



From the desk of the President, Renee Kohl...



HAPPY NEW YEAR! Welcome, 2026

Can you believe it's already here? I hope each of you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season filled with family, friends, and a little well-deserved rest. Time seems to be moving faster every year—people keep telling me, “Don't blink,” and that has never felt truer. Somehow, we've already found ourselves in the middle of January.

As we settle into the new year, it's time to gear up and continue the important work of our programs.

The Mid-Winter Conference was, once again, a tremendous success. THANK YOU to everyone who attended and contributed to the energy of the weekend. The district raffle baskets were incredible this year—I hope you were lucky enough to take home the one you had your eye on!

Our Department Chairmen did an outstanding job sharing the information we need to move forward with reporting. Hard as it is to believe, reporting season is right around the corner, and their guidance will help make the process smooth and successful for all of us.

Many of you also know that I recently spent a weekend in Kentucky with the Commander and Adjutant (and their wives) for a site visit in preparation for National Convention. What a whirlwind that was! If you've seen the videos and photos posted on the ALA President Facebook page, you already know how much there is to do and see—most of it within easy walking distance of the hotel. I hope you enjoyed that little sneak peek of what's ahead.

Here's to a productive, meaningful, and inspiring year together. Let's make 2026 one to remember.





## A Membership minute with Mindi ...

Mindi Rue, First Vice President, Membership Chairman - [mindi1036@gmail.com](mailto:mindi1036@gmail.com)

Here in Ohio, we are still driving the membership experience. The bus route to GOAL in Louisville isn't free; there is a "fare" for the ride. Check out these engagement strategies that can be your "fare":

"Be the One". Help members sign up for the Columbia Protocol training and give them the Buddy Check toolkit from [www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/buddy-check](http://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/buddy-check)

Mentor a junior member or a new member. Teach them the acronyms and explain the programs.

Invite a new member to join a program committee.

Send a card to members you haven't seen in a while.

Create a committee to visit members who are unable to get the Buckeye Messenger

Educate membership about how their volunteer hours outside of your Post home can be reported for your unit's Impact Report. Explain how important those hours are to our legislation in Washington DC.

Ask young veteran families to get involved with the Junior Program.

Let members know how to sign up for Voter Voice and support the American Legion's legislative agenda in their free time on their schedule.

Ask members to bake goodies for a fundraising dinner or bake sale.

Ask a member to send birthday and get well cards to unit members on their own schedule.

Ask a member to go into a classroom and teach the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance using the Pledge of Allegiance comic book from Emblem Sales.

Ask a new member to join you at a meeting.

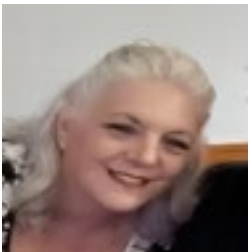
Ask members to visit our American Legion Family members in your local nursing home.





## Rebecca Long, Chairman Second Vice President, Public Relations...

How are you creating your event flyers? In this issue we will be addressing how to create a successful event flyer. When you are creating your flyer there are several points to keep in mind. Flyers need to be eye-catching. To get the reader's attention a bold headline is essential. It needs to be in a large, readable font. Do not clutter the flyer with extra information. Keep it to the key details, location, date and time. You will also want to include a contact name, phone or email. Use color wisely. Bright colors will grab attention. Also using high quality artwork or photos will make a good impression. Equally important to the design of your flyer is where it will be placed. Posting flyers in prominent areas is essential to getting word out to your community. A beautiful flyer is not useful if no one sees it. The flyer needs to be displayed in areas where people frequent. Common places include grocery stores, libraries, laundromats, post offices, coffee shops. Work with your local businesses to create a good working relationship. Please continue to post copies of event flyers on social media. Make sure you keep copies of these flyers and submit these as a part of your yearend report in April.



## Editor's Corner...

WOW, what a great and informative Mid-Winter Conference. The department chairman brought new ideas and information on their perspective programs. The district President's did a wonderful job on the basket raffle to raise funds for President Renee's special project, The Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

Please make note of the Buckeye Messenger dates:

### **2025-2026 Schedule**

**November, December, January (due October 15)**

**February, March, April (due January 15) Endorsements for District President issue**

**May, June, July (due April 15) Endorsements for Department Officers issue**

**August, September, October (due July 15) This issue will contain all year-end reports.**

I would now like to take personal privilege moment. We are an organization of amazing individuals. I know that we all have friendly competition between units within your district along with districts against districts when it comes time for submitting reports. We should be celebrating each other's accomplishments instead of instilling anything negative. Encourage each other to be successful. If you see someone doing something incorrectly, give them guidance to correct them. We all strive to make our organization the best that it can be



- Congratulations to Department President, Renee Kohl for hosting and completing a successful Mid-Winter Conference.
- Congratulations to the presenters at the Friday afternoon workshop, by all accounts those that attended felt it was time well spent.
- The Department Executive Committee just approved a proposal to manage Unit credits by direct deposit (ACH payments). The first phase of this process will be Department Headquarters reaching out to secure direct deposit information. Watch for this communication coming soon.
- Membership transmittals are still being received in a variety of conditions. Please take the time to fill these out correctly. Your attention to detail will be appreciated.
- Full-time employment opportunity at Department Headquarters: Desi Stoy is serving as the Interim Department Secretary until we hire a permanent employee. If you are interested, please check out our ad on Indeed and you can also find a link to our ad on our website (under Forms).

## Department Chairman Articles

### **Americanism – Diann Long**

Thank you to all the units that participated in Wreaths Across America. I have sent some of the pictures that I received on to Laura Clark the Central Division Americanism chairman. Congratulations to all our Americanism & Government Test winners! This year the orientation will be held on Thursday February 19th at the Ohio State House after an event there in conjunction with American250-Ohio. I hope to have more information on this special event for the February Department Bulletin.

