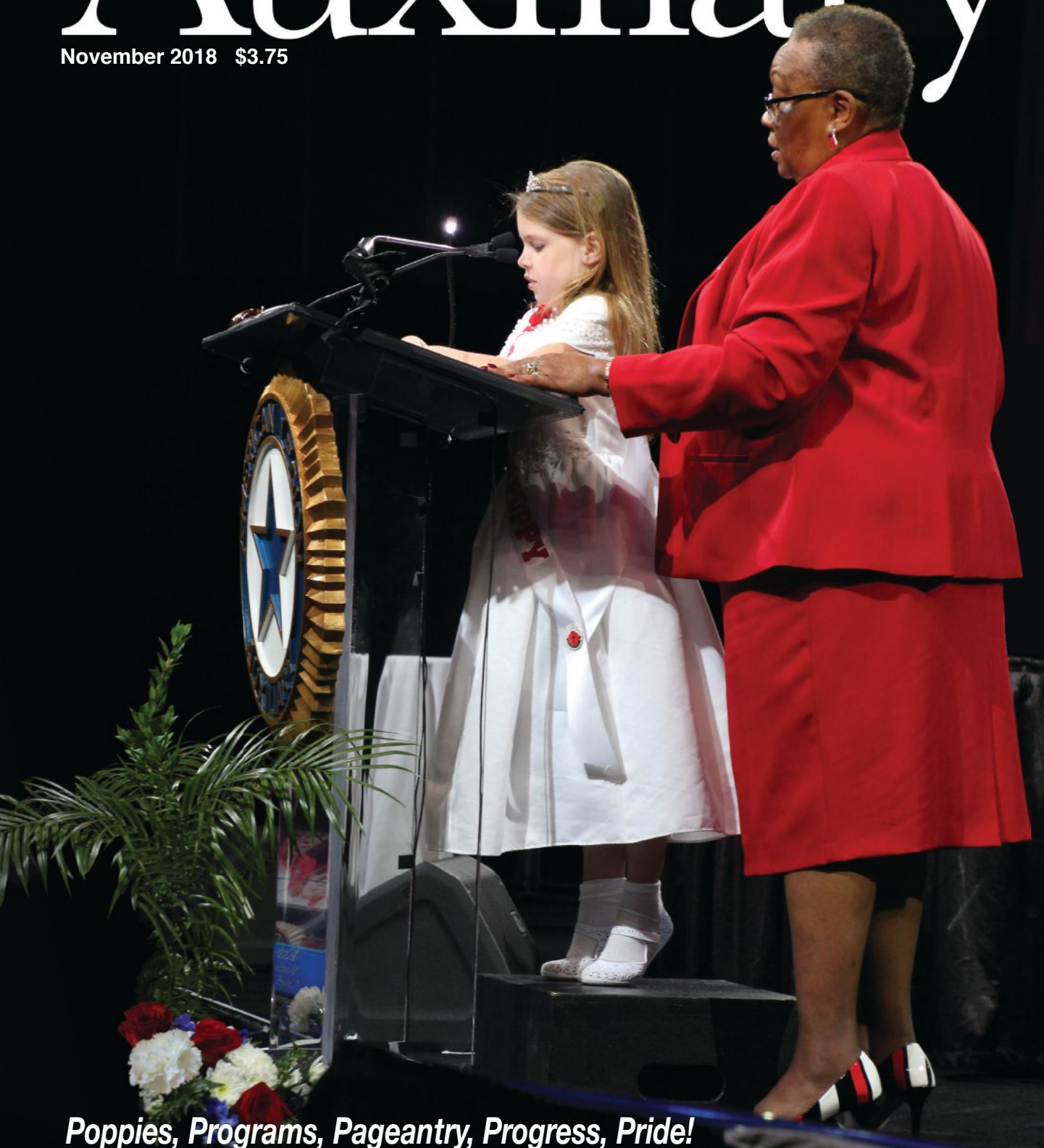


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Auxiliary contents

FEATURES

32 2018 ALA NATIONAL CONVENTION

Our largest national meeting showcases the past year of service, eyes our future.

38 NATIONAL PRESIDENT KATHY DUNGAN

Get to know the ALA's 99th National President: Kathy Dungan of Mississippi.

50 ALA GIRLS NATION

Meet the next generation of female leaders.

IN EVERY ISSUE

4 NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

6 BEHIND THE SCENES

8 FROM OUR READERS

14 JUNIOR MEMBERS

16 I AM THE ALA

19 IT'S ALL GOOD

43 IMPACT ALA!

57 BUILDING ALA BRAND LOYALTY

58 ALA GIRLS STATE/ALA GIRLS NATION: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

59 A WISE WOMAN SAID

60 LEGION FAMILY NEWS

62 MISSION MATTERS

65 SOCIAL MEDIA

66 THE LAST WORD



50

ON THE COVER: 2017-2018 Little Miss Poppy and ALA Junior Member Abigail Jones of Michigan, with the assistance of National Poppy Committee Chairman Carol T. Robinson, addresses delegates, alternates, and guests attending the ALA's 98th National Convention in Minneapolis in August (photo: Sara Nahrwold/NHQ communications specialist). **ABOVE:** A throwback photo of ALA Girls Nation attendees inside Washington D.C.'s Historic Union Station in the early 1960s.

FROM THE NATIONAL *President*



REACHING OUT (top): Visiting with ALA Department of South Dakota members. At right, shaking hands with a resident at the Veterans Community Living Center at Fitzsimons, in Aurora, Colo., during a visit with the ALA Department of Colorado.

Members of the Auxiliary, thank you for putting your faith in me to lead this great organization as national president. What an honor! I am humbled and blessed. Serving as the ALA's 99th national president is not only a momentous event in my life, but it is a first for the Department of Mississippi — as I am the first national president from that state!

The national focus this year is "Serving Our Heroes." Veterans, servicemen and women, their families, and our youth are my heroes, as I am sure they are yours. Honoring and helping veterans, servicemembers, and their families, and mentoring youth are big parts of what we do in our great organization!

I have chosen to put a special emphasis on women veterans, bringing to light the challenges and issues they face. What a great way to serve those who served by focusing on their challenges, such as homelessness, suicide, lack of adequate child care, and military sexual trauma.

We can use the ALA Foundation's Veteran Projects Fund to help subsidize efforts related to this special-emphasis. I encourage departments and units to seek opportunities to help women veterans, and apply for the grants offered through our Veteran Projects Fund. In turn, we will be promoting

the ALA Foundation and seeking donations to fund efforts related to this area. Learn more at www.ALAFoundation.org/grants.

I hope that by focusing on women veterans, we will recruit new members and maximize what we do — especially for women veterans. It will say we care! We care about homelessness, suicide prevention, housing needs, their health, and their families. The ALA can continue to make a substantial impact across the country.

In our Preamble to our Constitution, it says "to promote peace and goodwill." I am excited to announce that in an effort to promote camaraderie and civility among our members, we have established a new award this year: the Goodwill Ambassador Award. Five deserving members, one from each division, who exhibit positive relationships, promote the Auxiliary's ideals, and who volunteer their time and talents serving our veterans, will be selected. These five women will be our guests at National Convention 2019.

Again, we will have the six ALA Mission Trainings. The national Junior meetings will be held simultaneously with Mission Training. Learn more at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

We know that without members, we won't have an organization, and

without an organization, we cannot serve our longstanding mission of taking care of veterans. To be recognized as the go-to organization to help veterans, we need to publicize our activities and maintain strong, positive public relations. ALA Mission Training this year will go back to those three important key factors: membership, our mission, and getting the word out about who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

We must value each Auxiliary member and their contributions so that they will remain members of our organization. At the current rate, we are losing 40 percent of members within three years of their joining. If we focus on membership — not necessarily numbers but the member — and make them feel welcomed and valued while being open to their ideas of working the mission, we will retain members.

Valuing our members and promoting goodwill begins with each one of us, and if we all do this, our membership will grow. Then, we can do more to care for and honor our heroes.

We also need to publicize our events and stories even more so than we're doing now. So, I am asking that in your social media, you use #ALA99 to promote your events. This is the 99th year of the American Legion Auxiliary's existence. I want to see all (and I mean all!) of the awesome work you do posted on social media.



Be sure to share your stories with our National Headquarters Communications Division. The team is always on the lookout for new and exciting mission-related material!

Kathy Dungan

Kathy Dungan
National President

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BEHIND THE *scenes*

NOTES FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS



NHQ FOR YOU: ALA National Headquarters' new address is 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

ALA National Headquarters nurturing changes ahead

With the start of a new ALA administrative year comes new beginnings. As we kick off our 99th birthday this month and glide into our next century, we must always remind ourselves that everything we do should circle back to our mission of serving veterans, the military, and their families.

In September, we said goodbye to Executive Director/National Secretary Mary "Dubbie" Buckler, who resigned after a decade of remarkable service to the ALA and The American Legion Family. Buckler has gone on to a new career path, and we are truly grateful for her leadership, expertise, and more importantly, her fervent commitment to the ALA's longstanding mission. (Read more about Buckler on page 56 in this issue of *Auxiliary*.)

Our ALA interim national secretary is Linda Boone, who has decades of professional experience in both corporate and nonprofit

executive management positions. Linda, a Past National President and longtime ALA member from the Department of Oregon, was president/CEO of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans in Washington, D.C., and remains deeply devoted to serving our nation's heroes. A search committee appointed by National President Kathy Dungan will identify potential candidates for executive director, which will become a separate position from the national secretary. Throughout this process, the skilled and talented National Headquarters staff remain committed to our members.

Earlier this year, we officially welcomed Assistant Director of Finance Sara Riegel as national treasurer, who stepped in the national officer role when Marta Hedding retired. Hedding is continuing as a part-time consultant, overseeing National Headquarters' move to our building, anticipated to occur later this year.

National Headquarters' move is a milestone achievement — the total cost to move to the new building located at 3450 Founders Road in Indianapolis will cost hundreds of thousands of dollars less than it cost the ALA over 10 years ago to move from its previous headquarters in downtown Indianapolis to its leased NHQ office space. Plus, the ALA will own the building — an appreciable asset that will also save the organization millions of dollars in decades to come.

The nearly 100-year-old American Legion Auxiliary is always evolving but never wavering in members' compassion and care for our nation's military, those who served, and their families. Let us always look to the future while sustaining our spirit of *Service Not Self*.

American Legion *Auxiliary*

For God and Country
November 2018



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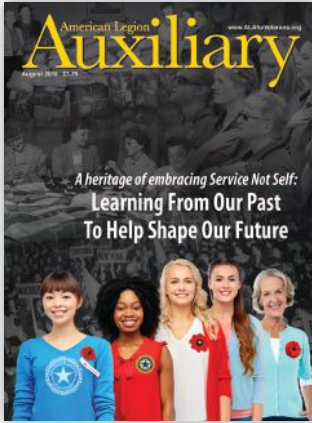
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	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
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50-54	\$11.50	\$9.70	\$18.50	\$15.50	\$36.00	\$30.00	\$88.50	\$73.50
55-59	\$14.20	\$11.95	\$23.00	\$19.25	\$45.00	\$37.50	\$111.00	\$92.25
60-64	\$17.20	\$13.30	\$28.00	\$21.50	\$55.00	\$42.00	\$136.00	\$103.50
65-69	\$20.50	\$16.00	\$33.50	\$26.00	\$66.00	\$51.00	\$163.50	\$126.00
70-74	\$27.40	\$21.40	\$45.00	\$35.00	\$89.00	\$69.00	\$221.00	\$171.00
75-79	\$37.00	\$30.10	\$61.00	\$49.50	\$121.00	\$98.00	\$301.00	\$243.50
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TERM 'TRENCH ART' SOUNDS FAMILIAR

Recently, a widowed member gave me three rings that belonged to her husband, a Korean War veteran, which she said were trench art. I

was not familiar with the term, so I googled it for more information. I originally thought it was World War I only, but it seems it was a way for soldiers to cope between battles. What a coincidence to see the article in the August 2018 magazine, which contained more details on the art.

The detail in these rings is amazing that someone could carve these out of shell casings or whatever other metal was available. These will be put in a display case at American Legion Oak Orchard-Riverdale Post 28, Millsboro, Del., for all to see.

Thank you for sharing the information in the magazine.

— Beth McGinn, Delaware

LIVE STREAMING OF NATIONAL CONVENTION APPRECIATED

Just wanted to say thank you so much for the live streaming of the ALA National Convention. While I am registered for convention and have been attending all the meetings and sessions since my arrival in Minneapolis, I was unable to physically attend Tuesday. Thanks to live streaming, I was still able to hear and see all that took place on the stage at today's session. While disappointed to miss the interaction with my ALA sisters, I am so very grateful to not have missed the important messages from the stage. Thank you again for live streaming.

— Jane Montaney, Washington

ALA MEMBERS' MAJOR MILESTONES

As the American Legion Auxiliary approaches its centennial, ALA members are reaching major milestones of their own every day. Occasionally, Auxiliary magazine will showcase a few of ALA's current members who either have reached an age of 100 years or older, or who have had an ALA membership anniversary of 75 or more continuous years. Let's celebrate!

Pauline Angleman



At age 110, Pauline Angleman has seen so much in her lifetime: Two world wars, 20 U.S. Presidents, hundreds of

monumental inventions ... and the establishment of the American Legion Auxiliary in 1919.

Angleman, an ALA member of Unit 313 in Larkspur, Calif., said she has always been proud to tell people that she is an Auxiliary member.

"The American Legion Auxiliary helps so many people, and I'm proud to be part of that. I've always felt that if I could help somebody a little bit, I was delighted to do that. So, ALA has been the place for me!" added Angleman, who just entered her 42nd year of continuous ALA membership. She is a Paid Up For Life member.

Given her affinity for the ALA and its 99-year-old tradition of selfless service to veterans, servicemembers, military families, and communities, it seemed fitting that Angleman's 110th birthday bash was held at The American Legion Hall in Larkspur in October.

Angleman — who served as president of Unit 313 for 12 years, starting when she was 90 years old — remains active with the ALA and in her personal life. Angleman does her gardening and housekeeping, continues to fundraise at her donation table on Poppy Days, and participates any way she can in ALA activities.

She still drives her car to her local

grocery store, her local drug store, and to several other destinations to handle errands that don't take her too far from home. That is impressive, considering that the first production Model T Ford — the world's most practical, durable, and affordable automobile of its time — was completed three days before Angleman was born in 1908.

But while production of the Model T ceased in 1927, Angleman continues rolling. She passed her driving test recently, and her operator's license is good for another five years!

When asked recently about her secret to a long life, she said: "If I knew, I would bottle it and sell it!"

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS' EXTRAORDINARY MILESTONES

- **Essie Mills**, of Unit 25 in Laurens, S.C., who turned 100 years old on Aug. 2. She has been an Auxiliary member for 30 years.
- **Virginia Kramer**, of Unit 335 in Florida, who has been an Auxiliary member for 80 years. A resident of Tennessee, Kramer turns 96 years old on Dec. 10.

Is there a member in your unit who has turned 100 years old or older, or who has an ALA membership anniversary of 75 or more continuous years? With her permission, tell us about it! She may be showcased in *Auxiliary* magazine.

Submit information to ALA National Headquarters by using the online form at www.ALAforVeterans.org/Media/Magazine-Submissions or by contacting us at 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268.



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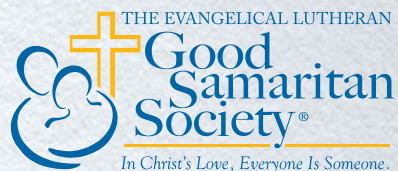
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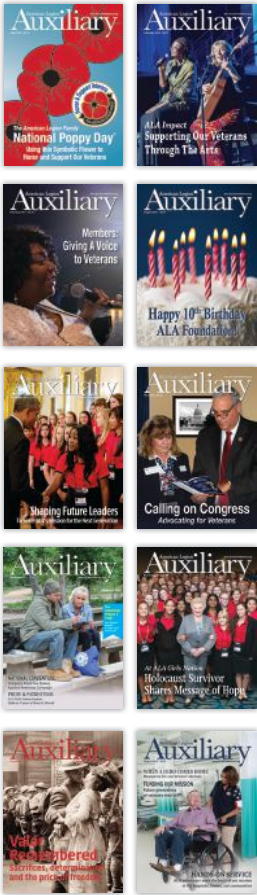
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FROM OUR *readers*



HERE'S WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT **AUXILIARY** MAGAZINE

With assistance from Readex Research, a nationally recognized independent research company, American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters randomly surveyed more than 11,000 ALA members via postal mail and email to request their feedback on the quarterly national *Auxiliary* magazine.

More than 350 comments submitted by readers included positive notes like these:

“Great magazine which I enjoy. Keep up the good work. I have learned so much helpful information from it.”

“I am very impressed.”

“I usually read it cover to cover and leave it on the coffee table to be read by others. I find it very informative and have had conversations with our unit about certain articles and topics.”

“I enjoy reading the magazine, as does my husband.”

“I feel Auxiliary magazine is far better than other veterans organizations’ magazines.”

“I love it just the way it is.”

“I love it. I share it with everyone who is interested in ALA. Keep up the fantastic work!”

And on the other end of the editorial spectrum, members provided constructive criticism plus suggestions on article topics they'd like to see in future magazine issues. Member feedback is extremely appreciated and is being compiled and considered on a constant basis as National Headquarters plans content for 2019 magazine issues and other national ALA media.

Any parting thoughts from you as an *Auxiliary* magazine reader? Tell us! We want to know what our readers are thinking — contact us at alamagazine@ALAforVeterans.org.

AUXILIARY MAGAZINE HAS AN ENGAGED AUDIENCE AND IS EFFECTIVE AT PROMPTING ACTION:

The typical (median) ALA member has read or looked through all 4 of the last 4 issues. Four in five members (81%) at least skim a typical issue of *Auxiliary* magazine, including 54% who read about half or more.

About two in five (38%) usually save at least some articles or pages from *Auxiliary* magazine for reference.

A third of members (33%) usually share their copies of *Auxiliary* magazine with others, extending the publication's reach.

The average member spends about 38 minutes reading or looking through a typical issue.

Half of members (51%) have taken action in the last 12 months as a result of reading *Auxiliary* magazine. For example, 32% discussed and/or passed along an article to another person and 19% got involved with or volunteered for an Auxiliary activity. About one in ten (12%) have purchased an advertised product or service in the last 12 months as a result of reading *Auxiliary* magazine; a similar proportion (8%) have visited an advertiser's website.

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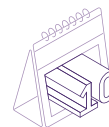
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VOLUNTEER HOURS SERVING VETERANS / MILITARY

Reported	Projected
3,676,374	6,223,136

VALUE OF RESOURCES, VOLUNTEERISM HELPING VETERANS / MILITARY

Reported	Projected
\$13,335,127	\$698,666,617

VOLUNTEER HOURS SERVING MILITARY FAMILIES

Reported	Projected
1,001,832	1,676,476

VALUE OF RESOURCES, VOLUNTEERISM HELPING MILITARY FAMILIES

Reported	Projected
\$1,295,515	\$132,223,562

VOLUNTEER HOURS SERVING YOUTH, SCHOLARSHIPS, COMMUNITIES

Reported	Projected
2,608,002	4,343,715

VALUE OF RESOURCES, VOLUNTEERISM FOR YOUTH, SCHOLARSHIPS, COMMUNITIES

Reported	Projected
\$12,345,842	\$293,333,921

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

Reported	Projected
7,286,208	12,243,327

TOTAL MISSION OUTREACH IMPACT

Reported	Projected
\$26,976,484	\$1,124,224,099

Patriotism and veterans advocacy are so important to American Legion Auxiliary members that for nearly a century, we've been serving, educating, and giving to America's finest — our servicemen and women. We answer the call of *Service Not Self*.

