



## BULK MAILING FOR FEBRUARY 2025

To: Unit Presidents, Dept. Executive Committee,  
Department Chairmen, Past Department President



### Included in this mailing:

- President's Message
- Junior Convention Invitation
- Secretary Notes – Lori Wickham
- Membership Dates and **UNIT DATA FORM FOR 2026 – DUE APRIL 1, 2025**
- Americanism
- Buckeye Girls State & BGS District Orientation
- Chaplain
- Children & Youth
- Community Service
- Education – Nurses Scholarship
- Finance – Audit Information
- Junior Activities
- Legislative
- Membership
- National Security
- Poppy
- Poppy Shop Director
- Public Relations
- VA & R – Service to Veterans



**THE 2025 KIT OF REPORTS WILL BE MAILED USPS TO UNIT PRESIDENTS BY THE 4<sup>TH</sup> FRIDAY IN FEBRUARY. IT WILL ALSO CONTAIN JUNIOR CONVENTION, POPPY SHOP, DISTRICT AND DEPARTMENT CONVENTION FORMS AND INFORMATION.**





**Louise Smerk  
Department President  
February 2024**

Hello, my fellow Auxiliary members. WOW, if you were unable to attend Mid-Winter Conference, you missed a good time. All the chairmen gave great presentations on their respective programs. They provided information to take back to your units and share with your members. The raffle baskets were amazing. We raised quite a bit on the sale of those raffle tickets.

At the Mid-Winter Conference DEC meeting we ratified the following:

Lori Wickham – Department Secretary  
Jeni Kennedy – Columbus Outpatient VA Rep  
Kristen McLaughlin – Governing Documents Committee – HR Committee  
Diann Long – Governing Documents Committee – Finance Committee  
Carol T Robinson – Dayton VA Deputy  
Susan Fratino – Community Service Chairman

We accepted Susan Fratino letter of resignation as District 9 President. Susan has worked hard in this roll and has asked to be replaced by an auxiliary member from her district. We have not had anyone wanting to fill this roll. The position will stay vacant until we are able to fill it. Unfortunately, this leaves the district without representation at a department level on the DEC board. If you are a member of the 9<sup>th</sup> district and are interested in filling this position, please reach out to myself or the department office. With reporting time just around the corner, this affects everyone within the district, especially those that become goal units. PLEASE do not let your district and the units within the district go without representation at the DEC or department level.

The governing documents committee has met twice since you have received this information. The first meeting we made all the necessary corrections in our Standing Rules for the Department. Our second meeting, which is being held on February 8<sup>th</sup>, will be to go over Policy and we are adding quite a bit to this document. We will make sure to get a 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting in to go over the Constitution & Bylaws so that any changes can be printed and sent out prior to convention. I am immensely proud of this team. We have been working well together.

Do you have a special event planned, would you like me to attend a meeting, please reach out via a call, text or email with dates and details, I am happy to join you. My calendar of events is filling up fast.

Remember, we received from the Double Tree Hotel, (home to School of Instructions, next year) 3 one-night stays for utilizing their hotel for this event. We will be raffling off the final gift certificate at Convention in July. These certificates are good until December 31, 2025. This would get you a free room at next years School of Instruction. Keep an eye out for Kristen McLaughlin for tickets at Convention.

I plan on meeting with Leora Porter, the supervisor, at The Judge Sara J Harper Village soon to look at the facility and space where the shed may be built. I will then be reaching out to Lowe's, Home Depot for any assistance they may be able to provide under their own Veteran programs. I really hope that we can come together and make a difference in these female veterans' lives. Leora continues to build her wish list but a few things that we have found that need:

Storage Shed to house patio furniture and gardening tools  
Patio furniture  
Raised garden beds  
Gardening tools  
Dog clean-up Stations – Currently 3 dogs live in the Village  
All weather American and POW flags  
Vacuum sealed storage bags to help them maximize storage

Please be sure to share all the information that is provided in this bulk mailing with your unit members. Our chairman work extremely hard to provide information and new ideas for our programs.

Leadership is especially important through every level of our organization. The current leadership from the Auxiliary, The American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion are all stating we need to work as a family. I am putting together a zoom call with this leadership team to get us all together to work together in harmony, like a family can. We need to start moving forward with our communication, ideas, and programs together. **THIS IS OUR ORGANIZATION**, not one individuals. We do have boundaries that we need to maintain, but the common goal is **VETERANS, CHILDREN & YOUTH, AND COMMUNITY**. Without that, then who are we??

Remember, I am here representing you. I am a phone call away if needed and can be reached via my cell (216) 337-4037. You may text me at that number as well, but when you do, please put your name, district and unit number at the beginning of your message. I do not have all of you in my phone. You may also email me at [LAigner109@yahoo.com](mailto:LAigner109@yahoo.com).



*You are cordially invited  
To attend the  
Department of Ohio  
Junior Convention*

*May 3, 2025*

*10 am*

*Hanover*

*American Legion Post 764  
1989 W High St NE  
Newark Ohio 43055*

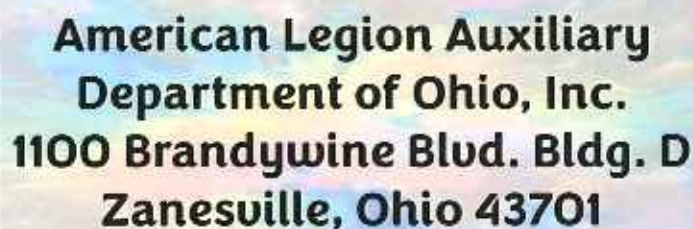


**From the Desk of:**  
**Lori Wickham**  
**Department Secretary**  
**American Legion Auxiliary**  
**Department of Ohio, Inc.**  
[ohdeptsec@alaohio.org](mailto:ohdeptsec@alaohio.org)  
**(740) 452-8245 (option 3)**

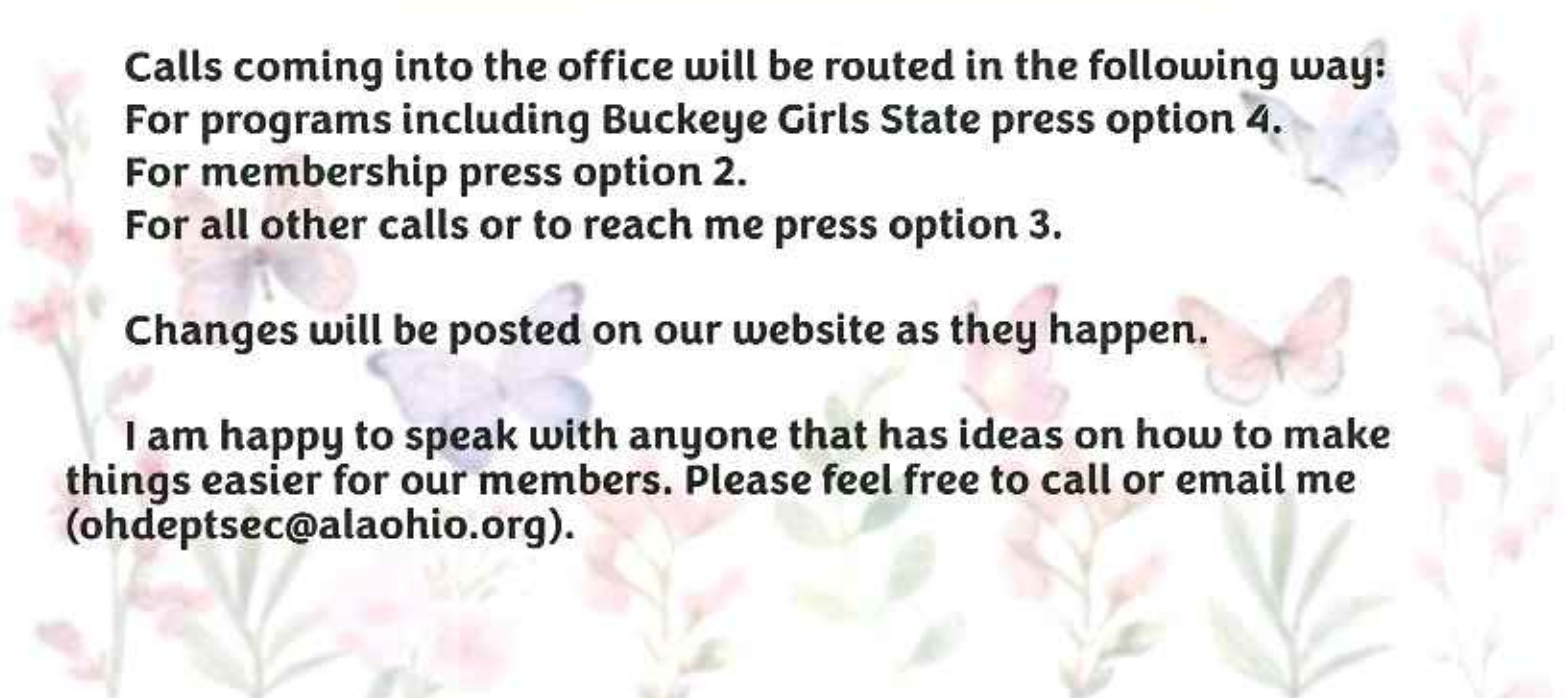
**February 2025**

**I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome I received at the Mid-Winter Conference. I look forward to serving the American Legion Auxiliary and all its members to the best of my ability.**