## A & G Test Winners

First	Last	Dist.	City	Post
12th Grade Boys				
Delegates				
Cooper	Robertson	7	Washington HS	25
Alexander	Moyer	5	Buckeye Central HS	405
Hamaan	Theuri	1	Sylvania South View HS	468
Alternates				
Collin	Kroeger	4	Ross HS	199
Eli	Dirksen	3	Versailles HS	435
12th grade Girls				
Delegates				
Sophia	Goodson	1	Evergreen HS	373
Angela	Figueroa	5	Buckeye Central HS	405
Madelyn	Manley	13	Brecksville Broadview Heights HS	196
Alternates				
Isabele	Debruin	7	Miami Trace HS	25
Emmale	Carter	2	Sidney Christian Academy	217
11th Grade Boys				
Delegates				
Ali	Hasanzade	4	Lakota East HS	681
Kyler	Kinzy	11	Monroe Central HS	87
Mohomed	Kotoboy	12	Hillard Davidson HS	614
Alternates				
David	Taylor	3	DECA HS	80
Craig	Greer	9	Bershire HS	459
11th Grade Girls				
Delegates				
Jessica	Fike	7	Logan Elm HS	134
Sophie	Garcia	4		790
Livia	Martini	14	Crestwood HS	193
Alternates				
Sonya	Sawtelle	9	Joseph Badger HS	506
Heidi	Woods	2	St Henry HS	648
10th Grade Boys				
Delegates				
Aiden	Adams	3	Covington HS	80
Joshua	Bowden	5	North Ridgeville HS	717
Nick	Keider	9	Willoughby South HS	214
Alternates				
Maxwell	Washington	14	Nordonia HS	801
Caleb	Esker	7	Miami Trace HS	25
10th grade Girls				
Delegates				
Jordan	Grooms	7	Piketon HS	142
Brooke	Voress	2	Sidney HS	217
Izabel	Lochmueller	5	North Ridgeville HS	717
Alternates				
Vivian	Syroka	12	Big Walnut HS	171
Libby	Magoteaux	3	Piqua HS	184

## Chaplain – Michele Sandridge

### CHAPLAIN DAILY PRAYER

Dear Lord, I thank you for this day. I thank You for my being able to see and to hear this morning. I am blessed because You are a forgiving God and an understanding God. You have done so much for me and You keep on blessing me. Forgive me this day for everything I have done, said or thought that was not pleasing to you. I ask now for Your forgiveness.

Please keep me and my loved ones safe from all danger and harm. Help me to

start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude. Let me make the best of each and every day to clear my mind so that I can hear from You. Please broaden my mind that I can accept all things.

Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control over. Let me continue to see sin through God's eyes and acknowledge it as evil. And when I sin, let me repent, and confess with my mouth my wrongdoing, and receive the forgiveness of God.

And when this world closes in on me, let me remember Jesus' example -- to slip away and find a quiet place to pray. It's the best response when I'm pushed beyond my limits. I know that when I can't pray, You listen to my heart. Continuing to use me to do Your will.

Continue to bless me that I may be a blessing to others... Keep me strong that I may help the weak. Keep me uplifted that I may have words of encouragement for others. I pray for those who are lost and can't find their way. I pray for those who are misjudged and misunderstood. I pray for those who don't know You intimately. I pray for those who will delete this without sharing it with others. I pray for those who don't believe. But I thank you that I believe.

I believe that God changes people and God changes things. I pray for all my sisters and brothers; for each and every family member in their households. I pray for peace, love and joy in their homes that they are out of debt and all their needs are met.

I pray that every eye that reads this knows there is no problem, circumstance, or situation greater than God. Every battle is in Your hands for You to fight. I pray that these words be received into the hearts of every eye that sees them and every mouth that confesses them willingly..

All this prayer in Your Most Holy Name,  
Amen.

May this prayer bring you peace

### **Remembering one of our brightest.....**

Mary Louise Sandusky Hodges, born September 4, 1924, most lovingly known as Babe, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, December 30, 2025. Babe was a life member of Harry Wilmer White American Legion Auxiliary Unit 82 in District 12.

Babe lived her life to the fullest for all 101 years she spent on this Earth, usually donning something purple. As a member of a military family, she experienced so much, spreading joy and love to everyone whose path she crossed.

In her younger years, you could find Babe keeping the neighborhood kids in line, especially those who crossed her siblings, or at the dance halls dancing the jitterbug. Her life long dedication to service members began at the USO dances on the Army bases where her family was stationed.

Later in life, Babe loved exploring the country with her husband through the ownership of a moving company, or her finding the best deals at the local yard sales with her sister, Virginia. Babe's home was lively and one that any stranger or loved one was given the same warm welcome. Her home was always busy hosting friends and family, backyard pool parties, and baptisms. Any time you were in her home, there was always a pot of coffee brewed ready to be paired with any one of Babe's fantastic stories. It was impossible to leave her home without a little something she owned or a jar of her home-made hard candy. Babe had an intense devotion to supporting our service members, giving a special focus to those at the Veteran's Hospital in Chillicothe. Babe's grandchildren and ALA Unit will carry on her legacy by

continuing her dedication to caring for our soldiers at the VA hospital.

Generosity does not come close to describing the lengths Babe was willing to go to for anyone. She was the kindest, most loving soul. Her family prides themselves in being able to say "that's my Grandma Babe." She was the utmost example of what it means to be a devoted Christian, Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother and Auxiliary Member; titles she carried with profound pride and dedication.

Rest In Peace, Blessed Auxiliary Sister. We'll see you on the other side.



## **Children & Youth – Colleen Phillips**

We know your unit is working for our children and youth.

Here is some information that might help you.

Why the Child Well-being foundation? The American Legion Child Well-being Foundation was Established in 1954 The purpose of the American Legion Child Wellbeing Foundation is to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth; to aid progress in the field of child welfare. Please send your donations through Department with donation sheet and earmarked on check.

What are some ways your American Legion Auxiliary Unit helps our Children? Quarterly reports are appreciated Let us know:  
janeyeager2000@yahoo.com or ckphillips43524@gmail.com .

### **Special Olympics**

The Department of Ohio Legion provides support in donations to the Special Olympics State Winter Games and State Summer Games, and also hosts a breakfast for over 400 Special Olympics athletes and coaches at the Special Olympics State Winter Games.

Visit Ohio Special Olympics Home Website

- Wear purple April 15 in honor of Purple Up! Day for Military Kids.
- Perform the Military Child Table ceremony at a unit meeting or in your community.
- Contact your local churches, homeless shelters, and food pantries to identify homeless veterans' children. Ask what their specific needs are and offer them your services as an ALA member.
- Contact your local news sources (newspaper, community television, community websites, and social media accounts) and town council with an offer to give a presentation about you and your unit's work for veterans and military children.
- Plan a special celebration for children during the month of April in honor of Children & Youth Month and Month of the Military Child (#momc).
- Host a dinner, game night, or community fair, etc., that will bring military and non-military families together.



## **Buckeye Girls State – Gwen Schroder-Zulch**

### **CLARIFICATION ITEMS FOR BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE**

We have had several questions in regard to deadlines and other information for Buckeye Girls State. Here is a breakdown of the application process.

