



Department Bulletin

May 2026



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Chaplain's Page.

We honor the memory and service of another of our beloved members who have given so much and mentored all of us in our auxiliary journey. Her legacy lives on with us and our juniors.

REMEMBERING WINNIE SAND

Lifetime Honorary President of Unit #181

Google the Colonel Crawford American Legion Auxiliary Unit #181 in Bucyrus, Ohio and you will find the name of one of its most patriotic members listed as a "Key Historical Milestone"...Winifred Sand. More fondly known as Winnie. In 1939, this loyal Auxiliary member joined at the young age of 15. Winnie continued her membership until her passing at the age of 101, on September 12, 2025. She exemplified love of country, honor, commitment and service with her membership in the auxiliary for over 86 years.

Winnie received her eligibility for membership from her father, WWI Veteran Russel Beattie. Her husband, Richard Sand, served in the army during WWII, earning 5 bronze stars. Her son, Neil Sand, served in the 82nd Airborne Division during the Vietnam War. Her grandson, Mark Sand served in the Navy and both of her brothers, Jim Beattie and Robert Beattie also served during WWII. Son-in-Law Steve Iler served in the National Guard. Military service has been a constant in the life of Winnie Sand's father father, Russell Beattie, was a charter member for Post #18

Winnie developed a love for veterans and serving beginning with those early visits to the legion as a child with her dad, Russell. He was one of the first cooks in the kitchen and continued his membership for 52 years. Upon marrying Richard Sand in 1946, following his return from WWII, they both were active in the Legion. He would continue his membership in the Legion for 72 years. Winnie held most offices in the auxiliary with the exception of president, her favorite position was Sergeant-at-Arms. She and her best friend, Blanche Disher, presented the colors each meeting in a packed room full of ladies, in a very respectful and military type march around the room. Her young daughter, Paula and friend Melinda Disher played in the backroom during those meetings and enjoyed watching that part of the meeting the best. That sparked the love that these young girls had for the organization. One that continues for Winnie's daughter, a member for 73 years. Winnie cooked, served, cleaned and straightened up Post #181 for countless years with a team of dedicated ladies who beautifully prepared formal dinners for hundreds of guests. Linen tablecloths, lit candles, silverware and china plate ware were perfectly set with delicious homemade meals giving the Bucyrus post the reputation of a quality event for gatherings.

Winnie was always willing to devote the hours for these honors. Another favorite service of hers was the trips to visit Veterans who were unable to travel. The ladies traveled to the Chillicothe VA hospital for a yearly music/dancing experience, and Sandusky to the Ohio Veterans Home for games and social connections. Winnie knew jokes and she had a magnetic personality, she could make friends easily so these outings were valuable for everyone. But her favorite responsibility with the auxiliary was the yearly poppy distribution. She became known as “The Poppy Lady”. She carried bundles of paper poppies each year, positioned herself on street corners with the teams of volunteer ladies and handed out poppies by the hundreds, to help the causes for the auxiliary. Year after year, she withstood the adverse weather conditions, hoping to fill the donation cans with coins for veteran projects. We think that is why red has always been Winnie’s favorite color.

Then, as most things decline over time, her body betrayed her and she was no longer able to climb the stairs, or drive to the legion and although she remained a faithful member financially, her service was complete. On her 100th birthday, her daughter, Paula, surprised her with a lunch outing ...”Someplace you are going to really like!” And as she pulled up, Winnie’s excitement rallied, she remembered this place, her LEGION HOME...eyesight failing, hearing compromised, but her heart recognized this faithful friend. Riding in the elevator with her daughter for the first time that had been added, they examined every square inch of memories, and reminisced over a lifetime of experiences. This was the best birthday lunch; friends calling out, “Hi Winnie!” Rita from the bank, Chuck the neighbor boy, friends from decades of living and gathering at the legion. The kind of friends you can only meet and keep at the Legion. You can’t put a bow on that. Soon after, her last service at the Legion was bestowed upon her by the hearts of the current members. On September 5, 2023, with hearts two sizes too big, Winifred Sand was unanimously voted by the membership as HONORARY PRESIDENT of Colonel Crawford Unit #181; the only office Winnie had never held and the last she would hold in her lifetime.

