

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Minnesota**

**2024-2025
Department President
Judy Ackerman
June 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



This year has flown by. Department Convention is right around the corner. I hope you are planning to join us in Willmar to hear about all the successes of the units in the Department. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Convention.

The end of April and the beginning of May had unit visits to Minnesota Lake, Nashwauk, Roseau, Fisher and North Branch. Thank you to these units for their invitations. It is always fun and interesting to see how other units work the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Many units are working on their Memorial Day programs to honor our fallen veterans. It is a day to honor those veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice to our country.

June will bring 6 District conventions. Please go to your District Convention and hear what the units did.

June is Girl State month. Girl State will be held June 15-21st. Hopefully your unit is sending at least one girl if not more to this educational opportunity. What an opportunity for these young women to learn about local and state government.

June 14 is Flag Day. Show your patriotism by displaying Old Glory.

Thank you to everyone that came to the testimonial. Your presence was a very special gift to me to help celebrate this year of going "Back to the Basics – Recognize, Respect, Remember". I hope everyone that attended had a great time. I know I did, and my grandchildren enjoyed themselves.

God bless our fallen veterans, our veterans, active military and their families. God Bless America.

**Judy Ackerman
Department President**



2025 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Please join us at 106th Department Convention being held July 10-12, 2025, at the Willmar Conference Center, Willmar, MN.

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Pre-Convention Department Executive Meeting

Thursday, July 10, 2025

District Caucuses

Convention Session

Joint Memorial Service

Convention Committee Meetings

Friday, July 11, 2025

District Caucuses

Convention Morning Session

Past Department Presidents Luncheon

Convention Afternoon Session

Saturday, July 12, 2025

Convention Session

Election of 2025-2026 Officers &

Delegates to National Convention

Installation of 2025-2026 Officers

The following members have been endorsed for Department office:

Department President – Robin Dorf, Monticello Unit 260

Department 1st Vice President – Linda Kelly, Pine Island, Unit 184

Department 2nd Vice President – Jody Hassing, Bloomington, Unit 550

Nominations will be on Thursday morning. When there is more than one candidate nominated, elections will take place by balloting. There will also be nominations for delegates at-large to the National Convention.

HOUSING INFORMATION

Please, call the hotels 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

**CALL FOR THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Department of Minnesota**

The 106th Annual Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota, is hereby called to be held in Willmar, Minnesota July 10, 11 and 12, 2025, for the purpose of:

1. Electing Department Officers
2. Considering any amendments which may be proposed for Unit, District, and Department Constitutions
3. Electing delegates and alternates to the 106th National Convention.
4. Receiving reports of Department Officers, National Committeewoman, District Presidents, and Chairmen of Department Committees.
5. The transaction of such other business as may be brought before the Convention in conformity with the provisions of the National and Department Constitutions.

REPRESENTATION: (Article VI, Unit Bylaws) "Each Unit shall be entitled to two delegates at the Department Convention one of whom shall be the Unit President, plus one additional delegate for each 50 members or major fraction thereof whose dues have been received by the Department Treasurer 30 days prior to the meeting of the Convention for which they are elected. Each Unit shall elect its delegates. In addition, each Unit shall elect alternate delegates to serve in the absence of delegates. The delegates shall serve in the order elected before any alternate delegates and then the alternate delegates shall serve in the order elected." (Example: Units which have membership of 10 to 25 are entitled to 2 delegates, Membership of 26 to 75, 3 delegates; 76 to 125, 4 delegates, etc.)

The vote of each Unit shall be equal to the total number of delegates to which the Unit is entitled, provided there is a delegate from the Unit present to cast the vote. Alternates will have power to vote only in the absence of the delegate.

"To be eligible to candidacy for office or delegate to convention, a member must be a member in good standing." (Article VIII, Unit Bylaws.)

