

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Minnesota**

**2024-2025
Department President
Judy Ackerman
May 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



Happy May Day!

I think Spring is finally here.

The Department Junior Conference was held in Anoka, April 11 & 12. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped with the conference. Thank you to the 10th District for hosting the event. The Juniors had a great time. (At least, I know my three granddaughters did.) The Friday night carnival was a success. So many fun things to do. Congratulations to the newly elected honorary Junior officers.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out and submit your unit reports and the impact report for this year. The information received in the reports is important to relay the information to Congress on what our members are doing to support our veterans, military personnel and their families, and our communities. Hopefully we will see some good pictures on the big screen at Dept. Convention.

May 11 is Mother's Day. Celebrate your mom, grandmother, a female veteran, or someone special to you. Take the time to say Thank you.

May 17th is the day for four District Conventions – 1st District, 3rd District, 4th District, and 7th District. Make the effort to attend your District Convention and find out what the units in your District have done. You might get some new ideas on what your unit can do.

May 17th is also the Department President's Testimonial at the Best Western, Fairmont, MN. Come have food, fun, fellowship and music. I'm sure it will be a great time.

National Poppy Day is set for May 23. Hopefully your unit will be doing Poppy Distribution during this month.

May 26th is Memorial Day; a time to remember and honor the sacrifices made by those who served in the military, ensuring their service is never forgotten. Lest We Forget.

**Judy Ackerman
Department President**





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

This year the need for donations to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund is even greater than years passed.

So far this year the fund has given out 3 times as many grants as it has in the past. So far this year \$419,000 of grant money has been given out to members. With the countless natural disasters that have happened in the last year and the hardships some of the members are facing, the need for this fund is in great demand. Please if you have not donated to this fund yet please consider donating.

AEF IN ACTION

**"I cannot tell you what a blessing it was to open
the mailbox and find your letter. It's going to be a
very long time before I can work again, but at least
I have a home to stay in. Thank you, thank you, thank you."**

—Auxiliary Member, Vermont

"Thank you so much for the temporary assistance from AEF.

**Never in a million years did I imagine I would be in need of asking for assistance. However, during
a family vacation celebrating my brother's safe return from Afghanistan, my house burned down.
Everything was lost, or so I was told. When I went to thank the police department for their efforts,
the chief brought out a box of 'stuff ' they saved for us. In that box was the flag my brother flew over
Iraq for us. It was a moment that reminded us that no matter what our situation may be, we are
blessed to live in the land of the free and home of the brave. Once again, thank you."**

—Auxiliary Member, Colorado

**"Thank you for the grant. It sure did come in
handy as a result of losing my house due to a
tornado. This has been a traumatic experience."**

—Auxiliary Member, Illinois



Department of Minnesota
May 2025 Unit Mailing
Americanism Chairman, Kollett Kaehlert

"Americanism means the virtues of courage, honor, justice, truth, sincerity, and hardihood--the virtues that made America." - Teddy Roosevelt

MEMORIAL DAY AND FLAG IN MOURNING

Most people know that Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May to honor the men and women who died while serving their country in the U.S. Military. History tells us that it was originally known as Decoration Day as it commenced in the years following the Civil War. Did you know it officially became a federal holiday in 1971? Memorial Day programs are held across the country to pay tribute to our fallen military. What does your Unit include in your program? Perhaps the POW/MIA Empty Chair service, singing patriotic songs and readings of poems, and a speaker. It is an opportune time to explain the meaning and history of a "flag in mourning." Old Glory is a proud symbol of patriotism. It can also be used to commemorate a time of mourning. Explaining when and how to fly the flag in mourning is an important way to respect our country and the values it represents.

We hear the term "half-staff" when we fly the flag in times of mourning. It refers to a flag positioned one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff. Half-staff is a tradition that goes back to the 18th century. The earliest documentation was in 1799. The Navy Department directed all ships to lower their flags to half-staff upon the death of George Washington. President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1954 expanded the practice beyond the military with a presidential proclamation for all government buildings to be included in flags at half-staff. The half-staff commemorates the death of principal figures of the U.S. government or the governor of a state or territory. Our U.S. law gives the President of the United States authority to order a nation-wide half-staffing as a mark of respect for special events as well.

There are six specific dates for the flag to be flown half-staff. They are:

- Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15)
- Memorial Day (Last Monday in May)
- Korean War Veterans Day (July 27)
- Patriot Day (September 11)
- National Firefighters Memorial Day (First Sunday in October)
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (December 7)

The National Flag Foundation (from which this information came from) provides the following information on how long the flag is flown half-staff.

