



Department Bulletin

March 2026

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Department President

!!REMINDER!!

Report deadline is coming! Please check your Plans of Action for submission.

Please be sure that you know if your report should go to your District Chairman or to the Department Chairman.

Don't forget your narrative!

If your Unit would like to submit for a National Award, Department no longer submits on the Unit's behalf. The Unit must do this via the National website.

If you have any questions, please contact the Department Chairman, they will assist you.

All contact information for Department Chairman is on the front page of the Plan of Action.

To all District Presidents,

The Spring DEC meeting will be conducted via TEAMS. Date is to be determined and an email will be sent with further details as soon as Desi and I have everything for that meeting finalized.

Regarding Poppy Shop...there will be no Poppy Shop this year. In an effort to attempt something new and different, time has run out in conducting an event this year.

Coming soon? Buckeye Girls State of course. Do you have your delegates? Do you have your alternates? Have you submitted the applications??

Respectfully,

Renee Kohl,

Department President



The Lincoln Pilgrimage Experience

Department Chaplain Michele Sandridge and I started the trip at 7:00 am to head to Springfield, Illinois. During the first leg of the trip, we decided to stop at the infamous Uranus Fudge Factory. Definitely worth the stop. The candy that they have brought us back to our childhood. Candies that I haven't seen on the market for a long time were in that store. Getting to the good part now...the fudge...wow!! It's amazing and freshly made. If you are a fudge addict, it's a wonderful little store right at the Ohio/Indiana border. Make time to stop if you are traveling to that area.

It was then time to stop for real food and some gas. GPS took us to a little restaurant call Gas and Grill. At first we couldn't find it and our little GPS friend took us on a little detour...a detour that had us wondering if Bigfoot or Jason was going to come out of the woods and get us! We eventually found the restaurant and was surprised that it's actually attached to a gas station! The food was excellent!

Several hours later we arrived at our destination. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Hotel is a beautiful hotel located downtown Springfield. The exhaustion set in pretty quickly after a 9 ½ hour journey.

Breakfast the next day brought us new friends, Ruth and Dawn. Ruth is the Department President from Nebraska and Dawn is the Department President from Michigan. And, of course 1st Vice Commander Gary Cox joined us for a short time as well. We had a great time getting to know each other and after much discussion, we came to the conclusion that this Pilgrimage is definitely a mini Central Division Convention. With all division Departments represented, with a few others as well, a total of 14 Departments were proudly in attendance.

While sitting the lobby, we were advised that we had the option to attend the Lincoln Museum. Wow...how exciting and yes, we decided to go. The Department of Indiana had a fleet of cars that drove us to the museum and provided us the opportunity by purchasing our entry tickets. Such an amazing museum. We didn't get to see everything, but what was seen was amazing. I've posted the photos on the President Facebook Page if you'd like to see them. Unfortunately, time ran out and we did not get to see Lincoln's House.

At the Leadership Reception, it was exciting meeting new people, getting pictures taken with President Pam Ray and Commander Dan Wiley. Seeing some familiar faces and meeting new people during this reception was truly a highlight of the day.

Day 2 brought us breakfast with President Pam Ray as the keynote speaker, a trip to Lincoln's Tomb, and lunch with the keynote speaker Commander Dan Wiley.

With a police escort, a bus provided transportation for some to Lincoln's Tomb and a parade of vehicles that followed. It really was quite a show for our arrival. Lincoln's Tomb is a grand vision! Inside was a bit cramped with all of the attendees and it was hard seeing everything.

Commander Stan and I shared the honor of presenting a wreath on behalf of the Department of Ohio. Chills ran up and down my spine walking side-by-side with Commander Stan as we walked around the rotunda, down a hallway where men were dressed in period Military attire, to lay a wreath at Lincoln's resting place. It's a beautiful building with history seeping within it's walls. A highly recommended site to visit if you are in the Springfield area.

Respectfully,

Renee Kohl, Department President

From Department Headquarters.....Helpful Info

Here are a few tips that your Unit may find helpful.