EXPENSES: The Convention expenses of Unit delegates must be borne by their Unit or by the delegates themselves unless they are Department Chairmen or members of the Department Committees,
CREDENTIALS: Two (2) delegate and two (2) alternate cards are included in this mailing. Additional cards will be available for pick up at the Department Convention. The outgoing Unit President is the Chairman of your Unit's delegation. If she will not be attending the delegation she should elect a chairman of the delegation. It is best to have this done before the delegates leave home.
ELECTION OF DELEGATES: All delegates and alternates shall be elected at a regular Unit meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

WATCH THE DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK PAGE AND THE LEGIONNAIRE FOR DETAILS regarding Convention plans.

Judy Ackerman
Department President

Christie Avant
Department Secretary

The table below indicates the number of delegates and alternates to which your Unit is entitled for the annual Department Convention to be held at the Conference Center Willmar, MN July 10-12, 2025.

Unit Membership	Number of Delegates	Number of Alternates
10 to 25	2	2
26 to 75	3	3
76 to 125	4	4
126 to 175	5	5
175 to 225	6	6
226 to 275	7	7
276 to 325	8	8
326 to 375	9	9
376 to 425	10	10
426 to 475	11	11

Two delegate and two alternate Credential cards are enclosed. If your Unit is entitled to more than two delegates and two alternates, **they will be available at the Department Convention in the Auxiliary office.**

Make sure the location and number of your Unit and District is on your Credential Card. Each delegate or alternate must show her Credential Card when she registers. This card **must be** signed by the Unit Secretary and should be carried by the delegate or alternate at the Convention in Willmar. All delegates **must** present their Credential card to receive a ballot to vote.



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!

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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

May 2025

Julia Moore

Issue # 9

FROM THE NATIONAL CO/CHAIR OF THE AMERICANISM PROGRAM



History

1868 General John A Logan called for a day of remembrance; many observed on May 30, began as a day to remember who died in the Civil War. The first Decoration Day, Gen. James Garfield and 5,000 participants decorated 20,000 graves at Arlington National Cemetery.

1890 All Northern states had Decoration Day as an official holiday. Southern states honored the dead on separate days until after WWI.

1966 Federal government declared Waterloo, NY, the official birthplace of Memorial Day.

1967 Federal government officially adopted the name Memorial Day.

1968 Memorial Day became a federal holiday, officially designated the last Monday of May going into effect in 1971.

Traditions

Cities and towns hold parades-especially large ones in Chicago, New York and Washington DC.

Visiting cemeteries and memorials.

Wearing a red poppy, a tradition that started with a poem from WWI.

Many take a weekend trip, throw parties and barbeque's as it is the unofficial start of summer.

Reason

Memorial Day is celebrated to honor and remember those who have died while serving in the U.S. military. It is a day of reflection and mourning, not a celebration in the traditional sense, but a time to acknowledge the ultimate sacrifice made by these individuals. Cemeteries throughout the country are adorned with floral arrangements on graves and flags flying. Many cemeteries adorn each grave of a veteran with a flag.

Many towns have services in the morning, culminating with the raising of the flag to full staff. Prior to noon, the flags are flown at half-staff. Did you know The American Legion prepares a speech that can be used on Memorial Day.

What are traditions you have on Memorial Day? My earliest memory is with my parents and grandmother spending the day going to cemeteries. I think each year we visited a new cemetery to visit the grave of someone we knew. All across the nation, people pause at 3:00 pm to offer a word of prayer for the deceased.

Veterans' Day, November 11, is to celebrate, honor and give thanks to those who are living and served our country in the military.

Armed Forces Day held in May honors those men and women who are currently serving in the military.



2024-2025 LEADING THE WAY

American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters: 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268-1334

ADD EMAIL HERE@ALAforVeterans.org | www.ALAforVeterans.org | www.ALAFoundation.org



National Poppy Day supports veterans, honors the fallen



American Legion Family leads effort to keep all who served front and center heading into Memorial Day weekend.

The American Legion Family has called upon Congress to designate May 26, as National Poppy Day to expand awareness and provide support everywhere for all who have served and sacrificed in the U.S. armed forces.

The American Legion Auxiliary has been conducting a Poppy Program for many years and their members' raise over \$6 million annually to provide support for veterans, military service-members and their families.