- 30 days upon the death of the President or a former President.
- 10 days upon the death of the Vice President or the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- On the day of death and the following day for a member of Congress.
- Memorial Day from sunrise to noon and then it is flown at full staff.
- Peace Officers Memorial Day, Korean War Veterans Day, Patriot Day, National Firefighters Day, Memorial Day, and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day from sunrise to sunset.

To be notified of when the flag is to be flown at half-staff, sign up for the Flag Alert e-newsletter at legion.org/newsletters or subscribe to the Flag Alert text notifications. First, text Flag to 534466. You will receive a text asking for a valid email address for the two-step authorization. Once that is complete, you will receive the text alerts. (information from legion.org)

Upcoming Dates

MAY – Month of the Military Giver & National Military Appreciation Month

- 1 – Loyalty Day
- 1 – Silver Star Banner Day
- 1 – National Day of Prayer
- 8 – 79th Anniversary Victory in Europe Day
- 9 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- 12-17 – Armed Forces Week
- 13 – Children of Fallen Patriots Day
- 15 – Peace Officers Memorial Day
- 17 – Armed Forces Day
- 22 – Maritime Day
- 23 – National Poppy Day
- 26 – Memorial Day



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

Girls State 2025!

By the time you are reading this, registration for Girls State will have just started. I want to thank our units and districts who helped us with sponsorship for many citizens who reached out to us from the video. These citizens did not have an American Legion Auxiliary in their area for sponsorship! **Thank you** for your support and sponsorship of these young ladies. They are very appreciative of what you have done for them.

There is **NO PACKET** being mailed to your unit for your citizen. **Citizens will receive an electronic packet when they register.** An email was sent to the Unit contact listed on the Girls State reservation form. On **May 1st** the Girls State citizen you selected, and her guardian will be able to go onto the registration site to register. **ALL** Forms required for Girls State and **ALL** the information formally in the packet is on the site.

If you or your citizen has a question, please contact us. We are here to help you however we can. Please be patient as we take on this new endeavor, our committee has worked hard to implement this program being used successfully by other ALA Departments. Ultimately, we will be using the same website the week of Girls State. Everything they will need will be at the touch of their fingers.

Thank you to everyone who is sending a young lady to Girl State! We appreciate your dedication and support to our ALA MN Girl State Program! Your citizen will have an awesome week.

Our expectation is for each citizen to do a written or video report for the units that sponsored them, we hope this will also help you in your recruitment next year.

-If you have questions, please call me 507-254-0304 or email w.prescher1951@gmail.com

Wanda Prescher ALA MN Girl State Chairman
Peggy Tesdahl ALA MN Girl State Director
Amelia Tesdahl ALA MN Girl State Education Director
Kolett Kaehlert ALA MN Americanism Chairman
Renee Seuss ALA MN Girl State Committee Member
Jen Stolz ALA MN Girl State Committee Member



Department of Minnesota

May 2025 Unit Mailing

Junior Activities

The 2025 Junior Conference was held April 12th in Anoka. We had a very good turnout of Juniors, and it went well. It looked like a good time was had by all with the Carnival theme Friday Night and the Conference on Saturday. We have a New Honorary Junior President for the year 2025-2026. She is Anastasia Donnelly from the Northrop Unit 522 in the 2nd District.

I would like to thank Robin Dorf and the 10th District for all the hard work they did in preparing the hall, the snacks, and meals. It was greatly appreciated. Also, Thank you to the Anoka Post and Unit 102 members who assisted them.

I am looking forward to reading all those reports and seeing all the pictures of things that your Juniors have been doing this year to help our units and what they have done for our Veterans and our communities.

Hopefully if you were at the junior conference, you received a flyer about Junior Fun Weekend which happens on August 8 -10, 2025. It is a good place to meet other juniors from around the state and have an exciting time.

Let us get out there and recruit and mentor new members so we can continue to see new faces each year at our activities.

Below are the 2025 Poppy Contest Winners

Poppy Jewelry/Accessories Contest

Class I	First Place	Daisy Welter	Unit 164 - Stewartville - District 1
	Second Place	Hazel Mertens	Unit 261 - Kimball - District 6
Class II	First Place	Lilly Quaife	Unit 353 - Argyle - District 9
	Second Place	Peyton-Ferguson-Stuart	Unit 353 - Argyle - District 9
Class III	First Place	Anita Mertens-Maxson	Unit 261 - Kimball - District 6
	Second Place	Mattea Efta	Unit 353 - Argyle - District 9