Our impact on the ALA mission is incredible! The American Legion Auxiliary is one of the nation's most prominent supporters of veterans, military, and their families. We help to advance the mission of The American Legion. From helping to draft the GI Bill in 1944 to advocating for veterans on Capitol Hill,

the nonpartisan American Legion Family has been instrumental in advancing legislation that improves the quality of life for our nation's veterans.

The information on these pages highlights many of the selfless ways ALA members serve the mission as well as those we hold dear. But it doesn't end here — check out the 2018 Annual Report at www.ALAforVeterans.org for additional detailed data and thoughtful, heartwarming reports featuring ALA members' accomplishments during the 2017-2018 administrative year.

OUR IMPACT: Who we are. What we do. See why the ALA matters!



NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS	52
PERCENTAGE OF DEPARTMENTS REPORTING	100%
NUMBER OF UNITS	8,344
PERCENTAGE OF UNITS REPORTING	55%
AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERS REPORTING	24%

IMPACT MADE SERVING AMERICA'S VETERANS/MILITARY

Volunteer Hours Serving Veterans & Military	6,223,136
Total Dollars Spent Serving Veterans & Military	\$698,666,617
Total Number of Veterans Assisted	3,005,482
Veterans in Schools Presentations	17,744
In-Kind Donations	\$6,393,411
Total Number of Poppies Distributed	5,544,703
Total Dollars Raised from Poppies	\$4,381,342
Total Dollars Paid to Veterans	\$423,573

IMPACT MADE THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

Total Number of Scholarships Presented and Awarded	4,055
Total Dollar Amount of Scholarships Presented	\$1,645,066
Total Dollar Amount Donated to Department Scholarships	\$402,367

IMPACT MADE SERVING MILITARY FAMILIES

Hours Volunteered	1,676,476
Dollars Spent	\$132,223,562
Number of Military Families Served	356,266

IMPACT MADE THROUGH ALA GIRLS STATE

Hours Volunteered for ALA Girls State	504,771
Total Dollars Spent on ALA Girls State	\$18,771,995

IMPACT MADE IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

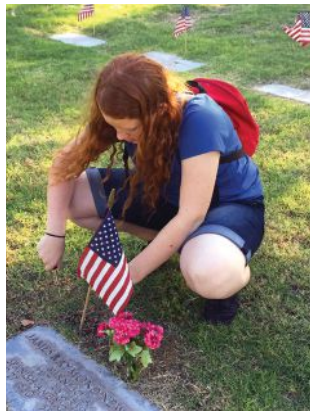
Hours Serving Legion Family Youth Activities	869,969
Total Dollars Raised/Spent to Benefit Children	\$82,494,789
Total Dollars in Direct Aid to Help Children in Need	\$826,476
Total Number of Children Served	724,954

IMPACT MADE THROUGH SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Total Number Volunteer Service Hours in Community Service Not Included Above	2,968,976
Total Dollars Spent on Community Projects Not Included Above	\$189,193,227

Due to early July publishing deadlines, data represents actual numbers received by departments in May, projected to reflect 12 months of reporting with 100 percent participation of units and members.

JUNIOR members



JUNIOR MEMBER OF THE YEAR EMBODIES ALA MISSION

Hardworking. Dedicated. Selfless. These are just a few of the words to describe Samantha Hook, ALA 2017-2018 Junior Member of the Year.

The 12-year-old Junior of American Legion Auxiliary L.D. Lockhart Unit 14 from Las Vegas has participated in numerous ALA activities, including distributing poppies, participating in flag retirement ceremonies, preparing care packages for deployed troops, and much more.

She has also led a project sewing seat belt covers for female breast cancer survivors and delivered those to the oncology department at her local U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs hospital.

"I was very excited to learn that I was selected to be the ALA Junior Member of the Year, but I also remembered that I wouldn't be the recipient of this award without help from others like my mom and dad, ALA leaders, Girl Scouts, and my school," she said.



2018-2019 NATIONAL JUNIOR MEETING DATES

Registration is available for national Junior meetings for 2018-2019. Don't miss an opportunity to make new friends, build leadership skills, and have fun while learning about the ALA mission of serving veterans,

Hook was nominated for the award by Judy Cobb, ALA Unit 14 Junior adviser.

She is eligible for ALA membership through her father, Maj. Todd D. Hook, United States Marine Corps (retired). He was in the Marines for 20 years and retired when Samantha was 4 years old.

In August, Hook spoke to the 2018 ALA National Convention body in Minneapolis about being a Junior ALA member.

"Throughout my work with the American Legion Auxiliary Juniors, I have learned that this organization is truly amazing in the way that all of its members put service before self for veterans, God, and country," she said. "Thank you, everyone in the American Legion Auxiliary, for continuously thinking of others and finding ways to help veterans in your community. You inspire me so much."

Hook is actively involved in several ALA activities. One of her favorites is a back-to-school event for military children — Back to School Brigade — hosted by Operation Homefront.

military, and their families. And, in the spirit of building brand loyalty, all Junior attendees will receive an exclusive ALA branded shirt (pictured at right). The remaining meetings will be Jan. 12, 2019, in Charlotte, N.C. and Jan. 26 in Las Vegas, Nev.

"I think I like it so much because I get to see all these happy kids getting new school supplies and being excited about school," she said.

Hook said she enjoys being part of the ALA and all the opportunities she's received because of her involvement.

"I get the chance to help heroes who help serve our country and continue to fight for our freedom," she said. "I also love helping military families because I see the sacrifices the spouse and kids make not seeing their military [family] member all the time."

As Hook continues to stay involved in ALA activities, she offers advice to other Junior members who want to strive for leadership positions to help grow the organization for years to come.

"Keep doing what you love to do while helping make others' lives better," she said. "It isn't just about being a leader in the ALA; it starts with being a leader at home, at school, and at clubs and sports."

To nominate a Junior for the ALA Junior Member of the Year Award, unit chairmen must send necessary materials to the Junior Activities program coordinator via email or postal mail by June 1, 2019. For more information on the requirements for submission, check out the Programs Action Plan for Junior Activities on the national website at www.ALAforVeterans.org.



FIVE HONORARY NATIONAL JUNIOR DIVISION VICE PRESIDENTS ELECTED

Congratulations to the 2018-2019 ALA honorary national Junior division vice presidents! The winners were announced on stage at the ALA's 98th National Convention in Minneapolis. Junior members were eligible to vote and run for an honorary national Junior office if they attended one of the national Junior meetings last year, completed an Intent to Run for Office form, and registered to vote with the ALA.

The five Junior members will be installed at the national Junior meetings in their division, where they will help lead the meeting.

Northwestern Division
Kiana Coleman-Woods
(Minnesota)

Southern Division
Hope Flores
(Texas)

Eastern Division
Jennifer Tedesco
(Vermont)

Western Division
Mallory Hinton
(Utah)

Central Division
Brittney Billerbeck
(Illinois)

PAST ALA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT GRADUATES FROM U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY

There are many American Legion Auxiliary Junior members with success stories, including several who have joined the Armed Forces.

Victoria Wright is a past ALA Spirit of Youth Scholarship recipient who graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy this past spring and was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

When she was in seventh grade, Wright knew she wanted to join the Air Force after her father told her about the Academy.

"I wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself and give back to the men and women who had given so much to me," she said.

Wright is eligible for ALA membership through her mother, father, and stepmother. She's a dual member of the ALA and The American Legion, currently a member of Auxiliary Unit 340 in Pensacola, Fla., and a member of Legion Post 400.

As a Junior, Wright remembers her time as honorary unit Junior president.

"There was an age gap [among Junior members and those 18 and older], but we all had the same values and were supporting the same goals and missions," she recalls. "Even though we had different life experiences, we had more in common than not.

I got to meet a lot of inspiring and amazing people because of the

volunteer work and outreach I did."

Wright remembers being notified in 2014 that she was a recipient of the National American Legion Auxiliary Spirit of Youth Scholarship. This \$5,000 scholarship is provided annually to one Junior member in each of the five ALA divisions.

"The scholarship meant the most because of who it came from and what it symbolized ... I was so humbled that an organization that meant so much to me and my family thought that I was a worthy recipient and represented them, their values, and beliefs well enough to be a winner," she said.

Wright used the scholarship to help pay for books and other school supplies while an English major with a double minor in French and philosophy.

At the Air Force Academy, Wright said she was challenged each day, but continued to grow as a person and as a leader.

She credits the leadership skills she learned from her years as an ALA Junior, which helped her succeed in the Academy.

"Not only did the leadership skills from the ALA help at the Academy, but the general life and people skills the organization taught me helped," she said.

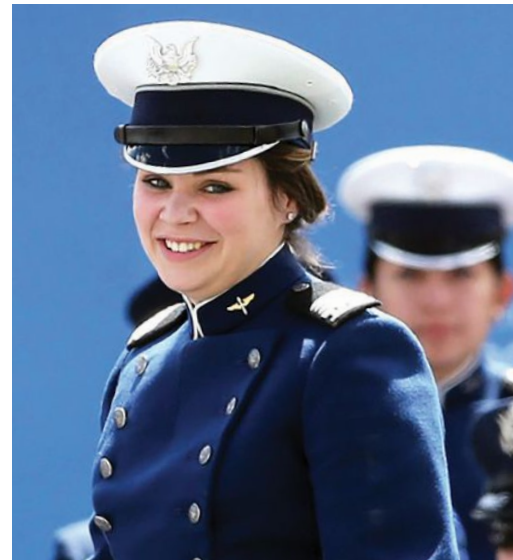
Wright's hard work paid off. She was selected to be a public affairs officer for the Air Force, one of only six openings for that role. She attributes some of her success to the ALA and how it helped prepare her

as a military officer.

"My unit loved to make me talk at meetings and pushed me to learn the answer to my own questions," she said.

Over the years, her unit helped prepare her for this career path, she added.

"Thank you for mentoring me, supporting me, encouraging me, and believing in me for the past 10 years," Wright said she would tell her unit. "I wouldn't have made my dream a reality without your help."



Helping Juniors like Wright with their leadership potential will help ALA's younger members succeed.

"Both the ALA and the Academy have such special places in my heart and introduced me to so many people who changed my life for the better," Wright said. "It's hard to imagine who I would be today and where I would be without both these organizations."

I AM THE ALA

“I know I want to continue to promote the goals our ALA predecessors had set. ... Our veterans and the children need us.”



MARION ROCHA-CARLOS

American Legion Auxiliary member Marion Rocha-Carlos, of Unit 211 in Lompoc, Calif., is known for selflessly giving her all to every ALA mission-based action she takes. She became an Auxiliary member when she was a baby, signed up by her grandfather, U.S. Army Air Corps World War II veteran Joseph Rocha. Rocha-Carlos is a Paid Up For Life member of the ALA.

Her unwavering commitment to fulfilling the ALA's mission is strong.

For example, Rocha-Carlos speaks with enthusiasm about having participated in ALA's Poppy Program since she was 6 years old: “I was so proud to be part of such a meaningful program ... and I still am!” On National Poppy Day®, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day, millions of red crepe paper poppies — most handmade by veterans as part of their therapeutic rehabilitation — are distributed across the country in exchange for donations that go to assist veterans, active-duty servicemembers, and their families.

Rocha-Carlos' fellow unit members and others encouraged her

to pursue leadership roles in the ALA. It didn't matter that Rocha-Carlos has cerebral palsy with dystonia, or that the dystonia affects her muscles and bones, making them rigid when they should be more flexible.

It didn't matter then ... or now, and here's why: Rocha-Carlos and her fellow unit members share many of the things that unite them as ALA members — including a strong desire to honor and help veterans, servicemembers, and their families; mentor our youth; and promote patriotism and good citizenship.

What makes your membership meaningful?

I was able to grow up in the ALA and experience the program from childhood, through teenage years, and then into adulthood. I saw our programs in their different phases as I grew along with them. I love the idea that I have been helping our nation's veterans.

What is your favorite moment or memory as an ALA member?

My favorite memory is of the graduation ceremony [at the unit] — going from a Junior member to an adult member of the ALA. All of my mentors witnessed my transition from child to adult and saw how all of their time and efforts shaped me into the woman I am today. At graduation, they handed me the gavel and said, ‘One day you will be the unit president!’ I thought, Yeah, right! But they must have seen something in me that I couldn't see in myself.

Why do you remain involved in the ALA and its mission-based activities?

I know I want to continue to promote the goals our ALA predecessors

had set. The work they started is important and impactful enough to me to continue. Our veterans and the children need us. After my mom, an ALA member, passed away, I assumed her chairmanships. My grandmother Lucy was also very instrumental in teaching me the importance of the ALA community and making sure I understood how necessary it was for me to be a part of the ALA. From my infancy to adulthood, she took me to every meeting. We all need a Grandma Lucy to keep us motivated!

Do you feel that having a disability changes how other ALA members view you?

My fellow Auxiliary members see me as a person first. They do see the disability. It's a part of me, but they know it's not the only part of me.

What keeps you motivated and keeps you doing what you do as an ALA member?

Veterans.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT:
Unit 211
Lompoc, Calif.

ELIGIBILITY THROUGH:
World War II veteran Joseph Rocha, grandfather
(U.S. Army Air Corps)
Ronald Rocha, father
(U.S. Army)

YEARS IN THE ALA: Since her infancy

UNIT ACTIVITIES:
Unit president
Past department president of California District 16 (2012-2013)
Served on the department's Ways and Means Committee since 2013, and chairman of that committee since June 2018

SHARE YOUR ALA MEMBERSHIP STORY! Tell us about yourself and how you support the world's largest women's patriotic service organization as a unit member who also loves the ALA's mission of serving veterans, the military, and their families. Contact us at ALAMagazine@ALAforVeterans.org or (317) 569-4500.

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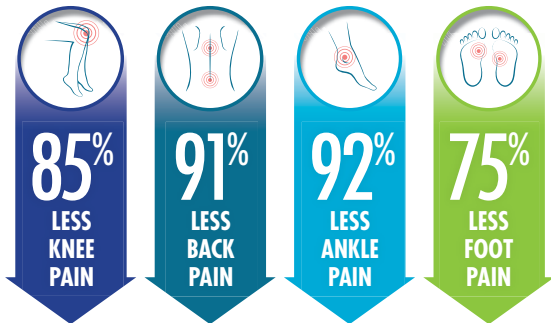
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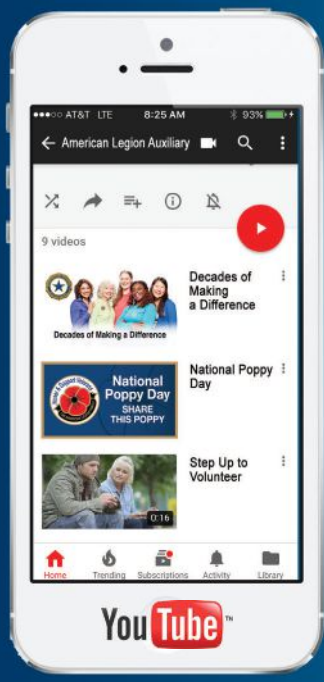
Not intended for use by individuals restricted to a sitting position and not covered by Medicare or Medicaid. Zinger is not a medical device.

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National Poppy Day
video at
[www.YouTube.com/
AmericanLegionAux](http://www.YouTube.com/AmericanLegionAux)



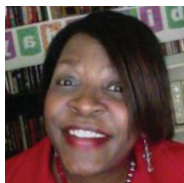
Learn how the American Legion Auxiliary has been the driving force in promoting the poppy. Last year, nearly six million poppies and poppy items yielded \$3.9 million in charitable donations.

Now, through the introduction of House Resolution 309 that officially proclaims the Friday before Memorial Day as National Poppy Day®, The American Legion Family has been hard at work promoting and supporting National Poppy Day activities year-round.

IT'S ALL good

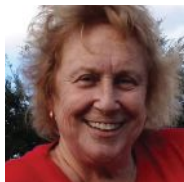
GOOD IDEAS FROM ALA MEMBERS

Personal connection is necessary to help members become
— and stay — engaged in the American Legion Auxiliary.
How does your unit keep its members engaged?



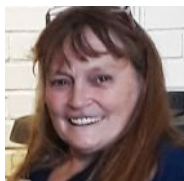
“Engage them all year round with updates, check-ins, and events they may enjoy participating in.”

— Mary Breeding, Georgia



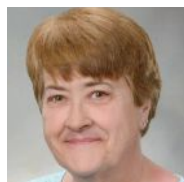
“Give them a job. Everyone likes to know they are needed. Collect money at functions, fold newsletters, or do a newsletter. There is something to do for anyone.”

— Eleanor Wysocki Amato, Florida



“While there is that handful of members who are dedicated and show up to every event, when we have someone show interest at a function or meeting, first we make sure to encourage our new members to participate and ask questions, and we make sure to listen and not interrupt while they are speaking.”

— Lynne Edwards Akers, Pennsylvania



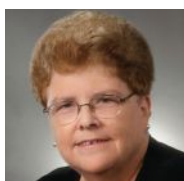
“We send letters and make phone calls. That way, everyone is informed and everyone is involved.”

— Dianne Winston, Rhode Island



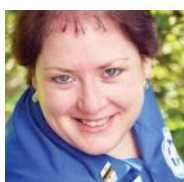
“We continually engage our members by hosting and supporting veterans and community events ... we provide an inclusive environment for all our members to contribute to the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary”

— Mary Hernandez Sutherland, Texas



“Email reminders of meetings and functions, as well as an after-meeting blast for those who couldn't come.”

— Kathee Coughlin, Florida



“We share what we are doing at all Auxiliary meetings, on the bulletin board, and in our newsletter. [We] share what we have going on and what veteran program the proceeds from it are going to.”

— Jennifer Barrett Pickering, Indiana

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MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT: American Legion Auxiliary member Margaret “Margie” Erskine, of Unit 230 in Spring Lake, N.C., engages in ALA membership recruitment at a Hiring Our Heroes event held by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (photo: Cinecut Creative for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation).

PERSONAL APPROACH BRINGS TWO ALA UNITS BACK FROM THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION

Although the American Legion Auxiliary has thrived as the world’s largest women’s patriotic service organization for 99 years and counting, the ALA is not completely immune to occasional bouts of low participation among its members. It can occur in any membership-based organization.

However, prolonged periods of such inactivity can put an ALA unit on the brink of extinction.

There is no single reason why some members stop participating in meetings, mission-based events, and outreach programs. And there isn’t a one-size-fits-all-units solution to reverse this.

Coming back from that brink can be difficult. But it’s not impossible. Membership recruitment at large community events can be successful. Having members wear ALA branded clothing while serving at mission-based activities — and answering questions from people who ask about the branding, membership eligibility, etc. — is another good way to recruit.

But regaining former members, or disinterested members, may require a more personal approach.

Here are some successful efforts, made by ALA members from two different communities, to try to bring non-participating members back into the fold ... and their units back from the brink of extinction.

Visits, calls, and letters

It was happening right in front of Margaret “Margie” Erskine’s eyes: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 230 in Spring Lake, N.C., the unit to which she belonged, was experiencing substantial membership inactivity.

Erskine decided to do something about it. She, along with her husband, American Legion member Mark Erskine, visited the inactive ALA members and asked each of them to return to the unit.

“We went door to door whenever we could; not every day though. We told them we were about to lose our unit. And if they wanted to keep the unit and keep helping our veterans, we needed people to come to the [unit] meetings and get it going again,” Margie Erskine said.

She also reached out to those members through phone calls, letters, and emails, and by sending them newsletters she produced — being careful not to overwhelm those members with too much contact in a brief timeframe.