**February 15, 2026** Request Applications “*2026 Application Request Form*”

**April 1, 2026** Return Completed Applications with **PAYMENT**

“*2026 BGS Application*”

**May 20, 2026** Reminder call to Delegates Ensure Delegate attendance

**June 1, 2026** Make Replacements “*2026 Replacement Notification*”

**June 1, 2026** Unused Application Refund “*2026 Application Refund Request*”

**June 3-6, 2026** Confirmation calls to Delegates **Make sure they are going to attend**

**June 7-13, 2026** Buckeye Girls State Session Registration at McDonalds Hall June 7<sup>th</sup>

We ask that you do not send payment with the Application Request Form. All fees which also include the \$50.00 non-refundable fee are due with the Delegate and Alternate applications in which the deadline is April 1, 2026.

The Delegate and Alternate packets will be mailed out around the first of April to all Delegates and Alternates. These packets will include information for Buckeye Girls State and also forms (which includes medical and social media form) that need to be filled out and sent to Department Headquarters either by email ([buckeyegirlsstate@alaohio.org](mailto:buckeyegirlsstate@alaohio.org)) or by mail (Department Of Ohio American Legion Auxiliary Buckeye Girls State—1100 Brandywine Blvd Bldg. D—Zanesville, Ohio 43701.

We are still in need of a few City Counselors and City Government Advisors (these positions require that you spend the week with us). If you are interested drop us an email and we will send you an application. We are also in need of registration volunteers for Sunday June 7, 2026, at 9:30am to help register the delegates.

Zoom orientations information for the delegates and alternates will be posted as soon as the schedule is set. The Delegates and Alternates registered will receive an email with the instructions. This information will also be included in the Buckeye Messenger and Department Bulletins.

## **Historian – Patti Watson**

**When it is time to send in your green reports, please be aware that the postal service has made changes to how items are postmarked.**

**I have included information about this change. Emailing reports is the safest way to guarantee your green reports are received in time.**

**If you are mailing them, please consider having the post office hand stamp your mail so you know if it dated properly.**



## How do I get a Postmark (from USPS) -

Postmarks are generally applied by the Postal Service via automation on machines in processing facilities or manually applied by employees at those facilities. Postmarks may also be applied manually by employees at a retail unit upon request from the customer.

While we are not changing our postmarking practices, we have made adjustments to our transportation operations that will result in some mail pieces not arriving at our originating processing facilities on the same day that they are mailed. This means that the date on the postmarks applied at our processing facilities will not necessarily match the date on which your mail piece was collected by a letter carrier, dropped off at a retail location, or placed in a collection box.

The Postal Service does not postmark every piece of mail in the normal course of operations. For example, Marketing Mail, Presort First-Class Mail, and metered mail presented to the Postal Service in trays will bypass originating processing operations, including machine cancellation. While the Postal Service intends to postmark letters and flats that are entered as Single-Piece First-Class Mail and processed on automated cancellation machines, there are circumstances when mail will not receive a postmark, including where a mail piece is stuck to another mail piece when it runs through the cancelling machine, or where the machine runs out of ink or smears when applying postmarks.

**Note:** If you wish to have your mail postmarked for the purpose of indicating the exact date it was submitted for mailing, you can go to any USPS retail counter and request a postal employee to manually postmark, or "hand-cancel", up to 50 items for free. If you wish to have more than 50 items hand-canceled, please contact the local Postmaster or other manager in advance to ensure adequate resources are available to assist.

## Parliamentarian – Pamela Bates

### WHAT IS PARLIMENTARY PROCEDURE?

Parliamentary procedure covers running a legal and effective meeting including the following:

- Giving proper notice of the meeting to members
- Waiting for quorum before you start the meeting
- Discussing and voting on issues at the meeting
- Making sure you governing documents are in step the National and Department governing documents It is important for all members to learn the basics of parliamentary procedure:
- State law and association governing documents prescribe the rules that must follow the transaction of business
- If you ignore those rules: Leads to embarrassment, hard feelings and even lawsuits
- The benefits: A well-run meeting that provides painless and possibility short meetings. These benefits provide the leadership with a good way to keep your members happy

### THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. A Parliamentarian does not rule on your documents. Their job is to make sure you are following those documents.
2. Make sure all your governing documents are in order. Seek out the Unit or Department Chairman for assistance.
3. Make sure ALL your members have a copy of your governing document.
4. The level of formality at your meetings may vary depending on the size, nature, and purpose.
5. Committees are tasked with various duties. If they approve an item at that Committee meeting, it still must be passed by the general body.
  - ❖ The committee chairman can move at the membership, to approve their recommendation...Chairman--  
-I move the adoption of this committee's recommendation and a SECOND IS NOT NEEDED; but discussion should still take place...then vote.
6. Remember to RESPECT every member's opinion even if you do not agree...that's where voting takes over.
7. Unless your governing documents permit, Robert's Rules does not recognize electronic meetings or voting by email or chats.
8. Last, but definitely not the least...The presiding officer is a Facilitator NOT a Dictator. Use that gavel with care.

HELP YOUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT & Yourself WIN THE PARLIMENTARY PEARLS CHALLENGE!




For member in your District that answers a Buckeye Messenger or Bulk Mail Parliamentary Procedure question correctly, your District President & the member will receive 1 point per their correct answer. Answers will only be accepted up to 7 days after the question has been posted. Your Name, District Number, Unit Number and date of the Buckeye Messenger and/or Bulk Mail issue number. (The entry will not count without the information) Winners will be announced at the 2026 Department Convention.)


#### ISSUE 2 QUESTION

If a committee has passed a recommendation, what does the chairman do to get it approved by the body?

**Auxiliary Emergency Fund – Lori Shields**



# WHAT IS THE AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND?



## THE AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND (AEF)

- ★ Provides emergency assistance to eligible American Legion Auxiliary members in need.
- ★ Helps during times of financial crisis due to an act of nature or other personal crisis.
- ★ 100% of donations go directly into the AEF to aid and support Auxiliary members.

**DONATE TODAY TO HELP YOUR AUXILIARY SISTERS**  
★ IN TIMES OF NEED! ★ ★

Please let me know what your units are doing for the AEF. We want to make sure that we are helping each other out when there is a disaster or a life-changing situation like a car accident that would put that member in the hospital for months and not able to take care of the bills.

Make sure that your membership chairman is not holding dues. You must be a member in good standing for 3 years to apply for assistance.

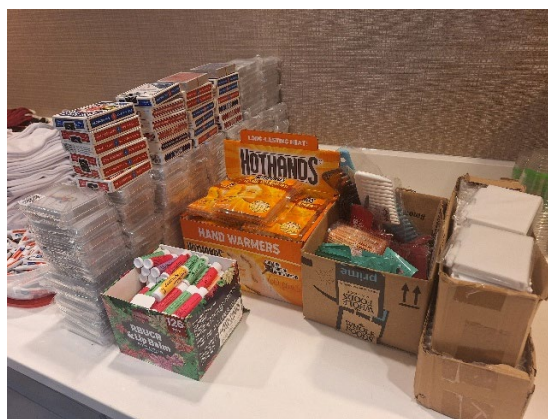
## Junior Activities – Michelle Bolin

In case you were wondering, our Juniors are AWESOME!!! They are inquisitive, passionate, funny and smart. Sometimes, I think, we overlook them and all they can contribute to not only the Auxiliary but the American Legion family as a whole. They will definitely keep us on our toes. Here is a bit of what we've been doing when we are together.