Poppy Corsage/Boutonniere Contest

Class I	First Place	Hazel Mertens	Unit 261 - Kimball - District 6
	Second Place	Harley Nelson	Unit 353 - Argyle - District 9
Class II	First Place	Piper Dragan	Unit 261 - Kimball - District 6
	Second Place	Amber Mertens	Unit 261 - Kimball - District 6
Class III	First Place	Brooke Miller	Unit 27 - Warren - District 9
	Second Place	Markelle Pederson	Unit 27 - Warren - District 9

Poppy Memorial Day Wreath

Class I	First Place	Daisy Welter	Unit 164 - Stewartville - District 1
	Second Place	Hazel Mertens	Unit 261 - Kimball - District 6
Class II	First Place	Izzy Slovinski-Zipperer	Unit 164 - Stewartville - District 1
	Second Place	Miley Mahoney	Unit 258 - Clinton - District 7
Class III	First Place	Chloe Carter	Unit 286 - Sanborn- District 2
	Second Place	Brooke Mertens	Unit 261- Kimball - District 6

New officers for 2025-2026 were elected and installed by Department President Judy Ackerman.

The newly elected Honorary Department Junior Officers are:

Honorary President:	Anastasia Donnelly	Northrop Unit 522 - District 2
Honorary 1 st Vice President:	Abigail Koltes	Melrose Unit 101 - District 6
Honorary 2 nd Vice President:	Chloe Carter	Sanborn Unit 286 - District 2
Honorary Secretary:	Rylee Wolbeck	Brandon Unit 278 - District 7
Honorary Treasurer:	Lauren Lampman	Northrop Unit 522 - District 2
Honorary Chaplain:	Brooklyn Mahoney	Clinton Unit 258 - District 7
Honorary Historian:	Katelyne Walker	Brandon Unit 278 - District 7
Honorary Sergeant at Arms:	Regan McElroy	LeRoy Unit 161 - District 1

Jean Walker

Junior Activities Chairman

jmwalker1992@hotmail.com 218-686-1829



ANNOUNCING. . . .

**Minnesota's 16th Annual
Junior Fun Weekend**

A fun weekend for Junior members of the Department of Minnesota to get together for some fun and to learn more about the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Friday thru Sunday, August 8-10, 2025

**Legionville School Patrol Camp
(on Long Lake, near Brainerd, MN)**

**Cost will be \$25.00 per person
if paperwork & payment is received
no later than July 18, 2025
\$30.00 fee for all reservations received
after July 18th
(meals & snacks included)**

- ❖ **Open to all Juniors and their Advisors/Chaperones**
- ❖ **Everyone attending must pre-register and prepay**
- ❖ **Limited to 1 Senior member for every 4 Junior Members unless space is available**



16th Annual Junior Fun Weekend

Who: All Junior members and their Advisor/Chaperones
Registration is on a first-come, first serve basis
All Junior members ages 3-18 are invited
You do not have to be from an active Junior group
Advisor/chaperones to Junior ratio is 1:3
1 - 3 Juniors = 1 advisor/chaperone
4 - 6 Juniors = 2 advisors/chaperones
If you have any questions, please call Robin Dorf at 612-483-4076 or email robinldorf@yahoo.com

What: A weekend for junior members from throughout the State of Minnesota to get together for some fun and to learn more about the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. This will be an organized program which will be coordinated by the Department Junior Activities Chairman and American Legion Auxiliary volunteers.

When: Friday, August 8, 2025 through Sunday, August 10, 2025
Check-in Friday, August 8th from 5-8 p.m. (**Please do not arrive before 5pm**)
Dinner will be served after 6 p.m.
Check-out Sunday, August 10th by 11:00 a.m.

Where: Legionville near Brainerd, Minnesota (see attached map)

Cost: \$25.00 per person (includes meals, snacks & activities)
Paperwork & Fees must be received in the Department Office no later than Friday, July 18, 2025
All registrations received after July 18th will be \$30.00
No refunds will be issued.

Send to: American Legion Auxiliary
State Veterans Services Building
20 West 12th St. #314
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

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

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

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

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

2025 Department Junior Fun Weekend Registration

August 8-10, 2025

Unit Name: _____ Unit No: _____
Location: _____ District No: _____
Number of Juniors: _____ Number of Seniors: _____

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

\$30.00 if rec'd after July 18, 2025

Make checks payable to American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota

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

Advisor/Chaperone Information (Print or type)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Cell #: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact name & Phone #: _____ Relationship: _____

Areas where I would be interested in helping: _____

Junior Member Participants (Ages 3-18)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

(Please make copies of this page for additional names)

WHAT TO BRING

Bring with you:

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

Please Note:

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

Medications:

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

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

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

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

PLEASE MAKE A COPY OF THIS FOR EACH PARTICIPANT

Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary

State Veterans Services Building

20 West 12th St. Room #314

St. Paul, MN 55155

PARENTS WAIVER

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

Junior Fun Weekend

August 8-10, 2025

The undersigned parent(s) or guardian of:

(Junior Member)

(Address/City/State/Zip Code)

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

I acknowledge that neither basic accident and health insurance or personal property insurance is provided by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota, in connection with the Junior Fun Weekend and that the provision of such insurance is my own personal responsibility. I (we) understand the responsibility of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota, ends at the close of Junior Fun Weekend on Sunday, August 10, 2025.