Michele N. Sandridge

Chaplain



Leadership

Deb Meyer, Chairman

May 2026

I want to thank all units that sent a leadership green report. As always, when I read reports, I learned a few things. The reports are important regardless which reports you are doing. They give insights of what we as a unit, District and Department need to work to help move our auxiliaries forward. Remember, if you want to vie for a Central Division or National award, you will need to send your report via email to National on the National website. You will go to the National website.

- In the search box type in Leadership.
- Click on Leadership Program Awards
- Then “Unit Most Outstanding Leadership Program.”
- Follow down to “National Awards form link” and click on the link
- You will complete the form and download your report
 - That deadline is June 1, 2026.

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We all seem to have the same issues whether we are small units or larger units, it is the same members holding the offices and chairmanships. That is one area we need to work to encourage other members to help take a more active role in the unit. Knowledge is the best way to get members engaged. The leadership article in the National President’s newsletter this month gave two websites, one from West Virginia and the other from California, that have their own leadership programs. The West Virginia program "Lead with Purpose" can be found on YouTube at “*Lead with Purpose WVA.*” The other has a podcast “*Auxiliary Horizons*” that can be found on YouTube. These are short segments that are encouraging and sometimes look at leadership in a different way. Both are another way to gather insight into leadership. Of course, there is always the ALA Academy.

One area that most units need to work forwards would be developing a good mentoring program in your units. We all need to work on building confidence for our future leaders in our units. Mentoring should start at ground level with new members learning what the auxiliary is, what we do and why we do it. There were quite a few units that said new members were given the unit's constitution and bylaw along with the unit guidebook. Both are a great beginning but that does not tell them what we do and why we are here. One unit reported their officers meet with the new members and explain what the auxiliary does and what programs and projects their unit works on throughout the year. Understanding the auxiliary and its programs gets those new members engaged and gives you insight as to what they want to do in a unit. Then you know what chairman you can team them with to build their confidence and hopefully become an active member.

I hope to see many of you at the Department Summer Convention.

Again, a reminder that reports for National awards are due online by June 1, 2026.

Membership

Mindi Rue, Department of Ohio 1st Vice President – Chairman

mindi1036@gmail.com

Engaging American Legion Auxiliary Members in America 250 Activities

As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary, the America 250 celebration offers a meaningful opportunity for American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) members to honor the nation's history while strengthening community connections and promoting the Auxiliary's mission of service, not self. To make the most of this historic milestone, units can focus on inclusive, educational, and service-driven engagement strategies that inspire members of all ages.

Connect the Mission to the Moment

Start by helping members understand why America 250 matters. Tie the celebration directly to the ALA's core pillars—supporting veterans, military families, and communities. Emphasize how honoring 250 years of American history aligns with preserving the legacy of those who served and sacrificed. When members see the purpose, participation becomes more meaningful.

Offer a Variety of Ways to Get Involved

Engagement grows when members have options that fit their interests and availability. Consider organizing:

- **Patriotic events** such as flag ceremonies, historical reenactments, or community parades
- **Educational programs** featuring local historians, student essay contests, or Constitution workshops
- **Service projects** like veteran care packages, community clean-ups, or support drives for military families

Providing both hands-on and behind-the-scenes roles ensures everyone can contribute in a way that feels comfortable and impactful.

Partner with the Community

Collaboration amplifies impact. Work with schools, libraries, local governments, and other civic organizations to co-host events or initiatives. These partnerships not only expand reach but also introduce the Auxiliary to new audiences, helping grow membership and awareness.

