



BULK MAILING FOR MARCH 2025

To: Unit Presidents
Department Chairmen

Dept. Executive Committee
Past Department President

Included in this mailing:

- President's Message – All members
- **Unit Data Form – due April 1, 2025**
- **Certification of Officers – due June 1, 2025**
- Department Secretary
- Department Convention Info
- Americanism
- Buckeye Girls State
- BGS District Orientation Schedule
- BGS Registration Volunteer Sign-Up
- Chaplain
- Children & Youth
- Community Service
- Historian
- Junior Activities
- Leadership
- Legislative
- Poppy
- VA & R
- VA & R – Service to Veterans



Unit Presidents: Please see the USPS mailed envelope for the Kit of Reports, District Call to Convention, Junior Convention, and Poppy Shop Information.





Louise Smerk
Department President
March 2025

I truly can not believe that it is March already. Time truly flies when you are enjoying what you are doing. So much is going on in the great state of Ohio with the American Legion Auxiliary. I have been invited to several events so far and I am looking forward to the ones I still need to attend.

Quick reminder for the District Presidents: please remember to bring \$20.00 in Ohio Lottery tickets to the Spring DEC meeting that will be held at OVH on Sunday, April 6th at 10:00 AM. This is for the raffle that we will have at Convention in Independence the weekend of July 11th and 12th, 2025.

In keeping my actions as transparent as possible, the below message on the Governing Documents Committee is half correct. Due to severe weather, we did not meet on February 8th. (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 8th, will be to go over Policy and we are adding quite a bit to this document.) We will be scheduling a few zoom calls to go over the Policy portion of the governing documents. There have been several created out of the existing Policy and quite a few new ones added. We will do our absolute best to keep on tract to get to the meat and potatoes, otherwise known as the Constitution & Bylaws to ensure if anything needs to be distributed and presented at convention will be completed.

I am looking forward to this years Buckeye Girls State session. The Board of Directors has completed several meetings to make this program a success. I am pulling double duty and will serve as the Director of Government as well as a board member. To follow in the use of the Tree of Life on my membership pin and my President's pin, I am asking that we be able to plant a tree near the Veteran Memorial on the campus of Bowling Green University.

The February bulk mail provided information from the Finance chairmen on the reasoning for an annual audit and filing the 990-tax exempt form. This has led to questions and calls that I have received from concerned members on their own unit treasurers. This has given me a great idea that even though we have had a leadership workshop at our School of Instructions, we may need to have officer training. Please provide me with your feedback if you think that our members can benefit from training on the following topics:

- How to conduct a proper meeting – President
- How to complete your membership – First Vice/membership chairman
- Proper fundraising and reporting – Second Vice
- Proper minute taking and how to prepare them – Secretary
- How to receive money for membership, functions and then how to report this on a timely basis back to the unit members, balance your check book, create a budget and complete an annual audit – Treasurer.

PLEASE, remember you have been elected to conduct business for the good of your unit and The American Legion Auxiliary. This information and funds belong to the unit, and you are responsible to complete these duties. We do not hold onto membership; we turn it into the Department office on a timely basis. We do not carry the money belonging to the unit in our purse or briefcase, we deposit into the bank and keep good records. Myself along with my officers and the past Department Presidents are here to assist if you feel that your unit officers are not completing their duties properly. We are all happy to attend a meeting and point out the importance of keeping good records of the activities of your unit.

I am still planning 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.

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.

DIST _____ UNIT _____



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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

Due 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.

2026 JUNIOR MEMBER UNIT DUES	
National Portion	\$ 2.50
Department Portion	\$ 3.75
Unit Portion	\$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT	\$ _____*
*This amount will be listed on renewal notice for members to submit for 2026 dues.	

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



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF OHIO, INC.
 1100 Brandywine Blvd., Bldg. D
 ZANESVILLE, OH 43701-7303
 (740) 452-8245 E-mail: amiller@alaohio.org

Unit _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

_____ Ohio _____ National
 _____ Membership Packet Mailed

**2025-2026 CERTIFICATION OF OFFICERS
 MANDATORY!!! MUST BE COMPLETED WITH OR
 WITHOUT CHANGES**

This form must be completed by a **Unit Officer** immediately following election of Unit Officers and returned to Department Headquarters on or before June 1, 2025. If your Unit fails to return this form to Department Headquarters **YOUR UNIT WILL NOT RECEIVE MAIL FROM DEPARTMENT.** This includes Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, Unit Membership and Buckeye Girls State information. **PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY. MEMBER ID#s ARE REQUIRED. PLEASE INCLUDE EMAILS.**

DISTRICT # _____ **UNIT #** _____ **CITY** _____ **COUNTY** _____
UNIT NAME _____

UNIT PRESIDENT NAME

UNIT PRESIDENT ID NUMBER

UNIT PRESIDENT E-MAIL ADDRESS—MANDATORY
 _____)
 _____)

UNIT PRESIDENT MAILING ADDRESS

UNIT PRESIDENT CITY, STATE AND ZIP

UNIT PRESIDENT PHONE NUMBER

UNIT SECRETARY NAME

UNIT SECRETARY ID NUMBER

UNIT SECRETARY E-MAIL ADDRESS—MANDATORY
 _____)
 _____)

UNIT SECRETARY MAILING ADDRESS

UNIT SECRETARY CITY, STATE AND ZIP

UNIT SECRETARY PHONE NUMBER

UNIT TREASURER NAME

UNIT TREASURER ID NUMBER

UNIT TREASURER E-MAIL ADDRESS—MANDATORY
 _____)
 _____)

UNIT TREASURER MAILING ADDRESS

UNIT TREASURER CITY, STATE AND ZIP

UNIT TREASURER PHONE NUMBER

UNIT MEMBERSHIP NAME

UNIT MEMBERSHIP ID NUMBER

UNIT MEMBERSHIP E-MAIL ADDRESS—MANDATORY
 _____)
 _____)

UNIT MEMBERSHIP MAILING ADDRESS

UNIT MEMBERSHIP CITY, STATE AND ZIP

UNIT MEMBERSHIP PHONE NUMBER

PLACE AND ADDRESS WHERE UNIT MEETINGS ARE HELD _____

DAY OF MONTH OF UNIT MEETING _____ TIME OF UNIT MEETING _____

ALL CHANGES MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING BY THE UNIT PRESIDENT. CHANGES BY PHONE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

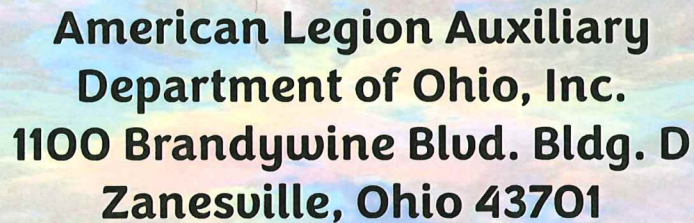
COMPLETED BY _____ TITLE _____ DATE _____



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

March 2025

We are making changes in the office. One such change is already in motion. We have closed the post office box. Please address all 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:
(740) 452-8245

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).



