



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

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By the time you read this newsletter we will have a new website and you will have received the annual report forms. The website is a work in progress and the department office is making sure it is member friendly. Thank you to Secretary Christie for all of her work, and patience with me, as this new site has been built.

Why have the report forms this early? So that you can plan for our reporting year. You can see what the department chairman are looking for and you have time to add in some projects.

Reminder there have been reporting zooms added for unit members in 2026. There will be two nights to chose from Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. The same information will be shared on both nights so you can sign up for one. To register send an email to Secretary Christie with the night you would like to attend. Her email is [christie@mnala.org](mailto:christie@mnala.org)

Thank you to Leadership Chairman Mary Kuperus and her team for a great first leadership workshop in Osseo. They had over 40 members in attendance. Please make sure to look for the next workshop and make plans to attend.

Make sure to read the article that I asked First District President Wanda Prescher to write about her district coffee talk. What a great way to reach out to unit members and start the conversation.

I was excited to represent the Auxiliary at Fridley, Monticello, New London, and Osseo for their membership and Veterans Day dinners. My favorite responsibility of this position is meeting our unit members at these functions. Thank you so much for the invitations.



How did your unit celebrate our 106<sup>th</sup> Birthday? The Department of Minnesota celebrated by achieving the National membership goal of 60% ! Congratulations to Membership Chairman Kollette Kaehlert and all of the membership chairman on the district and unit levels. This was truly a team effort and everyone helped. This is OUR win!

The Chaska Unit celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with a luncheon and I was honored to be their guest. So much history shared by scrapbooks and members sharing stories.

Thank you to Willmar Unit President Kammy Herzog and KWLM in Willmar for the opportunity to speak on their 85<sup>th</sup> annual Veterans Day broadcast. Myself, Seventh District

President Mary Kuperus, and six 4<sup>th</sup> grade students from Prairie Woods were a part of this special broadcast. You can listen by going to their website.

Veterans Day was extra special by representing the Department of Minnesota at the State of Minnesota Veterans Day program in Mankato. Then I went to the Minneapolis Veterans Home for their program for their veterans. It was a special day to meet and thank so many of our Minnesota veterans.

National Mission Training was held in Minnesota this year. A great turnout of 111 members registered representing 12 departments. The little liberty gnomes made their way to Minnesota and our Juniors had a great opportunity to attend the National Junior meeting. Leadership Chairman Mary will share more information.



The Fergus Falls Pheasant dinner was wonderful and enjoyed by the veterans. Thank you to the American Legion for making this great program happen for the veterans.

We found Fergus Falls Representative Doris Lafayette at the dinner. She has been the representative and volunteer at the home for many years. She works very hard for our veterans needs.

**Thank you again to the Department of  
Minnesota American Legion Family!**

**Update:** The donation information from the service project for the St Cloud Standdown was shared with me from President Bob Behrens and Treasurer Joyce Albu. It took over five days for them to process all of the donations. There were 2,115 toiletries, 3,643 men's items, and 2,026 women's items donated. Monetary donations of \$2,585.00. The grand total with donations and valued items ...**\$298,725.00!**



**Happy Holidays!**

This is a busy time of the year for our unit members. Thank you for all you do for our veterans, military and their families, and your communities.

Make sure to take the time to enjoy your friends and family also during this season.

One of the joys this time of the year is the opportunity to say thank you for everything you do for our American Legion Family, our veterans, military and their families.

**I send you best wishes for peace, happiness,  
and good health now and in the new year.**



T H A N K

Y O U



**We appreciate The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion, who donated new and used goods to us at the Fall Conference:**

- 2,115 toiletries
- 3,643 men's items
- 2,026 women's items
- \$2,585 monetary





## Department of Minnesota December 2025 Unit Mailing District President Highlight

### Wanda Prescher 1<sup>st</sup> District President



Symbol: Poppy

Theme: Serving those who Served.

Project: Raise \$5000 to do a golfing green for the Preston's Veterans Home.

### District Coffee Talk

Trying to reach our units and members other than newsletters and lack of invites to units, we tried a casual meeting which we named Coffee Talk with coffee and donuts.

We met on Saturday, November 8th at Freeborn Post 558 from 8-10am. 4 Auxiliary units of 11 units invited in the area with 13 members, our District Rider Director joined us as well as the Freeborn Commander who is also the Freeborn County VSO. Even had a visit from a Minnesota Lake member in the 2nd District!

