

# Department of Minnesota Leadership Workshops 2024-2025

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The success of the workshops was dependent on many things. One very important item was participation by the attendees. All 91 of them from 35 different units were wonderful! There were 3 workshops held. Thanks to National for answering a couple questions we came up with.

#### Department of Minnesota 2024-2025 Leadership Workshop Opening



#### Wecome!

We are thrilled to have you here to participate in the Department of Minnesota Leadership Workshop.

We'll start in a minute!



Bagley, Cold Spring and New Ulm

What wonderful places to be today. Thank you to the Post for allowing us to use your facility.

Before calling the workshop to order, I wanted to review what you received when you signed in.

Inside your folder in the left pocket is a couple of sheets of paper you can use for notes. The booklets have a very brief "subject" review on each of the topics we will present today. Feel free to snap pictures of the overhead screen displaying our power points. We'll have Q & As often, so make a note of any questions you think of and be ready to ask. Along with the paper is a bundle for those of you who like to doodle. You will find a copy of the Poppy Coloring Book. Also, on the tables are envelopes of colored pencils with sharpeners. Feel free to color during our presentations. As this is the last workshop, you may take the pencils home with you. There is also a crossword puzzle, answer sheet is in the little blue box on the back table – pick one up before you leave. Last is a word search. Have fun!!

The right-hand pocket has some information the presenters will direct you to during their presentation. Also a flag etiquette sheet.

Oh, and – check the number on the inside left cover of your folder. We'll be announcing door prize winners throughout the workshop by calling a number. That is your number! Door prizes are on the back table. When you hear that number, go pick something out.

Now – let's start the Workshop!!



American Legion Family – with the colors of our nation in place

Hand Salute

Two

#### prayer



The Pledge of Allegiance



# Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order;

to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

to make right the master of might;

to promote peace and good will on earth;

to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion;

to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

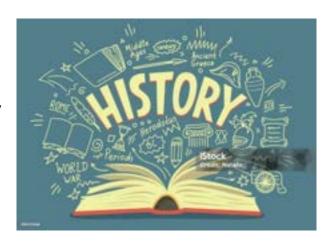


#### **Americanism**

The purpose of the Americanism program is to promote patriotism and responsible citizenship. We will be learning about how to accomplish that with information from the American Legion Auxiliary and other resources. Information about the Americanism Essay contest will be shared. Other programs related to Americanism will be reviewed.

#### **History**

This session will be a discussion of how we can preserve our American Legion Auxiliary history. It is vital that each Unit collect and preserve their history through photographs, documents, and possibly personal mementos and other artifacts.





Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitations – VAVS (Veteran affairs Voluntary Service)

How your donations help out our Minnesota Veterans Homes and courtesies when visiting our Veterans at our homes.

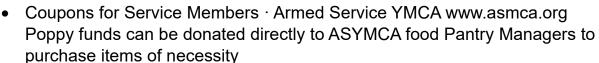
Different types of VA Homes.

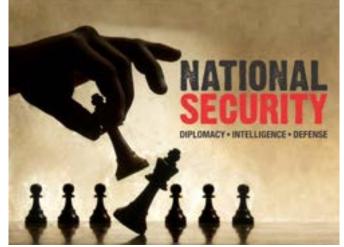
#### **Hospitals**

- What is the difference between a VA Home and a VA Hospital.
   2 types of volunteers: what makes one person a regular volunteer and the next one an occasional volunteer.
- What is Creative Arts and who can participate. How did the American Legion Auxiliary become involved.
- Christmas Gift Shop who receives gifts from the American Legion Auxiliary. What is the value of those gifts.
- What is the "Clothing Room" and "Quilt Area" at St Cloud VA.

#### **National Security**

- Salute to Service Members Award – How to apply
- Ready.gov is a governmentsponsored website with a wealth of information on what to do to prepare you and your family in the event of an emergency.
- Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) How can you help.





#### Children & Youth

- Youth and Good Deed Awards
- I'm a Hero Too!
- Traditional Military Child's Table
- Coloring Books for kids Poppy
- What can we do for military children?
- Girl Scouts
- Purple Up for Military Kids



#### **Public Relations**

This session will focus on how we can establish and maintain a positive public image for the American Legion Auxiliary. We will touch on social media, local media outlets, the importance of branding and much more.



#### **Poppy**



The purpose of the Poppy Committee is to educate American Legion Auxiliary members and the public on the significance of the poppy and the program's financial benefit for veterans, military, and their families. We will review what Poppy funds can be used for. A discussion will be held on the importance of finding veterans to make poppies. Poppies are used the whole year,

and we want veterans to make them.

I am a member of Unit 8 Unit Name	
	and
Here is	what I did in the past 12 months since May 1,
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Det.	Number of "Velorans or Community Schools" presentations I facilitated
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Line 12	Number of children youth served
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	Service Representing the ALA in My Community (Community Street) and other, auditorium, trial partiest
	Titled number of house for any sensor and excluded as Sections 1 Broagh 2

# Impact Reports (at two workshops

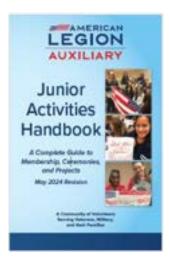
We will review the Impact report and how important it is for each Unit to complete it and send it to their District President by the date given to us from Department. We do so many wonderful things throughout the year and we need to report them all, for this helps our Veterans!

#### Finance - Non-Profit Filing

#### **Unit Responsibilities**

- 990's We will be sharing when and how to file.
   What happens if you do not file If you become non-compliant and lose your nonprofit status how to be reinstated.
- MN Secretary of State nonprofit filing Is this necessary and how to accomplish this for your unit.
- Finance
- Risk and compliance What is this all about? Who should be using this committee.
- Accounting Best Practice suggestions for treasurers.

#### **Junior Activities**



One of our Juniors (current or past) will talk to us about being a Junior and the transition to becoming a Senior. What are we doing right and wrong to help them through that transition.

### **ALAMIS** (at one workshop)

This session will explain the process of using American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System (ALAMIS). ALAMIS is an electronic version to pay your Unit's membership dues online. This system is also a way to update information instead of using the Member Data form.





#### **ALAFORVETERANS** (at one workshop)

This session will explain the process of using the American Legion Auxiliary national website. This system has so much information for our use as American Legion Auxiliary members. The information shared will cover how to access the website and how to maneuver through the pages.

Following the final workshop, I was approached with a question. Do we report hours spent in a church? My reply was "no". Since then, I decided to contact National and ask them. This is their reply: "The basic rule of thumb is if it doesn't fit anywhere in the Impact Report Form for numbers, it isn't reported."

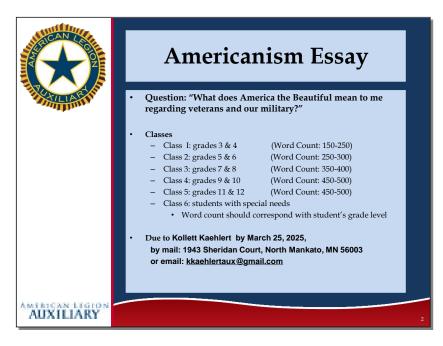
This form can be downloaded from their site. Hope this helps.



According to Standing Rules #6, Core National Standing Committees

The purpose of the Americanism program is to promote patriotism and responsible citizenship. To do this we can follow the Key Program Statements of:

- Be knowledgeable on flag history, etiquette, and proper disposal methods, and promote the observation of patriotic holidays so your community will look to the ALA for information.
- Increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest.
- Participate in the promotion of The American Legion Americanism programs.



Americanism theme is "What does America the Beautiful mean to me regarding veterans and our military?"

Requirements-word count, classes..... If you are going to email the essay and cover sheet to the Department Chairman, please scan and then send. Taking a picture of it is hard to read and print.



# **Americanism Essay**

- Requirements:
  - Word restrictions for each class adhered to
  - Typed or neatly handwritten
  - Completed essay cover sheet
    - · Including signature of unit officer
- Awards will be given for first, second and third place in each class

Awards: Please do not forget to sign the form. Be sure the cover sheet is filled out correctly and complete.

Judging Rubric

AUXILIARY

National Awards, 2024-2025 Department Chairman goals



# **Americanism Essay**

- First place essays will be forwarded on to National by April 15th.
- Winners will be announced on The American Legion Auxiliary national website (ALAforVeterans.org)
- Department Goal:
  - Encouraging more entries for the upper classes
  - Please only send the winners in each class from your unit, do not send all the essays you receive for each class

AUXILIARY



# Flag Respect`

- Host a flag collection event
  - At post/unit home
  - Memorial Day
  - Independence Day
  - Veterans Day
  - Community celebrations
    - ie: New London Water Days
- Host a flag retirement ceremony for the community
  - Invite members of your community, schools, scouting troops/packs
  - Combine with Memorial Day or Veterans Day events
- Have a flag code refresher course:
  - This could be a joint event with the whole American Legion Family, including your juniors and young SAL members

AUXILIARY

Ideas of what activities can be done

#### Postcards- The post card says:

I am your country's flag. I was proud to serve you,

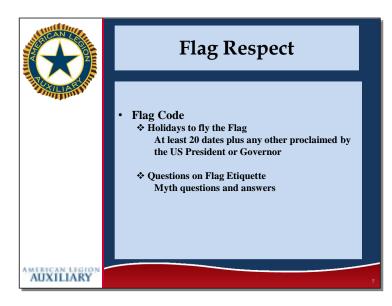
But now I am worn and tired.

Please repair me, and/or replace me with a strong new flag of which you can be proud.

Please take me to your local American Legion Post, so that they may dispose of me with honor and dignity.

Thank you for being a patriotic American.





Flag Code. The single sheet flag code can be ordered through Emblem Sales-\$30.00 for 100, \$250 for 1,000 (2024-2025 prices).

# <u>Holidays to fly the Flag</u> – Special Occasions for Flag Display

The flag should be displayed on all days, especially on New Year's Day, January 1; Inauguration Day, January 20; Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, the third Monday in January; Lincoln's Birthday, February 12; Washington's Birthday, third Monday in February; National Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29,

Easter Sunday (variable); Mother's Day, second Sunday in May; Armed Forces Day, third Saturday in May; Memorial Day (half-staff until noon), the last Monday in May; Flag Day, June 14; Father's Day, third Sunday in June; Independence Day, July 4; National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, July 27; Labor Day, first Monday in September; Constitution Day, September 17; Columbus Day, second Monday in October; Navy Day, October 27; Veterans Day, November 11; Thanksgiving Day, fourth Thursday in November; Christmas Day, December 25; and such other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States; the birthdays of States (date of admission); and on State holidays.

