be held at Oglebay February 5-7, 2027. More information will be available soon.

May God bless each of you, our Veterans and our troops currently deployed!

Patti Withrow
Pjwithrow1958@gmail.com

4th District Vice Prsident

Step up to the plate for the American Legion Auxiliary team!

Just like in America's favorite pastime, every great season relies on a strong, dedicated roster. The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) is launching our 2027 membership recruitment drive, and we need you to help us hit a home run for our veterans, military families, and communities.

In baseball, success takes teamwork, passion, and showing up for your teammates. That is exactly what the ALA does every day. Our members are the MVPs on the ground, providing vital support through scholarships, veteran care, and patriotic programs. But to keep winning these critical matchups, we need to scout new talent and expand our lineup, while keeping our beloved hometown team in action and grooming our dedicated players for leadership positions.

Whether you are a seasoned veteran of our organization or a new recruit looking to make a difference, there is a position on the field for you. You don't need to be a pro to play, you just need a heart for service.

Let's fill the stands and pack the dugouts this season. Knock your goals out of the park this year. Renew your membership and sign up a friend, neighbor, or family member today. Together, we can cover all the bases!

Andrea Snyder
District 4 Vice President
ALA.AndreaSnyder@gmail.com

10th District Vice President

Hello District 10,

Thank you to all the members that came out to the Fall Conference held at Charles Town Post 71. Thank you to President Sue Paulin and the auxiliary members of Unit 71 for all their hard work and effort to prepare for the meeting. Another big thank you to our District President Jill Davis and secretary/treasurer Betty Light for their support. It was a wonderful conference that was both informative and fun. For those of you that couldn't make it.

We hope to see you at the Department Mid-Winter Conference in February and the District 10 Spring Conference in April.

With November right around the corner, it's time to remember the things and people that we are thankful for. For many, this can be a difficult time of year, especially when we can't be with loved ones. Let us not forget the sacrifices that our military members and their families experience during this time of year and keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Veterans day is a wonderful time to show love and support to those who gave so much for the freedom that we have today. Don't just thank a veteran on Veterans Day, but everyday.

Think about them and why we are members of the American Legion Auxiliary. This is why it's so important to keep and recruit new members, so that we can continue to help our veterans and the community.

Let us never forget those veterans that are elderly and in nursing homes, homeless veterans, or ones seeking treatment for substance abuse, mental illness, or suicide prevention. They all need assistance and every member of the ALA can play a small role in helping, because it's what we do.

Have a blessed Veterans Day and Thanksgiving
Pamela Gustines
District 10 Vice President

1st District President

Hello Fellow Teammates,

We are entering a very time of year now. With all the District Conferences and the Department Commander and the Department President Homecoming in addition to each unit's upcoming events and programs.

I had the opportunity to speak with the President for a few of the units. I will pray for health, strength, and friendship for each member that is having health issues. I will continue to pray for all units' endurance and success throughout this year. I will reach out to the Unit Presidents I have not spoken with and see how I can assist them. If any unit needs assistance or suggestions my phone is always on and my ear is always open.

Until next month,
Be Safe and God Bless!!!
Rhonda Best
American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of WV
First District President

3rd District President

HELLO EVERYONE!!

GET READY FOR NOVEMBER!!

I want to take a minute and THANK EVERYONE!!, who helped make District 3 Fall Conference successful.

This was my first meeting as a District 3 President, I won't lie, I was nervous and sweating and my hands where shaking, BUT WE DID IT!

Thank you to Bridgeport Unit 68 for all your hard work in making the meeting very successful, it was a first that I am aware that the meetings did not run jointly.

I appreciate all the feedback I have gotten on 'HOW CAN WE MAKE THE DISTRICT MEETINGS IMPROVE, TO GET MORE ATTENDANCE"

You all have sent awesome ideas, that I will put into action for our Spring District Conference that will be held on March 6 ,2027 at Shinnston Post 31. This is also the same day as the Oratorical Contest.