**We are making changes in the office. One such change is already in motion. We are closing the post office box. Please address all future correspondence that you are mailing to:**



**American Legion Auxiliary**  
**Department of Ohio, Inc.**  
**1100 Brandywine Blvd. Bldg. D**  
**Zanesville, Ohio 43701**



**Calls coming into the office will be routed in the following way:**  
**For programs including Buckeye Girls State press option 4.**  
**For membership press option 2.**  
**For all other calls or to reach me press option 3.**

**Changes will be posted on our website as they happen.**

**I am happy to speak with anyone that has ideas on how to make things easier for our members. Please feel free to call or email me ([ohdeptsec@alaohio.org](mailto:ohdeptsec@alaohio.org)).**

## Membership Information

Angie Miller – Membership Data Entry Clerk

Greetings everyone!! The following dates are of importance for Membership so please read:

- 1<sup>st</sup> week of February: National is mailing out the 2<sup>nd</sup> renewal notices to those who have not renewed their 2025 memberships.
- March 31, 2025: Last day to make changes to names, addresses, email addresses, phone numbers, etc. for the 2026 membership rosters. ALSO, this is the last day that any new member can be entered to receive a pre-printed card and to appear on the Membership Rosters for 2026. (Please note: we will still be processing all of these changes, as well as new members, after this date, however, they may not appear on the 2026 membership roster OR have a pre-printed 2026 membership card)
- April 1, 2025: UNIT DATA FORM—RENEWAL NOTICES are due back to the office. This form needs to indicate WHO will be handling 2026 renewals for your Unit as well as what your Unit will be charging for 2026 Junior and Senior Dues. THIS FORM NEEDS TO BE FILLED OUT IN ITS ENTIREITY-NO EXCEPTIONS!! Incomplete forms will be mailed back to the Unit for correction. You may email back as an attachment. Otherwise, please mail.
- May 31, 2025: Last day for Units to make their 2025 Membership Goals prior to Department Convention in July, 2025.
- June 1, 2025: 2025-2026 CERTIFICATION OF OFFICERS are due back to the office. This form needs to be complete in its entirety-NO EXCEPTIONS. If the form is incomplete, then I will be mailing them back for completion. You can email this form as an attachment to Angie at [amiller@alaohio.org](mailto:amiller@alaohio.org). Otherwise, please mail in the form. If you plan to pick up your membership packet at Department Convention, please ensure that a pickup person's name is given so that we know who will be signing for them.
- NEW ADDRESS TO MAIL YOUR MEMBERSHIP TRANSMITTALS AND OTHER ITEMS. Please address your mail items to: American Legion Auxiliary, 1100 Brandywine Blvd., Bldg. D., Zanesville, OH 43701 effective immediately.

DIST \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT \_\_\_\_\_



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

Department of Ohio, Inc.  
1100 Brandywine Blvd, Bldg. D  
Zanesville, Ohio 43701-7303  
(740) 452-8245  
amiller@alaohio.org

**Duc Date: April 1, 2025**

**UNIT DATA FORM - - RENEWAL NOTICES**  
**MANDTORY!!! MUST BE COMPLETED WITH OR WITHOUT CHANGES**

Name of Individual to Receive Membership Dues _____	Member ID# _____
E-Mail Address _____	
Address where Membership Dues are to be Mailed _____	
City/State/Zip _____	
Telephone Number: _____	

Please type or print using blue or black ink. Total Dues amount should be the total amount paid by each member and will be reflected on the Renewal notice.

<b>2026 JUNIOR MEMBER UNIT DUES</b>	
National Portion	\$ 2.50
Department Portion	\$ 3.75
Unit Portion	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$ _____*</b>

**\*This amount will be listed on renewal notice for members to submit for 2026 dues.**

<b>2026 SENIOR MEMBER UNIT DUES</b>	
National Portion	\$ 18.00
Department Portion	\$ 11.00
Unit Portion	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$ _____*</b>

**\*This amount will be listed on renewal notice for members to submit for 2026 dues.**

I understand that the dues amount listed below will be printed on the 2026 Membership Renewal Notices mailed to each senior member of our Unit by our National organization. **The name and address above will be printed on each Membership Renewal Notice designating where members are to mail their dues.** It is also understood that any change in the amount of dues made after April 1, 2025 will not be reflected in 2026 Membership Renewal Notice.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed form by April 1, 2025, to:  
**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**  
1100 Brandywine Blvd, Bldg. D  
ZANESVILLE, OHIO 43701-7303

<i>For Office Use only</i>	
_____	<i>Ohio</i>
_____	<i>National</i>
_____	<i>Sr. Dues Verified</i>
_____	<i>Jr. Dues Verified</i>

# AMERICANISM

FEBRUARY 2025

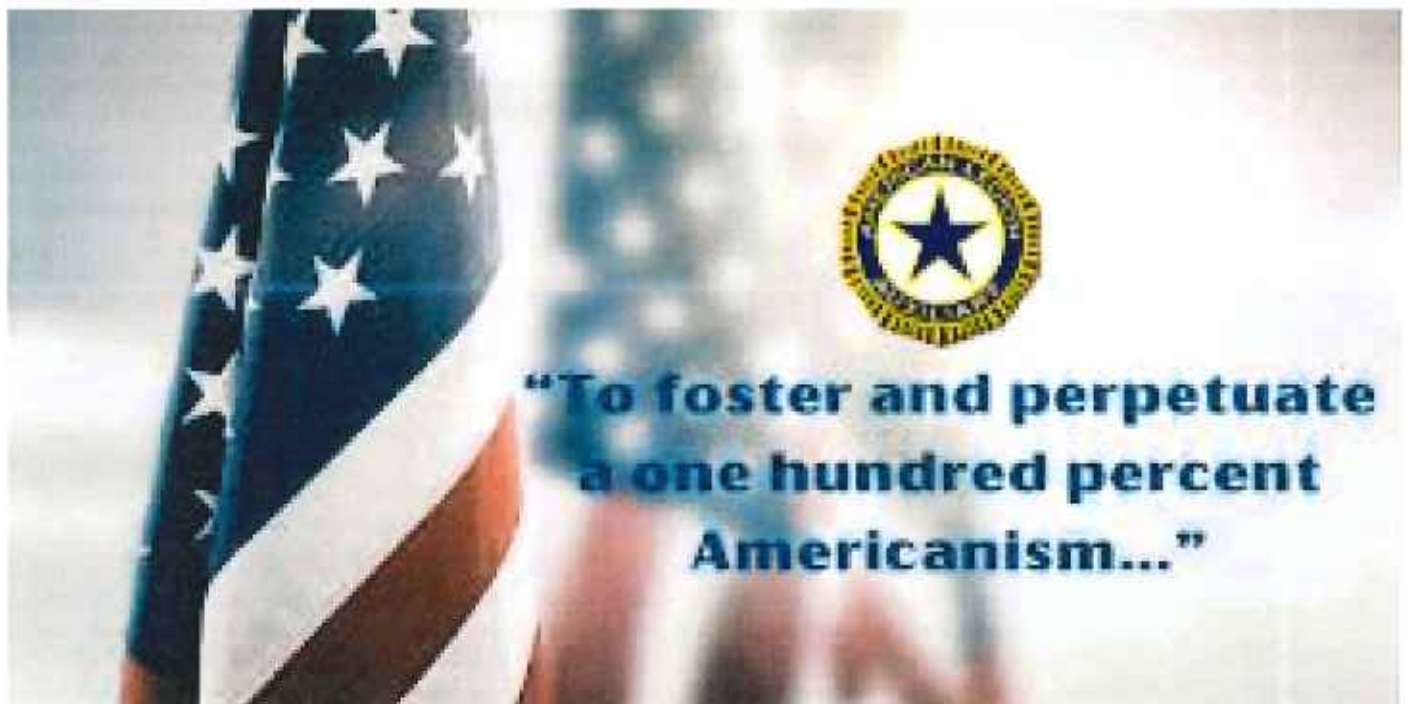
Cyndi Underwood, Chairman

[cyn2273@gmail.com](mailto:cyn2273@gmail.com)

Peggy Park, Vice Chairman

[peggyprk@yahoo.com](mailto:peggyprk@yahoo.com)

Please see attached items for review. If you have any questions, please be sure to contact me.





# Ohio Unit Plan of Action



## AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST 2025 Cover Sheet

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into six classes. One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund.

**Essay Title:** *"What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?"*

**Essay Classes:**

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level.

**Essay Checklist:**

- Class competing in \_\_\_\_\_
- Sponsoring ALA Unit \_\_\_\_\_
- Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- Completed essay coversheet as first page of essay
- Word count of essay \_\_\_\_\_
- Due date for student to return to ALA Unit \_\_\_\_\_

**To Be Completed by the Student/Parent**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name and Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Auxiliary Use Only: (Must be completed for entry to be considered)**

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit winner due to Department on: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Department Americanism Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit winner to be sent to Department Americanism Vice Chairman, Peggy Park, PO Box 32, Chillicothe, OH 45601-0032.