At School of Instruction (yeah, I know I'm late) we spent time discussing ways that the Juniors can participate in the Community Service Program, the Children & Youth Program and the Education, Americanism and National Security Programs. They had a lot of questions and came up with some great ideas on how they can contribute. They were very interested in hearing about the Department Wide fundraiser "Remembering Our Gnomies". All of them seemed excited to raise money for President Renee's Special Project and even offered each other ideas on future fundraising projects. Can I just say these Juniors LOVE to give! We worked on the Travelogue, the Prayer Book and touched base on the Junior Craft Book. We sure hope to see a few of those this year. They spent some time working on Poppy Posters and the Junior Conference Covers. We have some fantastic artists in our family that's for sure. We cannot wait to share their work with everyone! Our weekend wasn't all work. The kids got to relax and have a Pajama Party Movie Night which started off with an impromptu dance party. It was GREAT! I think they had a pretty good time.



At Mid-Winter there were 10 Juniors in attendance. We opened the meeting on Friday with two of our Juniors assisting with the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem. That evening the Juniors met a young lady who was there with her father. Neither one of them were aware of the Junior Activities Program. She joined our meeting, ON BOTH DAYS, and said she was happy to be there and couldn't wait to see what we were up to. She fit right in and the Juniors made her feel right at home. See??? I'm telling you, GREAT KIDS! Our main goal for Mid-Winter was to fill Hats for Heroes. This was an idea taken from the Junior Activities Quarter 1 meeting. They will be doing this in Indianapolis at the National Junior Meeting on January 31, 2026. We filled more than 100 hats that will be distributed to VA hospitals, homeless shelters and other community organizations throughout the state. The hats were filled with personal care items donated by YOU! We cannot express our thanks enough to everyone that sent in monetary donations or brought product to the conference to help fill the hats. Hopefully we can do something like this every year.





Also at Mid-Winter, it was decided to extend the Remembering Our Gnomies fundraiser through the end of the year. There were two Units that reported so far. Unit 518 in District 6 participated. Even though they do not have a canteen, they put up a display board in their meeting room. They took a black and white outline of the gnomes and their Junior, local Girl Scouts and even their Post Commander colored them in for the display. This is an awesome idea! They raised \$70 for President Renee's Special Project – The Veteran's Creative Arts Festival.

I heard the Commander had the most fun out of everyone!



Unit 627 also took part in the fundraiser. They had gnome cut-outs that patrons purchased and wrote their loved ones' names on. They were then hung in the entrance hall to their canteen. Their project also brought in around \$70.



It is not too late to Remember Our Gnomies. If you do participate in this fundraiser, please be sure to send me pictures of your Gnomes and please make checks payable to the ALA Department of Ohio.

## **V A & R – Deb Sutterlin Chairman, Robyn Cooper Vice Chairman**

Robyn and I are honored to be able to assist you in your participation of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program this year. We are starting a new calendar year and are more than halfway through our program year.

To start in January, Martin Luther King Service Day is January 19<sup>th</sup>. Yes, I know you are reading this after that but you can still participate. Maybe shovel or plow the snow out of their driveway/sidewalk, offer to go to the grocery store for them so they don't have to travel in the cold and snow, or make up a bag of goodies to take to them. Call or visit a veteran, a veteran's widow, or a caregiver.

February 8 – 14<sup>th</sup> is National Salute to Veteran Patients. This is our opportunity to honor and appreciate **hospitalized and outpatient veterans**. Not only can you plan an activity for veterans in the VA Medical Centers and OVH, plan an activity in a local CBOC. A CBOC is a community-based outpatient clinic. A new CBOC is being built in Delaware and Marion. There are many communities that have a CBOC. You can get permission to serve coffee or hot chocolate with cookies or whatever interest you and your members and meets the needs of the veterans.

Don't forget February 14<sup>th</sup> is Valentine's Day and you can sign and deliver cards to veterans, spouses of recently deceased individuals, and auxiliary members .

This year is America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. There is a national commission and an Ohio commission. It is a new opportunity to help our auxiliaries shine. Every one of you can do what you always do and participate in America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. The websites to obtain information is America250.org and America250-ohio.org. We can help our members and veterans sparkle by nominating a person who inspires you. Nominate them at [america250.org/nominate/250](http://america250.org/nominate/250). America Gives250 is where you can sign up as an individual or sign up your unit as an organization. The America 250's goal is to get 350 for 250 which is 350 million people volunteer for the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday.

March 13<sup>th</sup> K-9 Veterans Day March 25 Medal of Honor Day

March 29<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Veterans Day April 5 Gold Star Spouses Day

APRIL 15, 2026

**Green Reports** are due to your DISTRICT CHAIRMAN along with your narrative for the **Blanche Klein Plaque**.

**SERVICE TO VETERANS** form due to Robyn Cooper, 901 W. High St., Piqua, OH 45356 due on **April 15<sup>th</sup>**. [Ronaldcooper901@gmail.com](mailto:Ronaldcooper901@gmail.com).

**Sue Friedrich Plaque** narrative due to Deb Sutterlin, 950 Township Road 2506, Perrysville, OH 44864 or [debsutterlin270@gmail.com](mailto:debsutterlin270@gmail.com) due on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to everyone who bought 50/50 tickets at Mid-Winter Conference this weekend. We raised \$123 for National Veterans' Creative Art Festival plus a donation from the winner, Legionnaire Elaine.

I would like to end with a quote from Martin Luther King, “Life’s most urgent question is, What are you doing for others?”

## **Leadership – Deb Meyer**

Good leadership begins with good communications skills. The unit members need to know they will be heard. They need to know what projects or events the unit is planning. Many units have small numbers attending meetings. As a past District President, the lack of interest in coming to meetings has seemed to be a familiar complaint. Just because members do not attend meetings does not mean they are not interested in what the unit is doing. Getting unit meeting minutes out to the membership will draw interest when they know what the unit is doing. Many members use email, so email the minutes of the meetings. Post events or activities on social media and send the articles of activities to the newspapers along with pictures. That not only draws interest from the membership but also informs the community members what the auxiliary unit is doing within the community. Make sure that members who do not have internet, are in an assisted living facility or are shut-ins get the minutes and newsletters. No one will know what the unit needs until they are asked or told.