Mid-Winter is February 5th -7th at Oglebay. There is a joint session on Friday evening (5th) and Auxiliary meeting is on Saturday the (6th).

If you can attend any part of the event, that would be wonderful! I believe Saturday's session offers valuable learning opportunities and great fellowship with other Auxiliary members and the Legion Family.

PLEASE, reach out if you have any questions or need any help with anything, WE HAVE AMAZING UNITS THROUGH OUT!!'

Please follow District 3 Facebook page, I feel this is a good way to keep everyone in the loop of information.

THANK EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU FOR WHAT YOU BRING TO THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY AND SERVE OUR MISSION OF SERVICE AND NOT SELF!

Sandra Harper
District 3 President
304-694-2067
sandy.harper265@gmail.com

4th District President

What a great day for our American Legion Family! ⚾ us

A heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who joined us for our District 4 Fall Conference in Point Pleasant! We enjoyed a delicious ballpark lunch, wonderful fellowship, and amazing ideas shared by four of our units. When we come together, everybody wins!

SAVE THE DATE: March 20, 2027! We're changing things up with an American Legion Family Potluck Picnic at NOON, followed by our District 4 meeting at 2:00 PM at The Miles S Epling American Legion Post 23 in Point Pleasant. Bring your favorite dish, your Legion Family, your Juniors, and your enthusiasm!

Mission Training registration is open and don't forget Mid-Winter Conference, February 5–6, 2027! Make plans to attend!

Keep me in the loop! Send me updates, pictures, and highlights of the incredible work you're doing. I want to celebrate your successes while maintaining accurate records for our District committee reports. Your hard work deserves to be recognized!

Most importantly, THANK YOU for YOU! Your dedication to our veterans, military, and their families matters. May you enjoy your family and the memories made during Thanksgiving. I am thankful for each of you!

Together, we're more than a team. We're a FAMILY, and we're Beacons for Veterans!

Rebecca S. Farley
District 4 President
ala.rebeccafarley@gmail.com
304-674-9908

5th District President

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

It's hard to believe November is already here and the busiest time of the year is upon us. Please remember to keep track of all your unit's activities and volunteer hours. This is a wonderful time to be out in the community, reminding others that we are here to support both our community and our veterans.

It was great to see everyone at the district meeting. I hope you learned something new and have some of your questions answered. A special thank-you to Barboursville Unit #177 for hosting us.

Keep up the excellent work on membership. I truly appreciate your dedication and everything you do for our veterans. And don't forget coloring books are available to download and distribute.

If you need anything, please call or email me, and I'll do my best to help.

Wishing you a meaningful Veterans Day and a very happy Thanksgiving.

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

6th District President

Hello Members

Hope everyone is doing well.

We had our 6th District Meeting on October 3rd, and it was hosted by Gary Unit 38. It was held at Welch Unit 8 post home. Gary had fixed a great lunch for us.

We did not have a lot in attendance, but we did have our Department Secretary with us and she gave us a lot of information.

Thanks to the members who did attend.

God Bless all members.

Peggy Swartz,
President 6th Dist.
peggyswatz29@gmail.com
304-448-2394
Cell 304-800-3060

10th District President

Thank you to all that attended the 10th District meeting. Always remember that you can get business done and have a good time.

Each unit is doing pretty good on membership; we have a few units lagging behind. I believe you will get your membership in. We can make the November 11th date with 50%. I challenge each of us to get the 10th district to 50% as well before November 11th. Keep those memberships coming in, don't hold them.

Don't forget about your mandatory funds; they need to be paid to stay in good standing. If you are unsure what needs to be paid, contact Paulette and she will get you on the right track. It is more than just the $5.00 bonding fee.

The mid-winter is going to be at Oglebay February 5-6, if you are able to make it, I encourage you to come to all meetings you can, this helps us all learn. Your question may help someone else.

Keep up the great team work, each unit is doing so much. I am proud to be an auxiliary member of WV.

Jill Davis
10th District President

Americanism



HELLO NOVEMBER!!