Department Convention 2025

Are you interested in helping out at Department Convention with registration or as a page?

If so, please contact Kristen McLaughlin, Convention Coordinator at 440-781-1327 or KLL721@yahoo.com

Registration Chairman – Sue Fratino 440-759-4961

Chairman of Pages – Cindy Masowick 330-714-3873

Registration hours:

Thursday 4:00pm – 7:00pm

Friday 8:00am – 6:00pm

Saturday 8:00am – 8:30am

** Registration will not be open during Convention sessions**

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF



DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS: 60 BIG RUN ROAD, DELAWARE, OHIO 43015-8007
PHONE: 740-362-7478 EMAIL: LEGION@OHIOLEGION.COM

2025 Department Convention July 11th – July 13th, 2025

The American Legion Department of Ohio

&

The American Legion Department of Ohio Auxiliary

Holiday Inn Cleveland South
6001 Rockside Rd
Independence, OH 44131

Deadline for Registration is June 10th.

*To make reservations please call 216-524-8050 and reference “The American Legion Department of Ohio Convention”
The discounted group rate is \$129.00/night + tax.*

The Department Convention Call will be mailed to each Post in April 2025.
All Post Delegates and Alternates must be registered 15 days prior to Convention.
Delegate and Alternate registration deadline is June 27th!

For more information, contact Christie White at
Programs@ohiolegion.com or call (740) 362-7478. You may also visit the website at
<https://www.ohiolegion.com/events/department-conferences-conventions/>.

Members and non-members are welcome to attend the convention and any meetings offered

** Call Headquarters if you experience difficulties when making hotel reservations.

SEE YOU THERE!

AMERICANISM - March)

Cyndi Underwood & Peggy Park

A Friends eye is a good mirror! (Trust your friends opinion)

Happy March to all you Birthday babies and Pisces. In the American Legion Auxiliary the month of March, for me has always been a catch-up month and a stay a head month. March is right in the middle of everything ending and everything beginning.

So, we have put together for you, some more items to finish out February, received from National and exciting topics for the other months coming up. Please be sure to share these items with other members and remember to start your narrative, check all the boxes and then check it again. If you are calling me over the next several months be sure in your message or voice mail to leave a number and your unit.

March there are a lot of Post birthdays to celebrate  . Be Proud of your post

and unit; let your community be a part of the celebration. Take the time to start on your reports and those narratives! Ohio wants their trees to be full of life and colorful leaves 🍁

- May the luck of the Irish always be on your side!





Americanism **FLAG ETIQUETTE**

Americanism Committee 2024 - 2025
Flag Etiquette Article 6
February 25, 2025

Flying the Flag is one of the simplest and most powerful ways to demonstrate your patriotism. While you can fly the Flag any day of the year, there are some notable days when all Americans should do so.

Here is a holiday guide to the Flag, categorized by season, and why we fly our Flags on those days.

WINTER HOLIDAYS TO FLY YOUR AMERICAN FLAG

January 1: New Year's Day

At the beginning of a new year, it is important to unite as Americans as we seek another year of American greatness.

Third Monday in January: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

On this day we celebrate Dr. King's contributions to racial justice in America.

January 20: Inauguration Day

America has a proud tradition of peacefully transferring power and that is something every American can stand behind.

February 12: Lincoln's Birthday

Abraham Lincoln saved the Union and ended slavery. On this day we honor his legacy.

February 22: Washington's Birthday

George Washington defined what it meant to be an American president. On this day we show our appreciation for the nation's first president.

Third Monday in February: Presidents' Day

Our presidents represent our country and lead us through challenges. On Presidents' Day, we remember their great contributions and leadership.

SPRING HOLIDAYS TO FLY YOUR AMERICAN FLAG

April 6: Army Day

On this day we give thanks to all servicemen in the American Army.

Second Sunday in May: Mother's Day

Our mothers are the reason we are here in America and get to enjoy the freedoms that come with being an American. On this day we give thanks to all mothers in America.

May 15: Peace Officers Memorial Day

On this day we pay tribute to the local, state, and federal peace officers who either died or were disabled in the line of duty. Flags are flown at half-mast.

Third Saturday in May: Armed Forces Day

Armed Forces Day recognizes the services of all members of the American military.

Last Monday in May: Memorial Day

Memorial Day pays tribute to those that died while serving in the U.S. military. Flags are flown at half-mast until noon.

June 14: Flag Day

Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the American Flag by resolution of the Second Continental Congress in 1777.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS TO FLY YOUR AMERICAN FLAG

July 4: Independence Day

The 4th of July marks the beginning of the United States of America. We fly our Flags on this day to show how proud we are to be Americans.

July 27: Korean War Veterans Day

The Korean War was among the deadliest conflicts in American history. We fly our Flags at half-mast on this day to honor the sacrifices of Korean War veterans.

First Monday in September: Labor Day

On Labor Day we celebrate the legacy of the labor movement and the laborers who built the America we all know and love.

September 11: Patriot Day

On Patriot Day we commemorate the lives of those who died in the 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Virginia, and the United Airlines Flight 93 crash in Pennsylvania.

September 17: Constitution Day

On this day we celebrate the adoption of the U.S. Constitution, the document that has defined American democracy for nearly 250 years.

September 17: Air Force Day

On Air Force Day, we show our appreciation of all servicemen and women in the U.S. Air Force.

FALL HOLIDAYS TO FLY YOUR AMERICAN FLAG

First Sunday in October: National Firefighters Memorial Day

On this day, we pay tribute to all firefighters who died in the line of duty during the previous year.

October 12: Columbus Day

Christopher Columbus discovered the Americas. On this day we remember the first European to see the land that would become America.

October 27: Navy Day

Navy Day recognizes the service of all members of the U.S. Navy.

First Tuesday in November: Election Day

Elections are the bedrock of American democracy. On this day we show our support for the American electoral process.

November 10: Marine Corps Day

The Marine Corps is the Department of Defense's smallest military branch, but it's also known to be its fiercest.