By wearing this simple red flower, we show our support for veterans of generations to come.

American Legion Family members who plan poppy distributions and similar commemorations around May 26 and the week leading into Memorial Day are urged to use the hashtags #PoppyDay and #LegionFamily so activities can be shared on Facebook, Twitter and other social media channels.

The American Legion designated the red poppy as its official flower at the organization's second national convention, Sept. 27, 1920.
Research National AL



May is designated as Military Appreciation Month, a time to honor and express gratitude to those who serve or have served in the United States Armed Forces, including their families. This month-long observance, established by Congress in 1999, aims to raise awareness and encourage celebration of the sacrifices made by military personnel.

Recognition and Appreciation:

The primary goal is to acknowledge and thank service members, veterans, and their families for their dedication and commitment.

Raising Awareness:

Military Appreciation Month helps to educate the public about the challenges faced by the military community and the importance of their service.

Celebrating Military History:

May is also a time to remember and honor key events in military history, such as Loyalty Day, VE Day, and Memorial Day

Supporting Military Families:

The month also recognizes the sacrifices made by military spouses and families, who often face unique challenges due to the deployment and relocation of service members.

Community Involvement:

Individuals and organizations can participate in Military Appreciation Month by volunteering their time, donating to military charities, or simply expressing their gratitude to service members.
Research Google

2024 -2025

Americanism Committee



Give a Veteran & Active Military a Hug and give them a big "THANK YOU"



Children & Youth 2024-2025

It has been an exciting and rewarding year being in the presence of our auxiliary members, units and districts and witnessing what is happening around the state of Minnesota. It is incredible!

Congratulations to the units, districts and members that have been doing amazing work for our community and our children & youth! I was taken back by the reports that were submitted as you are amazing human beings, doing amazing things!

There were at least 144 Good Deed awards presented this year (from the reports submitted) with 132 by one unit alone in the state which was outstanding and we had 2 Youth Hero awards given to two Middle School boys, Aman Mohammud & Jayden Espinoza, 12 years old at the time, from the Faribault Unit #43, for coming to the aid of a teacher that was choking on her food during their lunch time! Super cool that we have our youth paying attention to their surroundings and making a huge difference, LIFE GIVING & CHANGING! Whoa!

If you haven't made your donation to Legionville yet (or perhaps you found some extra funds and are ready to make another), please consider as summer camp(s) and events like the Junior Fun Weekend and so much more are coming up that will benefit our Children & Youth and make a huge difference!

Minnesota has been an amazing contributor to the Child Well-Being Foundation which changes lives. Remember that you can continue to make donations all year!

It has been an honor and privilege to serve this year and to work with such beautiful, compassionate, dedicated & loyal people!

“Children are not only our future, but also our present. They are the inspiration and motivation that fuel our progress, reminding us of the responsibility to build a world where their dreams can become a reality.”!

Let's finish the year strong Legion Family for the kids!

***Anne Steffen
Children & Youth Chairman
2024-2025***



Department of Minnesota

June 2025 Unit Mailing

Education

Wow, where did the time go? It's hard to believe that this is my finale article as your Department Education Chairman. I recall saying to President Judy at the start of the year "What was I thinking, wanting to take this chairmanship on for her!" Judy kept saying, "Don't worry, you will be just fine and will do a good job!" This chairmanship has given me the opportunity to work with our National Education Committee Chairman, Suzanne Knapp along with our NW Division Chairman, Tracy Trujillo both who have been wonderful to work with. The combined knowledge of these two ladies regarding our Education Program was so helpful in so many ways.

I can say one of the hardest parts of this chairmanship was judging all the scholarship applications. The other part was not letting your emotions guide you. Some of their stories pull tightly on your heart strings. These students have all worked very hard, either doing community service projects, supporting our veterans, or extracurricular activities; be it sports, band, gymnastics, dance, and the like plus keeping up with their studies. They are really focused on what they want for their futures. If I could have, they would all have received scholarships!!