1. Effective 3/1/26 **do not** send Membership Transmittals with applied credits. Credits will no longer be applied to Membership Transmittals per DEC action in January of this year. Direct Deposits will be made each quarter to your Unit's Bank Account.

If your Unit has not returned the ACH/Direct Deposit Form to Department Headquarters, please do so immediately to receive your Unit credits. Additional forms may be requested by emailing your request to: ohdeptsec@alaohio.org.

2. **Kit of Reports** have been mailed. Please note that the VA&R District 2 Chairman information needs corrected. The new information is on the website and listed below (corrected info is in red):

Shirley Maurer
06247 St Rt 219
New Knoxville, Ohio 45871
pmaurer@nktelco.net



Americanism

Please be sure to obtain the Americanism Report form from the Kit of Reports that has been mailed to all Unit presidents. Your report is **mandatory** for the Citation of Merit and due to your DISTRICT chairman by April 15th.

Entries for the Patricia Logan Plaque – “Best All-Around Americanism Program” are also due to District Chairman by April 15, 2026. The winners in each membership category will be sent on for judging.

The Norma Frazier Plaque is given to schools displaying the most outstanding Americanism program throughout the year. One plaque each is presented to a High School, Middle School, and Elementary School. Those forms must be sent to Department Americanism Vice Chairman Kimm Bunch by April 15, 2026.

The following is from the Central Division Americanism Chairman’s newsletter.

The countdown is on!

As our nation approaches the 250th anniversary in 2026, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to bring patriotism to life.

America 250 is our moment to:

- Celebrate our nation’s history and heritage
- Honor those who served and sacrificed
- Inspire the next generation
- Showcase the impact of the American Legion Family

Now is the time to start planning. Work together to create meaningful, visible Americanism activities.

Think big and get creative:

- Community celebrations and parades
- Flag education or retirement ceremonies
- Constitution and civics programs
- Youth essay, art, or history projects
- Veterans recognition events
- Service projects that show pride in America

A great way to unite your efforts is through American Legion Family Day, celebrating our shared mission, service to veterans, and commitment to patriotism.

Let’s make **America 250** a celebration communities will remember – and show the leadership, heart, and patriotism of the America Legion Auxiliary.

While these events may occur after our April 15th deadline, you will have a great start on next year’s report!

If you have any questions concerning your report, please contact us.

Chairman – Diann Long

Vice Chairman – Kimm Bunch





IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE

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

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

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

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

June 7-13, 2026, Buckeye Girls State Session Registration at McDonalds Hall June 7th

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

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

END OF YEAR REPORTS

- **ALL REPORTS ARE DUE TO ME ON OR BEFORE APRIL 15, 2026, I ACCEPT SNAIL MAIL OR EMAIL ALTHOUGH EMAIL IS BETTER (gweniesue@yahoo.com)**
- **PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR REPORT HOW YOU RECRUIT DELEGATES AND IF POSSIBLE WHICH SCHOOLS YOU RECRUIT FROM**
- **PLEASE ALSO INCLUDE IN YOUR REPORT IF YOU DONATED TO THE BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE ENDOWMENT FUND AND THE AMOUNT**

.....
THIS IS OUR 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE AND WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A RED RUBY GEM OF A YEAR—WE KNOW THE APPLICATION PROCESS HAS BEEN MIND BOGGLING AND THE BGS BOARD IS WORKING ON IMPROVED CONCEPTS FOR NEXT YEAR. WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE THIS YEAR.

GWEN SCHROEDER-ZULCH—BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE DIRECTOR



CHAPLAIN

Spring is right around the corner! Many of us are reflecting in the season of Passover with prayer and fasting. Members are preparing for the coming of Easter with Lent solemnly and in devotions. Some of us are celebrating Ramadan with our families and communities with prayer and giving while other members are celebrating Holi with festivals of colors and love. What a Glorious time of the year!