November 11: Veterans Day

Veterans Day honors the services of all veterans, past and present. We fly our Flags to show our gratefulness.

Fourth Thursday in November: Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving is one of America's biggest national holidays. On this day we give thanks.

December 7: Pearl Harbor Day

Pearl Harbor was one of the deadliest tragedies in American military history. On this day we fly our Flags at half-mast to remember the victims and show our patriotism.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE
GWEN SCHROEDER-ZULCH (BGS DIRECTOR)
gweniesue@yahoo.com**

The countdown has started for this session of Buckeye Girls State. As of this writing there is NINETY-SIX yes NINETY-SIX days until the Delegates arrive on the campus of Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio AND the trees start to blossom.

So, few reminders:

- ARE YOUR DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES SELECTED?
 - COMPLETED APPLICATIONS ALONG WITH THE NON-REFUNDABLE \$50 ADMINISTRATIVE FEE ARE DUE INTO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BY MARCH 15, 2025.
 - PLEASE MAKE SURE THEY HAVE ALL OF THE FORMS FILLED OUT AND SIGNED WITH THE PROPER SIGNATURES AND WE HAVE THEIR OWN EMAIL—SCHOOL EMAILS ARE KICKED BACK BY OUR SYSTEM
- WE ARE ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR LIGHT LUNCH/SNACKS FOR BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE OPENING SESSION. WE ARE TRYING TO KEEP COSTS DOWN AND WE HAVE A BUSY DAY PLANNED. PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT ON HOW TO DONATE ITEMS
- GOOD NEWS OR BAD NEWS
- **REMINDER IT IS MANDATORY THAT THE DELEGATES AND WE ENCOURAGE THE ALTERNATES ALSO TO ATTEND ONE OF THE MANY IN-PERSON DISTRICTS ORIENTATIONS. THE FIRST ONE IS MARCH 22, 2025 IN PLYMOUTH, OHIO.**
- NEW AND EXCITING CHANGES CONTINUE TO THE 2025 BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE SESSION—WE ARE EXCITED!!
- SEVERAL QUESTIONS HAVE AROSE ON INTERVIEWS
 - CAN THE DELEGATE ONLY ATTEND FOR HALF OF THE WEEK? THE ANSWER IS NO—THE DELEGATE MUST BE COMMITTED TO THE ENTIRE WEEK (AND YES EMERGENCIES DO ARISE AND WE TAKE ALL OF THOSE INTO CONSIDERATION)
- YEAR END REPORTS ARE DUE TO ME BY APRIL 15, 2025, AND YES, I WILL TAKE THEM BY EMAIL OR SNAIL MAIL
- HAS YOUR UNIT MADE A DONATION TO THE BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE ENDOWMENT FUND?
- ONE FINAL REMINDER—UNUSED APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BY MAY 1, 2025
- PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT WHEN YOUR DELEGATES RECEIVE THEIR PACKETS—THEY PAY ATTENTION TO THE DEADLINES FOR RETURNING FORMS. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT WE RECEIVE THESE FORMS BACK IN A TIMELY MANNER.

We the 2025 BGS Board forward to this session of American Legion Auxiliary Buckeye Girls State and if you have any questions feel free to reach out to any of the Board Members.

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



Gwen Schroeder-Zulch, Director
gweniesue@yahoo.com
(419) 494-7366
www.buckeyegirlsstate.org

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 Jane Ridenour
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 Vandalia 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.		Louise Smerk
4	April 12, 2025	Middletown Unit #218	116 S. Main Middletown, OH 45044	12:00 p.m.	12:30 p.m.		Ashley Dell
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 th St. Newark, OH 43055	1:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.		Ashley Dell
6	April 16, 2025	Marysville American Legion Unit #79	500 Park Ave. Marysville, OH 43040	6:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.		Karen Peel Cindy Masowick
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.		Karen Peel Cindy Masowick
8	April 27, 2025	Athens American Legion Unit #21	520 W. Union St. Athens, OH 45701	12:30 p.m.	1:00 p.m.		Louise Smerk
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 Beth Toalston
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.		Ashley Dell
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 Renee Kohl
13	March 23, 2025	Brook Park Unit #610	19944 Sheldon Rd. Brook Park, OH 44142	12:30 p.m.	1:00 p.m.		Cindy Masowick Louise Smerk
14	March 23, 2025	Kent American Legion Post #496	1945 Mogadore Rd. Kent, OH	1:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.		Karen Peel Renee Kohl

Be a part of Buckeye Girls State 2025

That's right. Every member has the opportunity to be a part of 2025 Buckeye Girls State by volunteering to assist with the registration process. This is the first impression that our BGS citizens and their parents get of the program, so we need everyone to make sure it is a positive experience.

We will provide instructions prior to registration so that everyone will "feel like an expert." Consider this your invitation to join us and be a part of BGS 2025.

When: Sunday, June 8, 2025
Time: Training: 9:30 am
Registration 10:00 – 11:30 am
Where: Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, OH

Buckeye Girls State Registration Volunteer

Yes, I'd like to volunteer to assist with registration at Buckeye Girls State,
Sunday, June 8, 2025.

Name: _____ Unit # _____ District # _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please return this form by May 1, 2025 to:

**Buckeye Girls State
Karen Peel, Director of M&R
2216 25th St. SW
Akron, OH 44314**

Or email: karen.peel@sk2holdings.com

Chaplain Chats
Melissa Boyers
ohioalachaplain@gmail.com
419.250.6971



March is a time of renewal and reflection. As the seasons change, may we seek spiritual growth and guidance. The month of March is full of Fresh Starts, Renewed Spirits, Embracing Change, Welcoming New Opportunities, and having Hopeful Hearts.

I'm praying for each of you that you have strength and resilience the month.

Almighty God, grant us the strength to endure the challenges we face this March. Help us to remain steadfast in our faith and resilient in our spirit. May your power sustain us through every trial. Amen.

