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American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Jan/Feb 2018

The 72nd session of American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State will be held June 10-16, 2018 at Bethel University in St. Paul. The ALA MN Girls State citizens will arrive on Sunday and leave on Saturday morning before noon. The ALA MN Girls State committee would love to have an increase in attendance this year – we have room for more than 400 participants.

The school mailing was scheduled to be sent to principals just after Christmas. The schools are aware that units will be contacting them to set up an appointment to meet with potential candidates from the Junior class to attend the 2018 ALA MN Girls State session. ***Please read all of the information we have provided so that you are aware of the eligibility and qualifications required.***

There is **no** limit to the number of girls a Unit may sponsor to ALA Minnesota Girls State. **The reservation cost remains at \$300 per citizen for the 2018 session.** If there are no high schools in your community, please consider sponsoring or co-sponsoring a girl(s) from the Junior class in a neighboring community.

What can your Unit do to raise funds to send a girl to Minnesota Girls State? Here are a few suggestions:

- ✓ Units may hold different types of fundraising events
- ✓ **Charitable Gambling funds** may be used for the reservation fee only. If used, please make checks payable to: The American Legion Foundation, Fund 83.
- ✓ Donations can be received from local businesses and/or community organizations. Their checks need to be made out to your Unit and then your Unit sends a check to the Department office for the reservation fee.
- ✓ Ask your American Legion Post or Sons of The American Legion Squadron to sponsor a girl or girls by writing a check to the American Legion Auxiliary.

A resolution, passed at the 2011 Department Convention, states that monies sent to the Department Office for reservations not used to sponsor a girl to ALA Minnesota Girls State would be placed into a Girls State Reservation Fee Fund. This fund is available for any unit to use ***one time every 3 years on a first come-first serve basis.*** If your Unit has a girl who is interested in attending and you do not have enough funds to reserve a place for her, consider applying to the Department Office in writing to request these funds.

All reservations are due by **March 31st** accompanied by your check. Once your Unit has submitted your reservation and payment of \$300.00 per girl, you will be sent a Registration Packet. This packet will be sent to the name listed on the Reservation Form. The paperwork included in this packet has due dates listed which must be followed. It is important that you read

the Registration Packet thoroughly before you share it with your citizen. **THERE WILL BE CHANGES IN THE PROCESSES this year-** watch for them. Please remember there are NO late arrivals and NO early dismissals. The 2018 Girls State session begins promptly at 3:00 pm on Sunday, June 10th and ends on Saturday morning June 16, 2018.

The name(s) and email address of your girl(s) are due to the Department office by **May 1, 2017.** Our contract with Bethel University requires that we commit to a final number of reservations for citizens and staff on that date so the deadline is very important.

There are plans to have a Package Deal of items from the Shirt Shack at Girls State. We are currently finalizing this and will have the information posted on the website soon and it will also be in the March unit mailing.

The ALA Minnesota Girls State Committee has been working diligently to ensure that our citizens have a truly memorable week at ALA Minnesota Girls State. We look forward to welcoming a young lady representing your unit and community.

Please refer to the Auxiliary web page at mnala.org for forms and other information about Girls State.

If you have questions, feel free to contact any of the members of the Department Girls State Committee. We are here to assist you!

Patti Coleman, Girls State Chairman
Peggy Tesdahl, Girls State Director
Amelia Tesdahl, Girls State Education Director
Zandra Kessler, Girls State Committee Member
Sally Strasser, Girls State Committee Member
Joanie Krantz, Americanism Chairman