In case of emergency, contact information is:

Name of parent(s) _____

(Address/City/State/Zip Code)

Telephone Number on Weekend _____ Cell Phone _____

(Print Parent or Guardians Name)

Date Signed: _____

(Parents or Guardian Signature)

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

ALLERGIES AND MEDICATIONS

Does your daughter have any allergies? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please explain? _____

If this is a food allergy, please email [\[redacted\]](#), so we can plan accordingly for meals.

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

Name of medication my daughter is on _____

Does your daughter have any physical restrictions? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please explain? _____



Carol Kottom, Leadership Chairman
Department of Minnesota
1909 Goldfinch Dr
Buffalo, MN 55313
763-360-6102 ckakottomm@gmail.com

Leadership

Questions have been sent regarding Unit Member of the Year.

Submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less by April 15th **EXTENDED to May 15th..**

Refer to February newsletter for instructions.

Three workshops were held this year. All were a success. Bagley, Cold Spring and finishing in New Ulm.

We had a couple of questions that I requested answers from National on. To get the answers to those and a lot of questions you didn't know you had until the workshop, I put together a book of the workshop topics and what the presenters brought to our members. It will be available on the Minnesota site. www.MNALA.org Please take the time to download and if you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

A special thank you to Dennise Milton (Bagley), Norma Tramm (Cold Spring) and Vida Bacon (New Ulm) for being my go-to person at the Post homes. They did the work with the Posts and Units – thank you!

Also, to the presenters who were flexible in what they presented and did a marvelous job putting together their scripts and power points. In alphabetical order: Anastasia Donnelly, Patti Gunderson, Ashley Kuperus, Mary Kuperus, Denise Milton, Norma Tramm and Darlene Wondra. They were awesome to work with and I am grateful for the outstanding jobs they did.

Enjoy reading the story of "Leadership Workshops" 2024-2025.

Carol Kottom

MN Leadership Chairman



Department of Minnesota
May 2025 Unit Mailing
Legislation Chairman, Linda Kelly

I'm going to repeat what I said in last month's unit mailing:

If you have the opportunity to attend the "Veterans on the Hill" event, take it!!!!

Wednesday, April 9th was Minnesota's day. Hundreds of veterans, spouses, families, Auxiliary and SAL members attended this event. Not only was it informative, but it was impressive and just AWESOME.

After a box lunch served at the Armory just SE of the Capitol by the DAV, a short program was held. We were reminded of the CTF's (Commanders Task Force) priorities this year. This group meets monthly and discusses what we would like our legislators to do for our veterans and their families. We heard about a state program recently developed to help feed our veterans experiencing food insecurity.

We even practiced for our voices to be heard in the rotunda. Our signs read "TAKE ACTION" and when our speaker said "TAKE", we all responded with "ACTION". We even practiced BOOING.

The group then walked to our Veterans Building and when everyone had gathered, they marched to the Capitol Building, up the steps and into the Rotunda of the Capitol. It was packed with people on the 2nd and 3rd floors balconies, too. We heard from the DAV, Governor Walz, American Legion Commander Moon, and several members of our MN House of Representatives. They all seemed supportive of our priorities, but there was some booing.

We had a 103-year-old World War II veteran with us – up front and center. He received a loud round of applause.

Our practicing at the Armory paid off. Our "ACTION" and booing resounded throughout the rotunda, and I swear it went all the way to the top. They got our message.

Please continue to look at the websites I have provided before. Contact your legislators – remember they are YOUORS – no matter your party nor their party.



Department of Minnesota
May 2025 Unit Mailing
Membership Chairman, Hope Wilson

MN Membership Member-opoly Report

I hope everyone is enjoying the erratic weather. I personally prefer sunny and 60 over the snow and wind.

So, what has been going on in our Membership Race since we last talked?

We have a pretty tight race going for the top 3 places in our Districts. District 6 is still holding 1st place with a mere .82% lead over District 3 with 91.46%. Sneaking up on them is District 1 following behind by a slight .38%. This could get to be a nail-biter.