Instilling Patriotism, Pride and a Love of Country in each generation,

The third Pillar of the American Legion Auxiliary focuses on promoting patriotism, respect for our country heritage, and encouraging active Citizenship, it's about honoring our Freedoms, teaching our history and inspiring future generations to carry the torch on Americanism.

November is a great month to show our Americanism.

We have Veterans Day on November 11th

Be involved in the Veterans day Parade if your community has one, (ride on float, walk, pass out Flags or even through Candy with Americanism messages tied around them)

Have a Breakfast / Lunch/ dinner for Veterans.

Go into your schools and Partner up with Teachers to have programs and teach our Children and Youth.

There are so many things we can teach, Americanism Essay contest / Oratorical contest.

Flag Facts:

**Did you know? The American Flag is flown at half-staff as a sign of mourning and respect.

**There are specific laws and traditions governing when the flag should be lowered, including following the death of certain government officials and during periods of national mourning.

**A simple lowering of the flag can speak volumes.ai

Thank you, please reach out if I can help with anything

Sandra Harper
Americanism Chair
304-694-2067
sandy.harper265@gmail.com

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Tips for a Medication Emergency Kit

**Keep a list of your prescription medicines. Include information about your diagnosis, dosage, frequency, medical supply needs and allergies.

**Have a cooler and chemical ice packs available to chill medicines, if needed.

**Store extra nonprescription drugs. If you or someone in your home lives with a disability or relies on daily medical equipment, emergency prep looks a little different. Take time to plan ahead and build a kit that fits your exact daily needs.

**Stock essentials: Pack extra meds, chargers, batteries, and backup medical supplies.

** Plan for power loss: Know how you'll power necessary equipment during an outage.

**Build a network: Connect with neighbors who know how to assist in an emergency.

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@wvaux.org
304-261-1518

Poppy

Hello Poppy Friends!

It's time to get the information about the Poppy Poster Contest out there. The contest rules and cover sheet are available on the ALA website, but I'm asking that both be attached at the end of this newsletter. There are 7 categories for students in grades 2-12 with an additional category for special needs students.

Judging: Unit Poppy Chairs are responsible for judging entries within the Unit; each unit will choose winners in each category. Unit winners will be submitted for judging at the district levels at each Spring District Conference; District President and Vice President will be responsible for judging. District winners in each category are to be submitted to the Department Poppy Chair (me) by May 1st. I will recruit help judging from the list of Unit Poppy Chairs. Department winners will be submitted to the Division Chair by June 1st.

Check out the cover sheet for awards and recognition for Division winners.

I hope this will create interest in the Poppy Program for our children and youth.

I'd love to see what everyone is doing to educate our youth about the meaning of the Poppy.

Send me photos and descriptions to *tjanestaley@yahoo.com* or *ala.janestepp@gmail.com.*

Love to all
Jane Stepp
Poppy Chair

Children & Youth

Happy fall!

Now it's time for our units to be thinking about, if not already implementing, holiday parties for the children in your community. These parties may include, but are not limited to, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas parties. Please send me any pictures and a brief note as to the event you have planned.

***** District Presidents*****

Please send me a list of those units in your district that are holding these parties. Be sure to include the unit number. If you would like to send me pictures of the event, please feel free to do so. I may send some of these onto national for recognition. Remember that National likes to see action pictures and not just pictures of the Unit # members lined up.

It's never too late to be thinking of activities in the month of April, Children & Youth month.

If you need any help or ideas, please give me a call 304-654-7750.

Beth Kilgore
Chairman

Child Well Being Fund

I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but the pig was rushed to the veterinarians and diagnosed with starvation.

The only medicine available is your unit's donation. I will keep you informed of the progress.

Please keep the pig and all who Benefit from the Goodwill of pig in your thoughts.

Beth Kilgore
Chairman



Community Service

I want to thank each of our units for the hard work, dedication, and commitment you continue to show through community service. Every act of kindness, every volunteer hour, and every opportunity to help someone in need makes a difference in our communities.