Open discussion on whatever members wanted to talk about good or bad. We had good discussions with good input and sharing from everyone and actually went longer than planned. Had a couple younger members and asked for their input as to how we can attract younger people. The PHONE.....post everything we do, who we are and what we do. This should be our challenge for this year in our District, just not on Facebook. Hopefully I answered a few questions as well.

At first we were disappointed in only 4 units attending, but after the discussions we had, we will do 2 more sessions in February, for all units who are interested with 2 Saturday options.





## 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)

**DECEMBER, 2025**

**‘Work as if you were to live a hundred years, pray as if you were to die tomorrow.’ ~Benjamin Franklin**

December brings us several important celebrations ~ Hanukkah celebrated December 14<sup>th</sup> thru December 22<sup>nd</sup>; Christmas on December 25<sup>th</sup>, and Kwanza celebrated December 26<sup>th</sup> thru January 1<sup>st</sup>.

As we transition into the winter months, I remind everyone to continue to keep in contact with Auxiliary members and veterans in nursing homes, those who are experiencing illness and those who live alone. It means so much to receive a simple phone call to say they are not forgotten.

### **Prayer of Gratitude for the Christmas Season**

Dear Lord,

We are grateful for this season of joy and love. Thank You for the opportunities to reflect on Your goodness and to share Your blessings with others.

Scripture: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. Psalm 107:1  
Amen



### **Christmas Blessing**

May the blessing of joy abide within you;  
May the blessing of peace rest upon you;  
May the blessing of love flow out through you;  
May all the blessings of the Lord be yours at  
Christmas and in the New Year.  
~Author Unknown



### **Opening Prayer for Unit Meeting**

Dear Lord, As the leaves transition and the air turns crisp, we thank you for the beauty of Fall. Help us to embrace change with open hearts, nurturing gratitude and hope in every moment. Please be with us as we discuss the business and work of our auxiliary. Continue to be with our veterans and their families as they give so much to keep our nation free, democratic and principled. In this we pray, Amen.

### **Closing Prayer for Unit Meeting**

Lord, thank you for our fine leadership and thank you for the fellowship and friends we have made. Our business meeting is ending and you have guided us well. May we use what we have learned and planned here to help our work with our veterans, children and community. Please keep our members safe until we meet again. Amen

***Submitted by: Bonnie Johnson, Nisswa Unit #627 Unit Chaplain***

### **A Prayer for Veterans Day from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:**

Lord God, Almighty Father,  
creator of mankind and author of peace,  
as we are ever mindful of the cost paid for the liberty we possess,  
We ask you to bless the members of our armed forces.  
Give them courage, hope and strength.  
May they ever experience your firm support,  
Gentle love and compassionate healing.  
Be their power and protector, leading them from darkness to light.  
To you be all glory, honor and praise, now and forever. Amen

**Submitted by Amanda R. Engels, Mineota Unit #199, District #7**

A reminder to all members and units that I am collecting their prayers and inspirational poems. I will continue to print as many as I can each month. Prayers can be sent to [marsha.bible@gmail.com](mailto:marsha.bible@gmail.com) or mail them to me at the address noted above.

Wishing each of you the blessing of Happy Holidays in whatever faith you believe and a Happy and prosperous New Year 2026.

# **Happy New Year 2026!**



**Department of Minnesota**  
December 2025 Unit Mailing  
**American Legion Auxiliary MN**  
**Girls State Chairman, Wanda Prescher**  
w.prescher1951@gmail.com

**American Legion Auxiliary Girls State 2026**

**Where:** Bethel University

**When:** Sunday, June 14-Friday, June 19, 2026

**Sponsorship:** Please consider helping with sponsorship whether you recruit from your school(s) or not. There are students that do not have a Post or Auxiliary in their community. We have students who contact us for sponsorship, we will the student(s).

**How Units or Members Can Help!**

Sponsor a snack night during the week of Girls State

ALL-Star Program, we had great response at Fall Conference! Thank you to everyone that made donations! This will go far in supporting our program!

Encourage past Girl Staters you know to consider being a counselor. Would be paired with a senior counselor for their first time at Girls State.

We have heard from 5 units with their Girl State contact info. Thank you! Please send your units Girls State Chairman info to the following District Chairman.