### **Myths**

#### Anyone can order the flag to be displayed at half-staff.

The flag is flown at half-staff from sunrise until noon on Memorial Day and by order of the president or a state governor. On occasion, heads of several departments and agencies of the U.S. government may direct the flag to be half-staff if deemed proper to do so.

#### There are penalties for the physical desecration of the flag.

There are currently no penalties for the physical desecration of the flag. The Flag Code is simply a guideline for proper flag etiquette. The law does not provide penalties for violation of any of its

provisions. The American Legion and other members of the Citizens Flag Alliance continue to work toward securing a constitutional amendment to protect the flag form physical desecration.

#### You must destroy the flag if it touches the ground.

The Flag Code states that the flag should not touch anything beneath it, including the ground. This is stated to indicate that care should be exercised in the handling of the flag, to protect it from becoming soiled or damaged. You are not required to destroy the flag when this happens. As long as the flag remains suitable for display, even if washing or dry-cleaning is required, you may continue to display the flag as a symbol of our great country.

#### A flag used to cover a casket cannot be used for any other proper display.

There are no provisions in the Flag Code to suggest this. It would be a fitting tribute to the memory of the deceased veteran and his or her service to a grateful nation if the casket flag is displayed.

#### You cannot wash or dry-clean a flag.

The decision to wash or dry-clean a flag depends on the type of material. There are no provisions in the Flag Code to prohibit this.

#### You can't fly the flag at night.

The Flag Code states that it is custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and stationary flag staffs in the open. However, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated (so that it is recognizable by the casual observer).

#### You shouldn't wear an item of clothing that looks like the flag.

Unless an article of clothing is made from an actual United States flag, there is NO breach of flag etiquette. There is nothing wrong with wearing or using items that look like the American flag.

Publications can be ordered from Emblem Sales

Comic books - \$1.00 each or \$79.00 for 100

Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette \$1.00 each or \$90.00 for 100

Other items available also: Bookmarks, rulers with Presidents on one side, patriotic stickers (Prices 2024-2025)



### Pledge of Allegiance (Bellamy versions) (changes are <u>bolded and underlined</u>)

#### 1892 (first version)[1]on

"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

#### 1892 to 1923 (early revision by Bellamy)[2]

"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

#### 1923 to 1924<sup>[3]</sup>

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

#### 1924 to 1954<sup>[3]</sup>

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States <u>of America</u> and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

### 1954 (current version, per 4 <u>U.S.C.</u> §4)[4]

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation <u>under God</u>, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."



The current <u>United States Flag Code</u> says:

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all," should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform men should remove any non-religious headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.[16] Members of the Armed Forces not in uniform and veterans may render the military salute in the manner provided for persons in uniform.[4]

(This section is from Wikipedia.)

(I wanted to stress the fact that there is not a pause after "one nation". It reads as a continuous thought "one nation under God".)

#### What is the Meaning Behind the 13 Folds of the U.S. Flag?

# The flag-folding ceremony represents the same religious principles on which the United States was originally founded.

- 1. The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.
- 2. The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.
- 3. The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks, and who gave a portion of his or her life for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.
- 4. The fourth fold represents our weaker nature; as American citizens trusting in God, it is Him we turn to in times of peace, as well as in times of war, for His divine guidance.
- 5. The fifth fold is a tribute to our country. In the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."
- 6. The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
- 7. The seventh fold is a tribute to our armed forces, for it is through the armed forces that we protect our country and our flag against all enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.
- 8. The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor our mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.
- 9. The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood. It has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that has molded the character of the men and women who have made this country great.
- 10. The 10th fold is a tribute to father, who has also given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since he or she was first born.
- 11. The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- 12. <u>The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies God the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost.</u>
- 13. <u>The 13th and last fold, when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."</u>



#### **AMERICA'S WHITE TABLE**

The table honors the men and women who served in America's Armed Forces.

The table is round — to show our everlasting devotion and concern for our fallen and missing comrades.

The cloth is white — symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to duty. The single red rose, displayed in a vase, reminds us of the life, and the blood that was shed, and their loved ones and friends who keep the faith and await answers.

The vase is tied with a red ribbon, a symbol of our commitment, and continued determination to account for our missing.

A slice of lemon on the plate is to remind us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land.

The salt is to remind us of the tears endured by those missing and their families who still seek answers.

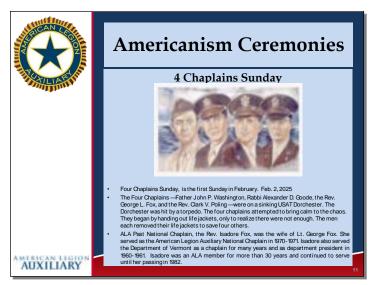
The black napkin is a reminder of the isolation, deprivation, and cruel fate of our missing.

The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God.

The glass is inverted — to symbolize their inability to share this evening with us.

The chair is empty and tilted — they are not here — and will remain so until they return or are accounted for.

"You are not forgotten so long as there is one left in whom your memory remains."



Imagine — a sinking ship and not enough life jackets. Would you give up your life jacket to save another?

On a cold night in the North Atlantic on Feb. 3, 1943, not only did one man give up his life jacket, but three others joined him. This story may sound familiar to you: The Four Chaplains — Father John P. Washington, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, the Rev. George L. Fox, and the Rev. Clark V. Poling — were on a sinking USAT Dorchester.

The Army transport was part of a convoy of three ships en route to an American base in

Greenland. Before the ships could reach their destination, an officer on a German submarine

noticed the convoy. Orders were given to fire, and the Dorchester was hit by a torpedo.

After the hit, the four chaplains attempted to bring calm to the chaos. They began by handing out life jackets, only to realize there were not enough. The men each removed their jackets to save four others.

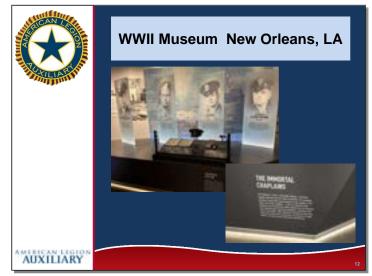
As the ship was sinking, the four chaplains were seen standing on ship's stern, arms locked as they prayed and sang hymns. Not only was it a sign of bravery, but the chaplains put aside their different faiths and prayed as one.

On that night, only 230 of the 902 on board survived. The ship was carrying servicemen,

merchant seamen, and civilian workers.

The four chaplains were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart posthumously. They could not be awarded the Medal of Honor because they didn't meet the requirements. As a result, a posthumous special medal of heroism was awarded in 1961 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The Four Chaplains' Medal was given and will never be given again.

The Four Chaplains — Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, the Rev. George L. Fox, the Rev. Clark V. Poling, and Father John P.



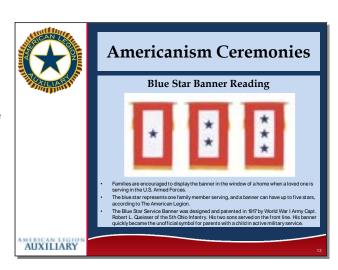
Washington— were on the sinking USAT Dorchester. The Dorchester was hit by a torpedo. The four chaplains attempted to bring calm to the chaos. They began by handing out life jackets, only to realize there were not enough. The men each removed their life jackets to save four others. They went down with the ship.

ALA Past National Chaplain, the Rev. Isadore Fox, was the wife of Lt. George Fox. She served as the American Legion Auxiliary National Chaplain in 1970-1971. Isadore also served the Department of Vermont as a chaplain for many years and as department president in 1960-1961. Isadore was an ALA member for more than 30 years and continued to serve until her passing in 1982.

The Blue Star Service Banner was designed and patented in 1917 by World War I Army Capt. Robert L. Queisser of the 5th Ohio Infantry. His two sons served on the front line. His banner quickly became the unofficial symbol for parents with a child in active military service.

If the loved one is killed, then the star would be changed to a Gold Star.

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The Blue Star Banner Program was created to HONOR and remember our local men and women who are currently serving in the military by installing street banners throughout Washington.

Blue Star Banners remain installed as long as the service member is on Active duty. Once they leave the service, the banner will be taken down and delivered to them.

The Gold Star Banners recognizes those who have given the ultimate sacrifice, died while serving on Active Duty. These banners will remain installed indefinitely.

Please participate with us in honoring and remembering all of our local military who are helping to preserve and protect our freedom.



In the Americanism program, the Auxiliary is tasked to participate in the promotion of The American Legion Americanism program. This list of what is included in their program in accordance with the National American Legion website.

#### **American Legion Baseball**

Each year, nearly 90,000 athletes participate in American Legion Baseball, the nation's oldest and most-respected amateur baseball program. Legion posts sponsor teams in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, giving young men wholesome, healthy activity

and lessons in sportsmanship, loyalty, respect for rules and fair play.

## **American Legion Softball**

This is a relatively new program for The American Legion. Now young ladies are given wholesome, healthy activity and lessons in sportsmanship, loyalty, respect for rules and fair play through softball.

#### **National Oratorical Contest**

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

## **Junior Shooting Sports**

The American Legion's Junior Shooting Sports Program provides gun safety and marksmanship training for young people. It is recognized as one of the premier programs in the country. A new club was just opened in Brandon sponsored by the Brandon American Legion.

## The Samsung American Legion Scholarship

After researching dozens of veteran's organizations, Samsung Group, a worldwide leader in electronics, chose The American Legion in 1995 to administer an endowed scholarship fund of \$5 million. The endowment was established to show appreciation to U.S. veterans who came

to the aid of South Korea during its struggle against Communist forces in the Korean War. The scholarship is for undergraduate study only and may be used for tuition, books, fees, and room and board.

Seven to 10 students are chosen each year for the \$20,000 scholarships, which are awarded to direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans.

Jessica Jensen-a 2024 American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State citizen was awarded a \$10,000 Samsung Scholarship. Congratulations to Jessica.



What I am wearing today is a little history. I am wearing my paternal grandmother's dress. The dress is over 80 years old.