BE LUCKY



LIVE on purpose



UTILIZE your strengths daily



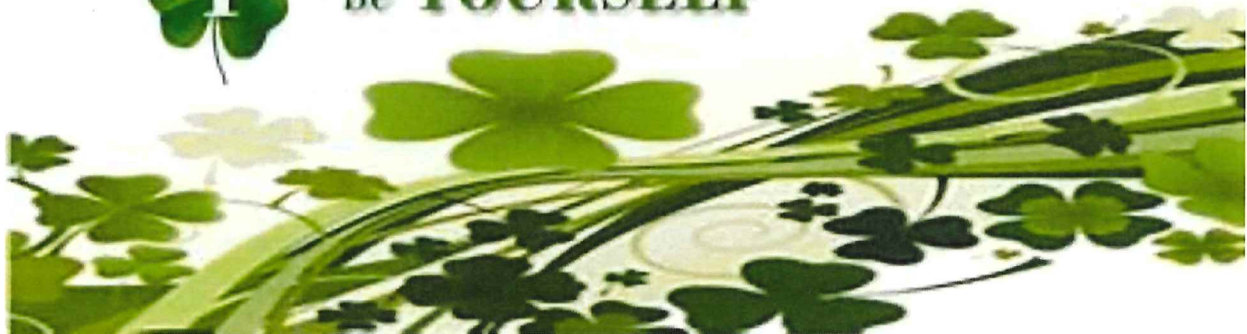
be a **CATALYST** for change



KNOW who you are meant to serve



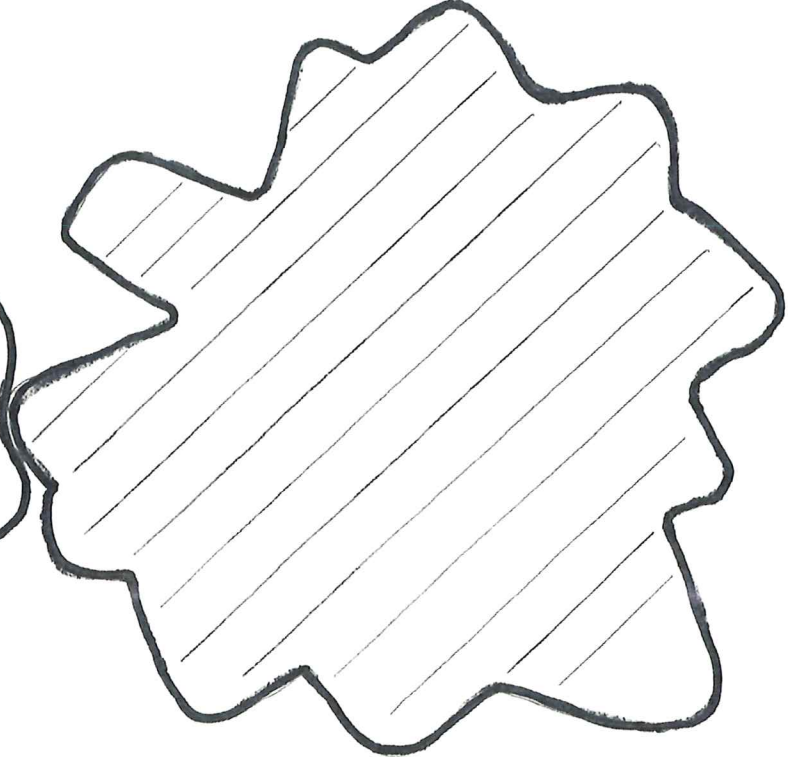
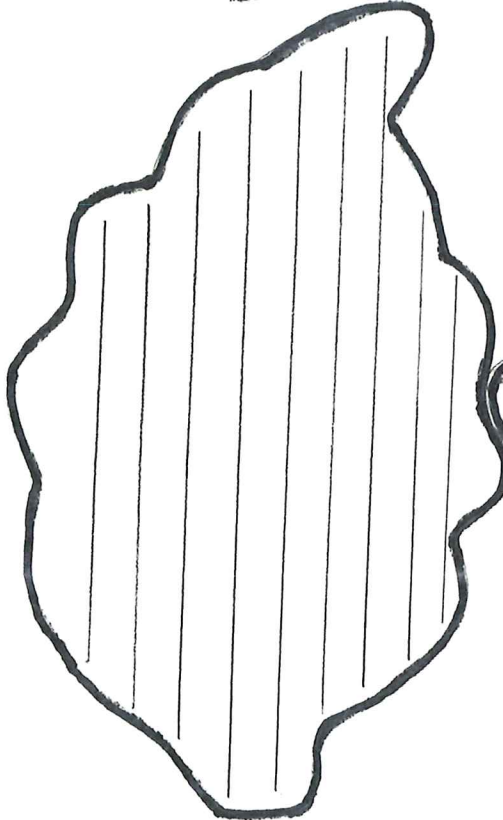
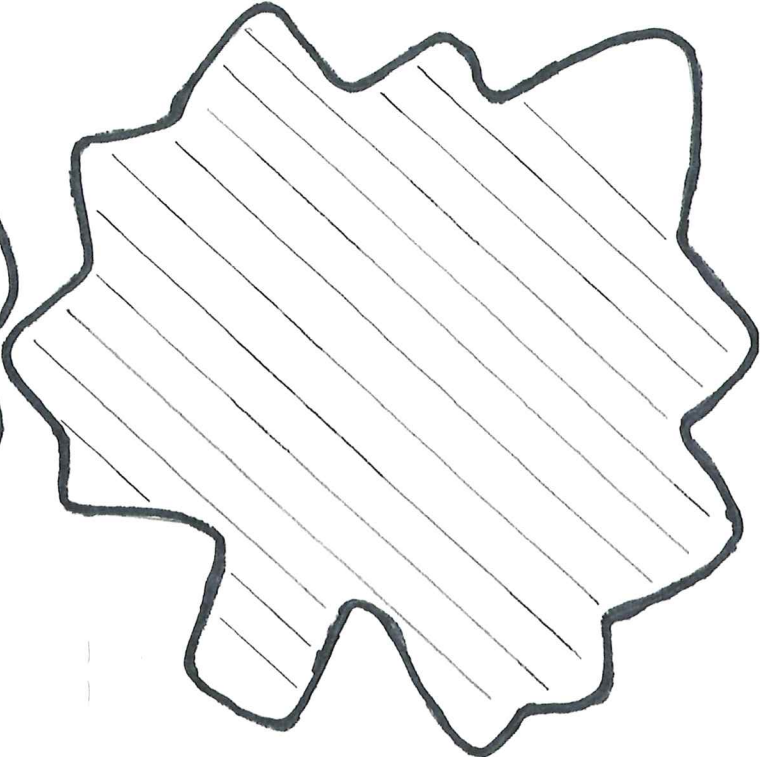
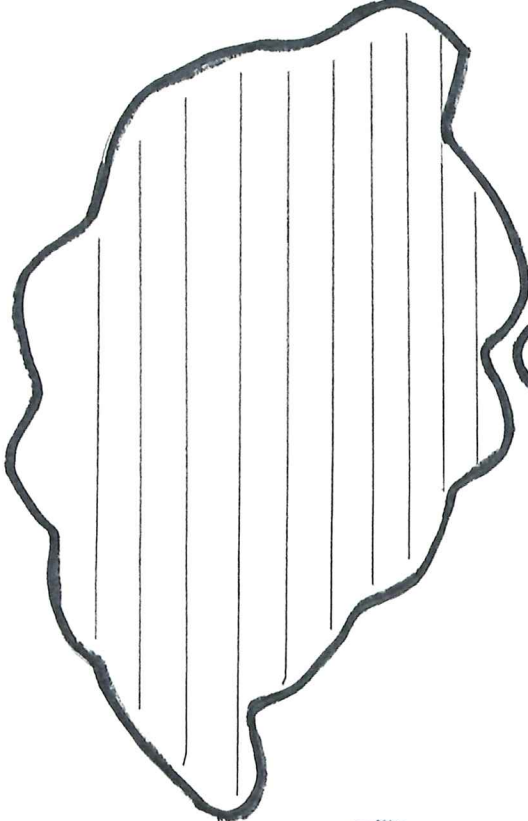
be **YOURSELF**

