



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Minnesota
2025-2026**

**Department President
Robin Dorf**

November 2025 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 have read past department presidents say that their year has flown by, and yes, it is just November, but it does fly by, and it is amazing every moment I have been able to represent you the members of Minnesota. So many opportunities.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman Linda Kelly and our home and hospital representatives had a great meeting to plan their year serving our veterans. I am not always up on fashion, but I was able to MC at Monticello Unit 260 Fall Luncheon and Style Show. I traveled to Le Crescent to visit their unit meeting with members from Houston and also with First District President Wanda Prescher. Thank you to Bev Dresser for the invitation to see the Fabulous Armadillos – Songs from the Vietnam Era. What a wonderful experience and I so appreciate you thinking of me.

Legionville Educational Center was established by the Minnesota American Legion in 1956. I represented the Auxiliary at the Legionville Corporation meeting this year. This group works hard to ensure that Legionville is maintained and operational for their safety programs and for events for our members like our Department Junior Fun weekend, Camporee, ALR Romp, and SAL John Zgoda Memorial Deer Hunt. You can help Legionville by going to the Auxiliary's donation form and picking our affiliated program of Legionville to donate through our department office.



I was invited to visit the veterans at the SAL John Zgoda Memorial Deer Hunt. The first hunt was held in 2007 with four veterans and now they had six veterans this year. Commander Linda and I went on a tour of the hunting area and saw the newly built deer stands, we visited and learned so much about the history of the hunt. One of my highlights was listening to the veterans and volunteers about their experiences at the hunt. If you would like to support this great project you can send to the Minnesota American Legion Foundation and make sure to have Fund 54 on the memo line.

Has your unit looked at all of our wonderful auxiliary programs that you can support?



We need to remember to take care of our programs to ensure that we are serving our mission. Programs include the \$5 Bill Shower, ALA Hospital Program, Gift Shop, Fisher House, Department Scholarship, and the Past President's Parley Scholarship Funds, supporting our Girls State Program, and the Department President's (Minnesota) Project. The donation form was in the first unit mailing and can also be found on the department website.

What can I say about Fall Conference? It was amazing, but I may be a little bit biased. If you have not attended, please make plans for next year. Fall Conference is an annual school of instruction. Your department chairman worked hard on their trifolds and resources, and their presentations. Thank you to the department office team for their assistance in making the fall conference happen and being there for our members.

Thursday evening was well attended, and a lot of information was shared. Presentations included Have you ever wanted to change a standing rule by Carol Kottom, Applying for an American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Grant by Judy Ackerman, Annual Reporting by myself, a sneak peak at the new department website by Christie Avant, and information on the President's (Minnesota) Project by Nancy Lewison with North Star Honor Flight.



Thank you to Department Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman Joan Krantz, everyone who helped her setup and worked, all of those members who donated items and of course bid on items. The silent auction raised \$6,906.00.

The Fall Conference service project for the St Cloud Standdown was overwhelming supported by the American Legion Family. Too many items to count, but the volunteers at the St Cloud Standdown will be letting us know numbers once they can. On Saturday we were able to present \$2585.00 in monetary donations to President Bob Behrens and Treasurer Joyce Albu. Thank you to everyone for the donations.



Friday night the Second Annual Poppy Making contest was well attended. The American Legion Family made a lot of needed poppies for our program. Some new poppy makers tried it and found out they enjoyed the challenge.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the President's (Minnesota) project during the conference. It was a shocking surprise when Sherry presented it and brought tears to my eyes. This project is not about me; it is about veterans and their journey to Honor Flight. I was approached by three members that have already filled out an application for their veterans.

The American Legion Auxiliary was **Promoting our Mission by Working our Programs** at Fall Conference. I appreciate each of you and your dedication to our mission.





Department of Minnesota
November 2025 Unit Mailing
Brain Science Chairman, Barbara Hopewell

One of the studies at the Brain Science Center is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Why, because an estimated 12-15% of veterans experience PTSD at some point in their lives.

What is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD):

A disorder in which an individual has experienced, witnessed, or learned about a traumatic event that involved actual or threatened death, serious injury, or sexual violence.