*Due by April 1, 2025*



## *The Flag in Mourning*

# *AMERICANISM FLAG ETIQUETTE*

*Americanism Committee 2024 - 2025*

*Flag Etiquette Article 5*

*January 25, 2025*

The Flag of the United States is a proud symbol of patriotism, but it can also be used to commemorate a time of mourning. Knowing when and how to fly the Flag in mourning is an important way to respect our country and the values it represents.

In times of mourning, we fly the Flag at half-staff. The term "half-staff" refers to a Flag positioned one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff. Half-staffing is reserved in most cases for mourning.

### *History*

Half-staff is a tradition that goes back to the eighteenth century. The earliest documented occurrence was in 1799, when the Navy Department directed all ships to lower their Flags to half-staff upon the death of George Washington. The tradition has since expanded beyond the Navy. President Dwight D. Eisenhower formally codified the practice with a presidential proclamation in 1954 for all government buildings. The reason for this position is unknown, but it has nonetheless been an enduring custom for the Flag of the United States.

### *When to Half-Staff the Flag*

The Flag is flown at half-staff to commemorate the death of principal figures of the United States government or the governor of a state or territory. The United States law gives the President of the United States authority to order a nation-wide half-staffing as a mark of respect for special events as well.

In addition to deaths of government figures, the Flag should also be flown half-staff for the following dates

- Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15)
- Memorial Day (Last Monday in May)
- Korean War Veterans Day (July 27)
- Patriot Day (September 11)
- National Firefighters Memorial Day (First Sunday in October)
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (December 7)

Recommend that individuals and organizations find other ways to commemorate the deaths of loved ones, employees or officers rather than fly the Flag at half-staff. In general, stick to the parameters outlined above, as they are intended to be reserved for periods of national mourning.

### *For How Long?*

- 30 days upon the death of the President or a former President.
- 10 days upon the death of the Vice President or the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- On the day of death and the following day for a member of Congress.
- Peace Officers Memorial Day: From sunrise to sunset.
- Memorial Day: From sunrise to noon.
- Korean War Veterans Day: From sunrise to sunset.
- Patriot Day: From sunrise to sunset.
- National Firefighters Memorial Day: From sunrise to sunset.
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day: From sunrise to sunset.

### *For Burial Ceremonies*

When used to cover a casket, the Flag should be placed with the union over the head and left-shoulder. It should not be lowered in with the casket.





*January 16, 2025*  
*Pentagon drops ban on servicemembers displaying US flags horizontally at big events*

*Updated guidelines follow changes to the U.S. Flag Code under the latest National Defense Authorization Act.*

American servicemembers can once again display the U.S. flag horizontally at sporting events and other official ceremonies, the Pentagon said in a memo that reverses restrictions enacted two years ago.

Defense Department personnel may now show the flag, "regardless of its size or position, at eligible public sporting and other community events, provided that such displays are done in a respectful manner," a DOD memo issued Friday said.

The updated guidelines follow changes to the U.S. Flag Code under the latest National Defense Authorization Act. The purpose of the code is to provide guidance on properly displaying the flag, including details regarding size, placement and handling.

Under the old rules outlined on Feb. 10, 2023, uniformed service members were barred from participating directly in the "unfurling, holding, and/or carrying of giant horizontal U.S. flags." Military jump teams also were formerly prevented from incorporating the U.S. flag in their demonstrations if it couldn't "be caught reliably and handled respectfully by ground personnel."

It remains against DOD rules for flags to land on the ground during parachute demonstrations in which they are attached to the jumper, according to the memo, signed by Chris Meagher, assistant to the secretary of defense for public affairs.

The rules must be followed by DOD personnel handling the flag at events in the U.S. and abroad.

Servicemembers traditionally unfurl the flag at the Super Bowl and other major American sporting events. They have also been used in flag displays at National Football League and Major League Baseball games in foreign countries.

The Flag Code is referenced in DoD regulations. According to the code, the Stars and Stripes should never touch anything beneath it, including the ground, floor, water or merchandise. An exception is made for caskets draped in the flag during funeral honors so long as it isn't lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

While the revisions maintain that the flag usually should not be carried flat, they allow for exceptions that "may be necessary in limited circumstances." That stipulation was absent in the 2023 DOD guidance.

Pentagon officials have been concerned with flag protocol in recent years and addressed troops on the issue in earlier memos. In 2020, DOD issued a policy that banned the display of unauthorized flags on military installations, buildings and vehicles.

It effectively prohibited Confederate flags and other controversial banners without spelling out which flags were off-limits.

In the wake of the 2023 memo that was overturned last week, Meagher encouraged bases "to work with sponsors of community events to develop other ways to showcase the patriotism and capabilities of our militar

**BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE 2025**  
**Gwen Schroeder-Zulch, Director**



**IMPORTANT NOTICES FOR BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE**



THE MAILBOX FOR DEPARTMENT OF OHIO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY HAS BEEN CLOSED. PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANYTHING TO THE PO BOX. YOU NEED TO USE THE STREET ADDRESS INSTEAD. WE WILL ACCEPT ALL BGS APPLICATIONS UNTIL FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE  
1100 BRANDYWINE BLVD., BLDG D.  
ZANESVILLE, OH 43701

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**SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE DELEGATES**

BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE ENDOWMENT FUND SCHOLARSHIP OF \$1000.00 TWO SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE AWARDED AT THE CLOSING SESSION OF BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE.

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**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FROM BGS**

If you are a delegate to the Buckeye Girls State program, there is scholarship money that you are eligible to apply for. Any delegate that commits to attending Bowling Green State University may apply for the University Freshman Academic Scholarship which will include \$1,000 for any delegate who attended BGS 2024.

A note from BGSU states:

Scholarships, which ranges from \$1,000 to \$9,500 and is renewable for all four years based on a comprehensive review of your application. No essay, no recommendation letter and no interview are needed - just apply to BGSU. In addition, there are many more scholarships you can apply for at BGSU. As a delegate for Buckeye Girls State, we want to provide you a customized approach when navigating scholarships, so please reach out to [choosebgsu@bgsu.edu](mailto:choosebgsu@bgsu.edu) for personalized scholarship recommendations and assistance with scholarship essays from your admissions counselor. "The twenty-one delegates from BGS 2023 that committed to attending BGSU in the fall of 2024 earned \$174,000 in scholarship monies, which

included one delegate that received a FULL TUITION paid scholarship, eight delegates that received \$11,000 scholarships for 4 years, and two delegates that received \$3,000-\$5,000 STEM scholarship. These twenty-one delegates averaged \$5,825.00 per person.”

\*\*\*\*\*DISTRICT IN PERSON BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE ORIENTATIONS START IN\*\*\*\*\*  
MARCH. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR DELEGATES ATTEND ONE OF THE ORIENTATIONS.  
KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THEM TO MAKE SURE THEY ATTEND ONE.  
SCHEDULE IS ATTACHED.



Are you ready? 2025 is almost here!

1100 Brandywine Blvd. Bldg. D  
Zanesville, OH 43701  
(740) 452-8245 Fax (740) 452-2602



[vicky@alaohio.org](mailto:vicky@alaohio.org)  
[www.buckevegirlsstate.org](http://www.buckevegirlsstate.org)  
(740) 452-8245 fax (740) 452-2602

**BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE**  
**District Orientation Schedule – Spring 2025**

District	Date	Host Unit Number	Location	Registration Time	Orientation Convenes	Additional Information	BGS Orientation Speaker
1	April 24, 2025	Joseph W. Diehn, Unit 468	5580 Centennial Rd. Sylvania, OH 43560	6:30 p.m.	7:00 p.m.		Gwen Schroeder-Zulch
1	April 27, 2025	Hamler Unit #262	350 Raldolph St. Hamler, OH 43524	1:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.		Gwen Schroeder-Zulch
2	March 30, 2025	New Bremen American Legion Unit #241	6458 St. Rt. 66 New Bremen, OH 45869	12:30 p.m.	1:00 p.m.		Gwen Schroeder-Zulch
2	April 30, 2025	American Legion Unit #96	711 S Shore Dr. Lima, OH 45804	6:30 p.m.	7:00 p.m.		Gwen Schroeder-Zulch
3	March 29, 2025	American Legion Vandalla Unit #668	8220 N. Dixie Dr. Dayton, OH 45414-2760	2:00 p.m.	2:30 p.m.		Gwen Schroeder-Zulch
4	April 5, 2025	Mason Unit #194	401 Reading Rd. Mason, OH 45040	12:00 p.m.	12:30 p.m.		Vicky Buck
4	April 12, 2025	Middletown Unit #218	116 S. Main Middletown, OH 45044	12:00 p.m.	12:30 p.m.		Vicky Buck
5	March 22, 2025	Plymouth Unit #447	112 Trux Plymouth, OH 44865	12:00 p.m.	12:30 p.m.		Gwen Schroeder-Zulch
5	April 5, 2025	Bucyrus American Legion Unit 181	123 E. Renessler St. Bucyrus, OH 44820	1:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.		Cindy Masowick
6	March 30, 2025	Newark American Legion Unit #85	85 S. 6 <sup>th</sup> St. Newark, OH 43055	1:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.		Vicky Buck
6	April 16, 2025	Marysville American Legion Unit #79	500 Park Ave. Marysville, OH 43040	6:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.		Vicky Buck
7	March 22, 2025	Washington Court House Unit #25	1240 US HWY 22 NW Washington Court House, OH 43160	1:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.		Vicky Buck
8	April 27, 2025	Athens American Legion Unit #21	520 W. Union St. Athens, OH 45701	12:30 p.m.	1:00 p.m.		Vicky Buck
9	April 12, 2025	Harry Lees American Legion Unit #506	6336 St. Rt. 87 Kinsman, OH 44428	10:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.		Karen Peel Cindy Masowick
10	March 30, 2025	Lowell D. Oberly Unit #667	224 Wood St. NE East Canton, OH 44730	1:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	Foltz Community Center	Karen Peel Cindy Masowick
10	April 27, 2025	Lowell D. Oberly Unit #667	224 Wood St. NE East Canton, OH 44730	1:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	Foltz Community Center	Cindy Masowick
11	March 29, 2025	St. Clairsville American Legion Unit 159	100 Legion Rd. St Clairsville, OH 43950-0495	3:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m.		Vicky Buck
12	April 27, 2025	Young Budd American Legion Unit #171	393 E. College Ave. Westerville, OH 43081	1:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.		Karen Peel
13	March 23, 2025	Brook Park Unit #610	19944 Sheldon Rd. Brook Park, OH 44142	12:30 p.m.	1:00 p.m.		Karen Peel Cindy Masowick
14	March 23, 2025	Kent American Legion Post #496	1945 Mogadore Rd. Kent, OH	1:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.		Karen Peel

