



# Dept. Bulletin November 2025

(Formerly known as Bulk Mailing)

## Included in this bulletin

- Presidents Message
- Department Headquarters
- Americanism
- Buckeye Girls State
- Chaplain
- Children and Youth
- Junior Activities
- Leadership
- Membership
- Poppy
- Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

# Department President

Renee Kohl



Wow! Can you believe that it's November already? Where has the time gone!

I have been spending time traveling to several locations already. Dayton VA, District 4-Williamsburg, District 5-Bucyrus, District 2-Fort Recovery, District 3 Tipp City, Columbus, Dublin, just to name a few locations. This experience has been amazing so far and I hope to continue meeting our members.

For those that attended Department School of Instructions, thank you! It was a successful weekend, and a lot was learned by all. Thank you to those mentors and chairman that provided the training and information for all of us.

Last year, our membership theme was *HONOR A VETERAN, BE A MEMBER*. You rose to the occasion—renewing your memberships, welcoming new members, and showing what it means to stand by our Veterans. This year, we're taking it a step further. We're becoming **GNOMES**—*GIVING NECESSITIES TO OUR MILITARY EVERYWHERE*.

What does that mean? It means we continue to remember and support our service men and women, our Veterans, and their families. Our commitment to them is second to none. Whether active duty or retired, they are—and always will be—our soldiers.

This year, my special project is the **Creative Arts Festival**. It's a beautiful way to give back. When a Veteran enters the Festival, they're responsible for shipping their artwork, covering travel, lodging, and meals. Through donations, we can help ease these costs and open the door for more Veterans to participate.

Let me tell you why this matters to me personally. A dear friend of mine in Arizona lives with PTSD. His craft is counted cross-stitch as a way to cope, to focus, to find peace. My cousin Kristy, whom many of you met at the summer convention, is an incredible painter. Her art helps her manage the effects of a traumatic brain injury. Both of them create powerful, healing work—but neither has the means to attend the Festival. That's why our support is so vital.

Whether it's donating to the Creative Arts Festival, assembling diddy bags, hosting baby showers, collecting products for female Veterans, or gathering socks and underwear—these items make a real difference. They're needed. They're appreciated.

Let's continue to show our gratitude. Let's be GNOMES. Let's give back. Because...just because someone is no longer active doesn't mean they're no longer a soldier. They are, and always will be, our soldiers.

Thank you for your dedication, your compassion, and your unwavering support. Let's make this year unforgettable.

Renee Kohl, ALA Department President 2025-2026

## **News from your Department Office:**

### **Website**

Please know that your Department Headquarters Office is aware that some of the functionality of our new website does not meet our anticipated standards. We welcome your positive feedback (if any) and feedback on your unsatisfactory experiences. This Information will assist us as we move forward. Thank you in advance for your patience and willingness to embrace new technologies for improved communication.

Desi Stoy Interim Department Secretary

740-452-8245

[Ohiodeptsec@alaohio.org](mailto:Ohiodeptsec@alaohio.org)





The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio  
2026 Mid-Winter Conference

**Friday, January 16, 2026-Saturday, January 17, 2026**

Marriott Columbus Northwest  
5605 Blazer Pkwy  
Dublin, Ohio 43017

To make reservations please call 1-800-228-9290  
to receive the discounted group rate of \$ 131.00 plus tax,  
or make reservations online at

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1743428043226&key=GRP&guestreslink2=true&app=resvlink>

Please reference “American Legion Mid-Winter” when making reservations.

Please visit **<https://www.ohiolegion.com/department-mid-winter-conference/>**  
and fill out the registration link.

Please join Department President Renee Kohl  
and the 2025-26 Department Chairman  
for an innovative and educational conference.

The American Legion Department of Ohio will also be hosting a formal awards banquet. Registration for the Awards Banquet can be downloaded and mailed to TAL Department or filled out on-line. E-mail confirmations will be sent to verify your banquet ticket purchase. If you do not receive an email after purchasing a ticket, please contact Department Headquarters. Tickets are \$40.00 per person.

