



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

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

I know it is a cliché, but this administrative year is going by so fast. And again, as I sit down to write this article I count my blessings for this past year. I have enjoyed visiting with unit members throughout Minnesota and working events alongside American Legion families while meeting their communities. I am looking forward to celebrating how our members have been “Promoting our Mission by Working our Programs”

I would like to thank the 31 district chairman and 20 department chairman who took their time to attend the zoom meeting for annual reporting. My hope is that we will continue with our future leadership and the number of attendees grow. There was collaboration among the chairman and new ideas. We needed to start somewhere with a base and now it can only get better.

I attended the **Sons of the American Legion Spring Conference**. Commander Jeremy and their team did a wonderful job. I learned new things and I am always amazed at all of the work they do for their programs. Thank you for allowing me to give greetings and attend. I even won the girl scout cookies on the Child Welfare live auction. Although there were some shenanigans going on bidding against me.



What a great opportunity and fun day at the **Department of Minnesota American Legion family bowling tournament**. Commander Linda, Commander Jeremy, and I threw out the first balls. We got up and I asked where the pins were and said we could not throw until we had pins. As I turned around, I was wondering if I made a mistake by doing that, but I got a strike! Thank goodness that would have been embarrassing. Commander Linda and I bowled doubles, and then Commander Jeremy and Director Duane joined us for the team games. It was a fun day. My parents always taught me to do what you need to get done for your position but then have some fun. This was a day of fun for sure and a great memory to hold on to. I am looking forward to receiving my trophy at convention.

Make sure to read Department Poppy Chairman Hope’s article as **May is Poppy month**. And a big shout out to all of our poppy makers in Minnesota. It is amazing how everyone is stepping up to make sure we have the needed poppies.

The **Department of MN Junior Conference** was held April 10-11, 2026, hosted by the First District in Stewertville. Department Honorary Junior President Anastasia had a great conference. The Juniors had fun and had marvelous conference. A big thank you to the five District Presidents who took the time to attend the weekend and support their district Juniors. I was proud to do the graduation ceremony and welcome to senior membership Anastasia Donnelly and Rylee Wolbeck. Congratulations Abigail Koltes of the Sixth District, she was elected Honorary Junior President for 2026-2027. It was an honor to install the honorary junior officers and to retire Honorary Junior President Anastasia. And yes, as always because this program is so close to my heart and we have the best Juniors, I cried.



It is hard to believe that **district convention time** is already here. Please attend your district's convention to hear what your units have been doing, to conduct business, and have time for fellowship. I have enjoyed working with the District Presidents this year. They are so dedicated to the American Legion Auxiliary and working our programs.

I have put out a **challenge to members** to join me on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> for the Ruck to the Minneapolis VA. I would love to see ALA members supporting this project. Are you worried how you can participate if unable to walk? Come to support by donating food and supporting those of us walking. There will be a pancake breakfast that day and you can stick around for the great fellowship after.



**Ready. Set. Ruck!**  
**Dept of MN American Legion Auxiliary**  
**Dept President Robin is challenging members to help!**  
 Sunday, May 24th  
 Arrive 8:30am, Step off 9am  
 Meet at Legion Post 99  
 5600 34th Ave S, Minneapolis  
 See additional flyer for more information & needs

**Food Shelf Ruck March to Minneapolis VA**

When: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month at 8:30 AM  
 (time subject to change)

Where: Meeting at American Legion Post 99,  
 5600 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55417

Plan: Fill up your backpack with food and walk 1.7 miles to the VA. Drop off the food at room 4G and walk 1.7 miles back to Post 99. There is a pancake breakfast at the post following the march. Contact Jon Haworth for more info or if you'd like to join at 612-532-1210

**Food the VA is looking for:**

- Peanut Butter
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Tuna
- Trail Mix
- Bagged Nuts
- Canned Beans (low sodium)
- Canned Soups (low sodium)
- Dehydrated Beans
- Instant Oatmeal
- Tomato Sauce
- Canned Veggies (low sodium)
- Pasta
- Rice
- Apple Sauce
- Canned Fruit (packed in light syrup or natural juices)
- Dehydrated potatoes
- Dehydrated Fruit (unsweetened)
- Can Openers
- Cooking Oils
- Powdered Milk

**Remember to hydrate before the march!**



The **Department of Minnesota Joint Testimonial** will be on Saturday, June 27th in New Prague. Social at 5pm, dinner 6pm, with 7pm program, and then a live band until 10pm. Only \$25.00 for the meal of turkey and brisket, sides, and dessert. And only one night out of your busy summer.