There is an .89% difference in Districts 2, 9 and 7. Then we have a .76% difference in Districts 10 and 8. And still in the game we have Districts 4 & 5.

But even with how close our numbers seem, we are still down 817 members from this time last year. Membership renewals have been sent out from National, and everyone has been making calls trying to get our unpaid members to renew.

When I put out the call for help in February to reach the 85% National Membership Goal, everyone dug in and helped me pull it off. Now we can easily meet the remaining 4 goals needed to watch President Judy walk across the stage in Tampa, FL, in August 2025.

I want to ask that we keep that momentum going. I know that we have many things going on right now like reports, holidays, conferences and conventions. Trust me, I know! But these are good things. There are people at most of these events! Make new contacts, reach out to old contacts, find new juniors. There are so many people that we talk to every day that don't even know that they are eligible. It's time to find them.

We have several more Department Award goals coming up. I know we can make them if we make another push. Here are the goals and the upcoming dates.

Award dates on the horizon:

95% Department Award Deadline – May 23, 2025

Recruit/Rejoin 10 Award Deadline – June 1, 2025

100% Department Award Deadline – July 4, 2025

102% Department Award Deadline – July 26, 2025

Interestingly - a recent report was run by our outstanding National Membership Team - which identified 170 members across ALL Divisions where the HLM (Honorary Life Member) is showing as 'Unpaid'.

Few reminders and take away notes:

1. HLM (Honorary Life Members) - annual dues should be on the 1st transmittal submitted for processing each year!!!!
2. Units are responsible for paying any HLMs on their roster.
3. Please notify your Department Membership Processor with a data change form should the status of an Honorary Life Member need to be updated or changed.
4. The Member with HLM status depends on the Unit to pay their dues annually, keep in mind their ALA benefits could be affected if not current.


If you have any questions on Honorary Life Members (HLM)s, please refer to the Unit Guidebook and/or reach out to your Department Membership Processing team for assistance; your Division Chairs are here to assist with questions if needed.


In the Divisional Race, the Northwestern Division is currently in last place with 87.36%. Minnesota is 3rd place out of 7 in the Northwestern Division at 87.71%. Colorado and Wyoming are now in the lead and South Dakota stays close behind us.

Northwestern Division			
Department of	Total Membership	2025 Num. Goal	% of Num. Goal
Colorado	4,149	4,478	92.65%
Wyoming	2,255	2,545	88.61%
Minnesota	22,816	26,014	87.71%
South Dakota	8,123	9,279	87.54%
Nebraska	13,404	15,490	86.53%
North Dakota	6,212	7,300	85.10%
Montana	2,267	2,686	84.40%
	59,226	67,792	87.36%

 **Western Division - 92.64%** up from 91.96%

 **Eastern Division - 92.20%** up from 91.71%

 **Southern Division - 92.05%** up from 91.33%

 **Central Division - 90.33%** up from 89.80%

 **Northwestern Division - 87.36%** up from 86.93%

If you have any Membership questions, please reach out to me. If I don't have the answer for you, I will get it for you.

Hope Wilson
MN ALA Membership Chairman
320-304-0809

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Bulletin #26 as of 4/25/2025
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	21	3,043	91.08%	3,110	-67
Two	70	3,456	11	3,025	87.53%	3,156	-131
Three	46	3,476	10	3,179	91.46%	3,242	-63
Four	7	514	3	412	80.16%	445	-33
Five	7	463	2	306	66.09%	307	-1
Six	60	4,469	20	4,124	92.28%	4,164	-40
Seven	52	2,579	11	2,244	87.01%	2,399	-155
Eight	20	1,117	8	930	86.43%	1033	-103
Nine	45	2,944	51	2,608	87.90%	2,668	-60
Ten	41	3,391	37	2,905	85.67%	3,054	-149
1982	1	295	1	252	85.42%	267	-15
Department Total	396	26,045	175	23,028	88.42%	23,845	-817
Group 1 (Even) <i>Linda Kelly</i>	198	12,947	95	11,396	88.02%	11,852	-456
Group 2 (Odd) <i>Robin Dorf</i>	197	12,803	79	11,380	88.89%	11,726	-346



RANKINGS

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
92.28%	91.46%	91.08%	87.90%	87.53%	87.01%	86.43%	85.67%	80.16%	66.09%

The following is a reminder of what Department and National Awards are available for the National Security Program. Please be sure to fill out the awards information and send it to me.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS:

LONERGAN PLAQUE

- To the Unit that reports the Most Outstanding Overall Program serving military families with special emphasis on helping them through times of family members deployment and/or injury (severely wounded)

DOROTHY PEARL CIVIL PREPAREDNESS AWARD

- To the Unit reporting the Best Overall Program for their Community.