Deadline for hotel reservations is **December 26th** For more information on the ALA event contact [OHDEPTSEC@alaohio.org](mailto:OHDEPTSEC@alaohio.org) or call (740) 452-8245.



American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Ohio

**Mid Winter  
Conference  
2026**

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
<b>Friday 1/16/26</b>		
9 am-10:30 am	Auxiliary Finance Meeting	Worthington
2pm-6pm	Auxiliary HQ Office	Union
11am-1:30pm	Auxiliary DEC Meeting	Franklin
2pm- 4pm	Buckeye Girls State Workshop/Report Training/ Membership Training	Dublin I & II
11am-8pm	Auxiliary Exhibit/Registration	Lobby/ Atrium
6:30pm-9pm	Auxiliary Conference	Dublin IV
6:30pm-9pm	Auxiliary Juniors Meeting	Worthington
<b>Sat. 1/17/26</b>		
8am-9am	Auxiliary HQ Office	Union
8am-8:30am	Auxiliary Exhibit/Registration	Dublin III
9am-1pm	Auxiliary Conference	Dublin III
9am-1pm	Auxiliary Juniors Meeting	Worthington

<b>Friday 1/16/26</b>	<b>The American Legion</b>	
12pm-5pm	Blood Drive	Dublin III
<b>Sat. 1/17/26</b>		
6pm-8pm	Awards Banquet *ticket required*	Grand Ballroom

# Americanism

Diann Long

While April seems a long way off, now is the time to record what your unit is doing in writing, photos, and news articles.

**The Patricia Logan Plaque for the “Best All-Around American Program”** will be presented to the unit with the most outstanding Americanism Program based on the annual report and narrative. The winner will be selected from the 1<sup>st</sup> Place winners in each membership category submitted by District Americanism Chairmen to the Department Americanism Chairman.

The Department winner will be sent on to National to compete for the “Dorothy Pearl Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program” so please follow the guidelines for that award shown below. Unit chairmen may submit their report directly to National with the Award Submission Form that will be available on the National site after January 15, 2026.

## **Dorothy Pearl Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program (per division)**

- Presented: One unit in each division
- Materials and guidelines:
  - Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words that includes specific examples of how unit delivered mission service. Narrative can also include portions from department chair’s report.
  - Should include action (high-resolution) photos, scans/links to news articles, etc.
- All unit entries must be submitted via **electronic form** by 5 p.m. EST on June 1. **Note: entries will be accepted from unit chairs.**
- *Note: You will receive confirmation when your award is submitted.*



Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2007 to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine wreath maker Morrill Worcester in 1992. The organization’s yearlong mission – Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, Teach the next generation the value of freedom – is carried out, in part, each year by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in December at thousands of participating locations in all 50 states and beyond.

Now is the time for your unit to consider supporting **Wreaths Across America** by purchasing wreaths or volunteering to place wreaths on December 13<sup>th</sup>. You can sponsor a veteran’s wreath in honor of or in memory of a loved one. You can also donate wreaths and allow Wreaths

Across America to designate a recipient among the millions of heroes who rest in honored glory. A donation of \$17.00 provides one wreath. You can also volunteer by laying wreaths locally or leading a sponsorship group.

You can find a wreath coloring page and educational materials for all age groups on their website.

Visit [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org) for additional information and resources.

# Buckeye Girls State

**Gwenda Schroeder-Zulch – Buckeye Girls State Director**

2026 will be the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Buckeye Girls State. Would you ever imagine 47 years ago we would be this far. We have had our difficulties with Covid, etc. but we are gradually bouncing back. By now all the Unit Buckeye Girls State Chairman should have received your guidelines. You will notice many changes and while may get getting used to—this is an improvement for the program. Please be sure to read the entire packet.

