



**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Minnesota  
2025-2026  
Department President  
Robin Dorf  
January 2026 Unit Mailing**

State Veterans Service Bldg. 20 W 12th St #314  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
Phone: 651-224-7634 Email: [deptoffice@mnala.org](mailto:deptoffice@mnala.org)  
Website: [www.mnala.org](http://www.mnala.org)

**Happy New Year  
American Legion Auxiliary members!**

**“Strive not to be a success,  
but rather to be of value.” – Albert Einstein**



Thank you to our home and hospital representatives, Gift Shop Chairman Becky Nelson, department office staff, those who donated to the gift shop program, and all of the volunteers who helped with the gift shops for our veterans. The true gift from these gift shops is the joy in our veterans' faces as they are able to shop for their families and themselves.

The Department Pearl Harbor held in Buffalo was well attended. At this rally we covered two of the four American Legion Pillars of Americanism and National Security. Thank you to Girls State Chairman Wanda Prescher for speaking how the Girls State program promotes Americanism during the week and thank you to Jean Walker for sharing information on the Armed Forces Service Center.

The Minnesota American Legion Family always steps up when there is a need. National American Legion Auxiliary National Security Chairman Norma Tramm reached out to our Minnesota leadership as she was contacted to help send care packages to 283-member squadron in Qatar. Members at the rally donated over \$2100.00 to help purchase items and assist in postage. The elves (Norma, Doug, Marsha, Carol, and Mary) got to work right away the Sunday after the rally and finished on Monday. A local school donated cards for the boxes. Thank you again to everyone who donated and helped accomplish this project.

Congratulations to Membership Chairman Kollette Kaehlert, all of the district and unit membership chairman, and all of our members across Minnesota! As of the December 10<sup>th</sup> Minnesota was in 5<sup>th</sup> place nationally. PLEASE, Please, please... personally contact those members not renewed. We also need to look at who we can be recruiting. We are a great organization doing so much good for our veterans. WE NEED 85% by March 1st! We can do it!

The new American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota website went live November 29<sup>th</sup>. Make sure to take a look. We also did our first Giving Tuesday in December. Members, or our community members, were able to pick a program that they would like to donate towards. Did you miss this opportunity? Don't worry, on the new website there is a donation tab where you can donate anytime.

Programs include Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Gift Shop, President's (Minnesota) Project, ALA MN Girls State All Star, and our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program.

Thank you to everyone who has made donations to the President's (Minnesota) Project this year. I know we can make this goal of \$35,000.00 to help our Minnesota veterans participate in an Honor Flight. A reminder to send your donation to the department office with Presidents Project in the memo line. We can only count donations through the department office.

Make plans to attend your District Midwinter Conferences. Your district chairmen have been busy creating their presentations. My hope is that you will hear information that will inspire and excite you to continue working our programs. Make sure to share what you have learned with your unit members.



2025-2026 Annual Reporting Informational Zooms

Unit Zoom Sessions  
Monday, February 9, 2026, at 7pm  
Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 7pm

The department office sent out our annual report information early this year to help you plan for your reporting.

When applying for awards please read the instructions and who to send them to. There has been confusion in the past, and we want to make sure your applications are processed correctly.

Reminder of the unit zoom sessions in February for unit members who help with their units reporting. The same information will be shared each night, so you can sign up for one. To sign up you will need to email Department Secretary Christie at [christie@mnala.org](mailto:christie@mnala.org).

Reporting packets went out the beginning of December and the information is also available on the website.

Wreath Across America was December 13<sup>th</sup> and members of the American Legion Family all across Minnesota braved the cold weather to serve. If you ever have the opportunity to attend a ceremony, please do. Attending really shows what this program is about. Also, if you can sponsor a wreath, or more, to help make sure there are enough wreaths for all of our deceased veterans. It is not too early to start thinking about the 2026 Wreaths Across America.



January is the month of National Security and Legislation. Make sure to read what your Department chairman have shared in this unit mailing for your unit members. We have heard many times that we need to share the unit mailings with our members. Please do. Also, you can find the unit mailings on the website under unit resources.

**“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”**

**– Winston Churchill**



**Department of Minnesota**  
**January 2026 Unit Mailing**  
**Americanism Chairman, Tamara Thayer**  
**tlthayer@gmail.com**

## **The Americanism Program in the American Legion Auxiliary** **Promoting Patriotism and Community Engagement: January Projects**

### **Introduction**

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) has long been committed to fostering patriotism, civic responsibility, and democratic values among citizens. One of its key initiatives, the Americanism Program, seeks to instill appreciation for American ideals, encourage active citizenship, and honor those who serve our nation. Through educational activities, community projects, and youth engagement, the program plays an important role in strengthening the fabric of American society.

### **What Is the Americanism Program?**

The Americanism Program is one of the core pillars of the American Legion Auxiliary. Its mission is to promote an understanding and appreciation of the rights, freedoms, and responsibilities that come with being an American. The program encourages members and communities to participate in activities that highlight patriotic traditions, honor veterans, and educate the public about the history and principles of the United States. Key objectives of the program include:

- Promoting respect for the American flag and its proper display
- Educating youth about American history and citizenship

Supporting activities that honor veterans and active-duty military personnel

- Encouraging civic participation, such as voting and community service

### **January Projects for the Americanism Program**

As a new year begins, January is an ideal time for ALA units to kick off Americanism projects that engage their communities and set a patriotic tone for the months ahead. Below are several suggested projects that can be undertaken in January:

#### **1. Flag Etiquette Workshops**

Organize a workshop at a local school, library, or community center to teach proper flag etiquette and the history of the American flag. Distribute informational pamphlets and

demonstrate how to properly fold and display the flag. This activity helps reinforce respect for national symbols among youth and adults alike.

## **2. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service**

January brings the observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a federal holiday dedicated to service and equality. Plan a community service project, such as volunteering at a food bank, organizing a neighborhood cleanup, or supporting veterans in need. Emphasize how service to others exemplifies American values and honors Dr. King's legacy.

## **3. Promote the Americanism Essay Contest**

The cover sheet is on the Department website and must be signed by a teacher. Due to Department Americanism Chair before March 26<sup>th</sup>. Essay Title: "Celebrating America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday and the Veterans who Fought for Our Freedom."

## **4. Citizenship and Voting Awareness Campaign**

Begin an awareness campaign about the importance of citizenship and voting. Create informative displays at local events, distribute voter registration information, and encourage eligible community members to register to vote. This is especially timely in presidential election years or during local election cycles.

## **5. Care Packages for Deployed Service Members**

Organize a drive to collect items for care packages to send to deployed military personnel. Items like snacks, toiletries, and handwritten notes of encouragement go a long way in boosting morale and showing appreciation for their service.

## **6. Americanism Education in Schools**

Partner with local schools to present lessons or activities on American history, the Constitution, and the responsibilities of citizenship. Offer to provide guest speakers or materials, and encourage schools to incorporate Americanism themes into January classroom activities.