History, some of us "love it". We enjoy researching past news, special occasions, and the like.



Why is history important?

(Audience participation)

Preserve, remember, honor, ...

"History is happening all around us, each day."

**READ** part of article from August 1928 edition of the American Legion Auxiliary Bulletin written by Lillian Erwin Fleming, national historian 1926-1930.

(After reading – ask for feedback)

# The Historian's Responsibility

By MRS. FRANK E. FLEMING, National Historian

T IS THE year 2028. A young woman dressed—who can predict how she will be dressed—lands her airplane on the roof of the public library in an American city and goes into the building in search of a book to read. Scanning the shelves her eyes are arrested by a book bearing the title: "A History of The Blankville Unit of The American Legion Auxiliary."

"The American Legion Auxiliary?" she will think. "Oh, yes, I remember an old lady who used to wear a blue and gold pin with that name on it. I was just a little girl then and she has been dead for years."

Interested, she will pick up the book and begin reading. What she will read will depend upon the work which Unit Historians are doing in this year of 1928 and will continue to do throughout the life of the organization. Whether she will encounter pages of uninteresting statistic and verbatim reports which will cause her to put the book down, or whether she will find a vivid story of endeavor, sacrifice and devotion to ideals, which will give her a new understanding of the women of the World War generation and inspire her to higher ideals of womanhood, will depend on the Unit Historians of today.

The responsibility of the Historians of the Auxiliary is not only to the women of the organization today but to the women of the future and to the America of the future. It is through their work that the Auxiliary will live long after its last member has gone to her grave and that its ideals will be transmitted to generations of Americans yet unborn. They have a task worthy of their best efforts and which will give scope to their fullest talents.

The Historian should be more than a recorder of facts, a lister of names and a compiler of figures. She should catch the spirit of the organization, the thing which motivates and is exemplified in its decis. Her work is to point a living picture of the organization in words just like an artist would paint it in colors on a canvax. She must make the Auxiliary live on the sheets of her history so that it will live, breathe and be inspiring for the readers of the future.

To do this the Historian must be able to make a judicious selection of the facts regarding the activities of her organization. She must be able to determine what facts are significant and what are merely routine occurrences. Some apparently unimportant facts may show the true spirit and purpose of the organization better than some much larger activities. A clear insight is needed to portray the life of the Auxiliary in correct proportions.

The Historian must be truthful, impartial, fearless. The struggles and defeats of the organization should be recorded as faithfully as its triumphs, the rainy days given along with the sunshine. Only by doing this will the strength of the Auxiliary to overcome difficulties be shown and will the history be made a well-rounded, human decument, containing lessons for the guidance of the organization in the future and for the readers after the organization is gone.

The Auxiliary is made up of individuals and a good history should show these individuals at work for the organization. Their characters should be portrayed and their influence on the life of the organization, just as national histories deal with the leaders of nations. A just account of their work should be given, free from flattery or biased criticism.

To be of value a history must be read and to be read it must be interesting. There is no reason why an Auxiliary history should be dull reading. The activities of the organization are not dull, in fact they sometimes approach the dramatic in the work for the disabled and the children, in winning improvements for the communities and in bringing relief in times of disaster. Serving in a great, patriotic cause as the Auxiliary is doing does not leave an uninteresting record and the Historian who catches the true spirit of the organization will not produce an uninteresting work.

Unit histories may be made as voluminous as the Historian desires to make them but these should be kept for local use as it would be impossible to incorporate a large unit history in a department or National history. A brief concise historical record of the Unit, covering not more than a few typewritten pages should be prepared and sent to the Department Historian for her use in compiling the Department history. She will also use this record for preparing material for the National History.

Department Historians are requested to send their histories as soon as possible after national convention to the National Historian, to be included in this year's history.

Your National Historian realizes and fully appreciates the task before Department and Unit Historians. The work is new to many of you; in many instances the records have not been fully kept and much needed information is difficult to obtain. But it is hoped that every Historian will give her best efforts to this important phase of Auxiliary work and that every Department and Unit will have a creditable history this year.

#### Auxiliary Aids Tornado Victims

By Mrs. Wilma Barker Lewis, Eighth District Committeewoman, Department of Iowa

The evening of June 18 s tornado struck the southern part of Adams County just six miles north of Lenox. Iows. It completely demolished three farms, houses, barns, all outbuildings and stock, and partially tore up five others. Then it finally raised, leaving bare fields, rained homes and hundreds of dead animals and chickens lying in its path. I've really never seen anything so horrible, although every person in the storm district escaped, either by going to the cave or getting into their cars and driving out of the path.

At six-thirty the next morning the American Legion Post of Lenox was on the job, helping clean up and burn the dead stock. At nine o'clock they were deputized by the Sheriff of Adams County to help patrol the roads and take charge of the crowd of sight-seers who came. And at ten o'clock the Unit here was on the job with a field kitchen. We served sandwiches, hot coffee and cinnamon rolls to all the men helping to clean the debris, the Legionnaires and the telephone men on the job. You should have seen me driving a truck and hauling water a mile in the hot sun for those fellows to drink. And we worked in mud ankle deep.

The Unit at Corning put up a field kitchen Wednesday and the Creston Post and Unit took charge Thursday. Then Lenex went back on the job Friday and that finished the worst of it. The Post here has collected several hundred dollars for the men who have nothing left.

And truly, I believe, we have learned more Americanism and the true meaning of our work in that one week than we ever learned before. One woman here came to me next day and paid her dues so that she could belong to our Unit, saying: "When I went out to the Storm District and saw you girls out there and what you were doing, I wanted to belong to an organization that stands for such worth while activities. And that paid me double for the sun burn and back aches."



#### (Audience participation)

Written on paper, typed on your computer – electronic (flash drive), video, audio, photo books, photos on post home wall, personal articles – like pins (I have a bulletin board for saving my pins), shadow box with mementoes displayed in your Unit meeting room. Time capsule.



Duties of the Unit Historian

Record activities/accomplishments of
Unit. Get input from your members...

The unit historian is charged with the responsibility of recording the activities and accomplishments of the unit. Unit historians are encouraged to keep a factual continuing story of the accomplishments of each program in the unit. (In order to write an accurate history, you are going to need input from your members, Units, Districts,

Department Chair and your officers.) Refer to the history blog for

<u>www.legion-aux.org/Blog</u> American Legion Auxiliary National history blog. (This site refers you to the "past perfect online site".

# Welcome to the American Legion Auxiliary Digital Archive!



https://alaforveterans.pastperfectonline.com/

American Legion Auxiliary Digital Archive Collection of photos, magazine articles, miscellaneous items.

Questions, comments?

Thank you!



The American Legion Auxiliary plays a big part in the lives of our Veterans in our homes.

It is such a thrill to walk into the facility with them saying the American Legion Auxiliary is here.



1887 The history of Minnesota's Veterans Homes began shortly after the Civil War. Because of the devastation brought on by that conflict, there was a growing conviction that provisions should be made for the care of the nation's Veterans.

By 1888 construction at the

site of the current Minneapolis Veterans Home had begun; In fact, it was not until World War I that medical care was provided in Soldiers' Homes, and even then it was of secondary consideration.

In 1978, the old state hospital in Hastings was converted into a domiciliary residence for Veterans. The Hastings State Hospital was opened in 1900 and closed on May 1, 1978. Three days later the Hastings Veterans Home opened on May 4, 1978.

In the 1990's 3 more facilities were added

2024 another 3 facilities were added

The ALA Representatives for these homes are as shown.

Fergus Falls Veterans Home - Doris LaFayette
Hastings Veterans Home - Darlene Wondra
Luverne Veterans Home - Jeannette Mertens
Minneapolis Veterans Home - Sandra J Gibson
Silver Bay Veterans Home - Nancy Hopper
Montevideo Veterans Home -Jennifer Hurst
Preston Veterans Home -Wanda Prescher
Bemidji Veterans Home - Denise Milton



Basically, all the homes are the same SKILLED Nursing Facilities, there till death. Some spouses there too,

**Except HASTINGS** 

Hastings is a

Domiciliary facility – Mpls has a few domiciliary beds, too.

\*The Veterans there are up and about \*Although many have been there for years, they are encouraged to develop skills to get out on their own. Most have jobs – in the home or out

Some work in the wood shop they make and sell flag cases, the display cases for the 100 yr. celebration now at the Department office, they frame pictures, drums for a group, wood engraving, so much more, they work in the cafeteria, they man the front reception desk, and some janitorial jobs.

There is a craft room where they work on ceramics, model airplanes, jewelry, paint by number and several other crafts.

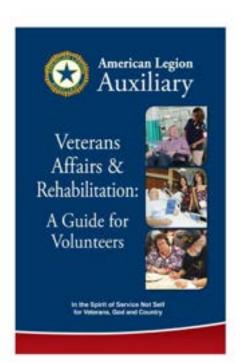
In the summer a few go the Fort Snelling to do ground work.

Some work outside the home, they may work at the Good Will, a restaurant, Fleet Farm or other places.

They do their own laundry, keep their rooms clean, a couple have their own car. When their care changes they are transferred to another facility

Like the other Homes through their therapy program they are offered crafting classes, game

parties, outing events – fishing, shopping, nursery for plants for their gardens, they go bird watching, bingo, cribbage and so many other events.



This brochure is available on the website MNALA.org

It's 32 pages of all the VA&R volunteer opportunities.

This is how we work the program with your donations.

#### **ALA HOSPITAL PROGRAM**

- Each Home Rep has a yearly budget set by our Finance committee.
   Uses are different for each home
- Birthday card & gift, Lunch
- Various parties
- Personal care items

### **DONATIONS**

ALA Hospital Program

Budget

Birthday cards & gift, lunch, parties, Personal care items, clothing

· Gift Shop

Each Veteran receives a gift from the ALA Their spouse & dependent children, too

\$5 bill shower

\$5 / Veteran at Valentine Day V4V Grant + \$5 = \$10

ALWAYS send the \$\$\$ to the Department office

PLEASE use one of two sheets for your donations, in the Unit mailing.

for monthly distribution room, Lg bottles please, 2-1 bath wash, shampoo, room deodorizer, Alcohol free – mouthwash.