Chaplain Chats  
Melissa Boyers  
[ohioalachaplain@gmail.com](mailto:ohioalachaplain@gmail.com)  
419.250.6971



It is easy to forgive when you know there is nothing to forgive; It is easy to love when you know **Love** is all there is.

Welcome to February, the month most people associate with love! February 14<sup>th</sup> is Valentine's Day and while many celebrate this holiday in different ways, it has been for years an annual celebration of love, affection, and romance. How do you plan to show love this month to the members of your Unit, District, and Department?

One way to show love is to give *Grace* to a member, even when you are frustrated by something they did or said. That person may be going through something that we cannot see or something we know nothing

about. Haven't we all had a bad day or said/did something we later regretted? God's grace is a free gift, it cannot be earned. God does not count peoples' successes and failures to determine who receives his love. Just as God freely extends his Grace to us, we must also extend Grace to others.

- **G** is for generosity, the will to do something more for others.
- **R** is for respect, the dignity of life and work.
- **A** is action, the mechanism for change.
- **C** is compassion, the concern for others.
- **E** is energy, the spirit that catalyzes us.

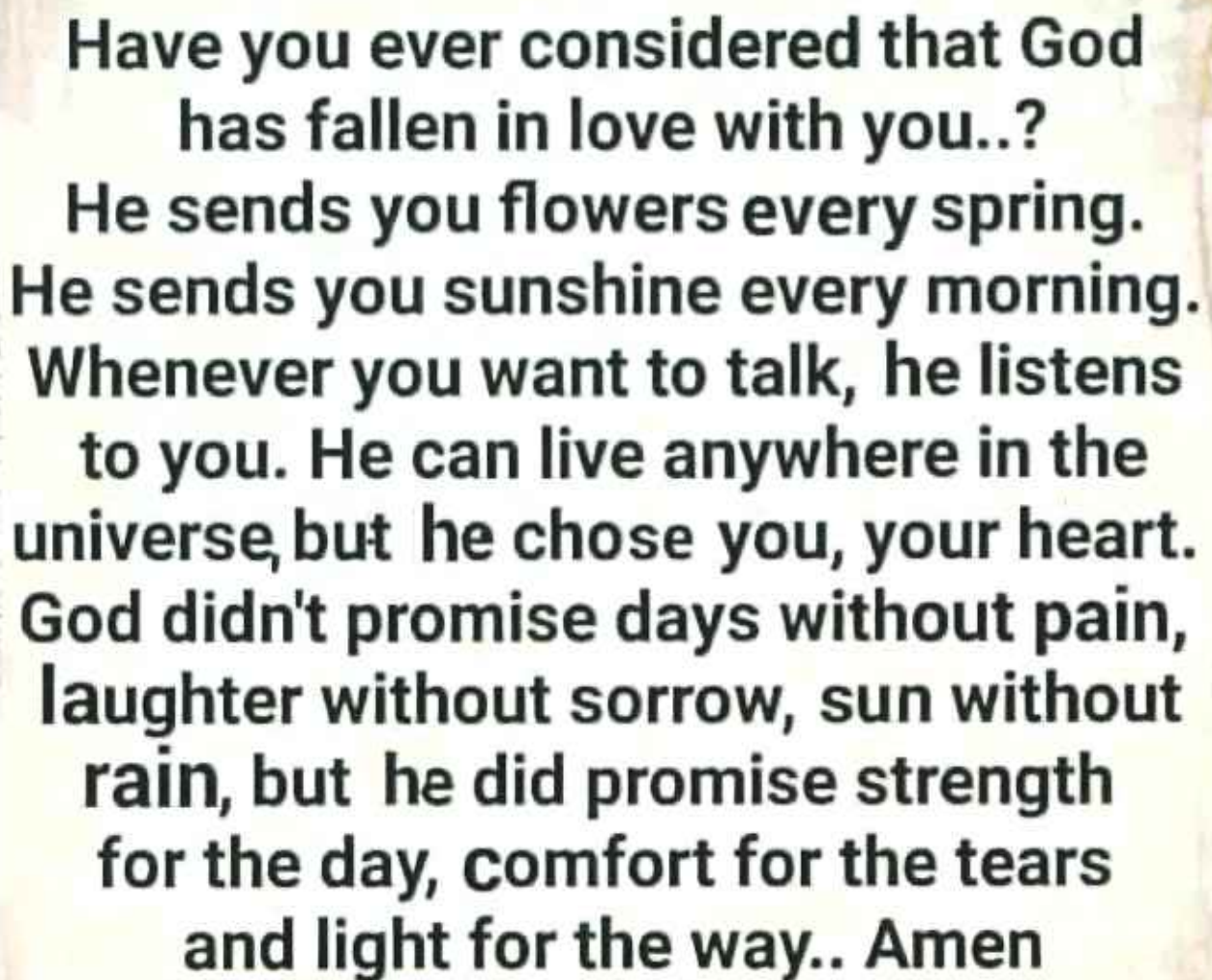
I don't tell my story because I don't like sympathy! Just know I'm a walking testimony. You wouldn't believe HALF the stuff I've been through because of the way I carry myself! I am Forever BLESSED! Literally protected by the grace of GOD! Always remember you never know what a person is going through, went through or came through! ✨