The condition may last months or years, with triggers that can bring back

- Intrusive memories of the event (e.g., flashbacks, nightmares)
- Dissociative reactions (e.g., flashbacks, feeling as if the event is happening again)
- Intense distress or physiological reactions to cues that remind them of the trauma

Individuals may experience avoidance symptoms:

- Efforts to avoid thoughts, feelings, or conversations related to the trauma
- Avoidance of activities, places, or people that remind them of the trauma

They may experience negative alterations in cognition and mood:

- Inability to recall key aspects of the trauma
- Distorted beliefs about oneself, others, or the world (e.g., feeling unsafe, guilty)
- Exaggerated startle response
- Difficulty concentrating or making decisions
- Individuals may experience irritability or outbursts of anger, reckless behavior, hypervigilance, and sleep disturbances.

It's important to note that PTSD can vary in severity and presentation. A qualified mental health professional can provide an accurate diagnosis and develop an appropriate treatment plan. Treatment includes different types of trauma-focused psychotherapy as well as medications to manage symptoms.



Department of Minnesota
November 2025 Unit Mailing
Constitution/Bylaws & Standing Rules
Chairman, Carol Kottom
ckakottomm@gmail.com

This year we will be updating our Bylaws, as we do every year. The volunteer Treasurer's responsibility vs the Department Office Accounting Technician's responsibility will be reviewed and updated. The District Constitution/Bylaws & Standing Rules chairman have been invited to participate in studying the topics via zoom meetings. We encourage them to keep their Districts up to date on our activities. This change is putting us in line with the recent changes made by the National Organization.

And, if you were at the National Convention in Tampa, FL you are aware of the changes that were voted in to the national governing rules. When the printed copies of these updates are available to the Departments, we will proceed to offer updates to our documents in accordance with those changes also.

For immediate action by your Unit: Refer to National Constitution:

ARTICLE III

Eligibility

Section 1. *Eligibility for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is determined by The American Legion. The eligibility requirements from The American Legion governing documents shall be provided as a footnote to this Constitution for information purposes and shall be updated as appropriate.*

Section 2. *There shall be two (2) classes of membership, Senior and Junior.*

(a) Senior membership shall be composed of members aged eighteen (18) and older; provided, however, a member eligible under Section 1 of this article and who is under the age of eighteen (18) years and married shall be classified as a Senior member.

(b) Junior membership shall be composed of members under the age of eighteen (18) years, whose activities shall be supervised by the Senior membership. Upon reaching the age of eighteen years, Junior members shall automatically be admitted into Senior membership with full privileges.

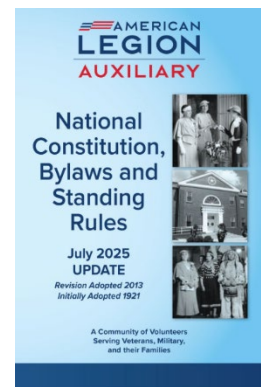
(c) Dues of both classes shall be paid annually or for life.

Section 4. *Each unit of the ALA, except department headquarters units, has the authority to decide its membership and shall be responsible for verifying eligibility of perspective members, transfer or new.*

Section 6. *Membership can only be offered upon an affirmative vote of the unit members unless an alternative procedure is set forth in the **Unit Bylaws**.*

We encourage each unit to set forth a standing rule that you use when accepting a new member. **One example** would be:

Eligibility: The affiliated Post will be asked to verify the service of the sponsoring veteran. When the Unit is not affiliated with an American Legion Post, the Department American Legion will be asked to verify the service of the sponsoring veteran. The American Legion Auxiliary membership chairman shall verify the relationship between the applicant and the service member.





Department of Minnesota
November 2025 Unit Mailing
Education Chairman, Cari Lamb

crlamb74@gmail.com

2025-2026 SCHOLARSHIPS

National

As of September 10, 2025, the four **American Legion Auxiliary National** scholarship applications are LIVE!! For more information, visit the following website:

<http://www.alaforveterans.org/scholarships>

This page is your one-stop shop for all things “scholarships”, including FAQs, eligibility rules, attachment requirements, and the essay questions.