## **Conclusion**

The Americanism Program within the American Legion Auxiliary is vital for instilling patriotism, supporting veterans, and promoting civic responsibility. By starting the year with meaningful projects in January, ALA members can inspire their communities to celebrate and uphold American values throughout the months ahead. Whether through education, service, or advocacy, every effort contributes to a stronger, more united nation.



## CHAPLAIN / MEMORIAL

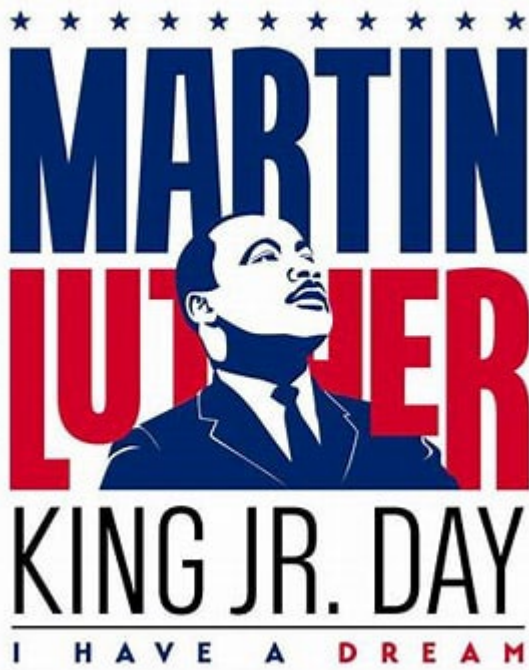
Marsha Bible – Department Chaplain  
5602 West Oakes Drive – St. Cloud, MN 56303  
(320) 492-8977 [marsha.bible@gmail.com](mailto:marsha.bible@gmail.com)

**JANUARY, 2026**

## Happy New Year 2026!

Lord, as we begin a new year, let us resolve to keep a promise, seek out a forgotten friend, listen, laugh, brighten the heart of a child, encourage the young, appreciate our elders, express our gratitude, take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of life, and speak your love to others.

God, guide us in the new year to grow closer together in our families, in our Units, in our world. Let us always strive to bring peace to the world. Let us live each day to the fullest. For all the blessings of the year, we give you thanks, God. Amen.



O God...help us to walk together,  
pray together, sing together, and live  
together until that day when all God's  
children, Black, White, Red and  
Yellow will rejoice in one common  
band of humanity in the kingdom of  
our common bond of humanity in the  
kingdom of our Lord.

Amen

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.



**Department of Minnesota**  
**January 2026 Unit Mailing**  
**Community Service Chairman,**  
**Tamara Martin**  
**[tamaramartin@gmail.com](mailto:tamaramartin@gmail.com)**

A new year always feels like a clean page, and it gives us a chance to look at what we've done and where we'd like to go next. Our units accomplished a lot over the past year, and every hour spent volunteering, checking in on a veteran, or helping with a project made a real difference. Thank you to everyone who stepped up, shared ideas, and supported the mission in their own way.

Looking Ahead: As we move into the new year, we'll continue focusing on meaningful, hands-on ways to support veterans, military families, and our community. Whether it's helping with an ongoing project or trying something new, every contribution matters. Small efforts add up quickly when we work together.

**Winter Community Service Ideas**

The winter months give us plenty of chances to brighten someone's day. Here are a few simple ways to help during the colder season:

**Warmth & Comfort**

- Donate coats, mittens, hats, and warm socks
- Put together small "warmth packs" with things like hand warmers and lip balm
- Make fleece blankets for veterans, seniors, or families who could use a little extra comfort

**Supporting Veterans**

- Send cards or "winter cheer" notes to veterans in local facilities
- Drop off baked goods or hot meals to homebound veterans
- Offer a ride to appointments when the roads or weather make travel harder

**Helping the Community**

- Support food shelves, which often see higher need during winter
- Check on neighbors who might struggle with shoveling or icy walkways
- Work with local schools on scarves, mittens, or boot drives
- Help warming centers with snacks, toiletries, or volunteer hours

**Family & Youth Activities**

- Create simple craft kits for kids in shelters or youth programs
- Read to children during community events or after-school programs
- Join American Legion Family Day activities that bring youth and veterans together

**How to Take Part**

- Join us at monthly meetings to help plan upcoming projects
- Lend a hand at one of our Community Service events
- Bring a friend or fellow member who would enjoy helping
- Keep an eye out for new volunteer opportunities as the year unfolds

Thank you for everything you do to support the mission and lift up those around you. Here's to a new year filled with purpose, connection, and meaningful service.

Several questions came up after Fall Conference, so here are the answers to the questions.



### **BONDING FEE**

1. Can Districts be covered under the bonding fee that the units pay to the Department office?  
No, only units are covered under the bonding fee. The Department has their own bonding coverage. Districts and County Councils, if they choose to be bonded, should check on getting their own coverage. There are a number of companies that can give quotes for your unit.



### **POPPY FUNDS**

2. Can Poppy funds be used for Quilts of Valor?  
Use the poppy funds to buy the materials for the quilts. That way ensures that the poppy funds will be used for a veteran.
3. Can Poppy funds be given to Beyond the Yellow Ribbon?  
No. There is no way to know that your donation goes to assist a veteran or their family.

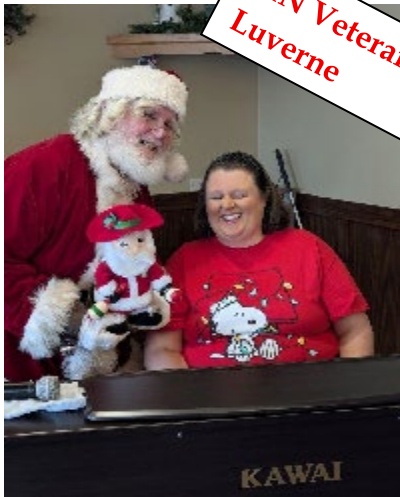
These answers came from National.



## Department of Minnesota January 2026 Unit Mailing Gift Shop Chairman, Becky Nelson Gift Shop Committee, Sharon Voltz



The Gift Shop program was a success. We have 12 ALA volunteers who accepted an appointment as a Representative for our 4 VAHC and 8 reps for our MVH. These volunteers are responsible for all kinds of activities including Gift Shop. They are responsible for getting the gifts and passing them out, finding volunteers to help the veterans pick out their gift for their families and themselves and wrapping them. I'd like to thank the American Legion Family for their donations and their time. Special Thank You to all the Reps for their hard work to make this program a success and for making Christmas special for our Veterans and their Families.



**MN Veterans Home -  
Luverne**

**MN Veterans Home -  
Bemidji**



**MN Veterans Home - Montevideo**



**MN Veterans Home -  
Minneapolis**



**St. Cloud VA Hospital**





**Department of Minnesota**  
**January 2026 Unit Mailing**  
**MN American Legion Auxiliary**  
**Girls State Chairman, Wanda Prescher**

## Happy New Year!

Our 79th Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary Girls State 2026 session at Bethel, June 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2026, recruitment is starting! With this letter you will see the flyer you can post in your schools, club and wherever you think it will be seen. Also, there is new pamphlet you can print and take to the schools as soon as you like.