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." - Maya Angelou

Have an amazing day and know that you are **LOVED!**



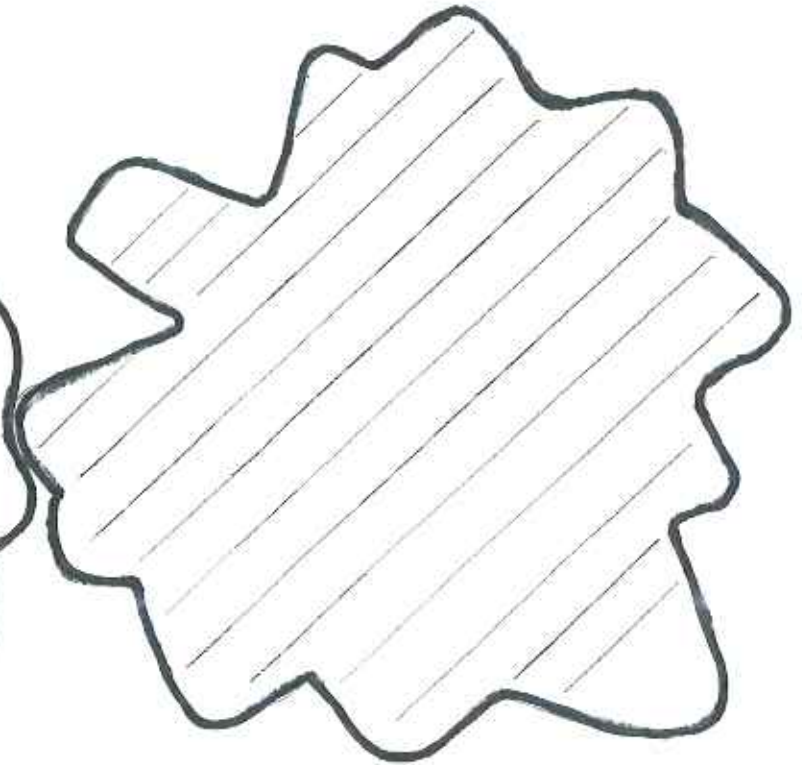
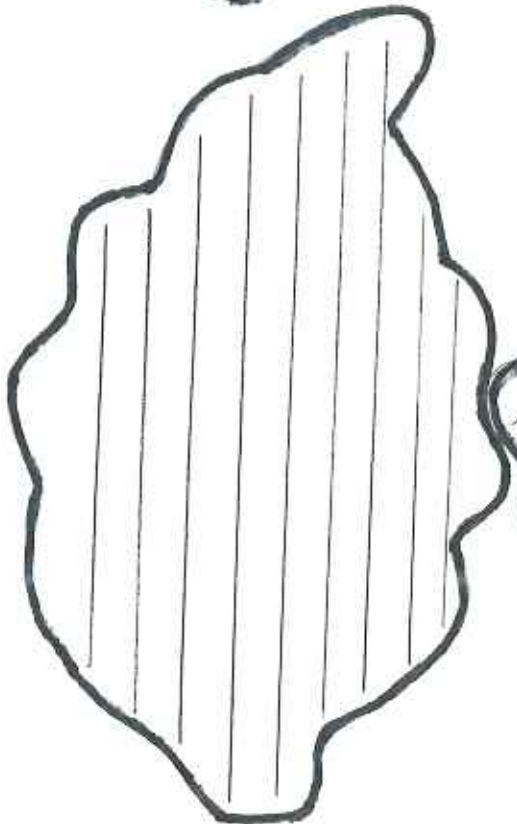
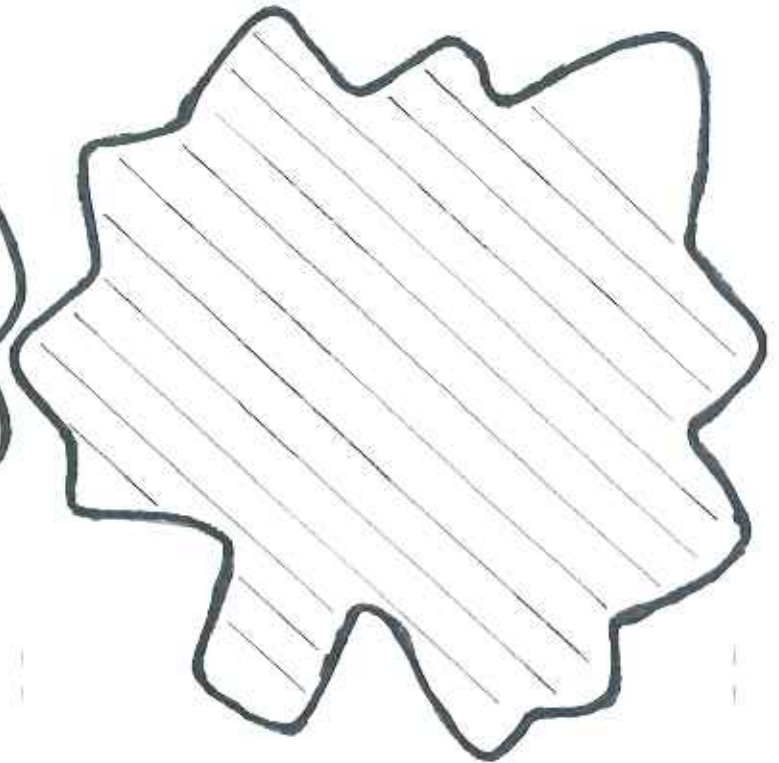
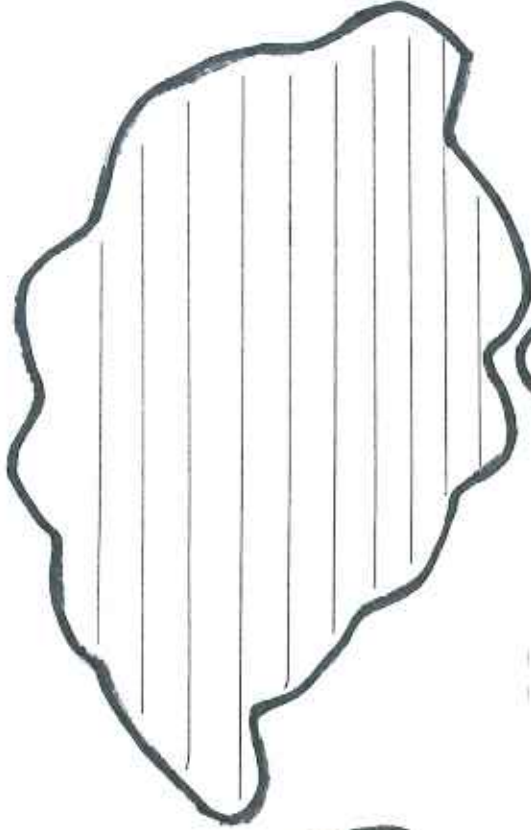




**Have you ever considered that God  
has fallen in love with you..?  
He sends you flowers every spring.  
He sends you sunshine every morning.  
Whenever you want to talk, he listens  
to you. He can live anywhere in the  
universe, but he chose you, your heart.  
God didn't promise days without pain,  
laughter without sorrow, sun without  
rain, but he did promise strength  
for the day, comfort for the tears  
and light for the way.. Amen**

-Unknown

Don't forget to send me your prayer leaves for Louise's Prayer Tree!



# Children & Youth February 2025

*Military Children  
grow everywhere the winds carry them.*



**KRISTA CARPENTER**

[Kristacarpenter115@gmail.com](mailto:Kristacarpenter115@gmail.com)

**COLLEEN PHILLIPS**

[ckphillips43524@gmail.com](mailto:ckphillips43524@gmail.com)

## Special Dates in February to celebrate!

2-2 – National Tator Tot day

2-3 – Four Chaplains Day

2-7 National Wear Red Day (1<sup>st</sup> Fri. in  
Feb.)

2-9 – National Pizza Day

2-11 – National Safer Internet Day

2-14 – Valentine's Day

2-17 – Random Acts of Kindness Day

President's Day

2-19 – National Vet Girls RISE Day

More can be found at [National Day  
Calendar](#)

Special thanks to Auxiliary Unit 707, SAL Squadron 707, Legion Riders Chapter 707, and Post 707's Color Guard for donating \$50 Amazon Gift cards. The Mid-Winter Conference Raffle earned \$310 for the American Legion Child Well Being Foundation! Thank you to all that bought tickets for the raffle!

# Good Deed Youth Hero Awards

National has challenged every state to have at least one Good Deed Award and one Youth Hero Award. Ohio has risen to the challenge – Way to go Units 495 & 707! There is still time to find and nominate worthy youth. Please e-mail me and let me know when you do! You can find nomination forms on line as well as the criteria.

[Youth Hero Good Deed Awards](#)

## The American Legion Child Well Being Foundation

National has challenged all Units to try and raise more money than the American Legion for the Child Well Being Foundation. As of December, the Legion had contributed \$76,000 and the Auxiliary had contributed \$22,223. Make a commitment to donate \$1.00 per member. Send donations to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio with a note declaring the money for the CWF so Ohio receives credit for the challenge.



# Thank you!

## 89 T-shirts Sold

\$584 will go to the American Legion Child Well Being Foundation (\$6.56 per shirt)

\$560 will go to President Louise's special project – Judge Sara J. Harper Village (\$6.29 per shirt)



February 11, 2025 – National Safer Internet Day

Find lessons and activities here - [Student Program | Safer](#)

# Happening Across the Country

## Planning for the Month of the Military Child

- \* Get a Proclamation for the month of April from your Mayor – start now
  - \* Perform a Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony
  - \* Plan an event to honor Military children

## Making Emergency Room Packets

Make kid friendly activity packets for youth so they have something to do while waiting to see a doctor or waiting with an adult during an emergency room visit to the hospital. Deliver to hospitals.

Year End Reports are due to your District Children and Youth Chairperson on **April 15, 2025**. Start writing your narratives now and getting your pictures ready to send in. Have questions? Contact your District Chairperson, Krista, or Colleen.

## Collecting Old Crayons for the Crayon Initiative

Visit [Our Work - The Crayon Initiative](#)

Old crayons are repurposed and given away for free to children in hospitals.

Staples collects the crayons.

## Contacting the Department of Safety

Contact your Department of Safety to see if they will help hold a drive-up car seat inspection for the community.

One Safety Dept. even gave away free car seats.

**Community Service Bulk Mailing**  
**Department Chairman, Susan Fratino**

Hello everyone! I hope everyone is doing well.

This is a great time to begin your narrative for  
Community Service.

I want to thank Jeni Kennedy for taking on her new role  
as VA Rep. I will be taking over as Chairman, until  
Summer Convention.

Here is my contact information,

440-759-4961

[bfratino@yahoo.com](mailto:bfratino@yahoo.com)

7565 Lambton Ct.

Mentor, OH 44060

Please send me photos of your events and contact me  
with any questions.

Thank you.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**  
**Betty Taylor**  
**Vice Chairman**  
**(740) 250-3249**

Dear Auxiliary Family,

As we branch out into the world of community service tracking and calendar management, it's essential to find the right tools to help our roots grow strong. Just like a tree needs sturdy roots to support its leaves and branches, our community service efforts need a solid foundation to flourish. For tracking hours and scheduling events, I recommend exploring the following options:

1. Google Calendar: A versatile and user-friendly platform that's perfect for scheduling events and sharing with team members.
2. [www.jibble.io](http://www.jibble.io) A simple and efficient time-tracking app that's great for monitoring hours and generating reports.
3. Excel: A trusty spreadsheet program that's ideal for tracking data and creating custom reports.
4. A wealth of videos and tutorials on tracking hours and managing community service projects. Use your imagination, apps, and electronics.