Check the expiration dates please, tooth paste is a good example Clothing

New residents to the homes receive everything they need

#### **GIFT SHOP**

- During the Holiday season
- Each Rep determines what their Veterans is need of, works with the Gift Shop Committee

#### \$5 BILL SHOWER

2025 This was given out for Valintine Day

Thank you for your donations to these.

Always send your donations to the Department office using one of the Donation Forms

- Gambling funds
- Regular funds
- Memorial Donation sheet

They were sent in the Unit mailing

# Hastings distribution room



#### Personal / Unit Donations

Clothing and other Items

#### Sewing Items

Needs list!!! Sent in the Unit mailing sizes, amounts are on the list THANK YOU for following the list reminder – Mostly men – careful on your fabric choice. Call the Rep for her needs

#### Unit Visits

Sponsor - Bingo Parties, card parties, Pie & ice cream social, or just a visit, etc

> Call the Veterans Home Volunteer coordinator or the recreational Therapist to set the event up

Volunteer at any Veteran Home

# PERSONAL / UNIT Donation Clothing

Many homes do not take used clothing.

Some may take new items.
Hasting Veterans Home has
a clothing room and takes
slightly used and new
clothing. No underclothes.

#### Call before coming

I do offer a sewing and mending day once in a while. If you would not want to wear them DO NOT send them.

#### Items

Greeting Cards – Hastings has a card tree... Holiday cards welcome. Puzzle books – Varity books and Sudoku are popular one's. Personal care items – ask the rep what she could use. Alcohol free, Tissues, 2 in one body wash, room deodorizers.

I know I'm talking to the choir....Thank you for following our guidelines on donations. It's non members that drop off items that don't follow our guidelines. I receive many calls that offer donations.

#### **SEWING ITEMS**

Use the Homes/Hospital Needs List (online MNALA.ORG)
 Please pay attention to the sizes

Ask how many are needed.... Storage!! Storage is a problem in most homes... talk to the rep!

Reminder.....mostly men.... Careful on your fabric selections....

Crochet items do not do well in the industrial washers and dryers.

#### **UNIT VISITS**

- BINGO party, cribbage, fishing trips, steak/fish fries
- Call the homes Volunteer coordinator or therapist to line up the event

The Veterans welcome visitors, Especially other veterans to visit with.

#### Volunteer at any Veterans Home

Volunteer at your nearest Veterans Home You are not restricted to the home in your district.

#### **RULES & COURTESIES**

- Call or text before going Covid – Flu. May not be able to come. May need to wear a mask.
   Protects the Veterans and protects us
- List all visitor
   The home needs to
   know who and how
   many are in their home.

You may need to sign in at the front desk for a "Visitor" badge

- Event Bingo, visits
   Respect time limit of your event
   Many events take between meals
- Pictures

Need to have a written permission to photo any Veteran.

- confidential information - HIPAA

Your group picture is encouraged without Veterans

# THANK YOU

Past Department Commanders & Past Department Presidents

Past District Commanders & Past District Presidents

Your special projects has enhanced the lives of our Veterans in our homes.

# THANK YOU

For all your donations and time

Our Veterans appreciate all you do for them

TO YOU

**RULES & COURTESIES** 

NEED WRITTEN PERMISSION TO PHOTO ANY VETERANS

 Call or Text before coming Covid – Flu - ???

Respect time limit of the event

Pictures of your group is encouraged

· List of all visitors

THANK YOU

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!!!

#### Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Hospital

### Leadership Workshop 2024-2025

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation VAHCS (Veterans Affairs Health Care System)

Voluntary Services is now CDCE "Center for Development & Civic Engagement" There are many topics that fall under Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. I will only be covering a few of my favorites today.

First, about St Cloud VAHCS, Voluntary Services now goes by CDCE = Center for Development & Civic Engagement

When referring to Creative Arts in Minnesota, it is the Creative Arts **Program**. When referring to National Veterans Creative Arts, it is the National Veterans Creative Arts **Festival**. A VAHCS,

**Veteran Affairs Health Care System** – is a hospital, often called a VA Medical Center. There is medical, dental, pharmacy, mental health care, daycare and lots more. Full staff of doctors, dentists and nurses. Those who volunteer there are either

- 1) regular volunteers have a scheduled time/day to volunteer. A good example is those of us who go in every Weds AM for 4 hours to hand out quilts and clothing to the inpatient veterans. Another example is someone like Norma Tramm. She volunteers every year for the Creative Arts Festival and for the Gift Shop. (She also has been known to come and help when I call and beg!!)
- 2) occasional volunteers come in when they can and if they are needed. They have no regular time/day to volunteer but generally are willing to come in when called upon.

All VA hospitals, clinics and medical centers are owned by and operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs (as opposed to private companies), and all of the staff employed in VA hospitals are federal employees.

Creative Arts – This is a program that was established by the Department of Veterans Affairs to help our veterans relieve their stress.

The American Legion Auxiliary has partnered with the Department of Veterans Affairs by contributing monetarily and volunteering at the Festival. I had the privilege of attending the National Creative Arts Festival for the full week in November

Creative Arts in Minnesota =
"Creative Arts Program"
National Creative Arts =
"Creative Arts Festival"

# Creative Arts held at St Cloud VAHCS

Held September 12 & 13, 2024

Note: 4 National winners as noted on slides

2017 in Buffalo, NY. We have traveled to a number of the performing arts presentations that are the finale of the week. What an experience!! Spending a week with the veterans was a memory in itself. Helping them make necklaces and bracelets, touring an art museum, going on a Niagara Falls boat ride, touring Veterans Park. And regular everyday things – eating, ironing clothes for the performance, visiting in the break room. And of course, seeing their arts, hearing their emotional readings and watching the final show. It was a week I will never forget.

Winning entries from the 2024 National Veterans Creative Arts Competition were submitted for national judging in the divisions of Music, Dance, Drama, Art, and Creative Writing.

The visual art entries that placed nationally were:
"A Day on a Black Stone Beach in Paradise" by Cynthia
Christopher - 1st place in Beadwork; "Tractor and Trailer" by
Ervin Kleinsasser - 1st place in Model Building Kit and 3rd
place in Woodworking; "Early Sunrise Gathering" by Jack
Wimmer - 2nd place in Scroll Saw/Fretwork; "Let's Talk Turkey"
by Mike Legatt - 2nd place in Pyrography (using heated tools
or a fine flame)

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities use the creative arts as one form of rehabilitative treatment to help Veterans recover from, and cope with, physical and emotional disabilities. it's open to any Veteran who is enrolled for care through the VA prior to the competition and they can enter in any of the 5 divisions – music, dance, drama, creative writing, and visual art. It's

a therapeutic program that's open to any Veteran, regardless of level of skill or ability. Sometimes people get scared off, thinking they're not professional artists/writers/musicians, etc. and think they can't participate. But they can – and are encouraged to do so. The screen has the names of those who won at the festival.

There were also those who won in the performing/visual arts. They are: "Sixteen Tons" by John Jordan, Mike Daniel, and Steve Buley – 1st place in Vocal Group Country/Folk/Bluegrass. "I've Got Something to Say" by Bobby White – 2nd place in Vocal Solo Rap/Hip Hop

St Cloud held its Creative Arts competition Sept 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. They do not perform at these events. These are visual art displays. The slides we will be showing you today are from the 2024 St Cloud Program. Watch for the ones indicating they are National winners.













































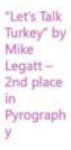






try Cynthia Christopher - 1st place in









Across the country each year, Veterans enrolled at VA health care facilities compete in a local creative arts competition. This is not just the inpatients at the VA health care facilities. And a great majority of the veterans at their own homes are enrolled in a VA health care facility. So, this is a large number of veterans that can participate. The competition includes categories in the visual arts division that range from oil painting to leatherwork to paint-by-number kits, woodworking, medal work. This also includes photography. In addition, there are categories in writing, as well as the performing arts of dance, drama, and music. Local creative arts competition top winning entries advance to a national judging process and first, second and third place entries are determined at the national level. First place winning Veterans are invited to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival hosted by a different VA facility each year.

Co-presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the American Legion Auxiliary, the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is the culmination of VA facility competitions in art, creative writing, dance, drama and music for Veterans enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs national health care system.





Performing Arts November 2017 at the National Veterans Creative Arts and some of the ALA Volunteers

The pictures are displayed, and original writings are read by the veteran if they are in attendance and wish to do so, and the veterans perform musical, dance or dramatic selections in a live stage show performance. All Veterans invited to participate are selected winners of a national creative arts competition in which thousands of Veterans enter from VA medical facilities across the nation.

Medical facilities incorporate creative arts into their therapy programs to further the rehabilitation goals for both inpatients and outpatients. This annual competition recognizes the progress and recovery made through that therapy and raises the visibility of the creative achievements of our nation's Veterans.

The top 3 finalist entries in each category of the local competitions will advance to the national level of judging via digital submission. National competition results were announced in January 2025. First place winners at the national level of the competition will be invited to attend the 44th National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 11-18, 2025. The visual arts display and the performing stage show are open to the public. Tickets to the art show are not needed. They do ask you get tickets to the performing stage show so they can track attendance. Tickets, at a date closer to the show, are available on the National Creative Arts website and are no charge. (see slide)

The next local arts show in St Cloud VAHCS will be held on September 10 & 11, 2025. The public is welcome to attend. Watch facebook for times. If you have any questions, Madge Scherer, Music Therapist at St Cloud, and Local contact/coordinator for St. Cloud and the National Creative Writing Chairperson, is willing to help in any way she can. Her contact information, as stated earlier, is in your folder. She can also give you contact info for other facilities. Mark your calendars and come to see this event.

Something new & exciting I just found out!! State Veteran Homes can participate by holding their own competitions and do not need to participate "through" a VA facility.

However, they are not able to submit the entries to national in the same manner as the hospitals do, since they are not federal facilities. They would need to submit their entries by emailing them to Amy Kimbler, National Creative Arts Director. This is something that happens fairly frequently at the national level, so it would be no problem to figure out a way to get these entries submitted. Contact Madge for assistance. The veterans at the Homes who are enrolled as a patient through a VAHCS may enter their arts through the VAHCS they are enrolled at also. They cannot participate in both. Please consider coming to the show – the arts our veterans have done is really amazing.