Spring also means it is time to report all the good things our units have done for our veterans and communities. For us chaplains, it is time to reflect on how we have touched the lives of those around us. In actuality, it is time for us to realize how our lives have been touched. Please read your Plan of Action carefully. You may answer the questions on the report form per line or you can answer them in paragraph form (which could be your narrative). You could also write down a list of everything you have accomplished with bullet points. This would serve as your report. IF you are so inclined—write all 1000 words! Anyway you wish to let me know about your year as chaplain of your units and districts will be greatly appreciated. **Reports are due APRIL 15th.**

Senior Prayer book entries are due by April 15th. While **Junior Prayer books are due by April 1st.** Follow the information EXACTLY as described in the Plan of Action. Don't have a POA? It is on line on the alaohio.org website. You can always email me and I'll get it to you asap.

The RUTH ADAMS PLAQUE is given to the “Best Year-Round Chaplain Report”. This is a SEPARATE entry from your report. PLEASE follow the instructions EXACTLY as stated in the POA. **This entry is due by April 15th.** This plaque is the only Department Plaque for our Chaplains.

Remember, the chaplain sending the most prayers for Department President Renee's Prayer book will receive a certificate. Also, any prayer or devotion I have used on social media chaplain pages, shared at one of our conferences or have submitted for National President Pam Ray's Prayer book will receive a certificate.

I realize we, as chaplains, do not give of ourselves so wholeheartedly to “win” plaques and certificates. Serving as a chaplain is an honor and presents us with grace and humility. Yet, to be recognized for our outreach and sharing faith should bring us comfort knowing we have touched another person. These types of recognition give us encouragement to continue to grow on our path of humanity.

Regenia Sandridge, my paternal grandmother, wrote in her bible, “we are not human beings, we are human becomings”.

Michele N. Sandridge
1857 Marks Avenue
Akron, OH 44305

michelesandridge@yahoo.com
330-620-3443 call or text





2025-26 Community Service Update (So you 'Gnome' what to do!)



Greetings to all Units of the Buckeye State! Hopefully you have been able to get out into your communities to help enrich and give back so all involved will reap the benefits. We hope all Units have been “In the Gnome” when it comes to serving their communities.

We can still continue our community service work, and it can be included in the 2025-2026 reports up to March 31st. THEN- it's time to start your new file for the 2026-2027 year!

The Ohio Disaster Emergency Assistance Program offers help to MEMBERS and UNITS directly involved in a disaster. Plan a fundraiser or donate to this fund. You will be helping fellow members in need as well as serving the community. What if you, or someone you know in Ohio, had a disaster such as a fire, tornado, flood, etc. that devastated their home, business, or Legion Post? This fund would be there for those who need it to start over.

The Red Cross is always in need of blood. Since the pandemic, there has been a decline in blood donors. There are staff shortages, cancellations of bloodmobiles and other reasons for blood shortages. If your Unit is able to sponsor a bloodmobile, contact your local Red Cross chapter and set one up. If you are able to donate blood, find a bloodmobile in your area and give. Live-saving blood is in desperate demand. “ALA Gnomes” not only can make a difference, but save lives too!

Report time is fast approaching! Start organizing your information on the activities and events that you performed community service for. Photos, newsletters, news articles, Facebook posts, etc. Check your Plan of Action to see what requirements are needed for reports. Make sure to send it to the CORRECT person. **Whether you write a couple of paragraphs or do a big report with all the items listed above does not matter. (Unless you want to win an award.) What matters is ALL UNITS REPORT SOMETHING. If a report is submitted with all zeros on it, it doesn't count at all.**

Annual Year-End Reports reflect the program work of the units in the department and may result in a national award for participants if award requirements are met. Each Unit is required to submit a Community Service narrative report by April 15, 2026, to the **District Community Service Chairman**. We highly encourage Units to include photos, newsletters, news clippings, FB Posts, etc. of your Unit conducting Community Service events. Please send these along with your narrative reports.