The Girl State letter and new video, along with the pamphlet, will be going directly to all schools the week of January 12th after school break. The letter and video will be sent to all unit presidents and Girls State District Chairman by January 9th and on the Department website.

Please use the new website, all information you need will be right there as well.

Our committee is looking for younger ladies to join us as a junior counselor paired with a seasoned counselor for the week. It is time to look to the future, and we are hoping that past Girls Stater's or anyone who would be interested in helping this 2026 session as a counselor will reach out to us.

Other help is needed during the week as well:

- Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> - Registration, Shirt Shack and Button Making
- Sunday – Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> Snack Nights for the citizens

Volunteering for a few hours during the week is a great way to find out more about Girls State. Let us know by January 30th if you want to help on Sunday or an evening!

Thank you to our members/units who donated to the Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary **ALL-STARS** to date, the committee is so appreciative of your support!

## Happy New Year from the Girls State Committee!

Chairman: Wanda Prescher                      507-254-0304 or [w.prescher1951@gmail.com](mailto:w.prescher1951@gmail.com)

Director: Peggy Tesdahl                      612-715-4489 or [ranpegt0814@hotmail.com](mailto:ranpegt0814@hotmail.com)

Education: Amelia Tesdahl                      763-269-1212 or [ametes2014@hotmail.com](mailto:ametes2014@hotmail.com)

Committee Member: Rene Suess                      763-300-2226 or [rseuss3@gmail.com](mailto:rseuss3@gmail.com)

Committee Member: Jennifer Stolz                      763-234-1198 or [jstolzde@gmail.com](mailto:jstolzde@gmail.com)

Americanism Chairman: Linda Kelly                      507-421-8270 or [lkkauxiliary@gmail.com](mailto:lkkauxiliary@gmail.com)

reach out!



Contact your local  
American Legion Auxiliary  
to sign up!

For more details contact  
the Department Office at  
651-224-7634

Girls State is made  
possible with  
the help of our  
Committee:

Wanda Prescher - Chairman

Peggy Tesdahl - Director

Amelia Tesdahl - Education Director

Renee Suess - Committee Member

Jennifer Stolz - Committee Member

See you this summer!



 **AMERICAN  
LEGION**  
**AUXILIARY**  
Minnesota  
Girls State

79th ANNUAL

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
MINNESOTA GIRLS STATE

# What is it?

ALA Minnesota Girls State is a diverse group of young women who share a common desire to learn. From small towns to urban areas, the citizens' diverse backgrounds add spirit to the program. The purposes of the ALA Minnesota Girls State program is to provide Americanism and good citizenship training, and to inform our participants about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of government as practiced in a democratic society.



ALA Minnesota Girls State "Citizens" study the Minnesota city, county, and state governmental processes. Citizens are divided into two fictional political parties gaining knowledge of the operations of a two-party system. They formulate their cities electing the officials and then proceed to elect county and state government officials.

Activities include political party campaigning, caucusing, debating, and voting. Parliamentary procedures are also used in the processes. We are proud to feature a variety of speakers during the week. Past speakers have included: Mayor of White Bear Lake Jo Emerson, Stearns County Attorney Janelle Kendall, State Auditor Julie Blaha, Secretary of State Steve Simon, and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, as well as Gold Star families, veterans, and first generation Americans.

# Requirements

- ★ She must have completed her junior year of high school in a Minnesota public, charter, home school, parochial or private school or be a resident of Minnesota and have at least one more semester remaining prior to graduation
- ★ She must demonstrate an interest in American government and have a high scholastic rank. She must have high moral character with strong leadership abilities
- ★ She must be a citizen of the U.S. or have legal residency
- ★ She must have no marital status (National ALA Mandate)
- ★ She must not have attended any other ALA Girls State session
- ★ She must be physically healthy and able to live independently
- ★ She must respect the American flag and be willing to pledge allegiance to it



June 14th to June 19th  
at Bethel University in  
St. Paul, MN

# Objectives

To develop leadership and pride as American citizens, to educate citizens about our system of government, to instill a greater understanding of Americanism, and to stimulate a desire to maintain our democratic government processes



# ATTEND MINNESOTA GIRLS STATE 2026

"Girls State was one of the best weeks of my life! I highly recommend any Junior interested to apply!" -Kate O.



**APPLY FOR A  
SPONSORSHIP TO  
ATTEND!**

Complete the attached  
form and return to the  
Post or contact us!

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Candidate must be in her junior year. She must be attending a Minnesota public, charter, home school, parochial or private school or be a resident of Minnesota.

## BENEFITS OF ATTENDING:

Attending Girls State is not only an excellent learning opportunity; it's an impressive accomplishment that looks great on a resume. Those who attend leave with life-long skills in leadership & self confidence. Are you up for the challenge?

## WHEN:

The Minnesota program will be June 15-21, 2025 at the Bethel University campus in Arden Hills, MN. You must be able to be present the entire duration.

**Deadline for applications is February 28**

The American Legion Auxiliary  
MINNESOTA GIRLS STATE 2026

**CANDIDATE APPLICATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, St Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

High School Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Leadership/Service Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Attach a short essay explaining why you are interested in participating in Girls State. Your statement can include how you can contribute to or what you hope to gain from the experience. This essay will have significant impact on your possible selection to participate in Girls State.



***APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN  
FEBRUARY 28<sup>th</sup>!***



**Department of Minnesota**  
**January 2026 Unit Mailing**  
**Junior Activities Chairman,**  
**Brandi Christensen**  
**[brandichristensen@gmail.com](mailto:brandichristensen@gmail.com)**

With the holidays here please include your junior members in your Christmas Parties, events, functions, etc.

Or even if you are just helping local veterans or adopting local nursing homes residents. Have them help shop. If your junior members are anything like my daughter they will find joy in helping Shop for gifts for others. Or have them make tie blankets. Those fleece blankets that are tied all the way around they would love to make those.

Most Districts are now planning their Spring Fun Days and District Junior Conferences. Remember make things fun.

Information will be out very soon about Department Junior Conference hosted by The 1<sup>st</sup> District and will be in Stewartville.

Reminder that Honorary Department Junior President A.J. symbol is the Sunflower. Her theme is "Be the SUN in veterans lives". Her project is to raise funds for Legionville for plumbing and other things they need.



**Department of Minnesota  
Call to the 2026  
Department Junior Conference**

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Junior Conference of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota is hereby called to be held at the Stewartville American Legion Post 164 1100 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NW Stewartville, MN 55976 at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of:

1. Presentation and judging of awards
2. Reports from the District Honorary Junior Presidents
3. Election of Department Honorary Junior Officers
4. Other business for the good of the Junior Auxiliary

**Conference Schedule**

All events will be held at the Stewartville American Legion Post 164 1100 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NW Stewartville, MN

Registration	Friday, April 10 <sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Saturday, April 11 <sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Advisory Committee Meeting (See below for who attends)	Friday, April 10 <sup>th</sup> 7:30 p.m.