“We managed to get 10 members to come back. That took about nine months,” she said.

All of this happened about three years ago, and things have turned around for Unit 230. For the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the unit was recognized by the Department of North Carolina for 115.5 percent membership goal.

It’s in the cards

After more than 20 years as an ALA member, Lucille Wolfe, of Unit 143 in Cherokee, N.C., said she felt she was no longer close with anyone in her post home. For that, and other personal reasons, her participation in the unit significantly decreased over time.

Then Wolfe received something in the mail she didn’t expect: a birthday card containing a sincere message from Unit 143.

“It just touched me that they thought enough of me to send me a birthday card, especially since my birthday is on Christmas Eve — when people’s minds are elsewhere. It also got me thinking about my passion for helping veterans because the card came from Unit 143. Knowing that they cared, I came back. Now, we’re as close as families are,” Wolfe said.

Sending birthday and anniversary cards with sincere messages to members whose participation levels dropped was the idea of Unit 143 member Patsy Ledford.

“The cards were probably the most unique thing we did to let those ladies know we truly still cared for them and would like them to come back and help us achieve ALA’s mission. I think they got the message,” Ledford said.

Today, Unit 143 has more than 40 members, with a core group of about 15 who participate all or most of the time.



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GOOD WORKS BY ALA MEMBERS

ALA PENNSYLVANIA UNIT GIVES VETERAN HIS BUCKET-LIST TRIP

Visiting the Statue of Liberty, Liberty Island, and Ground Zero at the site of the 9/11 attacks in New York City topped the to-do list for U.S. Army Gulf War veteran Timothy Schell, who has metastatic lung cancer, stage IV.

Schell, a Legionnaire at Post 404 in Elizabethville, Pa., mentioned his wish while chatting at the post's canteen. And American Legion Auxiliary Unit 404 turned that dream into a reality, surprising Schell and his wife Tina (a Unit 404 member) with a day trip to see those sights. The unit paid for the Schells' transportation, food, and tours, and rented a van for the trip.

"It was touching. I just wasn't expecting it. I don't like to accept things like that without paying my fair share," Schell said.

Even with Elizabethville being less than 200 miles from New York City, Unit 404 Secretary/Treasurer Geraldine Deppen said the Auxiliary members knew the trip would be financially out of reach for the Schells.

"As far as we're concerned, he already paid his fair share with his military service — more than his fair share," Deppen added. "He didn't ask us to do this for him; we chose to do this. We were so excited for him to be able to go there and fulfill his dream. We wanted to take care of him because he helped take care of our country."

Schell, who served as part of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, and later in the National Guard from 1983 to 2003, explained why he wanted to see these particular sights.

"I felt it was my duty to go up and pay homage and visit Ground Zero. To visit and see the memorial, I

was very moved. To run my hands across the marble with the names etched into it — it connected me to them. My [military] unit during its last deployment lost a few people, so I understand about loss," Schell added.

As for seeing the Statue of Liberty, Schell said he was in awe because he had never been that close to the iconic landmark. "It still means something to me. The statue, and all that she stands for, is special."

While in New York City, Schell found a way to pay forward the generosity he was shown. He willingly gave the last bit of cash in his pocket, about \$20, to a person he felt needed the money more than he did at that time.

Schell said he struck up a conversation with the person, a man holding a cardboard sign that stated he was a homeless veteran. Schell saw the man while in the city's subway system. Based on their conversation, Schell said he was convinced the man indeed was a military veteran and Schell gave him the money.

"A combat veteran being homeless — that just doesn't jive with me. He was getting ready to lie down for the night, right there on the ground in the subway area. That's just not right," Schell said.



FULFILLING A DREAM: Army veteran and Legionnaire Tim Schell, and his wife ALA member Tina, take a selfie near the Statue of Liberty.



PICNIC TIME: Members of ALA District 6 in Nebraska work with others to set up a dessert table at this picnic the district held at Grand Island VA Medical Center in Grand Island, Neb.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE ANY WAY YOU CAN

Grand gestures of love and respect are great, especially when they're for our veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

But everyday acts of kindness can mean a lot, too. Events such as picnics and bingo night — or visits to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals and homes — are terrific ways to let our military heroes know we care. Acts of kindness are never too small to have a big place in someone's heart!

"We see the joy the veterans get when we spend time with them," said American Legion Auxiliary member Vicki Cyboron of District 6 in Nebraska. For ideas on how you can serve and honor, visit the ALA blog at ALAforVeterans.wordpress.com and the Auxiliary's website at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

Good works to share? Visit www.ALAforVeterans.org for details.

MULTIPLE FUNDRAISING EFFORTS PAY OFF

Teamwork and creativity can be key when it comes to finding ways to fundraise for American Legion Auxiliary mission-based outreach programs and items which serve our nation's veterans, servicemembers, military families, and communities.

ALA Unit 1450 in Half Moon, N.Y., teamed up with the rest of District 4 in the Department of New York to raise money to go toward the purchase of a van to transport those within The Vet House — a local transitional housing program in Ballston Spa, N.Y., for male veterans.

Several fundraisers, including a 50/50 raffle at a local restaurant and an Auxiliary fashion show, were

combined with part of the proceeds from a military ball and other donations for the down payment on the van.

Members raised \$2,800, surpassing the goal of \$2,500.

Unit 1450 President Sheila Holman helped shelter officials secure favorable agreement terms, including a discount on the overall price.

Holman said all of the work, fundraising, and coordinated efforts were worth it: "We'll do anything we can for our veterans."

She also mentioned that one of the next projects will be to raise \$2,500 to go toward the purchase of a van to transport those within The Guardian House — a local transitional housing program in Ballston Spa, N.Y., for women veterans.

ALA INDIANA MEMBER SHAVES HER HEAD TO RAISE MONEY FOR VETERANS

American Legion Auxiliary member Cindy Kelly didn't lose her head trying to raise money to help veterans. But she did lose her hair. All of it. Literally ... and willingly.

Kelly, of Unit 103 in Mooresville, Ind., got all of her hair shaved off as a fundraiser. By parting ways with her locks, and seeking a \$5 donation from each person who wanted to rub her bald head, Kelly raised \$1,380. All of the money will go to help meet the needs of veterans at the Indiana Veterans Home in West Lafayette, Ind.

"I just thought it would be a fun, totally different way to raise money to help our vets. My thought was: It's just hair and if God wants it to grow back, it will. If it doesn't grow back, it just doesn't," Kelly said.

Among the donors were members of Unit 103, Legionnaires and Legion Riders of Post 103, and Sons of The American Legion of Squadron 103, plus members of VFW #1111 — all of Mooresville, said Sharon Regnier of Unit 103.

Kelly's hair was donated to an organization which makes wigs for children with cancer.



A SHAVED HEAD: ALA member Cindy Kelly of Unit 103 in Mooresville, Ind., has her head shaved by Legionnaire Lestra Huls.

MARYLAND AUXILIARY MEMBER REVIVES MEAL PROGRAM FOR VETERANS

Nearly every other Tuesday, you will likely find ALA member Virly "Pat" Moore in a kitchen, preparing the day's meal for the "Feed the Vets" program at American Legion Post 19 in Baltimore.

Not only does she do the cooking, she pays for the fixings. Moore, of Unit 19 in Baltimore, speaks about preparing meals for the program as if she were cooking for dear family members. On average, about 30 individuals are fed every other Tuesday through the program. The meals are healthy; no greasy or fried foods, according to Moore.

Moore explains that her motivation stems from her appreciation for the sacrifices of veterans, and her gratitude that Lupus did not permanently take away her ability to walk: "When I walked again and I got back on my feet, I was so grateful that God gave me a second chance. So I took my chance, turned around and helped somebody else. Help the vets."

"Feed the Vets" originally was a Unit 19 mission-based outreach program. But the meal program was discontinued when the unit could no longer afford it. Moore spearheaded a revival of the meal program about a year ago, with the help of Richard Holland, a member of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 19.

While the program is geared toward veterans, Moore said anyone in the community who is in need can have a meal through "Feed the Vets."



HEALTHY MEALS: ALA member Virly "Pat" Moore serves Irvin Johnson, member of the Sons of The American Legion's Squadron 19 in Baltimore, as part of a meal program for veterans and others in the community.



Have you had conflict with fellow American Legion Auxiliary members and needed some recommendations on how to come to a resolution or compromise? Goodwill Gail is here to help! In this recurring advice column posted on the ALA blog, Goodwill Gail helps members resolve issues in support of Goal 2 of the ALA's 5-Year Centennial Strategic Plan: Create an Internal Culture of Goodwill.

In each issue of Auxiliary magazine, we'll share one of the Goodwill Gail columns from the blog with you.

Dear Goodwill Gail,

As a new member, I love the American Legion Auxiliary and feel our unit is working to make a difference in our local community.

Overall, my experience has been very positive.

But, I feel we have one "small" problem - gossip runs rampant in the unit and I feel this is inappropriate. That said, I do listen and sometimes partake in the gossip.

Signed,

Am I Part of the Problem?

Dear Am I Part of the Problem,

First, it's great to hear that your overall experience as an ALA member has been positive and that you feel our mission of serving veterans, the military, and their families is valuable! Second, kudos to you on being self-aware regarding your part in your unit's gossip problem.

I'm not proud of this, but I'd be lying if I said I've never gossiped. Why do we do it? Some reasons

people gossip: it makes you feel better about yourself; some feel more powerful by having information that others do not; and, for malicious reasons, to tear down another person's character. Knowing the reasons doesn't make it OK, but it does help you to understand where you and/or the people gossiping are coming from. Either way, you can think of gossiping as stealing - if it's false, you're stealing another person's good character; if it's true, you're stealing someone's right to privacy.

With that in mind, how do you become the change you wish to see in your unit? Here are some tips:

- In the words of the great Deputy Barney Fife of the famed *The Andy Griffith Show*, you've got to "Nip it in the bud!" Try to track the latest gossip to its source, and ask each person along the way to not repeat what they've heard.

- Don't be an audience to gossip and rumors. Instead, politely excuse yourself from the conversation. If you disengage from conversations that veer toward gossip, people will get the message and stop gossiping around you.

- Before you speak, stop and T.H.I.N.K. (T — is it true? H — is it helpful? I — is it inspiring? N — is it necessary? K — is it kind?). If the answer to any of those questions is no, then see the previous bullet point.

Share these tips with your fellow ALA members, and remind them that gossiping makes it harder to serve our mission by pitting members against each other. Maybe everyone in your unit can make a decided effort to be kinder to each other in the spirit of goodwill.

In the Spirit of *Service Not Self*,
Goodwill Gail



Need some advice on how to approach conflict within the American Legion Auxiliary? Send your questions to pr@ALAforVeterans.org with the subject line "Goodwill Gail." We'll create a pen name for you so that you remain anonymous. Talk soon!

Want to see more advice from Goodwill Gail? Visit the ALA blog (ALAforVeterans.wordpress.com) to see the latest Goodwill Gail column plus ALA news, expanded interviews, DIY tips, and more!

BOOK OFFERS REFRESHER OF KEY LESSONS ON KINDNESS AND GOODWILL

Let's face it: We all have moments when we need to be reminded how to be kind and civil to one another, and how to maintain goodwill.

The good news is, as kindergarteners, we learned all of that — and those lessons were meant to be retained in our hearts and minds for a lifetime, according to author Robert Fulghum.

In his critically acclaimed *New York Times* bestselling book *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten: Uncommon Thoughts on Common Things*, Fulghum gives readers a refresher on those basic lessons, such as: share everything; play fair; say you're sorry when you hurt somebody; and when you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands, and stick together.

"All I really need to know about how to live and what to do and how to be I learned in kindergarten," Fulghum wrote in this book. He also wrote: "Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The Golden Rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and equality and sane living."

These short yet simply stated sentiments and key life lessons included in Fulghum's concise, 240-page book can go a long way in helping all American Legion Auxiliary members with creating an internal culture of goodwill — Goal 2 of ALA's 5-Year Centennial Strategic Plan, said ALA National President Kathy Dungan.

"Think what a better world it would be if everyone abided by the Golden Rule: 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.' We all want to be known as kind, respectful, trustworthy, and a person of integrity," Dungan said.

"Remember those lessons about sharing and sticking together? No matter how old we are, when we

go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together. And, sticking together means as a team. We are ALL in this together, and we need to share positive attitudes, information, and credit, and we must show and share respect," Dungan added.

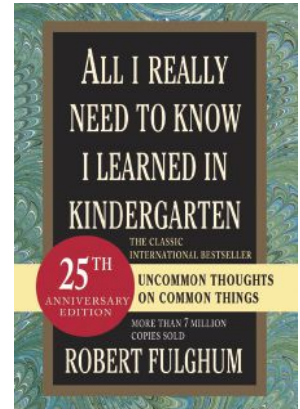
Fulghum wrote *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* more than 30 years ago, yet the book and the thought-provoking concepts and kernels of wisdom highlighted in it continue to be embraced by people from all over the world. It has withstood the test of time with its timeless life lessons.

"It is interesting how much of it applies not only to individuals, grown or small, but even to nations," the *New York Daily News* stated in its praise for the book.

That's probably also true for the American Legion Auxiliary, the world's largest women's patriotic service organization. The key lesson

in Fulghum's bestselling book is the fertile soil in which all ALA members can continue to cultivate an internal culture of goodwill, trust, and positive relationships at all levels of the Auxiliary.

All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten is one of those pieces of writing that's worth reading a second time ... and maybe a third time. Perhaps this book is the reminder we all could use when it comes to extending kindness and civility to one another. After all, even the best student in kindergarten could use a refresher course every now and then.



WORDS ASSOCIATED WITH ALA HISTORY

Happy birthday to the American Legion Auxiliary — celebrating 99 years of *Service Not Self* on Nov. 10!

A F P H E H V V I S M L S S
D L K A O C E C R V E G C R
A T A T T T I E N G G I H E
S P F G E R V V I A F F O B
P R O R I I I O R X F T L M
Z K A P G R N O H E M S A E
X N R E P N L N T B S H R M
S S R W A Y J S G I D O S L
Y A E I Y Z Z T S N C P H A
C Y R A T I L I M T P S I U
C E J U N I O R S X A Z P D
S Q D Q Y N J O O W B T S N
M S I N A C I R E M A V E Y
N J C O N V E N T I O N R F

ALA GIRLS STATE
AMERICANISM
CAREGIVERS
CONVENTION
DUAL MEMBERS

GIFT SHOPS
JUNIORS
LEGIONNAIRES
MILITARY
PATRIOTIC

POPPY
SCHOLARSHIPS
SERVICE
VETERANS

Answers
can be found
on page 65.



(Photo: National Archives at St. Louis)

MILITARY RECORDS DESTROYED? RECRUIT MEMBERS WITH OTHER ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTS

In the early morning hours of July 12, 1973, a fire raged through the sixth floor of the National Archives' military personnel records building in St. Louis. The fire burned so intensely and the smoke was so thick that firefighters were unable to enter the building, and nearby residents had to stay indoors.

Firefighters couldn't go inside the building for two days. Even after their entrance, they continued to spray water to suppress potential flare-ups. The process continued until late July. Millions of gallons of water were used. Just as damaging as the fire, mold caused problems. High humidity of the Midwest mixed with the spraying of water

every day for weeks wreaked havoc on a large number of files.

The fire, for which investigators were never able to determine the source due to extensive damages, resulted in the destruction of an estimated 16-18 million official military personnel records.

Luckily, 6.5 million of those records were recovered after the fire. Today, those recovered files are known as "b files," or burned files. The National Archives continue preservation efforts on files — records affected by mold are stored in a room with special vacuums used to reduce the number of spores and the possibility for mold to return.

Despite the fire happening decades ago, its occurrence has relevant and present consequence on American Legion Auxiliary membership recruitment efforts.

ALA National Headquarters' Membership Services Division has witnessed many times the confusion and despair that happens when a potential member tries to obtain a record from the National Archives, only to receive a letter saying the records were destroyed.

The obstacle can pose a negative impact on current Auxiliary members

too. As they research their own family histories and search for potential member recruits, it's quite likely they'll contact the National Archives for assistance. So what do we do when someone comes to us and wants to join the Auxiliary, but has been told that files proving their eligibility were destroyed in the 1973 fire? What do we do if we're researching potential member recruits and come to the same dead end?

The most common document used to prove eligibility in The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion is what is known as a DD-214 — or a military service discharge paper from the U.S. Department of Defense. And here is where the road block pops up, as these official papers may have been lost in the files destroyed in the fire. Fortunately, there are additional documents beyond the DD-214 that can prove eligibility — official military orders, official military service citations/awards, letters related to the veteran's military service on official government letterhead, certificate from the VA records center in St. Louis, or data from the back of older discharge documents.

Make sure you're in the know on what the American Legion Auxiliary organization accepts as proof of membership eligibility. Visit www.ALForVeterans.org/Join for a full list of requirements. Visit www.Legion.org to sign up veterans eligible for American Legion membership, and www.Legion.org/Sons to recruit males eligible for Sons of The American Legion membership.

HELPFUL PLACES, TIPS IN OBTAINING VETERANS' MILITARY RECORDS

- The National Archives and Records Administration: www.archives.gov/veterans
- The County Clerk and Recorder's Office where the veteran resided when he/she registered upon return from service.
- The funeral home may have kept a copy if military honors were provided.
- Monument company if a Veterans Affairs headstone or marker was ordered.
- If the veteran had utilized a VA Home Loan, there may be a copy of the DD-214 with the title documentation.
- Veterans who signed up for the VA's eBenefits may be able to obtain a printable copy: www.ebenefits.va.gov



GIVING BACK: ALA member Karen Smith (far left) serves on the Fort Huachuca Thrift Shop Council in Arizona, which recently awarded a grant to VICaP, a nonprofit that provides services to the elderly, disabled, and home-bound residents.

VOLUNTEER BEYOND THE ALA: SERVE ON BOARDS, COMMITTEES

As American Legion Auxiliary members, we volunteer countless hours within the ALA and the Legion Family. We can continue that volunteer work beyond the ALA by serving on local boards, committees, and commissions, while still representing our organization.

This outreach service will help members be more visible in their communities and is an opportunity to further support our mission. It also encompasses the ALA Centennial Strategic Plan — Goal 5, With The American Legion, Build Brand Loyalty; Goal 3, Develop Leadership at All Levels; and Goal 1, Enhance Membership Strength.

ALA Arizona member Karen Smith, who most recently served on the 2017-2018 national Community Service Committee, also has served on several boards. She's currently the secretary for the Fort Huachuca Thrift Shop Council in Arizona and is also on the scholarship committee. The shop serves the military and the community by giving scholarships to area high school seniors and donates money to community organizations.

"The more you know about the community where you live, the better your life will be," she said.

Whether serving in a metro or rural area, ALA members not only can be a positive voice on a board, but they can also help champion issues that matter to our organization, all

while bettering the community.

There are several types of boards you can consider. For an education/youth focus, try college and district school boards. You can learn more about ways your ALA unit can help fill voids in the school system with volunteers, needed supplies, mentors, and more.

Another kind of board to consider is city/town council, which has a wider impact than the education-only focused boards and can include topics related to ALA's many programs and committees.

"We want to get our name out there, and by serving on a board, we can participate in events we otherwise might not be aware of, bringing our brand name and what we do to various events in the community," Smith said.

Are you ready to volunteer on a nonprofit board?

BoardSource.org is an excellent resource to get started. The website has information to help you find out if serving on a board is right for you as well as finding one that supports the collective missions of The American Legion Family. Additionally, there are other sites that can be helpful when searching for a board — Bridgespan, boardnetUSA, and LinkedIn.