As we navigate the digital landscape, it's crucial to remember that not everyone has access to the same resources. Let's make sure to be kind to those who may not be as familiar with social media or email. We can offer personal training and buddy up to help them get started. To help with year-end reports and historian records, I suggest archiving event fliers in a folder after each event. You can also use newspaper articles and online posts to create a scrapbook of your unit's activities. This will provide a valuable resource for future reference and help tell the story of your community service efforts. For those who prefer a more traditional approach, I've created a new time sheet that can be sent via email, bulk mailing, or even printed and distributed to your unit.

Let's work together to make sure everyone has the support they need to thrive, regardless of their level of technical expertise. I'm excited to remind everyone about the special award we'll be offering for the creative use of electronic digital technology to showcase your events. This is a great opportunity to think outside the box and come up with innovative ways to share your community service stories. To ensure you're eligible for the award, please review your plan of action and make sure you have all your reports completed and submitted on time. We'll be accepting submissions through various channels, including: - Snail mail (yes, we still love getting mail the old-fashioned way!) -

Email (send us a message with your reports attached) - Messenger (use your favorite messaging app to send us your updates) - Text message (keep it short and sweet, but make sure you include all the necessary details).

Don't miss this chance to showcase your creativity and hard work. Get those reports in, and you might just find yourself branching out into the winner's circle (sorry, had to sneak in one more tree pun!)! Remember, just like a tree's roots grow stronger with time, our community service efforts will flourish with patience, kindness, and the right tools. Thank you.

Betty Taylor  
Community Service  
Vice chairman  
740-250-3249

Why did the tree go to the Midwinter? Because it wanted to branch out and help others have a tree-mendous time! It was a real sap, always willing to leaf its problems behind and lend a helping limb to those in need. And in the end, it was the root of all the fun.







## EDUCATION / NURSES SCHOLARSHIP

Cindy Masowick, Chairman

During the Mid-Winter conference, we held a 50/50 drawing to go towards the Nurses Scholarship Fund. We raised \$170.00 with \$85.00 going into the fund this year. It's not too late to send in your donation. You can send a donation in memory of family member, Auxiliary member or a Unit donation. Please use the 2025-2026 Nurses Scholarship donation sheet and send to Auxiliary Headquarters in Zanesville.

Applications need to be sent to the Unit President by April 15 and to me by May 1, 2025. Please make sure all the criteria and proper paperwork is completed before sending on to me. I don't want anybody missing out on this opportunity.





**FINANCE - FEBRUARY**  
**Diann Long, Chairman**  
**Alice Teynor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Member**  
**Leeann Stan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Member**



An audit is required and should be completed as soon as possible before the installation of officers and then presented to membership at the earliest possible meeting.

**Purpose:** An audit involves a review and report on the records for the financial transactions and the procedures used to conduct those transactions. Its purpose is to assure both the membership and the executive board that the funds have been properly administered and that good financial practices have been followed. The audit committee investigates, examines facts, draws conclusions from the facts and presents a written report of its work to the executive committee. The executive committee receives the report and has an obligation to act upon the report and then share with the membership at the first general membership meeting of the year, or as soon as possible.

Check your Constitution and Bylaws along with your Standing Rules to see what guidelines have been put into place for appointing the audit committee and how it should be overseen.

#### **What should be provided for the Audit?**

Financial records should be placed in order shortly before the end of the term for office of treasurer. The outgoing treasurer cannot pay bills after the books are closed for the end of year. The treasurer shall deliver all records to the audit committee and should also include the following:

- A copy of the last audit report
- Checkbook and cancelled checks
- Bank statement and deposit receipts
- Treasurer's book and/or ledger
- Annual financial report (if applicable)
- Itemized statement and receipts of bills paid
- Check requests submitted during the year
- Copies of executive committee and membership meeting minutes with approval motions for expenditures
- Most recent tax forms filed (990)
- Copy of Constitution & Bylaws and if applicable, Standing Rules
- Any other information requested by audit committee not listed above

Begin with records posted after the last audit.

- 1) Reconcile each month's bank statements with:
  - a) The cancelled checks
  - b) The checkbook
  - c) The treasurer's report
  - d) The total expenditures of the unit
- 2) Verify that every check written is substantiated with a receipt, invoice or bill and disbursement/voucher request form (if used).

- 3) If a check was issued and there is no receipt, verify the expenditure through membership meeting minutes. This would also include those expenditures that have lost receipts and members wrote a note explaining expenditure.
- 4) Reconcile each deposit slip with:
  - a) The bank statements
  - b) The checkbook
  - c) The total income of the unit
- 5) Verify that a receipt was written to the appropriate person for all funds received by the treasurer.
- 6) Verify that all income and expenditures are allocated into the same categories on the approved budget (if applicable).
- 7) Prepare a written report of findings, signed by all audit committee members and forward to the President to share with the executive committee and then the members.

When the audit is completed, provide comments to the executive committee with findings that should be brought to their attention.

Notes should be made about any checks and/or deposits included in the audit but not cleared by the bank. All funds that are not a part of an approved budget should be recorded in Secretary's Minutes and verified by an approved motion by membership. If Unit has a budget, it should be recorded in Secretary's Minutes and verified by an approved motion by membership.

Comments on the audit should be provided with an audit report noting any items that should be brought to the executive committee's attention. Some items could be, but are not limited to:

- The need to file federal tax document(s)
- Failure to resolve bank statement issues
- Exceeding budget amounts without proper authorization
- Keeping poor financial records, etc.

Things to look for that are common when reviewing financial records:

- Neglecting to record returned checks and bank charges
- Transactions not entered in all documents (checkbook, receipt book, minutes, etc.)
- Reversal of numbers when entering amounts for transactions
- Mistakes in adding and subtracting
- Missing copy of bills
- Missing copy of receipts for funds
- No notation in secretary's minutes for expenditures or income

American Legion Auxiliary  
Annual Audit Report

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Year \_\_\_\_\_

Name of ALA Unit and # \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Name \_\_\_\_\_

Dates covered by this audit \_\_\_\_\_

Balance (at start of fiscal year) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Receipts (total for fiscal year) + \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Assets \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Disbursements (total for fiscal year) - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**BALANCE (at end of fiscal year)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \*

Latest Bank statement balance (at end of audit period) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Outstanding Checks: - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Outstanding Deposits: + \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Checking Account Balance** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \*

\*two lines must match

---

We have examined the financial records of the treasurer of ALA Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ and find them:

\_\_\_\_\_ correct

\_\_\_\_\_ substantially correct with the following recommendations. (see attached sheet)

\_\_\_\_\_ partially correct – more adequate accounting procedures need to be followed so that a more thorough audit report can be given.

\_\_\_\_\_ incorrect

Date Audit Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Names and Signatures:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Presented to membership on: \_\_\_\_\_



# Junior Activities

Connie Morton [cjstmorton@hotmail.com](mailto:cjstmorton@hotmail.com)

Michelle Bolin [mizetti1@live.com](mailto:mizetti1@live.com)

Brandy Little [unit764ala@gmail.com](mailto:unit764ala@gmail.com)

Honorary Department Junior President – Adryenne Rush

- ✓ Juniors have you finished a patch or multiple patches? Send the finished pages with signatures to Michelle Bolin email or snail mail.
- ✓ Have you put together a prayer book?
- ✓ How is your Holmes County Travelogue coming?
- ✓ Did you do an Americanism project?
- ✓ What about Community Service project?
- ✓ Did you write a letter to a government official?
- ✓ Have you helped raise money for a project at your legion?
- ✓ Did you make any no sew blankets for a shelter?
- ✓ What about helping at a soup kitchen?

All these and many more our juniors can help with, then senior members can write it on the Junior Activities Report. More ideas are in your Plan of Action which is online at [alaohio.org](http://alaohio.org). You still have time before writing your report. **Reports are due to your District Chair April 15, 2025!**

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!!!!**

*Talk to your juniors and units about suicide and the stigma of counseling. Get the facts and pass them on.*



# *Junior Activities*

## JUNIOR CONVENTION

*Hanover American Legion Post 764  
1989 W. High St N.E.  
Newark Ohio 43055*

**Saturday May 3, 2025**

Registration 10:00 am

Learning Stations 10:30 am

\$5.00 Lunch 12:30 pm

Meeting 1:30 pm

Kathy Linn, Legislative Chairman  
pebbles0916@yahoo.com



National has challenged the legislative departments to increase participation in corresponding with our legislators through the Grassroots Action Center. This is our chance to make **OHIO** #1 not only in the Central Division, but at the National Level advocating for our veterans and military. The National Legislative Committee Challenge will run from **November 10, 2024, through July 2025** will track all the Action Center messages sent by the Auxiliary. I have faith that Ohio will be the best state per paid 2025 membership.

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Results are IN!!!**  
*The winner is District of Columbia*

In the Central Division, Ohio is currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> Place! Keep up the Great Work!

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Wisconsin 32%
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Missouri 23%
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – **OHIO** 20%
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Illinois & West Virginia 16%
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Indiana 10%
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Iowa & Kansas .09%
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Michigan .05%

Please scan the QR code to get directly to the Action Center!