Here is a breakdown of the Scholarship applications that our Units submitted:

Children of Warriors -24

Spirit of Youth – 8

Member Loyalty – 10

Non-Traditional – 2

CONGRADULATIONS:

Spirit of Youth Winner: Danica Kerzman - Grey Eagle, MN

Non-Traditional Student: Lucy Lagunas - Pine Island, MN

Thank you all for this opportunity to serve.



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

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State

We are a couple weeks away from our week at Girls State June 15th-21st!
Our staff is very excited to meet the 200 girls that you have sponsored! Thank you to units that helped sponsor girls looking for sponsorship when the unit did not have a girl going from their community. You made that Girl State candidate very happy to be able to attend Girl State.

We want to thank you for your patience and understanding on the new registration process which started this year. Thank you for your calls, emails and texts with your questions, hopefully we helped you. Please do not hesitate to call if you have questions, When your Girl Stater returns home, please ask them to come and talk to your unit about their great week! They will have much to share with you.

Thank you for all you do for our ALA MN Girl State Program, we could not do it without all of you!

ALA MN Committee

Wanda Prescher	Chairman
Peggy Tesdahl	Director
Amelia Tesdahl	Education
Renne Suess	Member
Jen Stolz	Member
Kolleen Kaehlert	Americanism

GIRLS STATE TRANSPORTATION

Bemidji Bus Line will be providing transportation for Girls State Candidates per the following schedule. The cost is **\$75.00 per candidate**. Return for by **JUNE 2, 2025**.

PLACE	ZIP CODE	BUS STOP	DEPART JUNE 15, 2025	RETURN JUNE 21, 2025
Bemidji	56601	Cenex Truck Stop	7:00 am	3:00 pm
Cass Lake	56633	Teal's Super Value	7:20 am	2:40 pm
Walker	56484	BP Gas Station (in Rear)	7:45 am	2:15 pm
Hackensack	56452	Mark's Market	8:00 am	2:00 pm
Backus	56435	Legion Post 368	8:15 am	1:45 pm
Pine River	56474	Legion Post 613	8:30 am	1:30 pm
Pequot Lakes	56472	SA	8:45 am	1:15 pm
Nisswa	56468	Holiday	9:00 am	1:00 pm
Brainerd	56401	Legion Post 255	9:20 am	12:45 pm
Little Falls	56345	Coborn's Parking Lot	9:50 am	12:15pm
St Cloud	56304	Kwik Trip Hwy 10	10:30 am	11:45 am
Becker	55308	McDonald's (at Lights)	11:15 am	11:15 am
Elk River	55330	Legion Post 112	11:45 am	10:45 am
Bethel University	55112		12:30 pm	10:00 am

Stops can be added along Highway 371 or Highway 10, please call or email if you would like an additional stop. Kristi Wacker TEL: 612-202-5974 Email: kbwacker21@gmail.com

RETURN WITH PAYMENT OR DONATION NO LATER THAN **JUNE 2, 2025** **PLEASE PRINT**

Donation Amount: _____ **Transportation Total:** _____
(\$75 per girl)

If Gambling Funds are used, please make check payable to "Bemidji Bus Line".

If non-gambling funds are used, please make check payable to "6th District AL Auxiliary".

Unit#: _____ Town: _____ # Taking Bus: _____

Unit's Girls State Chairperson: _____ TEL: _____

RIDER'S INFORMATION

NAME	
ADDRESS	
CITY, ZIP	
TEL	
PARENT NAME	
PARENT TEL	

NAME	
ADDRESS	
CITY, ZIP	
TEL	
PARENT NAME	
PARENT TEL	

Return Form and Payment to Kristi Wacker, 17297 426th St, Holdingford, MN 56340



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

Thank you all! Your attendance at the Leadership Workshops made them the success that they were. By participating with the stories you shared, the questions you asked and by allowing us to learn from you are what made the workshops so fantastic!

I took all the notes from the presenters and their power points and put together a book. It includes a couple of questions that were answered by National. You can get a copy of the book on the Department website: www.mnala.org Select the home page tab and you'll find it listed as "Leadership Workshop Book". Please share with your members and let me know if you have any questions. Our goal was to help you learn "one little thing" and hopefully we succeeded in doing that. I know I learned at least "one little thing" at each workshop. Thank you!