Engage Younger Generations

America 250 is a prime opportunity to involve Junior members and younger volunteers. Encourage their participation through:

- Social media campaigns highlighting patriotic themes
- Volunteer leadership roles in event planning
- Creative projects like art, video, or storytelling contests

Giving younger members ownership fosters pride and builds the next generation of Auxiliary leaders.

Leverage Storytelling

Stories are powerful. Encourage members to share personal or family military histories, community traditions, or reflections on what America means to them. These stories can be shared at events, in newsletters, or on social platforms, creating a sense of unity and purpose.

Celebrate Progress and Participation

Recognize and celebrate member involvement throughout the America 250 lead-up. Highlight milestones, showcase successful events, and publicly thank volunteers. Recognition reinforces engagement and motivates continued participation.

Use Clear Communication and Branding

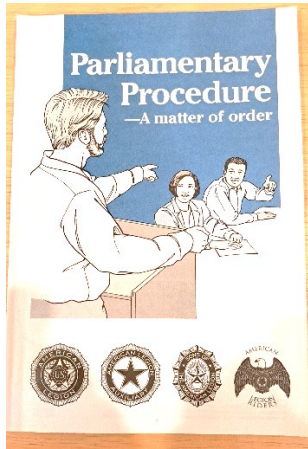
Keep members informed with consistent updates about upcoming America 250 activities. Use cohesive branding—patriotic colors, anniversary themes, and clear messaging—to build excitement and visibility across all communications.

Focus on Legacy

Encourage members to think beyond a single event. What lasting impact can your unit create? Whether it's a scholarship, memorial project, or annual tradition, framing activities as part of a lasting legacy gives deeper meaning to participation.

America 250 is more than a celebration—it's a chance for the American Legion Auxiliary to lead with purpose, strengthen community bonds, and honor the enduring spirit of service. By offering inclusive opportunities, fostering partnerships, and connecting the mission to this historic milestone, Auxiliary units can inspire meaningful engagement that resonates well beyond 2026.





Pam's Parliamentary Pearls

Pam Bates, Department
Parliamentarian

Bulk Mail, Issue 4

937-974-2316 (7am to 7pm)



OPEN THE TREASURER CHEST OF CHALLENGE
Help your District President & Yourself WIN a prize!

Parliamentary procedure helps get things done. (*pg 15, Parliamentary Procedure – a matter of order*)

- Make motions that are in order
- Obtain the floor properly.
- Speak clearly and concisely.
- Obey the rules of debate.
- AND above all, be courteous!

“If the Chair is an effective leader—focusing on the members, treating each fairly, earning everyone’s trust—then the meeting will be successful”.

Hugh Cannon, Connon’s Concise Guide to Rules of Order, P. 13

QUESTION #4



A _____ must be at the meeting for any business to take place.

GETTING DOWN TO THE BASICS

1. One thing at a time. Only one main motion is allowed on the floor at a time; however there a “specific” way to set a motion aside.
2. One person speak at a time. Be respectful what that person is saying...you’ll get your chance.
 3. A quorum must be at the meeting for any business to take place.
 4. Voting requirements should be in your governing documents.
5. Everyone is equal. All voting members have equal rights. The majority rules but the minority has a right to be heard.
6. Parliamentary authority should be in your bylaws. This is usually the last article in your bylaws.

The parliamentarians operate rather like football coaches. They are not allowed on the playing field,

and their signals to the players must be well concealed. Their whispered counsels are never printed

in the Congressional Record's account of debates. Joseph F. O'Brien: Quoted in Parliamentary Law for the Layman (1952) by Joseph F. O'Brien, p. 10 (citing Harold Hinton, "Congress' Coaches," The New York Times Magazine, May 7, 1950, pp. 72-73)

PEARLS TO PONDER

Pointers: explains use of parliamentary terms

Out of Order: Beware! Mistakes can quickly get your meeting in trouble

(these ideas are provided by Jim Slaughter, PRp, Cpp-T in his book *"The Complete Idiot's Guide to Parliamentary Procedure & Robert's Rules...Fast Track"*) I highly recommend the purchase of these.