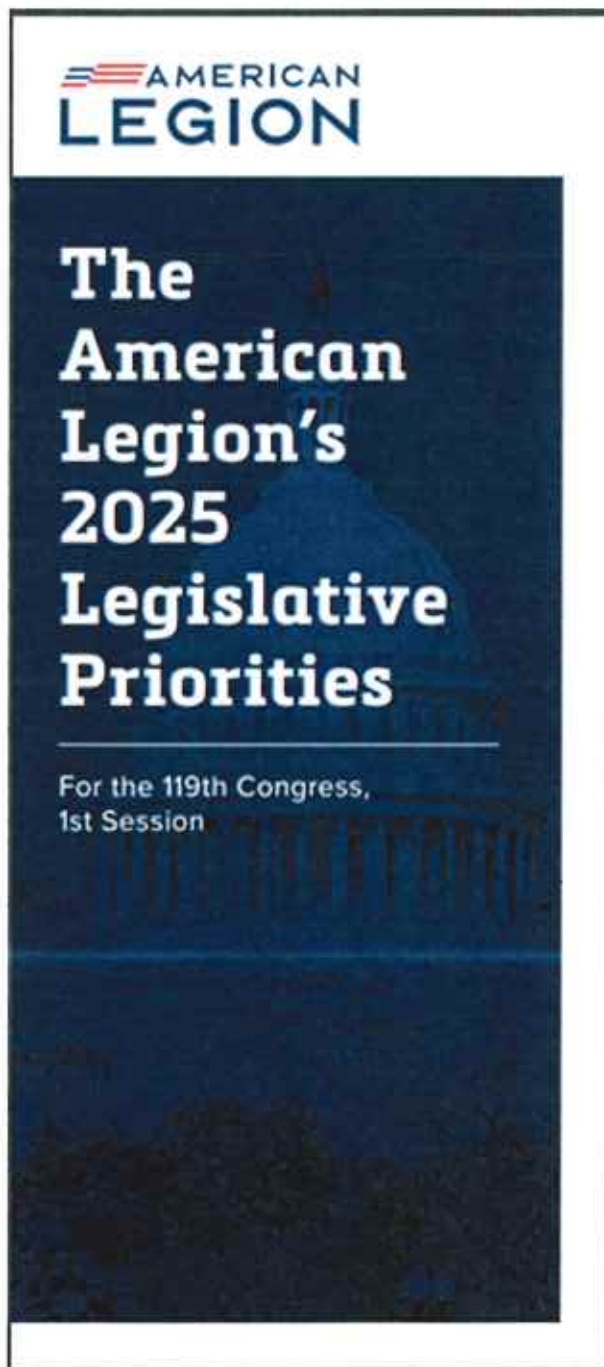
As of Monday 2/3/25, the only item in Voter Voice is the Major Richard Star Act, please make sure you're logging in daily to get this message to Congress so that our combat injured veterans don't face a reduction in their retirement pay. As more items are added to Voter Voice, I'll be sure to let everyone know.





With the elections behind us, it is time for us, as advocates for veterans' issues, to play a crucial role in renewing relationships with returning legislators and cultivating new relationships with the newly elected members of Congress. To help you get started, two letters, approved by ALA National Communication Department have been developed, one for an individual to introduce themselves and one for a group to request supporting legislation. The letters are designed for you to customize (red areas) with your personal, your unit, or your department information along with proper salutations listed at the bottom. Take the group letter to your next Unit meeting and have your members sign it!

"Know Before You Go!" The American Legion's legislative priorities should be reviewed using the Legislative Agenda and the Point Papers found on the American Legion Legislative Website, which will give you a clear understanding of the issues and The American Legion's recommended solutions to the problem.



**Unit/Department Name**  
**Street Address**  
**City, State, Zip Code**  
**Phone Number**  
**Email Address**

October 20, 2024

**Representative Name**  
**Representative Address**  
**Representative City, State, Zip Code**

Dear (*\*See proper salutation below*),

The American Legion Auxiliary is one component of the nation's most prominent supporters of veterans, military, and their families — The American Legion Family. The American Legion Auxiliary **Unit/Department Name** members stand in support of The American Legion's Legislative Agenda, advocating for laws that enhance the quality of life for our veterans, military, and their families. Our **unit/department** aims to maintain a valued relationship with you during your term in office. The American Legion has endorsed the **name of the resolution/bill**; therefore, the Auxiliary advocates for your support in honor of those who have fought and continue to fight for our nation's democracy. In the spirit of *Service Not Self*,

#### **American Legion Auxiliary Members Signatures**

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

#### **\*5 FAH-1 H-516 SALUTATION**

(CT:CH-41; 07-28-2015)

a. When preparing a Congressional letter for the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, the drafter must use one of the following salutations:

- (1) Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_: (To a U.S. Senator (male or female));
- (2) Dear Mr. or Ms. \_\_\_\_\_: (To a Member of the House of Representatives);
- (3) Dear Mr. or Madam Chairman: (To a male or female Member as chairperson of a committee or subcommittee);
- (4) Dear Mr. or Madam Speaker: (To the Speaker of the House of Representatives); or
- (5) Dear Mr. or Madam President: (To the Vice President of the United States in his/her capacity as the President of the Senate).

**Name**  
**Street Address**  
**City, State, Zip Code**  
**Phone Number**  
**Email Address**

October 20, 2024

**Representative Name**  
**Representative Address**  
**Representative City, State, Zip Code**

Dear (\*See proper salutation below),

As a constituent of the **Commonwealth of Virginia (State)** and a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, I, **name**, trust that you will advocate for our veterans, servicemembers, and their families during your term in office. The American Legion's Legislative Agenda supports initiatives aimed at improving benefits for those we advocate for, as detailed in the attached current Legislative Agenda. Your office will be contacted throughout your term to discuss pending resolutions and bills. I sincerely hope you will consider sponsoring and supporting the proposed legislation.

As you keep constituents updated on your legislative work, I look forward to receiving those communications. This will allow me to report back to Legion Family members — not only in **Virginia**, but across the United States — about your dedicated efforts to advance legislation affecting our veterans, military, and their families.

I look forward to speaking with you and your staff in the coming year.

In the spirit of *Service Not Self*,

**Your Name**

**Your Title or American Legion Auxiliary Member**

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

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- (3) Dear Mr. or Madam Chairman: (To a male or female Member as chairperson of a committee or subcommittee);
- (4) Dear Mr. or Madam Speaker: (To the Speaker of the House of Representatives); or
- (5) Dear Mr. or Madam President: (To the Vice President of the United States in his/her capacity as the President of the Senate).

## MEMBERSHIP

Renee Kohl, Chairman

[rckohl@aol.com](mailto:rckohl@aol.com)



Brrr...and welcome to February! It was wonderful seeing everyone at the Mid-Winter Conference! For those that were in attendance, I hope you enjoyed the District President Membership Skit.

At the end of January, the Central Division is in 1<sup>st</sup> place in membership!! Woo hoo! We are at 80.12%.

We are also **NUMBER 1** in the Central Division and if we maintain our lead over that team up North, National President Trish will wear a Buckeye Jersey during the Caucus at National Convention.

Currently, the Department of Ohio is at 84.23%....we are sooooooooooooo close to reaching the 85% Merit Medallion Recognition for President Louise. If we obtain 85%, this is one of the goals set by National for President Louise to receive the Merit Medallion. We'd love to see her up on stage for this prestigious recognition!! So be sure to turn in your membership.

**We are.....**

**Rooted Together:** Just as a tree's roots interweave with one another to create a stable foundation, our members, form the solid bedrock that supports our collective growth and success.

We need to be.....

**Branching Out:** Like the branches of a tree extending outward, each member contributes to the expansion of our organization. Every new branch (or member) brings new opportunities and perspectives, helping us grow stronger.

We are the .....

**Leaves of Change:** Think of the members as the leaves on a tree. Each leaf, though unique, plays a crucial role in photosynthesis, feeding of the tree. Every member contributes to the vitality of our organization.

We all go through.....

**Seasonal Growth:** Trees undergo various seasons, each bringing its challenges and opportunities for growth. Our organization, supported by its members, can weather any season, emerging stronger and more resilient with each passing cycle.

**The American Legion Auxiliary can be.....**

**The Canopy of Community:** The tree's canopy provides shelter, protection, and a nurturing environment for all who live beneath it. Our members form a protective and supportive community, offering guidance and resources to each other.

Our members are the .....

**Seeds of Innovation:** Like a tree's seeds that scatter and take root to sprout new growth, spreading ideas and initiatives that will grow and shape the future of our organization.



**National Security**  
**Kimm Bunch, Chairman**  
**kimmieb219@sbcglobal.net**

It's almost that time of year for snow melting, ice jams and flooding. Make sure you receive up to date information for your area on weather-related events. Ready.gov is just the place to get all of that information and more! Ready.gov is a branch of The Department of Homeland Security. On their website you can get information on being prepared for natural disasters – severe weather tips, preparing for a flood, power outage tips, emergency supply lists, family communication plans and more.

I signed up for ready.gov emergency alerts. I get emails, texts and phone calls when there are severe storms or flooding in my area. It has come in very useful when storms come through, especially if we aren't home, we can have someone check on our house if it was extremely bad.

They also provide information for preparedness for older adults, disabled people, caregivers, and for multi-cultural communities. They have ready plans and toolkits for businesses and an area for kids to learn about and help their family be prepared in various situations.