MILITARY SUPPORT UNIT AWARD

- To the Unit reporting the best overall Program in activities that support our troops.

NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAM AWARD

- To the Unit Chairman reporting the best overall National Security Program

NATIONAL AWARDS:

Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit National Security Program (per division)

- All unit entries must be submitted by the department chairman via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.
- National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

Department Award: Dorothy Pearl Best Department National Security Award (per division)

- All department entries must be submitted by the department chairman via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.
- National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

Salute to Servicemembers Award

- **Deadline: June 1**
Established in 2003, this award honors all enlisted personnel who are currently serving our country in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, and the National Guard/Reserve. One enlisted servicemember from each branch of service as well as the National Guard/Reserve will be recognized at the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention. Recipients will attend the National Convention as guests of the Auxiliary.

Memorial Day is May 26th. The holiday was created to honor the many American men and women who died in military service. This focus on those who made the ultimate sacrifice sets it apart from Veterans' Day, which honors all military veterans, living and dead.



At your Memorial Day programs, please include the Flag Folding Ceremony and the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony. Include Junior members and the young SAL members by having them lead or participate in both ceremonies.

May we always remember those who gave their lives for our country.



Department of Minnesota
May 2025 Unit Mailing
Parliamentarian, Raleen Tolzmann

Elections will be held in the next couple of months at your meetings, Roberts Rules of Order has guidelines to follow for elections. I would like to thank Norma Tramm for allowing me to use this article she wrote in 2022.

Many units will have elections at the May meeting. I would like to share the process with you. Several of you have been President many times and do not need any information, but there may be a few Presidents that will be having elections for the first time.

It is important to have the nominating committee report before the election. Then the Chair (President) must call for further nominations from the floor for the elected offices.

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

Chair: For President _____ is nominated by the nominating committee. Are there any further nominations for President? (If a member nominated another person, the chair repeats the name and that person) _____ is nominated . Are there any further nominations?

It is not Necessary to repeat three times., you just need to be certain that there are no more nominations.

The Chair (President) states the following: Chair: Are there any further nomination for President?...(pause).. If not...(pause), nominations are closed for the office of President.

Next

For First Vice President, _____ is nominated by the nominating committee. Are there any further nominations for First Vice President? (If a member nominates another pers, the chair repeats the name of the person) _____ is nominated. Are there any further nominations?

It is not necessary to repeat three times, you just need to be certain that there are no more nominations.

The Chair (President) stated the following: Chair: are there any further nominations for First Vice president? (pause).. If not ...(pause), nominations are closed for the office of First Vice President.

Continue in the same manner with the remainder of the Elected Offices.

Second Vice President

Treasurer

Sergeant-at-Arms

Two members of the Executive Committee (can be done at the same time)

This should complete the list of officers to be elected.

If you have more than one candidate for an office you will need to elect, usually by ballot. All members including the President should be given a ballot. The president will appoint election tellers. Once the process is complete the chairman of the tellers will report the results of the ballot. The President will then declare the results for the office.

Most of the time there will only be one candidate for each office.

To Elect the President should state the following:

“_____ has been nominated for the office of president. As many as are in favor of _____ for President say aye Those opposed say no The ayes have it and _____ is elected President.”

If the noes are in the majority the wording is:

“The noes have it and _____ is not elected.” (This is not likely when you only have one candidate).

This should be repeated for each office that is elected:

First Vice President
Second Vice President
Treasurer
Sergeant-at-Arms
Executive Committee

Should the president give up the chair for elections if her name is on the Ballot???

NO – she still should facilitate the election even when stating her name for an office.

You may feel it a waste of time to do the election part when you have members who have consented to hold the office. IT IS MY OPINION that the process if election is important, it says to the elected officers that the members wish to have them hold the office because they voice their opinion by saying yes. It also gives the members a satisfaction that they have actually elected the people who will be in charge of leading the unit for the next year.

Many units will hold an installation ceremony, failure to conduct the ceremony doesn't affect the time at which the term commences, nor does it prohibit the candidate from assuming the office.

All officers will assume their elected and appointed office at the conclusion of the Department Convention in July.

It is the privilege and responsibility of the President to make appointments. This is true of all levels of the American Legion Auxiliary. This is soooo important for the life and continued advancement of our organization.

A member who is given an appointment should be made to feel that they are in charge of the program and will not be questioned each time they suggest a new idea. It is good to make appointments according to a persons' strength that can further the goals of the American Legion Auxiliary.