Serving on a board is an opportunity to get a better pulse on your community, but it also requires responsibility and

time. Not only will you be obligated to attend board meetings, but you will be expected to serve on committees and/or fundraise. Be sure you have enough time to contribute to the board so you can be a viable member and know your own strengths and skills well enough to be sure the responsibilities you have accepted are a good match for the role. Part of this is understanding that leadership is not a title, but a responsibility. Be sure you know what will be asked of you when you join any kind of board or committee.

Smith encourages ALA members to help out on boards in their communities.

"Even though a member may feel hesitant about what she has to offer, she needs to be brave and put herself out there," Smith said. "It can be a gradual learning experience. Take your time to learn the aims and goals of that particular board."

Contributing your time, talent, and treasure on a board builds networks locally and demonstrates the ALA's commitment to our communities and willingness to work for and with others.

For those interested in serving on a board, Smith offers helpful advice.

"It takes courage to step into something new; however, if we want to be a volunteer in our community, and yes, in our organization, it is important to foster this leadership role and contribute what we can," she said.

TEN TRAITS OF A GREAT LEADER

- 1 Be Result Oriented
- 2 Ask Great Questions
- 3 Have Goals
- 4 Be Strategically Focused
- 5 Be Good at Dealing with Conflict
- 6 Be Trusted to Make Quality Decisions
- 7 Foster Creativity & Innovation
- 8 Coach and Develop Others
- 9 Get Work Done on Time
- 10 Be a Thoughtful Communicator





WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT APPLYING FOR AN ALA FOUNDATION GRANT

Are you considering applying for an American Legion Auxiliary Foundation grant but you've got questions about the application process? Here are some tips.

1. IDENTIFY YOUR PROJECT

Veterans' needs vary from community to community. That's why it's critical to do some research before deciding on a project.

If you want some insight on how your unit or department can help, talk with the Veterans Health Administration staff at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), members of The American Legion, ALA members in other units, or other parts of the Legion Family.

After identifying a specific need, make sure your proposed project backs the ALA mission of supporting our veterans, military, and their families.

Lastly, determine how much money is needed for your proposed project. Then create a budget.

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY WITH NEW BRICK CAMPAIGN

The American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters will soon be moving to a new building in Indianapolis — and you'll have the chance to forever leave your mark with your very own customized brick paver.

Announced at the ALA's 98th National Convention in Minneapolis, this one-of-a-kind brick paver

2. IDENTIFY WHICH GRANT BEST FITS YOUR NEEDS

Did you know the ALA Foundation offers four different grants? Now that you've established your project, let's identify which grant best fits your needs.

Veteran Projects Fund:

If your Auxiliary unit, district/county, or department identifies a specific need occurring for the first time for your local veterans or active military, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Veteran Projects Fund may be able to lend a helping hand. For example, a Veteran Projects Fund grant helped provide Nebraska ALA District 3 with funding to support the president's special project where a piece of equipment, tasked with providing comfortability to veterans, was purchased for the Norfolk Veterans Home. The Spring Street Veterans Renaissance in Springfield, Ill., also received a Veteran Projects Fund grant, which helped provide laptops, desktop computers, lawn equipment, patio furniture, and gliders to more than a dozen homeless veterans living at the facility.

Sub grants:

ALA units, districts/counties, or departments that have identified a source for grant funding from a foundation or corporation that requires the recipient to be a 501(c)(3) can have the ALA Foundation serve as the recipient. The ALA Foundation will then sub-grant to the ALA entity, according to the terms and conditions of the grantor. In order for sub-granting of third-party grants to

be considered, they must support the American Legion Auxiliary mission.

Veterans Creative Arts Festival Grants:

These grants aid in the wellbeing of veterans by introducing them to art therapy. Grant funds may be requested for workshops, or for preparation and/or facilitation of local competitions which feed into the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

Mission in Action Grants:

If your ALA entity wants to transport items to a food pantry or local shelter, set up a mobile stand down vehicle, create a mobile shower unit, transport Christmas gifts to veterans and military families, or deliver meals to homeless veterans, this option is for you. Following are examples of Mission in Action Grant ideas, including vehicles and other spots for attention-grabbing branding: plastic storage totes, utility trailers, cargo trailers, vehicle wraps, car/trailer magnets, and car/trailer/tote decals.

3. SEND YOUR APPLICATION

After identifying the grant that best supports your project, and reviewing guidelines listed at www.ALAFoundation.org, you're now ready to start the grant application process. Ways to send your completed application:

Email: ALAFoundation@ALAFforVeterans.org

Fax: (317) 569-4502

Mail: American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters, Attn: ALA Foundation, 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268

If more information is needed, an ALA National Headquarters staff member will contact you.

programs by promoting education, good citizenship, and outreach to veterans facing tough challenges.

Each brick has space for up to three lines of text, with up to 18 characters permitted on each line. See advertisement on the following page for examples of finished bricks!

More information will soon be available at www.ALAFoundation.org. Stay tuned — and don't miss out on this limited-time opportunity!

Leaving an ALA legacy brick by brick

The American Legion Auxiliary has been dedicated to serving veterans, military, and their families for nearly 100 years. Although things have changed since the American Legion Auxiliary's founding in 1919, the one thing to remain the same is members' unwavering commitment in honoring those who serve.

You can play an important role in preserving the ALA's legacy by purchasing an engraved brick paver for the new American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters, where the bricks will be placed prominently for visitors to see. The purchase of your paver will help ensure our worldwide mission of service to veterans,



military, and their family endures. Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to honor a significant veteran, servicemember, or ALA member in your life.

Learn more at www.ALAFoundation.org.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

FOUNDATION

Ensuring Our Mission of Service Endures

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity that supports the American Legion Auxiliary. All gifts to the Foundation are tax-deductible as allowed by the United States Tax Code and U.S. Internal Revenue Service. © American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters. All rights reserved. 08/2018



Service Not Self is more than a motto of the American Legion Auxiliary. It's the spirit in which Auxiliary members work to serve, honor, and advocate for veterans, servicemembers, and their families; mentor youth; promote patriotism and citizenship; and support The American Legion.

That impactful and meaningful service, put forth by thousands of committed and diligent Auxiliary members and volunteers who ask for nothing in return, goes on year-round and has done so for nearly 100 years. The same held true for ALA's 2017-2018 administrative year, which concluded with the 98th annual American Legion Auxiliary National Convention held

in Minneapolis Aug. 24-30. The convention was aptly themed "ALA Proud."

As the world's largest women's patriotic service organization strives to continue its legacy of service into the next century, the Auxiliary's National Convention was an opportunity to recap and celebrate what our members accomplished in the 2017-2018 administrative year.

A Quick Look Back

From an Auxiliary member shaving her head to raise money used for the benefit of our military heroes at a veterans' home to an entire ALA unit arranging a bucket-list trip for a veteran with cancer, many ALA members spent 2017-2018 living up to the organization's spirit of *Service Not Self*. (Read more about these stories on pages 24-25 in this issue of *Auxiliary*.)

At the same time, Auxiliary members know that what most of us may consider to be “everyday” and “commonplace” can be something special to our military heroes. Visits, bingo nights, afternoon picnics, holiday gifts, and thank-you-for-your-service card distributions at veterans homes and hospitals are among the many ways ALA members showed their love.

Care packages were sent to servicemembers. Dinner baskets were assembled and given to families of patients at Walter Reed Bethesda Navy Hospital. The list of successful mission outreach to those we serve is long. And equally as impressive is the participation of ALA Junior members in many of these activities, events, and programs.

To learn more about the many ways ALA members helped, honored, and thanked our military heroes plus their families, and positively impacted communities in numerous other ways this past year, check out the Auxiliary’s 2018 Annual Report online at www.ALAforVeterans.org/convention.

Also in the past year, an emphasis and effort was put forth at the local levels to maintain our organization’s strength by addressing internal matters:

- Membership recruitment and retention
- Working with The American Legion Family (American Legion, ALA, Sons of The American Legion, and American Legion Riders)
- Mentoring and engaging ALA Junior members
- Boosting communications among units and departments by using more social media and producing newsletters more frequently
- Leadership training at the grassroots levels. The ALA Academy, a useful online enrichment resource with courses that can be taken at an ALA member’s own pace, has been a source of free training in leadership

and other topics. To learn more about ALA Academy or to get started, visit www.ALAforVeterans.org/ALA-Academy.

- Building an internal culture of goodwill through our organization
- Branding — wearing attire or accessories with ALA’s emblem when participating in mission outreach service. Branding tells the world who we are as they are seeing what we’re doing ... and figuring out why we matter. It also can be a conversation starter, an opportunity to tell the ALA story or to gently recruit interested, eligible women as potential members.

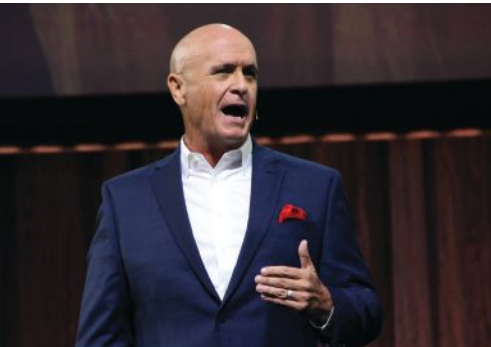
All of these emphasis areas are covered in the ALA 5-Year Centennial Strategic Plan, which outlines the Auxiliary’s mission and core values. It also includes the ALA’s vision that, by 2019-2020, the American Legion Auxiliary’s million members will be making a difference for veterans and their families in every neighborhood. The plan also includes five goals to help us realize that vision: With the American Legion, Build Brand Loyalty; Strengthen Departments and Units; Develop Leadership at All Levels; Create an Internal Culture of Goodwill; and Enhance Membership Strength. ALA members have made much progress in achieving those goals, as evidenced by the activities and accomplishments this past year and in years prior.

With all of that going on throughout the year, one might consider the ALA’s National Convention in Minneapolis to be the grand finale of the 2017-2018 administrative year.

An American Legion Family parade, dynamic guest speakers, and educational breakout sessions for members were among the highlights of the convention. This annual gathering was also the place for handling Auxiliary business, such as voting on resolutions plus the election and installation of new officers.



CONVENTION ACCOLADES (top to bottom): ALA Shooting Stars Unit 14 performs a winning routine in the color guard contest; members from the Department of D.C. win the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival art giveaway; 2018-2019 National President Kathy Dungan’s grandchildren recite the Pledge of Allegiance prior to installation of national officers; ALA members participate in the annual American Legion Family parade; (opposite): the Department of PA shows its member pride, along with 2017-2018 National President Diane Duscheck.



ANNUAL EVENT (top to bottom): Liz Mackey, former executive director of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, is recognized as ALA Woman of the Year by 2017-2018 National President Diane Duscheck; guest speakers included Author Will Bowen, and Steve Peck, president and CEO of U.S. Vets; Junior members Ashley and Hailey Carpenter of the Department of Montana strike a pose before the parade.

Dynamic Guest Speakers

Among the guest speakers was author Will Bowen, who wrote the book *A Complaint Free World: How to Stop Complaining and Start Enjoying the Life You Always Wanted*.

Bowen wowed the convention crowd with his wisdom about why people complain, and the damage that can occur to personal relationships and organizations as a result of complaining.

He shared a catchy phrase to illustrate how a person can choose to be part of a solution or needed change instead of only griping about the problem: “You make your own lunch by the thoughts that you think, but evidenced by the words that you speak.”

Other speakers included Steve Peck, President and CEO of U.S. Vets, a nonprofit organization which provides at-risk veterans with various essential services and comprehensive support in areas such as housing, counseling, and career development. U.S. Vets also advocates at all levels of government on behalf of veterans. Peck, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who served in Vietnam, is known as a national leader in the fight against veteran homelessness.

In his address to members, Peck called the ALA and U.S. Vets “natural partners” and noted the importance of the ALA’s role in helping veterans.

In step with the special emphasis 2018-2019 National President Kathy Dungan is placing on women veterans and the challenges they face, Peck explained how Auxiliary members can help women veterans by: 1) mobilizing units to become local focal point for creating awareness of the problems women veterans face and solutions; 2) engaging community partners and relevant service providers so that the network of support for mental health and readjustments needs is broadened; and 3) becoming peer navigators to help women veterans in need negotiate the system of care. (See page 35 for more specific ways ALA members can help women veterans.)

“With your presence in all posts across the country, you have the

power to magnify the message many-fold. To reach out to women veterans who feel alone. And to save thousands of lives so they can be the daughters, sisters, and mothers who are so crucial to the fabric of our communities,” Peck said. (Read more about Peck on page 41 in this issue of *Auxiliary*.)

Convention attendees also heard from former U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole — a recipient of The American Legion’s Distinguished Service Medal. Dole received the award, the Legion’s highest honor, at the 100th American Legion National Convention. She appeared at both the ALA and American Legion conventions, which occurred during the same week at the same location in Minneapolis. (Read more about Dole and this prestigious award on page 61 in this issue of *Auxiliary*.)

Education and Idea-Sharing

Auxiliary members had several additional opportunities for learning, idea-sharing and networking by attending any of the numerous breakout sessions at convention. The four sessions offered: How ALA Foundation Grants Help Our Mission Outreach Grow; Improving the Member Experience; Servant Leadership; and VAVS 101: The ABC’s of VA Hospital/ VAMC Representative and Deputy Representative Service.

Members attending How ALA Foundation Grants Help Our Mission Outreach Grow learned about applying for grants — money that can help ALA members impact the lives of our veterans, military, and their families. Those grants are awarded by the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation. Information at these sessions involved the types of ALA Foundation grants available and the eligibility criteria for each. The sessions also included question-and-answer periods.

In the Servant Leadership session, Auxiliary members gained an understanding of what it means to be a servant leader within the ALA — the concept of operating for the sake

of others. Attendees obtained the tools to make positive contributions to leadership development in units, districts/counties, and departments.

Attendees at the Improving the Member Experience session learned ways to make all members feel welcomed. Addressed were common issues faced by some members, such as "I attended my first meeting. No one talked to me." Some of the suggestions to stave off that problem, offered during the roundtable discussion/group activity: 1) have a greeter at the meeting; 2) include the new person in the meeting discussion; 3) answer the new member's questions; 4) be mindful of your use of ALA acronyms; and 5) assign mentors to new members for a six-month period.

VAVS 101 answered common questions and addressed issues regarding the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services programs and the ALA's role in providing representation at VA facilities across the country. Also discussed was the importance of processes for the certification/notification cycle, orientation and attendance, plus the flow of information between the facilities and the ALA.

ALA Business Matters

National Convention also marked the annual change in leadership at many levels, including the election and installation of

new officers. The 2018-2019 ALA national officers are President Kathy Dungan of Mississippi, Vice President Nicole Clapp of Iowa, Treasurer Sara Riegel of Indiana, Chaplain Dr. Deborah Blanch of Virginia, and Historian Brenda Collins of South Carolina.

The 2018-2019 national division vice presidents are Central Division: Teresa Isensee; Eastern Division: Rita Barylski; Northwestern Division: Barb Vetter; Southern Division: Gloria Fochtmann-Haygood; and Western Division: Janet Romero. All were installed at convention.

In other ALA matters in Minneapolis, convention delegates voted 687-25 to begin the Auxiliary's 2020 National Convention with a flag parade of department colors in honor of ALA's 100th anniversary.

Live video of general sessions, national officer elections, and the installation ceremony at National Convention, as it happened, was broadcast online. Video from the 2018 ALA National Convention, and photos, are available at www.ALAforVeterans.org/convention.

Want to attend an upcoming ALA National Convention? The next one will be Aug. 23-29, 2019 in Indianapolis — and it will be our 99th National Convention. ALA's 100th National Convention will be held in Louisville, Ky., Aug. 28 - Sept. 3, 2020. Start making your plans now! ★



FANFARE (top to bottom): Vice President Mike Pence speaks to the Legion Family (photo: Lucas Carter/The American Legion National Headquarters); members from Iowa gather for a photo; members Deanna Woodburn (left) and Amanda Washburn.

You can help women veterans in need!

American Legion Auxiliary members can make a difference in the lives of women veterans and their families. Here are some ways you and your unit, district/county, or department can help:

- Seek and connect with women who have served in our military.
- Listen, and look around your community, to determine what support for women veterans is missing there.
- Create opportunities for women veterans to join ALA or to become a volunteer. Allow them to get to know the Auxiliary. For example, plan and hold welcoming events such as "Coffee with Jane."

- Expand and nurture your local network of mental health providers.
- Develop a relationship with the local U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs women's clinic.
- Connect with local agencies supporting women, and ask if they know of women veterans using those services.
- Know your local suicide support agencies.
- Learn more about suicide prevention measures.
- Share training to improve the community's cultural awareness, especially the unique issues facing women veterans. One good source is PsychArmor.org, where there is free online education and support for anyone who works with, lives with, or cares for veterans, servicemembers, and their families. PsychArmor Institute is a national non-profit agency. *Source: U.S. Vets*



THEY GAVE (top): Photos of ALA members who donated to the ALA Foundation during National Convention line a whole table; (bottom): members pose with fun props at the ALAF #GivingTuesday booth.

#GivingTuesday Off To A Record Start

With the holiday season right around the corner, #GivingTuesday (Nov. 27 this year) will be here before you know it. #GivingTuesday is a day dedicated to making individual and corporate donations to worthy causes such as the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation. This globally recognized period of special emphasis on giving always falls on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving.

This marks the fourth year of #GivingTuesday for the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation — and we're already off to a great

start: A record-breaking \$12,000 was raised through donations from more than 320 Legion Family and friends during the 98th annual ALA National Convention in August.

"We knew it was going to be an amazing three days at National Convention, when, on Monday morning alone, we raised almost as much as we did for the entire time at last year's National Convention," said ALA Development Outreach Lead Madison Maves. "Members lined up before and after each general session to give a donation and had fun at the photo booth."

Although we started off strong, we certainly can't stop there.

The ALA Foundation's participation in #GivingTuesday directly impacts the lives of veterans, military, and their families through the Veteran Projects Fund and the Mission Endowment Fund. The Veteran Projects Fund — which supports ALA projects that address the emergent needs of veterans — has been used to renovate a veterans homeless shelter, purchase computer stations and laptops for veterans facilities, and provide art

and physical therapy equipment to veterans facilities in need.

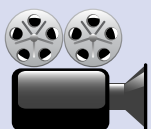
The Mission Endowment Fund uses the interest on donations paid into the fund to support ALA programs — such as American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation, ensuring future generations may benefit from Auxiliary programs which support veterans and their families. All donations help ensure the ALA is here for another 100 years to aid veterans, military, and their families in need of support.

"This is one of my favorite fundraising campaigns because it's truly a group effort," Maves said. "Every single dollar donated adds up to making a very large impact on our veterans, military, and their families."

You can help us promote #GivingTuesday on social media over the next few weeks:

- Like the ALA National Headquarters Facebook page at [Facebook.com/alaforveterans](https://www.facebook.com/alaforveterans) so your followers can see all of our #GivingTuesday posts.
- Follow @ALAforVeterans on Twitter to retweet and favorite #GivingTuesday posts supporting the ALA Foundation.
- Follow @ALAforVeterans on Instagram at [Instagram.com/alaforveterans](https://www.instagram.com/alaforveterans) to like and comment on #GivingTuesday photos.
- Tag @ALAforVeterans in your photos so we can share what the ALA community is doing to support the ALA Foundation.
- Visit ALAFoundation.org/GivingTuesday to see our live Twitter feed, countdown, and resources available to you.

While you're helping spread the word, don't forget to give to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation this #GivingTuesday. Donate online at www.ALAFoundation.org/GivingTuesday.



Missed the 2018 ALA National Convention?