A total of \$182,000 of award money is on the table across the four national scholarships, and our goal is to award all of it in 2026. Here is the breakdown:

CHILDREN OF WARRIORS NATIONAL PRESIDENTS’ SCHOLARSHIP:

Fifteen \$5,000 scholarships (\$75,000)

SPIRIT OF YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS:

Five - \$5,000 scholarships and 47 - \$1,000 scholarships (\$72,000)

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP:

Five \$2000 scholarships (\$10,000)

MEMBER LOYALTY SCHOLARSHIP:

Ten \$2,500 scholarships (\$25,000)

Department

All **Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary** scholarships should be submitted by March 1st to a local **American Legion Auxiliary Unit**, the application must be signed by the Unit President.

1. Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members

- a. One (1) Junior member in each of the five (5) divisions will receive a \$5,000 scholarship.
- b. Applicant must have been a Junior member for the past three (3) years and hold a current membership card and must continue their membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during scholarship period.
- c. Must be in their senior year of high school. This is a scholarship to attend an accredited institution of higher education. They must be of good character and have grades that meet the entrance requirements at the institution of their choice and must have at least a 3.0 GPA using a 4.0 scale.
- d. Application must be received by the Local American Legion Auxiliary Unit President on or before March 1st, 2026.
- e. The Decision of the Judges Shall Be Final.

2. The Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

- a. One (1) scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded in each of the five (5) divisions.
- b. Applicants must be:
 - i. A current member of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion, must have held membership for two (2) preceding years and for the current (2026) membership year.
 - ii. A Non-Traditional student returning to the classroom after some period in which their formal education was interrupted, or a student beginning their education at a later point in life.
- c. American Legion Auxiliary Spirit of Youth Scholarship recipients are not eligible.
- d. Application must be received by the Local American Legion Auxiliary Unit President on or before March 1st, 2026.
- e. The Decision of the Judges Shall Be Final.

3. Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship

- a. Two (2) scholarships of \$2,500 each will be awarded in each of the five (5) divisions.
- b. Candidates for this award shall have been a Junior member and held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the past three (3) consecutive years (2023, 2024 and 2025) and be a paid member for the current year (2026). They must continue their membership during the scholarship period.
- c. This scholarship is intended for the traditional college student with no interruption in education, who is at least in the first semester of college or technical school but has not yet attained a bachelor's degree.
- d. This is a scholarship to attend an accredited institution of higher education for the completion of a bachelor's degree. Applicants must have completed at least one semester with the grades that meet continuation requirements at the institution of their choice and must have at least a 3.0 GPA using a 4.0 scale.
- e. Previous American Legion Auxiliary national scholarship recipients are welcome to apply.
- f. Applicants must present the completed application, along with the other required material.
- g. Application must be received by the Local American Legion Auxiliary Unit President on or before March 1st, 2026.
- h. The Decision of the Judges Shall Be Final.

4. Department of Minnesota Scholarship

- a. Awarded to deserving sons or daughters, grandsons or granddaughters of a veteran who need financial assistance.
- b. Applicant must resident in the State of Minnesota or a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the American Legion or Sons of the American Legion.
- c. A high school senior/graduate or college student/graduate, seeking further education with a scholastic record and average of least a "C."
- d. Applications can be found on <http://www.mnala.org/scholarships>.
- e. Application must be received by the Local American Legion Auxiliary Unit President on or before March 1st, 2026.
- f. The Decision of the Judges Shall Be Final.
- g. This scholarship is totally funded by the Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary.

5. Department of Minnesota Past Presidents Parley Health Care Scholarship

- a. The Past Presidents Parley Health Care Scholarship has been established to assist needy and deserving students or adults to commence or further their education in any phase of the health care field.
- b. One year \$1,000 scholarship
- c. Applicant must be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for a minimum of three (3) years and maintain a "C" or better average in school if a student.
- d. Applications must be signed by the Unit President of which you are a member due to Unit President by March 1st, 2026.

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship

Provides college scholarship money to children of post 9/11 veterans who have died or have a combined VA disability rating of 50% or more. The application period for the 2026 Legacy Scholarship will open on January 1st, 2026. You can find more information at <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy>.

The American Legion Oratorical Contest

High school students are eligible to compete, competition begins at the local Post level and advances to a state champion, then on to National level. More information can be found at www.legion.org.