Processional Practice a.m. Senior Advisor/Senior Judges Meeting Saturday, April 12 <sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m. (All Senior members are requested to attend)	Saturday, April 11 <sup>th</sup> 8:00
Conference Call to Order	Saturday, April 11 <sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.

The Advisory Committee is comprised of the Department Junior Activities Chairman, Honorary Department Junior President, Secretary, First Vice President, Second Vice President, District Junior Presidents, and District Junior Activities Chairmen. Also included are the Department Junior Conference Parliamentarian and Senior Secretary.

Processional - Each district is encouraged to bring their District Colors. Per the Standing Rules, Junior Color bearers should wear navy skirt or navy slacks and white blouses or appropriate attire.

**Conference Location**

The Department Junior Conference will be held at the Stewartville American Legion Post 164. The conference is hosted by the 1<sup>st</sup> District. Housing information for the Junior Conference is attached to this Call to Conference.

**Registration Fee**

The registration fee for the Department Junior Conference is \$15.00 per person and should be paid when you arrive at the Stewartville American Legion check in for the Conference. To prepay please send your check along with your registration form. Checks should be made payable to Tenth District American Legion Auxiliary.



## Department of Minnesota Call to the 2026 Department Junior Conference

### **Delegates**

Each organized group shall be represented by two delegates with two votes at the Department Junior Conference, plus one additional delegate for each fifteen members or major fraction thereof. (Standing Rules) Delegate strength is determined 30 days prior to Department Junior Conference.

Junior Membership	Number of Delegates
1-7	2 delegates
8-22	3 delegates
23-37	4 delegates
38-52	5 delegates
53-67	6 delegates
68-82	7 delegates
83-97	8 delegates
98-120	9 delegates

Only Junior Members will be allowed to speak on the Conference floor. Please remember that Senior members are advisors only and this is the Juniors Conference. Juniors will be seated by District with one advisor per District. If space allows one advisor per Unit may also sit with the Juniors. The District Junior Activities Chairman will be the Senior Advisor for her District if she is present.

### **Eligibility to hold office (Standing Rules)**

1. No officer shall succeed herself in the same office.
2. Any Junior officer must be classified as a junior member the year she holds office.

### **Endorsements**

Endorsements for Department Honorary Junior Officers shall be sent to the Department Office as soon as possible. The Department Office will send them to the District Junior Activities Chairmen, District Honorary Junior Presidents, Department Honorary Junior President, and the Department Junior Activities Chairmen prior to the Department Junior Conference (Standing Rules).

Endorsements should state the candidate's name, age, district, offices held in the Unit and District and years of membership.

Send endorsements to: American Legion Auxiliary  
State Veterans Service Building  
20 W. 12th Street- Room 314  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
or email to [deptoffice@mnala.org](mailto:deptoffice@mnala.org)



**Department of Minnesota  
Call to the 2026  
Department Junior Conference**

**Friday Evening Activities**

On Friday evening, April 10<sup>th</sup> a fun evening is planned for the Juniors beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Anoka American Legion. The 1<sup>st</sup> District is busy planning so that the Juniors can make new friends, rekindle friendships they already have, and have lots of fun together. Food and beverages will be provided for Friday evening and is included in the registration fee. Food will be served from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This will be a fun time for everyone. Registration begins at 6:00 p.m. and the Advisory Committee's meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

**Department Honorary Junior President's Project**

Department Honorary Junior President Anastasia and the Juniors of Minnesota's project this year is raising funds to repair the plumbing for the cabins at Legionville.

**Completed forms needed:**

Please complete the enclosed forms and return them as noted on each form. It is important that attendees register (both Junior and Senior members) including their names, addresses, phone numbers and email address.

1. Pre-registration form (in duplicate) so that our Department Honorary Junior President can make tentative committee appointments prior to the Conference. Due date is Friday, March 13, 2025.
2. A Media Release Consent Form must be completed for each Junior member and signed by their parent or guardian.
3. The registration form for the local committee indicating the number attending from your Unit is also attached. This helps the local committee to plan supplies for activities and food that is needed. Deadline for registration is Friday, March 13, 2025.
4. The registration fee for the conference is \$15.00 per person and will need to be prepaid or at the conference when you arrive. Checks should be made payable to 10<sup>th</sup> District American Legion Auxiliary.

Any questions regarding the Department Junior Conference please contact me at 763-843-0875 or [brandichristensen21@gmail.com](mailto:brandichristensen21@gmail.com)

**Brandi Christensen  
Department Junior Activities Chairman**

### Poppy Contests

It is the responsibility of the District Junior Activities Chairman to see that all District entries are brought to the Department Conference.



There is no limit to the number of entries per Unit for the contests



Only one entry per Junior per contest



All entries must include a large or small, or a combination of the Poppies.



All white tags must be removed from the Poppies



All entries must be at the Department Junior Conference by 9:00am on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> 2025, for judging.

All entries must have a sealed envelope attached with the contest name and class number on the envelope.

Inside of the envelope must have the Juniors name, Unit number, location, and District number on a card inside

#### Classes for each contest

Class I	Ages 6 years and under
Class II	Ages 7 - 12 years
Class III	Ages 13 - 18 years

#### Awards

1st Place	\$10 cash award for each class
2nd Place	\$5 cash award for each class

#### Small Poppy Table Display

To the Junior member in each class with the best Small Size Poppy Table Display using Honorary Department Junior President Anastasia's theme ***"Be the SUN in Veterans Lives"*** using the Sunflower

#### Poppy Corsage/Boutonniere Contest

To the Junior member in each class with the best Poppy corsage or boutonniere using Honorary Department Junior President Anastasia's theme ***"Be the SUN in Veterans Lives"*** Her symbol is the Sunflower.

#### Poppy Memorial Day Wreath

To the Junior member in each class with the best Poppy Memorial Day Wreath with the poppy as the focus of the wreath.



**Department of Minnesota  
Call to the 2026  
Department Junior Conference**

## **MEDIA RELEASE CONSENT FORM**

1. I, the undersigned, hereby authorize American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota to photograph me, take motion pictures of me, take video footage of me and/or make electronic sound recordings of me (herein referred to as photographic or electronic reproductions) as well as use my name and likeness.
2. I authorize the use of any such photographic or electronic reproductions and my name and likeness for any purpose, including, but not limited to, educational and other public media as may be deemed appropriate by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota. I understand that I may be identifiable from such photographic or electronic reproductions for non-profit public purposes.
3. I understand that I will not be compensated financially for such uses.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

### **PARENTAL CONSENT**

I certify that I am the parent and/or guardian of the individual above, a minor under the age of eighteen years. I hereby agree to assume legal responsibility for his/her authorization referred to in this General Media Release.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant's Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address of Parent/Guardian (if different)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

**American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota**

State Veterans Service Bldg. - 20 W. 12<sup>th</sup> St. Suite #314 - St. Paul, MN 55155 | P: (651) 224-7634

[deptoffice@mnala.org](mailto:deptoffice@mnala.org) | Website: [www.mnala.org](http://www.mnala.org)



**Department of Minnesota  
Call to the 2026  
Department Junior Conference**

Please complete this form so that the local committee can make their plans and have an accurate count of people to expect for food and activities.