# Gift Shop St Cloud VAHCS

December 1 & 2, 2025

Invitations are sent to the Unit President of those units that have previously participated in late September – early October

#### One of my other favorites is the Christmas Gift Shop.

Our governing rules allow us to provide a gift, valued up to \$25, to each in-patient at the hospitals, residents at the homes, their spouses or caregiver and their children under 18 still living at home. This entails a lot of advanced work. The slides are just a very small portion of the items purchased for this year.











I can't speak for all the homes/hospitals, but at St Cloud, a lot of thought goes into what the gifts will be! Lists are sent to the social workers in the buildings where our veterans are not able to come to the auditorium to "shop". We have Unit volunteers who come and fill the wish lists for these veterans. The gifts are wrapped, and the staff take them to the correct building where they are held pending their Christmas party. Then on the second day of our Gift Shop, we have two buildings of

veterans who come down to us and shop. When they register with us, we fill out a slip and one of our Unit volunteers go with them to help them select their gifts to their families and for themselves from what we have purchased for them. Again, volunteers have gift tags which the veterans sign, the gifts are wrapped or gift bagged, and the veteran takes them to present to their families. Keep in mind, these gifts are from Santa to the veteran and from the veteran to their family members. It is the Auxiliary's way of helping our veterans. What a fantastic two days!





Thank you to all the Units, Posts, Squadrons and Riders who donate to the gift shop. And, thanks to all the volunteers who come and help distribute gifts to the wards and to help our veterans who are able to come down and shop.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
Hospital

And finally -

# Quilt Area and Clothing Rooms

St. Cloud is unique in the fact that we have complete new clothing available for indigent patients or those coming directly to the hospital who are not able to stop at home to pack a suitcase. They need only go to their prime caregiver and ask for clothing, and if they qualify, they will complete a form, submit it electronically to CDCE, and that would allow them to come to our area on Wednesday AM and get clothing. Underwear, stockings, shirts, pants, sweats, coats, gloves, pajamas – you name it. We try to make sure we have everything they need for day-to-day clothing. The clothing is all new and is donated by our Units, Posts, some schools, churches or special groups that have fundraisers specifically for our clothing room.



Jeans just received & need to be shelved.

Small section of the underwear, t-shirts and sock area.



Also, every in-patient veteran can get a quilt.

These quilts are all homemade and donated by anyone who wishes to participate in this program. Again, they come down and pick out a quilt – just that simple.

This particular program is special to me because I volunteer in the clothing room.

How can you become a volunteer? Check with the facility you would like to volunteer at.

Reminder: Sign up for "Be The One" class.

https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one



**Purpose:** The purpose of the National Security Committee is to promote a strong national defense.

## **Key Program Statements:**

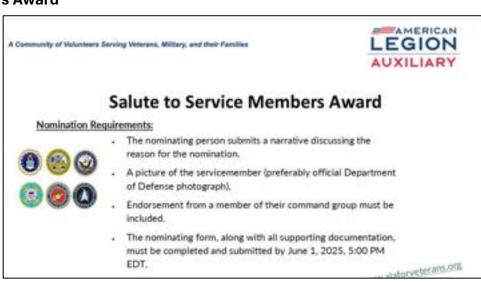
- Raise awareness of POW/MIAs and the work being performed by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in the search for missing personnel.
- The ALA National Security program maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military servicemembers and their families.
- 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 of our servicemembers and their families.

We do not have any military bases in Minnesota, but we can-do things for our service members and their families. Today I will share some of the ways we can support this program.

#### Salute to Service Members Award

# Award Nomination Form

Established in 2003, this award honors one enlisted servicemember (pay grade E1-E9) from each branch of service (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Space Force) as well as the National



Guard/Reserve. Recipients will be recognized at the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention and will be invited to attend the National Convention as guests of the Auxiliary.

# **Nomination Requirements:**

- The nominating person submits a narrative discussing the reason for the nomination.
- A picture of the servicemember (preferably official Department of Defense photograph),
- Endorsement from a member of their command group must be included.
- The nominating form, along with all supporting documentation, must be completed and submitted by June 1, 2025, 5:00 PM EDT.

The servicemember will be invited to speak to the general assembly of the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention as a guest of the American Legion Auxiliary. If operational requirements prevent the service-member's attendance at National Convention then other arrangements for their presentation to the general assembly will be made.

The entire form is on the national website www.alaforveterans.org

## Ready.gov

What is the Ready Campaign?

Ready is a government-sponsored website with a wealth of information on what to do to prepare you and your family in the event of an emergency. It can best be stated by utilizing the phrasing straight from their website.



Launched in February 2003, Ready

is a National public service campaign designed to educate and empower the American people to prepare for, respond to and mitigate emergencies, including natural and man-made disasters. The goal of the campaign is to promote preparedness through public involvement.

Have you been out driving in bad weather? I followed a snowplow to town one day – I stayed back a far distance – there was another car that followed fairly close and when there was lots of snow that was plowed, I could barely see that car. Stay back -Stay safe. What do you keep in your car in the winter? (members answer) Do you have extra blankets, clothes in the car in the winter?

How to prepare for winter weather – most of us have the necessary items, but we really have not had a blizzard in the last few years that kept us in our home for several days. We should always be prepared.

The website has lots of information and is quite easy to remember

www.ready.gov



# the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency?

The DPAA's mission is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel from past conflicts to their families and the nation.

Within this mission, the DPAA searches for missing personnel from World War II (WWII), the Korean War, the Vietnam War,

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
DPAA

May 3, 2024
Sifting through soil during a recovery mission in France

LEGION

AUXILIARY

the Cold War, the Gulf Wars, and other recent conflicts.

Their research and operational missions include coordination with hundreds of countries and municipalities around the world.

The American Legion Family can provide valuable help to the DPAA in its search by raising awareness of the data available on its website, https://www.dpaa.mil (https://www.dpaa.mil/).

Of special importance is the location and identification of over 70,000 missing from WWII. As the veterans' families from that conflict become further removed in generations from the veteran, it becomes more difficult to find viable DNA.

We shall never forget the sacrifices of those who served and will continue to seek out to identify the missing.

## Coupons

Another way you can make a difference in the lives of our service members. In your booklet there is a half sheet with several ways to help. This will not cost a lot of money, just some of your time. Also, there is a full sheet that should help you to know exactly what needs to be done in the process.

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





This is a great opportunity to get members involved in working the mission of National Security, especially those members who may be homebound. Below are some helpful tips and contact information on where to send the coupons:

1.Only Manufacturer's Coupons may be used. This can include coupons for food, non-food items like hygiene or cleaning supplies, baby items such as diapers, and pet supplies. The commissary is unable to accept store coupons, restaurant coupons or internet coupons.

2.Cut out the coupons. Please do not send sheets of unclipped coupons.

3.Overseas Commissaries are permitted to accept expired manufacturer coupons up to 8 months past the expiration date. Be sure to consider the time it will take to mail the coupons and for the commissary to sort.

4.Try and sort the coupons before mailing: separate the expired (or soon to expire) from the non-expired. Then separate and group together by type: Food, Non-food, baby & children, and pets.

5. Send the coupons to the address below:

Yokosuka Commissary Attn: Mr. Sun T. Park PSC 473 Box 33 FPO AP 96349

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

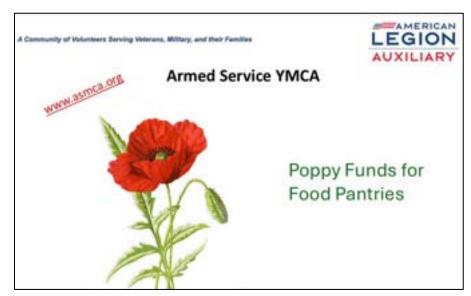


# Coupons



- http://www.grocerysavingtips.com/p/military-family.html provides a list of the bases that accept coupons. Also gives a lot of detail on participating in the Military Family Coupon Program.
- https://www.couponcabin.com/troops/ This site is wonderful!
   Has addresses to submit both current coupons and expired coupons. They distribute the coupons. There is a list of what they can use and what they cannot use.
- https://supportourtroops.org/troopons helps send current and expired coupons to the troops.
- https://militarybase.net/military-commissaries/ Find a list of the over 230 military commissaries located both stateside and overseas. The Defense Commissary Agency operates the commissaries and offers rewards cards, coupons, online ordering, curbside pickup, savings, and sales events in communities" A telephone number is provided for each base, so you can contact them with questions.

## **Armed Service YMCA**



### www.asmca.org

# **Armed Services YMCA**

The ASYMCA is an Association of the YMCA of the USA, specifically dedicated to serving active-duty junior enlisted military service members and their families of all six-armed services: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard.

The oldest military support organization in the U.S., the

ASYMCA has been "Strengthening Our Military Family®" since 1861 through its 12 branches and 23 affiliate partners, serving 89 military installations and facilities nationwide.

The nationally and locally tailored programs and services for our nation's troops and their families are offered at no or low cost and require no dues or membership fees.

The American Legion Auxiliary has joined forces with the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) to combat food insecurity. By supporting the existing network of food pantries and food distribution events offered by the ASYMCA with the donation of Auxiliary poppy funds, we can win the war together in this ongoing need.

In 2013-2014, The American Legion expanded the use of poppy funds to include the assistance of active duty servicemembers and their families.

Now is the perfect time to help join the cause and fight against food insecurities experienced by so many military members in our Armed Forces by donating a portion of your poppy funds to support service members in your area.

Poppy funds can be donated directly to ASYMCA food Pantry Managers to purchase items of necessity.

This is just a portion of the national security program. You can find a lot more on the national website. <a href="www.alaforveterans.org">www.alaforveterans.org</a> One thing that many units continue to put under national security is blood drives, but that is now part of the community service program.



**Purpose:** The purpose of the Children & Youth Committee is to work collaboratively with The American Legion to promote programs that protect, care for, and support children and youth, especially those of our military and veterans.

The American Legion Auxiliary has two special national awards bestowed to youth nominated by units: the Youth Hero Award and the Good Deed Award.

## **Youth Hero Award**

- Youth should demonstrate a physical act of valor
- Demonstrates a physical act of valor.
- Serves as an inspirational role model for the organization and the community.
- American Legion Family membership is not a criterion for consideration.
- Examples include:
  - Performing the Heimlich maneuver.
  - Rescue from fire or water peril.
  - Performing CPR.
  - Providing assistance in a medical situation
- Winners receive a medal and certificate

## **Good Deed Award**

- Youth should demonstrate a leadership role in community service
- Project demonstrates leadership in community service by planning, organizing, and executing a service project.
- Project must be initiated by the youth being nominated.

