

**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Minnesota**

**2024-2025**

**Department President  
Judy Ackerman  
April 2025 Unit Mailing**

State Veterans Service Bldg. 20 W 12th St #314  
St. Paul, MN 55155

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Website: [www.mnala.org](http://www.mnala.org)



Happy Easter. The year is flying by. We are almost into April and soon it will be Department Convention in Willmar.

Congratulations to our unit and District Membership teams. You all worked hard and met the 85% goal for the Department Merit Medallion. We need to continue to work on membership and finish the year strong.

Thank you to the units that have issued invitations for visits. The weather has been cooperating so far. Since the last unit mailing, I was able to attend the pheasant dinners at the Preston and Fergus Falls Veterans homes, birthday parties at the Brownton, Anoka, Moorhead, and Lamberton posts. I also attended the SAL Detachment Spring meeting in Rochester.

Please submit annual reports to the Department office by April 15th. Please send in your impact report and the individual program narrative reports. Please send in pictures with your narrative reports if you have any. I would love to see a few pictures of our units in action on the big screen at Department convention.

April 9<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day on the Hill in St. Paul. The armory doors open at 10 am. Lunch will be served and then the march to the Capitol. Please make plans to join us in St. Paul.

Please sign up your Juniors for the Department Junior Conference in Anoka to be held April 11 & 12, 2025. We want to see lots of juniors there.

April is designated as the month of the Military child. April 15<sup>th</sup> is **PURPLE up day**. Show your support of the military children and wear **purple**.

Please make your reservations for the President's testimonial on May 17<sup>th</sup> in Fairmont, MN. Make checks out to Northrop ALA Unit 522. Send reservations to Judy Ackerman, 924 Shoreacres Dr., Fairmont, MN 56031. The cost is \$35. Rooms have been set aside at the Best Western. Call 507-238-4771 and ask for the American Legion block.

**Judy Ackerman  
Department President**

# Testimonial Dinner

**Celebrating  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Minnesota  
President**

**Judy Ackerman**

**Hosted by:  
Northrop Unit 522**



**May 17, 2025  
Best Western  
Fairmont, MN**

**Social Hour: 4:30 PM  
Dinner: 6 PM  
Program following  
Cost: \$35**

**Send Reservations  
By May 1<sup>st</sup> to:  
Judy Ackerman  
924 Shoreacres Dr.  
Fairmont, MN 56031**

## **Menu:**

**Pork, Chicken  
Garlic Mashed Potatoes  
Glazed Carrots  
Salad  
Dessert**

**Block of rooms are set aside at the Best  
Western (507-238-4771)  
Ask for the American Legion block**

**Make Checks payable**

**To ALA Unit 522**

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**NAME \_\_\_\_\_ # of Guests \_\_\_\_\_**

**Contact # and Email \_\_\_\_\_**



**Department of Minnesota**  
**April 2025 Unit Mailing**  
**Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) Chairman,**  
**Brandi Christensen**

I want to thank everyone for their donations so far this year. Remember you can still send in donations.

With everything that is happening in our country with natural disasters, fires, floods, and hardships everywhere our own members need this fund.

I also want to take a moment to let everyone in Minnesota know about a Minnesota Assistance Fund that was set up by Past Department President Jan Dykema. In this unit mailing is an application for members that need this assistance to fill out and send to the Department Office. This is from Minnesota for Minnesota members.

Please note for the Minnesota Assistance Fund we are not taking donations for this any longer. But we would like to see the assistance go to members in need.

# American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Disaster Fund Application for Assistance

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

Membership ID # \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City State Zip Code

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

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

Marital Status:  Married  Single  Widowed  Separated

Are you a veteran?  Yes  No

If yes, please list dates of service: \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any minor children living in your home?  Yes  No

If yes, please list by name, age and relationship to you:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any other adults living in your home?  Yes  No

If yes, please list by name and relationship to you:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY DEPARTMENT SECRETARY

*I certify that the applicant has paid dues for the two  
immediate preceding years and her dues have been  
received for the current year.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Secretary's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### Rules/Instructions

The Auxiliary Minnesota Disaster Fund was created to provide:

- Temporary assistance to eligible members during a time of financial crisis. It is designed to help with a financial need when a disaster happens
- A Disaster will be of a Natural nature, such as Flood, Tornado, Wild Fire, etc.
- This fund is designed for Minnesota Unit members only.
- The Disaster Fund maintains the confidentiality of all applications, reviews, and supporting documents, and will neither disclose nor release disaster files or cases to anyone outside of the ALA Minnesota Disaster Fund Committee.

**Eligibility:** Persons who have been members of the American Legion Auxiliary for at least the immediate past two consecutive years. AND whose current membership dues are paid at the time the disaster occurs (three consecutive years' dues) may apply for assistance.

**Assistance Provided:** The maximum grant amount is \$2,500.00 to be disbursed from the Minnesota Disaster Fund. The Disaster Fund Committee will make the final decision on the amount granted.

### UNIT, PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:

Each Auxiliary Disaster Fund application is assessed entirely on the basis of the written record provided herein. Therefore, both the Unit and member should be specific and thorough when completing the application. Please type or print neatly to ensure legibility.

### Remember to:

- Ensure the applicant has completed all applicable sections.
- Ensure all sections requiring Unit input are complete.
- Ensure all appropriate signatures have been obtained.
- Forward the completed application to your Department Secretary.