1 <sup>st</sup> District:	Wanda Prescher	507-254-0304	w.prescher1951@gmail.com
2 <sup>nd</sup> District:	Linda Swehla	507-340-5529	dlswehla@bevcomm.net
3 <sup>rd</sup> District:	Mellisa Carlson	218-289-7057	gmcarlson15gamil.com
4 <sup>th</sup> District:	Mary French	651-455-1841	kenmaryf@comcast.net
5 <sup>th</sup> District:	Ramona Nack	612-869-6273	ramona.nack@gmail.com
6 <sup>th</sup> District:	Krisit Wacker	612-202-5974	kbwacker21@gmail.com
7 <sup>th</sup> District:	Sandy Wersal	320-354-4517	sandywersal@gmail.com
8 <sup>th</sup> District:			
9 <sup>th</sup> District:	Lynn Carr	218-686-8758	lynn624@gmail.com
10 District:	Peggy Tesdahl	612-715-4489	<a href="mailto:ranpegt0814@hotmail.com">ranpegt0814@hotmail.com</a>

We need to be able to contact you directly without going through unit presidents which have enough to do. You will be informed immediately of any information we have in regard to the Girls State Program.

In this mailing is a flyer and candidate form for units to use immediately in the schools, use the white space to post your unit info.

After Christmas Break, a new video and letter will be going to all units and schools directly through email. Units will need to make sure that the schools are aware and make sure they check their junk mail. Get your last year's Girl Stater to post on their individual media sites! They can definitely help get the info out there to their peers.

Thank you to everyone who gets involved with Girls State! It takes time, effort and passion to make the week of Girls State make a difference in a student's life!

***Have a Blessed Christmas with family and friends,***  
***The Girls State Committee***

# 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>!***



## AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

### Contest Rules

The American Legion Auxiliary's Americanism Essay Contest is for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs, divided into six classes. One award in each class will be presented in each division. Winners will receive a \$50 check, and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund.

#### Essay Title:

***"Celebrating America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday and the Veterans Who Fought for Our Freedom"***

#### Essay Classes:

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement*
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level

1. The Americanism Essay Contest cover sheet must be filled out **legibly** and **completely**. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
2. Departments (states) will determine the deadline for the local unit contests.
3. Essays will be due from the state department chairs to the Americanism Division chairs by April 15.
4. Essays received after the contest deadline will not be accepted.
5. Submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary. Through submission of an essay, contestants and their legal guardians grant non-exclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted and agree to have their names and writing published for commercial use without additional compensation or permission.
6. The essay shall be the work of only one individual.
7. Use of AI in writing essays is not allowed. Essays will be checked for use of AI. Any essay determined to be 30% or more AI written will be disqualified.
8. Essays will be scored using the following rubric:
  - Word Count: 5pts.
  - Cover Sheet: 5pts.
  - Topic/Theme — Does the Essay Answer the Topic Question?: 25pts.
  - Content — Original Thought: 25pts.
  - Grammar: 10pts.
  - Clarity/Coherence: 10pts.
  - Organization — Introduction, Body, and Conclusion: 10pts.
  - Correct Word Usage: 10pts.