It is hard to believe the time has come to start looking for candidates for unit offices. In the next two months or so, unit nominating committees will be looking for volunteers interested in running for an office. Hopefully, the unit leadership has encouraged members to work through some of the ALA Academy programs, so they have a better understanding of the Auxiliary and want to be more involved. Effective leaders are needed to have a strong transition in the unit. Look for those who display good leadership characteristics; courage to step out of their comfort zone, integrity to be honest, fair, and will listen to the needs of the membership. The unit needs those who will follow through with the decisions of the unit. The candidates should be ones that want to be involved on a higher level and not coerced just because “we need someone to do the job.” It is important to make sure new officers have a mentor so there is a smooth transition of the offices.

Time management can be tricky. Everyone is very busy, sometimes more so when spring begins to shine through. For the auxiliary, it is time for reporting, and it is very important to adhere to deadlines. The unit president needs to see that unit chairmen are getting their reports compiled and to the correct chairman. All reports are due to the correct chairman, which is at the top of each report form, by April 15, 2026. The president is also responsible for calculating all numbers from the unit members to complete the Unit End of Year report. That report needs to be to the District President by May 1, 2026. If the units do not heed to the deadlines, then the chairman will be late moving her/his report forward to the next chairman. Please consult the Leadership Plan of Action (POA) and answer all questions on the front of the report form. Write a narrative explaining how leadership development was incorporated in the unit. Did the unit provide leadership training, use the ALA Academy courses, and encourage members to do training outside the unit such as District end Department meetings?

Each unit needs to take a good look at its membership and find a candidate for Unit Member of the Year. The guidelines for this award are in the Leadership POA. Who is the member, the unit can always count on to be there to help or take an active role by chairing an event or activity. That member who makes significant contributions to the unit. Remember the member cannot have been appointed or elected to an office higher than the unit president. The form for this award is at the end of the Leadership POA and needs to be returned to Deb Meyer, 90 N. Lincoln St., Minster, OH 45865 by April 15, 2026. A narrative of the members’ accomplishments and activities needs to be included.

## District Presidents and Unit News

### District 1

### Unit 63

Photos of the Poppy contest entries at 2026 Mid-Winter Conference. Marie Hermiller, Miss Poppy from Kerner Slusser, American Legion Auxiliary Unit #63 Ottawa, Ohio. Darlene Hanneman Sec.



These are the winners from the Americanism and Government test from Kerner Slusser, Ottawa American Legion Post #63 and Ottawa American Legion Auxiliary #63. The students are from Kalida High School and Ottawa Glandorf High School, The total number of students taking the test was about 700. Pictured are the students from Kalida High and Ottawa Glandorf High Schools.



Here are pictures of our members who received rewards for being Outstanding members. Pictured are: Margie Hanneman, Chaplain of our Unit with Pat Agner our President. The other picture is of our Miss Poppy, Marie Hermiller, Linda Cox, Our Poppy Chairman, and Pat Agner the Unit #63 President. All of these ladies have

done outstanding work for the American Legion Auxiliary and local Unit #63 Kerner Slusser, American Legion Auxiliary, Ottawa Ohio. District #1 By: Darlene Hanneman Sec.



## District 2

### Unit 178

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 178 in Van Wert, Ohio, takes great pride in coming together as a Legion Family to support our youth, our veterans, and our community—especially during the busy holiday season.

Each November, Unit 178 continues a cherished tradition of hosting a steak dinner for the Van Wert High School football team. This event truly reflects the spirit of the American Legion Family, as members from all branches come together to make it a success. Everyone chips in—helping to cook, serve, set up, and clean up—working side by side to show appreciation for these young athletes. This year, we were honored to serve approximately **200 players and cheerleaders**, providing them with a hearty meal and a reminder that their community stands behind them.

Our support of local youth athletics also extends beyond the dinner table. Unit 178 is proud to have an Auxiliary member who serves in the **Color Guard** and participates at home football games by **setting off the cannon**, adding a meaningful patriotic presence and honoring tradition at each game.

December was filled with holiday cheer and service. Unit 178 hosted **two Christmas-themed bingo nights**, adding extra fun and festive spirit for our guests. During our final bingo of the season, participants were delighted to have **Mrs. Claus calling bingo numbers**, with the **Grinch making a special appearance**, bringing smiles and laughter to all who attended.

Throughout the holiday season, our Canteen featured a **Veterans Christmas Tree**, beautifully decorated with the names of local veterans who shared their information to be honored. This meaningful display served as a reminder of the many men and women in our community who have served our country and allowed members and guests alike to reflect on their sacrifices during the Christmas season.

In the true spirit of collaboration, the Auxiliary partnered with the **American Legion Riders** to **adopt a local family for Christmas**. Together, members worked to ensure the family experienced a joyful holiday season by providing gifts and support, demonstrating the strength and compassion of the Legion Family working as one.

Our Auxiliary also proudly hosted our **annual Children’s Christmas Party**, a highlight of the season. Children enjoyed a free lunch provided by the Legion Family and participated in a cake walk, holiday activities, and coloring patriotic and seasonal pages that were later sent to veterans who are currently serving. Each child received a small gift from the Auxiliary and had the opportunity to visit with **Santa Claus**, who also shared a special gift with every child.

Through fellowship, service, and teamwork, Unit 178 continues to make a meaningful impact in our community during the holiday season. These events reflect our ongoing commitment to supporting youth, honoring veterans, and strengthening the bonds of our Legion Family.



### District 3

#### Unit 776

General Daniel “Chappie” James Unit 776, through their Community Service Committee are having a fund raiser selling T-shirts and sweatshirts. They are black in color and have the American Flag in the middle framed by the words – These Stripes Don’t Divide”.

All proceeds will benefit their angel Project. The Angel Project helps children in and around the Dayton area for Christmas. This past year we fell short due to the Federal Government furlough. Many of our sponsors come from WPAFB however, because they were without pay, we went from assisting 134 children to 86. To assure we don’t fall short this ensuing year, we’re selling these shirts.

	T-Shirts - Sweatshirts	
Small – Large	\$20.00	\$30.00
X-Large – 2XL	\$23.00	\$35.00
3XL – 4XL	\$25.00	\$40.00

If you wish to order, please send your check to the information below. The unit will pay for shipping and handling:

ALA Unit 776  
Juanita Ballard  
2333 Duncan Dr #7  
Fairborn, OH 45324

### Children and Youth Christmas Party 2025 American Legion Unit 776

Children and Youth department worked with The Angel Tree Project and held our 2025 Christmas Party on December 13, 2025 from 12pm-2pm. This was a great time to hold the party as this was the same time that the children picked up their Angel Tree Gift cards.