Please come celebrate with us. To me it is not about us, it is about all the hard work all our members have done this past year. The flyer is in this unit mailing and on the department websites.

Our **National President Pam Ray** will be in Minnesota July 2-5, 2026.

There will be a dinner on Thursday, July 2nd at the Osseo-Maple Grove Post. The flyer is included in this unit mailing and is available on the department website.

You can also see President Pam in the Forest Lake 4th of July parade. More details will be shared once travel is confirmed.





**The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota**

**Welcomes National American Legion Auxiliary President  
Pam Ray**

**Make plans to meet President Pam at our  
250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of America Celebration**

**Thursday, July 2, 2026**

**at the Osseo-Maple Grove American Legion**

**★ 5pm Social ★ 6pm Plated meal ★ Program to follow**

Plated meals include chicken breast with pan sauce, roasted Yukon gold potatoes, seasonal vegetables, mixed green salad, assorted rolls, assorted desserts, water, and coffee.

**\$25.00 per person**

Reservations can be made by remitting payment and the slip below to the Department Auxiliary office or via our website at [MNALA.org](http://MNALA.org) using Zeffy.

Reservations need to be received by Monday, June 22, 2026, as there will be no walk in availability for the event.



If mailing reservations send to the Department of MN American Legion Auxiliary, 20 West 12th St. Room 300A, St. Paul, MN 55155 ~ with checks payable to Department of MN ALA

Name	Phone Number	Email

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ Check Number \_\_\_\_\_



# Department of Minnesota Joint Testimonial Dinner

American Legion Commander Linda Dvorak

American Legion Auxiliary President Robin Dorf

Sons of the American Legion Commander Jeremy Copher



**Saturday, June 27, 2026**

**New Prague American Legion Post**

5pm Social ~ 6pm Dinner ~ 7pm Program ~ Band until 10pm

Menu will be turkey and brisket, sides, and dessert

\$25.00 per person

Purchase your tickets on the Department American Legion website OR send check to New Prague American Legion, PO Box 113, New Prague MN 56071

Reservations due by June 19, 2026

Block of rooms available at Quality Inn & Suites in New Prague.