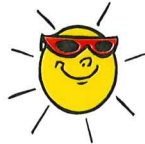


"Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage, you can't practice any other virtue consistently." -Maya Angelou

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

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





Children and Youth March 2025

Chairman – Krista Carpenter

kristacarpenter115@gmail.com

Vice Chairman – Colleen Phillips

Ckphillips43524@gmail.com

Hello Sunshine – we've missed you! It's March and we are starting to see **green**! It's time for you to start thinking **green** too – **green** reports! Your year end Children and Youth Report is due to your District Chairman **BY April 15**. March is the perfect time to work on these! You can write on the green Ohio Plan of Action pages, and you should include the same information in your narrative. Make sure your numbers match. Include pictures, thank you cards, newspaper articles, etc...

What did your Unit do to promote the awareness to protect, care for and support youth? How much did you spend?

Examples – Halloween safety, suicide awareness, bullying awareness, drug safety, internet safety, donating to Safety Town, babysitting courses

What did you do to support/help the homeless/needy children in your community? How much did you spend and how many children did you help?

Examples – food pantries, homeless shelters, clothing drives, toy drives, hat and coat drives, personal hygiene items, donating for school lunches, donating for food boxes,

Did you nominate any children for the Youth Hero Award and the Good Deed Award?

There is still time to do that!! Include pictures and what you did to celebrate.

Did your Unit participate in the Kids of Deployed Heroes 2 (KDH2) honoring military children? What did your Unit do to participate? Did you do other activities to support military and veterans' children?

Examples – wearing purple with units, community, schools on April 15, get a proclamation, hold a party for military children, perform the Military Child Table ceremony, sell purple flowers, decorate your post, go all out on April 15, bought a T-shirt this year

KDH2 examples

Contact a local Family Readiness group and offer to volunteer at or host an even where KDH2 buttons or stickers are available, promote ALA scholarships to military kids, host a KDH2 celebration at your post for military kids and hand out the I'm a Hero 2 buttons or stickers, contact local Family Readiness Groups and inform them what assistance can be provided by our unit

Did your Unit support the American Legion Children & Youth program (Child Well Being Foundation, the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation, National Family Week Oct. 7-13, 2024, and April Children & Youth month) List money spent, and time volunteered.

Examples – bought a T-shirt, held a raffle, volunteered hours preparing something for National Family Week.

What other activities did your Unit do to support Children and Youth that aren't listed? How much did you spend and how much time did you donate?

Examples – parties, drive-in events, auctions, dinners, concerts, athletics, trunk or treat, Easter egg hunts, breakfast with Santa, Toys for Tots, hand out books, bake sales, diapers, provide meals to athletic teams, Operation Shoebox, etc...

What children's service charities did your Unit donate to and how much did you donate? How many children were served?

Examples – St. Jude's, Make A Wish, After-prom parties, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, school groups (band, choir, athletic, musical, and robotics), DARE program, Ronald McDonald House, Shriners Hospital, Salvation Army, Red Cross, Vacation Bible School, camps, schools for lunches, Specials Olympics





7th District C & Y Chairman Cari Steinbrook and Unit 62 are celebrating the month of the

Military Child in BIG ways! They are promoting the month through posters in the community. Unit 62 has contacted the mayor, and he is proclaiming that the month of April 2025 is the Month of the Military Child in Chillicothe. They are decorating American Legion Post 62 in all kinds of purple. With the help of their Legion Family, they are holding a weeklong 50/50 raffle on April 13-19. The proceeds of the raffle will be donated to The American Legion Child Well Being Foundation. Good luck Unit 62 and thank you for all that you do! I hope to visit Post 62 in April and support their efforts!

Plan now for April – the month of the Military Child!
April 15 is Purple Up Day!



Third District C & Y Chairman Robyn Cooper, with the help of Junior member Calleigh Fogt from Unit 184, performed the moving Military Child's Table Setting at the Third District's Winter Roundtable. Copies of the Ceremony were available to all that attended to take back to their units.



COMMUNITY SERVICE



Department Chairman
Susan Schofield Fratino
7565 Lambton Ct., Mentor, OH 44060
bfratino@yahoo.com
440-759-4961

Department Vice-Chairman
Betty Taylor
207 High St., Wheelersburg, OH 45694
alaunit471@yahoo.com
740-250-3249

The purpose of Community Service is to promote the American Legion Auxiliary's commitment to making our communities better places to live by supporting local service projects.

This is the time to look at what your unit has done overall, as well as your members.

Have you partnered with another organization for a community service project? Vice-Chairman, Betty Taylor would love to hear about the project. The Spirit of Community Plaque is presented to the Unit with the most outstanding single community service activity during the year. The report is due to Betty by April 15th.

Ask your members if they volunteer with other organizations. Many of our members volunteer at churches, blood drives, fundraisers, (etc.). Do not forget their input.

There is still time for your unit to get into the community and make a difference. While volunteering, make sure you are branded with your ALA items and your positive attitude and smile.

Please do not forget to turn in your reports. Thank you all for everything you do. We are looking forward to hearing all about the amazing work you do and the difference you have made.

REPORT

Send to District
Chairman by
April 15, 2025.