Thanks to the presenters – they did an awesome job. There's nothing better than working with members of our organization to accomplish our goals.

Carol Kottom

MN Leadership Chairman

Cover page for the workshop agendas.

Leadership Discussion Topics

Month	Topic
September	Integrity
October	Accountability
November	Innovation
December	Vision
January	Organize
February	Confidence
March	Positivity
April	Compassion
May	Humility
June	Collaborative
July	Supportive
August	Optimist

Innovation comes from people who take joy in their work.

W. Edwards Deming

Leadership is providing inspiration and vision, then developing and empowering others to achieve this vision.

Marshall Goldsmith

Confidence comes from being prepared.

John Wooden



Accountability is essential to personal growth, as well as team growth. How can you improve if you're never wrong? If you don't admit a mistake and take responsibility for it, you're bound to make the same one again.

Dr. Wayne Dyer



Once you replace negative thoughts with positive ones, you'll start having positive results.

Willie Nelson



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

It is almost Memorial Day as I write my last unit mailing article as your Legislation Chairman for our Department of Minnesota. Although I was very apprehensive about this program, it has been so enlightening and enjoyable. I thank Judy for this opportunity.

I hope that I have instilled in you the importance of this program. It is one way that we, as members of the American Legion Auxiliary can help the family in their efforts to maintain and gain benefits for our veterans.

I hope that you all realize how important your vote is every November. Together our "only one voice" is combined into a force to be reckoned with.

I hope that you will continue to keep informed about what is happening for our veterans in our Minnesota and Federal legislative branch.

I highly recommend attending the "Veterans on the Hill" event. It will tear at your heart strings to see our veterans and supporters march to the Capitol, up the steps, into the Rotunda and hear their voices being acknowledged.

Members: Keep up the good work!!!!

MN Membership Member-opoly Report

Minnesota has a hefty membership goal of 26,014 members. On the National membership report of 5/14/25, Minnesota reported 23,190 members. This number is 876 members short of where we were a year ago. Membership is still trickling in, but not at a rate we need to meet the goal.

This is also the time of year when our snowbirds are returning home from their warm roosts. It is a great time to reach out to any of them that may not have paid their dues yet. Give them a quick call or send a card and ask if everything is going ok. Do they need a little help paying for their membership this year, or did they simply forget.

Take a peek at 'your' individual units, see where you are today and where you were last year at reporting date; if not using ALAMIS, wait, wait, wait...(everyone should be using ALAMIS) it's a great tool for membership, ok so if not using ALAMIS - cross-reference transmittals to ensure all are processed accordingly. Has everyone that you sent in for processing been processed?

One of the things that I have come across while doing membership this year is that when I reviewed membership rosters and went through the names, especially the PUFL or HLM's, I found many deceased members on the roster. Each unit needs to have due diligence in maintaining their membership lists to ensure if the member is deceased, we report it to the Department Office.

Looking over the year, we had one new charter started this year, but many, many charters disbanded.

If your Unit is looking at disbanding, please reach out to your Department Membership Chairman, your District President or the Department Office. Anyone of these people can give you the information that you will need to make an informed decision about this. We would like to talk with your unit on the options your unit has. We don't like closing charters. There is a procedure that must be followed to close a charter. This is not a decision that an individual can make.

If you are considering disbanding due to 990 non-compliance issues, explore the possibility of getting your tax-exempt back under the national ALA group exemption number. This should be a no cost method to bring your Unit back into compliance, there will be paperwork involved in this process.