To District Chairmen- Annual **District** Reports are due to Department Community Service Chairman Darlene Leiter by May 1, 2026. 2886 Myers Rd. Shelby, OH 44875 darleiter@yahoo.com

DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS:

Anna Mae Beckley Plaque- A plaque will be presented to the Unit for the Best All-Around Community Service Program based on the annual narrative report. Entry must be in narrative form not to exceed 1,000 words and sent to the **District Community Service Chairman** by April 15, 2026. District Chairman will select one winner in each Membership Category based on goal and forward all narratives to the Department Chairman.

Mary Parker Plaque- A plaque will be presented to the Unit with the most outstanding single Community Service ACTIVITY during the year. Entry must be in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words. Send to **Vice Chr.** Department Community Service, Becky Dippman, 3186 S. River Rd., Pemberville, OH 43450 bdippman@gmail.com by the April 15, 2026, deadline.

Spirit of Community Plaque-- A plaque will be presented to the Unit with the best narrative on a single Community Service PROJECT involving the Unit and other organizations. Entry must be in narrative form not to exceed 1,000 words. Send to **Vice Chr.** Department Community Service, Becky Dippman, 3186 S. River Rd., Pemberville, OH 43450, bdippman@gmail.com by the April 15, 2026, deadline.

Unit Member Community Service Appreciation Award – Each Unit may submit **one name** to the Department Chairman. Submit in narrative form and show/describe the member doing outstanding work in the community. Candidate must be a volunteer who spearheads a community project, taking care of a non-veteran community member outside of their family, visiting homebound residents, or just spending time with a community member at risk. This person works for the good of the community, regardless of who needs help, and they always represent the American Legion Auxiliary in a positive way. They possess great organizational skills, are compassionate, kind, and humble. The Unit winner will receive a Certificate Award.

Award Criteria:

- Narrative and must be 500 words or less
- Include Unit member's picture (doing a task in the community- optional)
- Include Unit winner's name and contact information
- Due to Department Community Service Chairman, Darlene Leiter, by April 15, 2026.

Please don't forget to include pictures, news clippings, FB Posts, etc. with your entry for this award.

National Award Information & Deadline: The Most Outstanding Unit Community Service Program— one per division. The Department Community Service Chairman will send the Anna Mae Beckley Plaque winner on to National to compete for this National Award.

All of the American Legion Auxiliary Impact reports are compiled by National. This data is sent to Congress to show them the impact that the ALA has on our Veterans and their families.

We can be very proud of OHIO'S GNOMES "Giving Necessities to Our Military Everywhere"

Darlene Leiter, Chr. (419) 651-6598 and Becky Dippman, Vice Chr. (419) 409-6032



THERE ARE "GNOME" OTHER VOLUNTEERS LIKE THE ALA!



History

Patti Watson

Pattiwatson77@gmail.com

Now is the time to prepare your reports please be sure to include a narrative with your submission to your Department Chairmen. Remember the deadline is April 15th! Scrapbooks are also due by April 15th!

Please remember to include any work you did to Celebrate Women's History Month, Members Remember, and Veterans History Project.

Your Unit history should include what your Unit/members did in all programs, especially Americanism, Children and Youth, VA&R, and National Security!

DEPARTMENT AWARDS - Deadline for submission April 15, 2026

1. Certificate(s) of Achievement will be awarded to the Unit submitting the best annual narrative report.
2. Certificate(s) of Achievement will be awarded to the Unit submitting the best History Scrapbook.
3. Certificate(s) of Achievement will be awarded to the Junior submitting the best History Scrapbook.
4. Certificate(s) of Achievement will be awarded to the Junior submitting the best Junior History.
5. Plaque will be awarded to the Unit with the best all-around Senior History.



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Michelle D. Bolin, 1st Chair

Happy Women's History Month!!!

Now is the time for our Juniors to put the finishing touches on the projects and essays they've been working on. These, along with our reports, are due on April 1, 2026. Make sure to check the POA for instructions, guidelines and reporting information.