We serviced 25 children. We served lunch to the children and families of hot dogs , chips and juice. We provided an activity (reindeer candy bags) we also provided a candy bar with several types of chocolates, candy canes, green and red popcorn and cookies. We even served hot chocolate with marshmallows.



Photographer Art Jones took pictures of the event. Included pictures with Santa, as well as pictures in a box, literally. A wonderful time was had by all.

Recommendations for next year were to provide bottled water as well as tea and lemonade for the parents. Committee thanks to Sheryl Johnson, Sharon Nolen Kim Nelson Kim Hardnick Anita Carmichael, Kia Young day of event help Joyce Brown Holis Saul Wooten and Ethel Burns  
Thank the unit for the \$100.00 donation

### **District 5**

#### **Unit 292**

November 8th, 2025, Broome-Wood Unit 292, New London, Auxiliary braved the cold for a Fall Poppy Drive. Over \$700.00 was collected in less than 3 hours and several new members were recruited. Pictured from left to right are Sarah Baus, Lynn Caskey, Linda White, Christine Nickoli and Carla Osborne.

In celebration of American Education Week, the Broome-Wood Post 292 American Legion Family proudly donated several boxes of goodies to the New London Local Schools, expressing deep gratitude for the educators who shape our future. Pictured are Lynn Caskey and Christine Nickoli.



Broome-Wood Auxiliary Unit 292 was happy to participate in the New London Buyers Group for 2025. This supports area youth exhibiting at the Huron and Lorain County Fairs. An untimely snowstorm couldn't keep Santa away from Broome-Wood Post 292 American Legion Family Christmas Party. Pictured from left to right are Linda White, Santa, Christine Nickoli, Maria Bauer, Carla Osborne, and Lynn Caskey.



Citizens Ambulance Service recently provided a CPR, AED, and First Aid training class to members of Broome-Wood Post 292, New London. This important training was made possible through a grant from the Huron County Community Foundation in partnership with Life at Bendix, whose support continues to strengthen community safety initiatives across Huron County. In addition to the training, an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) was also provided for free to the American Legion for public access under the same grant. This ensures that lifesaving equipment is readily available should an emergency occur, further enhancing the safety of Legion members and the surrounding community. Pictured from left to right are Ron Osborne, Nancy Longbrake, John Longbrake, Christine Nickoli, George Nickoli, Jon Shaw, Dave Caskey, Derek Wendt, Rick Bauer, Kathie Elkin, Ray Urbansky, Maria Bauer, Vanessa Von Behren and Steve Von Behren.

### **Unit 257**

Loudon Unit 257 in Loudonville bought and donated 3 wheelchairs for the Loudonville-Perrysville Schools. These wheelchairs will be used for injured students or for those with limited mobility. Picture here are custodian Matt Ajataji, Budd School Secretary Sherry Hannan, and School Nurse Beth Johnson accepting the wheelchairs.



Loudonville Unit 257 placed over 180 veteran's banners in Central Park in Loudonville for two weeks to include Veterans Day. VAVS Rep and PDP Cindy Masowick came to see the banners. Pictured here is Cindy, Unit Chairman Sawn Greer and Co-Chairman



The Loudonville Unit Celebrated Veteran's Day with a beautiful cake and plenty of members in attendance.



## District 6

What a wonderful year The Sizzlin Sixth District has has supporting our Veterans and their families this year. From fish fries, bingo, craft shows, football games to Wreaths Across America and so much more we give honor, respect, a helping hand whatever is needed the ALA always steps up.



It is time to celebrate America250 this year ready as it is our Nation's 250th Birthday. What a way to start the new year than with a WWII Veteran turning 101. Robert Hickman has written several books about his time overseas on the aircraft that became known as the Flak Shak.



We Salute you Robert Hickman celebrating 101.



Unit 518 juniors - "Remembering our Gnomies" Junior fundraiser. Juniors raised \$70 for President Renee's special project

## **District 11**

### **District President – Jane Klug**

#### Veterans Support Initiatives

Units all over District 11 provided holiday meals for veterans, creating a family experience for those who might otherwise spend the holidays alone as many of whom are widowers and have distant families. Beallsville Unit 768 Americanism program focused on Veteran and youth enrichment.

#### Community Service Projects

Beverly Unit 389 organized and mobilized one of the most impressive food-bank drives I've ever seen! In collaboration with a local Boy Scout troop collecting food bank items, Unit 389 provided a buffet-style shopping experience for families in need. Each family had the opportunity to select their favorite foods from the tables packed full of everything from beans to spaghetti and from cake mix to pet food.

Each family received a dinner box that included everything to have a traditional holiday dinner. Including 5lbs of home-grown Ohio potatoes from a local farmer. The drive included toys as well. With support from local retail stores and community donations, they successfully collected and distributed over 100 bicycles with toys for children from birth to teens ensuring all families had gifts for Christmas. This outreach effort has earned a five-star rating as one of the most outstanding Community Service/ Children & Youth/VA&R programs!!

#### Membership Growth and Engagement

I'm proud to highlight our top performer in achieving 100% membership goal and also a big

Congratulations to our newest charter, Unit 90 from Bethesda! I'm looking forward to watching You achieve all your goals and dreams! Additionally, many District 11 Units achieved membership growth through early bird specials, with Unit 399 Dresden, Unit Belpre, & Unit 641 Belle Valley is leading the efforts with all achieving over 90% renewals before the end of January.

### Unit Visits

This year, I had the opportunity to make several trips to distribute 2026, Plan of Action (POAs). One of my most memorable visits was to Unit 399 Dresden. I was warmly invited for the afternoon and had the pleasure of meeting new Unit President, Staphanie Hahn. Dresden has a creative way of entertaining their members on Saturday afternoons. They provide lunch specials and have a Name that Tune game show host set up to make things fun!

Additionally, I visited units in Beverly, Marietta, Roseville, Flushing, Quaker City, Beallsville, Dresden, and Lowell. Thank You for making me feel welcomed!

Past District 11 President Marilyn Leach

Marilyn was a Life Member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 389 in Beverly, OH. Besides her family, her passion was the American Legion Auxiliary, supporting numerous veterans' programs. She also could be seen in local schools with the RIFF program, Veterans Day assemblies and many scholarship presentations. Marilyn held many offices at the local, district, and state levels with the American Legion Auxiliary. In 2003, Marilyn was awarded the Department of Ohio's Member of the Year. She was Unit 389 dinner chairman for many, many long years – organizing, cooking, and serving everything from breakfast and weddings, to the Beverly Homecoming. Marilyn traveled with her husband Tom to numerous state and national conventions. Our deepest condolences and sympathies to all your family.