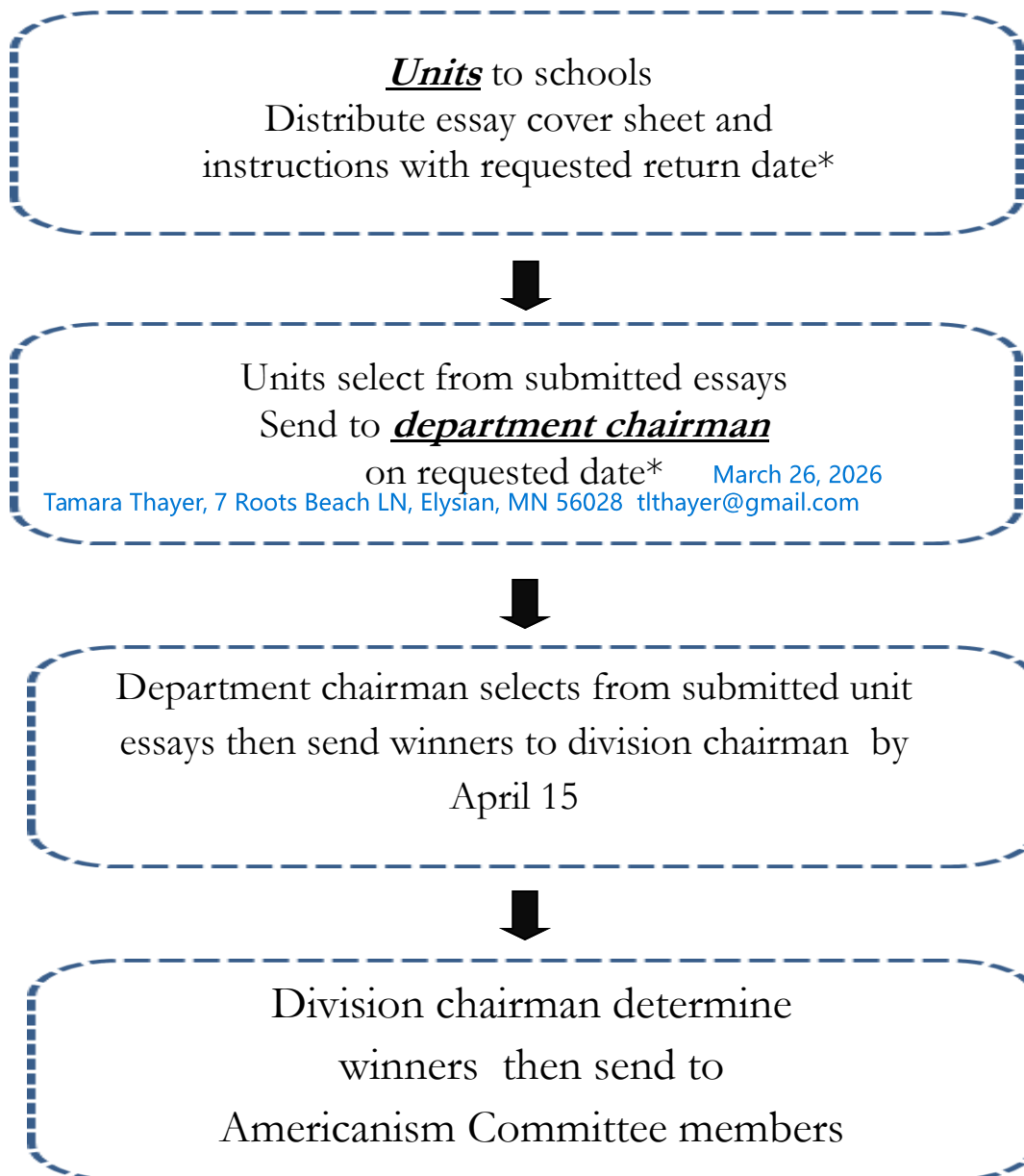
**THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.**



## American Legion Auxiliary

### Americanism Essay Contest flow chart -

Visit [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) for more information and required cover sheet



*\*Deadlines determined by unit and department chairmen.*



## AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST 2026 Cover Sheet

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**THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.**

**Essay Checklist:**

- ☐ Class competing in \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Sponsoring ALA unit \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- ☐ Completed essay cover sheet as first page of essay
- ☐ Word count of essay \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Due date for student to return to ALA unit \_\_\_\_\_

**To be completed by the student and parent/guardian:**

**\* Please write legibly in ink.**

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

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

Address (Street, City, State, ZIP): \_\_\_\_\_

Student or Parent/Guardian Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent/Guardian Name and Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

School City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

**Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.)**

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Unit Americanism Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Winner Due to Department on: March 26, 2026 Department: Minnesota

Signature of Department Chair: Tamara Thayer, Americanism Dept Chair

**Department Winner Due to National Americanism Division Chair by April 15, 2026**





**Department of Minnesota**  
December 2025 Unit Mailing  
**Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)**  
**Chairman, Joanie Krantz**  
jkrantz@wiktel.com

**THANK YOU** to all who had a part in making the Fall Conference Silent Auction a SUCCESS! You are Appreciated! The total from the sale was **\$5808** with additional donations of **\$1,101** the total numbers were **\$6909** to the AEF program.

The ALA Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is a national grant program that offers temporary financial assistance - up to \$3,000 - to eligible American Legion Auxiliary members facing emergencies caused by natural disasters or personal hardship.