### *This section to be completed at Department Headquarters*

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Verification: \_\_\_\_\_

# DISASTER ASSISTANCE

*(This section is required for Disaster Applicants only. Those experiencing financial hardship unrelated to a disaster or apply for educational assistance may skip this section.)*

Date of Occurrence(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Disaster/Emergency:       Fire                       Flood                       Hurricane  
 Severe Weather (i.e. lightning, heavy snow)       Earthquake               Other (Please

Explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Is the affected dwelling your primary residence?  Yes  No  
Are you still residing in the dwelling?       Yes  No

If you are not still residing in the dwelling, please explain where you are currently living as well as how long you anticipate being out of your home:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please explain the damage incurred:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(You may attach additional sheets of paper if needed. Please include copies of any photographs, repair estimates, statements from FEMA or local Law Enforcement, etc.) **As these items CANNOT be returned, please DO NOT send original receipts or photos that you may need returned.**

Did you purchase emergency supplies?  Yes               No

*(If yes, please list the cost of these supplies and provide copies of applicable receipts)*

Plywood \_\_\_\_\_       Generator \_\_\_\_\_       Gasoline \_\_\_\_\_

Dry Ice \_\_\_\_\_       Bottled Water \_\_\_\_\_       Lodging \_\_\_\_\_

Other (please explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Is the affected property insured?  Yes  No *If yes, please indicate the amount you expect to receive from the policy:*

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(Please attach copies of any applicable documents regarding the property's insurance policy)

Additional  
Comments:

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**NOTE:** *In addition to this section, please make sure to complete all sections on pages 1-3.  
Applications lacking required information will be returned.*

Unit's Report

This section is to be completed by the Unit

Please provide a narrative explaining the member's situation in more detail to include:

- 1) Why assistance is needed
- 2) Your Unit's plan to assist member
- 3) Your Unit's recommendation to the Minnesota Disaster Fund Committee

(If additional space is needed, attach a separate piece of paper.)

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SIGNATURES

IMPORTANT NOTE: This application MUST be signed by the Unit President, Unit Secretary). Those who sign below cannot be related to the applicant. Two signatures are accepted ONLY when the Unit President or Unit Secretary is inaccessible (in the hospital, out of town, etc.), is the applicant or is related to the applicant. Otherwise, both signatures are required before the application can be processed. ALSO NOTE:

Unit Name and Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit President :

Printed Name	Signature		
Address: _____			
Street	City	State	Zip Code
Daytime Phone: _____		E-mail: _____	

Unit Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name	Signature		
Address: _____			
Street	City	State	Zip Code
Daytime Phone: _____		E-mail: _____	



## ***Americanism*** ***FLAG ETIQUETTE***

Americanism Committee 2024 - 2025  
Flag Etiquette Article 6  
February 25, 2025

*Flying the Flag is one of the simplest and most powerful ways to demonstrate your patriotism. While you can fly the Flag any day of the year, there are some notable days when all Americans should do so.*

*Here is a holiday guide to the Flag, categorized by season, and why we fly our Flags on those days.*

### **WINTER HOLIDAYS TO FLY YOUR AMERICAN FLAG**

#### *January 1: New Year's Day*

*At the beginning of a new year, it is important to unite as Americans as we seek another year of American greatness.*

#### *Third Monday in January: Martin Luther King Jr. Day*

*On this day we celebrate Dr. King's contributions to racial justice in America.*

#### *January 20: Inauguration Day*

*America has a proud tradition of peacefully transferring power and that is something every American can stand behind.*

#### *February 12: Lincoln's Birthday*

*Abraham Lincoln saved the Union and ended slavery. On this day we honor his legacy.*

#### *February 22: Washington's Birthday*

*George Washington defined what it meant to be an American president. On this day we show our appreciation for the nation's first president.*

#### *Third Monday in February: Presidents' Day*

*Our presidents represent our country and lead us through challenges. On Presidents' Day, we remember their great contributions and leadership.*

### **SPRING HOLIDAYS TO FLY YOUR AMERICAN FLAG**

#### *April 6: Army Day*

*On this day we give thanks to all servicemen in the American Army.*

#### *Second Sunday in May: Mother's Day*

*Our mothers are the reason we are here in America and get to enjoy the freedoms that come with being an American. On this day we give thanks to all mothers in America.*

#### *May 15: Peace Officers Memorial Day*

*On this day we pay tribute to the local, state, and federal peace officers who either died or were disabled in the line of duty. Flags are flown at half-mast.*

#### *Third Saturday in May: Armed Forces Day*

*Armed Forces Day recognizes the services of all members of the American military.*

#### *Last Monday in May: Memorial Day*

*Memorial Day pays tribute to those that died while serving in the U.S. military. Flags are flown at half-mast until noon.*

#### *June 14: Flag Day*

*Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the American Flag by resolution of the Second Continental Congress in 1777.*



**SUMMER HOLIDAYS TO FLY YOUR AMERICAN FLAG**

July 4: Independence Day

The 4th of July marks the beginning of the United States of America. We fly our Flags on this day to show how proud we are to be Americans.

July 27: Korean War Veterans Day

The Korean War was among the deadliest conflicts in American history. We fly our Flags at half-mast on this day to honor the sacrifices of Korean War veterans.

First Monday in September: Labor Day

On Labor Day we celebrate the legacy of the labor movement and the laborers who built the America we all know and love.