We have a new email address: [buckeyegirlsstate@ala.org](mailto:buckeyegirlsstate@ala.org). **Please address all Buckeye Girls State questions in this new email.** In addition, we are also working on a new website which we hope to have up and running by the end of the month.

Here are some new things this year:

- When you order your Buckeye Girls State applications, please do not send the fees with the request—they must be sent when you select your delegates, and they have their paperwork completed online. This is to cut down on the number of refunds we have at the end of the session.
- There will be no District in person orientations. Zoom orientations will begin at the end of April and every delegate and alternate will receive an email with the link, and we will keep track of those who have attended.
- Do you want to volunteer to be on the 2026 Buckeye Girls State Staff? A form was included in the Buckeye Girls State Chairman packet. We welcome all volunteers and while there are a few part time positions—we ask you commit to a week of fun and exciting experiences.
- Please make sure when you contact your schools you meet with the guidance counselor for the girls. You are responsible for the selection of the delegates not the school. Think out of the box, do not forget home schooled, private, charter and vocational schools. Please do not be afraid to go outside of your District.
- Application Request Form Due in Department Headquarters by March 15. Completed applications must be received in Department Headquarters by April 1. Delegate replacement notification is due by June 1.
- Buckeye Girls State will be held June 7-13-2026 on the campus of Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio.
- If you have any questions, feel free to email us and we will get back to you in a timely manner.



# CHAPLAIN      Fall 2025

Michele N. Sandridge, Department Chaplain

Chaplains, as we begin our Auxiliary year, take a moment to think about what you wish **YOUR** role will be within your unit. The position of Chaplain is very important to the life our organization. It is much more than just reading a prayer to begin and close your meetings. This position can be one of comfort, communication, leadership and helpfulness. Most importantly, the sharing of our faith is the cornerstone of chaplaincy.

Our ceremonies for memorials, funerals, draping of the charter are all written out in the Chaplain's Handbook. You do NOT have to follow them verbatim. Make them your own—personalize them to the dear member you are memorializing. You can do this by using a special poem, music or a wonderful memory. This is truly the way we should honor our members. If you have a member that passes, please send me one of her prayer cards from the funeral or a link to her obituary. This is just for my book. I want everyone to be remembered.

As far as the opening and closing prayers—do what is in your heart. Use the Handbook—or speak from from your soul. Remember to be mindful of all members' religious convictions.

Consider making a prayer book for your president, an older shut in member, legionnaire or even just your unit. Have your juniors to add to it with their thoughts and maybe some art work. Prayer books can contain MORE than prayers—devotions, thoughts, favorite scripture, a funny saying...something to bring a smile.

Cards, letters of encouragement, checking in with members you don't see or hear from often...this is your charge. Of course, **BE THE ONE** goes without saying—get a list for Buddy checks. Work with your Legion Chaplain. Ask to offer the prayer at Post home events, flag raisings, dinners, etc. Be a presence within your legion family.

Start collecting items for President Renee's Prayer Book. You can email them, USPS them or send my pigeon!

As your Department Chaplain, I wish to be a helping hand to you.

*IF YOU NEED ANY ASSISTANCE WITH MEMORIALS, FUNERALS, DRAPING CHARTERS, OR FUN STUFF!! DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL ME.*

I close with a scripture from 1 Thessalonians chapter 5, verse 11. *“So, encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.”*

God bless you all.





## **CHILDREN & YOUTH**

**October 2025**

**Your member have been working hard to help our Children and Youth. Be sure to record all these activities each month at your meetings to make year-end reporting easier.**

**You can also share what you are doing: you can earn a Certificate of Participation – it will be awarded at the Department Summer Convention for those Units that submit a narrative that tells how they celebrated or supported the children and youth in their community during each season with a minimum of three (3) narratives submitted. Submit a SUMMER narrative that covers June 21 through September 21 – due October 31, 2025. Submit a FALL narrative that covers September 22 through December 20 – due January 31, 2026. Submit a WINTER narrative that covers December 21 through March 19 – due April 15, 2026. Submit a SPRING narrative that covers March 20 through June 20**