It has been exciting working as your Membership Chairman this year and I hope we continue finding ways to increase our membership.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Bulletin #30 as of 5/21/2025
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	17	3,070	91.89%	3,324	-254
Two	70	3,456	6	3,035	87.82%	3,181	-146
Three	46	3,476	8	3,219	92.61%	3,279	-60
Four	7	514	2	415	80.74%	450	-35
Five	7	463	0	309	66.74%	325	-16
Six	60	4,469	8	4,153	92.93%	4,230	-77
Seven	52	2,579	12	2,265	87.82%	2,419	-154
Eight	20	1,117	7	975	87.29%	1,037	-62
Nine	45	2,944	19	2,616	88.86%	2,725	-109
Ten	41	3,391	21	2,945	86.85%	3,075	-130
1982	1	295	0	254	86.10%	271	-17
Department Total	396	26,045	100	23,256	89.29%	24,316	-1,060
Group 1 (Even) <i>Linda Kelly</i>	198	12,947	56	11,523	89.00%	11,973	-450
Group 2 (Odd) <i>Robin Dorf</i>	197	12,803	44	11,479	89.66%	12,072	-593



RANKINGS

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
92.93%	92.61%	91.89%	88.86%	87.82%	87.82%	87.29%	86.85%	80.74%	66.74%



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

Thank you to all Units who worked the National Security Program. The reports are very interesting to read about what has been done for the National Security Program.

As we review the purpose and key program statement of the National Security Program, we are reminded of what we as American Legion Auxiliary members are encouraged to do to accomplish the goal of working the program.

Remember that we are promoting a strong national defense by supporting our military servicemembers and their families. Work with command and family readiness groups to support all military families. We want their quality of life to improve while their servicemember is serving our country to protect our freedoms.

Purpose: The purpose of the National Security Committee is to promote a strong national defense. *Standing Rule #7, Core National Standing Committees*

Key Program Statements:

- Raise awareness of POW/MIAs and the work being performed by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in the search for missing personnel.
- The ALA National Security program maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military servicemembers and their families.
- Support all military families by working with their command group and family readiness groups.
- Support and enhance Legion Family and partner initiatives that strive to improve the Quality of Life (QoL) of our servicemembers and their families.

Thank you all for all that you have done for our servicemembers and their families. Please continue to do so all year round.



Department of Minnesota Department Secretary's Notes

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Please remember to bring your entries for the **Poppy Contest**. All entries must be at the convention by 9 a.m. on Thursday, July 10th. Tables will be set up in the display area for the entries. Winners will be announced during the Poppy report on Friday.

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.

2026 Membership Packets can be picked up at the Department Convention. They will be in the Auxiliary Office.

Thank You for all the donations to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund! As of earlier the month the Department of Minnesota donated \$16,286.54!! This helps so many members around the nation!

Brandi Christensen

AEF Chairman

June 7: 2nd District Convention, Pipestone Post 6
June 7: 8th District Convention, Taconite Post 301
June 7: 6th District Convention, Brainerd Post 255
June 7: 9th District Convention, E. Grand Forks Post 157
June 15-21: Minnesota Girls State, Bethel University
June 27-28: SAL Detachment of Minnesota
Convention, Morris Post 29
July 9: Minnesota American Legion & Auxiliary
Department Executive Committee Meeting, Willmar
July 19-26: Girls Nation, Bolger Center, Potomac, Md.
Aug. 8-10: Auxiliary Junior Fun Weekend, Legionville
Aug. 18-22: National Legacy Run, ending at national
Aug. 22-28: 106th National Convention, Tampa, Fla.
convention in Tampa
Sept. 11-14: Minnesota ALR Romp, Legionville

June 7: 5th District Convention, Holiday Inn/Green Mill
(I-35W & 94th), Bloomington
June 7: 10th District Convention, Buffalo Post 270
June 8-14: Minnesota Boys State, St. John's Univ.
June 25: American Legion Day at Target Field,
Minnesota Twins vs. Seattle Mariners, Minneapolis
July 4: Independence Day, local ceremonies
July 10-12: 106th Department Convention, Willmar
July 18-25: Boys Nation, Marymount Univ., Va.
July 24-27: Fund 85 Ride, location in N. Minn. TBD
Aug. 16: Minnesota Legacy Run, location TBD
Sept. 1: Registration opens for Junior Shooting Sports
Sept. 4-7: Camporee, Legionville



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

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.

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.

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.