I want to congratulate each on their election of new officers for the coming year. To outgoing officers' congratulations on the Auxiliary year that you have just finished. To the newly elected officers' congratulations on being elected to your office.

Thank you to everyone for all you do for the American Legion Auxiliary and our veterans and their families.



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

This has been a year of learning more about the Memorial Flower the “Poppy”. In World War I the poppy came to symbolize the bloodshed by those who fought and those who continue to fight for our Country. The Poppy became the memorial flower of The American Legion on September 27th, 1920, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Poppy Day is celebrated in countries around the world. In 2017, The American Legion brought National Poppy Day to the United States by asking Congress to designate the Friday before Memorial Day as National Poppy Day. That is how it officially became that day. Support the living National Poppy Day is the Friday before Memorial Day.

Does your Unit have plans for Memorial Day? to Honor the fallen? Remember: Poppies are not sold by volunteers, they are distributed. Ask them if they would like to wear a poppy, if asked what they cost tell them nothing it is a way to honor the fallen. We are more than willing to take any donations offered.

Identify a specific purpose for which you are collecting your poppy money. For example, maybe you want to make \$1500 for Honor Flights so more Veterans and their helpers can attend.

Make arrangements to set up a card table in the busy area, or have a smaller table to hold poppies, your collection container and maybe a few coloring pages from the poppy coloring book.

When you are distributing poppies, have fun, be joyful and be branded. You are representing The American Legion Family when you are out in the public.

Have support materials to share. These could include the poppy coloring book, decorating your poppy collection container with poppies. Bring along membership brochures in case you meet someone who wants to join.

Be aware, know where the other units in your area will be, you don’t want to be in the same area as other areas could get missed.

Don’t forget to have your SAL members and Post members to help, you won’t believe how much money those little SAL members can bring in.

Be sure to document your activities and share with ALA National Headquarters. Tell them your plans, send pictures and then make plans for the next year. Work with your public relations chairman, teamwork is the key to success.

The National American Legion Auxiliary website offers a variety of resources to assist you.

Have fun promoting “National Poppy Day”, I can’t wait to hear all about your Unit’s adventures.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

CONTEST #1 – *Bouquet in a Vase*

The Bouquet will be in a vase made up of small or large poppies along with any other greenery. Using whatever theme, you would like be creative

CONTEST #2 – *Wall Hanging*

The wall hanging must use President Judy's theme: "Back to Basics-Recognize, Respect, Remember" Also somehow using her symbol of blocks to look like "Flanders Field."

All contests are open to all Auxiliary members. You do need to have a poppy of some sort in your entry, but you do not have to use the ALA poppy. All entries must include an attached sealed envelope with a card inside that states your name, unit number and unit location. If using ALA poppies, remember to remove the white tags. Small or large poppies may be used. Voting for the People's Choice will be by donation, with the funds going to the Department President's Project. Those who choose to donate their entries may do so. Remember to attach the sealed envelope with card inside to your entry, all entries will be given a number for voting.



Department of Minnesota
May 2025 Unit Mailing
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman
Robin Dorf

Honor Flight Network

The mission of the Honor Flight Network is to celebrate America's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials.

Here is how the Honor Flight has had an impact:

21,217 veterans were honored in 2024
317,128 and counting, veterans honored since 2005
46,380 veterans are currently on their nationwide waitlist

For more information on local Honor Flight Hubs

Freedom Honor Flight <https://freedomhonorflight.org>
Departing Airport: La Crosse Regional Airport
Honor Flight Northland <https://www.honorflightnorthland.org>
Departing Airport: Duluth International Airport
Honor Flight Twin Cities <http://www.honorflighttwincities.org>
Departing Airport: Minneapolis/ St Paul MN Airport
Midwest Honor Flight <https://www.midwesthonorflight.org>
Departing Airport: Sioux Falls Regional Airport
North Star Honor Flight <http://northstarhonorflight.org>
Departing Airport: Rochester International Airport
Veterans Honor Flight of ND/MN <http://veteranshonorflightofndmn.org>
Departing Airport: Hector International Airport



JOB POSTING – Department Accounting Technician

Resumes with cover letters are being accepted for the position of Accounting Technician for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota.

The Accounting Technician performs a variety of accounting tasks, applying accepted procedures to manage accounting and financial records, 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. The full job description is on the Department's webpage: www.mnala.org.

Resumes and cover letters should be sent to: Christie Avant, American Legion Auxiliary Department Headquarters, 20 W 12th St W, St. Paul, MN 55155 Or emailed to: christie@mnala.org.