Tips

- ❖ Unit Must sign all applications. This signature should be done after the applicant has completed the application. It is up to the Unit to verify that all rules have been followed and all requirements are in place.
- ❖ Units are in control of their own scholarships; it is important to publicize your scholarships.
- ❖ More scholarship information can be found on the following websites along with all the instructions that need to be followed.

www.mnlegion.org/scholarships

www.mnala.org/schlarships

www.alaforveterans.org/scholarship



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA SCHOLARSHIP 2025-2026**

ELIGIBILITY:

Department scholarships are awarded to deserving sons or daughters, grandsons or granddaughters of a veteran who need financial assistance to avail themselves of higher education at the post-secondary level. These scholarships are to be applied only toward the expenses of tuition, books or similar fees, at an accredited institution of higher learning. Each scholarship will be paid directly to the school, in the amount of \$1,000.00 for any one year. Satisfactory progress must be made with grades reported to the Department of Minnesota.

To be eligible to apply for these scholarships, the veteran must have served in the federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces since December 7, 1941 and have been honorably discharged or is still serving.

A candidate for these scholarships must be:

1. A resident of the State of Minnesota or a member of the American Legion Auxiliary (includes Junior membership), The American Legion, or Sons of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota.
2. A high school senior/graduate or college student/graduate, seeking further education with a scholastic record and average of at least "C".
3. In need of and deserving of financial assistance.
4. Of good character, with ambition to continue their education.

APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE:

1. A letter from the superintendent, principal or counselor of the school presently attending, or have attended regarding scholastic record, aptitude and ambition.
2. A letter from a business, clergy or professional person (not related) with whom you have been associated.
3. An essay of not more than 1,000 words (typed, double-spaced) from the applicant telling of their plans for higher education, career goals, extracurricular and community activities and the need for financial assistance.
4. A copy of high school/college grad transcript.

An application check list is included for the convenience of the applicant and/or Unit.

Applications must be submitted by March 5th to the Unit President of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit located in your school district or the Unit that holds your membership. This application must be received in the Minnesota Department Auxiliary Headquarters by March 15th:

American Legion Auxiliary
State Veterans Service Building
20 W 12th Street Room 314
St. Paul, MN 55155.

All applications will be considered for all scholarships available and the final decision will be made by the Department Education Chairman. Eight (8) \$1,000.00 scholarships will be awarded.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ Telephone _____

Email Address _____

1. Date of Graduation from High School _____

2. Name of Guardian/Parents _____

3. Name of veteran by which applicant is eligible _____

Dates of Service _____ Relationship _____

If veteran is a member of the The American Legion – ID# _____

If applicant is a member of the The American Family – ID# _____

4. Annual Family Income \$ _____

(Use gross income from last year's Federal Income Tax 1040 Form, line 22)

Number of dependent children under 18 years of age _____

Number of dependent children 18 years of age and over _____

5. Occupation of Guardians/Parents:

A. _____ B. _____

6. Total monthly Government compensation or pension received by guardian/parent and/or children (self).

7. Guardian/Parent _____ Children_ Self _____

8. What school do you plan to attend? _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

• Course of Study _____

• Length of course _____

• Cost of course _____

9. What date will you enter school? _____

10. Do you anticipate any other Financial Assistance? _____

If so, what amount is anticipated? _____

Failure to complete the application or attach all required documents will result in disqualification.

Signature of Applicant *Date*

Signature of Unit President or Secretary *Date*

Unit Number and Location

Return to: American Legion Auxiliary
State Veterans Service Building
20 W. 12th St. #314
St. Paul, MN 55155