(952)758-7300 ~ ask for the American Legion Block

~~~~~

Name \_\_\_\_\_ # of Guests \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



## 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)

**MAY, 2026**

In the month of May, we celebrate two very special holidays ~ Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Mother's Day is a day to honor and celebrate our mothers. In 1914, Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother's Day be held on the second Sunday in May.

Memorial Day honors those who have died while serving in our country's armed forces. In recent years more and more people also use this day to recognize all veterans who have died as well. Its first national observance was in 1868, and it was referred to as Decoration Day. After World War I, the name changed to Memorial Day and in 1971 it became a federal holiday.

I have fond memories as a Junior Auxiliary member participating in the placement of flags on each of the veteran graves in our local cemeteries. We volunteered alongside our SAL members, Boy and Girl Scouts and many members of the American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion in our local community. Many of the gravestones were from the Civil War. What an extreme honor it was to place a flag to recognize their service to our country. The cemetery was very large and it took us about 5 days prior to Memorial Day to place all of the flags (we did this for about 3 hours each night). I don't know why, but removal of the flags a week later went so much faster – I guess we were all fascinated in reading the hundreds of names and dates on the gravestones. I hope that each of you has traditions that you continue to participate in to honor our deceased veterans on this most important day.



The Allegheny Cemetery Soldiers' Lot in Pittsburgh, PA.



**Gracious God,  
On this Mother's Day,  
We give thanks for loving  
Mothers and all who mother  
Your beautiful creation.  
Bring comfort to all who struggle with this day.  
Surround us now and always with your deep, unending love.  
Amen**



**Dear Father, as we remember, grieve,  
and honor those who were willing to  
give up their lives, we praise Your  
name for giving our fallen the  
strength to carry on, the will to  
protect our nation and the conviction  
to do what's right. We praise You for  
the peace you've given our nation and  
thank You for these brave and  
faithful men and women.  
In Your name we pray. Amen.**



Constitution/Bylaws & Standing Rules Chairman  
Carol Kottom, Chairman  
[ckakottom@gmail.com](mailto:ckakottom@gmail.com)  
763-360-6102 (cell/text)  
May 2026

We have twenty proposals as of now. They have been posted on the MNALA.ORG website. At the bottom of the main page you'll find "**In The Spotlight**". Tap on the image below to get access to the descriptions, proposals and the power point presentation.



**Proposed Governance**

Download the 2025-2026  
Proposals and Descriptions.

Feel free to use these at your District Conventions. We'd like all members to be aware of the changes we are offering. When you attend the Convention in July, you'll be prepared to vote. Take the time to look them over. Any questions? Send me a note.

Thanks to all!

Carol Kottom



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

Next month your girls will be at Bethel University June 14th-19<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Girls State! We look forward to meeting everyone and want to thank those that made it happen to get 220 girls sponsored! Thank you to units and post gambling that sponsored these young ladies! We will encourage them to go back and talk to your members about their week. We hope you will also have this expectation of them.

Electronic Registration info was emailed mid-April to all unit contacts. Unit contact need to contact their girl with the electronic registration they were sent with their unit code. If you haven't yet contacted your Girl Stater, please do as soon as possible. Your girls will not have a problem with registering. If there are questions, please let us know. We are here to help.

If you didn't purchase a Shirt Shack Package you still have time to do so. The \$60 package includes sweatshirt, tee shirt and mystery item. Please send check with your girl's name and check to the department office so a gift certificate can be issued for them.

Thank you to Mary Jo Paul for taking on the nightly snack cart for the girls. This was tried last year and a great success. We are excited that she has taken this on and will join us during the week.

Councilors and the Committee are counting the days till we are at Bethel and meet your girls!

|                                     |                                                                        |              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Wanda Prescher - MN ALA Chairman    | <a href="mailto:w.prescher1951@gmail.com">w.prescher1951@gmail.com</a> | 507-254-0304 |
| Peggy Tesdahl – Director            | <a href="mailto:ranpegt0814@hotmail.com">ranpegt0814@hotmail.com</a>   | 612-715-4489 |
| Amelia Tesdahl - Education Director | <a href="mailto:ametes2014@hotmail.com">ametes2014@hotmail.com</a>     | 763-753-8247 |
| Renee Suess - Committee Member      | <a href="mailto:rsuess3@gmail.com">rsuess3@gmail.com</a>               | 763-300-2226 |
| Jen Stolz - Committee Member        | <a href="mailto:jstolz.de@gmail.com">jstolz.de@gmail.com</a>           | 763-234-1198 |
| Linda Kelly - Americanism Chairman  | <a href="mailto:lkkuxiliary@gmail.com">lkkuxiliary@gmail.com</a>       | 507-421-8270 |



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

**Brandi Christensen, Department Junior Activities Chairman**

The 63<sup>rd</sup> Department of MN Junior Conference was held at the Stewartville American Legion April 10-11<sup>th</sup>

We started the weekend with a fun night on Friday. Where the juniors played games and got to know each other's names and where they were from.