Catch up by watching videos of the general sessions, and officer elections and installation — or view convention photos — by visiting www.ALAFforVeterans.org/convention.



Black Friday. Cyber Monday. What is #GivingTuesday?

We have a day for giving thanks and two for getting deals. #GivingTuesday, Nov. 27, is a global day dedicated to giving back.

Donate to the ALA Foundation on #GivingTuesday to help ensure our worldwide mission of service to veterans, military and their families endures.

Your support leads to job training, shelter, physical and mental health services, and so much more.

Learn more at:
www.ALAFoundation.org/givingtuesday
or call us at 317-569-4500.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
FOUNDATION

Ensuring Our Mission of Service Endures

ALA National President Kathy Dungan: 'Shine a Light' on Plight of Many Women Veterans

Throughout her life, Kathy Dungan has been guided largely by four principles: Be honest. Do your best. Help whenever and wherever you can. Try to make a difference in the lives of others.

Those guiding principles, instilled in her by her parents, led Dungan to the American Legion Auxiliary. She became an ALA member more than 40 years ago to try to make a difference and to help others any way she could ... and to honor her father Wittie Card — a World War II veteran and Legionnaire.

"He put his family first and took care of us. He was dedicated," Dungan said about her father.

Elected as ALA's 2018-2019 national president during the Auxiliary's 98th National Convention in Minneapolis, Dungan will do her part to give that level of care and prioritization to the veterans, servicemembers, and military families selflessly served and honored by ALA members and the entire Legion Family. She is our organization's first national president from Mississippi.

Serving Our Heroes

During her term, Dungan is placing a special emphasis on women veterans and the challenges many of them encounter in life.

"They face so many issues like finding employment, finding adequate child care, or finding affordable housing. If we can shine a light on the challenges they face, then we'll be able to help them. And, it would show that we care about them," Dungan said.

Although her challenges in life may have been different than those experienced by women veterans, Dungan certainly knows what it's like to be up against a major obstacle that seems bigger than any human's heart, bigger than the power of positive thinking, and way too big to overcome.

"When our son Christopher was born, for three days we didn't know if he was going to make it or not. He was born premature. So that was such a trying time for us. I just had to put my faith in God that His will would be done. What could be done [by medical staff] to help our son was done, and we put our faith in the Lord ... and Christopher made it! Now, he's a 6-foot-3 grown man!" Dungan said.

Dungan said she'd like to see women veterans get the support they need to overcome obstacles in their way.

Here are two of the other areas Dungan would like to focus on during her term as 2018-2019 ALA national president:

Promoting Goodwill Throughout The ALA

Dungan wants to see continued work toward the creation of a more widely spread culture of goodwill through the American Legion Auxiliary, at all levels. To that end, Dungan announced that 2019 will be the first year of ALA's Goodwill Ambassador Award.

The plan is for the first five Goodwill Ambassador Awards to be given out at ALA's 2019 National Convention, which will be held in National Headquarters' city of Indianapolis.

The Goodwill Ambassador Award is a concept conceived by the team working on Goal 2 of ALA's 5-Year Centennial Strategic Plan. The ALA's strategic plan contains goals and initiatives aimed at strengthening the Auxiliary in many ways. Goal 2 calls for the creation of an internal culture of goodwill within the entire organization. For more information on the 5-year Centennial Strategic Plan, visit www.ALAforVeterans.org, log in to the Members Only section, and select "Centennial Strategic Plan" on the Members Only drop-down menu.

Dungan had served as a co-strategy captain for the Goal 2/Strategy A Team. She stepped down from that position when she became national vice president in the previous administrative year.

Continue Developing ALA Leaders

Dungan said she feels strongly about furthering the development of leaders at all levels of the ALA.

"I know that a lot of the departments themselves are struggling with [finding] leaders. There needs to be further training so that we can have leaders who are willing and able to lead. They need the tools to help them develop and strengthen their leadership skills," Dungan said.

The national president also noted that the Auxiliary already has one of those extremely helpful tools — ALA Academy.

What many U.S. women veterans face after they've served our nation

When she comes home, a female military veteran may encounter significant — sometimes gender-specific — challenges that prevent her from having a home, securing employment, and accessing adequate health care and mental health treatment. Here are a few eye-opening findings regarding women veterans, as noted in a comprehensive assessment commissioned by DAV (Disabled American Veterans):

- Women veterans are at least twice as likely to be homeless as non-veteran women. Also, women veterans are more likely to be single parents with one or more dependents.
- Post-9/11 women veterans have higher unemployment rates than male veterans and non-veteran women.
- Women who have lost one or more limbs may not receive support and care tailored to their needs. And women are less likely to have a prosthetic that fits properly.

Source — DAV report: Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home, co-authored by Frances M. Murphy, MD, MPH, and Dr. Sherry Hans, PhD.



American Legion Auxiliary 2018-2019 National President Kathy Dungan



ALA Academy is a voluntary, self-guided training program provided to all ALA members at no cost to them. Courses are available in a user-friendly format online, in the Members Only section of the national website at www.ALAforVeterans.org. Additional information about ALA Academy will be found there as well.

Even when her time as national president is complete, Dungan doesn't plan to slow down on doing what she can to make a difference as an ALA member.

She is certain she would like to resume volunteering at ALA Girls State in Mississippi. ALA Girls State is a weeklong learning experience which educates young women about how the government works while developing their leadership skills and confidence. The program has a national component, ALA Girls Nation, which is held annually in Washington, D.C.

Dungan has volunteered at many past ALA Girls State sessions in Mississippi, but had to curtail her involvement once she became more involved in national-level activities and committees in the ALA.

At one of those ALA Girls State sessions in Mississippi, Dungan oversaw the student work being done on a publication distributed during the week.

She didn't realize how much of an impact she had on a specific ALA Girls State participant until she had a chance meeting with the young woman at an airport many years after the two were at the same ALA Girls State session.

Dungan explained how that chance meeting went: "She recognized me. She came up to me and said she had no idea in what direction she was going to go in college and everything. And she said, 'I chose to go into journalism just because of [working on the weekly publication], and she said I was her mentor.'

"To know that I made a difference in that high school student's life meant a lot to me. And it was just by happenstance that I actually found out that I did. So that makes it even much more special.

"I think that we all should try to help others, and the Auxiliary is a wonderful way to do that. Members here are passionate about their work, whether it's helping a veteran, or a veteran's family, a servicemember or a servicemember's family, or children in your community. In ALA, you can find many ways to make a difference in the lives of our military heroes who gave so much to us, or find a way to pay it forward."

Dungan is a member of Unit 79 in Wesson, Miss. She has been an Auxiliary member for 42 years. Her husband William, their son Christopher, daughter-in-law Megan, and grandchildren, 8-year-old Lauren and 2-year-old Lawson — are all members of The American Legion Family.

Dungan is retired from the Mississippi Supreme Court after working there for 22 years as a judicial assistant to a supreme court justice.

Getting to know ALA's 99th National President Kathy Dungan

Dungan is the first American Legion Auxiliary member from Mississippi to become national president — leader of the world's largest women's patriotic service organization. Dungan shared insights about herself and the ALA with *Auxiliary* magazine:

What is the best advice you've received, and who gave it to you?

Be honest and truthful. That came from my mom and dad.

How would you describe your leadership style?

I am committed, but easy-going. I expect people who obligate themselves to do something to follow through. That, to me, is a leader. If I am going to assume a task, then I am going to follow through.

Why is it important for ALA members to remain mission-driven?

It's the reason we exist. We were established to help The American Legion. Our mission is serving veterans. We just need to be on point with our mission.

Why should ALA members strive to achieve the goals in our 5-Year Centennial Strategic Plan?

All five goals are excellent. They all are at the heart

of what the American Legion Auxiliary needs to do to remain a viable organization.

I want to be remembered as the national president who _____?

Made a difference in the quality of life of our veterans, active-duty military, and their families.

HEY, ALA MEMBERS! Don't forget to let the world know about the many ways you and your fellow members are making a difference in serving the Auxiliary's mission this administrative year. Publicize your ALA events and activities by posting information and photos on social media — and include #ALA99 in those posts!





Indiana agency has helped veterans in need for decades, thanks in part to dedicated ALA member Louise Loyd

In step with the American Legion Auxiliary's legacy of making a difference in the lives of veterans, ALA 2018-2019 National President Kathy Dungan, during her term in office, is placing a special emphasis on women veterans, challenges in life unique to them, and finding ways the ALA can help.

Aiding veterans, their families, and other military families with their struggles to get and maintain the basics in life is a big part of what the ALA has been doing for 99 years. There have been many extraordinary examples of these successful efforts throughout the Auxiliary's long history.

One of those examples is HVAF of Indiana Inc., a 25-year-old nonprofit provider of comprehensive services for veterans in Indiana. The creation of HVAF, once known as Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation of Indiana, was spearheaded by ALA member Louise Loyd and ALA Past National President Linda Boone. Loyd, a 70-year ALA member, is an Honorary Life Member of Unit 34 in Indianapolis. Loyd has served on HVAF's board of directors since the organization was founded in 1993.

"Help the homeless, feed the hungry, and clothe the naked. As people, that's what we're supposed to do," said Loyd, a 93-year-old who remains on-the-go gathering donated food and good-condition, clean items for those seeking assistance at HVAF. She's been at this for decades.

"I work hard. My phone rings. I go pick up stuff. If I can't get it in my Honda, I call the guys [at HVAF] who come with the truck to pick it up," Loyd added, noting that she tries to take at least two vehicle loads of items to HVAF each week.

By providing support and transitional housing, food, case management, and other essential services and goods, HVAF has helped many homeless veterans — and many veterans at risk of becoming homeless — reach self-sufficiency. Last year, HVAF's efforts resulted in 1,330 veterans served through all of the organization's programs and services. Of those served, 390 were women veterans who received food and clothing for themselves and/or their children. Others got help paying their utility bills.

HVAF operates 13 houses and three apartment complexes as transitional housing. As of press time, there were 11 women veterans and 147 male veterans in HVAF's transitional housing.

"They're allowed to live in HVAF's transitional housing for 18 months to two years. They have a big computer room down in our office building, and they can get on there and look for jobs. We have case workers for every veteran there," Loyd explained.

Among its many other offerings, HVAF has a food, clothing, and hygiene-products pantry which is available to any veteran in need. Through its Supportive Services for Veterans and Families Program, HVAF aids eligible veteran families with help getting U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and other benefits, and assistance with budgeting and establishing a stability plan.

HVAF's history began more than two decades ago when ALA's then-National President Linda Boone asked for Loyd's help with a project to help homeless veterans in Indianapolis. Also in HVAF's early days, Steve Peck of U.S. Vets — a nonprofit provider of comprehensive services to homeless veterans and at-risk veterans in various parts of America and Guam — lent a helping hand. Peck offered insights and advice that helped get HVAF started. (Read more about Peck and U.S. Vets on page 34 in this issue of *Auxiliary* magazine.)

HVAF was initially incorporated as a Far From Home Chapter in 1993. It became HVAF of Indiana Inc. in 2005.

Those early years for HVAF were tough, as it wasn't easy then to find that first place to convert into transitional housing, Loyd said. The break came when the city of Indianapolis agreed to sell HVAF a boarded-up house it owned if HVAF agreed to take care of the building and the yard. The purchase price was \$1.

To honor Loyd, one of those transitional homes was named Loyd House. There's also the Louise Loyd Trophy, an award given to HVAF's best volunteer of the year.

"It's a really nice honor," Loyd said about the house and trophy named after her. "I've had a wonderful life, and I do feel like I've helped a lot of people. But you know what? I don't do it for the reward. When I go over there, those veterans are like, 'Oh, Miss Loyd!' They'll hug me and thank me, and that's all the reward you need if you're serious about what you do."

You can help your community's veterans in need!

One way is to collect comfort and care items and host a stand down, an event where necessity items and services are offered to veterans at no charge. Recruit service providers, such as medical professionals, to volunteer at the event. Learn more by reading the ALA blog post, *How You Can Help Local Veterans by Planning a Stand Down*, at ALAForVeterans.wordpress.com.

If a stand down is already planned in your area, consider serving as a volunteer. One place to check for scheduled stand downs is www.va.gov/homeless.

Or, take those items you collected to an agency that helps homeless veterans and their families. For other ways to help, visit www.va.gov/homeless/stakeholders.asp.



THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY
NATIONAL POPPY DAY®



MAY 24, 2019

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REMEMBERING PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT ALICE GALKA



Indiana member Alice Galka's passion for the American Legion Auxiliary shined bright when it came to ALA's youth and veteran outreach programs,

two areas of the organization she especially loved.

Galga, 90, passed away July 26, 2018, at her home in Gary, Ind. She served as ALA's national president during the 1988-1989 administrative year.

She joined Kosciuszko Unit 207 in Gary in 1950 through the eligibility of her late husband, Tadeusz "Tad" Galga, a World War II veteran.

Galga served in many ALA leadership roles at all levels of the organization, including unit president for five terms; president of the Department of Indiana during the 1969-1970 administrative year; National Executive Committeewoman; vice chairman of the national Membership Committee; national chairman of numerous other committees; and national vice president.

She also served 30 years on the staff of ALA Hoosier Girls State, helping the next generation of female leaders understand the importance of civic responsibility. Additionally, Galga volunteered with Hines VA Medical Center in Illinois.

Outside of the ALA, Galga sang in the choir at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, served on the board of directors for United Cerebral Palsy of Northwest Indiana, and was president of the Women's Club, who honored her with its Woman of the Year award in 1967. Additionally, she worked with the March of Dimes, American Heart

Association, Little League Women's Club, and was president of Gary Chopin Chorus.

In 1988, Galga was installed as national president at the National Convention in Louisville, Ky.

Maria Galga, her daughter-in-law, gave the nomination speech.

"Alice's inborn ability to deal with people, to gain their understanding, cooperation, and most important of all, their ideas, makes her a natural leader... Alice has a great vision of the future and of what could be," she said. "She not only looks to the past for guidance, but looks to the future for inspiration. She welcomes new, younger members with open arms, knowing that the future of our organization depends on the youth of our communities."

During her national president installation address, Galga spoke of pride — her focus for the year.

"We take pride in our country, pride in our citizenship, and today, we are here to show that pride is the moving force in our being members of the American Legion Auxiliary," she said.

Galga encouraged her fellow Auxiliary members to be proud of the organization and all it supports and all that it stands for.

"With pride comes the acceptance of responsibility of increasing the growth of membership so that we can successfully increase our service to the needs of veterans, our children and youth, community, state, and nation," she said.

At the end of her address, Galga focused on strengthening The American Legion Family, a focal point that's still relevant today.

"Together with The American Legion, we are partners in pride," she told Auxiliary members and delegates. "We are growing — we are glowing — and if together we take one step at a time in 1988-1989, then we will achieve the results we perceive."

While serving as ALA national president, Galga created a new committee, the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution Committee, which concentrated on the executive branch of government and celebrated the 200th anniversary of George Washington's inauguration.

Other committees with strong mission outreach emphasis that administrative year included Children & Youth (preventing teenage suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, and awareness of missing children), Community Service (breast cancer awareness), and Foreign Relations (England, Radio Free Europe, and Prisoner of War/Missing in Action issues).

On behalf of the ALA national organization, Past National President Kristine S. West, New Hampshire, delivered the eulogy at Galga's funeral in August.

"We had a great leader that year in the American Legion Auxiliary — one who practiced that family comes first," West said. "Alice volunteered for veterans 24/7 and our organization."

Galga was preceded in death by her husband, Tadeusz "Tad" Galga; her parents, Benjamin and Cecilia Pinkowski; and sister, Lorraine Manowski. She is survived by her son, Mark Galga and his wife Maria "Teri" of Hobart, Ind., and their six children; 17 great-grandchildren; and many additional relatives in her large, close family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the State of Indiana Veterans Home, 3851 North River Road, West Lafayette, IN 47906, or to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation: online at www.ALAforVeterans.org/donate or by mailing a memorial donation to American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters, Attention: ALAF; 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

A LOOK BACK AT 2017-2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PROJECTS

This past year, several mission-centric successes were celebrated throughout the entire ALA organization as strategy captains, goal champions, and Implementation Team members continued working toward the goals of our 5-Year Centennial Strategic Plan. Following is an overview of 2017-2018 activities and progress.

Goal 5: With The American Legion, Build Brand Loyalty

The biggest impact was related to the National Poppy Day® message within The American Legion Family, with collaborative efforts between The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. And related to ALA Girls Nation — thanks to MSL Group, a public relations/media agency, and the help of the ALA National Headquarters Communications Division — *USA Today* featured an article about ALA Girls Nation, helping to promote the American Legion Auxiliary and all we do.

Goal 4: Strengthen Departments and Units

During the Department Leadership National Conference in May, Goal 4 team members met with departments that previously had not worked on developing a department strategic plan. As a result of those meetings, we now have 45 of 52 ALA departments engaging in strategic planning at some level.

This team also launched Phase II for departments that had gone a bit further with their strategic plan; 14 departments already submitted their

information. Five hundred dollars was awarded to New York, Vermont, and West Virginia. This team plans to continue personally reaching out to other departments ready to begin Phase II.

Goal 3: Develop Leadership at All Levels

After reviewing the ALA Organizational Effectiveness Assessment, Goal 3 recognized that leadership challenges fall into three main categories — role clarification, accountability, and succession planning — and departments and units need tools to address these. This team developed a Roles and Accountability Chart, which is a visual representation of Chapter 1 in the *ALA Department Operations Guide*. It is NOT intended to be a diagram of how each department is structured, but is a model to help people understand department roles and accountability.

Goal 3 continues to encourage department leaders and members to access the ALA Academy's five courses. Over 3,000 members have completed the first four courses, and an additional 1,000 members have started, but not yet completed, their first class. More courses are being developed, including *Conflict Styles*, *Member Retention*, *Handling Conflict*, *Diversity*, and *Change Reaction Styles*.

Goal 2: Create an Internal Culture of Goodwill

With the launch of the *Establishing an ALA Culture of Goodwill* course, the Goal 2 team, in conjunction with the ALA National

Headquarters Communications Division, developed *Goodwill Gail*, an advice column that helps members deal with conflict within the Auxiliary.

Additionally, the Goodwill Ambassador Award is now available for nominations and will be presented at the 2019 National Convention, awarding five members, one from each division.

Recognizing goodwill at all levels of the organization will help us retain members and encourage more individuals to seek leadership roles.

Goal 1: Enhance Membership Strength

Strategy B has focused on enhancing diversity. The team actively searched (and will continue to do so) for stories about members who represent diversity in the ALA.

Also, this team encourages members to find out why fellow members have become inactive and see if those issues can be resolved. Sometimes, it takes face-to-face visits, phone calls, newsletters, and emails. This kind of grassroots communication will help us meet this goal.

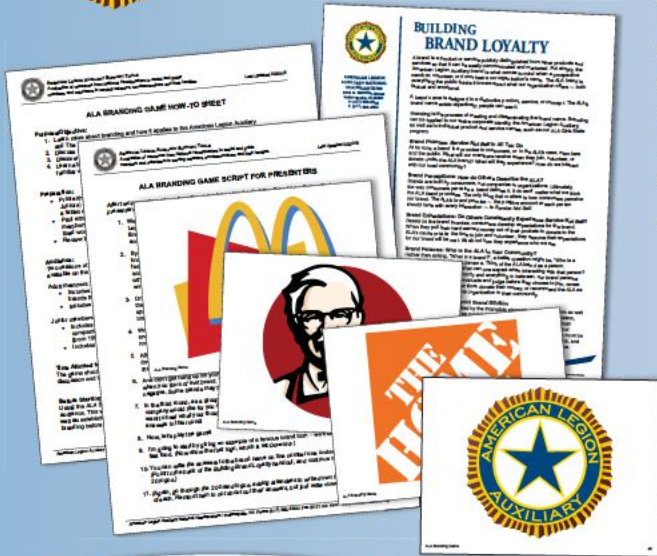
The ALA Centennial Strategic Plan is a really big undertaking, and vital if we are going to be here for another generation of veterans. Remember: Achieving Goals 5, 4, 3, and 2 will make it possible to get to Goal 1. The strategic planning groups have been working hard this past administrative year to give you the tools, information, and training you need to help us serve our mission for the next 100 years.