We are hoping that Brandy will get some Travelogue submissions this year. Please remember that there should be five individual entries highlighting 5 different locations in Lake County Ohio. Each entry should have no fewer than 5 sentences, and it would be great if the Junior included a picture or artwork that coincides with each entry. If your Junior attended Mid-Winter, they received a page of information on three highlighted destinations. These suggestions can be used toward the 5 destination entries.

Our Juniors worked really hard on Junior Conference Covers at SOI and Mid-Winter. We already have those but if your Junior would like to enter the contest, please send us their vision of a G.N.O.M.E. cover. We can't wait to see their creativity!

Poppy Poster Contest. Get those Poppy Posters in! Those posters that were completed at SOI and Mid-Winter are already in my possession and will be turned in by me. I will be reaching out for the additional information needed for the Poppy Poster Cover Sheet. If your Juniors would like to turn one in, please follow the guidelines in the POA. And... don't forget the cover sheet!

Hope is looking forward to receiving Junior Craft Books from around the state. Please remember to include step by step instructions and pictures. These can be submitted electronically.

Please let me know if your Unit's Juniors did the Remembering Our Gnomies fundraiser. If possible, send me a bit of info on what they did, how much they raised and pictures of the fundraiser. I'd love to share this information with the Central Division at our next meeting. If they haven't done one, there is still time! Let's help President Renee raise funds for her special project.

All reports, projects and essays are due by April 1, 2026. Please use the POA as a guide and reach out if you need assistance. Also make a note that pretty much everything can be scanned and submitted via email (but our addresses are in there if you prefer to use the post office).



Hats for Heroes was a hit! District 1 delivered their hats to the VA in Toledo. The veterans there seemed to enjoy them and appreciated the Juniors' hard work. The Parma VA received a few from District 13 and were pleasantly surprised at the thoughtful gesture.

Junior Conference is coming up. It will be held on May 16, 2026, at American Legion Department of Ohio Headquarters in Delaware, Ohio. The address is 60 Big Run Rd. Delaware, Ohio 43015. This year's conference theme is Americanism. The Juniors will participate in a few Americanism activities, have lunch and then have a meeting which will include the election of officers. The conference will begin at 10am and is scheduled through 3pm. RSVP is required. There will be a flyer available soon.

The United States 250th Birthday is this year. Let's brainstorm on some activities our Juniors could lead or assist with that will help our communities celebrate. Please share any fun and creative ideas you may have.

Thank you all for what you do!!! Special thanks to our 2nd and 3rd chairs, Brandy Little and Hope Eaton, for all of their hard work in helping to make this a successful and fun year for our Juniors. I'd also like to thank former dept, chairs Connie Morton and Maggie Wiley for their help at Mid-Winter. It was greatly appreciated. And, last but not least, I'd like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to all the individuals, Units and Districts that donated to the Hats for Heroes project. Without you we would not have been able to fill ALL those hats.

I wish you all a sunny spring, a Happy St, Patrick's Day and a blessed Easter. Take care.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle D. Bolin



Leadership

Deb Meyer, chairman

Social media can be a great tool to let your community know what your unit is doing. There are new ALA Academy webinars which are now available; Using Social Media to Promote Your Local ALA and also Mastering Media Presence Locally

- One unit member in my District received a request for a worksheet to record volunteer hours she designed and put on Facebook for her members.
- Just an example ad to how far Facebook reaches, she received a request for a copy of her form from two members in West Virginia
 - National Headquarters gave this individual kudos for a project her unit put on Facebook
- Let the community know what your unit is doing and it might spark interest for new members and certainly helps with branding our organization

Just a reminder:

- **If your fiscal year ended on December 31, 2025, your unit needs to file its 990N by May 15, 2026**
- It must be filed by the 15th day of the 5th month after the end of the unit's fiscal year.
- There is a course, Compliance Matters, in the ALA Academy on the importance of filing the unit's 990N and what happens if your unit misses filing for 3 years.
- There is also a course to instruct how to get your non-profit status back if you fail to file within three consecutive years which will cost \$600 plus any lawyers fees you might have.