In closing, thank you to ALA members, Unit Officers and special guests like ALA Dept of Ohio 2nd Vice President, Rebecca Long and ALA Dept of Ohio VA Hospital Director Linda Close who took timeout of their busy lives to support the "Elite" 11th District!



### **Unit 768**

This Past Christmas the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade Grand Marshall was The Veteran: A Salute to Our Monroe County Veterans. Post 768, being a member of the chamber, asked if any of our Auxiliary would like to put together the Grand Marshall float for the parade. The answer was a resounding YES! Unit 768 Second Vice Stacie Smith lead the task with help from Auxiliary, Sons & Legionnaires. The float was to represent all veterans of Monroe County. The float had chairs for those veterans who wanted to ride through the parade. It was a cold night so not so many braved the cold. All local American Legions/Auxiliaries/ Riders & VFWs were invited to participate. All of Monroe County Clubs were represented & came together in a special way. Monroe County Riders gave out Teddy Bears, Woodsfield Honor Guard marched with Flags, Veterans riding the float and Auxiliaries handing out Flags with Remember Me Soldiers. It was great way for the whole community to come together and pay tribute to our Veterans.



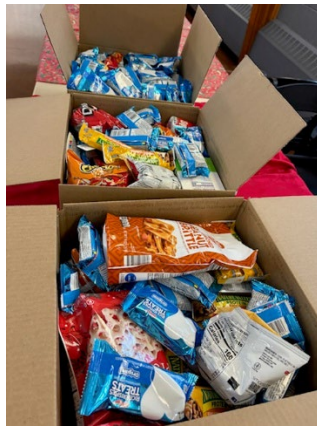
## District 12

### Unit 171

The women of Post 171 in Westerville continue to keep busy. Our members were servers at District 12’s Thanksgiving dinner at the Legion post. Money was also donated toward the purchase of pies for dinner. We continue to make “tie blankets” for patients at Children’s Hospital in Columbus, and Sheila Nocks delivered them to the hospital.



In order to gain more presence in our city, the Auxiliary voted to present Community Events at our local American legion post. Our Community Children’s Christmas party was our first attempt. Cookies, games, and pictures with Santa were offered. Our youngest child coming with her parents was a 3-week-old baby. With more advertising next year, we hope our community children fill the hall. The next Community event is a Chili cook-off in January. Our Adopt-A-Serviceman program helped a local elementary school implement sending packages to deployed service personnel. Dorothy Williams met with the leadership group at the school and gave them the name of a Chaplain in the Sinai. The school collected non-perishable food, snacks, and hygiene products. Twelve boxes were taken to the post office, and our Auxiliary paid the postage, over \$200. What a wonderful lesson in patriotism was provided by the teacher. The female fighter pilot, who received one of our packages awhile ago, will have a birthday soon. Her grandmother informed us that on February 12, she will be 26. A birthday box, with a lot of fun items, has been sent. Too bad a birthday cake would arrive smashed or moldy. We are not “all work and no play”. Our auxiliary held its annual potluck Christmas party. Besides great food, we had a fun night playing Bingo to win member donated prizes. We invite any Ohio Auxiliary member who knows of a deployed service person in harm’s way, please contact Dorothy Williams, [zemzem1@aol.com](mailto:zemzem1@aol.com). We would like to send a care package to him/her.



## District 13

The District has really been gnoming along with Halloween, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas for our Legion family and veterans. Here are some of the things we have accomplished.

We had 3 indoor kids Halloween parties by Units 2, 572, and 703. Our Newburgh Heights Unit 627 held their annual outdoor Trunk or Treat for their neighborhood. 610's member Christine McEwen represented the Auxiliary by dressing up and handing out bags of candy at the Brook Park Community Center. Super spooky Jacobic 572 had the singing Sanderson Sisters at their children's event with kid friendly lyrics, fun, games and a great breakfast.

The 627 Juniors have been hard at work. Their Gnomie advisor Michelle Bolin guided them with their project that raised \$70 dollars for President Renee's project the "Creative Arts Festival". They sold paper gnomes to the members for \$1, to put their special veteran's name on it and post it on the bulletin board. The Juniors also had a Christmas project signing Christmas cards and paper ornaments which were handed out by Hayden and Olivia Bahr along with their mom Stacey Bahr on the 4 th floor at St. Augustine Manor. These were given out to the residents and resident veterans.

Unit 469 has been involving their Junior in writing letters to the Honor Flight. Several members gave of their time to help with the "Gifts for the Yanks" distribution with the Department Legionnaires for Xmas. Other projects include collecting gently used clothes, new toiletry items and toys and clothes for their children for the Sarah Harper Village.

November 2 nd was the "Last Roll Call" at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC. Two of our members, Cindy Boehnlein of Unit 2 and Colleen Hanic of Unit 469 assisted as Auxiliary Ambassadors escorting families of the deceased to the chapel. Afterwards coffee and snacks were served to the families. All attending were Department President Renee, Dept. Chaplain Michele Sandridge, Hospital Director Linda Close, Wade Park Chief Rep Cindy Masowick, Colleen Hanic, Cindy Boehnlein and Unit 610 Pat Miazga. After the event was over, the table decorations of laminated fall leaves were distributed in the hospital to brighten up the patient's rooms and nursing stations on the 3 rd and 4 th floors.

Veterans day was observed by all. The posts that held events had lunches and desserts provided by the Auxiliary members. 610's honor guard gave salute and enjoyed a delicious luncheon. Many of our veterans went restaurant to restaurant for the free dinners.

In November 610 had a basket raffle with the proceeds going to a veteran that needed a microwave and gas cards. The remaining money was used to adopt a family through NEOPAT and Christmas gifts were bought and delivered in December. Their Xmas party also collected 3 - 8 foot tables full of pajamas that was donated to "Beyond Bedtime", and twin sized bedding and pillows donated to "Sleep in Heavenly Peace".

421 has become the Legion Family Ambassadors for the veteran residents at the 94 th and Lorain residential housing. This year dinners were delivered both on Thanksgiving and again

for Christmas and all day bus passes for the 11 residents. To get ready for their Veteran Day poppy distributions, the Unit purchased the poppy kit for their veteran-only put together at the Post.

December was an amazing month for all our units. Euclid 343 started off the month with their annual "Ladies Night" fund raiser. It was a very fun night of manicures, massages, food and raffle baskets.

Brecksville Unit 196 had a handout at Wade Park VA and partnered with their City Council to start the first Wreaths Across America at the Brecksville Cemetery!

Annual Kids Christmas parties were held by 421, 572, and 703. Santa, Mrs. Claus, Buddy the Elf and Cindy Lou Who were very busy this year.