SEE WHO RECEIVED ALA NATIONAL RECOGNITION!

The American Legion Auxiliary presents hundreds of awards nationally to recognize outstanding accomplishments in service to veterans, the military, and their families, both within the organization and throughout the greater society. Several awards were presented on stage at the Auxiliary's 98th National Convention in Minneapolis. See the full list, and learn how you can apply, at www.ALAforVeterans.org.



Fun for Adult and Junior Members! Everyone Wins in New ALA Branding Game



With this exciting and interactive three-round game, ALA members will compare and discuss the American Legion Auxiliary brand and challenge each other to care for and promote our brand with a new awareness of how others see the ALA as an organization.

ALA Branding Game objectives:

- ★ Learn more about branding and how it applies to the American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion Family.
- ★ Discuss the importance of branding through review of current company brands.
- ★ Discover the potential positive and negative consequences of branding.
- ★ Learn about and discuss public perception for both members and those who aren't familiar with our organization.

Log in to the *Members Only* section at www.ALAforVeterans.org to download the free game

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Invaluable Resource for ALA Members

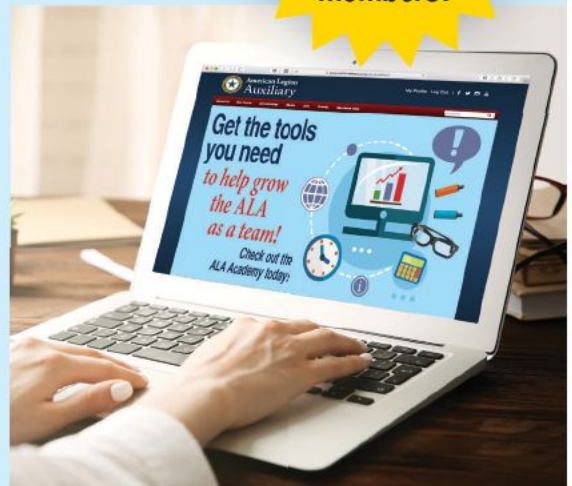
ALA Academy

Free online courses available to all members!

The American Legion Auxiliary's ALA Academy is available to all members. This series of free online courses will expand your knowledge of the ALA and help you better serve our mission.

Here are ways the ALA Academy will be useful to you:

- ★ Learn how your membership helps veterans, military, and their families
- ★ Learn communication, leadership, strategic thinking, team building, and more
- ★ Learn why your membership is meaningful
- ★ Learn about tools to work the mission
- ★ Learn about ALA culture
- ★ Receive consistent training
- ★ Learn anytime at your own pace



Log in today to start your learning:
www.ALAforVeterans.org/ALA-Academy

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EDUCATION: SERVING OUR WOMEN HEROES THROUGH EDUCATION

Serving Our Heroes is our special emphasis this year, perfectly aligned with the American Legion Auxiliary's mission. National President Kathy Dungan has asked efforts to be concentrated on veteran homelessness, particularly that of our women veterans. How can the ALA Education program craft what we already do to support this?

First, assess the need in your community. Here are a few ideas:

■ **Transitioning military/veterans:** Offer scholarships to our transitioning military when their GI Bill benefits have been exhausted, are not available, or their program is not fully funded, thus enabling receipt of license or certificates to obtain civilian occupations.

■ **National Guardsmen:** Offer scholarships to National Guard personnel continuing their education to cover all fees, do not

qualify for GI Bill benefits, or where GI Bill benefits are not fully funded.

■ **Military spouses:** Offer scholarships to these men and women to help offset the costs of licensure transfer, such as getting a state-specific teaching certificate, taking a state's bar exam, or receiving a specific state's nursing license.

■ **Child care scholarship/grant:** Establish a scholarship or grant made payable directly to the child care center for the veteran parents continuing their education, and child care is an ongoing issue.

■ **Servicemembers:** Work with your Legislative committees, both Legion and ALA, to advocate for GI Bill education funds to include apprenticeships and credentialing, to ensure that existing veteran education benefits aren't eroded or eliminated, and to lobby state

legislatures in support of licensure reciprocity.

Then, collaborate with Student Veterans of America chapters, National Guard armories, and family readiness groups to promote, as well as vocational/technical schools, community colleges, veteran centers, Department Service Officers, and other veterans service organizations. You should also work with ALA National Security and Public Relations committees to help promote your scholarship.

Additional ALA Education program information, including national scholarship applications, can be found when you log in to the Members Only section online at www.ALAforVeterans.org.



Lisa Williamson is a 28-year member of C. Russell Huber Unit 57 in Fairbanks, Alaska.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: PLAN NOW FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY



Now is a good time to begin planning your community service project for the Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service on Jan. 21, 2019. Days of service have a focus on empowering individuals, strengthening communities, and creating solutions to social problems.

First, contact organizations that support our veterans, such as transitional housing facilities, homeless shelters, or your U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

office. Ask them what is needed for veterans in your area. Focus your questions on the needs of women veterans and homeless veterans. The answer may be food, clothing, personal items, pet supplies, or laundry supplies. Other ideas for organizing a project: Ask women veterans to speak in classrooms about their service experience, clean a facility that serves women veterans, or offer an employment mentoring workshop.

Next, organize your project by advertising in your community, through flyers in stores and community centers, notices in local radio and television stations, and in your local newspaper. Be clear about your project, and include information about what you are collecting, where supplies can be dropped off, and the deadline for accepting donations. Flyer templates

can be found online at www.ALAforVeterans.org in the Members Only section. When taking your flyers to places for posting, always wear your ALA branded clothing, smile, and remember to say, "thank you."

On the day you sort and deliver the collected items, invite your local media. Take lots of action pictures and post them to social media sites. Many local papers will publish a good action photo with a short tagline.

You can plan a community service project for any time of year, but an advantage to planning it for Jan. 21, 2019, is that news outlets may have more interest in including your project in their coverage.



Elaine Mackenzie is a 14-year member of Colchester Unit 91 in Colchester, Vt.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: ACCURATE INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Some ALA members have a misconception about public relations. Many think it's only writing articles for the newspaper or for department newsletters. However, PR also consists of our spoken words. It's important to share the Auxiliary's programs in written form and spoken word, while considering a few important guidelines and best practices in ALA public relations.

Regardless of any news articles you are writing, make sure the program information being shared is accurate and follows the ALA National Organization's guidelines for publication and emblem usage. To be certain all guidelines are followed, you can't go wrong if you follow the *ALA Branding Guide*,

found on the national website under the Members Only tab and under Public Relations.

Don't forget to communicate with your members, your state leadership, and with the National Organization to avoid any problems regarding information you may publish or speak about. When in doubt, please consult the national program chairman to verify your information is accurate and follows the national stance on the topic. Once something is in print or stated in spoken word, if it is untrue or contradicts any national messaging, it cannot be unseen or unheard. So be safe, not sorry, and ask questions when in doubt.

If you want to use the ALA emblem, submit an emblem usage

approval request form to the national secretary for approval. To submit a request, send an email to natlsecy@ALAforVeterans.org and once it has been reviewed, you will be informed of the decision.

Every program we share becomes PR. We are sharing who we are, what we do, and why we matter every day in our programs. Our members are a walking, talking billboard for the organization. Please learn about our programs so when sharing information, you are accurate and are communicating the great things the ALA does in our communities, states, and nation.



Martha Corriher is a 35-year member of North Carolina Unit 146 in Landis.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION: HELPING FEMALE VETERANS

There are 2.2 million female veterans today, accounting for about 10 percent of the overall veteran



population. Female veterans have different needs than their male colleagues and often find it difficult to get help. Overall, they

are more at risk for homelessness, unemployment, depression, and suicide.

One of the most basic needs for a female veteran is shelter. From 2016 to 2017, the number of homeless female veterans increased by 7 percent, compared with 1 percent for male veterans, according to

the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Female veterans are harder to place in transitional housing and shelters for a variety of reasons. Many have children, and, in some cases, if the child is 12 or older, they are considered adults and not typically accepted into transitional housing. Rather than leave their children or give them up, they will stay on the streets.

You can help by advocating and supporting affordable and reliable housing options for these female veterans. Locally, work to establish a rapport with area homeless shelters. Volunteer as a group or individually to make and serve meals. Provide child care and donate clothing. If you have a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facility in your area, work

with the VA transitional housing coordinators. Provide welcome baskets designed specifically for females, and include items such as female hygiene products, baby items, toys, and gamebooks for school-aged children.

Another idea is to donate food to mobile food pantries. Many homeless people rely on these pantries as their only source of food. If you don't have a mobile pantry in your area, why not start one?

These are only a few ideas. Try to be creative and think of things you can do to help our female veterans. If you have an idea you'd like to share, please send an email to VA&R@ALAforVeterans.org.



Kathy Daudistel is a 23-year member of Latonia Unit 203 in Latonia, Ky.

APPLY FOR A 2019-2020 NATIONAL APPOINTMENT

American Legion Auxiliary National Vice President Nicole Clapp is now seeking applications from motivated members interested in being appointed to national committee leadership positions during the 2019-2020 administrative year. Applications must be completed online by February 1, 2019, at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

IMPACT ALA!

WHAT'S NEW AT NHQ

BEGIN PREPARATIONS NOW FOR ALA AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

The Auxiliary's annual Americanism Essay Contest encourages students to learn about the fundamental rights and freedoms we enjoy today.

Each year, the contest has a different theme. The 2019 essay theme is *How Can We Address and Prevent Veteran Homelessness in Our Communities?* The contest is for students in grades 3-12.

Grade levels are divided into six classes. One award in each class will be presented in every division. Winners will receive \$50, and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the ALA Children of Warriors National Presidents'

Scholarship fund. This is a unit, department, and division award only.

With an April 2019 deadline, the contest tends to be a late winter/early spring focus at schools. Start now so you and your unit have more time to prepare.

There are several ways you can get your unit involved with the contest. Here are a few ideas:

- Contact schools and other organizations such as the Young Marines, Girl and Boy Scouts, and 4-H about the essay contest.
- Encourage ALA Junior members and Sons of The American Legion to participate in the essay contest.
- Create information packets

explaining contest rules, deadline dates, theme, and award opportunities.

■ Work with local school administration to identify guidance counselors, history teachers, etc., whose students would be interested in participating.

All department winners are due to division Americanism chairmen no later than April 15, 2019. For more information on department deadlines and how your unit can sponsor the ALA Americanism Essay Contest, contact Americanism@ALAforVeterans.org or your department Americanism chairman.

CONGRATULATIONS TO 2017-2018 POPPY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS



ARTWORK: Alyssa Hoopes, Department of Pennsylvania.

The American Legion Auxiliary's Poppy Poster Contest is a staple within the Poppy program, with students across the country creating their best red Flanders Field poppy through a variety of art media. The contest is for students in grades 2-12.

ALA units are encouraged to

sponsor contests in schools, but when that isn't possible, other youth groups, including Junior members, may participate under direct supervision of the unit.

It's important to begin promoting the contest early to get as many school-aged children across the country involved. For more information on contest deadlines and guidelines, visit www.ALAforVeterans.org.

Auxiliary magazine wants to know more details about the Poppy Poster Contest in your community! Write us at alamagazine@ALAforVeterans.org.

Full-size versions of the 2017-2018 winning posters can be viewed at www.ALAforVeterans.org/Programs/Poppy-Poster-Winners.

Additionally, poppy notecards, which feature contest winners' artwork, are available for purchase at American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales at www.emblem.legion.org.



POSTERS: Above: Emilia Mikhnevich, Department of New Jersey. Below: Ella Van Sloten, Department of South Dakota.

Provided by Dr. Deborah Blanch, National Chaplain 2018-2019 | www.facebook.com/groups/alachaplains

NOVEMBER

November is the month for Thanksgiving — it brings rich, wonderful colors to nature, and it embraces peace and tranquility. We find peace when we pray, as it is the foundation upon which we individually believe that all things come to us as planned by our heavenly father. God always answers every prayer no matter how small or big in His time and not ours. If we look, we will see everything falls into place when we step back and release it to Him.

2 Chronicles 5:13 reads, “It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying, For He is good; for His mercy endured forever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD.

This is the month to celebrate the “freedom” of gathering together and being grateful for our existence. No storms will ever break our spirits or the power of being thankful for the beautiful month of Thanksgiving! Freedom, however, is a wonderful thing, and we are fortunate that we can pray in our own faiths and enjoy time with family and friends.

Father God, we continue to give You thanks as we come together and fellowship with food prepared by loving hands. We enjoy the freedom given to us as we continue to pray for the health and strength to move forward and complete Your plan for us. We ask that You grant us to continue to build the “Spirit of Goodwill” to each other and those within the sound of our voice.

Amen.

DECEMBER

December is a wonderful month and holds a special meaning for celebration for each of us. During this month’s celebrations, you will see colorful lights and decorations, as well as a multitude of family gatherings. May we still Create an Internal Culture of Goodwill as we continue to pray and work in harmony with our programs and projects. This is the last month people come together to sing, give gifts, and look back on the past year.

Luke 1:46-50 speaks to us, saying, “And Mary said, my soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For He hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is His name. And His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation.”

Let us pray in our own faiths: Father God, as You continue to open the gates of Heaven and pour out Your blessing to us, may we have room to receive it. We ask that You continue to guide us as we celebrate You. Give us the discernment of peace and love to help everyone within the sound of our voices. We humbly ask that the year of 2018 closes better than last year as we look upon January.

Let’s pray this prayer with our children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews: Dear God, thank You for my wonderful parents, grandparents, brothers, and sisters. I am really thankful for my room, my house, and my teachers. I know Santa Claus is travelling tonight, and I want to thank You for the gifts he will bring me tonight. In Your name, I pray as I lay down to sleep tonight.

Amen.

JANUARY

January is the start of a new year, and we should rejoice because we have a chance for a brand new start! Psalms 55:22 speaks to us, saying, “Cast on the Lord whatever He sends your way, and He will sustain you. He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.” The past year may have created challenges that left some of us with mixed emotions. We may have had a wonderful year or just looked at the good in anything that hindered us in 2018. Either way, we are still tasked to walk side by side and with the “Spirit of Goodwill” as we enter 2019.

According to Romans 8:31, “If God is with us, who can be against us?” His strength is mighty, and nothing can beat His power, knowledge, forgiveness, blessings, mercy, or grace. Even in the face of adversity, God won’t let us fail. According to 2 Corinthians 5:5, “He who hath prepared us for this very thing is God, who hath given us the Spirit as a guarantee.”

Let’s start the new year humble and thankful for another chance to improve on any unfinished business. Let us connect across the miles as one mind, body, and spirit as we pray together: Dear God, we come together to start the new year fresh and without regrets. We understand that You have been with us through the good and bad times; this allows us to renew our faith in You as we know You have brought us this far and You will never leave us. Walk with us and send Your angels out to protect us in the upcoming year. Keep us straightforward on the path we need to follow, and give us continued peace.

Amen.



Dr. Deborah Blanch is a member of the Department of Virginia.

ALA GIRLS NATION PREPARES TEENS FOR LEADERSHIP



The 2018 election year saw a record number of women running for public office. In the near future, we can expect more female public servants representing the American people — from local chambers to Capitol Hill. In light of this exciting trend, programs like ALA Girls Nation are needed — now more than ever — to develop these young women in becoming the next generation of female leaders.

ALA Girls Nation is a unique mock experiential learning program, one that positions high-potential teens for a lifetime of public service to our country. From July 21-28, 100 female high school seniors — two from each of our 50 states — convened in Washington, D.C. for the 72nd Annual ALA Girls Nation. Mirroring the structure of government at the federal level, each teenage girl represented her state as a “senator.” During the transformative weeklong program, these senators formed a fictitious nation, became “Nationalists” and “Federalists,” enthusiastically campaigned to hold office, and — perhaps most important — accepted and celebrated the outcome of these elections and came together to serve for the good of the nation — ALA Girls Nation.

Since its inception in 1947, more than 7,000 young women have attended ALA Girls Nation. Though much has changed in seven decades, one thing has not: Each participant leaves the program thoroughly informed about the fundamentals of U.S. government — and the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of citizens. ALA Girls Nation lasts just seven days. Yet the short experience — one that champions the legislative process and serious collaboration — has laid the foundation for thousands of bright futures.

Many past participants have chosen careers in public service, putting their ALA Girls Nation experience into action to serve the people. The lessons learned about teamwork, resilience, and the democratic principles that guide the republic in which we live are applied in real life by many alumnae who have gone on to serve at the local, state, and national level — including members of the military and those in positions at the White House. One such alumna is Chrystal Moore, who spoke at the Inauguration Ceremony during ALA Girls Nation. At the time, Moore was a White House Fellow in the Office of Public Liaison.

In her speech, Moore encouraged the girls to dedicate themselves to serving others. “In everything that you do, commit your life to service,” she said. “Helping others should be a part of your DNA. And whatever career

you choose, ask yourself: How can I be of service to my community, and how can I be of service to this country? Know that you don’t have to join the military or the government to be of service ... Years from now, nobody is going to remember who the Real Housewives of DC are, but we will all remember who the great senators — the female senators — of our generation are. That’s because service always lasts.”

When *Auxiliary* magazine asked the 2018 ALA Girls Nation senators what their plans are after high school and what they learned at the event, Moore’s message resonated loud and clear: The future of America is in good hands. Here’s what they had to say:

ISABELLA GRAHAM, ALASKA

What do you want to be when you “grow up”?

My dream is to be an English professor, particularly in contemporary literature, but I also have a heart for classical linguistics and classical literature.

What did you learn at ALA Girls Nation that you weren’t expecting?

I did not recognize how much isn’t known about Alaska — there isn’t any education on it and we’re a vastly unique state. Another thing that really opened my eyes was how different our culture and the people around us [in Alaska] are. We don’t have many of the issues that are vastly affecting the United States, but we have many issues that could never be affected in other states.

Graham is an ALA Junior member.

ALYSHA SIDDIQI, OKLAHOMA

What do you want to be when you “grow up”?

I want to pursue a degree in the medical field, but I’m really passionate about politics so hopefully I can keep an aspect of my life geared toward engaging in that field.

What did you learn at ALA Girls Nation that you weren’t expecting?

I wasn’t aware that I was going to make such tight-knit friendships within the span of a week. For me, being able to make long-lasting connections with girls from 50 states with 50 perspectives was truly amazing.

SUZIE CHO, NEBRASKA

What do you want to be when you “grow up”?

I really want to pursue a career in public health. So, right now, I’m looking at colleges that provide a public health co-major and minor. I’m not quite sure where public health is going to lead me.



What did you learn at ALA Girls Nation that you weren't expecting?

I think I really learned that ALA Girls Nation is a unique opportunity in the sense that this is representative of America's future leaders and representative of all different walks of life and all different political backgrounds. Being able to collaborate and use the skills we've all gained from our collective community backgrounds is so amazing.

COURTNEY BATISTE, TEXAS

What do you want to be when you "grow up"?

I would like to go to college and major in biology and minor in political science, and I would want my career to be a pediatric surgeon.

What did you learn at ALA Girls Nation that you weren't expecting?