**Narratives may be emailed to Vice Chairman Jane Yager [janeyeager2000@yahoo.com](mailto:janeyeager2000@yahoo.com)**

**Please review the C&Y plan of action and all the opportunities to be recognized at Summer Convention**

**Please plan to support the Child Wellbeing Foundation, Remember National Family Week Oct. 7-13, 2025.**

**We need to support our children all year and check with the school to see how you can help with those children who need financial or even just moral support. You can be a mentor. Some children really need your encouragement and help to know how special and unique they are.**

**Volunteer at school activities, with Life Wise or other positive activities.**

**Colleen K Phillips, Chairman Children and Youth**

OUR CHILDREN NEED TO KNOW THEY ARE:



# Junior Activities

Michelle Bolin, Junior Activities Chairman

Happy Fall Y'all! We were happy to see so many excited faces during the Junior Activities session at School of Instruction. We know the session was set up differently from previous years, but we hope we were able to give you some insight into what our expectations are this year.

For the fall we'd like you to help with the following:

## **REMEMBERING OUR GNOMIES**

This is the Department-wide Junior Activities fundraiser to help raise money for President Renee Kohl's Special Project. We are asking those Units that have a Post with a Canteen to ask the Commander and Canteen Manager if the Juniors could sell paper cut-out gnomes to hang around the Canteen. The project is called **"Remembering Our Gnomies"**. The Juniors provide the gnomes, which you can find on Amazon or Oriental Trading, and charge \$1.00 to purchase one. The person that buys the gnome will be able to write the name of a veteran or a loved one on the gnome and hang that gnome in a designated area in the Canteen. Please try to hold this fundraiser before the end of 2025. You can either bring a check to Mid-Winter or mail it to me by January 1, 2026: Michelle D. Bolin 4300 Bridgeview Ave. Newburgh Hts., Ohio 44105. Please make the checks payable to ALA Department of Ohio. We hope you can participate!!!

## **MID-WINTER CONFERENCE**

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! The Juniors will be putting together **HATS FOR HEROES** during Mid-Winter. They will be filling knit hats with everyday essentials like toothpaste, combs, handwarmers, etc. We are asking districts and units to donate items for this project. A wish list has been put together on Amazon to make it a bit easier on everyone. I've printed the link below, but I am more than happy to email it to you. If you prefer to shop, please bring your donations with you to Mid-Winter. Once we've filled the hats they will be divided amongst the districts of Juniors in attendance to be distributed to the VA, veterans in their community or homeless shelters. Again, please reach out with any questions.

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3TYD86ORP6G0I?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3TYD86ORP6G0I?ref=wl_share)

Make sure to stop by and see our Honorary Junior President Adryenne Rush at her fundraising table during the Mid-Winter conference. She will be making & selling charm bracelets with the proceeds going toward her Special Project. We are including an order form for the Junior T-Shirts that are available for purchase. These funds are also going toward her Special Project: Suicide Prevention, Decreasing Mental Health Stigma, and Anti-Bullying. Please place your orders now in order to get your shirts at Mid-Winter!!!

## **THE OHIO TRAVELOGUE-LAKE COUNTY**

The Travelogue is something easy and fun that can be done either on-line or in person. LAKE COUNTY has quite a few places that the Juniors can write about. In addition to the guidelines in the Plan of Action, please remember that the Juniors should be writing about at least 5 places they "visited". Each visit should be no less than one paragraph in length (a paragraph should be at least 5 sentences long), and the information they use must be written in their own words. Copying directly from the internet or using A-I to write it will not be permitted.

## **THE PATCH PROGRAM**

Please remember that both the American Legion Auxiliary Junior members and the Sons of The American Legion youth members can participate in the Patch Program. A lot of the required tasks can be done at their meetings and there are times when activities they take part in daily can be used toward earning patches. Also, please remember there are 4 levels/age groups and the packets for each are available on the website.