**Friday Evening Activities - April 10, 2025**

# of Junior members \_\_\_\_\_

# of Senior members/guests \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Noon Lunch at the Conference -April 11, 2025**

# of Junior members \_\_\_\_\_

# of Senior members/guests \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any special dietary needs or allergies for Junior and/or Senior members:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Unit# \_\_\_\_\_ Unit Location \_\_\_\_\_ District# \_\_\_\_\_

Motel where group is staying \_\_\_\_\_

**CONFERENCE RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2025**

Mail Reservations to:

# 2026 DEPARTMENT JUNIOR CONFERENCE PRE-REGISTRATION

**NOTE: It is important that we have all of the information requested below. Please print legibly!**

## JUNIOR MEMBERS

NAME	AGE	COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER	COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT PREFERRED

## SENIOR MEMBERS

NAME	COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER	COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT PREFERRED

UNIT# \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_  
DISTRICT# \_\_\_\_\_ MOTEL WHERE GROUP IS STAYING \_\_\_\_\_

SUBMITTED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
POSITION \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

***Please send one copy to both of the following:***

Anastatia Donnelly, Honorary Jr President  
701 3<sup>rd</sup> Street North  
Swea City, IA 50590

Brandi Christensen  
Junior Activities Chairman  
15780 30<sup>th</sup> Street  
Watertown, MN 55388

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026**



**Department of Minnesota**  
**January 2026 Unit Mailing**  
**Leadership Chairman, Mary Kuperus**  
**wmkuperus@tds.net**

## **Leadership Workshop**

February 21, 2026, will be the second Leadership Workshop of the Auxiliary year. It will take place at the Cosmos Community Center at 220 Milky Way St S, Cosmos, MN 56228. The workshop will begin at 10:00 and will be completed by 3:00pm. A flyer is included in this mailing to pre-register. The cost is \$15.00, which includes lunch and course handouts. The deadline to register is February 17<sup>th</sup>. Please register early, so we know how many folders and the amount of lunch is needed. This workshop is hosted by the Cosmos and Hutchinson American Legion Auxiliary Units.

## **Unit Member of the Year**

American Legion Auxiliary units all have hardworking, dedicated members who give their time and talent to further the mission of our organization but have no desire to serve beyond the unit level. To recognize such dedicated service, each unit may nominate one candidate for Unit Member of the Year in its department.

Requirements:

- Open to senior members who are not currently, nor have ever been, in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than unit president. Current membership dues must be paid. Years of membership are not a part of the criteria; the nominee may be a new member.
- Units submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less to department Leadership Chairman Mary Kuperus. Describe the nominee's accomplishments and activities for the current administrative year. Include the nominee's name, telephone number, and address. The Unit President and Secretary must sign the entry unless the nominee is one of them in which case, a Past Unit President must sign the entry. The nomination is due by April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The Department Leadership Chairman will use the electronic form to submit the department's Unit Member of the Year. Recognition of the winners occurs at the American Legion Auxiliary's national convention.

## **Opportunities to Learn More**

The ALA Committee Facebook Groups are spaces on the social media network for ALA members to discuss or share broad or narrow topics related to each committee. Groups provide an arena for organic discussion about your local programs or services and present the opportunity to cultivate brand awareness.

The Leadership Committee raises awareness of leadership development opportunities.

Please join the ALA Leadership Facebook page to get ideas for leadership topics. Sign-up for the page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALALeadership>.



American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Minnesota

## LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

February 21, 2026  
Cosmos Community Center  
220 Milky Way St S, MN 56228

Workshop 10 AM – 3 PM  
\$15.00 Pre-Registration  
Includes lunch & course handouts

Deadline to register: February 17th

Hosted by  
Cosmos and Hutchinson American Legion Auxiliary Units

Please register early!

-----  
Cut and return this portion with \$15 registration fee to:  
Mary Kuperus, 313 Pine St SW, New London, MN 56273  
Make checks payable to: Mary Kuperus

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Unit # \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Location \_\_\_\_\_

Legion \_\_\_\_\_ SAL \_\_\_\_\_

Auxiliary \_\_\_\_\_ Senior \_\_\_\_\_ Junior \_\_\_\_\_

District # \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_



**Department of Minnesota**  
**January 2026 Unit Mailing**  
**Membership Chairman,**  
**Kollett Kaehlert**  
**kkkaehlertaux@gmail.com**

## **Happy New Year!**

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and New Year Holiday. As we approach this time of year members across the nation become extremely busy, post, units, and squadrons are all working hard to work the mission while also trying to work on renewals, retention, and growth. We need to ask, **who ARE the members? What do they need?** Here are some tricks to help you:

- Talk to your members.
- Thank them for being a member.
- Be warm and welcome to new people who walk through your door.
- Share your accomplishments as a unit for the mission.

Currently as of 12/15/2025 Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary is at 74.10%, the National goal is to make 85% March 15, 2026. For the District Chairman there is a Challenge out to make this Goal by February 14, 2026, to receive a gift from me. I know that all ten districts can make it.

Remember as you are out recruiting there is a new award for the Auxiliary, "Family 3 Award" Members who recruit 3 New Legion members, 3 New Auxiliary members and 3 New SAL members for the 2026 membership year. One entry per recruiter. Certified forms must be received at ALA National Headquarters by June 6, 2026. Please send the entry form to your department headquarters office no later than one week prior to the deadline.

New members must be paid by June 1, 2026.

# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Bulletin #19 as of 12-16-2025

2026 Membership

**Celebrating Members**

"Finding Members in Everyday Places"

Leading the Celebration is Kollett Kaehlert

DISTRICT	# of Units	Goal	Period Gain	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership LY 12/17/2024	Difference from Last Year
One	47	3,240	38	2,428	74.94%	2567	-139
Two	68	3,229	57	2,466	76.37%	2510	-44
Three	45	3,390	60	2,469	72.83%	2485	-16
Four	5	456	6	304	66.67%	306	-2
Five	7	344	5	233	67.73%	248	-15
Six	57	4,370	43	3,377	77.28%	3476	-99
Seven	49	2,427	16	1,812	74.66%	1889	-77
Eight	20	1,092	11	769	70.42%	748	21
Nine	43	2,786	22	2,151	77.21%	2127	24
Ten	40	3,146	39	2,209	70.22%	2300	-91
1982	1	408	4	225	55.15%	222	3
Depart. Total	382	24,888	301	18,443	74.10%	18878	-435
Group 1 (Even) <i>Jodi Hassing</i>	190	12,292	156	9,125	74.24%	9,340	-215
Group 2 (Odd) <i>Linda Kelly</i>	191	12,188	141	9,093	74.61%	9,538	-445

## RANKINGS

**1st**  
77.28%  
District 6



**2nd**  
77.21%  
District 9



**3rd**  
76.37%  
District 2



**4th**  
74.93%  
District 1



**5th**  
74.66%  
District 7



**6th**  
72.83%  
District 3



**7th**  
70.42%  
District 8



**8th**  
70.22%  
District 10



**9th**  
67.73%  
District 5



**10th**  
66.67%  
District 4



# 2027 UNIT DUES FORM

*\*Please print neatly - forms not legible will be returned\**

I understand that the dues amount listed below will be printed on the 2027 Membership Renewal Notices that will be mailed to each Senior member of our Unit next September. Below is the address to be printed on each Renewal Notice showing where our members are to mail their dues for this Unit.