September 11: Patriot Day

On Patriot Day we commemorate the lives of those who died in the 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Virginia, and the United Airlines Flight 93 crash in Pennsylvania.

September 17: Constitution Day

On this day we celebrate the adoption of the U.S. Constitution, the document that has defined American democracy for nearly 250 years.

September 17: Air Force Day

On Air Force Day, we show our appreciation of all servicemen and women in the U.S. Air Force.

**FALL HOLIDAYS TO FLY YOUR AMERICAN FLAG**

First Sunday in October: National Firefighters Memorial Day

On this day, we pay tribute to all firefighters who died in the line of duty during the previous year.

October 12: Columbus Day

Christopher Columbus discovered the Americas. On this day we remember the first European to see the land that would become America.

October 27: Navy Day

Navy Day recognizes the service of all members of the U.S. Navy.

First Tuesday in November: Election Day

Elections are the bedrock of American democracy. On this day we show our support for the American electoral process.

November 10: Marine Corps Day

The Marine Corps is the Department of Defense's smallest military branch, but it's also known to be its fiercest.

November 11: Veterans Day

Veterans Day honors the services of all veterans, past and present. We fly our Flags to show our gratefulness.

Fourth Thursday in November: Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving is one of America's biggest national holidays. On this day we give thanks.

December 7: Pearl Harbor Day

Pearl Harbor was one of the deadliest tragedies in American military history. On this day we fly our Flags at half-mast to remember the victims and show our patriotism.

Flag Etiquette Article 6 - Page 3  
Other Holidays/2025 Dates

*New Year's Day: January 1, 2025*  
*Martin Luther King's Day: January 20, 2025*  
*Lincoln's Birthday: February 12, 2025*  
*Presidents Day: February 17, 2025*  
*Washington's Birthday: February 22, 2025*  
*National Vietnam War Veterans Day: March 29, 2025*  
*Army Day: April 6, 2025*  
*National Former POW Recognition Day: April 9, 2025*  
*Easter Sunday: April 20, 2025*  
*Patriots' Day: April 21, 2025*  
*Fallen Firefighters Day: May 4, 2025 - Half-Staff*  
*VE Day: May 8, 2025*  
*Mother's Day: May 11, 2025*  
*Peace Officers Memorial Day: May 15, 2025 - Half-Staff*  
*Armed Forces Day: May 17, 2025*  
*Memorial Day: May 26, 2025 - Half-Staff Until Noon*  
*D-Day: June 6, 2025*  
*Flag Day: June 14, 2025*  
*Army Birthday: June 14, 2025*  
*Father's Day: June 15, 2025*  
*Juneteenth National Independence Day: June 19, 2025*  
*Independence Day: July 4, 2025*  
*Korean War Day: July 27, 2025*  
*Coast Guard Day: August 4, 2025*  
*Purple Heart Day: August 7, 2025*  
*Labor Day: September 1, 2025*  
*VJ Day: September 2, 2025*  
*Patriot Day: September 11, 2025 - Half-Staff*  
*Constitution Day: September 17, 2025*  
*Air Force Birthday: September 18, 2025*  
*National POW/MIA Recognition Day: September 19, 2025*  
*Gold Star Mother's and Family Day: September 28, 2025*  
*Navy Birthday: October 13, 2025*  
*Columbus Day or Indigenous Peoples Day: October 13, 2025*  
*Navy Day: October 27, 2025*  
*Marine Corps Day: November 10, 2025*  
*Veterans Day: November 11, 2025*  
*Thanksgiving Day: November 27, 2025*  
*Pearl Harbor Day: December 7, 2025 - Half-Staff*  
*Christmas Day: December 25, 2025*

*While these are the most common days during which we fly our flags, this is not an exhaustive list. Some Americans may have state, local, and religious holidays during which they may wish to fly their Flags.*

**AMERICAN  
LEGION  
AUXILIARY**

**STAR-SPANGLLED KIDS KITS**

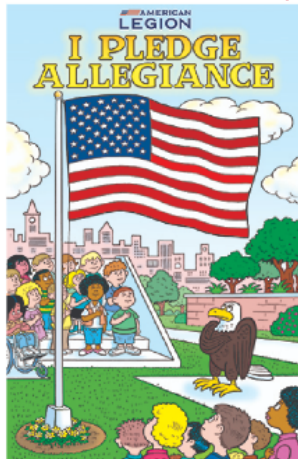
**ALA's "How to Promote Star-Spangled Kids"  
information sheet available at**

**<https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Americanism/How-to-Promote-Star-Spangled-Kids>**

**Star Spangled Kids: Educate youth on the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism,  
Americanism and the U.S. Constitution.**

**All the items listed are available from The American Legion Flag & Emblem at  
<https://emblem.legion.org>. Subject to availability.**

**Of course, you can always add other patriotic items to your Star Spangled Kids kits!**



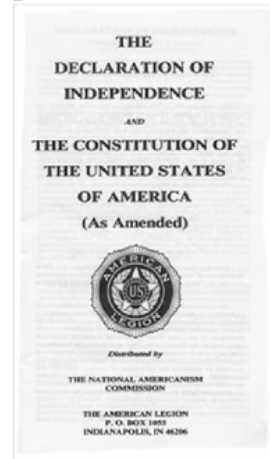
Item Number: 755.302  
\$1.00  
Special Pricing:  
→ Buy 100 for \$0.79/each