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY HEALTH CARE SCHOLARSHIP **RULES AND REGULATIONS 2025-2026**

1. The Past Presidents Parley Health Care Scholarship has been established to assist needy and deserving students or adults to commence or further their education in **any phase** of the health care field including the entire medical, nursing and dental support fields such as registered nurses, nursing assistant, licensed practical nurse, X-ray or other technician, dieticians, physical or other therapist, dental hygienist or dental assistant, etc.
2. The Scholarship is a one-year scholarship for \$1,000.00.
3. The applicant must be a member of an American Legion Auxiliary in the Department of Minnesota, for a minimum of three (3) years; and maintain a "C" or better average in school if a student.
4. The Scholarship must be used for the purpose of continuing education, beyond high school, in a post-secondary educational facility.
5. **Applications must be signed by the Unit President of which you are a member and received in the Department Office of the American Legion Auxiliary by MARCH 15th.** They will be reviewed and scholarships will be awarded by a committee appointed by the Past Presidents Parley Chairman.
6. When notified that a scholarship application has been approved, the winners must send a letter of acceptance to the Department Office before any monies are released (up to ten recipients per year based on based on donations received this Auxiliary year).
7. The Scholarship will be awarded in the following manner: The \$1,000.00 will be sent directly to the school after the **first quarter** has been completed and proof of satisfactory grades via a transcript has been sent to the Department Office.
8. **APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE:**
 - A. A letter from either the superintendent, principal or counselor of the school now attending, or have attended, regarding scholastic record, aptitude and ambition.
 - B. A letter from either a business, clergy or professional person (not a relative) with whom you have been associated.
 - C. A brief **TYPED** essay from the applicant telling of his/her plans for higher education, career goals, and the need for financial assistance (see form with application).
 - D. A copy of high school or college transcript.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 15TH

Applications must be sent to:

American Legion Auxiliary
State Veterans Service Building
20 W 12th Street, Room 314
St. Paul, MN 55155

PAST PRESIDENTS HEALTH CARE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2025-2026

1. PERSONAL DATA:

Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Marital Status: Single _____ Married _____ (Maiden name) _____

Phone for contact (home) _____ (cell) _____

Email Address: _____

If you work outside the home, what is your occupation: _____

Parents/Spouse's Name: _____

Parents/Spouse's Occupation: _____

Names and Ages of Dependents: _____

Number and Location of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit to which you belong:

UNIT NUMBER _____ UNIT LOCATION _____

MEMBERSHIP ID NUMBER _____ YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP _____

2. Name and address of Post High School Education Institution you plan to attend or are attending:

(NAME)

(ADDRESS)

3. Course of study or major you intend to follow:

a. _____ (length of program) _____ (estimated cost per year) _____

4. Amount of Financial Aid package you expect to receive from the school you will attend. (print or type).

➤ Student Work \$ _____

➤ Student Loan \$ _____

➤ Scholarships \$ _____

➤ Grants \$ _____

5. List other scholarships you have been awarded and the amount of each: _____

6. List other financial assistance you expect to receive: _____

7. EDUCATION

Name(s) of School

Dates Attended

High School: _____

Colleges (if applicable): _____

8. List the activities you have participated in, both in and out of school (including dates, employment, offices held and awards - you may type this on a separate sheet) (PLEASE **TYPE** USING THIS FORM ALSO)

Employment	Community	School	Awards

9. **HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:** Please furnish the following information:

- A. To be completed by the **High School Guidance Office:**

Grade Point Average: _____ Class Standing: _____ Percent in Class: _____

Graduation Date: _____

COUNSELOR'S SIGNATURE _____

(Please attach your high school transcript)

- B. If you are not 18 years old, please have your parents or guardian complete the following:

I, the parent/guardian of (please print) _____

DO HEREBY GIVE PERMISSION FOR THE RELEASE OF MY CHILD'S educational records.

(SIGNATURE)

(DATE)

10. **COLLEGE STUDENTS:** Applicants enrolled in college must send a copy of their current college transcript.
***** If you are not a high school senior and this is your first college enrollment, please include your high school transcript.
11. I certify that the foregoing information is true and correct. I also agree that if I am awarded a Health Care Scholarship by the Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary and decide not to seek further education, or change my course of study from the Health Care Field, I will **immediately** notify the State American Legion Auxiliary office at 651-224-7634.

(APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE)

(DATE)

Applicant Name _____

This section is REQUIRED for Applicant Award Selection.

You must furnish 2 letters of reference of non-family members (see rules and regulations sheet), along with the applicant statement. Name and relationship of those furnishing letters of reference:

	Name	Relationship
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____

APPLICANTS STATEMENT: On the space below and if additional space is needed use another page. Please **TYPE** this statement indicating:

- What your future plans are?
- What are your career goals?
- The need for financial assistance?

