



## *American Legion Auxiliary*

Department of Minnesota  
State Veterans Service Building  
20 W 12<sup>th</sup> St. #314 St Paul MN 55155  
Telephone 651-224-7634 Fax 651-224-5243  
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### **HISTORY**

September/October 2018

Welcome to the 2018/2019 Auxiliary year. Under our history program we have several new happenings. First, we will have an award for the best District Chairman report. Participation information will be provided in the Unit Guide. Second, is a form that Unit Historians should fill out for mid -year reporting. This information is required by National. The form is included in this mailing.

We are going back to the basics. Here is what happens to your information that you send in, when you fill out your history reports.

**Unit Historians** are the key to the success of our American Legion Auxiliary. They are the individuals who have kept record of events through- out our, almost 100-year existence.

**District Historians** (they gather and tabulate all the unit information from thier Units in their district.) They also document special happenings in their district. District Chairman then send their history reports to the Department Historian.

**Department Historian** make the final report from their state. In Minnesota they read the ten district reports and tally information they then create a document for that reporting year. The Department Historian sends a copy to the National Historian. They also can compete for the Toomey Trophy. They must follow special requirements for this award.

**National Historian** writes the last report, this information that is gathered is the combined information from our American Legion Auxiliary it is often reported to congress.

Therefore, it is important that all Units report their histories. You might think that your unit information is not important but when is combined with others we make a difference.

**What to promote;** as a Unit and District Historian,

Create a game plan (decide what your Unit and District will be doing under the history program for this year). These are a few recommended ideas.

- **Minnesota History Project-** Help save our historical photos by donating to the MN History project.
- **Members Remember-** Talk to a senior member find out her Why. Make sure you video your time. see national direction
- **Veterans History Project - see National direction or MN Web - site under the historian program**
- **Women's History Month - see national direction**
- **Involve your Junior Members - see national direction.**

## HOW TO RECORD AND POST TO “MEMBERS REMEMBER” History Project

**Contact Information for Questions:** [historian@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:historian@ALAforVeterans.org) or National Historian or Department of Minnesota [historian.karotter@tds.net](mailto:historian.karotter@tds.net)

**Objective:** Record the ALA’s history through the eyes of its members

### **Background Information**

The history of the American Legion Auxiliary begins back In November 1919 and continues with you. The organization’s history, like any other history, is more than names and dates. It is about its membership and how it developed the ALA’s programs and projects to fulfill our mission of serving the veterans, service members, and their families who sacrifice much for this country of ours.

A written history can only tell so much. However, when an organization’s history is told through the eyes of its membership, everyone learns a great deal more about who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

### **Step-by-Step Instructions**

Here are some tips:

- This is a two-person project so find someone to assist. This is a good time to enlist the help of your junior members and/or college students due to their experience with technology.
- Find long time members of the Auxiliary and ask them to share their stories in a video. These stories can be about: a special project, a highlight during her membership, how many generations of her family have been members and why, if a chartered member, her experience in starting the unit
- Find a location where it is quiet and where there will be no interruptions
- Record with iPhones/Smartphones.
- Video should be no longer that 5 minutes
- Post video to You Tube

## **VETERANS’ HISTORY PROJECT**

Work with junior activities chairman to participate in the Veterans’ History Project (<http://www.loc.gov/vets/kit.html>)

- Work with junior to promote the Veterans’ History project through social media, emails and during meetings.
- Stress the importance of collecting the history and the ease of participating in the project through all communications.
- Highlight details of the project on the ALA Historian’s Facebook group
- (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAHist>)

## How to Celebrate Women's History Month (March)

**Contact information:** Department of Minnesota Historian Karla Otterness [karotter@tds.net](mailto:karotter@tds.net)

**Objective:** Celebrate the special women of our organization

Background Information:

The month of March is dedicated to the celebration of women's history. It corresponds with International Women's Day on March 8th. What could be better for a women's organization to do than celebrate their own history? Our Auxiliary members have accomplished a great deal all around the world. Now it's time to celebrate what makes them so special!

### Step-by-Step Instructions:

What can we do?

- Learn more about Auxiliary members who made history within your department or unit. This could include girls sponsored to ALA Girls State who have gone on to do great things or those members who have improved their communities, state or country.
- Celebrate the women in your life – mom, grandma, even your sister.
- Donate money to the ALA Cavalcade of Memories budget at the unit, department, or national level in honor of a special woman.
- Set up a display in honor of those members who have gone above and beyond the ALA's mission.
- Write an article for your unit/department newsletter about Women's History Month or about the woman you are honoring.
- Check out how women's fashion has changed over time in the Auxiliary, as well as women's hair fashion. There has been a great deal of change from 1919 to today!
- Research and write about how the former and present members make a difference in the community and share with others.
- Put up a display at your local library, historical society, or storefront, celebrating the work that the women of the ALA have done and still do every day.

### Remember –

these activities can be shared with the junior members. Honoring our members provides them with a role model. Sharing our history with our junior members allows them to know that they, too, are valuable members of this great organization. Hopefully, they will begin to own this history and remain members throughout their lifetimes.

## How to involve a Junior Member

### **History**

Contact Information for Questions: Department of Minnesota Historian  
[karotter@tds.net](mailto:karotter@tds.net),

### **Objective:**

Help a junior member (9th – 12th grades) earn the new History Patch

### **Background Information**

In a joint effort with the National Junior Activities Committee, we have developed a History Patch for our high school (9th – 12th grades) junior members. These young ladies have an opportunity to work with, learn from, and take ownership of the American Legion Auxiliary history. It is important for them to understand that they are a part of the Auxiliary's history. By earning this patch, they may become interested not only in the history itself, but in preserving it as well, and become a unit's or department's history/Cavalcade chairman.

### **Step-by-Step Instructions**

What can we do?

- Contact the department junior Activities chairman and ask her to help promote this new patch. Make joint announcements at your fall/winter/spring meetings, division/district meetings, etc.
- Write an article about the patch for the department newsletter.
- Make a poster to promote the patch for meetings. Include the patch and activities list (see below).
- Encourage the unit History/Cavalcade chairmen to promote this patch and work with their unit junior Activities committee chairman.
- Find a high school aged junior member and be a mentor to her as she works the activities to earn the patch.



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2018/2019 Department of Minnesota Mid - year report for Unit Historians.  
Please complete and return to your District Historian no later than **December 1, 2018**

Unit Historian \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please list and explain at least 2 significant events, happenings or newsworthy activities that your unit has participated in since august 2018.

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) Has your Unit participated in the Veterans Remember History Project?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) Is your Unit recording or documenting information on Members Remember Getting ready for the 100<sup>th</sup> year?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Did your Unit help with the Department of Minnesota History Project?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6) How is your Unit preserving your History?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_