Mrs. Dayna Beyer, Department Historian
Address: 6013 Garber Rd. Bellville, OH 44813
Cell: 419-566-9395 Fax: 888-225-3180
Email: mrsdaynabeyer@gmail.com



MARCH BULK MAIL: SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

With a spring in your step, let us climb to places we have never gone before! Let us document the history of Women who have made an impact on your life, or on your unit and share their story. Interview these women whose life has made a difference and feature them at your next meeting or on your Facebook page/social media.

Thank you to those who have requested samples of history and scrapbooks. Go to the Facebook page: Sharing Historian American Legion Auxiliary Ohio Photos & Events – SHALOPE to see the examples in the FILE section of the page. You can also find the History Tool Kit there to download.

REMINDERS: JUNIOR HISTORY BOOK IS DUE APRIL 1ST. SENIOR HISTORY BOOK IS DUE APRIL 15TH. CONTACT ME FOR ANY ASSISTANCE NEEDED.

Thank you for your prayers for Al and our family on the recent loss of our son, Eric. You have been so kind and thoughtful during this difficult time in our lives. xoxo

Here are a few things you can work on to add to your history narrative, and include photos for your history and scrapbooks:

- 1) Include your unit or district installation of officers, memorial day and summer events, activities from Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Did you have a Valentine's Day party or send cards to veterans? Include these kinds of events and activities to your history narrative. Include pictures of your unit participating with veterans and the community in your scrapbooks.
- 2) Include the members biographies for the Members Remember Project in your history narratives as well as email them to me at mrsdaynabeyer@gmail.com.

You can still do these things to add to your history program:

- 3) Create an account at www.alaforveterans.org to access the History program resources section.
- 4) Communication is key. Stay connected with your unit and unit president. Work with your secretary who takes minutes of each meeting to gather information to add to your history.
- 5) Know the difference between the History, and Scrapbook. Work on each one. Call me to ask questions if you are stuck and need assistance on working the history program.
- 6) Take photos with a camera or your phone. Download them right away and include a caption that will identify the name and date of each event and each person in the photo.

page 2

These are Facebook pages that are available to help promote what your unit is doing:

- *Sharing Historian America Legion Auxiliary Ohio Photos and Events
- *Our Historians Inspires Others (OHIO) The American Legion Family \
- *American Legion Ohio Family Events – post your upcoming event flyers
- *Ohio ALA Dept President
- *ALA Ohio Public Relations
- *ALA Legislative Ohio
- *American Legion Auxiliary Historians (National Historian Facebook page)

Things you may be documenting in your unit history for the month of March:

- 1) Women History Month.
- 2) American Legion 106th Birthday, March 15, 2025.
- 3) Sign up for Be The One training go to: <https://www.legion.org/betheone/training>
Provide pictures of members wearing Be The One attire on the first of each month.
Be The One, To Save One Life. #stopveteransuicide #betheone
- 4) Kick off a food drive of can goods and household items to be donated to your community center, food pantry or veterans shelter.
- 5) Have a bake goods sale at one of your post's Friday night dinner to raise funds for a designated ALA program in your unit, district, department or national level.
- 6) Share what your unit and members are doing to incorporate President Louise's theme LEAVES: Let's Embrace All Veterans Every Season in their program.

If you have not received a History Tool Kit to help you with the history program, please email me and a pdf copy will be emailed to you. The history tool kit includes:

- Winning Senior History Book and Narrative 2022-2023
- Winning Junior History Book and Narrative 2022-2023
- Winning Central Division National History Book and Narrative of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio 2019-2021
- 12 month Blue Print of the Unit History Book
- Sample of the Plan of Action (POA)
- Instruction sheet and grading point system

I am available to help YOU put together the best history book, narrative and or scrapbook for you and your unit for your records to share for future generations to come.

If you need further assistance, please contact me by phone at 419-566-9395. Or shoot me an email at mrsdaynabeyer@gmail.com with your questions.

For God and Country ~ Be The One, To Save One, Life. www.legion.org/betheone

Mrs. Dayna Beyer

Address: 6013 Garber Rd. Bellville, OH 44813
Cell: 419-566-9395 Fax: 888-225-3180



Email: mrsdaynabeyer@gmail.com





Junior Activities

Connie Morton cjstmorton@hotmail.com

Michelle Bolin mizetti1@live.com

Brandy Little 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. 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.



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

Junior Conference

May 3, 2025

10 am

Hanover

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

LEADERSHIP
KAREN KACZMAREK – CHAIRMAN

I hope that you have had a lot of sunshine this week! I am so ready for Spring!

It will soon be report time. I hope that you are working on your report and narrative. They really are easy to do – just put pen to paper (or fingers to a keyboard) and write a couple of paragraphs of what you have done this year.

Pictures??? If you have pictures, be sure to include them in report. Pictures are the whipped cream with a cherry on top!

I have included the March National Leadership newsletter with the bulk mailing. Enjoy!

I am looking forward to reading your reports.

Love you all to the moon and back!

Karen



It may be human nature that most, from an early age, will share how to do something, whether by actual physical showing, verbally, or by example. Mentoring is a one-on-one relationship but can be done in group settings. There is no age limit for being or needing a mentor, and it is most successful when both the mentor and the mentee are open to a learning and growing relationship, which can often lead to future leaders and our next generation of mentors. Many attributes can be developed or utilized in a mentoring relationship; these are just a few. What attributes do you have that would make you a mentor?

- Relevant experience, expertise, and knowledge
- Enthusiasm for sharing your experience.
- A respectful and positive attitude
- Having the willingness to believe in others, taking an interest in their growth and success
- Having the ability to give honest and direct feedback while being positive and nurturing
- Being observant and a good listener, able to see and hear what others need.
- Being open-minded to innovative ideas and able to encourage others to develop their ideas.
- Leading by example lets your actions be why someone chooses you as a mentor.

Every Department has a treasure chest of mentors; your Past Department Presidents can be a wealth of information. Speaking only for myself, I suffered a slight letdown as I completed my Department President's year. I no longer felt needed as there was a new President. I had new responsibilities, like N.E.C.-Alternate, but what else? When I was done feeling bad about myself, I looked around to see where I could help. It was not long before several members and new officers were calling, texting, or emailing with questions, and while I might not be able to answer them all, I could get answers, and I had a new purpose.

When possible, keep a list of contact information for Past Department Presidents and Past Junior Presidents who have given consent and expressed willingness to mentor members or new officers. Enlist a few of your other Past Department Officers to join that list. Make your members aware that this resource is available. When holding conferences, district, or county meetings, invite a few from that list to answer questions at those meetings.