- o Purple – Level Pre-School Age 3 through Kindergarten
- o Red – Level 1: 1<sup>st</sup> Grade through 4<sup>th</sup> Grade
- o Gold – Level 2: 5<sup>th</sup> grade through 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- o Blue – Level 3: 9<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade (or 18 years old)

### **\*\*\*ANNOUNCEMENT\*\*\***

Per National Headquarters, completed worksheets and the accompanying documentation for the Patch Program should be uploaded to the website by the **Unit President or the Unit Jr. Activities Chairperson** instead of the Junior Activities 2<sup>nd</sup> Chair. BUT, if you have any questions, please reach out to 2<sup>nd</sup> Member Brandy Little at **unit764ala@gmail.com**.

Thank you for your time, participation and assistance. We look forward to having an AWESOME year!

# ALA Juniors

## T-Shirt Order Form



Front



Back

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All proceeds will go to Honorary Junior President Adryenne Rush's Special Project The Ohio  
Suicide Prevention Foundation (OSPF)

Cost \$20 each

Shirts will be available for pick up at the listed department meetings following your order:

Mid-Winter, Junior Convention, and Summer Convention

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First and Last Name:

Unit:

Quantity:

Shirt Sizes:

Amount Enclosed:

Please return this portion to Brandy Little at 6158 Licking Valley Rd. Frazeyburg, OH 43822

# Leadership

Deb Meyer, Chairman

November 2025

Have you thought about where your leadership and your unit will be in ten years? As we all age, our units are aging, also. We need to be mentoring the next generation of auxiliary leadership. If we do not, where will our units be and how will they grow? Each one of us needs to take an active role looking for the members that will move our auxiliary forward after we no longer can. We need to identify the young members who are showing our passion for the organization and our veterans, giving those members the opportunity to gather the knowledge we have acquired. As you are beginning a new auxiliary year, start mentoring by partnering a younger member with a chairman or a past or present unit president. Maybe have them begin as a chairman of one of the programs. You learn best by being involved and a part of the program. Be open to any and all questions to make sure all members know that no question is a dumb question. Your juniors are a good place to start by getting these young ladies involved with your unit's activities. Mentoring prepares these girls to easily move into a leadership position when they are ready. Welcome the juniors to attend your unit's meetings. They might have new and fresh ideas for your unit.

I would love to see all members, seasoned and new, enroll in the ALA Academy. So many times, I have heard, "I don't know enough to be a president (or a chairman)." Bless the hearts of those who are willing to step out of "their box," take an active role and work to learn about a program or the auxiliary in general. ALA Academy has over 30 courses covering about every element in our organization. Most of the courses take only about 45 minutes to do at your own pace. Don't have 45 minutes at one time? That is okay because you can stop and continue where you left off when the time allows. I am including at the end of my report the steps to access the ALA Academy that you can copy and give to each member of your unit. The instructions will fit on one sheet so that you can cut it in half to give to your membership.

If you are a new officer, it is even more important to take the leadership courses. A good place to start would be ALA 101 and ALA Communication Methods. As a new officer do not be afraid to ask questions. There is a chain of command. You have your unit's past president (or past officer for the officer you have been elected to hold) and the District president who is more than willing to answer questions you might have. If they do not know the answer, they will get one for you. It is okay if you make mistakes. That is all part of the learning process.

For in-depth training, there is the Mission Training. The closest Mission Training for Ohio is in Indianapolis on Saturday, January 31, 2026. You can register for the training by going to the [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org) You click on events, then go to Mission Development Training. Once new page comes up, click "register." Then click on Indianapolis and it will ask what training you want. You will gain a multitude of information plus you will have the opportunity to network with members from our Department and others.