It is understood that no change in the dollar amount of dues or the address to which the dues are to be sent can be made after a deadline which Department Headquarters will establish based on the requirements of National Headquarters. **When determining your dues amount, please make sure that the amount charged is at least \$35.00 for Senior members and \$6.00 for Junior members amounts that are sent to the Department office.**

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

UNIT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_

## 2027 SENIOR DUES OF THE UNIT ARE

(Amount **each Senior** member pays to your Unit) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues sent to Department per Senior = \$35.00**

## 2027 JUNIOR DUES OF THE UNIT ARE

(Amount **each Junior** member pays to your Unit) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues sent to Department per Junior = \$6.00**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of individual in the Unit to receive membership dues

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address (Please be certain it is the current/correct address)

☐ Check Box if this is the  
Legion Post address.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
( )

\_\_\_\_\_  
Area Code / Telephone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Membership Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

**EVERY UNIT MUST COMPLETE & RETURN THIS FORM EVEN IF THERE IS NO CHANGES**

**Return no later than March 15, 2026 to:**

**American Legion Auxiliary**  
**State Veterans Service Building**  
**20 W 12<sup>th</sup> St Room 314**  
**St Paul MN 55155**

Forms are also on our website and completed forms may be emailed to: **[deptoffice@mnala.org](mailto:deptoffice@mnala.org)**

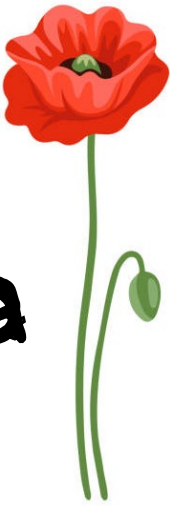
**MN 6<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT**

**AMERICAN  
LEGION**

**AUXILIARY**



# Presents ... Poppy Palooza



HOSTED BY

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 261**

**SATURDAY JANUARY 24, 2026 \* 1:00PM – 4:00PM**

**KIMBALL AMERICAN LEGION POST 261**

**201 MAIN STREET SOUTH, KIMBALL MINNESOTA**



COME TO CELEBRATE, LEARN, AND CONNECT  
WITH OTHERS WHILE EXPLORING THE IMPACTFUL  
ROLE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY IN  
HONORING VETERANS THROUGH POPPIES!!!

**No experience needed \* We'll teach you!**

\* LISTEN TO THE INSPIRING POPPY LADY STORY

\* LEARN THE SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE POPPY FLOWER

Snack and  
refreshments  
will be provided



**Dabble in Poppy  
Trivia to test your  
knowledge  
for your chance  
to win prizes**



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY THIRD DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA  
PROUDLY PRESENTS OUR SECOND....

# Poppy Palooza

WACONIA AMERICAN LEGION POST 150  
4 E. MAIN ST #1, WACONIA, MN 55387

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>  
1PM-5PM

COME CELEBRATE, LEARN, AND CONNECT WITH OTHERS, WHILE EXPLORING  
THE IMPACTFUL ROLE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY IN HONORING  
VETERANS THROUGH POPPIES!

NO EXPERIENCE  
NEEDED WE'LL TEACH YOU!

Dabble in poppy trivia to test  
your knowledge for your chance  
to win prizes.

BE AN ARTIST AND PAINT A POPPY  
ROCK TO HONOR YOUR VETERAN

Meet the inspiring  
"Poppy Lady" and  
discover her  
remarkable story in  
promoting the symbolic  
significance of the  
poppy flower.

SNACKS WILL  
BE PROVIDED





**Department of Minnesota**  
**January 2026 Unit Mailing**  
**Public Relations Chairman,**  
**Michelle Weaver**  
**[weaver.michelle595@gmail.com](mailto:weaver.michelle595@gmail.com)**

### **Public Relations Corner**

As we wrap up another year, I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible work happening across our Units and Districts. A special shout-out goes to **Margee Keller and Crookston Unit 20** for sending me wonderful articles about what their Unit has been doing. I truly love receiving these emails and seeing the creativity and dedication in action. Keep them coming—they inspire us all!

### **So, what are you doing to promote your Unit?**

That's what Public Relations is all about—sharing your story and showcasing the amazing things your members are doing. When we promote our activities, we're not just spreading the word; we're opening the door for potential new members who see what we do and realize they're eligible to join. Every post, photo, and article is an opportunity to grow our Auxiliary family.

Here are a few **PR tips and ideas** to keep your Unit in the spotlight:

- **Share your mission in action:** Post pictures of your community service projects, holiday events, and veteran support activities on social media and local newspapers.
- **Highlight member stories:** People connect with people—feature a member's reason for joining or their favorite Auxiliary project.
- **Use local media:** Send press releases to your hometown paper about upcoming events or recap what your Unit accomplished.
- **Engage online:** Create short videos or reels showing your members in action. These are great for Facebook and Instagram!
- **Collaborate:** Partner with local organizations for joint events and share those partnerships widely.

**Let me know how you are sharing the Auxiliary's mission in your communities.** Your ideas and successes can inspire others, and together we can make an even bigger impact.

Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and a strong finish to the year. Keep promoting, keep connecting, and keep making a difference!



**Department of Minnesota**  
**January 2026 Unit Mailing**  
**Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation**  
**Linda Kelly, Chairman**  
**lkkauxiliary@gmail.com**

I was lucky enough to participate in two of our twelve “gift shops” – what a joy to see the smiles on our veterans as they have the opportunity to choose a gift for themselves and their spouse/caregiver. Volunteers were in full force to wrap those gifts for under the tree.



**Minneapolis Veterans Home**



**Bemidji Veterans Home**

Please remember that our twelve Auxiliary members who represent us at the twelve facilities are there year-round and they need our support. They provide entertainment and items needed by our veterans throughout the year. We appreciate any donation that your unit can give to the general fund to help those events continue. Please send your donation to the Department Office so your contributes can be recorded.

I am also sure that they need volunteers for some of those events. If you have a Veterans’ home or VA Medical Center near you, check them out – see if they can use your help.

On another note, again this year, we will be holding a Silent Auction and Bake Sale to benefit our VA&R program at our Department Convention in July. Please mention it at your upcoming meeting to see if you have a quilter, knitter, card maker or any other talented person who is willing to make something for the silent auction. Baskets are always a hit at this event.