Friday night committee appointments were assigned for juniors in attendance and some senior members in attendance.

Saturday morning the conference was called to order by Honorary Junior President Anastasia Donnelly. There were 24 juniors in attendance from 11 different units.

Honorary Junior President Anastasia did a wonderful job. Congratulations on a very successful year. Congratulations to the newly elected honorary junior officers.

Thank you to all the volunteers that made this wonderful weekend happen. It seemed that all the juniors had fun!

**Poppy Contest Winners**

Poppy Corsage

Class I

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Daisy Welter, 1<sup>st</sup> District

1<sup>st</sup> Place Poppy Welter, 1<sup>st</sup> District

Class II

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Miley Mahoney, 7<sup>th</sup> District

1<sup>st</sup> Place Allana Willis, 9<sup>th</sup> District

Class III

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Annika Mertens Maxon, 6<sup>th</sup> District

1<sup>st</sup> Place Brooklyn Mahoney, 7<sup>th</sup> District

Poppy Memorial Wreath

Class I

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Poppy Welter 1<sup>st</sup> District

1<sup>st</sup> Place Daisy Welter 1<sup>st</sup> District

Class II

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Miley Mahoney, 7<sup>th</sup> District

1<sup>st</sup> Place Amber Mertens, 6<sup>th</sup> District

Class III

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Brooke Mertens, 6<sup>th</sup> District

1<sup>st</sup> Place Chloe Carter, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

## Poppy Small Table Display

### Class I

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Poppy Welter, 1<sup>st</sup> District

1<sup>st</sup> Place Daisy Welter, 1<sup>st</sup> District

### Class II

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Amber Mertens, 6<sup>th</sup> District

1<sup>st</sup> Place Izzy Zipperer, 1<sup>st</sup> District

### Class III

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Brooke Mertens, 6<sup>th</sup> District

1<sup>st</sup> Place Isla Widmer



Department Juniors that attended the 2026 Department Junior Conference in Stewartville, April 10 -11, 2026.



### **Newly Elected 2026-2027 Department Honorary Junior Officers**

Back Row L to R: Chloe Carter 1st Vice, Abigail Koltes President, Annika Mertens Maxon Secretary,  
Katelyne Walker Sgt at Arms, Brooklyn Mahoney Historian

Front Row L to R: Shania Mertens Treasurer, Lauren Lampman 2nd Vice, Allanna Willis Chaplain



## *17th Annual Junior Fun Weekend*

- Who:** All Junior members and their Advisor/Chaperones  
Registration is on a first-come, first serve basis  
All Junior members ages 3-18 are invited  
You do not have to be from an active Junior group  
Advisor/chaperones to Junior ratio is 1:3  
1 - 3 Juniors = 1 advisor/chaperone  
4 - 6 Juniors = 2 advisors/chaperones  
If you have any questions, please call the Department Office (651) 224-7634 or  
email [deptoffice@mnala.org](mailto:deptoffice@mnala.org)
- What:** A weekend for junior members from throughout the State of Minnesota to get together for some fun and to learn more about the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. This will be an organized program which will be coordinated by the Department Junior Activities Chairman and American Legion Auxiliary volunteers.
- When:** Friday, August 14, 2026, through Sunday, August 16, 2026  
Check-in Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m. (**Please do not arrive before 5pm**)  
Dinner will be served after 6 p.m.  
Check-out Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup> by 11:00 a.m.
- Where:** Legionville near Brainerd, Minnesota (see attached map)
- Cost:** \$25.00 per person (includes meals, snacks & activities)  
**Paperwork & Fees must be received in the Department Office no later than Friday, July 17, 2026**  
**All registrations received after July 17<sup>th</sup> will be \$30.00**  
**No refunds will be issued.**
- Send to:** American Legion Auxiliary  
State Veterans Services Building  
20 West 12<sup>th</sup> St. #314  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

To participate, complete the attached registration form and send the names of participants along with the \$25.00 fee per person as noted on the form. Again, the registration fee covers the cost of all meals, snacks & activities.

Each participating Junior member will be required to bring the attached permission form with them when they check in. Unit Senior Advisors and/or chaperones will have primary responsibility and supervision of all Junior members that they bring and will be expected to assist as needed with activities.

There will be a nurse on the premises to assist with minor boo-boos!

No one needs to bring a snack this year - they will be included.

# 2026 Department Junior Fun Weekend Registration

## August 14-16, 2026

Unit Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location: \_\_\_\_\_ District No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Juniors: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Seniors: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed at \$25.00 per person: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\$30.00 if rec'd after July 17, 2026**

**Make checks payable to American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota**

**Remit to: American Legion Auxiliary, State Veterans Service Building, 20 W 12<sup>th</sup> St. #314, St. Paul, MN 55155**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Advisor/Chaperone Information (Print or type)**

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact name & Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Areas where I would be interested in helping:

\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**Junior Member Participants (Ages 3-18)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**(Please make copies of this page for additional names)**