#### Youth Hero Award

Youth should demonstrate a physical act of valor Winners receive a medal and certificate

#### Good Deed Award

- Youth should demonstrate a leadership role in community service
- A specific deed should be present
- Winners receive a certificate

- American Legion Family membership is not a criterion for consideration.
- Examples include:
- Planning, organizing, and preparing a Veteran's Day dinner.
- Arranging for donations to a charity instead of birthday presents.
- Organizing an event to fill backpacks for homeless veterans and arranging for their distribution
- Winners receive a certificate

Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2) is an initiative honoring military children who may be experiencing separation from one or both parents, whether deployed to a war zone, having a short tour or on an extended temporary duty assignment.

# What can you do?

- Host an event to recognize these military children. Be sure to include the Legion family, especially your Juniors. Have a supply of the "I'm a Hero 2" buttons or stickers ready to hand out.
- https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/childrenand-youth/recognize-kids-of-active-military



### Consider these ideas:

- Coordinate with Family Readiness Groups for button distribution during family days.
- Coordinate with Legion Family members on local community days/fairs etc.
- Have an activity day/dinner for military families at your post home.
- KDH2 buttons may be ordered through a commercial vendor or made yourself. You can download a file for KDH2 with instructions here.

# The nontraditional place setting of the Military Child's **Table Setting Ceremony** includes:

- The potted flowering plant symbolizing that a military child may flower and flourish where they are planted
- The hand spade recognizes that they may be transplanted to a new place in the world at a moment's notice.
- The birthday hat and unlit candles, along with the baseball and glove, and ballet slippers represent special occasions that are missed.
- The family photo depicting a child with his/her uniformed parent demonstrates our country's
- strength. The final touch to the table setting is the American flag to remind us that families are united in their commitment to national service, at home or away.



National Emblem Sales has coloring books for children.

Halloween Safety
Poppy
America the Beautiful





# What can you do?

What you can do for the military children.

Distribute Helping Hand Baskets

Units were asked to pick an age group between kindergartner to 12th grade. Fill the basket with helpful donated school items needed to promote student success in the classroom.

Contribute to or help with Scouting America/Girl Scouts

The Boy Scouts of America is changing its name to Scouting America, effective February 8, 2025. This change reflects the organization's commitment to inclusivity and welcoming all youth to its programs.

As a Girl Scout - What would you do next? Sleep under the stars? Design your own app? Plant a

community garden? There are hundreds of ways for you to discover something new or take your current passion to the next level.

Create an American Legion Auxiliary Certificate to give your local scouts for going above and beyond

Host an after-school event to honor them.



Celebrate the Month of the Military Child – "Purple Up"

To show military children our gratitude and recognize their bravery, April is dedicated as Military Child Appreciation Month, officially known as the Month of the Military Child (MOMC). Created in the mid-1980s, military support organizations use the month to honor the sacrifice and commitment our military children make every day.



The Children & Youth programs of The American Legion include Boys Nation, Baseball, Shooting Sports, Youth Cadet, Oratorical Contest, Scouting, Scholarships, Alumni and Youth Support.

The Auxiliary works with the Legion on most of their programs and we have our own Girls State and Girls Nation. Girls State is usually held the week of "Flag Day" – June 14<sup>th</sup> at Bethel University in St. Paul. This year it will be held June 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>.





Goal – establish and maintain a positive public image. Who is involved in PR? Each and every one of us!

Wear your ALA apparel! Branding is important!



Have an elevator speech ready to share – What is the American Legion Auxiliary and what does it mean to you?

Why did you join? What do you do (how you serve)? Offer a business card and/or Application.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COVERS EVERY FORM OF COMMUNICATION.

PR covers every communication: casual conversations; speaking at a public meeting about the American Legion Auxiliary; news releases in newspaper, social media such as Facebook, tv, radio.

We, the ALA, want to cultivate a sense of belonging. That each member in our organization is vital to their Unit, to carry out our Mission of serving.



"How have your Units executed Public Relations?"



Have a PR committee.

Have a positive social media present (all platforms). Set up a good relationship with local media.

Radio – Public Service Announcements; Community Access TV stations, "community calendar".

Network with other community groups &

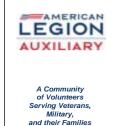
organizations such as Chamber of Commerce, Jaycees, Friends of the Library, Lions, Fire Department.

Does your post/unit do a newsletter? Website?

www.legion-aux.org/Member/Resources/PR-Toolkit

Find PR ideas in your quarterly issue of the American Legion Auxiliary Magazine.

Questions, comments? Thank you!



# American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program

2024-2025 Leadership Workshop

The American Legion adopted the poppy as a symbol of freedom and the blood sacrificed by troops in wartimes at the end of World War I. The American Legion Auxiliary adopted the poppy as its memorial flower in 1921, and, in 1924, in conjunction with The American Legion, instituted the national Poppy Program to protect the memorial poppy from becoming commercialized by outside interests.



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

# **Purchasing Poppies**

# White 2024 Poppy Order Form

- ❖ Small Poppies \$25.00 per 100
- ❖ Large Poppies \$18.00 per dozen
- Plus shipping & handling fees
- ❖ Small Poppy Kit-Unit keeps the poppies \$250

Order form was in September unit mailing.
Orders are due soon!

2

You can send in the white 2024 Poppy Order Form found in the September Unit Mailing to order the poppies your Unit wants.

- Small Poppies \$25.00 per 100
- Large Poppies \$18.00 per dozen

Plus shipping & handling fees

Units could order a Small Poppy Kit for \$250. Units would make the poppies and keep them. They would not send them back to the department office.



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# **Poppy Facts**

- We distribute poppies, we do not sell them.
- Poppy day can be any day of the year unless you are one of the units in the 5-county metro area.
   They have specific days that they are able to distribute.
- Units are encouraged to recognize National Poppy Day.
- National Poppy Day is May 23, 2025

3

We distribute poppies, we do not sell them. Poppy day can be any day of the year or multiple days of the year. Other departments distribute poppies at football games with permission from the football team.



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# National is Promoting Programs to Use Poppy Funds

- Monetary donations to National's "Be The One Campaign" to fight veteran suicide
- Financial support of the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) for funding of food pantries, emergency food assistance, etc. MN does not have an ASYMCA.
- Financial donations to the Veterans Creative Arts Festivals – local or national.
- Financial support of Honor Guard Flights including sending a Guardian along with the veteran.

4

National's "Be The One Campaign"

Armed Services YMCA

Veterans Creative Arts Festivals – local or national.

**Honor Guard Flights** 

Programs are identified on the donation form for which poppy funds can be used.



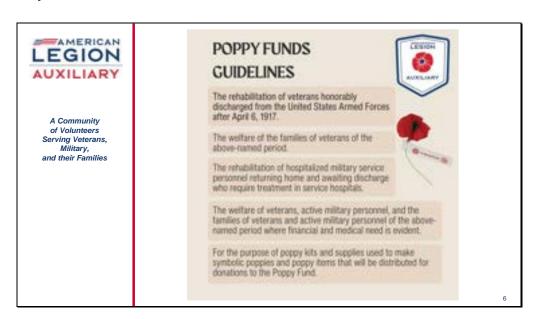
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# **Don't forget our Budgeted Items**

- Poppy funds can be used for the Department President's Project if it is a need for a veteran or military servicemember and their families.
- Poppy funds can be used for the District
   President's Projects if it is a need for a veteran or
   military servicemember and their families.
- Poppy funds can be used for the Honorary Department Junior President's Projects if it is a need for a veteran or military servicemember.
- Department Donation Form tells you what Auxiliary Programs poppy funds can be used for.

5

Poppy funds can be used for Department and District Presidents projects if there is a need for a veteran or military servicemember and their families.

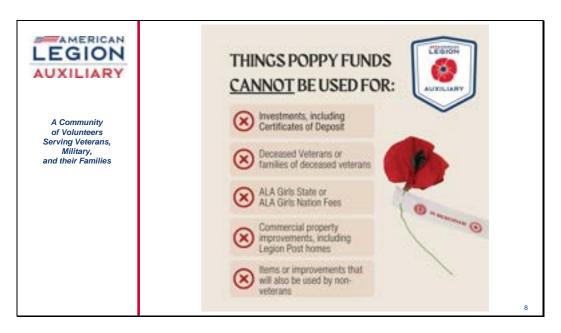


The American Legion set forth five criteria for the use of poppy funds. They are:

- 1. The rehabilitation of veterans honorably discharged from the US Armed Forces after April 16, 1917.
- 2. The welfare of the families of veterans of the above-named period.
- 3. The rehabilitation of hospitalized military service personnel returning home and awaiting discharge who require treatment in service hospitals.
- 4. The welfare of veterans, active military personnel, and the families of veterans and active military personnel of the above-named period where financial and medical need is evident.
- 5. For the purpose of poppy kits and supplies used to make symbolic poppies and poppy items that will be distributed for donations to the Poppy Fund.



There are multiple items that poppy funds can be used for.



Poppy funds cannot be used for these items.

Veterans making poppies earn \$.10 for each small poppy and \$.25 for each large poppy. There are tax forms the veteran will need to complete and return to the department office.

All references in this document are effective 2024-2025 fiscal year.



The IMPACT REPORT! With this tool we report hours & dollars we have spent while carrying out our Mission as American Legion Auxiliary members. These numbers proclaim our impact and make membership in the ALA meaningful! These number are also reported to the American Legion, which includes them in its annual report to Congress.



The American Legion Annual Washington Conference brings together members of The American Legion Family for critical discussions with lawmakers, informative sessions with members of Congress and U.S.

Department of Veterans Affairs leadership, and insights on legislative priorities from the national commander.



Let's get started!

First: Designate a member or a team of 2 in your Unit ready and willing to collect data from your members.

Second: Distribute the Unit Member Tracking Worksheet Form; and the MEMBER Year-End Impact Numbers Report Form to each member.