## How to Access ALA Leadership Courses

1. Go to the ALA National website: [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org) (my member portal)
2. You will login or create a username and password
3. The next page will be your profile page (If you have not already established a login, password and profile)
4. At the top you will click on “Meetings and Trainings”
5. A menu will drop down and click on ALA Academy
6. In the blue box you will click on “launch ALA Academy”
7. There will be a box “Browse Catalog”
8. Click on the “Browse Catalog” you will find all the course available (37)
9. Click on the course you choose to do
10. Click on enroll
11. The course will be in a box at the top of the list
12. Click on “launch” and begin your course

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# Membership



**Mindi Rue, Department 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Chairman**

**mind1036@gmail.com**

## **Membership Eligibility Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Q: Is there any circumstance where a person could join the ALA without having a relative as a current member of The American Legion?**

A: There are two circumstances when a person can become a member without having a relative as a current member of The American Legion.

- 1) When a woman has served in the military during the requisite dates. She may join the ALA without being a member of The American Legion.
- 2) When a person's membership is based on a deceased veteran the prospective member will be required to provide verifying documentation of the deceased relative's service dates to prove their eligibility.

**Q: Is verification of veteran eligibility required by the Post Officer?**

A: The signature of the Post Officer should be on every application of those applying for membership. If the Post Officer's signature cannot be obtained after a reasonable effort, a letter from the Department Adjutant will be accepted in lieu of the Post Officer's statement.

The only exception is if the applicant is eligible in her own right, then the Unit Secretary signs and dates the application upon verification of that female veteran's military record.

**Q: In a female same-gender marriage, if the female spouse wartime veteran is a member or eligible to be a member of The American Legion, is the female wife eligible for membership in the Auxiliary?**

A: On June 26, 2015, the United States Supreme Court issued a landmark decision in the case of Obergefell v. Hodges. The Court's ruling requires a State to license a marriage between two (2) people of the same sex and to recognize a marriage between two (2) people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out-of-State. This decision requires all states to recognize same-gender marriages. The Legion and the ALA will continue to accept into membership those individuals who meet membership eligibility criteria regardless of the gender of their spouses.

**Q: Are stepchildren eligible to become members?**

A: No, IRS regulation for 501(c)19 organizations do not include stepchildren in their definition of an auxiliary organization.

**Q: Are men now eligible to join the Auxiliary?**

A: Male spouses of current members of The American Legion are eligible to join the Auxiliary. Male spouses of all men and women who served in the eligible periods (April 6, 1917-November 11, 1918, and any time after December 7, 1941) and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge are eligible to join the Auxiliary.

Grandfathers, Fathers, Uncles, Brothers or other male descendants are not eligible to join the Auxiliary.

**Q: Are husbands of Auxiliary members able to now join the Auxiliary?**

A: Husbands of American Legion Auxiliary members are only eligible to join the Auxiliary if their spouse is also a current member of The American Legion. Husbands would be eligible due to their spouse's membership in The American Legion and not through their spouse's membership in the Auxiliary.

**Q: Is a person eligible through the war service of divorced spouse?**

A: A divorced man or woman does not occupy the status of spouse and, therefore, has no eligibility. But the fact that a member of the Auxiliary has become divorced from whom they gained their eligibility does not force them to surrender their Auxiliary membership, even though they may be married to another person. However, if they become delinquent in their ALA dues, they may reinstate their membership only by payment of back dues for all years of delinquency.

**Q: Are relatives of members of the Sons of The American Legion eligible for membership in the Auxiliary?**

A: Only if the member of the Sons of The American Legion is also a member of The American Legion. If the SAL member is not eligible for membership in The American Legion, the applicant must secure eligibility through the service of an eligible veteran.

**Q: Must a potential member join the Unit of the Post of which their service relative is a member?**

A: No, the potential member is eligible for membership in any Auxiliary Unit.

**Q: Is the spouse of a non-veteran eligible for membership on the war service of a former spouse who died either during the war or following discharge?**

A: The fact that the widow of a veteran remarried does not deprive them of their right to belong to the Auxiliary. Under these circumstances the spouse of a non-veteran is eligible for membership in the Auxiliary if their former spouse was a veteran and died either during the war or following their discharge.