3 nursing homes were visited for Xmas. Unit 2 had stockings, gifts and Santa for 30 veterans at the Mt. Alverna Nursing and Rehab center. Unit 451 had Christmas gifts for all the residents at the O'Neil's Healthcare facility. 627's Juniors visited St. Augustine Manor as stated above.

PDP and member of 610, Kristen McLaughlin purchased 20 winter coats, and clothing desperately needed at Wade Park from the District and 610. Just in time for the cold wave we are experiencing.

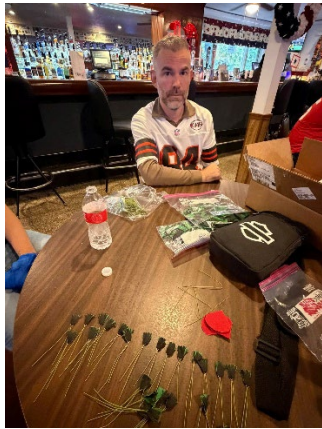
Units 91 and 572 assisted with handouts at Wade park. They along with 91 Riders, Berea VFW, Columbia Station VFW, and CAVA held a pop-up party on every floor/unit in Cares Tower.

Then they took the show on the road and had a party in the Domiciliary. There were 173 gift bags and they carried 2 Xmas trees from floor to floor.

The new year began with the "Baby it's Cold Outside" baby shower held on January 10th at the Parm CBOC. 30 veteran "moms to be" were registered for this outstanding event. A huge thank you to all that donated gift cards, new items, and gently used items to make this a wonderful time for all. A special thank you to Berea Unit 91's Stacey Lehmann for doing the onesie craft with the moms. This was a special touch. And let us just say that each mom needed a cart to get all their gifts to their cars.



We took part in the Last Roll Call at Wade Park VA facility with Linda Close, Hospital Director, Dept. President Renee' Kohl, 13<sup>th</sup> District President Cindy Boehnlein, Cindy Masowick Wade Park VA Rep, and unit 610 member Pat Miazga.



Unit 421 purchased Poppy kits from Emblem Sales and had an event to have their Veterans put them together.



Unit and Post 421 prepare and delivered holiday meals to the 94<sup>th</sup> Street residential veteran housing.



Unit 610 had a raffle called “meal in a basket” which contained all the fixings for a Chili meal, Spaghetti Dinner, Pot Roast and more.



District 13, District 14, District 9 and Unit 541 along with many other individuals shared time with 34 expecting female veterans for the semi-annual Baby Shower held at the Parma VA facility.



Unit 572 had visits from Cindy Lou Who and Elves during their children's Christmas party, Unit 2 members visited Mt. Alverna nursing home with Sant in tow to hand out gifts and treats.



Unit 627 Juniors Christmas card project and them delivering them to Veterans at a local nursing home.



Unit 196 members for their Christmas party and also participating in Wreaths across America at the Brecksville Cemetary. This year the Auxiliary also assembled 100 Christmas Trees to send to service men and women deployed over seas.

**Allison Nye – Candidate for 13<sup>th</sup> District President**

The members Clifton Unit 421 American Legion Auxiliary are proud to present and endorse Allison Nye as our candidate for the Office of Thirteenth District President for the 2026 – 2028 Auxiliary years.

Allison gained her eligibility for membership at age 18 through her father but then was not active until she met her husband, Jason. She was also eligible through her two brothers. She has been an active member of Post 421 since 2014. Allison has held various positions from the time she became active. In 2018-2019 year, Allison became President of Unit 421 and resumed the position in 2021-2022 year and continues to serve our Unit.

In addition, she has also served as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the District from 2022 – 2024. VA&R Chair from 2022 – 2025 and Community Service in 2025. In addition to these positions, she continues to head up the poppy fund, raising contributions for the Memorial

## District 14

The Fabulous 14th District has certainly been busy since our year kicked off in September! The district juniors held their meeting in October, honorary president, Nayki Alexander from Unit 272 led the meeting, the girls folded pocket flags with the help of Robin Sandridge, passed them out to the veterans at the post, and took them back to their home posts to pass out also.

Numerous units held Trunk or Treat events to not only interact with our juniors, but our communities as well. A paint & sip was held at unit 496 to raise money for Buckeye Girls State, they also held a Toys for Tots event. Stow Unit 175 and their Legionnaire's donated \$7000 worth of items off of the Wade Park Hot List, to deliver everything required 2 Ford Explorer's and 3 trips! Going to Wade Park with these donations is the highlight of my month! Unit 175 also held their annual Stuff the Truck event to donate items to Freedom House.

In November I was honored to attend Ravenna's Early Bird Dinner to serve the men and women that have served us, that was such a rewarding experience for me.

On Veteran's Day we held the drawing for the Duma's Gift Card raffle, we raised \$1200 to be split between Wade Park and the Veteran's Baby Shower. We will be having another drawing in the spring with the proceeds going to the Past District President Book Fund & Department President Renee's Special Project, the Creative Arts Festival.

In December, myself, Cindy Masowick, and unit 566 member Jan Mang attended the WAA wreath laying day at Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery, it is truly my favorite day of the year. We laid 3 wreaths at 3 Post 685 veterans, at Kimm Bunch's brother's grave, and my niece-in-law's father

On Saturday January 10th myself, Cindy Masowick, and Cindy Boehlein attended the Veteran's Baby Shower, held at the Parma CBOC. \$600 from the Duma's Raffle was used to purchase 35 pamper me bags (that were made by the juniors from 685) for our women veterans that included BBW items (some donated by Unit 610) lotion, chapstick, a journal, pen, & keychain (each with a positive affirmation) and a \$50 Walmart card courtesy of Continental Unit 541. Many units in the district also donated amazon gift cards so that gifts & necessities for the babies can be purchased.



The middle photo is one Auxiliary sister helping another sister. Kathy Lynn placed a wreath on Kimm Bunch's brothers' headstone because she was unable to be there.



14<sup>th</sup> District deliveries to Wade Park VA facility.



14<sup>th</sup> District Juniors folding pocket flags to distribute to our enlisted service men and women.

**Unit 19 – 14<sup>th</sup> District**

Unit 19 participated in the Akron Canton foodbank, packed up Thanksgiving baskets for 2 veteran families, provided donuts to a local fire station on Veterans Day and shopped and wrapped gifts for 2 veteran families for Christmas.



I hope that you all enjoy this edition of the Buckeye Messenger. Keep sending your articles and photos to [buckeyemessenger@alaohio.org](mailto:buckeyemessenger@alaohio.org). PLEASE include your District and Unit number along with an explanation of the events in the photos.