Schedule a "Mentoring Conference," asking your team of mentors to put together an agenda around what they are most comfortable presenting. At the same time, invite your Committee Chairs to have informational booths. Make it an interactive conference with scheduled times for specific speakers and a come-and-go format for your Committee Chairs' information booths.

Make it fun, informative, and memorable. If I have learned anything in these last few years, it is that we are a "Learn while interacting" organization. Most importantly, as a mentor, it is okay to say, "I don't know," and follow up with, "But I will find out and get back to you." Be sure you do because we lead by example.

Submitted by Ginny Chaput - Eastern Division Leadership Chair



2024-2025 National Leadership Program Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements

All award submissions must include a narrative (either a PDF or Microsoft Word document) explaining why the department or unit you're nominating should receive the award. The narrative can also be the department chair's report. You may also upload other supporting documentation that will give the committee a full picture of the important mission work your department or unit has accomplished this year. These files can be photos (JPG, JPEG or TIFs -- no larger than 14MB) or PDF documents. If you have more than three supporting files, please email the committee email address listed in the form.

Unit Member of the Year Award

This award recognizes those serving at the unit level who exemplify the values and ideals of the Auxiliary and whose accomplishments significantly impact the program work in their units.

Requirements:

1. Open to senior members who are not currently, nor have ever been, in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than unit president.
2. **Units: Follow the directions and deadlines of your department.** Submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less to your department. Describe the nominee's accomplishments and activities and include the nominee's name and address.
3. **Departments:** Submit only one entry. Please include the unit's narrative when submitting this form. Entry is due June 1st and must be entered by the Leadership or PPP chairman. Please use the electronic form to submit your Unit Member of the Year. Please direct any questions to Leadership@ALAforVeterans.org.

- **Deadline: June 1**
- All entries must be received by National Headquarters by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above.
- **Please note:** Members should follow instructions from their department. Units should send their nominations to their department.

Unit Member of the Year Award Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/Unit-Member-of-the-Year-Award-Form>

Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Leadership Program (per division)

- All entries must be submitted via [electronic form](#) by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.

Note: You will receive a confirmation when your award is submitted.

National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

Department Award: Best Department Leadership Program (per division)

- All department entries must be submitted via [electronic form](#) by 5 p.m. EST on **June 1**.

Note: You will receive a confirmation when your award is submitted.

National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

Please note: *When applicable, unit and department deadlines differ.*



The word of the month is "Positivity." Positivity is **thinking in an optimistic way**, looking for solutions, and expecting good results. Learn how to cultivate positivity, avoid negativity, and improve your life.

Be positive when talking with your members. Even when a situation looks bad and daunting, turn toward the positive. Everything has an up and a down. Your attitude helps you and others deal with tough issues and problems. Being positive is beneficial to all.

Department Leadership News (from Quarterly Zoom Meeting)

Here are just a few items that were mentioned during the January 13th Quarterly Zoom Meeting:

From Central Division

Kim Dixon, Iowa - shared that she finds it is easier to talk one-on-one with each District when promoting Unit Member of the Year. PDPs should be more of a mentor than some are.

Linda Sullivan, Kansas - sends out articles monthly in newsletters. She plays the Jeopardy game regarding leadership. She encourages verbal communication with District chairmen.

From Eastern Division

Alcyne Welton, Connecticut - schedules meetings where leaders work together on problem solving. Alcyne makes up fictional problems and asks the groups to work together to solve the issues with the best outcome while staying in line with their governing documents.

Lynne Akers, Pennsylvania - utilizes a department-wide Newsletter to circulate leadership articles. She also promotes and holds leadership classes, with her last class having an attendance of 200 members.

From the Northwestern Division

Shelley McLatchie, Colorado -- has been working on connections with members and emphasizing mentors with Department leadership and chairman.

Carol Kottom, Minnesota – The National newsletters are forwarded to the District Chairman, and she is putting articles in the Department of Minnesota newsletter often. She is providing a more in-depth explanation about the Veterans Creative Arts and will be presenting how to become a volunteer in VA facilities. Because she is a "doodler," she made reduced copies of the ALA Poppy Coloring Book and will furnish colors or colored pencils for attendees to use during the meeting.



KATHY LINN, LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN
PEBBLES0916@YAHOO.COM



As of Wednesday 3/6/2025, there are 2 items in Voter Voice, the Major Richard Star Act which ensures that our combat injured veterans don't face a reduction in their retirement pay. Just added, Love Lives On: Support Our Gold Star Spouses, which ensures that these widows who find love again will keep their benefits if they remarry before the age of 55.

Please log into Voter Voice daily to make your voice is heard with our Senators and Representatives.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CHALLENGE

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 & military. The National Legislative Committee Challenge runs thru July 2025, all messages sent through the Action Center will be tracked by National!

Since this is a membership-based challenge, we may have been in 3rd place in the Central Division, HOWEVER, we did have the most submissions!

Thank you all for making your voice heard & keep up the GREAT work!



As advocates for veterans' issues, we play a crucial role in renewing relationships with legislators & members of Congress. ALA National has provided us with letters of communication. One to introduce yourself & the other for a group requesting support of legislation. These are designed to customize with your personal, unit, or department information. Take the group letter to your next Unit meeting or District meeting and have your members sign it!

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.

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

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

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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).

2024-2025



For a Successful Poppy Program

I am hoping each Unit has started to fill out their Poppy Report, less than 30 days are left to report all the great things that were done this last year.

As a reminder, the following are due to this Chairman by April 15, 2025.

1. Year end Poppy report with hopefully a narrative!
2. Little Miss Poppy Contest Report!
3. Poppy Poster entries!!!
4. Narrative on Unit's Best Poppy Program!
5. Shelley Riggs Plaque Entry – Unit's Scrapbook for "Over All Best Program!"

Kindly refer to the Poppy "Plan of Action" for instructions and criteria.

Reminder: Deadline dates are important – be sure to keep them!!!

There is still time to be creative in your #1-5 Poppy entries as indicated above. Be the Hero and tell the story of your Unit's Poppy Year.

Do not forget Poppy Shop Open House on April 6, 2025, at the OVH Sandusky Veterans Home.

To those who have sent in their applications for "Little Miss Poppy, Miss Poppy and Master Poppy" -thank you!! However, many more are needed to have a "Poppy Parade" as never before.