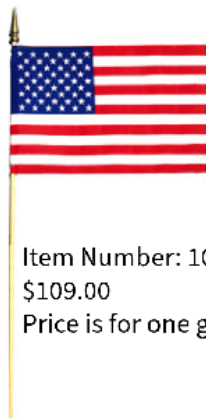
Item Number: 755.300  
\$1.00  
Special Pricing:  
→ Buy 100 for \$0.79/each



Item Number: 755.200  
\$1.00  
Special Pricing:  
→ Buy 100 for \$0.80/each



Item Number: 755.206  
\$0.75  
Special Pricing:  
→ Buy 100 for \$0.50/each



Item Number: 100.200G  
\$109.00  
Price is for one gross (144)



Item Number: 815.613  
\$1.99



U.S. Flag Patriotic Stickers  
Item Number: 750.141



U.S. Flag Decals  
Item Number: 850.103

**Please add any other resources you have that will help educate our youth.**



**Department of Minnesota**  
**April 2025 Unit Mailing**  
**Children & Youth Chairman, Anne Steffen**



Happy Spring Everyone!

It is time to think about Annual Reporting and start making your selections for awards. Following are the awards that need to be considered and remember that your unit reports are due to your District Children & Youth chairman and/or the unit President if you don't have a chairman, by April 15, 2025! You all received the reporting requirements at the beginning of the year so please refer to that information from Christie Avant who puts so much work into helping us all to help ourselves, our units, districts and communities! Thank you so much Christie!

Here are the awards for consideration so please do what you can to recognize the awesome work and dedication with this program and those making it happen! Please visit the websites for more information!

**MILO BLANICH CHILDREN & YOUTH PLAQUE** • Award: Plaque • Award Criteria: To the unit with membership of 10-200 members for the most outstanding Children & Youth report • Award Guidelines: o A typewritten narrative not to exceed 1,000 words. o May include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc. o Attach an award cover sheet, including the name of the award as well as the name of the contest and contact information.

**GLEN H. DORNFIELD CHILDREN & YOUTH PLAQUE** • Award: Plaque • Award Criteria: To the unit with membership of 201 and over members for the most outstanding Children & Youth report • Award Guidelines: o A typewritten narrative not to exceed 1,000 words. o May include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc. o Attach an award cover sheet, including the name of the award as well as the name of the contest and contact information.

**NATIONAL AWARDS: MOST OUTSTANDING UNIT CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAM** • Award: Citation Plaque • Presented to: One unit in each division (5) • Materials and guidelines: **UNIT AWARD** o Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words. Include specific examples of how your unit worked the Children & Youth program, including supporting military children. May include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc. report must have national Children & Youth Report & Award Cover Sheet attached to it. **BEST DEPARTMENT CHILDREN &**

**YOUTH PROGRAM** • Award: Citation • Presented to: One department in each division (5) • Materials and guidelines: **DEPARTMENT AWARD** o Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words. Include specific examples of how you're your department worked the Children & Youth program, including supporting military children. May include pictures, new articles, news releases, etc. National Children and Youth.

I have relayed this information to you in previous unit mailings as well. We would love to see *every* District have at least one proclamation. All you need to do is log in to the National Website, find the Children and Youth Committee, click on the sample and add your information. It's that simple! Then send them to me and we will make sure to post them online. Let's recognize our Military Children for their sacrifices as well!

***Remember to send your request if you haven't already to local government officials asking them to proclaim April as the month of the Military Child with April 15, 2025, as **Purple Up Day** so get your **Purple** on that day, if not all month to show your support! You can download a sample Proclamation right on the Children & Youth Facebook page for distribution in your area!***

I would love to see pictures and information on what you all are doing for the children & youth in your area. Please email me at [annesteffen320@gmail.com](mailto:annesteffen320@gmail.com) with your amazing events, programs and experiences! You can reach out with a call or text anytime as well to 612-709-0588.

Friendly reminder, and you still have time to recognize at least one individual for their selfless acts of service and acts of bravery/valor this auxiliary year! Remember that you need to submit applications **online** for consideration! Go to the ALA Academy to learn about the "Youth Hero Award". Watch your local news, Facebook, and even your schools for these kids doing amazing things in their communities!

Remember to remind units to fill out their impact reports and forward them to the district along with your Annual Reports with Narrative by April 15, 2025. Brag about what you do please!

I'm super excited to see your reports! You are doing amazing things and so much wonderful service in the community! Keep up the good work and keep the kids involved, mentoring other kids in your units and posts! Thank you for inspiring the leaders of tomorrow!





**Department of Minnesota**  
**April 2025 Unit Mailing**  
**Minnesota Girls State Chairman,**  
**Wanda Prescher**

**American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State 2025 is soon approaching!**  
**June 15-21, 2025 at Bethel University in Arden Hills**

**April 15<sup>th</sup> is our deadline for reservations!** Reservations have been coming in very slowly! So, we have extended the deadline to **April 15<sup>th</sup>!!**

How can we help! For units that want to sponsor a student, regardless of what school they attend, we could really use your sponsorship. We are getting direct requests from school counselors and students who are interested in attending Girls State, they are looking for sponsorship. We really need your reservation so we can start planning with Bethel and staff for the week of Girls State.