Today, I want to highlight three important reminders as we continue our community service efforts throughout the year.

First, wear your Auxiliary-branded items when performing community service. Whether you are volunteering at a food pantry, participating in a community cleanup, helping our veterans, or supporting a local event, please make sure you are wearing something that identifies you as an auxiliary member. We want our communities to recognize who we are and the good work our Auxiliary is doing. When people see us serving, we want them to know that the Auxiliary is present, active, and committed to making a difference.

Second, monthly community service reports are important. Our Central Division Community Service Chairman is requesting monthly updates from each unit regarding its community service activities. I am asking each unit to please email me a brief monthly report outlining the community service activities your unit has participated in. Please give them to me by the 10th of each month. Your report should include the activities you completed, the number of members who participated, and the volunteer hours contributed. Remember, no act of service is too small to report. Every effort matters.

Third, keep accurate records of your community service hours. Please remember to track your volunteer hours throughout the year. Do not wait until the end of the year to try to remember everything you have done. Keep a record of your activities, the dates, and the number of hours you volunteered. These records are important when completing our end-of-year community service reports. We want to make sure every hour of service receives proper recognition. Your time, effort, and dedication deserve to be counted.

I want to encourage every unit to stay active, stay involved, and continue finding ways to serve our veterans, their families, and our communities. **for IOS**

Kelly Immel

Education

American Education Week is November 17-21. After World War I, the NEA and The American Legion were concerned about the high rate of illiteracy in WWI draftees. The first American Education Week was held Dec. 4-10, 1921, co-sponsored by the NEA and The American Legion. In 1922, the U.S. Department of Education became a co-sponsor. In 1922, the Office of Education joined as a co-sponsor, and in 1938, the PTA joined.

Units can join in the celebration by:

**Thank a teacher, staff member, or education professional by taking treats for the staff - such as cookies, apples, a fruit basket, gift cards - along with a thank-you note

**Attend school events and visit your schools

**Get involved in school initiatives/parent-teacher conferences

**Host breakfast or luncheon

**Place a thank-you ad in your local newspaper or a letter to the editor

**Volunteering to be a celebrity reader for a classroom

Pictures of children are always welcomed on the Department Facebook site. Posting children's pictures are permitted on private websites. Otherwise, you need the parents' permission to share children's pictures. The ALA link: "PERMISSION TO USE PHOTOGRAPHS/VIDEOS" ***https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/3c1536e0-de97-425f-a032-6812d83fa993/downloads/3fa290f0-e863-47b5-934d-8f0a6fb8e06f/Photo%20%26%20Video%20Release%20Form.pdf?ver=1779067518260***

Dianne McClung
lin4dee@aol.com
education@wvaux.org
304-481-8779

Junior Activities

Hello Juniors!

As November arrives, we are reminded of the importance of gratitude, kindness, and service to others. It is a wonderful time for our American Legion Auxiliary Juniors to reflect on the many blessings in our lives and find ways to share that kindness with our veterans, military families, and communities.

November is also a special month as we celebrate Veterans Day. Our Juniors can show their appreciation to the brave men and women who have served our country by making thank-you cards, writing letters, decorating placemats for veterans, or putting together small care packages. Even the simplest act of kindness can bring a smile and remind a veteran that their service and sacrifice are never forgotten.

To our Juniors, thank you for sharing your time, talents, and enthusiasm. You are an important part of our auxiliary family and the future of our organization. Keep working together, encouraging one another, and showing what it means to serve with pride and compassion.

May your November be filled with gratitude, friendship, and opportunities to make a difference!

Wish all our Juniors and their families a blessed Thanksgiving!

I am; asking all Juniors to check out upcoming communication on the juniors' department email.

God Bless!
Holly Adams
Junior Activities Chair
juniors@wvaux.org

Leadership

November is a season of gratitude, and this month, I want to celebrate something truly special: YOU, our leaders! To our past leaders, THANK YOU for blazing trails, building foundations, and sharing wisdom that continues to guide us .To our present leaders, THANK YOU for showing up, stepping up, and inspiring others through your commitment to our mission. And to our future leaders, YOUR TIME IS COMING! Leadership doesn't begin with a title. It begins the moment you decide to make a difference!