This statement must be a **minimum of 75 words.**

(UNIT PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE)

(DATE)



Department of Minnesota
November 2025 Unit Mailing
MN American Legion Auxiliary
Girls State Chairman, Wanda Prescher

Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary Girls State
June 14-19, 2026

Fall is finally here! Since many of you were not at Fall Conference, here is the presentation that was given for Girls State.

Sunday, June 14-Friday, June 16, 2026 at Bethel University

Will be leaving a day early due to Juneteenth and unable to be at the Capitol on Friday
Capitol Day will be Thursday, with inauguration at the capital with the Minnesota Chief Justice prior to the House, Senate meetings and Mock Trials.

Girls State Sponsorship

Units need to help sponsorship with or without actual recruitment from their school(s)
14 students approached the committee with how to participate in Girls State. We found sponsorship for them, by talking to units or district chairman.
Seena Gobena and Ellis Landry who are this year's Girls State Senators, would not have gone to Girls State or Girls Nation. They were 2 of the 14 in need of sponsorship.
There are girls from communities where we do not have an American Legion Post or Auxiliary Units, we need to get sponsorship for these students, as well as others who come to us

Recruiting for Girls State

New video and letter will be sent to schools and units early January. A link will be provided with both for more information on Girls State
We will have a flyer for you copy and post in your schools, public library, church's, business etc.
Committee will hold 2 Zoom Sessions for whoever from the schools may have questions about the program. Instagram will be added to help reach this age group. Last year's girls will help with getting info out to their peers using Instagram.

Electronic Registration – Campwise

Cut out all paper mailings of packets to units
Cut arrival day check-in for staff
Nurse and media office had forms and releases immediately
New Additions

Units will receive confirmation when student has **completed her entire registration**
Unit sponsorship recognition will go to actual unit sponsoring
Adding Girl State Staff- info, medical, background check etc.

New Addition will be the Honor Button and Honor Wall.

Student will send a picture of a service or veteran family or find in their community to honor.
Girl State annual will be replaced with the student receiving a link/QR code which they will receive
ALL pictures and videos that were taken during the week by the media person.

How Units or Members Can Help!

Sponsor a snack night during the week of Girls State
Raise Right Gift Cards – purchase
ALL-STAR Program
Recruiting younger gals for staff! Ex-Girl Staters we need you! Would be paired with a senior counselor for the week. We need you for the continuity of the program for years to come!

Thank you to all that work so hard for this program, we are here to help however we can!

Happy Thanksgiving!



BECOME A



Girls State

All-Star

IF YOU WISH TO DONATE TO THE 2026 SESSION
OF ALA MN GIRLS STATE, PLEASE COMPLETE
THE FORM BELOW AND MAIL WITH A CHECK
MADE OUT TO ALA DEPT OF MINNESOTA

NAME/UNIT: _____

CONTACT EMAIL: _____

★ WHITE STAR DONOR \$1-\$49 _____

★ RED STAR DONOR \$50 - \$99 _____

★ BLUE STAR DONOR \$100 - \$249 _____

★ GOLD STAR DONOR \$250+ _____

ALL ALA MN GIRLS STATE ALL STARS WILL BE RECOGNIZED ON THE
ALA MN GIRLS STATE FACEBOOK PAGE AND IN OUR CITIZEN
HANDBOOK.



\$10 PAYS FOR ONE T-SHIRT FOR A PARTICIPANT



\$50 SPONSORS AN EVENING OF SNACKS



\$500 OFFSETS THE COST OF PRINTING

THE MOCCASIN (OUR DAILY NEWSPAPER)



\$1000 PAYS FOR ONE BUS TO

THE MN STATE CAPITOL

PLEASE MAIL DONATIONS TO:

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

20 W 12TH ST ROOM 314

ST PAUL, MN 55155



Department of Minnesota
November 2025 Unit Mailing
Historian, Karla Otterness
t.d.news2share@gmail.com

History Tidbit

Celebrating the ALA's Birthday

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) observes its birthday on November 10, commemorating its founding in 1919. This day is especially significant as it marks the establishment of a patriotic service organization devoted to supporting veterans, military service members, and their families. In 2025, the ALA will celebrate its 106th anniversary, reflecting over a century of dedicated service and community involvement.