## WHAT TO BRING

### Bring with you:

Permission form & Media Release Form  
Copy of Health Insurance card  
Water Bottle (labeled with participant's name)  
Pillow – Bedding or Sleeping Bag  
Toiletries – toothpaste, toothbrush, towels, face cloth, soap, shampoo, comb/brush  
Swimwear, shorts, shirts, pants, sweatshirt or sweater, jeans, jacket, socks, pajamas  
2 pairs of shoes (Tennis & flip flops)  
Sunscreen  
Insect repellent  
Flashlight (optional)  
Poncho, raincoat, or umbrella  
Instructions for or about any medicines you take to be given by the nurse.  
Plenty of enthusiasm, good attitude, and a willingness to make new friends!

### Please Note:

The Juniors will be engaged in a variety of activities, some of which may include electronic devices. Although we are allowing them to bring them along, they will be asked to refrain from using their electronic devices while we are doing other activities. Please be sure they are clearly marked with the owner's name.

### Medications:

If your child is on any prescription medication, please send the medication in its original container. Be sure it is clearly marked by your pharmacy, with the medication name and administration directions.

Please do not send over-the-counter medications unless deemed necessary. OTC meds must be in their original containers with the medication label clearly displayed and labeled with your child's name.

### Reminder - to be turned in upon your daughter's arrival:

The signed parent's waiver  
A copy of your daughter's health insurance

**PLEASE MAKE A COPY OF THIS FOR EACH PARTICIPANT**

**Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary**

State Veterans Services Building  
20 West 12<sup>th</sup> St. Room #314  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**PARENTS WAIVER**

This form **MUST** be brought with each Junior Member  
and turned in upon their arrival at

**Junior Fun Weekend**

**August 14-16, 2026**

The undersigned parent(s) or guardian of:

---

*(Junior Member)*

---

*(Address/City/State/Zip Code)*

In consideration of the instructions, activities and training to be given to our (my) daughter, a Junior member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota, at the Junior Fun Weekend to be held at the Legionville Safety Summer Camp at North Long Lake in Brainerd, Minnesota, August 8 - 10, 2025, does hereby release and discharge the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota, its officers, agents, instructors and employees from any and all claims that may occur by reason of any illness, injury or accident incurred or suffered by said daughter while in attendance, while traveling to/from attending or participating in said Junior Fun Weekend no matter how caused or occasioned.

I acknowledge that neither basic accident and health insurance or personal property insurance is provided by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota, in connection with the Junior Fun Weekend and that the provision of such insurance is my own personal responsibility. I (we) understand the responsibility of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota, ends at the close of Junior Fun Weekend on Sunday, August 14, 2026.

In case of emergency, contact information is:

Name of parent(s) \_\_\_\_\_

---

*(Address/City/State/Zip Code)*

Telephone Number on Weekend \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

---

*(Print Parent or Guardians Name)*

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

---

*(Parents or Guardian Signature)*

**(Please make copies and fill out for additional Junior members)**

## ALLERGIES AND MEDICATIONS

Does your daughter have any allergies? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please explain? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If this is a food allergy, please email , so we can plan accordingly for meals.

**MEDICATIONS:** Please send the medication with your daughter in its original container, clearly marked from your pharmacy with the medication name and directions for its use. Be certain your child's name is on the medication.

Name of medication my daughter is on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Does your daughter have any physical restrictions? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

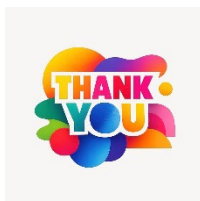
If yes, please explain? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Leadership Workshops

Thank you to all members who were able to attend one of the three Leadership workshops held this auxiliary year. The presenters enjoyed being with you all. So sorry we had to cancel the fourth scheduled workshop.



### Leadership Quotes

When we all work together, we continue to make the American Legion Auxiliary awesome!

**“The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.”**

– Phil Jackson, former NBA coach

**“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”**

– Helen Keller, author and activist

**“When you hand good people possibility, they do great things.”**

– Biz Stone, American entrepreneur

**“Cooperation is the thorough conviction that nobody can get there unless everybody gets there.”**

– Virginia Burden, author

**“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”**

– African proverb

**“I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things.”**

– Mother Teresa, missionary and saint

**“The way to achieve your own success is to be willing to help somebody else get it first.”**

– Iyanla Vanzant, inspirational speaker and author

**“None of us is as smart as all of us.”**

– Ken Blanchard, author, business consultant, and motivational speaker

**Published on Work Life June 6, 2025**

Jamey Austin

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
Membership Bulletin 37 as of 4-22-2026  
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 4/15/2025 | Difference from Last Year |