*I am adding a new event at the Silent Auction. It is a “guessing game”. The question will be Legion Family related and we are asking for a donation to the VA&R program for every guess. I know how much our American Legion Family likes treats, so the winner will receive a LARGE tray of “goodies”. In fact, if you have a specialty that comes from your kitchen, I hope you will consider donating as part of the prize. I’d like to have two trays ready in case we have a tie.*



**Department of Minnesota**  
**January 2026 Unit Mailing**  
**Secretary's Notes**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

December 31 – January 1 – New Year's – Office Closed  
Jan. 10 - 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> District Mid-Winter, Crystal VFW  
Jan. 10 - 9<sup>th</sup> District Mid-Winter, Roseau Post 24  
Jan. 17 - 7<sup>th</sup> District Mid-Winter, Litchfield Post 104  
Jan. 17 - 10<sup>th</sup> District Mid-Winter, Anoka Post 102  
Jan 19 – Martin Luther King Day – Office Closed  
Jan. 24 - 1<sup>st</sup> District Mid-Winter, Stewartville Post 164  
Jan. 24 - 3<sup>rd</sup> District Mid-Winter, Lonsdale Post 586  
Jan. 24 - 8<sup>th</sup> District Mid-Winter, Veterans on the Lake Ely  
Feb 7 – 2<sup>nd</sup> District Mid-Winter, Hardwick Post 78  
Feb 7 – 6<sup>th</sup> District Mid-Winter, Pequot Lakes Post 49  
Feb 9 & 10 – Annual Report Unit ZOOM Meetings 7pm  
Feb 16 – President's Day – Office Closed  
Feb 28 - Minnesota Oratorical Contest, Anoka Post 102  
Mar 14 - MN ALA DEC Meeting, Bloomington Post 550  
Mar 14 – Appreciation Rally, Bloomington Post 550 - 11a Turn-in  
Mar 15 – The American Legion Birthday  
Mar 19 - Annual Report District ZOOM Meeting 7pm  
April 3 – Good Friday – Office Closed  
April 7 - Annual Report Department ZOOM Meeting 7pm  
April 10-11 – Dept Jr Conference – 1<sup>st</sup> District Hosting  
April 15 – Purple Up Day!  
April 15 – Annual Reports Due to District Chairman  
April 18 – Good Friday – Office Closed

**Reminders:**

- 1) In the January Unit Mailing is the 2027 Unit Dues Form. Please note the \$5 increase that will be sent to Department. This was voted on at the 2025 Department Convention. Forms MUST be returned to the Department office NO Later than March 15, 2026.
- 2) Department scholarship information and application is on [www.mnala.org](http://www.mnala.org) as well as a link to the National ALA scholarship applications. Most scholarship applications are due March 15, 2026. Please, pay close attention to due dates.
- 3) The Annual Report Forms, Impact Reports and Awards forms will be on the website at the beginning of January.
- 4) MN American Legion Auxiliary Girls State page on the Department website will be updated with the 2026 program information mid-January. All registrations will be completed on-line as it was last year. We've made some changes and updates that we feel will be helpful to the Units.

# FY2025-26 Donation Program Explanations

(Please note: the Department President and Department President Junior Projects are updated every year.)

## Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary Programs

<b>ALA Dept of MN Dollar Bill Shower</b>
Donations are used to ensure that every veteran residing in the ten VA Homes and VA Medical Centers receives a cash gift on Valentine's Day.
<b>ALA Dept of MN Scholarship Fund</b>
Up to eight \$1,000 scholarships are awarded each year. These scholarships are available to the sons, daughters, and grandchildren of veterans who are residents of Minnesota. Funding for this program is made possible through the generous donations we receive.
<b>ALA Dept of MN Hospital Program (includes VA &amp; R Program)</b>
The American Legion Auxiliary Hospital Program uses donations to provide personal care items for VA Hospital patients and fund events and activities organized by Department Hospital Representatives at twelve MN VA Homes and Hospitals.
<b>Armed Forces Center - Mpls Airport</b>
The Center offers traveling military personnel a place to rest with food, beverages, beds, and toiletries. Open 24/7 and staffed by volunteers, it provides comfort between flights and is funded entirely by donations.
<b>2025-26 Department President Project - Honor Flight</b>
Department President Robin Dorf's project supports the Honor Flight program by raising \$35,000 to be shared among seven Minnesota locations. Honor Flight Network is a national nonprofit organization made up of independent hubs working together to fulfill a shared mission - to honor America's veterans with gratitude and respect.
<b>2025-26 Department President Junior Project</b>
Honorary Junior President Anastasia Donnelly has chosen Legionville as her project. She is raising funds for plumbing repairs and maintenance to help preserve Legionville for future programs and events, ensuring all junior members can continue to enjoy Junior Fun Weekend.
<b>ALA Minnesota Girls State Support</b>
<p>The American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State is a premier government-in-action program that empowers high school juniors to become informed, engaged, and patriotic leaders. Your support helps us continue developing young women into thoughtful stewards of democracy.</p> <p>This fund also provides financial assistance for the registration of girls sponsored by a Unit that does not have sufficient funds. Units may request support from this fund to help cover registration costs, depending on available funds, and may do so only once within a three-year period.</p>
<b>ALA Dept of MN Gift Shop</b>
This program provides a gift to every veteran who is a patient at the VA Medical Centers or a resident of the VA Homes. Veterans also have the opportunity to select a gift to share with a spouse or child.
<b>Minnesota Fisher House</b>
Provides "a home away from home" for veterans and military families receiving specialized VA care at military medical centers. This support allows patients and their families to focus on what matters most, the healing process.

## Minnesota American Legion Programs

### **The American Legion Family Hospital Association**

Donations fund the work of this association by helping eligible members with financial aid for payment of medical bills, provided the need for assistance has been determined.

### **Brain Science Foundation**

Contributions will help the dedicated neuroscientists continue their research into the understanding of this incredibly vast and complex organ, the brain, in health and disease. More specifically, your donation will be supporting our Women Veterans Healthy Brain Project.

### **Legionville - General Fund**

A school patrol training center for School Safety Patrol Training, swimming, canoeing, first aid, bus and pedestrian safety, and etc. Instruction is provided by Safety Education Officers of the MN State Patrol. Legionville is a program of The American Legion and donations fund maintaining the center and additions of needed equipment.

### **Minnesota Veteran's Assistance Fund (MVAFF) - Fund 85**

Through MVAFF, an American Legion Post can call upon the Minnesota American Legion Foundation for cash assistance to help maintain the basic needs of a Veteran, Deployed Serviceman's family, or to assist surviving minor children of eligible Veterans.

## **\*National ALA & Legion Programs\***

### **American Legion Auxiliary Foundation**

Secures the service work of the ALA for future generations. The donations paid into this fund remain in the fund and are referred to as endowment principal. It is the interest dollars earned from the investment of donations that are used to support the ALA programs directly benefiting our veterans and their families.

### **Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)**

Support the Auxiliary Emergency Fund and help American Legion Auxiliary members recover from unexpected hardship. The AEF provides temporary emergency grants to eligible members who have suffered a significant financial setback caused by a natural disaster, loss of income, or another personal crisis.

### **Veteran's & Children's Foundation**

Income from the foundation investments is used to fund Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation programs and Temporary Financial Assistance, which provides funds to minor children of active duty or American Legion members.