*Thank
you*

to all the Units and
Individuals that made
Poppies over
the last year!
Because

of **YOU**, we
were able to meet the
needs of all our Department's Units
and Posts. This was Teamwork at its
BEST!

Small Poppies

Purchased from other Departments 80,000

Paid Veterans made over 70,000

Volunteers made nearly 60,000

Large Poppies

Volunteers made nearly 3,500

Purchased from other Departments 1,200

Paid Veterans made 1,000



*** The 2025 Call to Department Convention, Delegate Strength and Credential Cards will be in the June Unit Mailing. Housing information and registration form is in the May (this) Unit Mailing.

*** If your Unit has not sent in the 2025-2026 Unit Officers list, please, do so ASAP. Our deadline to have all of the Department's Unit Offers updated in ALAMIS is June 1. You can email the form to deptoffice@mnala.org.



American Legion Auxiliary

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota

State Veterans Service Bldg. - 20 W. 12th St. Suite #314 – St. Paul, MN 55155 | P: (651) 224-7634
deptoffice@mnala.org | Website: www.mnala.org

DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN

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Job Responsibilities

- ❖ Process accounts payable and ensure that the cost center/account structure is recorded properly; assists in controlling annual expenditures; enters and prints checks and maintains proper internal controls per established policies.
- ❖ Processes all cash receipts, donations and contributions, designated payments and posting of membership payments.
- ❖ Records manual checks and voids checks.
- ❖ Prepares and manages invoices for annual fees (fidelity bond, etc.)
- ❖ Prepares, verifies and controls the entering of journal entries to the general ledger, performs tasks associated with the general ledger, monthly entries and prepares trial balance to verify accuracy of entries.
- ❖ Works directly with organization's outside auditors in making year-end journal entries.
- ❖ Produces monthly and quarterly reports for the Department Executive Committee, Department Finance and Audit Committees.
- ❖ Posts monthly bank statements for investments to general ledger.

- ❖ Prepares checks and deposits as needed.
- ❖ Assists the Department Executive Secretary to provide support to the Department Finance and Audit Committees as requested and responds to questions from those committees.
- ❖ Serves as backup to other staff, performing duties as necessary.
- ❖ Performs other duties as assigned.

Knowledge and Skills

- ❖ Ability to participate in meetings as required, including some evenings and weekends such as Department Fall Conference, Department Executive Committee Meetings, Department Convention, Finance Committee Meeting, Annual Audit Review, and others as requested by the Department Executive Secretary.
- ❖ Excellent communication skills for working with vendors, staff and American Legion Auxiliary members in a professional, timely and courteous manner. Must be able to interact and communicate with all levels of the organization.
- ❖ Able to work at a fast-paced environment and multi-task to complete work on time.
- ❖ Must have a high level of interpersonal skills to handle sensitive and confidential situations.
- ❖ Proficiency in computer skills, working with Microsoft Office, QuickBooks and Outlook.
- ❖ Must be able to interact and communicate with all levels of the organization.
- ❖ Working knowledge of accrual accounting, automated accounting systems and have the ability to enter data accurately and prepare documents from the data.
- ❖ Good understanding of the American Legion Auxiliary mission, policies and procedures.

Education and Experience

- ❖ Degree in accounting or three years equivalent experience, preferably in a non-profit organization.



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.**



AMERICAN
LEGION
DEPARTMENT
OF MINNESOTA

2025 Dept. Convention Official Registration

Convention dates and location:

July 10-12, 2025, Willmar Conference Center
Various committees meet July 9

Make check out to:

American Legion Post 167

Write on memo line:

Dept. Convention

Mail to:

Carrie Werner
36898 County Hwy. 6
Redwood Falls, MN 56238

Registration fees:

Registration received by mail by June 26: \$20

Registration received by mail after June 26: \$30

Registration over Eventbrite

by June 26: \$20 + service fee

Registration received over Eventbrite

after June 26: \$30 + service fee

Registration at the door: \$30

(+ service fee if using a card at the door; cards not
accepted at the door after noon Friday, July 11)

Register before June 26 to receive a booklet.

Registration fees are for each person attending,
whether a delegate, alternate or a guest.

Please copy and send a separate form for each person
attending. A single check is fine. Junior SAL and Junior
Auxiliary are not charged a fee but must send a form.

About you:

Check
one:

Legion

Auxiliary

SAL

Enter
numbers:

District

Post/Unit/Squadron

Check
one:

Delegate

Alternate

Guest

(Auxiliary only) Delegate at-large: _____

(Choose Past Dept. President or Dept. Exec. Cmte.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Thank you!