Unit and District Celebrations

Units are encouraged to organize special activities to honor this milestone. Members can document these events in their unit histories, ensuring that their contributions and celebrations are remembered for years to come. Districts might also consider hosting birthday parties that bring together all units in the area, with the added opportunity to invite a special guest speaker to share in the festivities.

Connecting and Having Fun

Above all, these celebrations provide an opportunity for members to come together, enjoy each other's company, and have fun. The spirit of camaraderie and connection is at the heart of the ALA's mission, making each birthday celebration a meaningful and enjoyable occasion.

Happy Birthday to us, Happy Birthday to us, Happy Birthday American legion Auxiliary, Happy Birthday to us!

Writing tips

The historian can request each chairperson to provide a summary of their program for the current year or compile these summaries herself. When writing a paragraph for each chairmanship, begin with essential information, including who, what, where, when, and why, and consider starting with an engaging opening sentence to encourage further reading. Good luck and its never to early to start.



ALA Trivia/ Historical photo

What year was this taken? (Clue is in the picture.)



**Department of Minnesota
November 2025 Unit Mailing
Junior Activities Chairman,
Brandi Christensen**

With holidays coming up, think of your junior members and how they can make holidays cards or tray favors for veterans in veterans' homes or nursing homes in your area.

Or if you are hosting a holiday party or dinner, think of them when decorating or have them help serve the guests.

National Junior Meeting is November 15th, 2025 in Minneapolis. Have you signed your junior members up? It is open to junior members ages 8-17.

Junior Sun Blossoms

Abigail Koates

Department Honorary 1st Vice President

What is your favorite part of being a Jr member?

I would say all the friends you meet along the way. Since becoming more active 4 years ago I have learned so much about the Legion and Auxiliary. And everything we do for our country. With doing that I have made bonds and memories that will last a lifetime.



CHAPLAIN / MEMORIAL

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

NOVEMBER, 2025

Prayer should be the key in the morning and the lock at night. And remember to thank God all day – everyday. November brings us 2 important celebrations – Veterans Day on November 11th and Thanksgiving on November 28th.



Dear Lord, today we honor our veterans, worthy men and women who gave their best when they were called upon to serve and protect their country.

We pray that you will bless them, Lord, for their unselfish service in the continual struggle to preserve our freedoms, our safety, and our country's heritage, for all of us.

Bless them abundantly for the hardships they faced, for the sacrifices they made, for their many different contribution to America's victories over tyranny and oppression.

We respect them, we thank them, we honor them, we are proud of them, and we pray that you will watch over these special people and bless them with peace and happiness. In your name we pray. Amen



We thank you God, for creating the world and for preserving it until now.

We thank you for the regular return of day and night, and of the seasons, and for the dependability of nature and of time.

We thank you for memory, which enables us to build on the experiences of the past;

For imagination, which admits us to a wider world than we could otherwise know;

And for foresight, by which we plan for the future.

We thank you for your patience with us in our failings; for friends and family with whom we can celebrate our successes; and for those closest to us who support us in our times of need.

Bless this meal and us gathered here. Bless those who have little food or friends to comfort them in body or spirit. Bless those who are unable to be with us this day, and those who have gone before us in faith. We ask this in your name.

Author Unknown

Prayer for Meetings

O Heavenly Father...

Be with all of us as we meet together for our monthly Unit meeting. Guide us in all of our decisions that would be pleasing to you. We remember our service men and women. Keep them safe and protect them until they return home

Be with our members who are ill or recovering from surgery. Sincere sympathy to all who have lost loved ones. In Thy name we pray. Amen

Submitted by Betty Schlueter
Unit Chaplain, Hutchinson Unit 96

Native American Prayer

May the Sun bring you energy by day,
May the Moon softly restore you by night,
May the Rain wash away your worries,
May the Breeze blow new strength into your being,
And may you walk gently through the world and know its beauty all the days of your life.

There Are No Repeats in Life

Every sunrise is a one-time gift.
Every conversation, every smile, every tear –
Once it passes, it becomes part of your story and can never be lived in the exact same way again.





Department of Minnesota
November 2025 Unit Mailing
Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation
Chairman, Linda Kelly

Quilts of Valor is a project under the VA&R Program. *Their mission is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing quilts of valor.* The foundation quilters have been busy little “sewing bees” since 2003 when it was first organized by Catherine Roberts, whose son was deployed to Iraq.