I learned that compromise is easier than people think, and everyone has different views and perspectives of life. If you choose to only see yours, you are choosing to stay ignorant.

CHLOE BROWNELL, NEW MEXICO

What do you want to be when you "grow up"?

I want to be a performer in musical theater.

What did you learn at ALA Girls Nation that you weren't expecting?

I learned the importance of unity within the political system, because seeing how our senate sessions [at ALA Girls Nation are carried out], compared to what actually happens, was an interesting comparison to draw.

LOUISE SISNEROS, COLORADO

What do you want to be when you "grow up"?

I want to be a counseling psychologist for the Army and specialize in working with trauma.

When asked why she wants to serve our nation, Sisneros said, "Being part of something bigger than myself and having a network of people I'm united with, work with, and serving this country to protect it and make it better."

What did you learn at ALA Girls Nation that you weren't expecting?

I learned a lot about working with other people and with other young women. There's definitely a stigma around teenage girls being gossipy and being easily distracted and all these different things, but just having such a great group of girls – that really discounted all of those things. We're supportive of one another, we're respectful of one another all while being incredibly intelligent and playing leadership roles. That was really cool.

FINNLEY SENESE, FLORIDA

What do you want to be when you "grow up"?

I hope to pursue political science with a minor in philosophy. I am so in love with the world of politics, and I am confident in my ability — and my generation's ability — to change the world in that field.

What did you learn at ALA Girls Nation that you weren't expecting?

I learned an unexplainable amount about the voices of those around me. I learned about struggle, success, and stories that the media doesn't portray ... What ALA Girls Nation taught me is the astounding impact that one voice and one opinion can have on a room. I wasn't expecting to walk out of this experience wanting to be president, but now my eyes and mind are open to all new opinions and opportunities that come my way.

IMANI SMITH, KENTUCKY

What do you want to be when you "grow up"?

I really want to go into law first, and after that I may go into politics.

What did you learn at ALA Girls Nation that you weren't expecting?

I had already seen at ALA Girls State that the program was about patriotism ... but this week really embedded within me tolerance for all walks of life and true patriotism and trying to serve our country. So, I guess service would be a big part of what I learned this week that I wasn't really expecting.

ROULA HAMMER, MARYLAND

What do you want to be when you "grow up"?

President of the United States of America. Vote Hammer 2036.

What did you learn at ALA Girls Nation that you weren't expecting?

This past summer I had the experience to go with my dad on his campaign to be a judge and judges are non-partisan elections, so we went to both political [party] meetings. The behavior I witnessed from adults who are highly educated and responsible, respectable human beings was deplorable. And so, I came here thinking if I met the parents of these kids and they acted this way,

am I not going to be able to deal with these other girls — are they also going to be the same hyper-partisan divide? I was so happy to meet so many people who, regardless of their political affiliations or opinions, were able to see that we need to compromise. Really, that was a little bit shocking. I met people I disagreed with heavily, but somehow at the end of the day we could both find a common ground and then we'd end up watching Netflix and enjoying popcorn together. To see that really gave me faith in the humanity and future of this country. I learned about government and other people.

ABIGAIL MALONEY, MISSOURI

What do you want to be when you "grow up"?

I am hoping to pursue a double major in political science and chemistry, then attend law school.

What did you learn at ALA Girls Nation that you weren't expecting?

I really did not know about all of the ways to get involved to help veterans. I didn't think I would learn about all of the different ways to get involved in politics either. There are so many opportunities for career fields that I didn't know about before attending ALA Girls Nation.



2018 ALA GIRLS NATION (opposite page): senators participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier; the Bethesda community poses in front of the U.S. Capitol building. Photos this page (clockwise from top): ALA Girls Nation President Hoda Abdalla shakes hands with Vice President Pence; Old Glory is hoisted during a flag-raising ceremony; senators smile for the camera; four senators lead the Pledge of Allegiance during a patriotic ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery; 2017-2018 American Legion National Commander Denise Rohan makes a "W" sign with two Wisconsin delegates; senators meet with a White House official.



EXPLORING CAPITOL HILL (top, left to right): Supreme Court judges try out their new robes before the Inauguration Ceremony; delegates strike a pose; ALA Girls Nation senators met with their respective state senators where they had the opportunity to discuss bills they had written and receive advice from their real-life counterparts. Pictured are Sen. Claire McCaskill, Missouri; Sen. Ron Johnson, Wisconsin; Sen. Bernie Sanders, Vermont; Sen. John Boozman, Arkansas; Sen. Johnny Isakson, Georgia; Sen. Maggie Hassan, New Hampshire; Sen. Deb Fischer, Nebraska; Sen. Cory Booker, New Jersey; and Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, North Dakota. The moment when Hoda Abdalla and Finnley Senese realized they were elected president and vice president; a senator helps Karen Grimord from the Landstuhl Hospital Care Project load a service project donation; 2018 ALA Girls Nation junior counselors.

JORDAN ARMSTRONG, GEORGIA

What do you want to be when you “grow up”?

I want to be an orthopedic surgeon, but I want to go into the Army. If I had one super-large goal, maybe the surgeon general, but we'll see.

Armstrong said her dad, who retired from the U.S. Army after 28 years, inspired her to serve. “Since I’ve been around it all my life, I just feel like it’s the best path for me — it’s structured, and I’ll never have to worry about having a job,” she said.

What did you learn at ALA Girls Nation that you weren’t expecting?

I learned that we are going to change the world. I never would’ve imagined a group of people who were so motivated to want to create change in a way that people haven’t thought of and the lawmakers of today aren’t thinking of ... and hopefully we’re able to implement those things in our federal and state governments. I never would’ve thought to see so many people so motivated to want to change the world. It’s just really amazing.

AVA GRAINGER, SOUTH CAROLINA

What do you want to be when you “grow up”?

I want to be a good person; that’s really important to me. But right now, my aspirations are to become a biomedical engineer, and I want to one day hopefully run a research facility where I’ll be able to work in a leadership position but also make a great deal of good in the world.

What did you learn at ALA Girls Nation that you weren’t expecting?

I learned there’s faith in the future of our world because often, when you look at social media and you look at how negative our generation can be, you lose faith in what you think the future will turn out to be. When I’ve been in this environment around girls who really focus on women empowerment, who really take the time to learn your name, learn your story, be kind to you, and speak to who you are as a person, it gives me a lot of faith in the future.

KUDZAI KAPURURA, OREGON

What do you want to be when you “grow up”?

I want to be a lawyer.

What did you learn at ALA Girls Nation that you weren’t expecting?

How simple the government and legislation process are. Going to ALA Girls Nation opened my eyes to how much more accessible the government is — if you want to change something or do something, it’s not as complicated as you think it is.

For some girls, ALA Girls Nation is their first opportunity to connect with peers with common interests. For others, it is the first time they encounter students whose perspectives differ from their own. For all, it is a moment in time when a select few teenage girls from all over the country come together to discover and celebrate the honor and importance of participating in our democracy. ★

WHEN NOT IN SENATE SESSIONS,

the ALA Girls Nation senators participated in a variety of activities designed to showcase the sacrifices our veterans and military make for our freedom and instill a sense of pride and patriotism for our country. In Washington, D.C. the girls had the opportunity to participate in a community service project to benefit our deployed and injured troops; visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; tour the National Mall and sing patriotic songs at the World War One Memorial; witness the Twilight Tattoo (a live-action event illustrating our U.S. Army’s history) at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall; and place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

The ALA Girls Nation senators also had the unique opportunity to meet their respective state senators on Capitol Hill where they discussed local issues and received advice from the people whose shoes they will one day fill. Another rare opportunity occurred when the girls met 48th Vice President of the United States Mike Pence at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building and got a seldom-seen look into the building’s history through a tour. Vice President Pence took the time to greet senators, take a photo, and shake their hands.

These events allow the girls to see their ALA Girls Nation experiences come alive and help them realize that any goal is attainable — whether that be an educator, doctor, U.S. senator, servicewoman, lawyer, or even President of the United States.

**NOTABLE ALA GIRLS NATION/
ALA GIRLS STATE ALUMNAE**

ALA Girls Nation and ALA Girls State alumnae have gone on to hold leadership roles in industries spanning government, military, media, education, and law. Here are just a few you might recognize:

- JANE PAULEY, TV journalist
- LT. GEN. MICHELLE D. JOHNSON, first woman to lead U.S. Air Force Academy
- ANN RICHARDS, former governor of Texas
- SUSAN PORTER-ROSE, former chief of staff to First Lady Barbara Bush
- CARA MUND, Miss America 2018
- STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN, president of Augustana University
- SUSAN BYSIEWICZ, former Connecticut Secretary of State
- JUSTICE LORIE S. GILDEA, Minnesota Supreme Court Judge

REFLECTING ON DUBBIE BUCKLER'S DECADE OF SERVICE AS NATIONAL SECRETARY



After 10 years serving as American Legion Auxiliary National Secretary and National

Headquarters' executive director, Mary "Dubbie" Buckler announced in August her resignation as the ALA's chief management officer. Throughout her decade of tireless devotion to improving the ALA, Buckler received many accolades for elevating the ALA's organizational effectiveness, profile, and impact. In an interview with *Auxiliary*, Buckler reflected on her decade of service that concluded Sept. 14.

Buckler brought her expertise as a chief executive officer in the public, private, and civic sectors to help the ALA better understand the roles and functions of governance and management, improve its business operations, and achieve enhanced effectiveness. "It's been quite a busy 10 years," Buckler said. "The ALA is a big business operating in a much more stringent legal and regulatory environment than ever, requiring professional expertise in key roles such as management, finance, and external audits."

In addition to contributing to a better business sense for the organization, Buckler is proud of the resources developed to help units, districts, departments, and National Headquarters, plus having been instrumental in raising some \$5 million in external financial support to the ALA. Under her leadership, a wealth of resources was created explaining governance and management: the importance

of effective bylaws and clearer governing documents as a framework for civility; the importance of fiduciary stewardship; audit committee risk assessment tools; the *ALA Branding Guide*; critical board training tools such as NEC 101, DEC 101; and many other resources.

"The answers to most of the 'authority and proper process' questions are found in the *ALA Department Operations Guide*, or *ALA Girls State Program Operations Guide*, both adopted by the NEC and every line reviewed and approved by Counsel General," Buckler emphasized.

"The website is vastly improved and fully interactive with a tap on one's smartphone. *Auxiliary* magazine is bigger and better at less cost than a decade ago, and now earns prestigious publishing industry awards. And members can easily renew and join online," Buckler said.

She credits the great teamwork at National Headquarters for so many accomplishments. "I'm especially proud that National Headquarters consistently earned an A+ on every external audit conducted, with kudos to Marta Hedding, Tim Bresnahan, a great Finance Division, along with well-led Communications, HR, IT/Membership, and Programs divisions — the capable and caring ALA NHQ staff also serve the mission," she said. "I also appreciate and thank The American Legion national leadership, especially my counterpart National Adjutant Dan Wheeler, the National Judge Advocate, and the Legion staff."

Early on, Buckler realized the ALA needed to raise its public profile about "who we are, what we do, and why we matter," and seriously address the brutal facts of its 25-year declining membership trend.

With external professional facilitation, a great team of volunteers and National Headquarters staff developed the plan that led to the National Executive Committee adopting the five national strategic goals — a primary investment requiring commitment at all levels of the organization. Buckler urges members to carefully read and ponder the findings of the *ALA Organizational Effectiveness Assessment*, conducted by Johnson, Grossnickle & Associates (a company led by an ALA member). The report, free online at www.ALAforVeterans.org, plainly addresses the ALA's fundamental internal issues and its ability to achieve its goals.

"While much has been accomplished the past decade, all the resources developed matter only if they are utilized in earnest to improve the ALA and lead to more positive member engagement," Buckler said, noting that the ALA simply must achieve its strategic goals if it is to reverse its membership decline and be here for another generation. "Efficiency is doing 'the thing' right. Effectiveness is 'doing the right thing.'"

Buckler remains committed to supporting the Legion Family's mission. She continues as a White House Administration appointee to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Veterans' Families, Caregivers, and Survivors.

"I feel I've left things better than I found them," Buckler said. "I'm proud of what's been accomplished and hope the future bodes more successes and growth for the ALA. As a PUFL and proud member, I will continue to support our ALA Department of Indiana eUnit 438 projects. My sincere thanks and best wishes to everyone serving the mission."

Building ALA brand loyalty

BIG TIPS FOR BETTER ALA BRANDING

As American Legion Auxiliary members prepare for the centennial celebration of our organization, it's vital to focus on our brand and building brand loyalty for the future of the ALA and our longstanding mission of serving veterans, the military, and their families.

Branding is more than just wearing an Auxiliary T-shirt to a unit event or community function. The ALA brand is what others think of us when they see us in our ALA attire. They see the ALA name, but they remember our attitudes and how we act. They associate the name American Legion Auxiliary and our conduct with the ALA brand.

In short, YOU are the ALA brand and can help our organization build brand loyalty among current and future members by making small branding changes that add up to big differences.

Below are a handful of ways you can use branding to bolster ALA Centennial Strategic Plan Goal 5 (With The American Legion, Build Brand Loyalty) and Goal 1 (Enhance Membership Strength):

- **Social media:** Name your social media page or group so it clearly identifies your ALA entity (department, unit, program, etc.). For example, a Facebook page named American Legion Auxiliary Unit 43 provides no clue about what state or region it's in. A better profile name is American Legion Auxiliary Unit 43, La Grande, Oregon.

- **Website:** Design your unit/department website to be similar to the ALA national website and/or use red, white, and blue colors that are consistent with the overall look of our brand versus a website with a lime green or hot pink background,

for example. We are the world's largest women's patriotic service organization! Have a consistent look and feel between your website, social media, and other branded materials for the benefit of both members and nonmembers.

- **Email signature:** Close your email messages with a signature that has a professional, readable font and includes all the necessary contact information where prospective members and the public can reach you conveniently and quickly (i.e., name, ALA title/position — remember to include the administrative year — phone number, fax number if applicable, and unit/department



website address). Avoid using animated GIFs and other clip art images that are otherwise distracting.

- **Emblem:** Use the ALA emblem consistently, and follow the *ALA Branding Guide*. In the end, your efforts will help with overall recognition of our organization. If the emblem is distorted, stretched, or manipulated in any way, it makes it difficult for both members and the public to identify who we are. Log in to the Members Only section at www.ALAforVeterans.org to download a free copy of the

ALA Branding Guide for more information on emblem usage.

- **Proper name for a premier program:** Use "ALA" in front of all ALA Girls State references so it's clearly identified as an American Legion Auxiliary program. Many alumnae do not know the American Legion Auxiliary presents ALA Girls State. Let's make sure our ALA Girls State program branding becomes a strong opportunity to recruit new members as well as alumnae of the program to become donors. Brand our program proudly!

- **Apparel:** With any apparel items, maximize your print area! Having shirts or accessories created to complement your upcoming ALA activity or event? Ask your artwork vendor what your print area is, and fill it up with the ALA emblem so you are easily recognizable as a member. Arizona ALA Unit 62 had artist aprons made as part of an American Legion Auxiliary

Foundation grant benefiting women veterans, so ALA National Headquarters advised members to use a large, round Auxiliary logo as opposed to a small, horizontal version for maximum emblem exposure on the aprons.

With these tips, and support from the *ALA Branding Guide*, your unit and department can become better brand ambassadors to help members, prospective members, and the public move forward with a clearer picture of who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

Our brand is our identity, our message, our reputation, and our future. How we display it and how we behave every day, good or bad, reflects on our brand — it has a lasting impact and affects how others perceive us and view the ALA.



The newest ALA Academy course, *ALA Branding and Why It Matters to Me*, is now available! Learn more about branding and its role in the future of the ALA. Visit www.ALAforVeterans.org to log in and get started today!

ALA Girls State & ALA Girls Nation

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Hundreds of ALA Girls State and ALA Girls Nation alumnae answer the call to serve our nation. In honor of Veterans Day, *Auxiliary* magazine has dedicated this issue's feature of past participants to those alumnae who have served, are serving, or are preparing to serve the United States of America in defense of our freedom.



Clarissa Butler (Clement)
2004 TX ALA Girls State

Upon graduating from Tulane University,

Butler went on to serve active duty with the U.S. Navy for eight years.

Butler, who continues to serve in the Reserves, is now pursuing her master's degree in marketing. The most notable transition since leaving the military full-time, Butler said, is learning how to support her husband, who is active-duty military. "Before, we were peers, and now it's more supporting him while also creating a new career for me," she said.

Now an ALA Girls State counselor, Butler commented on how technology has made it easier to keep in touch. "I really encourage [ALA Girls State participants] to keep each other's phone numbers because I regret not having a connection with those ladies anymore," she said.

Bailey Gray
2011 MN ALA Girls State

Gray is currently stationed in Nebraska where she is a medical laboratory technician for the U.S. Air Force. Although she always wanted to be an Airman, she joined the military to get job experience and serve her country. When asked about ALA Girls State, Gray said, "The most lasting impression for me was the panels of people in different career fields that come and speak to us. It was a way to understand a little bit about different jobs, and I could sort through and figure out which would suit me as a career and which wouldn't."

Allyson Snelling
2016 NV ALA Girls State & ALA Girls Nation

Snelling, currently attending the United States Military Academy at West Point, chose a career in the military because she "loves everything it represents." She added that "the values and lessons I've learned during my short time at West Point have made me a better person and leader." Snelling said ALA Girls Nation helped her realize the importance of communicating with others. "ALA Girls Nation taught me that it doesn't matter if you agree; it matters that you understand," she said.



Tanya Cowley (Perse)
1997 MO ALA Girls State & ALA Girls Nation

Though Cowley was already

enrolled in the U.S. Navy's Delayed Entry Program when she attended ALA Girls State and ALA Girls Nation, she didn't fully understand the commitment she had made until she attended ALA Girls Nation. "I walked down the halls of the Pentagon. I touched the hallowed names on the wall of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. I sang patriotic songs on the steps of our nation's treasured Washington and Jefferson Memorials and saw tears in the eyes of onlookers," she said. "I knew then that joining the Navy wasn't just a way to get an education without paying for it, but a commitment to serve and protect everything our nation stands for." Cowley has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.



Ashley Bonton
2005 LA ALA Girls State

Bonton served five years active duty and four years in

the Reserves with the U.S. Marine Corps. Before making the decision to join the military, Bonton was attending college when the economic recession hit, and she lost many of her scholarships. "I was just like, I've got to think of something," she said. Though joining the Marines was that "something," Bonton said it wasn't the ultimate reason why she made the commitment. "I joined the Marine Corps to work on myself, and a little bit for education, but mostly to work on myself," she said.

Now, Bonton is a school social worker in San Francisco for an underserved elementary school where she makes sure students' emotional needs are met. Looking back on ALA Girls State, Bonton said it was "an indescribable opportunity to have."

Courtney Hill
2013 NY ALA Girls State

Hill learned about military service by watching her dad, who served in the U.S. Army for over 30 years. Currently a senior at the United States Military Academy at West Point, Hill said she is looking forward to the future. "I get to join the greatest team this world has ever seen, I get to lead America's sons and daughters in the fight toward freedom, and I get to help preserve the American way of life. It is worth it," she said. An ALA member, Hill said ALA Girls State taught her to be her own advocate and find the voice needed to represent others.

WANTED! Did you or a relative attend either of the American Legion Auxiliary experiential learning programs (ALA Girls State/ALA Girls Nation)? *Auxiliary* magazine is looking for past participants of all decades and the profession(s) you chose for this recurring feature. Contact us at ALAMagazine@ALAforVeterans.org (please include the year, state, and program you attended in the subject line) or call (317) 569-4500 if you can help!