Citizens' names will be needed by the end of April to the Department Office. There will be no mailed packet to the units or citizens. Your packet will be sent electronically to the citizen and unit, to be filled out online. This will happen in mid **April** with instructions from your Girl State District Chairman. Please be patient and **do not panic**, this will be easier for everyone going forward. Change is hard, but we need to move forward with what the young people associate with, their phone! Everything that is being put into place will be available on our phone or computer. Your ALA MN Girl State committee has been really working hard to make this happen in moving forward with our program.

I want to thank units and districts who have not hesitated to sponsor a citizen from schools that do not have an American Legion Post or Auxiliary in their area, the school and student are very appreciative!

Thank you for your support of the gift card campaign and the quilt raffle! At Chanhassen on March 8<sup>th</sup> Helen Steffin was the recipient of the quilt! It could not have gone to a sweeter lady! Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket(s). All proceeds went to the Girls State program to help with the purchase of the new program we will be using.

Thank you to all our units and members for your support for our ALA MN Girls State Program!  
Please contact anyone of us with questions you may have.

Committee:

Chairman: Wanda Prescher	<a href="mailto:w.prescher1951@gmail.com">w.prescher1951@gmail.com</a>	507-254-0304
Director: Peggy Tesdahl	<a href="mailto:ranpegt0814@hotmail.com">ranpegt0814@hotmail.com</a>	612-715-4489
Education: Amelia Tesdahl	<a href="mailto:ametes2014@hotmail.com">ametes2014@hotmail.com</a>	763-753-8247
Committee Member: Renee Suess	<a href="mailto:rsuess3@gmail.com">rsuess3@gmail.com</a>	763-300-2226
Committee Member: Jen Stolz	<a href="mailto:jstolz.de@gmail.com">jstolz.de@gmail.com</a>	763-234-1198
Americanism Chairman: Kollette Kaehlert	<a href="mailto:kkhehlertaux@gmail.com">kkhehlertaux@gmail.com</a>	612-327-4579



**Department of Minnesota**  
**April 2025 Unit Mailing**  
**Legislation Chairman, Linda Kelly**

I was so privileged to attend the Washington DC legislation conference. Minnesota's American Legion Family had 18 members in attendance. Our team divided up the Senators and Representatives and I joined Legion members in visiting three of our representatives. I found them understanding of the American Legion Family's priorities and I feel that we can count on their support. Representatives were given a "Be the One" pin, which one immediately added to her lapel. She had not heard of this program was about and was very interested in the concept.

I was required to submit a report about my time in Washington DC. It asked us to mention something we learned there. I discovered many new facts, but two that bothered me the most is that not much more than half of our veterans have registered with the VA for benefits and the processing of claims and appeals needs improvement. They talked about new ways to improve these. The "Be the One" and the "buddy check" are both important. The number of veteran suicides per day has grown since the last time I heard the number. It is up to 24 per day - another sad new fact.

I also attended the VA&R Commission and learned many things. One VA department representative spoke of new immersive technology that the VA has been developing for treatment for PTSD and pain management, among other issues. It is a programmable unit where the veteran wears a goggle headset to offset medical/emotional issues they may have. A recording of one "senior" user spoke about how it has helped her lower back pain that she has had since serving our country many years ago. One type of this device is in the veteran's home so they can use it at their convenience and do not need to go into a VA facility, which is important as many of our veterans need to travel to get to a VA facility. Several of the Auxiliary members in attendance thought it would be a great project for our units - another new fact. Visit [www.innovation.va.gov](http://www.innovation.va.gov) to learn more about their pilot programs.

Our National Commanders and President spoke. We heard from the recently appointed Secretary of the VA. I also had the opportunity to attend the Samsung Scholarship Presentation. Jessica Jensen from Anoka, one of our 2024 Girls Staters was a recipient.

*Wednesday, April 9, 2025 - Veterans on the Hill*  
*10 am – Armory opens for coffee, free lunch to follow*  
*(from DAV)*  
*12:00 - Presentation*  
*1 pm: Walk to the Capitol*  
*1:30 Rally in the Rotunda*  
*Come Join Us.*

## Membership Memberopoly

Units Unite! I want to thank each and every member that responded to my Membership Rally call. With your help we were able to meet the National Membership goal of 85% a full week ahead of the deadline. At the Appreciation Rally in Chanhassen, we had 56 memberships turned in, bringing us to a Department Goal of 85.42%.

### Here are the Unit standings as of 3/26/2025:

Place in Race	District	%
10 <sup>th</sup>	10	65.44
9 <sup>th</sup>	9	79.53
8 <sup>th</sup>	8	82.54
7 <sup>th</sup>	7	83.46
6 <sup>th</sup>	6	86.41
5 <sup>th</sup>	5	86.45
4 <sup>th</sup>	4	86.53
3 <sup>rd</sup>	3	89.46
2 <sup>nd</sup>	2	90.13
1 <sup>st</sup>	1	90.87

Our next National Goal is 95% on 5/23/25 (National Poppy Day). As you can see from the above percentages, several of the Districts have a great start on this goal already. Keep those memberships coming in. The momentum is moving like a river right now and I would hate to see it stop.

Minnesota is still down 742 members from this time last year, so there are members still out there. Let's see if we can get them resigned or new members signed up!

There are 2 more Goals after the 95% Goal.

100% on 7/24/2025 (END OF YEAR) and 102% 7/26/25 (30 days prior to convention).