Ms. Roberts set up rules for the quilts. They are made of high-quality material that is hand or machine quilted – not tied. Their website at www.qovf.org provides a lot of information for our quilters. (Be sure to use “Q” not “G”, as I did the first time.) There are memberships available and thirty or so quilt patterns are shown.

I have seen our veterans’ faces when that blanket is wrapped around them. The smiles and the tears tell it all. My hope is that those of you that quilt will consider creating a quilt to award to a veteran of your choice. If you belong to a quilting group, please share this information with them – maybe it could be a group project. If your unit doesn’t have any quilters, maybe you can donate money towards material for a group.

Please let me know if you or your group complete a quilt of valor and award it to a veteran. I would appreciate a picture of the presentation. All names will go into a drawing to be drawn on March 31, 2026, as I want to include the winner in my annual National report. You never know if we may see our quilts of valor on the big screen at National.

I will give the book, “Quilts of Valor: A 50 State Salute Book” to the drawing winner. I have not seen the book yet, but I understand that it gives history of military quilts, features a Quilt of Valor for each of our 50 states, and features 16 quilt patterns. So, please get sewing.

The comment that I appreciated from the website is that “Without words, a quilt of valor says, ‘Thank you for your service, sacrifice and valor in serving our nation.’”

Thank you, Karen Foss, for creating gift tags for our gift shop this December. And, she has agreed to do the same for next year. **Please keep any non-religious Christmas cards so she can recycle them into tags for our veterans. They can be dropped off at any ALA event.**

2025-2026 Hospital/Home Sewing Needs

Revised October 2025

[illegible]



**Department of Minnesota
November 2025 Unit Mailing
Secretary's Notes**

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 10 – American Legion Auxiliary Birthday
November 11 – Veteran's Day – Office Closed
November 15 – Mission Training in Minneapolis
November 27 – 28 – Thanksgiving – Department Office Closed
December 6 – Pearl Harbor Rally – Buffalo Post 270 – 11a Turn-in
December 13 – Wreaths Across America
December 24 & 25 – Christmas – Office Closed
December 31 – January 1 – New Year's – Office Closed
Jan. 10 - 4th and 5th District Mid-Winter, Crystal VFW
Jan. 10 - 9th District Mid-Winter, Roseau Post 24
Jan. 17 - 7th District Mid-Winter, Litchfield Post
Jan. 17 - 10th District Mid-Winter, Anoka Post 102
Jan 19 – Martin Luther King Day – Office Closed
Jan. 24 - 1st District Mid-Winter, Stewartville Post 164
Jan. 24 - 3rd District Mid-Winter, Lonsdale Post 586
Jan. 24 - 8th District Mid-Winter, TBD
Feb 7 – 6th District Mid-Winter, Pequot Lakes
Feb 7 – 2nd District Mid-Winter, Hardwick
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 – 1st District Hosting
April 15 – Purple Up Day!
April 15 – Annual Reports Due to District Chairman
April 18 – Good Friday – Office Closed
May 9 - 4th District Convention, North St. Paul Post 39
May 16 - 1st District Convention, TBD
May 16 - 3rd District Convention, New Prague Post 45
May 25 – Memorial Day – Office Closed
May 30 - 7th District Convention, New London Post 537
June 6 - 5th District Convention, Holiday Inn, Bloomington
June 6 - 6th District Convention, St. Augusta Post 621
June 6 - 8th District Convention, TBD
June 13 - 9th District Convention, Moorhead Post 21
June 14-19 - Minnesota Girls State, Bethel University
June 19 – Juneteenth – Office Closed
June 27 - Joint Testimonial (for department commander and president), New Prague Post 45
July 9-11 - 107th Department Convention, Willmar

"America without her Soldiers would be like God without His angels." — Claudia Pemberton

~ Happy Thanksgiving ~ Christie, Pa and Jocelyn



2025-2026 Annual Reporting Informational Zooms

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

District Chairman Zoom Session Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 7pm

Department Chairman Zoom Session Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 7pm

Questions? Contact Department President Robin

Email Department Secretary Christie Avant to be added to receive the zoom link.

Christie@mnala.org