Donations are a vital part of the AEF program. We rely on donations from our members and have made it easy for you to donate. To donate a one-time donation or monthly recurring donation, select one of two options: text "AEF" to 1-800-940-3450 or visit: [https://donate.legion-aux.org\\_LG.ive.as.px/QPO MDNR5#c](https://donate.legion-aux.org_LG.ive.as.px/QPO MDNR5#c)

We encourage you to hold a Unit fundraiser for AEF. There are lots of ideas out there for fundraisers.

1. Place a donation jar at your events with a poster explaining the AEF program.
2. Hold a bake sale.
3. Send a letter to unit members talking about the AEF program and encouraging them to make an AEF donation.
4. Or hold a raffle to benefit AEF, just to name a few ideas.

The AEF Committee is dedicated to raising funds and increasing awareness about this vital program. Did you know the AEF program is directly focused on providing direct support to our members during times of crisis? As a mission-driven, family focused organization, we are called to rally behind each of our auxiliary members during their time of need with

compassion and generosity. Let's work together to ensure help is there when it's needed most.



**Department of Minnesota**  
**December 2025 Unit Mailing**  
**Children & Youth Chairman, Sandy Wersal**  
sandywersal@gmail.com

Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2) November is the month to be thankful. To show our appreciation for our military, let us recognize their children in a special way. One of the key program statements for the Children & Youth program is Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2). It is an initiative honoring military children who may be experiencing a separation from one or both parents, whether deployed to a war zone, having a short tour, or on an extended temporary duty assignment. If you know of children with a deployed parent, provide them with a special book about deployed parents. Check out the following. • I'll Lend You My Daddy (A Military Deployment Book for Kids. A Read-Together 32-page, fully illustrated, rhyming picture book. A heartwarming story of love, courage, and comfort during deployment for military families with the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. • Sometimes I Want A Hug (Prepare for an emotional journey that's both heartfelt and hopeful, which helps children understand the ups and downs of a parent's deployment in a military family.) • Deployment: One of Our Pieces is Missing (a story about the challenging (and fun) changes a military family goes through when a parent is deployed.) Also units can get a button for the military children that say "I'm a Hero 2. by emailing Trash Ward at her email greenlare@yahoo.com. Information from the Northwestern Division newsletter. Other resources for the Children and Youth program can be found at: ALA for veterans.org.

The American Legion's Child's Table is a ceremony that honors the sacrifices of children in military families by setting a special table with symbolic items. Inspired by the POW/MIA remembrance table. Units can have a ceremony or put up the table at your post with a meaning of the items printed out. Items you will need for the table and what they symbolize:

The potted flowering plant symbolizes that a military child may flower and flourish where they are planted. The hand spade recognizes that they may be transplanted to a new place in the world at a moment's notice. The birthday hat and unlit candles, along with the baseball and glove, and ballet slippers represent special occasions that are missed.

The family photo depicting a child with his/her uniformed parent demonstrates our country's strength. The final touch to the table setting is the American flag to remind us that families are united in their commitment to national service, at home or away.

This is a great way to get your American Legion Auxiliary's Junior members involved.

Remember to make your Children and Youth activities fun.



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

**Homework!!**

**What????**

Do those of you who were at Fall Conference remember this slide from my power point? Have you done your homework? Everyone was asked to read the governing rules! I'm curious – have you?

The rules are written for you – our members. Do you understand what you read? Do you disagree with what you read? Do you want to see what you read get changed?

Our committee is a makeshift committee. The Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee chairman in every District is invited to attend our meetings along with the Department Advisors, Parliamentarian and President – 17 total. Big group right? Big organization that we represent! The best way to communicate is by word of mouth. This group is asked to “take it home with you”. Put what you find out in your District newsletters, bring it all to the attention of attendees at mid-winter or conventions. We want everyone to know what's coming up at our July Department Convention.

The first zoom meeting was last night. It was a groundbreaking session. We reviewed what we know has to happen. Resolutions passed at National Convention – which ones affect us? Our change from our Department Accountant being appointed to serve as our Treasurer and now our Treasurer being appointed in the same way as the Historian, Chaplain, etc and serving as a volunteer. That requires numerous changes. And reviewing the chairmen that are appointed – are we utilizing them? Do we need them all? Also, we'll be going over the new edition of the National Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules.