Minnesota is in 22<sup>nd</sup> place out of 52 in the National Race. In the NW Division, MN is 2<sup>nd</sup> out of the 7 states.

Let's see if we can blow these out of the water!! Minnesota is AWESOME and we have PROVEN that we can do what we set out to do!!

Hope Wilson  
MN ALA Membership Chairman



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Bulletin #25 as of 3/26/2025

2025 Membership

Member-opoly









"Finding Members in Everyday Places"

Your Leader is Rich Aunty Pennybags, Hope Wilson



DISTRICT	# of Units	Goal	Period Gain	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year	Difference from Last Year
One	47	3,341	42	2,989	89.46%	3,044	-55
Two	70	3,444	54	2,980	86.53%	3,104	-124
Three	46	3,476	73	3,133	90.13%	3,153	-20
Four	7	508	0	404	79.53%	437	-33
Five	7	463	13	303	65.44%	291	12
Six	60	4,469	50	4,061	90.87%	4,109	-48
Seven	52	2,561	15	2,213	86.41%	2,369	-156
Eight	20	1,117	12	922	82.54%	1021	-99
Nine	45	2,944	34	2,545	86.45%	2,622	-77
Ten	41	3,391	52	2,830	83.46%	2,958	-128
1982	1	331	1	249	75.23%	263	-14
Department Total	396	26,045	346	22,629	86.88%	23,371	-742
Group 1 (Even) <i>Linda Kelly</i>	198	12,929	50	11,197	86.60%	11,629	-432
Group 2 (Odd) <i>Robin Dorf</i>	197	12,785	628	11,183	87.47%	11,479	-296

## RANKINGS

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
90.87%	90.13%	89.46%	86.53%	86.45%	86.41%	83.46%	82.54%	79.53%	65.44%
District 6	District 3	District 1	District 2	District 9	District 7	District 10	District 8	District 4	District 5
									



Department of Minnesota  
April 2025 Unit Mailing  
National Security Chairman, Mary Kuperus  
wmkuperus@tds.net

## Salute to Servicemember Award

Have you been working on nominating a servicemember for the Salute to Servicemembers Award? Now is the time to start the process. The nomination form is online at [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org).

It is much easier this year to submit for the Salute to Servicemember Award. An ALA member/entity simply makes the nomination, rather than the servicemember, effectively telling the story of why they feel this person is "head and shoulders" above their peers and worthy of this award. A simple narrative (no more than 1000 words), a picture of the servicemember (preferably official Department of Defense photograph), and the endorsement from their command group are the only requirements. Submissions are due June 1, 2025! The nomination form is online now. Simply click: <https://www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicewomen-Award>.

This award acknowledges the servicemember's contributions that goes beyond their military career, displaying their impact on their community. Our US servicemembers are exemplary examples of our nation, but when you find one that also goes above and beyond - both within the military and as an integral part of the community where they are they are stationed - they are more than admirable and should be acknowledged for this

## Ready.gov

### About the Ready Campaign

Launched in February 2003, Ready is a National public service campaign designed to educate and empower the American people to prepare for, respond to and mitigate emergencies and disasters. The goal of the campaign is to promote preparedness through public involvement. This website is full of information about disasters and emergencies. Make a plan, practice your plan with your family/household, and consider specific needs in your household. These needs could be:

- Dietary needs
- Medical needs including prescriptions and equipment
- Disabilities or access and functional needs including devices and equipment
- Languages spoken
- Cultural and religious considerations
- Pets or service animals
- Households with school-aged children

Ready asks individuals to do four key things:

- Stay informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate responses.
- Make a family emergency plan.
- Build an emergency supply kit.
- Get involved in your community by taking action to prepare for emergencies.

This information comes from the Ready.gov website. Check it out for a lot more information, so you can be prepared for any type of emergency.



Department of Minnesota  
April 2025 Unit Mailing  
Poppy Chairman, Lorinda Kies  
Lkies38@comcast.net

We have had some very successful poppy making days in Fridley, North Branch and Zimmerman thanks to all who participated. The Zimmerman class had some veterans help and they alone made 555, way to go, we have two people that took home poppy kits. I know that the 6<sup>th</sup> District is planning another one in Sauk Center on April 12<sup>th</sup>, I don't know what time they are starting. Thanks to Bev Grouse for arranging this and being the one to go up there, she did invite me, but I have to be at Department Junior Conference because it is in my district. Osseo/Maple Grove American Legion Family and members of the committee meet on February 15<sup>th</sup> and completed 934 poppies awesome job.

Everyone has heard that the small poppy orders for this year have been filled. Again, this year we had to purchase poppies from other states. Please don't stop making poppies, it would be wonderful if in the near future we wouldn't have to order them for other states. Remember Poppies are year-round not just in May for Memorial Day.

In the Unit guide there was a small list of things Poppy Funds can be used for I thought I would list some more.

Poppy Funds – By the Book!  
Submitted by Eastern Division Chairman Carole Baldwin

**POPPY FUNDS MAY BE USED FOR:**

- For the rehabilitation of veterans honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces after April 6, 1917, or for the welfare of their immediate families.
- For the rehabilitation of military personnel hospitalized and awaiting discharge, who require treatment in service hospitals.
- For the benefit of veterans, active military personnel, and their families during the specified period, where financial and medical needs are evident.
- For poppy kits and supplies used to create symbolic poppies and related items for donations to the poppy fund.