Donella Kline

Department Poppy Chairman

15290 Road 15M

Columbus Grove, Ohio 45830

419-615-2940

e-mail: dkline@chnhousingpartners.org

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.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Marsha Giehls-Chairman
118 S. West St
Mason, Ohio 45040-3688
(513)398-6566
Aux194@embarqmail.com

Deb Sutterlin-Vice Chairman
950 Twp. Rd 2506
Perrysville, OH 44864-9713
(330) 465-9230
debsutterlin270@gmail.com



Spring will be here soon and all of those spring leaves will be coming out which means April 15th is also fast approaching. Now is the time to start collecting all the information about what your Units have done for our Veterans the past year and get those reports ready to send to your District Chairman.

Read your plans and send your reports to the correct person and fill in the information at the top of the report so that it is readable. Your reports are to be sent to your District VA&R Chairman which are listed on the Plan. Even if you do not do a narrative remember to report your numbers.

As a reminder don't forget to make your donations to the Marie Moore Fund, and to pay your Past Presidents dues which goes to this fund. Also remember to include the donations that your Unit makes on the Donation sheet in your reports. If you haven't made a donation yet there is still time to get it sent to Department. Don't forget that if you donated items or money to one of the VA Facilities to include this in your reports.

VA&R should have 100% reporting. Remember 75 cents of every paid members' dues go towards VA&R. Take your number of paid members times 75 cents and put it on line 2 of your report. Also remember to include your service to Veterans hours in line 1 of the report.

Don't forget to include those care givers in your report.

Your Service to Veterans Hours and pins are given based on the paperwork you submit to Vice Chairman Deb Sutterlin. Each member must be listed on their own paperwork.

There are awards listed in your plan. Be sure to list which award you are applying for on the top of the report.

Blanche Klein Plaque – Send your report to your District Chairman.

Sue Friedrich Plaque-Send your narrative to me your Department Chairman.

Marie Moore Fund Plaque-is based on the most money per capita (based on membership goal) sent to Department.

Olive Ruffner Plaque-is awarded to the most outstanding VA Volunteer is awarded by the Hospital Director. Linda Close-1041 Donnawood Dr., Mansfield, Ohio 44903.

Volunteen Award-Award to the volunteeen with the most hours served in a VA Medical Center. This is also awarded by Linda Close.

Here are some things you can do to volunteer:

Work with your VA facilities and participate in Stand-Down programs.

Work with programs that help veterans transitional housing and contribute by donating cleaning supplies, personal care items, bedding, towels, toiletries, outerwear, clothing, etc.

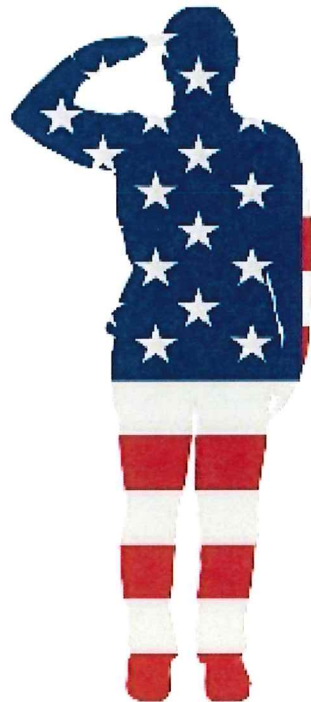
Don't forget our Veterans that are in Nursing Homes. Have your Juniors make them favors for their tables or to decorate their rooms. Remember what your Juniors do is the one thing you can count on both reports, your Junior report, and your VA&R report.

Don't forget the Be the One Mission.

NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

I understand that the volunteer positions at the Creative Arts Festival are filled. However, you can still go and attend the displays and performances in May in Indianapolis. May 11-18, 2025 – National Veteran’s Creative Arts Festival | Indianapolis, IN | For more information, <https://department.va.gov/veteran-sports/national-veterans-creative-arts-festival>.

Let’s show the rest of the Central Division and across the Nation what Ohio is doing for our Veterans.



VA & R
Service To Veterans March 2025
Chairman Marsha Giehl
Vice-Chairman Deb Sutterlin

Happy Spring Everyone!!

It is so good to be able to chat with you this month. I want to thank all of you who took a card from me at Mid-Winter Conference, wrote a note, and mailed it to Evelyn Lee. YOU made a difference and demonstrated BE THE ONE. I sent a note to Evelyn to let her know who was sending her cards. Here is her thank you and message.

“I would like to thank [Deb Sutterlin](#) and all the thoughtful ladies from the VFW and the American Legions in Deb’s region. I received so many thoughtful notes from these women. Notes of encouragement and love. These women were told of my loss and they poured out their love to me a stranger and let me know they care and are there to support me. I appreciate them more than they’ll ever know. Deb, if you have a regular contact with these ladies, please let them know how much I needed to hear from them ❤️ [Ev Lee](#) “

Also, for those of you who sent cards to Don “Mitch” Mitchell, I want to share that he passed away on January 30th. Thank you for reaching out to him. He was a member of Fairview American Legion Post 421.

Here it is March. Have you started your year-end report “Service To Veterans”? I look forward to being able to share your activities with our members. I know a lot of us do the same activities – take Veterans to the doctor appointments, stores, restaurants; prepare food for them; visit with them; call and send cards (get well, thinking of you, birthday, sympathy, etc.); and more. Everything that you do is important!! Thank you!! Now, report so you can receive your hour bars.

Our year is not over so you can continue to do your good deeds. March 29th is the Vietnam War Veterans Day. Are you planning a special event for the Vietnam War Veterans and Era Veterans? It can be elaborate as you want with a program, recognition, food, etc. or you can have an open house with soup and sandwiches or finger foods. Make poppy plates with the name of a Vietnam War Veteran to display or post pictures of the veterans (current or military picture).



Did you know that April 3rd is Gold Star Spouses Day? If you know of any, send them a card, maybe give them a gift certificate for a massage/some personal items, or treat them to lunch with your members.



We have Honor Flight in Cleveland, Columbus, and Dayton. The flights will be starting this month. Columbus 3/27/25, Cleveland 4/11/25, and Dayton 4/26/25. You can help by making financial donations, sending cards/letters to be handed out to the Veterans at mail call, and you can welcome them home at the airport when they arrive. Columbus arrives at 9:15 p.m., Cleveland 11:00 p.m. (?), and Dayton at 8:30 p.m. Check out the Honor Flight website in your area. Also, this year is the 20th anniversary of the Honor Flight Network.

Do you shop at Kroger grocery store? If so, you can sign up for community rewards to go to Honor Flight. Check it out! A donation without costing you any extra money. I have my community donations going to Honor Flight Columbus.



Have a great month and I will be back next month. Please send me pictures of what you do for Vietnam War Veterans Day. Enjoy!!

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