|----------------------------------------|------------|--------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| One                                    | 47         | 3,240  | 6           | 2,888              | 89.14%          | 3022                    | -134                      |
| Two                                    | 68         | 3,229  | 14          | 2,868              | 88.82%          | 3014                    | -146                      |
| Three                                  | 45         | 3,390  | 20          | 3,009              | 88.76%          | 3169                    | -160                      |
| Four                                   | 5          | 456    | 1           | 384                | 84.21%          | 409                     | -25                       |
| Five                                   | 7          | 344    | 0           | 282                | 81.98%          | 304                     | -22                       |
| Six                                    | 57         | 4,370  | 27          | 3,963              | 90.69%          | 4104                    | -141                      |
| Seven                                  | 49         | 2,427  | 3           | 2,143              | 88.30%          | 2233                    | -90                       |
| Eight                                  | 20         | 1,092  | 2           | 969                | 88.74%          | 938                     | 31                        |
| Nine                                   | 43         | 2,786  | 12          | 2,513              | 90.20%          | 2557                    | -44                       |
| Ten                                    | 40         | 3,146  | 11          | 2,781              | 88.40%          | 2868                    | -87                       |
| 1982                                   | 1          | 404    | 0           | 259                | 64.11%          | 251                     | 8                         |
| Depart. Total                          | 382        | 24,884 | 96          | 22,059             | 88.65%          | 22869                   | -810                      |
| <b>Group 1 (Even)<br/>Jodi Hassing</b> | 190        | 12,293 | 55          | 10,965             | 89.20%          | 11,333                  | -368                      |
| <b>Group 2 (Odd)<br/>Linda Kelly</b>   | 191        | 12,187 | 41          | 11,094             | 91.03%          | 11,536                  | -442                      |



**RANKINGS**

|                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1st</b><br>90.69%<br>District 6<br> | <b>2nd</b><br>90.20%<br>District 9<br> | <b>3rd</b><br>89.13%<br>District 1<br> | <b>4th</b><br>88.82%<br>District 2<br> | <b>5th</b><br>88.76%<br>District 3<br> | <b>6th</b><br>88.74%<br>District 8<br> | <b>7th</b><br>88.40%<br>District 10<br> | <b>8th</b><br>88.30%<br>District 7<br> | <b>9th</b><br>84.21%<br>District 4<br> | <b>10th</b><br>81.98%<br>District 5<br> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



Department of Minnesota  
May 2026 Unit Mailing  
Department Parliamentarian,  
Norma Tramm  
normatramm@gmail.com

I know many unit presidents may not need this information, but there may be some new unit presidents that would welcome information on election of officers.

#### THE ELECTION

Prior to the election, the Chair (President) must call for further nominations from the floor for the elected offices.

The following format is taken from Robert's Rules of Order

**Chair: For President, \_\_\_\_\_ is nominated by the nominating committee. Are there any further nominations for President? [If a member nominates another person, the chair repeats the name of that person] \_\_\_\_\_ is nominated. Are there any further nominations?**

*It is not necessary to repeat three times, you just need to be certain that there are no more nominations. The Chair (President) states the following:*

**Chair: Are there any further nominations for President?... [pause] If not...[pause], nominations are closed.**

*This process is the same for the other elected offices in the unit.*

**First Vice President  
Second Vice President  
Treasurer  
Sergeant-at-Arms  
Two members of the Executive Committee**

*Once the nomination process is complete you MUST elect the officers.*

If only one person is nominated, the chair, simply declares that the nominee is elected.

**Chair: There being only one nominee for the office of President, the Chair declares \_\_\_\_ (name of person) \_\_\_\_ duly elected President.**

This should be repeated for the other offices

**First Vice President  
Second Vice President  
Treasurer**

## **Sergeant-at-Arms**

### **Two members of the Executive Committee**

If you have more than one person nominated for an office you may have a ballot for that office only.

The President appoints tellers – at least three members. Tellers distribute the ballots. After all have had the opportunity to vote, the Chair (President) says: “Have all voted who wish to do so?” She declares the polls closed and directs the tellers to collect the ballots, retire and count them.

The Chair (President) calls for the report of the tellers.

Chairman of the tellers reports, giving the total number of votes cast, the number required for election (majority/plurality), and gives the number of votes each candidate received and the number of illegal or blank votes.

After the report of the tellers, the Chair (President) will repeat the results and declare a winner

**Chair: For President \_\_\_(name of person)\_ has received a plurality of votes and the Chair declares \_\_\_(name of person)\_\_\_\_\_ duly elected President.**

Congratulations!!! You have elected new officers for the coming Auxiliary year😊

I know many units continue to have the same officers as the previous year, but it is important to have an election. It can be a very simple process, but a satisfying one that says your member want you to continue in the position and you have their support.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions



**Department of Minnesota**  
May 2026 Unit Mailing  
**Public Relations Chairman,**  
**Michelle Weaver**  
weaver.michelle595@gmail.com

As we enter the final months of our reporting year, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to every Unit for the dedication, creativity, and compassion you've shown in your communities. Your work is the heart of our mission, and I am truly looking forward to reading your Annual Reports. Each one helps tell the story of who we are as the American Legion Auxiliary—women committed to service, remembrance, and strengthening our Legion Family.

Annual Reports are more than paperwork. They are a record of impact, a celebration of service, and a way to ensure that the good work you do is seen and remembered. Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete them with care.

As we gather for District Conventions this month, I encourage you to take plenty of photos. These moments—installations, recognitions, fellowship, and teamwork—are wonderful additions to next year's Public Relations Report. A single picture can capture the spirit of our mission in a way words sometimes cannot. Start building your 2026–2027 PR folder now by saving those photos and jotting down a few notes about each event.

May also brings one of the most meaningful days of our year: Memorial Day. As we honor the men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation, I hope each Unit will take time to reflect, participate, and share your activities. Whether you are placing flags, hosting ceremonies, supporting your Legion Post, or simply standing in quiet remembrance, these acts of honor are powerful reminders of why we serve.

Thank you for everything you do to uplift veterans, military families, and our communities. I look forward to reading your reports and continuing to share the incredible work happening across our Department.



Department of Minnesota  
May 2026 Unit Mailing  
Risk & Compliance Chairman,  
Kathy Kessler

*ARTICLE IX  
Unit Organization*

*(from the National Constitution and By-Laws booklet, Revised 10/2025)*

Section 1. Units of the American Legion Auxiliary are separate entities that operate independently as affiliates of the American Legion Auxiliary National Organization. Units shall be governed by their own Unit Constitution and/or Bylaws which shall not conflict with the National Constitution & Bylaws, National Standing Rules, National rules and policies, Department Constitution and Bylaws, or Department rules and policies.

Section 2. Those who desire to form a Unit shall apply to the Post to which it will attach and the Department in which it resides as provided in the Standing Rules. Upon receipt of a properly executed charter application from the Department, the Unit charter shall be signed by the National President and National Secretary.

Section 3. The minimum number of members to charter a new unit shall be ten (10) senior members, with the exception of a Department Headquarters Unit that shall have no minimum membership requirement.

Section 4. A Unit shall be given the name, location, and number of The American Legion Post to which it is attached.

Section 5. The qualifications and process for establishing and existing as a American Legion Auxiliary National Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules Fall 2025 18 Unit in good standing shall be as provided in the Standing Rules.

Section 6. **All people handling funds of the Unit shall be bonded by a reputable, solvent bonding and surety company; or shall be covered by fidelity/ crime insurance in an adequate amount as determined by the Unit.**

**These same rules apply to Districts---**

**All units must be bonded, which is through our Department of MN ALA (this is paid by the unit every 3 years).**

**All Districts must purchase their own bonding to be compliant with the National organization.**

Now **the other important information** are you in good standing with the ALA organization and IRS? Have you (your unit) filed your 990 annually? The department and National have a listing of units who are not. If not you need to be reinstated. There are 2 ways---fill out the 2-page form and pay \$600.00 or file corporate income tax . You must inform National if you are reinstated so your name is removed from the list. If you have questions, please contact the

department to find out who can help you get reinstated. If you are revoked your unit is no longer able to accept/receive donations including Poppy fundraising! You are no longer considered non-profit!

As part of the Risk and Compliance committee we have a listing of units within Minnesota who are revoked. We have many! We encourage you to work with everyone in your unit to get reinstated. We must remember that we are a business, we must operate like a business! This is just good housekeeping management within our great organization.

I personally can attest to how your unit becomes reinstated---it took our unit almost 18 months and \$600.00 to get this done and again be compliant with the organization's rules and the IRS!

**Sandy Fredrickson,**  
**Co1mmittee member of Risk & Compliance**



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

### **Volunteers**

I recently attended a zoom meeting from the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. They have a need of volunteers to welcome visitors, visit with those receiving cancer treatments, or provide barber services.

Volunteer groups can do grounds beautification, cook and serve meals at the Fisher House, or engage with veterans playing bingo, blackjack, or at their games' night. Groups provide prizes.

The food pantry at the MPLS VAMC also needs volunteers to receive deliveries, pack goods into boxes, and help on distribution day.

### **Donations**

- Zip-up sweatshirts: Small to 2XL
- T-Shirts (Crew or V-Neck) Small-2XL
- Sweatpants or gym shorts: Medium to 2XL
- Neck pillows