**POPPY FUNDS CAN NOT BE USED FOR:**

- Any general operating fund of a department, unit, or post.
- Any community service project that does not strictly benefit the welfare of an individual veteran/military servicemember or the welfare of his/her family.
- General maintenance, beautification, or improvement projects of American Legion or Auxiliary families, including adding ramps to a post home.
- Investments, even those that would bring profit to the unit or post.
- POW/MIA programs.
- Memberships, including other veteran support organizations such as Gold Star Mothers.
- Contributions to, or payout from the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.
- ALA Girls State/ALA Girls Nation fees.
- Flags or flagpoles.
- Scholarships, which do not restrict eligibility solely to military service members or their children, or where financial need is not evident.

- Mileage, travel, or lodging expenses; registration of conference fees; or costs incurred by a person – including ALA members, volunteers, and staff – to attend any meeting, conference, or event, even about veterans, military, or any other topic.
- Attire or uniforms used by volunteers or staff in promoting or conducting ALA program activity or business

Poppy Program Guide Additional details on the use of Poppy Funds may be found in the Poppy Program Guide. [.https://member.legionaux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Guides/ALA\\_Poppy\\_Guide.pdf](https://member.legionaux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Guides/ALA_Poppy_Guide.pdf).

If you have any questions on whether or not poppy funds can be used log on to the National American Legion Auxiliary website and access the Poppy Program Guide.

Annual reports are due right around the corner forms were in the January Unit mailing. Please remember that all reports go to the District Poppy Chairman first and then they will come to me. All national award forms can be found on the National website. I can't wait to read about all the wonderful things your Units has done in the community to make poppies seen.

Has your Unit started planning for Poppy Days, for your Memorial service on Nationale Poppy Day that is also right around the corner.

**Spotlight on our Home and Hospital Representatives**



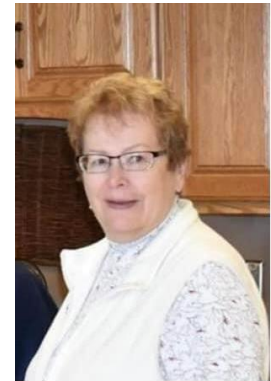
*Bemidji Veterans Home  
Denise Milton*



*Fergus Falls Veterans Home  
Doris Lafayette*



*Hastings Veterans Home  
Darlene Wondra*



*Luverne Veterans Home  
Jeannette Mertens*



*Minneapolis Veterans Home  
Sandy Gibson*



*Montevideo Veterans Home  
Jennifer Hurst*



*Preston Veterans Home  
Wanda Prescher*



*Silver Bay Veterans Home  
Nancy Hopper*



*Fargo VAHCS  
Becky Olson*



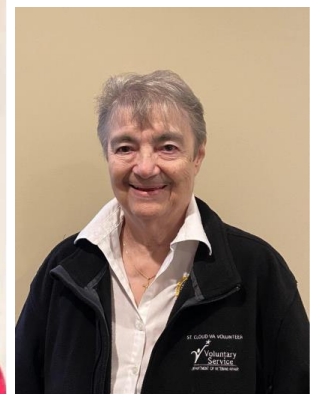
*Minneapolis VAHCS  
Janet Thompson*



*Sioux Falls VAHCS  
Diane Strassburg*



*St Cloud VAHCS  
Jan Benson*



*St Cloud VAHCS Deputy  
Carol Kottom*

Once again, I cannot thank enough our representatives who volunteer their time and talents to our eight beautiful veterans' homes and four VA Health Care Systems that serve our veterans and their families. Many may not realize how much time goes into this job and what they do. They have educated me on what our veterans needs are and how we can support each. Each home and hospital is unique and each has different needs.

**If you visit one of the facilities or see them at an event, make sure to thank them for their time with our veterans. They are the first face of the American Legion Auxiliary to these veterans and their families.**

**Would you like to support our Veterans in these homes and hospitals?**



**Donate to the Silent Auction**

Silent Auction at the Department of Minnesota Convention  
July 10-11, 2025, in Willmar

All proceeds to our American Legion Auxiliary Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program to benefit our Veterans

**How can you help?**

- ♥ Bring items for silent auction
- ♥ Purchase items at silent auction
- ♥ Make a cash donation!

Questions contact VA&R Chairman Robin Dorf  
Silent Auction Committee- Margee Keller,  
Joanie Krantz, or Sharon Lancot

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

**This will benefit our programs that support our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation programs.**

**Big thank you to Margee Keller, Joanie Krantz, and Sharon Lancot who will be organizing at the convention!**

# Support Veteran caregivers, family members and survivors



**Familiarize yourself with the VA caregiver support program**

[www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov)

Minnesota

Minnesota	Caregiver Support Teams
<a href="#">Minneapolis VA Health Care System</a> 1 Veterans Dr. Minneapolis, MN 55417	612-467-5405
<a href="#">St. Cloud VA Health Care System</a> 4801 Veterans Drive St. Cloud, MN 56303	320-252-1670 ext. 7283



**Caregiver Support Line**

1-855-260-3274  
(toll-free)

VA Caregiver Support



## MN American Legion State 3P Air Rifle Championship March 8, 2025 @ Anoka American Legion



### 7<sup>th</sup> District Vikingland Junior Shooting Sports Club, Brandon, MN

(Left to Right) Carl Wilson Coach, Hope Wilson Coach, Hunter Seibel, Rylee Wolbeck, Katelyne Walker, William Kuperus-Coch and Noah Stai



Katelyne Walker is a Jr. Auxiliary member of Brandon Unit 278. She received a 1<sup>st</sup> place TYRO Award. This award is for first time shooters in an away tournament with great shooting. Katelyne shot a 445 out of possible 600 score.