Stay connected and encouraged! Visit and join the ALA National Leadership group on Facebook for inspiring Team Lead Tuesday messages and Thoughtful Thursday empowerment quotes. Bring that encouragement back to your unit as we grow leaders and serve our mission together!

I am challenging you to grow more leaders. Encourage, mentor, empower, and create opportunities for others to shine. And speaking of shining, LET'S HEAR ABOUT YOUR GREATNESS! Send me your unit's leadership activities, successes, and the number of ALA Academy courses your members have completed to date. I want to celebrate your accomplishments! Here's a little extra motivation. There just might be something special in store for the unit with the most members completing 10 or more ALA Academy courses!

Remember, leadership isn't about how brightly you shine. It's about how many others you help shine!

Keep learning. Keep leading. Keep shining!

Rebecca S Farley
Department Leadership Chair
leadership@wvaux.org
304-674-9908

Legislative

ALA Historian Tips and Tricks:
Writing a compelling third-person narrative for your American Legion Auxiliary history book requires a balance of factual accuracy with engaging storytelling. By focusing on objective documentation while highlighting the heart of your unit's service, you can create a lasting record that honors your members' contributions.

Establish a clear, objective voice. Use third-person pronouns such as he, she, they, and it exclusively. Instead of writing, "We organized a successful Poppy Day," state, "Unit 100 organized a successful Poppy Day." This maintains a professional, historical tone appropriate for official archives and keeps the focus entirely on the organization's collective achievements.

Focus on active, vivid verbs. History books should feel alive, not like a dry list of meeting minutes. Rather than writing that a committee "was responsible for the veteran dinner," explain how members "coordinated, prepared, and served" the meal. Active language highlights the energy and dedication of your volunteers.

Integrate specific details and impacts. Avoid vague summaries. Include exact dates, names, and measurable outcomes, such as the total funds raised for the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation program or the exact number of care packages shipped.

Structure chronologically. Guide the reader seamlessly through the administrative year by arranging events in the order they occurred. Conclude each section by highlighting how these actions advanced the Auxiliary's core mission of serving veterans, military families, and communities.

Andrea Snyder
Department Historian
historian@wvaux.org

Standing Rules

Hello all,

First, what an honor and a privilege to be able to attend President Stephanie's Homecoming. It was nice to see all who attended.

Just for clarification: Standing rules are internal guidelines that supplement an organization's bylaws, setting out procedures for operations, meetings, and officer responsibilities. They can be adopted, amended, or suspended by the governing body, and must align with the organization's bylaws, applicable laws, and any governing body's policies.

Please be aware that a revised Mission statement was adopted at National Convention and also the Preamble changed some wording a couple of years ago. If those statements are listed in your Standing Rules (or Constitution and Bylaws) it must be updated.

I'm asking all Units to please send me a copy of your Standing Rules so we can create a digital file.

I look forward to working with all,

Cindy Gadd
standingrules@wvaux.org

Veterans Affairs &Rehabilitation

Well, the weather seems to have us wondering if it's fall, spring or summer. However, the calendar is still on track moving toward many special and seasonal holidays and events. I want to remind you to track your hours as you prepare Halloween Treats, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas treats and gifts, and Gift shops. These are hours actually spent doing for Veterans and at the VAMC, it does include things like decorating your post home for Christmas. That is community service not VA&R.

December 19th is Wreaths Across America. Do you or your Unit participate? Placing Wreaths does count in VA&R as service to Veterans. If your Unit sponsors Wreaths, remember these funds cannot come out of the welfare/poppy fund. Units can sign up as a sponsorship group and receive $5 back from each $17 dollar wreath. To sign up, go to:
https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/GetInvolved/LeadASponsorshipGroup

Honor our Veterans, remember why you joined and work towards the good of the mission

Lisa Cadwallader
VA&R Chair

National Committee Member

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! The ALA National Headquarters is bringing education and opportunity right to your fingertips through ALA Academy!