So, yes, we have a lot to do. But we are concerned about the questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me via email and ask your questions or express your concerns. Make sure if it pertains to your Unit governing rules that you include the actual wording as it is in the document. You can include the document in your email. We may not be able to give you an answer immediately, but we will certainly spend some time researching for you. In the meantime, get out your copy of the governing documents and read them. One section at each sitting.

Get to know your organization – understand your governing documents.

Hope to hear from you very soon!



**Department of Minnesota**  
**December 2025 Unit Mailing**  
**Legislation Chairman, Jody Hassing**  
jodyhassing@gmail.com

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) supports The American Legion's legislative priorities, which focus on securing earned benefits for veterans, improving healthcare access, and protecting them from predatory practices.

The Minnesota American Legion's focus this year is to advocate for an adjustment to property tax breaks for disabled veterans to reflect modern home prices.

Please support this by using Voter Voice Minnesota to send letters to your representatives letting them know you want them to support this legislation. The Minnesota American Legion American Legion action center (<https://www.mnlegion.org/action>) is updated or will be updated with information regarding the current campaigns and how to connect with your representatives.

Please remember the American Legion Family is nonpartisan. This means we strive to educate about politics and legislation; however, we do not support one candidate or party over another. Please keep this in mind when posting on social media. Keep the integrity of the American Legion Family by not supporting a specific candidate or party on social media postings that include emblems or branding from the American Legion Family.

Thank you and remember every voice should be heard,





**Department of Minnesota**  
**December 2025 Unit Mailing**  
**Membership Chairman,**  
**Kollett Kaehlert**  
[kkaehlertaux@gmail.com](mailto:kkaehlertaux@gmail.com)

**Happy Thanksgiving and an Early Merry Christmas**, I would like to congratulate all the units that reached the 60% goal by November 10<sup>th</sup> and acknowledge all those that are so close. Minnesota surpassed the goal reaching 63.07%.

Great Job everyone. But the work cannot stop now, there is a Department Goal of 70% by the Pearl Harbor Rally on December 6, remember for any unit reaching this goal we will be having a drawing for \$75 again. The next National Goal of 85% is March 15<sup>th</sup>, but I am going to challenge all Units and Districts to reach this goal by February 14<sup>th</sup>. I know that we can do it.

I am including the following information that appeared in the November Membership newsletter.

### **ALAMIS TIPS AND TRICKS**

**ALAMIS is a magical word for membership because it is fast, efficient, and cost-effective. Welcome to the American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System (ALAMIS) used by units, departments and leadership. One of the most important tips for ALAMIS is to gain full access to the system. Full access allows units to manage membership information and pay dues electronically. Access is determined by CALENDAR YEAR.**

- Obtain Approval: Contact your department office to request full access to ALAMIS.
- Complete training: National membership staff will provide online self-paced training.
- ALAMIS Payments: Payments processed with Full Access, using Visa & MasterCard debit or credit card only.

### **Benefits of using ALAMIS**

- Pay dues electronically: Units with full access can pay membership dues directly and immediately and see members paid in the database. This avoids mail delays, postage, and processing errors.
- Process membership: You can join new members, rejoin members last paid in your unit and edit member information.
- Generate reports: You can use the system to generate mailing labels from your unit roster.

**Tips for limited access** (If you **do not have full access or are new to the system** these tips can help you navigate)

- Consult the ALAMIS training manual which provides an overview and login instructions.
- Maintain and update unit members information with “write” access.
- Online resources: If the unit is not yet ready for the tech move, members can still pay online at [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org) or by phone 317-569-4570.

**Best Practices**

- Document all transactions: Keep a record of membership applications and dues payments, even when processing through ALAMIS.
- Utilize online resources: The ALA website contains a wealth of information for members.
- Communicate effectively: Always write the unit number, the member’s ID number, and the payment date on the application before sending it to the department office if required by your department. (Check with department for policies and procedures)
- No matter the access the unit possesses, only department can perform transfers, and mark members in ALAMIS as deceased.

# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

**Bulletin #15 as of 11-18-2025**

## 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 11/26/2024	Difference from Last Year	
One	47	3,240	138	2,187	67.50%	2311	-124		
Two	68	3,229	179	2,196	68.01%	2181	15		
Three	45	3,390	51	2,106	62.12%	2251	-145		
Four	5	456	6	258	56.58%	283	-25		
Five	7	344	12	212	61.63%	221	-9		
Six	57	4,370	113	3,101	70.96%	3314	-213		
Seven	49	2,427	84	1,612	66.42%	1672	-60		
Eight	20	1,092	19	713	65.29%	719	-6		
Nine	43	2,786	142	1,888	67.77%	1974	-86		
Ten	40	3,146	63	2,013	63.99%	2173	-160		
1982	1	408	4	216	52.94%	217	-1		
Depart. Total	382	24,888	811	16,502	66.31%	17316	-814		
Group 1 (Even) <i>Jodi Hassling</i>	190	12,292	380	8,281	67.37%	8,670	-389		
	191	12,188	427	8,005	65.68%	8,646	-641		
Group 2 (Odd) <i>Linda Kelly</i>									
RANKINGS									
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
70.96%	68.01%	67.77%	67.50%	66.42%	65.29%	63.99%	62.12%	61.63%	56.58%
District 6	District 2	District 9	District 1	District 7	District 8	District 10	District 3	District 5	District 4
									



**Department of Minnesota**  
**December 2025 Unit Mailing**  
**National Security Chairman,**  
**Anna Eells**  
a\_eells@yahoo.com

**Warrior Wednesday** - Department National Security Chairman, have been given an assignment to find an Active Duty servicemember to highlight. There are no requirements of rank or how long they have served.

We have a link for the service members to share their story.

<https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/stories> \_ of servicemembers\_and\_their\_families

The stories are posted on our Facebook group page each Wednesday. This is a closed group, so you must answer questions to be admitted to the group.

### **Servicemember of the Year Award**

This is the application that honors one enlisted servicemember (E1-E9) from each branch. The Space Force has not had an application yet, so we are hoping this year that will change. To nominate someone, you'll need:

1. A short narrative (up to 1,000 words) explaining why they stand out. Remember to include information about their military service & their service to the community.
2. A photo of the servicemember (preferably in uniform & an official DoD photo)
3. An endorsement from someone in their command group

Recipients will be honored at the ALA National Convention

Here is the link for the nomination

<https://member.legion-aux.org/> Salute-to-Servicemembers-Award-Form

### **Preparing Care Packages**

When sending packages to military bases, consider including appreciated & safe items.

Non-perishable food: snacks like protein bars, trail mix & canned goods

Personal care items: Travel-sized items toiletries, sunscreen

Entertainment: Books, magazines & small games

How to send a care package

1. Know the timeline: priority mail packages typically take 10 to 14 days for delivery
2. Check size & weight restrictions - keep packages within shoebox size & under 108 inches in total circumference
3. Package details: list the quantity, weight, & value of items
4. Use plastic zipper-lock bags to prevent items from leaking
5. Include the service member's full name, unit name & complete APO/FPO address with a nine-digit zip code



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY 7TH DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA  
PROUDLY PRESENTS....

# Poppy Palooza

Saturday January 31, 2026

1pm- 5pm

**Cosmos Community Center**

220 Milky Way St S, Cosmos, MN 56228

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



Listen to the inspiring  
"Poppy Lady Story" &  
discover the  
remarkable story in  
promoting the symbolic  
signifacance of the  
poppy flower.



NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED  
WE'LL TEACH YOU!

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

Snack and Refreshments  
will be Provided.

Feel free to bring  
a treat to share.





**Department of Minnesota**  
**December 2025 Unit Mailing**  
**Public Relations Chairman,**  
**Michelle Weaver**  
weaver.michelle595@gmail.com

### **Share the Spirit, Share the Story**

As we close out another impactful year of service, it's more important than ever to keep sharing what your Unit is doing. Every act of kindness, every community connection, and every moment of mentorship helps strengthen our collective story—and inspires others to do the same.

### **Submit Your Photos for the Year-End Report**

Please continue sending pictures of your Unit's activities to me at **weaver.michelle595@gmail.com**. These photos help us showcase the heart of our mission and highlight the incredible work happening across Minnesota. Whether it's a service project, a holiday event, or a Junior member in action—every image matters.

### **Share Your Facebook Pages**

Let's build a stronger network of ideas and inspiration. If your Unit has a Facebook page or website, please send me the link! I'll compile and share these so other Units can follow along, exchange ideas, and celebrate each other's efforts.

### **What Is Your Unit Doing for Christmas?**

The holiday season is a time for giving and community care. Share your plans and photos!