Rylee Wolbeck is a Jr. Auxiliary member of Brandon Unit 278. She received a 3<sup>rd</sup> place TYRO Award. This award is for first time shooters in an away tournament with great shooting. Rylee shot a 412 out of a possible 600 score.

Hunter Seibel shot a 393 out of a possible 600 score.

Noah Stai shot a 363 out of a possible 600 score.

This competition was hosted by MN Centershots at the Anoka American Legion and was the 1<sup>st</sup> American Legion Air Rifle Competition to be held in MN. Two classes of shooters shot at this competition: Sporter and Precision. Vikingland Junior Shooting Sports is a Sporter Class and this was their first competition since the club opened in September of 2024.

Vikingland Jr. Shooting Sports is affiliated with the Brandon American Legion Post 278 in the 7<sup>th</sup> District.

Carl Wilson is the Department of MN Jr. Shooting Sports Chairman as well as the Brandon American Legion Post 278 Commander and a Founding Coach for Vikingland Jr. Shooting Sports.

Hope Wilson is the Department of MN Membership Chairman as well as the Brandon American Legion Auxiliary Post 278 President and a Founding Coach for Vikingland Jr. Shooting Sports.

William Kuperus is a member of the New London American Legion 537 and a Coach for Vikingland Jr. Shooting Sports.

# FREE DENTAL CLINIC FOR VETERANS!

SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH, 2025

## Bringing Smiles to Veterans



### When:

Saturday  
April 19th, 2025  
9:00am - 5:00pm

### Where:

Mission Outpost Dental Clinic  
13801 Fairview Drive  
Burnsville, MN 55337  
(located in Prince of Peace Church)

**For All Active, Reserve, Retired Military, and for all those who served in the military, we would like to say “thank you for your service” by providing you with free dental and wellness services. Free dental care kits made by the 3rd District Auxiliary Juniors are also provided.**

3rd District of the American Legion Auxiliary will be teaming with volunteer Dental Hygienists, and Mission Outpost Dental Clinic, to provide free dental cleanings, exams, x-rays, & fluoride treatment. Fillings, extractions, root canals, and other restorative care will be provided. There will be a vendor table area to offer veterans information for resources and benefits, if needed.

Appointments are limited, please call the ph# below to schedule. If you need assistance with transportation let Tammy Thayer know, 507-319-4349. Vendors wanting to join us please call Tammy to reserve your space.

Dental Cleaning  
(952)-898-9318

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(952)-898-9318

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(952)-898-9318





## Department of Minnesota Department Secretary's Notes

April – National Volunteer Month & Children and Youth Month

Apr. 5 - Department Commander's Testimonial

Apr 9 - Veterans Day on the Hill

Apr. 11-12 – Department Junior Conference, Anoka Post 102

Apr. 15 – Annual Reports Due to District Chairman

Apr. 15 – Girls State Reservations due to Department Office – Due Date has been extended.

Apr. 18 – Good Friday (office closed)

Apr. 20 – Easter

May 17 - Dept. President's Testimonial, Fairmont

May 17: 1st District Convention, Lake City Wild Wings

May 17: 3rd District Convention, Forest Lake Post 225

May 17: 4th District Convention, N. St. Paul Post 39

May 17: 7th District Convention, Echo Post 204

May 23 – Poppy Day

May 26 - Memorial Day

June 7: 2nd District Convention, Pipestone Post 6

June 7: 5th District Convention, Holiday Inn/Green Mill  
(I-35W & 94th), Bloomington

June 7: 8th District Convention, Taconite Post 301

June 7: 6th District Convention, Brainerd Post 255

June 7: 10th District Convention, Buffalo Post 270

June 7: 9th District Convention, E. Grand Forks Post 157

### Hiring Department Treasurer

Resumes with cover letters are being accepted for the position of Department Treasurer for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota. Persons who are interested must be an American Legion Auxiliary member or eligible to join.

The Treasurer performs a variety of accounting tasks, applying accepted procedures to manage accounting and financial records, to produce financial records and reports and supports the Department Executive Secretary. This is a full-time position and is based in the St. Paul office.

This position requires some weekend meetings and attendance at Fall Conference and Department Convention.

Applicants must have a degree in accounting or three years' equivalent experience preferably in a nonprofit environment.

Resumes and cover letters should be sent to: Christie Avant, American Legion Auxiliary Department Headquarters 20 W 12<sup>th</sup> St W, St. Paul, MN 55155 Or emailed to: [christie@mnala.org](mailto:christie@mnala.org). A full job description is on the Department webpage, [www.mnala.org](http://www.mnala.org).



## **OFFICIAL FAMILY HOUSING INFORMATION**

### **Willmar Department Convention, July 9-12, 2025**

All Department Officers and Official Family members who plan to attend the Convention and seek housing at the Best Western Plus, Holiday Inn Express and other hotels listed are urged to make a reservation as soon as possible.

**RESERVATIONS:** For the 2025 Department Convention, hotel reservations will be done "on your own". Please call the hotel listed below to make your reservation. **When making your reservation, 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

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