Did you know that FREE educational opportunities are available to help YOU become a stronger member, a more confident leader, and a greater asset to your unit?

Learn on YOUR schedule! Explore self-paced courses covering ALA 101, Leadership, Branding, Fundraising, Conflict Resolution, Diversity and Inclusion, and even a special course for our Junior members!

Want something LIVE? National also offers interactive webinars! Mark your calendars for these upcoming opportunities:
***11/3**: Discover Your ALA Member Benefits
***11/9**: From Department Leadership to National Service

Missed a webinar? NO PROBLEM! Previously recorded sessions are available ON DEMAND, allowing you to learn anytime, anywhere!

Here's the scoop: **An informed member is an empowered member**! The more we learn, the stronger our units become and the better we serve our veterans! Visit **ALA Academy** to explore, register, and start learning TODAY!

Don't sit on the sidelines — take advantage of these incredible opportunities!

Laura Clark, PDP
NEC

National Security

Are you Winter Ready? As the leaves are falling, now is the time for you to think ahead and get prepared for the cold weather.

One of the purposes of the National Security committee is to encourage our members and our communities to prepare for things like storms, and this is a great time to visit **Ready.gov** and refresh your car with items you might need over the next few months.

You can purchase a kit at most local big box stores or online. A few essentials to consider are a flashlight with extra batteries, ice scraper, kitty litter and small shovel, a blanket and extra gloves. And possibly some snacks and fresh water. Don't wait until the snow falls to be prepared. Do it for yourself and remind your members and neighbors to get to it now also.

What a great way for the ALA to be a beacon in the community, and show that we are all One Team!

Beth Rossana
Dept National Security Chair
ala.bethpearsonrossana@gmail.com

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
WV RHODODENDRON
GIRLS STATE

Rhododendron Girls State

Greetings from the Director
Rosemary M. Thomas

Hard to believe we are fast approaching November as I share this message with Paulette. I hope everyone is enjoying the fall weather and colors of the season.

The RGS Recruiting Work Group continues to meet monthly, and we are so grateful for everyone's dedication to making the 2027 session amazing! We are already receiving interest forms from rising juniors and are communicating information with them daily.

Recruiting efforts on social media and through other platforms are expected to be fully rolled out by November 11 - as we pause to honor our veterans and plan our summer program to make sure the next generation know more about their selfless service to our nation. We look forward to the continued work of our units and are so excited to start receiving names from the schools supported by unit chairs and our dedicated district representatives.

Special thanks to Laura and Kate for helping facilitate the expanded recruitment connections of the work group through civic organizations, churches, schools, and communities. We are grateful for our added tech and marketing expert Sharron Stuart, who has jumped in to share her time and talent in our quest to grow and reach all 55 counties of the state.

Thanks to Ann Buchanan, Girls State Chairman, for her continued support and leadership.





District Representatives

1st District	Madi Adams 500 Jefferson St. Newell WV 26050 681-209-6925
3rd District	Mary Jo Thomas 279 Rock Lake Road Fairmont WV 26554 202-365-7510
4th District	Andrea Snyder 2755 Redmond Ridge Rd. Gallipolis Ferry WV 25515 304-593-0249
5th District	Laura Clark 4023 Piedmont Rd. Huntington WV 25704 304-939-3607
6th District	Peggy Swartz P O Box 124 Gary WV 24836 304-448-2394
10th District	Debbie Fox 874 Longview Drive Berkeley Springs, WV 25411 304-258-5804

"THE GREAT ALL-AMERICAN TEAM"