Now is the time to start working on reports which are due to either your District or Department Chairman. One of the biggest mistakes that I have found over the years as a District chairman was getting a report late because it was sent to the wrong person. By the time a Department chairman received the report and sent it to me as a District Chairman, it was too late for me to judge. Although receiving awards is nice, it is not the main purpose for reporting. Your numbers are important to the Legion Family to take to [congress](#). It is important to get all unit members' volunteer hours and money spent.

Your Unit End of the Year packet has been sent..

- It is important to get volunteer hours and money spent from all members and not just those who attend unit meetings.
 - This year there is not a member form in your packet as in the past and it tells in your packet to get the members form on the alaforveterans.org website
 - To help you get the form, I have modified the form to fit on a page for units to make copies
- Some units design their own worksheet to collect members' numbers
 - If you choose not to use the member report form and use your own worksheet to collect hours and money spent, you will need to calculate the numbers and decide what goes on the numbered lines on the End of the Year Impact report form,
- Regardless of how you collect numbers, it is important for all members or as many as possible to return a member report forms to the president in time to calculate the numbers
- We all know postage is expensive so email the forms to your members and hopefully that will cut the number needing to be mailed
- Give the members a deadline to return forms to the unit president

- If you use the member form to collect your members' numbers, then it will be easy calculate the members' numbers and fill in your Unit Impact form to be sent to the District President
- If not using the member form report to collect members' numbers then it will be important for the unit president to get a copy of the green reports so she can record those numbers on her End of the Year report.
 - The numbered lines on the green reports correspond to the numbered lines on the End of the Year Report.
- **The End of the Year unit report is due to the District President by May 1, 2026.**
 - If your unit report is late, either your numbers will not be reported to the Department or the District President's report is late.
- The End of the Year report is very important and needs to be done whether or not your unit does any other reporting
- Reporting is a team effort. Work together as a unit

The following Green Reports need to go to your District Chairman: Americanism, Children and Youth, Community Service, Junior, and VA&R. All the rest of the reports go to the Department Chairman. There are green reports necessary along with 100% membership for the unit to receive the Citation of Merit

- Americanism, Children and Youth, Community Service, VA&R, Chaplain, Legislative, History, National Security, Poppy, and End of the Year report.
- It is also required to have paid the unit bonding fee and ordered poppies by December 31, 2025.
- The unit can receive the Presidential Citation if the unit accomplished all requirements except the 100% membership.
- Narratives are required for an award but not necessary if the unit chooses not to vie for an award
- Narratives and pictures will enhance your reporting

Dates to remember are:

- **April is Celebrating the Military Child**
- **April 15, 2026 - Military Children's Day**



MEMBER Year-End Impact Numbers Report

I am a member of Unit # _____ Unit Name _____

Department _____

My name _____

Here is what I did in the past 12 months since May 1.

1. My ALA Service for Veterans/Active-Duty/Reserve Military (Examples: hours shopping for and preparing care packages for deployed troops, helping wounded warriors and elderly veterans at home, providing transportation, military send-off and welcome-home events, parades, projects for homeless veterans, activities related to distributing poppies, recording veteran histories, raising money for the Veterans Creative Arts Festival, fundraising events that benefit veterans (such as Walk, Run & Roll), assisting with veterans hiring fairs, advocating for The American Legion legislative agenda that supports veterans and the military.)

Line 1 Hours I volunteered: _____

Line 2 Dollars I personally spent/donated: \$ _____

Line 3 Number of veterans/military I assisted: _____

Line 4 Number of "Veterans in Community Schools" presentations I facilitated: _____

2. My ALA Service for Military Families: (Examples: programs for military and veterans' children, helping Family Support Groups, supporting adopt-a-military-family projects, military spouse hiring fairs, organizing and delivering hero packs, providing childcare for military activities, distributing Blue Star Banners, providing G.I. Josh dogs)