Forms are available on the Department of MN website – <a href="www.mnala.org">www.mnala.org</a> If you would like a downloadable fillable monthly tracking worksheet & annual report form they are available on the national website under the Members Only, Annual Report Forms Section <a href="www.ALAforVeterans.org">www.ALAforVeterans.org</a> link included in your folder.



Next: Talk with your members about the forms and how to fill them out.



Last steps: collect member volunteer hours & dollars spent, monthly if you are able, via email or phone or at a meeting. Or collect the forms in March. Whatever works best for your Unit! Add up your Unit info (end of March) and send it to your District President. She in turn adds up all the Unit info from her District and sends it to the Department Office.



Let's talk about the 4 separate sections of the MEMBER Year-End Impact Numbers Report Form.



First Section: My ALA Service for Veterans/Active Duty/Reserve Military. some e.g. hours shopping for & preparing care packages for deployed troops; helping elderly veterans or wounded warriors in their home or providing transportation for them; parades.



Second Section: My ALA Service for Military Families. some e.g. programs for military and veterans children; provide childcare for family; support adopt-a-military-family projects; distributing blue star banners.



Third Section: My ALA Service for Youth. some e.g. Jr. Activities; classroom and patriotic activities for children; raising funds for or promoting Legion Family activities like Girls State.



Fourth Section: My Service Representing
The ALA in the Community. some e.g. blood
drives; food pantries; walks/runs.

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Millary, and their Familie



# Unit Treasurer 990 Filing MN Secretary of State Filing

\*

### **Finance**

# Checking and Savings accounts -

Who can write checks and withdraw money. There should be at least 2 and maybe 3 people. According to their position. There should always be someone available to sign a check.

Recommendation in the Department Operations Guide is that you should have two signatures on each check over a certain amount.



# Budget (ALA Department Operations Guide)

"Nonprofit boards and officers have a fiduciary duty to effectively manage the assets of their organization. One important duty is financial planning, or budgeting. A budget represents the anticipated revenue and anticipated expense of the organization over a year. A budget is a plan, not a contract, and can change due to the realities of day-to-day operations."

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# Budget as described in the ALA Department Operations Guide

"Nonprofit boards and officers have a fiduciary duty to effectively manage the assets of their organization. One important duty is financial planning, or budgeting. A budget represents the anticipated revenue and anticipated expense of the organization over a year. A budget is a plan, not a contract, and can change due to the realities of day-to-day operations."

#### Income

- Membership expected
- Typical fund raisers
- Donations (may wish to keep a separate place for poppy funds)
- Other income

# Expenses Should include

- Obligations to the department (what part of the dues goes to the department & national)
- District assessment
- Committee expenses
- Committee donations (Consider our ALA programs first)
- National, Department and District special projects.
- Bonding Fee every three years





by The American Legion National Executive Committee, Poppy Funds may only be used for:

- ★ The rehabilitation of veterans honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces after April 6, 1917.
- ★ The welfare of the families of veterans of the above-named period.
- ★ The rehabilitation of hospitalized military service personnel returning home and awaiting discharge who require treatment in service hospitals.
- ★ The welfare of veterans, active military personnel, and the families of veterans and active military personnel of the above-named period where financial and medical need is evident.
- ★ For the purpose of poppy kits and supplies used to make symbolic poppies and poppy items that will be distributed for donations to the Poppy Fund.

I would suggest that on a second page of the budget you have the poppy income - and then also the donations using the poppy funds. You do not need a separate account for poppy funds, but you do need to keep the funds separate on your spreadsheet.

You should have help in making the budget - one of our units has the executive committee decide the budget each year with the help of the treasurer and checking the expenditures of the previous year.

The budget is then taken to a unit meeting and approved. The unit has the power to change or add to the budget that is brought to the meeting. Once approved, the treasurer can write checks for the items on the approved budget.



Always ask for an invoice before writing a check. Keep the invoices and receipts and keep good records so when it is time for a review of the books (Audit) it will be an easy task.



A yearly audit should be done – this can be internal where the treasurer meets with other members to go over the books. This safeguards the unit and the treasurer.

A written treasurers report should be given at each meeting. Copies for members are a great idea so they can see where the funds are being spent.

Record Retention and Disposal Policy – the Department of Minnesota Policies #14.



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

# RISK AND COMPLIANCE



National Bylaws VII Committees #6

Risk and Compliance

The Risk and Compliance Committee Responsibilities

- Review the integrity of financial statements and financial disclosures.
- Ensure compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.
- Engage the independent auditor and reviews and approve the annual financial audit and IRS Form 990.
- d. Oversee the organization's internal controls and risk management procedures.
- e. Meet periodically with management and auditors to gain an understanding of the potential significant risks and exposures facing the organization; and propose needed internal controls to reduce risks.

Department Standing Rules Article VI -Department Standing Committees

Section 9

The Department Audit and 990 shall be presented by the auditor to the Risk and Compliance Committee at the meeting called by the Risk and Compliance Committee Chairman for the purpose of reviewing the audit and 990.

Article VII - Finance Section 14 (d)

A complete audited financial report shall be published on the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota website and sent out in the Unit mailing after approval of the financial report by the Risk & Compliance Committee. The Department has a list of policies and guidelines to protect the integrity of the American Legion Auxiliary. It is important for all levels of our Auxiliary to be aware of and follow these policies. Department website (www.mnala.org) policies also found listed after the Constitution/Bylaws and Standing Rules.



# Depending on the size of your unit, you may not need a Risk and Compliance committee -

If you have a treasurer and her report is very complete each month with whom checks are written to – the check number and the amount. Also, everything agreed with the Bank.

Is there an audit of the books each year – checking all the deposits and the checks written and the bank statement and making sure you are spending your funds considering the mission of the ALA, you are doing the job of the Risk and Compliance committee.

Review the Department Policies. Policies are established by the Department Executive Committee and do not require Convention General Assembly approval.

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



To file your 990-N epostcard, you will need to go to irs.gov and click on the "Charities and Nonprofits".

You will then click on the Annual Filing icon and then go to the link to file your 990. There is an option to print the IRS Form 990-N User Guide. If this is your first time filing or you are not certain what you need, print the Guide and read it through first. (The Guide is also on the MNALA.ORG site under the "Forms" tab.)

The IRS is now requiring a Login.gov or an ID.me for increased security for your account.

Once you get into the e-postcard page, you will need to answer a question about whether your unit is still active.

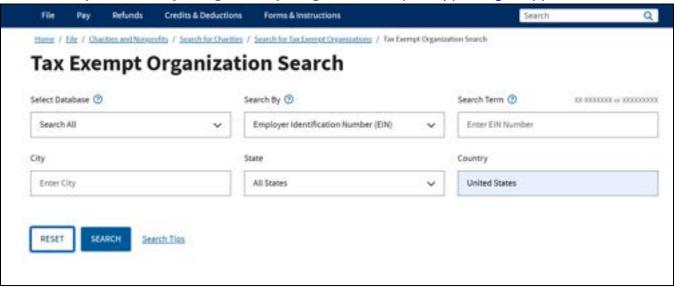
A second question will ask if you take in less than \$50,000 per fiscal year.

Then you just hit the Submit icon. Done!

After you select "Submit", the screen will say "Pending". Print a copy for your records. It may take 5-7 minutes, but the status will change to "Accepted" or "Rejected". If rejected, select the "Submission ID Hyperlink" for additional details. Until resolved, your form will not be accepted.

Most important is the 990 filing – once filed you should make sure that it is brought to the membership at a meeting – you can print off a slip of completion – and then have the secretary clip that to the minutes. This is an annual filing. Do you have this in your standing rules? It is a good idea to make sure who is filing and that it is completed.

Is there a way to tell if they recognized my filing? Yes - - https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/



Entering the EIN is the fastest, simplest way. But, if you are unsure, just enter the City and State. You'll get a alphabetical list of all non-profits in the city. Select yours!! You will get a list of all the years they have record for you. Click on the year and get the actual report. Note: 2023 is August 1, 2023 thru July 31, 2024



So, we messed up and did not get our 990 filed for 3 years!! Now What??

It is quite a process to get your nonprofit status back. You are not alone as there are several in MN that have not been reinstated.

It will cost about \$600 and the paperwork. We are very blessed to have a wonderful member who is willing to assist you in getting things completed.

## relvecrog@frontiernet.net

Roberta Elvecrog is a member of the Aitkin American Legion Auxiliary in the 6tth District and has served as the Department Chairman for the Risk and Compliance committee.

If an organization's tax-exempt status is automatically revoked, it is no longer exempt from federal income tax. An automatically revoked organization is not eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions. This means if you are not compliant, you will not be able to distribute poppies for a tax-deductible donation and if you receive a donation, it will become a taxable income for the Unit.

It will cost you about \$600 to get reinstated but it is necessary so you can accept donations.

If you file through a company called TAX990, you get an email with actions by IRS and a copy of the form filed. I believe the cost was \$20 the year I went through them. I have never received a confirmation directly from IRS, but they do have the search site show above.

Questions came up in Cold Spring regarding bond coverage if you lose your non-profit status. Q&A with National on 2.25.2025. Question in black, response in red.

- 1. If a Unit loses its non-profit status because it fails to file 990N, does bonding still cover Unit? Yes, as long as the unit is chartered (not cancelled) the bond still covers the unit regardless of tax-exempt status.
- 2. Units then "re-up" their non-profit status (no longer under National umbrella), can they get back and/or does bonding fee cover that Unit? When a unit has their tax exempt status reinstated, they are tax exempt in their own right and do not need to be under the national group exemption number in order to be federally tax exempt. As long as the unit files their annual 990N each year after reinstatement, they are good. There's really no difference for the unit whether they stay tax-exempt in their own right or if they request to come back under the national group exemption number. They can request to come back under the group, but it doesn't really change anything for them.

Yes, a unit who has had their tax-exempt status reinstated is still covered under the bonding regardless of whether they stay tax-exempt in their own right or if they request to come back under the national group exemption number.