Department Goal: 4,753 members To Date: 1,761 37.05%

Unit 200 Goal 149 members To Date: 67

1st Target November 11th 50.00%

Update October 26th

1st Base Coach Rebecca

1st Base Coach Peggy

District 1			
Unit	2027 Goal	2027	% of Goal
Wheeling #1	32	16	50.00%
Moundsville #3	260	117	45.00%
McMechen #5	12		
Weirton #10	72	22	30.56%
Cameron #18	119	56	47.06%
New Martinsville #28	109	59	54.13%
Wellsburg #34	22	5	22.73%
Follansbee #45	57	3	05.26%
Pine Grove #81	60	28	14.04%
Paden City #86	79	60	75.94%
Wheeling #89	10	1	10.00%
Newell #114	20	2	10.00%
Chester #121	122	36	29.51%
TOTALS	974	385	39.53%

National League

Goal-2083

To Date—611

29.33%



Team Scout Membership Chairman

District 3			
Unit	2027 Goal	2027	% of Goal
Buckhannon #7	46	32	69.57%
Clarksburg #13	40	18	45.00%
Elkins #29	99	51	51.52%
Shinnston #31	260	109	41.92%
Gassaway #33	28	15	53.57%
Bridgeport #68	102	60	58.82%
Belington #96	11		
Pickens #122	18	17	94.94%
Morgantown #174	150	83	55.33%
TOTALS	754	385	51.06%

District 4			
Unit	2027 Goal	2027	% of Goal
Parkersburg #15	380	144	37.89%
Spencer #21	21	6	28.57%
Pt. Pleasant #23	238	15	06.30%
Tyler Count #48	36	1	02.75%
Sistersville	41	9	21.95%
New Haven #140	109	4	03.67%
Williamstown #159	78	31	39.74%
TOTALS	903	210	23.26%

American League

Goal—2521

To Date—1083

42.96%

District 5			
Unit	2027 Goal	2027	% of Goal
Huntington #16	131	54	41.22%
Logan #19	15		
Charleston #20	26	1	03.85%
St. Albans #73	31	19	61.29%
Ceredo-Kenova #93	199	60	30.15%
Hamlin #111	39	15	38.46%
Milton #139	66	26	39.39%
Barboursville #177	154	57	37.01%
TOTALS	661	232	35.10%

1ST Base Base Rebecca

District 6			
Unit	2027 Goal	2027	% of Goal
Welch #8	43	1	02.33%
Bluefield #9	19		
Beckley #32	11		
Gary #38	87		
Cowen #62	21	10	47.62%
Richwood #97	25	5	20.00%
TOTALS	206	16	07.78%

3rd Base Coach Peggy

District 10			
Unit	2027 Goal	2027	% of Goal
Martinsburg #14	68	45	66.18%
Piedmont #52	20		
Berkeley Springs #60	199	106	53.26%
Charles Town #63	33	19	57.43%
Moorefield #64	87	8	09.20%
Charles Town #71	132	65	49.24%
Petersburg #78	64	40	62.50
Romney #91	135	22	16.30%
Paw Paw #128	33	14	42.42%
Kirby #134	28	12	42.29%
Ridgeley #136	65	5	07.69%
Capon Bridge #137	213	128	60.09%
Keyser #152	29	2	06.90%
TOTALS	1106	466	42.13%

Ways and Means

Congratulations to the **September** winners! We had NO $200.00 winner this month.

The 2027 Department Fundraiser tickets were at workshop. If your unit wasn't there, I will have them at Conferences.

If you would like them mailed to you, please send me an email and let me know how many you want. I will put them in an envelope and mail them to you.

REMEMBER**: All tickets MUST be completely fill out: Full Name, Full Address, City, St., Zip code, and Phone #. Seller must have a name and Unit #.**

If not complete I will either contact the unit or send them back to have the ticket filled out. I have received too many tickets incomplete this year.

This year will be a $25.00 winner to the **Unit** that sells the most 2027 tickets, and to the **District** that sells the most.

So, Let's Sell Tickets!!