**Q: Why is membership limited to two degrees of consanguinity (relation)?**

A: The IRS regulation concerning auxiliaries to veteran service organizations states in part: "At least 75 percent of its members are veterans, spouses of veterans, or related to a veteran within two degrees of consanguinity (i.e., grandparent, brother, sister, grandchild represent the most distant allowable relationships)."

This means that no great or great-great-granddaughters can join the Auxiliary. Current members whose eligibility relationship is great-granddaughter, great-great-granddaughter or direct descendent can continue being a member, as long as their dues are kept current.

**Membership Processing Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Q: Does a TAL Post have authority over a Unit's membership or money?**

A: Besides verifying the eligibility of a potential Auxiliary member, no TAL Post has the authority to determine the membership of a unit or dictate what a Unit does with their finances.

**Q: Can staff at ALA NHQ transfer a member to another unit at the request of the member?**

A: No, units have final authority over their own membership. Units must accept the new members transfer and then submit a form to their department for processing.

**Q: How long must units retain membership applications?**

A: The American Legion National Judge Advocate/ALA Counsel General advises that since eligibility for membership can be challenged at any time during the life of the member, eligibility information should be retained indefinitely, as long as the member is alive. Only the eligibility information needs to be securely retained, and records can be digitized to save space and provide a more convenient way to retain the information. Units are advised to have access to a locked file cabinet in the post or other secure place for record retention and to redact any personally identifying information such as birthdate and social security number in order to secure information from identity theft. Counsel General notes that in the past four years, the IRS has been more stringent about demanding to see eligibility records when they are doing field audits of posts, units and departments. The fact that the IRS has escalated its audits of Legion and ALA entities in recent years may lead to confusion about the length of time for retaining IRS records versus the length of time for retaining eligibility verification records. Counsel General has advised that tax returns need be kept for only seven (7) years, but eligibility records should be retained for the life of the member.

**Q: How does the Auxiliary update/correct a members' join date?**

A: Members are required to provide proof of original join date, if proof cannot be provided, the member must pay necessary back dues to reinstate continuous membership.

**Q: How does a unit request ALA MIS access?**

A: All requests for ALA MIS access must be submitted to their department for approval and submission of request

# Poppy

## *In Flanders Fields*



*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.  
- Col. John McCrae*

## The Poppy Story

From the battlefields of World War I, weary soldiers brought home the memory of a barren landscape transformed by wild poppies, red as the blood that had soaked the soil. By that miracle of nature, the spirit of their lost comrades lived on.

The poppy became a symbol of the sacrifice of lives in war, and represented the hope that none had died in vain. The American Legion Auxiliary Poppy has continued to bloom for the casualties of four wars, its petals of paper bound together for veterans by veterans, reminding America each year that the men and women who have served and died for their country deserve to be remembered.

Poppy Day has become a familiar tradition in almost every American community. This distribution of the bright red memorial flower to the public is one of the oldest and most widely recognized programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

This poppy, as a memorial flower to the war dead, can be traced to a single individual, Miss Moina Michael. She was so moved by Col. McCrae's poem that she wrote a response:

*. . . the blood of heroes never dies  
But lends a luster to the red  
Of the flower that blooms above the dead  
In Flanders' Fields.*

On impulse, she bought a bouquet of poppies – all that New York City's Wanamaker's Department Store had – and handed them to businessmen meeting at the New York YMCA where she worked. She asked them to wear the poppy as a tribute to the fallen. That was November 1918. World War I was over, but America's sons would rest forever 'in Flanders' Fields.' Later, she would spearhead a campaign that would result in the adoption of the poppy as the national symbol of sacrifice.