# MN Sec of State filing for non-profits

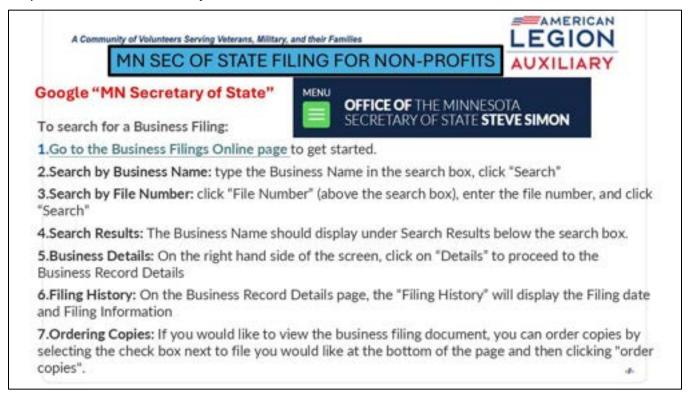
This is not a NEW thing. To be recognized as a non-profit in the state, you must file with the State.

This ensures that we are a legitimate nonprofit organization to accept donations.

As Secretary/Treasurer in my Unit, I do file both the 990e postcard, and, with the Secretary of State. The State sends emails confirming that the filing has been accepted.

You need to create an account and your log in email and password should be something that can easily be used by others in your unit.

Once that is accomplished you will need to file a New Business or Nonprofit. The ALA is considered Nonprofit Corporation (Domestic) the cost to file is \$90.00. Annual filings are required and are no cost to you



There will be about 5 questions that will need to be answered and then you are done and can print off the fact that you are registered.



You can go to the site and "search for a business" to see what your status is.

https://www.sos.mn.gov/

Again, Roberta Elvecrog is a great resource for your questions. relvecrog@frontiernet.net

# HELPFUL HINTS

# For and About young members

Hello Everyone. My name is Ashley Stai, and I am very fortunate to be **Mary Kuperus's grandaughter**. She is the reason I am a member of this organization and it is quite an honor to present together with her today. Mary Kuperus

AKA the best

Grandma in the

world



A little about me, I became a

member when I was a day old, so I've basically grown up around the American Legion family. I have been an active member for the past 6 years and have learned so much in that time. I have been my District's Honorary Junior President and the Dept. Honorary Junior President. I currently have multiple chairmanships and am the Vice-President for my Unit. I am the 7th District Junior Activities Chairman, Poppy Chairman, Memory Book Chairman, and I am the Dept Auxiliary photographer. I also am the social media manager for my Unit, District, Vikingland Junior shooting, and Minnesota Girls State. All that to say.... I am proof that with the right support, there are young people in this organization that are willing to, and want to help.

LISTEN

- \*TIZZEN JO ZBEW
- SHOW YOU CARE
- RELIEVE THEIR IDEAS HAVE POTENTIAL



We hear a lot that we need young members and new ideas. Well, if you are fortunate enough to have young members in your Unit or District, listen to them! They have great ideas; they just need someone to **listen** to them. There are so many of us that have tried to help and give ideas but were shut down because we're told we're "too young or don't

know what we're talking about". If a young member is giving ideas or wanting to help, give them a chance. Listen to them, show you care, and believe their ideas have potential. Even if you think it's a bad idea, point them in the right direction. One of the worst things you can say to a young member is "no, we've always done it like this." This kills creativity. Juniors are the future of this organization. Without them and their progressive ideas, we will not be here in another 100 years.



Juniors still need help as they grow in the American Legion Family. So, my next point is **support**. Support your Juniors. Be open to their ideas and help them learn. Today's youth and young adults are so busy. Whether it be school, sports, a job. There are so many

things. So that makes it our job as Senior members to show them why the American Legion Family is worth their time. A way to do so is, **Play to your young member's strengths.** Learn

# PLAY TO YOUR YOUNG MEMBERS STRENGTHS





about their interests, their passions, their hobbies. You don't have to be the person at the podium with the gavel, even though the gavel is pretty cool. You can be the person who makes poppies in their spare time. Planning or organizing an event. Or the person who runs your social media. That's one thing most young people are good at. Let your Juniors help with your facebook or instagram page. Making graphics or creating flyers. There is always a place for

# LEARN



# A different perspective is not a bad thing Change is not a bad thing

them. **And who knows**, you could learn something from them. Or they might have an idea you never would have thought of. Young members have a different perspective, which is not a bad thing. Change is not a bad thing. It could be the thing that keeps your Unit or District going one day. So include your Juniors in everything you do, even if it's a Senior meeting. This way they can learn how everything runs, making it easier when they move into Senior membership.

The transition from Junior to Senior member can be very hard. You go from Junior fun weekends, singing Junior songs, and hanging out with friends, to Senior meetings that are honestly kind of boring. Anytime someone would ask if I missed being a Junior, I'd always reply with "very much". But it shouldn't be like this. Yes, meetings have to happen and business has

to be taken care of, but that doesn't mean it has to be boring. If all we portray as an organization is meetings and business, no one will want to join.

There always has to be an element of fun. Try to include a game or an activity that can



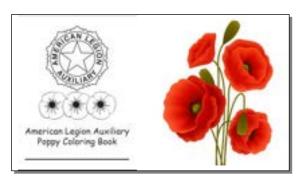
THERE ALWAYS HAS TO BE AN ELEMENT OF FUN

get everyone involved. This includes your Junior and Senior members. Making a meeting fun can increase membership and participation, while making it easier for Juniors to move into Senior membership.



**So to wrap this up.** Listen to your young members, support their ideas, learn from them, and always have fun. I hope this has helped you gain some new ideas on how to include and support your Juniors and young members. **Thank you** 

# Department of Minnesota Leadership Workshop Closing



How did you do with your poppy coloring books? 2 years ago, I had some with at our poppy distribution day and handed them out with a pack of 4 crayons to the kids that came with their Moms or Dads. My husband just had a great time watching the kids. They were so happy with their "gift". It was fun! I took them to our local printer – full page format. Was kind of spendy – this size should be a little cheaper to do and just as much fun.



Question for you - which program is the best to promote our organization and get new members? If you said, **Public Relations**, then we are in agreement. It is basically the only program that promotes belonging to our organization in whatever it is you are doing to work a program. Radio, newspaper, posters, branded clothing, TV ads – whatever it is you do on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary, if you take the time to let others know - you are doing public relations. And, lots of people are going to pay attention to you. Keep it up!! Have fun, smile, talk, take pictures – just be yourself.

We often talk about Covid or the flu and how contagious they are. What do you consider to be even more contagious than those two? In my opinion, your attitude is the most contagious. Keep smiling and spread a positive, happy attitude.



That's a good thing to share with others. I have often said that negativity is the easiest thing to spread and the hardest thing to eliminate. So, let's keep smiling and encourage happy attitudes and see if we can "pass that on" to others.

# Department of Minnesota Leadership Workshop Closing



First off, I want to say there is no such thing as a dumb question. If you aren't sure of the answer, there are undoubtedly more in this room that aren't sure also, including us. So "Just ask".

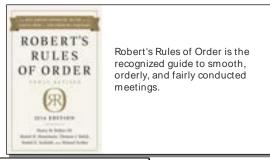
Now - Does anyone have any other questions or anything they would like to discuss? You are not limited to what has come up in this workshop. We'll attempt to answer any question you may have, even if we have to dig further into it and get back to you.

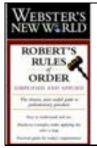
#### **BOOKS:**

Some books you should all be familiar with.

Roberts Rules – not my favorite! Try the Simplified & Applied Robert's Rules – much better read.

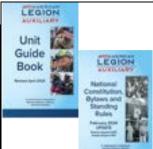
National – Unit Guide Book. National Constitution, Bylaws & Standing





The "Friendlier" version - - Webster's New World Robert's
Rules of Order Parliamentary
procedure in plain English
Webster's New World Robert's
Rules of Order: Simplified and
Applied explains the rules of
parliamentary procedure in
clear, modern terms and shows
you how to apply the rules in a

practical and effective way.



Dept Constitution & Bylaws, Dept Standing Rules, District Constitution & Bylaws, Dist Standing Rules, Unit Constitution & Bylaws and, Unit Standing Rules

Folder which contains: Dept Constitution & Bylaws, Dept Standing Rules, District Constitution & Bylaws, Dist Standing Rules, Unit Constitution & Bylaws and, Unit Standing Rules.

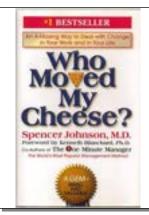
You will find it to your advantage to become familiar with these items. Not saying memorize or anything even close, but know what the topic/subject matter is in each one. Become familiar with the steps to make changes.

# Department of Minnesota Leadership Workshop Closing

#### **MANDATORY READING:**

Dance While You Can by Lance Wubbels: This book is a gentle reminder to help you live life to the Fullest. Parts of it make me cry and parts make me laugh. Just remember to "Dance While You Can".



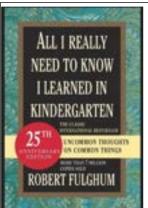


"Who Moved My Cheese?" is a motivational parable by Spencer Johnson that explores how different characters respond to change. It features two mice, Sniff and Scurry, and two little people, Hem and Haw, who search for cheese in a maze, symbolizing the pursuit of happiness and success; their varying reactions to the disappearance of cheese illustrate the importance of adapting to change.

Who moved My Cheese by Spencer Johnson, M.D. I was given a copy of this book in 1999 by Bev Otterness. I must have read it 10 times! Make it a point to read it at least once.

It features two mice and two people who search for cheese in a maze.

All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten by Robert Fulghum You can't help but laugh – and learn - while reading the essays in this book. It is so worth your time. The title says it all!



This book serves as a reminder that wisdom often starts with the simplest truths, the ones we learn early in life. It inspires readers to carry forward the goodness, wonder, and compassion derived from childhood into their adult lives.

What makes this book special? Its blend of humor, honesty, and profound insights into ordinary life resonates with many readers.

# Department of Minnesota Leadership Workshop Closing

#### **CLOSING:**

How did your day go today? Did you pick up some tidbit of information you didn't know before?

That's our goal. To make sure when you leave, whether you were here for an hour or for 8 hours, that you found out something you didn't know before, whether it's just a little tidbit of information or a whole new gallery of information.



No matter where you spend your time, how you spend your time or who you spend it with, you should learn something – maybe just a tiny, tiny something, but something every day.

Imagine yourself as that 3 year old child. Watch them sometime. They watch every step you take, every breath you breath and they listen to every word that you speak. They are a sponge. They can teach us how to learn.

Make every day count. Make every day a "learning" day.



Thank you for allowing us to present the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.