Delivering care and selfless service to others comes naturally to U.S. Naval Reserves-Nurse Corps veteran Sharon Sprowls.

It showed when she was a nurse in her civilian career and when she was an active-duty military servicemember. Selfless service continues to be a big part of her life as a dual member of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.

The beauty of *Service Not Self* shines most brightly in an individual who doesn't let personal adversity prevent or deter the delivery of aid to others. Sprowls has that beauty.

Sure, she could've decided not to pursue her education and her medical career, essentially shutting down because she grew up without her father most of her life. But she didn't. Her father, U.S. Marine Corps veteran Maj. Walter Clifford Sprowls, a military flight instructor, was killed in a training mission. She was 4 years old when he died.

Sprowls could've been bitter about being trapped in a life-threatening fire



contained in a small area aboard the USS CV67 JF Kennedy while she was deployed on that ship. But that didn't dampen her spirit of service to our nation.

She never regretted her military service despite developing COPD as a result of oil well fires she experienced while serving in Operation Desert Storm. She was a trauma flight nurse working on USNS Comfort, one of the Navy's hospital ships. Even though she eventually developed post-traumatic stress disorder, Sprowls stood steadfast

in her commitment to service.

After having joined the Naval Reserves in 1972, Sprowls retired from the military as a highly decorated Navy captain in 2005. But her commitment to selfless service didn't end there.

Sprowls joined Legion Post 44 in Gulf Shores, Ala., as a Life Member in 2002. After learning how the American Legion Auxiliary supports the Legion — and all that ALA does on its own, she joined the Auxiliary in 2013. Sprowls is president of Unit 44.

What does it mean to you to be an American Legion member and an ALA member?

Dual members can help bring things back to the [Legion] Family approach. Divided, we fall. But united, we stand ... together, helping our veterans.

You helped breathe new life into the unit where you belong. Tell us about that.

I had noticed that on the nights when we met, there were only the same five ladies coming in to keep that Auxiliary together. We infused new members, and younger members, into the mix of things with the dedicated core of ladies already here. We got them involved. It's amazing what you can get people to bring out of themselves when you tell them what you need to achieve, step back, and let them go.

Why is it important for eligible veterans and servicemembers to join ALA?

Nothing stands between you standing alone, as a veteran, and congressional lawmakers who can make or break your benefits — nothing except organizations like The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, whose members

“Divided, we fall. But united, we stand ... together, helping our veterans.”

will not leave the [U.S.] Capitol until they get something for the veterans. Lawmakers will listen to 2 million or so of us before they'll listen to just one. Even if you can't help with activities and programs, just join so we have you in our ranks. That will make our voice even stronger.

What's your favorite part about being an ALA member?

Seeing a young girl go to ALA Girls State, come back totally changed [for the better], and telling others what she did and learned at ALA Girls State ... that just does my heart so much good. I also enjoy doing [things] for our veterans in the nursing homes. It might be a fish fry event for them, or us giving them a Christmas stocking gift, and they react as if you just gave them a brick of gold. They're just so happy, and they deserve to be.

What can ALA members do to make their membership matter?

Get involved. Pick a program that fits you best, that matches your heart and your passion, and that you are able to do. Use that as your opportunity to serve.



FOR SERVICE NOT SELF: The new Legion Family leaders for 2018-2019 are (from left) Sons of The American Legion Commander Greg “Doc” Gibbs, American Legion National Commander Brett P. Reistad, and ALA National President Kathy Dungan (photo: Lucas Carter/TAL NHQ).

NEW TRIO LEADS AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY INTO 2018-2019 ADMINISTRATIVE YEAR

Three new national leaders have taken their places at the helm of The American Legion Family for the 2018-2019 administrative year.

Elected during the August 2018 National Conventions were The American Legion National Commander Brett P. Reistad, American Legion Auxiliary National President Kathy Dungan, and Sons of The American Legion National Commander Greg “Doc” Gibbs.

Reistad, of Virginia, is a life member of the Legion; he joined in 1981. Reistad is also a member of Sons of The American Legion. His many years of past service within the Legion Family includes being commander of Post 270 in McLean, Va., and serving as commander of the Department of Virginia.

He retired as a lieutenant from the Fairfax County Police Department after 26 years of service. Reistad then started a second career as a law enforcement services coordinator.

As national commander, Reistad’s

mantra is “Celebrating Our Legacy” — with special emphasis of The American Legion’s centennial.

A member of Unit 79 in Wesson, Miss., Dungan is the ALA’s first national president from Mississippi. She has been an Auxiliary member for 42 years. Her membership eligibility is through her father Wittie Card — a World War II veteran and Legionnaire.

Dungan has held numerous leadership positions in the organization at the unit, district, department, and national levels. At the national level, she chaired 10 committees and served special appointments, including work on the ALA’s 5-Year Centennial Strategic Plan, Future Focus Committee, 100th Anniversary Committee, and Succession Planning Committee. Dungan also served as ALA Mississippi Girls State director for three years.

Dungan is retired from the Mississippi Supreme Court after working there for 22 years as a

judicial assistant to a supreme court justice.

Her points of special emphasis during her time in office will be on women veterans and the challenges many of them face. She will also place extra focus in the areas of promoting goodwill throughout ALA, and continued development of leaders at all levels of the Auxiliary. (Read more about Dungan on pages 38-40 in this issue of *Auxiliary*.)

Gibbs has been a Sons of The American Legion member for 17 years through Post 527 in Hamburg, N.Y. He received an honorary life membership from his squadron and post in 2015, and is a Legion Rider member through Post 567 in Orchard Park, N.Y. Gibbs has served in several Legion Family leadership positions, including as one of New York’s Past Detachment Commanders.

He was the first member of the Sons to be on the faculty of the Legion College of New York. Gibbs co-taught a session about legislation. He has also been the VAVS representative to the VA Hospital in Buffalo, N.Y.

Gibbs is a retired university professor and public school administrator.

The project this year for the Sons will be The American Legion’s Child Welfare Foundation, Gibbs said in his installation remarks at National Convention. There will also be a focus on The American Legion National Emergency Fund — which helps Legion Family members dealing with the aftermath of natural disasters, and on boosting membership figures within the Legion and the Sons.

This year marked the Legion’s 100th, the ALA’s 98th, and the Sons of The American Legion’s 47th annual National Conventions. In keeping with tradition, all three conventions were held in the same week in the same city.

VETERANS AFFAIRS SECRETARY VOWS TO KEEP LEGION AS AN ALLY

In his address at The American Legion's 2018 National Convention in Minneapolis, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie heaped praise on The American Legion for its success in keeping veterans issues in front of the lawmakers and the public.

"You were powerful advocates for the establishment of the Veterans Bureau in 1921. In 1924, you told the president of the United States to expand access to include non-service-connected illnesses — legislation that changed what it fundamentally means to care for all of those who have worn the uniform," Wilkie told the crowd, gathered for the Legion's 100th National Convention in August.

"In 1988, it was you who sat with Ronald Reagan and led him to say that your seat at the table means that our veterans will never be forgotten in the national affairs of the United States of America," Wilkie continued, adding that he will keep the Legion as an ally.

Wilkie, a U.S. Air Force Reserve officer assigned to the Office of the Chief of Staff, was nominated as VA Secretary by President Donald J. Trump earlier this year. Vice President Mike Pence swore in Wilkie in July 2018.

Wilkie had served as interim VA Secretary since the dismissal of David Shulkin from that position in late March.



(Photo: Schelly Stone/TAL NHQ)



(Photo: Schelly Stone/TAL NHQ)

LEGION AWARDS ITS HIGHEST HONOR TO ELIZABETH DOLE

Elizabeth Dole's efforts to help, and advocate for, caregivers of wounded veterans and military personnel has earned her The American Legion's highest honor.

Dole was awarded The American Legion's Distinguished Service Medal during the 100th American Legion National Convention in Minneapolis in August. This honor is given to those who have demonstrated outstanding service to the nation and the ideals of The American Legion.

Denise Rohan, 2017-2018 American Legion national commander and an ALA member, presented Dole with the award.

"She not only understands the issues facing the caregivers of our heroes. She has lived it. She established the Elizabeth Dole Foundation in order to bring attention and assistance to the group of often-forgotten family members who work tirelessly to improve the quality of life for their heroic loved ones," Rohan said of Dole.

The Elizabeth Dole Foundation supports, advocates for, and pays tribute to the millions of caregivers nationwide. The foundation has established a national coalition with hundreds of organizations, such as The American Legion, and the American Legion Auxiliary, for the purpose of introducing new programs and services aimed at aiding and honoring caregivers of veterans.

Dole's husband, former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole, is a Legionnaire and a WWII veteran who was seriously injured during that war. His injuries have limited the mobility of his right arm. He was awarded the Legion's Distinguished Service Medal in 1997.

Elizabeth Dole, also a former U.S. senator, held several public service positions. She was the first female U.S. Department of Transportation secretary. She later became the Department of Labor secretary. Dole is also known for serving as president of the American Red Cross in 1991.

Other previous recipients of the Legion's Distinguished Service Medal include Gen. Colin Powell and President George W. Bush.

OBSERVING THE ALA'S CENTENNIAL LOCALLY

HOW TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF SERVICE NOT SELF IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Time's a ticking!

On Nov. 10, 2019, the American Legion Auxiliary will celebrate a major milestone — 100 years of serving our veterans, military, and their families. Although it may seem premature to start celebrating the Auxiliary's centennial a year in advance, it will be here before you know it. Here are some ways YOU can begin preparing now at the unit level!

1. Get the Word Out

Communication is key! Spreading the word can be as simple as placing an ad in your local newspaper, sending a letter to the editor to community media, posting a picture or status update on your social media accounts, or simply hanging a poster in your unit acknowledging the Auxiliary's upcoming anniversary. Also, simple word of mouth is a great way to pass along information.

2. Host An Open House

Whether it's a cookout, dance, tree planting ceremony, etc., an open house will provide the perfect opportunity to draw in community members and share information about the upcoming centennial. This event also is a great way to potentially attract new unit members, increasing the impact you'll have locally on the ALA's mission of serving veterans, the military, and their families.

3. Showcase Member Stories

Take a second to get to know your fellow unit members and ask if they have a particularly interesting personal story or memory about the ALA they'd like to share. Ask them about their involvement with the Auxiliary — committees they've served on, offices held, day job, etc. Once you've gathered this information, set aside some room in your unit as a showcase — a quick and easy way to learn more about your fellow members and the ALA!

4. Gather Your Unit's History

Does your unit have some collectibles lying around? Instead of letting them go unappreciated, take inventory of these items and donate them to a local historical society, where the items can be kept in safekeeping. From there, organize a ceremony highlighting these collectibles and lead a presentation on their history. This is a great opportunity to invite the media and share information about the ALA's approaching centennial.

5. Make It Official

Reach out to your community leaders to recognize the American Legion Auxiliary's 100th anniversary. This can be done through a proclamation or certificate, which can be read by a designated official. This also creates an ample opportunity for media coverage, further spreading the word about our milestone. The proclamation can then be preserved as a historical document within your unit.

6. Have Fun and Learn Some History at the Same Time!

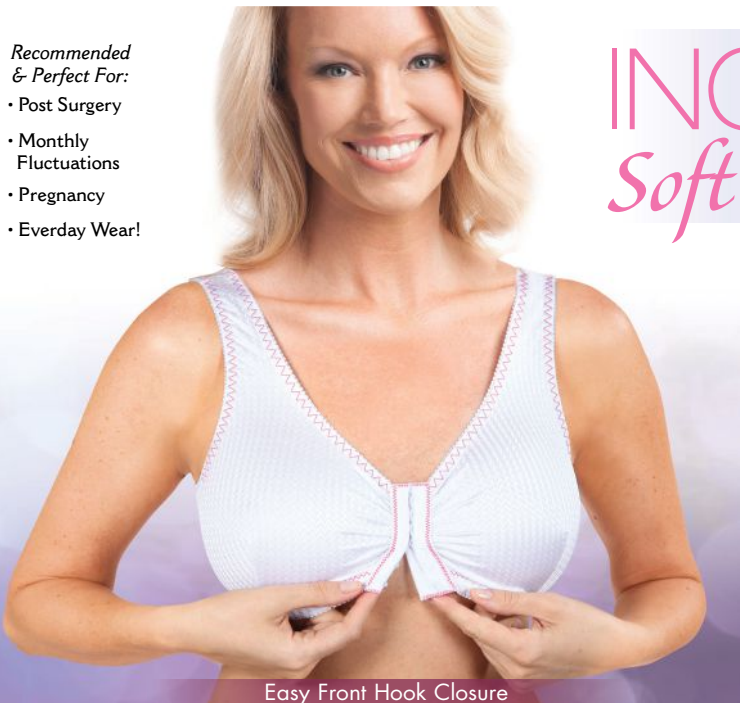
Here's an idea — challenge your fellow unit members to show off their early 20th century fashion sense and dress up as Edith Hobart, the ALA's first national president. From there, have members participate in centennial-related activities (put your creativity to the test!).

The ALA's centennial will be here before you know it! Do you have plans to celebrate leading up to the anniversary? Let us know at ALAmagazine@ALAforVeterans.org. Another great way to share your story is by tagging us on social media @ALAforVeterans with the hashtag #ALA100.

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American Legion Auxiliary social media

Visit our social media at www.ALAforVeterans.org/social-media



ALA GIRLS NATION 2018: 100 young women from all 50 states assembled for the 72nd session of ALA Girls Nation in Washington, D.C. Here are just a few posts and photos from #ALAGirlsNation18:



@finn.ley
Vice president today, real life president tomorrow.
#ALAGirlsNation18

@jordanarmstrong
Grateful for this opportunity and for @ALAforVeterans. This was most certainly the week of a lifetime and I'm beyond blessed!



@heyalexaholsten
Ask me why I'm so optimistic about the future of our country and I'll say, "Phylinese, Lauren, Sam, Liv, Meena, Annabel, and Taylor." So much love for my fellow JCs. #ALAGirlsNation18



@hodaebdalla
D.C., thanks for treating me so well. I'll be back soon. #ALAGirlsNation18

@Fantastsikh
The pleasure was mine, Mr. Vice President. @vp thankful for @ALAforVeterans for this opportunity. As VP Pence said, "Work hard and pray harder, always." I am forever thankful to not only meet the leaders of the free world, but to grow so much as a leader. Beyond blessed.

ALA SOCIAL MEDIA HASHTAGS:

#ALAJuniors Share Facebook posts, tweets, and photos of your ALA Juniors working the mission.

#ALARockStars Share Facebook posts, tweets, and photos of ALA members working the mission.

#AmericanLegionAuxiliary Share Facebook posts, tweets, and photos of anything and everything related to the ALA.

#ALA100 Share Facebook posts, tweets, and photos celebrating the ALA's 100th anniversary.

#LegionFamily Post a photo of you/your unit volunteering with Legion Family members in branded attire.

ALA NATIONAL CONVENTION 2018: The American Legion Auxiliary came together in Minneapolis to celebrate achievements from the 2017-2018 administrative year while reconnecting with old friends — and making new ones — during the 98th ALA National Convention. Check out these posts from #AuxCon18:



Mary Anne Casadei
#AuxCon18 Dept of NY

Jerilynn Kabel
Amazing Convention
#AuxCon18



@CherrilThrete
@ALADeptIndiana Great day 1 of Conference. Inspiring speakers and enlightening reports. Looking forward to Tuesday. Makes me ALA Proud. #AuxCon18



@DoleFoundation
We love @ALAforVeterans and all the tremendous work they do to enhance the lives of our nation's veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. Senator Dole was honored to address Auxiliary members at the #ALconv2018 this morning.

Auxiliary's Word Search answers from page 27:

A	F	P	H	E	H	V	V	I	S	M	L	S	S
D	L	K	A	O	C	E	C	R	V	E	G	C	R
A	T	A	T	T	T	I	E	N	G	G	I	H	E
S	P	F	G	E	R	V	V	I	A	F	F	O	B
P	R	O	R	I	I	O	R	X	F	T	L	M	
Z	K	A	P	G	R	N	O	H	E	M	S	A	E
X	N	R	E	P	N	L	N	T	B	S	H	R	M
S	S	R	W	A	Y	J	S	G	I	D	O	S	L
Y	A	E	I	Y	Z	Z	T	S	N	C	P	H	A
C	Y	R	A	T	I	L	I	M	T	P	S	I	U
C	E	J	U	N	I	O	R	S	X	A	Z	P	D
S	Q	D	Q	Y	N	J	O	W	B	T	S	N	
M	S	I	N	A	C	I	R	E	M	A	V	E	Y
N	J	C	O	N	V	E	N	T	I	O	N	R	F

Increase awareness of the American Legion Auxiliary while positively affecting our brand: Check out the ALA's Social Media Policy at www.ALAforVeterans.org/social-media.

THE LAST *word*

“How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roes!”

— Maya Angelou



(Photo: Recipients of the 2017-2018 ALA Salute to Servicewomen Award)

Dual members — women veterans who belong to the American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion — took the oath of service and made sacrifices for our country just like their male comrades. Their experiences as service personnel protecting our freedom, the obstacles they overcame, and the way they continually contribute to our organizations’ collective missions of serving veterans, the military, and their families is incredibly admirable.

Are you a dual member? *Auxiliary* magazine is seeking stories from women like you — tell us about yourself! All ages and branches of military service are encouraged to contact us at alamagazine@ALAforVeterans.org or (317) 569-4500.

The best selling auto-loading scooter in Europe is now available in the US!

Finally... A scooter that loads itself in and out of your car.

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Introducing the Quingo® Flyte - the powerful, portable mobility scooter that you never have to lift. Now featuring patented 5-Wheel Anti-Tip Technology.

It's a sad fact. Many people who have mobility issues and could benefit from a scooter aren't able to use them away from home. Struggling to get it into a car or loading it onto a bumper-mounted lift just isn't worth the effort. Now, there's a better scooter, the Quingo® Flyte. It's easy to use, even for one person, and requires no more effort than closing a car's tailgate. Clever design enables it to fit into SUV's, mini-vans, crossovers and hatchbacks.

Quingo® Flyte can load and unload itself in less than 60 seconds using an innovative ramp and a simple remote. The built-in guide rails can be installed in minutes and safely direct your scooter to ground level.



Only one scooter is this powerful and portable

- Patented 5-Wheel Stability™ by Quingo takes you almost anywhere.
- No dismantling or lifting of heavy scooter parts.
- Fits most SUV's, mini-vans, crossovers and hatchbacks.
- Large motor + up to 350 pound capacity.
- Extra long range with BIG scooter performance.
- Won't bounce around in your car— locks in place.

"For the first time in years I've been able to go with my granddaughters to the mall. A crowd gathers every time I unload my scooter from my car!"

— Judi K, Exeter, CA

This scooter provides 5-Wheel Anti-Tip Technology for stability, agility and comfort with its unique wheel configuration. The patented 5-wheel Bumpmaster™ design by Quingo enables it to ride safely over a wide variety of surfaces. It uses 4 ultra slim powerful batteries providing a range of up to 23 miles on a single charge.

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**In the Spirit of Service
Not Self for Veterans,
God and Country**

Auxiliary members in crisis need your help now!

American Legion Auxiliary members selflessly serve veterans and military families in need. But when the need strikes home, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund is available to members for temporary emergency assistance.

When a hurricane or other disaster hits, we see firsthand the devastation that it can bring. Unit members helping unit members is what the AEF is all about — that uplifting action so desperately needed during a low moment.

Please donate generously today to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund by visiting www.ALAforVeterans.org, or by mailing a check payable to:

American Legion Auxiliary, National
ALA National Headquarters
3450 Founders Road
Indianapolis, IN 46268
(mention AEF in memo line)



www.ALAforVeterans.org