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

## Department of Ohio, Inc.

### 2025-2026 Poppy Order Form

### CITATION OF MERIT



### REQUIREMENT

PRICES: Small Poppies - \$12.50 per 50 plus Shipping & Handling (Minimum order 50 Poppies)  
 Large Poppies - \$1.10 each plus Shipping & Handling ( Minimum order 30 Poppies)

**NOTE:** *ALL ORDERS OF 50 POPPIES MUST BE RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BY DECEMBER 31, 2025 TO QUALIFY FOR THE DEPARTMENT CITATION OF MERIT!*

50 Small Poppies must be ordered to qualify for a Citation of Merit.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
 DEPARTMENT OF OHIO, INC.

PLEASE MAIL FORM AND SEPARATE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

1100 BRANDYWINE BLVD,  
 STE D  
 ZANESVILLE OH 43701  
 (740) 452-8245

PLEASE ALLOW 6-8 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY!

Unit Name \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is check # \_\_\_\_\_ for the following poppy order:

	Qty.	S & H*	Amount Due
Small Poppies @ 12.50 per 50 (minimum 50)			
Small Poppies @ 12.50 per 50 (minimum 50 for Citation of Merit)			
Large Poppies @ \$1.10 each (minimum 30)			
<b>Total Enclosed</b>			<b>\$</b> _____

Send Poppies To:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

* Shipping & Handling Table	
Small Poppies:	
50-200	\$7.00
300-900	\$11.00
1000-1600	\$14.00
1700-2500	\$18.00
2600-3500	\$22.00
3600-4000	\$25.00
Large Poppies:	
30 - 100	\$8.00
100-200	\$12.00

Recieved  _____ (For Department Use Only)
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# Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By Deb Sutterlin, Chairman and Robyn Cooper, Vice-Chairman

First off, I want to remind you of a couple of items. Prior to last year, you could not get credit for taking care of family members. That has changed! You get credit for **10 hours a week** if you live with a veteran and you are his/her caregiver. This veteran can be a spouse, child, or parent but they **must live with you**. If you care for a parent, child, or related veteran the does not live with you, you get credit for **5 hours a week** – provided you are not getting paid.

President Renee's theme is **GNOME Let's Embrace All Veterans Every Season**. You have already covered the summer with the activities you have done so now let us focus on the fall season. What can you do? Here are some ideas. All veterans can be recognized on **October 26<sup>th</sup> Make A Difference Day**. The veterans have made a difference in how we live and what we are able to do so let's do something to make a difference in their life with something special. Do you know a female veteran? Surprise her with a small bouquet of flowers or a potted mum. Remember that the small acknowledgements and acts of kindness make a difference to the receiver's day! You never know the impact of what you do for another even though it may appear to be nothing.

Our November holidays and observances include November 10<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday and November 11<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day, Plan now for those special activities.

More ideas for fall. Decorate a veteran's porch with a fall theme – pumpkins, leaves, scarecrow, corn, etc. Decorate a grave for a veteran (his/her spouse) or a veteran's grave with a couple of fall items. Many cemeteries are cleaning off the graves and removing the summer flowers. If the cemetery board doesn't provide that service, you could do that and decorate for the fall.

We can help the homeless veterans by participating in standdowns. Currently many of our older veterans are dying, did you attend their funeral? Did you cook food for their funeral meal? Or maybe it was the veteran's spouse who died. Please write down you time and money spent of the Service To Veterans form.

Honor Flight and Honor Bus trips are occurring. Make up cards or letters thanking the veterans for their service and wishing them memorable experiences on their trip to Washington, D.C. Send/Give those cards to those in charge of the trips. There is a night where an activity on the trip is Mail Call, and these cards/letters are distributed. This is a treasured part of the trip as expressed by a couple of veterans who traveled in the past.

Thank you for all you do. Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation is our mission and purpose of our organization. If you don't do for Veterans as a member of a veterans' organization, who will do it for them? YOU are IMPORTANT! Feel free to email me pictures of your activities and let me know if you have ideas to share. My email address is [debsutterlin270@gmail.com](mailto:debsutterlin270@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing from you.