### **Child Welfare Foundation**

Established in 1954, TAL Child Welfare Foundation was developed as a repository of funds from individuals who wish to contribute to the betterment of children in this country. Foremost priority is to provide other non profit organizations with the means to educate the public about the special needs of children across the nation.

### **Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA)**

This fund is specifically designed to assist minor children of eligible veterans through cash grants, which contribute to a stable home environment. These grants help families meet the cost of shelter, utilities, food and medical expenses.

**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
FAMILY HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
20 W. 12<sup>TH</sup> STREET, ROOM 300A  
ST. PAUL, MN 55155**



November 2025

Dear Post Commanders, Unit Presidents, and Squad Commanders:

I am writing you today to ask when planning your budgets that you include donations to The American Legion Family Hospital Association. We need your continued monetary support to help assist our own members. Each and every year we are receiving more and more applications for medical assistance from within our membership, and thankfully we are able to assist the majority of these requests. This program is one where we can proudly say we are members-assisting-members. Can they count on you?

Eligibility of assistance requires you must be a member of the Department of Minnesota American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion, or a dependent as determined by the IRS. You must be a member in good standing for at least one year. Assistance can be as much as \$4,000.00 annually and is paid directly to the medical facility. Often there are also negotiations decreasing or completely eliminating the billing balances.

The American Legion Family Hospital Association is a 501(c)3 charity and charitable gaming funds may be used when making donations. The Association also receives twenty-five cents per member, per year, from the annual dues of all three organizations. Memorials and personal donations are gratefully accepted and make up a portion of our annual funding drive.

Enclosed you will find additional information with details of the American Legion Family Hospital Association. If you are in need of more information or applications you can contact Department Headquarters or any Board Member. Board Members are also available to speak to your members at Post, Unit or Squadron meetings, please feel free to call upon us.

Our heartfelt thanks to any of you who have contributed in the past and thanks in advance to all of you who will be contributing this year. Your donations are certainly appreciated. Donations should be sent to the American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary Department Headquarters, clearly marked "American Legion Family Hospital Association."

On behalf of the many members who gratefully accept your assistance, *thank you!*

Gary Weaver, President

-----  
Detach and mail to:

The American Legion, Dept. of Minnesota  
20 West 12th Street, Room 300A  
St Paul, MN 55155-2000

Post/Unit City & Number: \_\_\_\_\_ District Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks should be made payable to "American Legion Family Hospital Association."**

# THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION



**Membership and Revenue** ~ The Association is officially incorporated as The American Legion Family Hospital Association and all members of Minnesota American Legion Posts, American Legion Auxiliary Units, and Sons of The American Legion Squadrons are members of the association. Revenue for carrying on the work of the association consists of money received from Post, Unit, and Squadron dues, donations, and interest from investments.

**Eligibility** ~ All members of the association and eligible dependents, regardless of their place of residence, are eligible for benefits provided by the association. Criteria for eligibility is established by the Board of Trustee and published in the American Legion Family Hospital Association Operational Manual.

**Financial Assistance** ~ Financial assistance is available to all eligible members of the association for payment of medical bills incurred for services provided by any duly licensed hospital or medical practitioner provided the need for financial assistance has been determined. *Before applying for aid, veterans should take advantage of the services offered them by the government at Veterans Hospitals. The member's dependents should make all possible use of other available medical assistance programs.*

**Exceptions** ~ The Association does not pay for transportation to and from the hospital (unless by ambulance), hotel-motel bills for anyone accompanying a patient unless an attendant is deemed necessary and authorized by the association, telephone bills incurred by the patient, personal service, dental work, eye wear, or hearing aids. The association does not give aid in the nature of a loan or pay credit card charges.

**Procedure** ~ the applicant should:

1. Contact the Service Officer of the local Post or the County Veterans Service Officer in their area to obtain an application blank.
2. Complete the application.
3. Copies of final medical bills must be provided.

**Information & Applications** ~ To obtain further information contact The American Legion Department Headquarters at 1-651-291-1800, mnlegion.org, The American Legion Auxiliary Department Headquarters at 651-224-7634 or the Sons of The American Legion Detachment Headquarters at 651-291-1800, as well as any County Veterans Service Office.

## Board of Trustees

President	Gary Weaver 29 North Elm Street, LaCrescent, MN 55947 507-696-1431, gweaver@acegroup.cc	Trustee	Ann Steffen 3018 127 <sup>th</sup> Lane NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448 612-709-0588, annesteffen@kw.com
Vice President	David Arend, Jr. 22489 Iverson Ln N, Forest Lake, MN 55025 763-568-6620, darend77@outlook.com	Trustee	Tom Fernlund 1927 Clearwater Rd, St. Cloud, MN 56301 320-250-7581, tavfern@gmail.com
Secretary	Michelle Weaver 1305 Willow St, Apt 39, La Crescent, MN 55947 507-850-2407, weaver.michelle595@gmail.com	Trustee	Rick Cross 10491 Alcott Drive, Sauk Centre, MN 56378 763-370-7882, rec94990@gmail.com
Claims Coordinator	Doug Bible 5602 West Oakes Drive, St. Cloud, MN 56303 320-492-8995, saladjmn@gmail.com		

\* The Department Commander, Department President and Detachment Commander are also members of the Board.

## APPLICATION FOR AID BY MEMBERS AND DEPENDENTS

Name of patient \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # \_\_\_\_\_  
If a dependent, write "Dependent" here

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street / Box No. \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

If a dependent, give name and relationship of member \_\_\_\_\_

Post/Unit/Squad No. \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ How long have you been a member? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously applied to this Association for aid? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have Medicare or other hospital insurance? \_\_\_\_\_

Give the name of your Insurance company \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth of patient \_\_\_\_\_ Marital status \_\_\_\_\_ Children - \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Names and ages of member's children \_\_\_\_\_

Other Dependents \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBER'S / APPLICANT'S FINANCIAL STATUS

(If member is deceased, give financial status of person on whom applicant is dependent for support)

Are you employed \_\_\_\_\_ If not, how long have you been unemployed \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Name of your employer \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly wage \_\_\_\_\_ Take home pay after withholding and S.S. tax deductions \_\_\_\_\_

What other members of your family are working? \_\_\_\_\_ Their total monthly income \_\_\_\_\_

How much VA pension or compensation do you receive a month? \_\_\_\_\_

What other source of income do you have? \_\_\_\_\_ How much a month? \_\_\_\_\_

List your assets, including cash in checking and savings accounts, investments, real estate, etc. Also list your liabilities including unpaid mortgages, contracts, or other indebtedness, and show monthly repayment schedule.

#### Assets

Home \_\_\_\_\_

Car (make & year) \_\_\_\_\_

Checking \_\_\_\_\_

Savings \_\_\_\_\_

IRA \_\_\_\_\_

Property \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### Liabilities

Home or Rent \_\_\_\_\_

Car or Truck Payment \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Cards \_\_\_\_\_

Utilities \_\_\_\_\_

Child Support \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**I hereby authorize the Hospital Association to negotiate my claim on my behalf with my medical provider using the above personal information.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_