Line 5 Hours I volunteered: _____

Line 6 Dollars I personally spent/donated: \$ _____

Line 7 Number of military families I served: _____

3. My ALA Service for Youth (Examples: Jr. Activities, classroom and patriotic activities for children, camps open to all children, raising funds for or promoting Legion Family activities like Girls State)

Line 8 Hours I volunteered for ALA Girls State: _____

Line 9 Hours I volunteered for all other Legion Family youth activities: _____

Line 10 Dollars I personally spent on goods for youth activities (parties, backpacks): \$ _____

Line 11 Direct cash aid to help a needy child: \$ _____

Line 12 Number of children/youth served: _____

Line 13 Dollars donated to all other child service charities (ex: Make a Wish, St. Jude's): \$ _____

4. My Service Representing the ALA in My Community (Examples: blood drives, walks/runs, food pantries)

Line 14 Total number of hours for any service not included in Sections 1 through 3: _____

Line 15 Total dollars spent for any service not included in Sections 1 through 3: \$ _____

When completed, send to: _____ by _____ / _____ / _____
(Get name and date from unit)

**CONGRATULATIONS--YOU DID IT! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO
AND FOR REPORTING YOUR SERVICE!**

NATIONAL SECURITY

Pam Brenneman

It's that time of the year again! Reporting time.

As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions:

How have you supported military servicemembers and/or their families?

How have you collaborated with other like-minded organizations (ASYMCA, Blue Star Families, Quilts of Valor, USO, etc.) that also support servicemembers and their families?

How have you raised awareness of POW/MIAs and the work being performed by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in the search for missing personnel?

How have you supported those families whose servicemembers made the ultimate sacrifice?
What CERT training has your department accomplished this year?

One thing we need to talk about is Bereavement & Grief.

For survivors of active-duty deaths, let them know that support is available to help them through their bereavement and grief journey.

They were part of the military family when they supported their service member in their mission — and they still part of the family. The military honors their connection and recognizes the deep grief that can follow a service member's death. That's why there are resources designed to support them. From immediate needs such as grief and trauma counseling to long-term assistance, survivors can access a wide range of resources.

They remain a valued member of the military community, and they don't have to navigate this journey alone.

And don't forget the Salute to Servicemember Award. You can find more information on the National Website. The deadline for nominations is June 1, 2026. Award recipients will be recognized at the ALA National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

Remember all National Security Reports are due to me, Pam Brenneman, 2209 Valley Brook, Toledo, Ohio 43615 by April 15th! I look forward to reading what you have done for our active military.



The Toadstool Times

Public Relations

Rebecca Long



Wow, how time flies!! It's that time of year again when you share everything your unit has been doing throughout the year.

As we come to a close on the 2025-26 American Legion Auxiliary year, remember your narratives are due by April 15. This is your time to shine. Brag about your events. Share the "how" of your activities in your narrative.

- How did you decide on your event? Planning ideas.
- How was it publicized? News medis?
- How did you make it successful? Include pictures
- How did you follow up?

All submissions for National Awards are due to me by 5 p.m. EST on April 15, 2026.

- Member Award: ALA Brand Ambassador
- Unit Award: ALA Mission Focused Social Media Account
- Unit Award Most Outstanding Unit PR Program

All submissions for Department Awards are due to me by April 15, 2026

- Marie Moore Plaque: Best Press Book in Class I
- Doris Wainwright Plaque: Best Press Book in Class II
- Nancy Sallot Plaque: Best Press Book covering All Communications
- Anne Eshelman Plaque: Best District President Newsletter

Guidelines for Press Books are included in your Plan of Action.

Certificates will also be given to all Juniors submitting a Press Book

There will also be an award given to the unit with the best Unit Newsletter.

Even if you are not submitting a press book for an award, please send any press releases, news clippings, pictures from social media, etc. to be included in President Renee's Press Book to recap the year.

As always if you have any questions, please contact me by email (rebecca.ohala@gmail.com), phone or text (614-314-3746).

Thank you all for a great year and I am looking forward to hearing from everyone by April 15.