There are some important dates to remember coming up in February and March. Let's take a look.

**Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>** – Blue Star Mother's Day

**Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Four Chaplains Day – A day to remember the four U.S. Army Chaplains who made the ultimate sacrifice when the USAT Dorchester sank during World War II.

**Wednesday, February 19** – Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

**Monday, March 3** – Navy Reserve Birthday

**Thursday, March 13** – K-9 Veterans Day – this date is the official birthday of the United States K9 Corps and a day to honor their service

**Tuesday, March 25** – Medal of Honor Day – A holiday to honor the heroism and sacrifice of Medal of Honor recipients for the United States

**Saturday, March 29** – Vietnam Veterans Day – A national holiday to recognize and honor Veterans who served in the military during the Vietnam War.

Now would be a good time to contact the Mayor of your city, village, township and ask for a Proclamation for the month of April as Month of the Military Child.

We now have a Facebook page! **OH American Legion Auxiliary National Security.**  
<https://www.facebook.com/share/q/1SFcmjxZWw/>

Check us out! Share your ideas. See what others are doing.

## Poppies and the Juniors

Donella Kline – Chairman

Our Junior ALA members are a great asset to the poppy program. The following are some of the ways Juniors can become involved and share the story of the poppy with others.

1. Poppy poster contest:

\*Junior members are encouraged to participate in the poppy poster program.

\*A terrific way to share why the poppy is important and include their friends by encouraging them to make posters.

\*Poppy Poster Contest Rules are available online under the Poppy Program.

2. "Little Miss Poppy"

\*Only Junior members are qualified to enter the National "Little Miss Poppy" contest. For a national award, the participant must submit a "Little Miss Poppy award electronic application" with supporting documentation. Any Senior member can go on the National website and nominate a Juniors member for this honor.

\*A Department Little Miss Poppy Report can be filled out and submitted. Please see the Department of Ohio website for more information.

3. Encourage the Juniors to participate in any unit and/or department sponsored Juniors poppy contests.

4. Consider at your Unit meetings having Juniors wear a blindfold or only use one arm to emulate the handicaps of our veterans that assemble these little red flowers.

5. Juniors love to craft. Have them craft corsages or flower arrangements with poppies.

\*Decorate paper plates with poppies to hang in the Post home for a donation.

\*Make poppy cookies or candies to hand out for a donation at Bake Sales.

\*Check out the Facebook site for more great crafting ideas!!

6. Have the Junior members participate in memorial services, lay a poppy wreath, or add poppies to a vase in honor of our fallen heroes.

7. To really increase the donations during your poppy distribution, ask your Junior members to help. Few adults can turn down and disappoint a child.



# POPPY CELEBRATION APPLICATION

For

Miss Poppy, Master Poppy, Mr. & Mrs. Poppy

---



POPPY CELEBRATION  
SUNDAY April 6, 2025  
The Ohio Veterans Home  
Sandusky, OH

---



This application must be completed and mailed to:

Donella Kline, Department Poppy Chairman  
26963 Elizabeth Lane  
Olmsted Twp., OH 44138  
dkline@chnhousingpartners.org

**DEADLINE**

**March 21, 2025**

▶ Please remember that *Poppy attire* is to be worn by all participants ◀

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Unit, Post, SAL: \_\_\_\_\_

School, grade & age: \_\_\_\_\_

(if participant is a child)

Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

(if participant is a child)

Hobbies, extracurricular activities, sports, or accomplishments:

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

*Thank you* for taking the time to complete this application. It helps in preparation of the program and ensures that each participant receives proper recognition.



## **Poppy Shop**

**Cindy Masowick, Poppy Shop Director**

Poppies are going out to the Unit's on a regular basis.

So far to date, 48,500 small poppies and 440 large poppies have been shipped or delivered throughout Ohio.

If you haven't ordered poppies, you still have time.



Public Relations  
Mindi Rue, Chairman  
Mindi1036@gmail.com

## Creating a Press/Media Release



A powerful news release can tell a story, report news, help a cause, and make an impact. By sharing vital information that will interest media, you can increase the visibility of your volunteer event within your local community. The key points included below will help you shape a strong news release.

Our National Website has the perfect template for every holiday and special event as well as a general template for use and can be downloaded at:  
[www.legion-aux.org](http://www.legion-aux.org)

When creating your press release, remember to make it simple yet dynamic to keep the reader focused and wanting more.

### There are 7 main parts to every press release:

**Header:** Includes local information for your unit. This includes your department, your unit's website (if applicable), and your unit's public relations contact.

**Timestamp:** The "timestamp" consists of the day, month, and year of the release's distribution.

**Headline:** A powerful headline will draw readers' attention faster and better than anything else. Make this as dynamic and eye-catching as possible — be bold. **Lead Paragraph:** This is a concise, condensed version of the information contained in the rest of your release. In this paragraph you will identify your organization, describe your activity briefly, and provide an overview of the information throughout the rest of the release.

**Main Body of the Release:** After the lead paragraph, you should take the opportunity to explain the volunteer event and elaborate on the details. The purpose of the main body of the release is to increase interest and provide information. Keep it short, simple, and concise.

**Boilerplate Statement:** This follows your final paragraph and typically contains standard information about your organization and its mission.

**News Release Ending:** The traditional mark used to indicate that a news release is finished is a series of three-pound signs, or ###

## Who & Where to send the Press/Media Release to:

Relationships with members of the media are the foundation of successful public relations efforts. Whether it be a local newspaper or a blogger, all contacts should be carefully cultivated.

Research the different media outlets in your community and get to know who the best contacts at each are and what the set scheduled deadlines are for each outlet.

Remember newspapers, bloggers, TV, and radio all work on different time schedules and deadlines will be different. Do not be afraid to follow up with each — communication keeps a good relationship going.

# VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

**Deb Sutterlin, Vice Chairman**

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Hi Auxiliary Members,

Please, get yourself a cup of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate. Let us sit down and have a chat. How are you today? I hope you are well or if you have been sick, I wish you a speedy recovery. If you have lost a loved one, I send you prayers and sympathy.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION – CLAIM HOURS/MONEY ON SERVICE TO OUR VETERANS FORM

1. You can claim **10 hours per week** if you are a caregiver to a veteran and that person **lives with you**. It can be a child, a spouse, parent, relative or not.
2. You can claim **5 hours per week** if you are a caregiver to a veteran and that person **does not live with you**. It can be a child, a spouse, a sibling, parent, relative or not.
3. What you do for a **deceased veteran's spouse/family** counts on the form, if the veteran's death has occurred in the last couple of years.
4. What you do for a **veteran's caregiver** counts. Whatever you do to provide support to that caregiver.

NOTE: The hours and money spent for veterans who are a relative have not counted in the past – on the VA&R report and the Service To Our Veterans report. Now, it counts as stated above. What you do for a veteran's family counts on the VA&R report. But now what you do to support a veteran's family while they are adjusting to the loss of the veteran counts on the Service To Our Veterans form. What you do for a veteran's caregiver counts on the Service To Our Veterans form. You may buy a gift/flower for the caregiver, fix the caregiver a meal, etc.

I want to thank you, thank you for all you do for our veterans. I realize that many of you do things for veterans that you do not write down or report. But a special thank you to those of you who do report your activities. I know, you do not do these things to receive credit or recognition. Yes, I understand, because that is how I feel. No reward can be more important than the gratitude of the veteran, veteran's spouse, veteran's caregiver. That reward is the reward that drives me. Yes, I get very passionate about this program. I am sorry if I come across too strong but that happens after you lived with a veteran for 30 years and his horror stories, it happens when you listened to the graphic details of what life was like in Hanoi Hilton from a man who was a prisoner of war for 6 years, and it happens when you listen to our veterans who choose to tell their story. But there is an untold story about the spouse and that person's sacrifices. Spouses are heroes too. Please do not forget them. Sorry that I digressed.

But I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you do. I have not completed the Service To Our Veterans form before. I just did not take the time to do it. (So, yes, I get it.) This year I have been trying to keep track of my hours, money spent, etc. for veterans. I ask YOU to complete the Veterans' form so therefore I will complete the form, also. So, I am compiling my information, won't you do the same? Reported for the year 2023-2024, 3,740,088 hours were spent serving veterans/military and \$14,080,608 raised/spent on veterans and military and their families. Were your hours and money reported in these totals? Please join me in being included in the 2025-year figures. Thank you.

If you will complete this form, it will be easier for the impact report and the green report to be completed. Regardless of these other situations, please compile your information for the Service To Our Veterans form. I look forward to receiving your forms by April 15, 2025.

And now, we have talked about the form, let us chat about events and dates coming up.

February 3, 2025, Four Chaplains Sunday

March 13, 2025, K-9 Veterans Day

March 25, 2025, Medal of Honor Day

March 29, 2025, VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

April 5, 2025, Gold Star Spouses Day

And now is the time to plan an activity or event to honor our Vietnam Veterans on Saturday, March 29. How about a dinner? Appetizers? A cake? For post members or open to the public? A ceremony? Maybe make a display board honoring the Vietnam Veterans? Thank you notes?

We will have another chat next month. Thank you for joining me and for your time reading this chat. Time for a bathroom break.....

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



 AMERICAN  
**LEGION**  
AUXILIARY