- Uber/Lyft transportation cards of \$25
- Grocery, Gas, & Visa/Mastercard cards of \$25 or \$50
- Wheelchair Bags: Regular & Bariatric
- Thermometers
- Pre-Paid Cellphone/Plan Cards, for e.g. Tracfone, Total Wireless

### **Sewing Items**

- Seatbelt port pillows, used in Cancer Comfort Kits, goal to expand offering these pillows to dialysis and cardiology.
- Fidget mats or blankets with cognitive delay or anxiety
- Trach/stoma bibs

(I found the fidget mats very interesting. They are the size of a placemat and provide veterans with something for them to keep their fingers busy: buttons, zippers, different kinds of material. It looks to me that the options are endless. If you have a seamstress in your membership, tell them about it.)

### **SILENT AUCTION AT DEPARTMENT CONVENTION IN WILLMAR**

*I am still looking for volunteers to donate something to the prize for our "guessing game". The winner will receive a platter of "goodies" from our members. I have had pickles, salsa, caramels, and jam donated, but I need some baked goods. Please let me know if you can help me fill in the platter.*

*If I don't get donations, I'll be baking the days before convention. Please help!*



# VA&R SILENT AUCTION

Department Convention

Willmar Conference Center, 240 23<sup>rd</sup> St, SE, Willmar, MN

Thursday, July 9 - Friday, July 10, 2026

Items can be dropped off from 3 pm to 7 pm on Wednesday, July 8

Bidding will be Thursday and Friday, 8 am to 4 pm.

Bring new or slightly used items, theme baskets, quilts, patriotic items, jewelry, jams, jellies, baked goods, munchies, pies & etc. \$2 Grab bags and more.

All money raised will go towards the Auxiliary VA&R program - the program that touches the lives of so many Minnesota veterans. Bid high, bid often.



## New this year

Please make a donation and participate in our "guessing game". The question will be listed at the Silent Auction on Friday morning. The winner will receive a large tray of goodies, all made by the wonderful bakers of the American Legion Auxiliary. Donate high, donate often.



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

May 9: 4th District Convention, North St. Paul Post 39  
May 16: 1st District Convention, Wild Wings Activity Center in Lake City  
May 16: 2nd District Convention, Redwood Falls Post 38  
May 16: 3rd District Convention, New Prague Post 45  
May 22: National Poppy Day  
May 22: American Legion Night at CHS Field, Saints vs. Omaha Storm Chasers, CHS Field, St. Paul  
May 25: Memorial Day, local observances (Office Closed)  
May 30: 7th District Convention, New London Post 537  
**June 1: 2026-2027 Officers List DUE**  
June 6: 5th District Convention, Holiday Inn, Bloomington  
June 6: 6th District Convention, St. Augusta Post 621  
June 6: 8th District Convention, West Duluth Post 71  
June 13: 9th District Convention, Moorhead Post 21  
June 14-19: Minnesota Girls State, Bethel University  
June 14-20: Minnesota Boys State, St. John's University  
June 27: Joint Testimonial Dinner (for department commander and president), New Prague Post 45  
July 2-5: National President's Tour  
July 3: 4<sup>th</sup> of July – Office Closed  
July 9-11 Department Convention, Willmar  
July 22: Fund 85 Ride Kickoff, New Ulm Post 132  
Aug: 14-16 Junior Fun Weekend



**to all the Units and Individuals that made Poppies over the last year! Because of YOU, we were able to meet the needs of all our Department's Units and Posts.**

**Small Poppies**

Purchased from other Departments: 0  
Paid Veterans made over: 41,500  
Volunteers made nearly: 176,611

**Large Poppies**

Volunteers made nearly: 5,004  
Purchased from other Departments: 0  
Paid Veterans made: 0



\*\*\* The 2026 Call to Department Convention, Delegate Strength and Credential Cards will be in the June Unit Mailing. Housing information and registration form is in the May (this) Unit Mailing.

\*\*\* If your Unit has not sent in the 2026-2027 Unit Officers list, please, do so ASAP. Our deadline to have all of the Department's Unit Offers updated in ALAMIS is June 1. You can email the form to [deptoffice@mnala.org](mailto:deptoffice@mnala.org).





## **OFFICIAL FAMILY HOUSING INFORMATION**

### **Willmar Department Convention, July 9-11, 2026 (pre-convention meetings held on July 8)**

You must make your own lodging reservations directly with your hotel of choice. Please ask for **“The American Legion block.”**

Best Western Plus: 320-235-6060

Holiday Inn Express: 320-231-2601

Country Inn & Suites: 320-214-0300

AmericInn: 320-365-1995

The Days Inn doesn't have a Legion block, but it is only about three city blocks away: 320-403-2334.

There are other lodging options in the Willmar but are farther from the convention site.

**\*\* All hotel room rates subject to applicable state and local taxes in effect at time of check-in.**

# Poppy Contest for Department Convention 2026



## Contest 1 – Craft Project

Celebrate 250 years in “Poppies” **without using** the American Legion Auxiliary Poppies.

- The words Celebration, Freedom and Sacrifice are your inspirational words.
- Find a creative way to celebrate the 250th Birthday of the USA without using the crepe paper poppy. This can be done in any number of ways. Diamond art, paint, yarn, popcorn, etc. use your imagination.

## Contest 2 – Wearable “Honor Flight” wear.

In 2025-26 our MN Project was Honor Flights.

- Your challenge will be to **use** the American Legion Auxiliary Poppy to create an item that could be worn on an Honor Flight.
- This can be done in any number of ways. Hats, scarves, sashes or possibly a piece of wearable jewelry i.e.. Bracelet, broach, veteran pin. etc. The sky is your limit.

1st Place -\$20.00

2nd Place - \$15.00

3rd Place – \$10.00

People’s Choice - \$20.00 -with funds going towards President Robin’s Project – Honor Flights

Poppy entries must be brought to the Department Convention at Willmar Conference Center by Friday July 10th, 2026, at 10:00 am. Let’s see how many tables we can fill.