- Toy drives
- Family adoptions
- Veteran visits
- Holiday cards for nursing homes
- Any other acts of kindness—big or small

Let's show how the Auxiliary spreads joy and service during the holidays.

Together, we honor **“Service, Not Self”** and bring light to those who need it most.

Thank you for your continued dedication, creativity, and heart.

Let's finish the year strong—and make sure every story is told.

  *Wishing you peace, pride, and purpose this holiday season.*  

*Let's keep the spirit of service shining bright into the new year.*



**Department of Minnesota**  
**December 2025 Unit Mailing**  
**Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation,**  
**Chairman Linda Kelly**  
lkkauxiliary@gmail.com

The Fisher House is another project under the VA&R. Minnesota is lucky to have a Fisher House in our state. There are 100 fisher houses in operation. From the map on the website it looks like there are houses in 35 states plus in a couple of countries. According to their website, these 100 houses have provided services to 534,000 veteran families for 12.5 million days of lodging, resulting in savings for our veteran families of \$650 million. Another WOW (Wonderful for our Warriors) like I used in my VA&R presentation at Fall Conference. I think all aspects of VA&R are a WOW!

Families of veterans receiving care for a VA Medical Center can stay at a Fisher House – free of charge. If that situation arises with your family, check with the VAMC and see if there is a facility near and how you sign up. The local hospitals make those arrangements.

There is a lot of information on their website, and I encourage you to take the time to visit it. They have several programs available to veteran families including scholarships and other help for veteran families. I have not visited a Fisher House but hope to soon. Donations to the Fisher House are always welcome. Please send them to the Department Office and earmark for the Fisher House. Donations sent to the Department of Minnesota will be forwarded to the Fisher House in Minnesota for the benefit of veterans visiting one of our Medical Centers.



# BRAIN | SCIENCES | CENTER

## Minnesota American Legion, Auxiliary & Sons of The American Legion Brain Science Foundation

### ***Request for Charitable Donations***

In the late 1980s, The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion led a fundraising campaign that raised over \$1 million for research in neuroscience. The donation was matched by the University of Minnesota and the American Legion Brain Sciences Endowed Chair was created in 1987.

The endowment helped establish the Brain Sciences Center (BSC) at the Minneapolis VAMC in 1991 and supports research in post-traumatic stress disorder, Gulf War illness, women's healthy brain aging, mild traumatic brain injury and brain function in movement and cognitive disorders. Notably, its research into the anthrax shot that many servicemembers received is being used by The American Legion to prompt the VA to conduct further research that could lead to new presumptives for VA healthcare.

Additional studies include: neurological diseases (Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis (MS), and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Lou Gehrig's), cancer, addiction, chronic pain and opioid replacements.

In 1997, The American Legion Brain Sciences Scholarship was created to recognize the academic achievements of students involved in brain research at the University of Minnesota and BSC. The \$3,000 scholarships are awarded to three outstanding students annually at the American Legion Family BSC Lecture and we would like to award a couple more.

***The Minnesota American Legion, Auxiliary, & Sons of The American Legion Brain Sciences Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit, EIN; 41-1577513, and donations of gambling funds are allowed under Minnesota law.***

**Please mail a check, payable to: Brain Science Foundation, Address: 20 W. 12th St., Room 300A, St. Paul, MN 55155-2000.**

Kindly donate an amount comfortable for you or your post to assist in this valuable research and the work on behalf of veterans. We thank you for your consideration.

For God & Country

*Michael Schaffer*

President

Brain Sciences Foundation





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

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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 - 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  
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, TBD  
Feb 7 – 2<sup>nd</sup> District Mid-Winter, Hardwick  
Feb 7 – 6<sup>th</sup> District Mid-Winter, Pequot Lakes  
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) Please ensure all forms being sent to the Department Office are filled out completely. Especially, the membership applications. It's important that the eligibility section is completed and the new member has signed the form. Recently we've had several membership forms returned to the Unit because they were incomplete. Transmittals must accompany paid membership being processed from the Unit.
- 2) Poppy orders were due on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Please, send your or ASAP, if your Unit has not done so.
- 3) New website will be available November 30<sup>th</sup>. Check it out at [www.mnala.org](http://www.mnala.org).

Wishing all the members of the Department of MN American Legion Family  
a holiday season full of happiness, love and peace!

**Christie, Pa and Jocelyn**