Paulette Anderson
Christy Bland

September Ways and Means Winners

Name	#'s	City	State	Date	$$$
Shannon Harshbarger	024	Huntington	WV	9/1/26	25.00
ALA Unit #3	463	Moundsville	WV	9/2/26	25.00
Kathy Spaid	878	Yellow Spring	WV	9/3/26	25.00
ALA Unit #21	763	Spencer	WV	9/4/26	25.00
David Reid	941	Capon Bridge	WV	9/5/26	25.00
Donna Griffith	218	Parkersburg	WV	9/7/26	25.00
Kay Turner	012	Augusta	WV	9/8/26	25.00
Carolyn Mudgette	393	Augusta	WV	9/9/26	25.00
Kevin Addair	065	Glade Springs	VA	9/10/26	25.00
Ruth Loar	484	Rio	WV	9/11/26	25.00
Dottie Meadows	159	Augusta	WV	9/12/26	25.00
Dottie Kracke	546	Ranson	WV	9/14/26	25.00
Kim Mellie	033	Morgantown	WV	9/15/26	25.00
	389			9/16/26	
Kevin Pratt	966	Rio	WV	9/17/26	25.00
Dave Rose	465	Berkeley Springs	WV	9/18/26	25.00
Aleesha Karmazin	634	Canonsburg	PA	9/19/26	25.00
Kim McCormick	378	Gary	WV	9/21/26	25.00
Gala McLane	516	Delray	WV	9/22/26	25.00
	439			9/23/26	
Sue McCoy	951	Augusta	WV	9/24/26	25.00
Bonnie Haines	843	Romney	WV	9/25/26	25.00
	285			9/26/26	
Nancy Swick	143	Petersburg	WV	9/28/26	25.00
Kent Longwell	851	Sardis	OH	9/29/26	25.00
Shannon Harshbarger	871	Huntington	WV	9/30/26	25.00

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

ALA Mission and Vision Statements

ALA Mission

(What we do every day.)

Proposed:

The American Legion Auxiliary honors the sacrifice of those who serve by uniting members to make a meaningful impact for veterans, military and their families, and communities.

Current:

In the spirit of Service Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace, and security.

ALA Vision

(The legacy we'll leave.)

Proposed:

To be a connected, compassionate force — a community where veterans, servicemembers, and their families belong and thrive through service that supports veterans, military and their families, and the next generation.

Current:

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community, providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace, and security.

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Poppy Poster Contest Rules

Units shall sponsor contests in local schools. When schools do not conduct activities, other youth groups — including Junior members — may participate under direct supervision of the unit.

Contest Classes

- Class I: Grades 2 and 3
- Class II: Grades 4 and 5
- Class III: Grades 6 and 7
- Class IV: Grades 8 and 9
- Class V: Grades 10 and 11
- Class VI: Grade 12
- Class VII: Students with special needs defined as:
    a. Those in special education classes.
    b. A student recommended for special education classes but who has not been admitted due to a waiting list or various other factors.
    c. A child identified as having a disability, but not in a special education class due to lack of facilities; identification contingent upon discretion of school officials.

Poppy Poster Requirements

1. Each poster shall have a fitting slogan not to exceed 10 words. Articles "a", "and," "an", "the" are not to be counted as words. The words "buddy" and "buy" cannot be used.
2. The words "American Legion Auxiliary" must be used in the design of the poster and will not be counted in the 10-word count.
3. Each poster must include a red poppy.
4. The department shall determine the closing date of the unit contest. The poster shall be on 11x14" poster board. (Drawing paper will not be accepted).
5. The United States flag may be used as long as there are no infractions of the flag code.
6. Posters will be judged using the following criteria:
    - 50% - poster appeal (layout, message, originality)
    - 40% - artistic ability (design and color)
    - 10% - neatness
7. Media used shall be watercolors, crayons, powder or oil paint, handmade paper cutouts, ink or textures, acrylics, pencils, and markers.
8. Written in ink on the back of the poster (not attached) shall be the class in which the entry is submitted, the name, address, age, and grade of the contestant and the name of the department.
9. Submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary. Through submission of artwork, contestants and their legal guardians grant non-exclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted and agree to have their names and artwork published for commercial use without additional compensation or permission.