Pointers:

- Meeting procedure should be "just right" for the size of the assembly.
- Plurality vs Majority Vote (how you decide to vote should be in your governing documents
 - Plurality...the proposal that gets the most votes
 - Majority...the proposal gets more than half
- If not voting by ballot, the presiding Chair should be very clear in how members should vote:
 - "Raise your right hand"... "Lower your right hand"... "Rise"... "Be seated"
 - "Aye" or "no"
- If there is tie, a recount should be taken. If that doesn't work, there are other methods to break a tie and make sure you have that other method in your governing documents
- According to "Roberts", an organization "should have the freedom to make its own choice, and to elect the most promising candidate at the particular time" for president.

Out of Order:

- No one can speak against their own motion. A maker can ask permission to withdraw a motion or even vote against their motions just can't speak against it.
- A vote shouldn't be interrupted after any member has actually voted. An exception is when the ballots have been collected and other business is being transacted during the counting of the vote.
 - Conducting organizational business without a quorum.
- Unlike violations occurring in a meeting that are resolved immediately, member violations outside of a meeting general require an investigation and trial. The distinction is that members weren't present or witness the offensive act. Go to the last chapter of *Robert's* for details on the disciplinary process. Also check your organizations governing documents.

"Great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance." - Samuel Johnson, English writer and critic in the 18th century

"Learning never exhausts the mind." - Leonardo da Vinci

OFFICER & CHAIRMEN CHARACTERISTICS

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

WORD LIST:

Prepared Resourceful Enthusiasm Sympathetic Interest Devotion
Dedication Energy Neutrality Tact Sincerity



Did you share this with your unit and/or district as a fun meeting project?

"Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction," - John F. Kennedy

FUNDAMENTAL TECHNIQUES IN HANDLING PEOPLE

1. Do not criticize, condemn, or complain.
2. Give honest, factful and sincere appreciation.
3. Make a conflict a win-win situation.

SIX WAYS TO MAKE PEOPLE LIKE YOU

1. Become genuinely interested in people.
2. SMILE!
3. Remember persons name when speaking to them directly.
4. Be a good listener.
5. Talk in terms of the other person's interest.
6. Make the other person feel important and do it sincerely.

SUGGESTED WAYS TO WIN PEOPLE TO YOUR THINKING

1. The best way to get the best of an argument is to avoid it.
2. Show respect for the other person's opinion.
3. If you are wrong, admit it quickly and emphatically.
4. Begin in a friendly way.
5. Get the other person saying "yes, yes" immediately.
6. Let the other person do a great deal of the talking.
7. Let the other person feel that the idea is theirs.
8. Try honestly to see things from the other person's point of view.
9. Be sympathetic with the other person's ideas and desires.
10. Appeal to the nobler motive and our mission.

A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way," - John C. Maxwell

ABC'S FOR MEMBERS

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ATTEND your Unit, District, Division and Department meetings regularly.

BE a working member - a few hours monthly will qualify you!

CHECK out the facts before repeating things told you.

DO NOT walk between the flag and banner or between chairman and speaker.

EXPRESS yourself freely and honestly at meetings - not after.

FAMILIARIZE yourself with each program and the Governing documents.

GIVE proper respect to all officers in their official capacity. HAVE

an adequate knowledge of parliamentary procedure.

IT is your duty to vote on matters, but don't feel compelled to do so. By not voting, your silence indicates you favor the matter voted upon.

JOIN in discussions and group activities. You will learn and have fun too!

KINDLE that spark of friendliness and enthusiasm within yourself.

LISTEN to and respect the opinion of others.

MEMBERSHIP is everyone's responsibility. NO

speaking across the floor to members.

OBEY the rules of the organization which are in your Governing Documents.

PAY your dues on time - the earlier the better! QUESTION

reports and actions you don't fully understand.

REFRAIN from talking while business is being transacted or a report given.

STUDY Unit/Department and National Bylaws and Standing Rules. TAKE

an active part in meetings but do not monopolize.

UNITE your talents and ideas with other members to ensure successful ventures.

VOLUNTEER your time your energy and your best efforts.

WEAR your American Legion Auxiliary pin over your heart proudly!

X... marks the spot on membership application forms where new members sign.

YOU-the member-are the most valuable asset of the American Legion Auxiliary.

ZEALOUS members make our organization prosper and grow!

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

May Monthly Bulletin

By Deb Sutterlin, Chairman

OPPORTUNITY TO DONATE TO OVH

Department President Renee, Hospital Chairman Linda Close, and I went to Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky on March 18, 2026. There are some needs that we are asking for donations. We would like to have these donations by May 26th so President Renee can present the donations at OVH. **If you can help, please call or text me, Deb Sutterlin, at 330-465-9230 so we can coordinate donations and arrange to pick them up.**

Items needed for OVH:

NEW Jigsaw Puzzles 300 pieces to 750 pieces

New decks of playing cards small pads of paper and pencils to keep score

Postage stamps and new all occasion greeting cards (birthday cards are needed the most)

As stated before, the donations are needed by May 26, 2026. Thank you for your participation and willingness to serve our veterans.

This tour was very enlightening. We saw many areas of the Home, which Linda had never seen in all her years of being at OVH. Dwayne gave us a great tour. There are about 20 resident peacocks. We saw the memory unit and saw their interactive tools. A unit was empty so we got to see a resident's room, snack station, nurses' room, bathroom and bathing facilities (seeing how they work with physically challenging veterans), game room, library, cafeterias, physical therapy room, and more.



Renee enjoying an electronic game. The decorated walls for the bank Wheelchair Glider

Window for residents & staff. Purchased by 5th District Jrs.

I had the honor to go to the Washington Legislative Conference March 1-3, 2026. The Department VA&R Chairmen were invited by National to attend this event. On Monday, March 1st, I attended the Veteran Employment and Education Commission meeting (National assigned the VA&R chairmen to all of the commission meetings.) At 3:00 all attendees went to the Commander's Call.



Partnership signing with America 259



Presentation of some of the Samsung Scholarship Recipients

On Tuesday we went to Capitol Hill. I was assigned to go to Representative Jim Jordan's office at 11:00 a.m. Auxiliary members Denise Conrad, Dayna Beyer, and Jacie Robinson also attended that meeting with SAL members and Legionnaires, at 3:00 p.m. Dayna and I were the auxiliary members at Representative David Joyce's office. At both meetings we spoke about the American Legion's legislative priorities. We talked to the Representatives' assistant because the Representatives were in meetings. Only a few National Auxiliary members were invited to hear National Commander Dan Wiley's testimony. (Because I was in Washington, D.C., I missed the March deadline for the monthly bulletin. I apologize for that, then in April I was busy preparing income tax returns (I am a tax preparer,) and I missed that deadline.)

Thank You for completing and submitting your reports. Thank you for sharing what you do so I, as your department chairman, can share what you did. Some people are talented to have ideas and others need suggestions to decide what to do. That makes you mentors in the VA&R program.

Reports are in but our work is not done, we need to continue to serve our Veterans. This is a busy month for many of our programs. In previous bulletins, we have stressed visiting Veterans and taking food to them or taking them to get groceries, medicine, etc. I have been reading articles that it is vital for people, especially seniors, need to socialize. The COVID isolation has caused a rise in dementia. Maybe our focus needs to be how we can include our senior Veterans in our activities. Perhaps you can invite them to go to school awards programs, band and choir concerts, graduation, sporting events, holiday parades, flag retirements, and more.

Have a great summer. I hope to see many of you at Department Summer Convention in Toledo in July!