

American Legion Auxiliary

www.ALAforVeterans.org

November 2020 \$3.75



ALA goes virtual
**Members adapt to changes
by making the most
of technology**

Angela Walker, a U.S. Navy veteran and performer at the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, recognized the deep passion American Legion Auxiliary volunteers have for supporting our nation's heroes. Your devotion to the mission of serving veterans, military, and their families makes a difference.

Show your love for veterans today with a gift to our Veterans Creative Arts Festival Fund at www.ALAFoundation.org/donate, or mail a check to the ALA Foundation, 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268 and write VCAF in the subject line.

“The main ingredient is **LOVE** — [ALA volunteers] love veterans, and to them, love is a verb. The ALA doesn't just talk the talk. They walk the walk.”



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
FOUNDATION

Ensuring Our Mission of Service Endures

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity that supports the American Legion Auxiliary. All gifts to the Foundation are tax-deductible as allowed by the United States Tax Code and U.S. Internal Revenue Service. © American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters. All rights reserved. 07/2020

Auxiliary

contents



FEATURES

- 36 ALA GIRLS STATE GOES VIRTUAL THIS YEAR**
Keeping the momentum going, several departments explored and delivered a virtual version of their ALA Girls State programs.
- 38 GENERATIONS OF ALA SENTIMENTAL JEWELRY**
Auxiliary-branded jewelry as family heirlooms symbolize generational bonds of selfless service, patriotism, and ALA pride.

IN EVERY ISSUE

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--------------------|
| 4 | NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE | 52 | WISE PEOPLE SAID |
| 6 | BEHIND THE SCENES | 55 | LEGION FAMILY NEWS |
| 7 | FROM OUR READERS | 56 | MISSION MATTERS |
| 8 | JUNIOR MEMBERS | 57 | SOCIAL MEDIA |
| 10 | I AM THE ALA | 58 | THE LAST WORD |
| 13 | IT'S ALL GOOD | | |
| 41 | IMPACT ALA! | | |
| 48 | BUILDING ALA BRAND LOYALTY | | |
| 50 | ALL THINGS ALA GIRLS STATE | | |
| 51 | ALA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW? | | |

ON THE COVER: The American Legion Auxiliary has adapted to COVID-19 changes affecting the way members serve the mission and conduct regular meetings. Virtual events and programs have become a bit of the norm — check them out in action in this issue of *Auxiliary*. **ABOVE:** The 2019 New York City Annual Veterans Day Parade marches up Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. Veterans Day may look a little different this year in terms of activities and events, but in the ALA, we'll still be honoring our heroes in our hearts as always (photo: Steve Edreff/Shutterstock.com).



BASKETS OF KINDNESS: My dad, Darrell Paustian, and I carry bunches of May Day baskets of edible treats for the fire and rescue team, the ambulance service, a nursing home, and an independent living facility — all in my hometown of Gladbrook, Iowa.

Make no mistake about it: 2020 has been a tough year for everyone, mainly because of the COVID-19 pandemic. My heart goes out to anyone impacted directly or indirectly by this virus.

Now for some very encouraging news: American Legion Auxiliary members and nonmember volunteers have remained dedicated to continued fulfillment of our mission of selfless service to veterans, military, and their families.

We have found ways to overcome obstacles stemming from the pandemic. Social distancing, for example, has made it challenging to carry out mission-based outreach, in-person meetings, fundraisers to support our cause, and other endeavors requiring face-to-face interactions. But we've turned obstacles into opportunities to serve.

That sort of “can do” spirit is inspiring — but not surprising. In our 101-year history, the ALA has always

been a community of volunteers serving veterans, military, and their families. Not much has stopped Auxiliary members from doing what we can to help and honor those we serve.

The ALA's special emphasis this administrative year continues to be the health and well-being of our veterans, military, and their families. You can understand why I appreciated the opportunity to participate in a recent RallyPoint event — a live, online question-and-answer session for women veterans, hosted by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. I was on a panel of more than a dozen established individuals

with a wealth of information, expertise, and resources on issues women veterans might face. Topics discussed included health, benefits, appeals, employment efforts, caregiver support, mental health, reproductive health, military sexual trauma, suicide prevention, interment services, survivors' assistance, and veteran-owned small businesses.

“...find other ways to safely do something special for our military heroes.”

I was more than happy to share information about how the ALA, and The American Legion Family, help veterans. What was also useful was learning more about the issues these women veterans face. Gaining additional insight can help us be even more effective in our efforts to aid veterans.

It's my hope that ALA members continue finding ways to show care, compassion, and appreciation to those we serve. I have no doubt that there is at least one ALA member helping or honoring a veteran, a servicemember, or a military family

on any given day. But Veterans Day, Nov. 11, is a special time set aside for showing gratitude to our veterans for the sacrifices they made while protecting and defending America. We owe them that day, and so much more.

It's possible that the pandemic, and safety restrictions or guidelines in place, may mean that some communities will be unable to hold traditional parades, dinners, and other gatherings for veterans. If so, I encourage you to find other ways to safely do something special for our military heroes.

You can hold “drive by” parades with banners, balloons, and signs, so residents at a veterans home can see them. Send thank-you cards to veterans at a home or to veterans you know. I bet they would love homemade cards with messages of appreciation from children in the community. For the veterans in your life, a phone call to say thank you, plus some good conversation, could brighten their day. Be creative and resourceful!

Another great thing to do for our military heroes is to make a contribution — in any dollar amount — to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation for #GivingTuesday on Dec. 1. Encourage others to do so, too. Donations to the ALA Foundation help fund Auxiliary programs that support veterans, servicemembers, and military families. Contributing to the ALA Foundation is another fantastic way to serve our longstanding mission!

Learn how you can make your donation, or read more about the ALA Foundation, at ALAFoundation.org/givingtuesday.

As Auxiliary members look to 2021, let's renew our resolve to continue finding safe ways to serve and honor veterans, military, and their families. We know that life presents everyone with challenges from time to time. But ALA members have a long track record of turning obstacles into successful opportunities to serve.

Nicole Clapp
National President

**Special Offer
FOR VETERANS!**

NORTH AMERICA'S #1 Selling Walk-In Tub

Featuring our *New Exclusive Shower Package*

Now you can finally have all of the soothing benefits of a relaxing warm bath, or enjoy a convenient refreshing shower while seated or standing. Introducing Safe Step Walk-In Tub's exclusive **NEW Shower Package!**

- ✓ First and only walk-in tub available with a customizable shower
- ✓ Fixed rainfall shower head is adjustable for your height and pivots to offer a seated shower option
- ✓ Durable frameless tempered glass enclosure available
- ✓ High-quality tub complete with a comprehensive lifetime warranty on the entire tub
- ✓ Top-of-the-line installation and service, all included at one low, affordable price

Now you can have the best of both worlds—there isn't a better, more affordable walk-in tub!



Call today and receive
exclusive savings of
\$1500 OFF

**PLUS A FREE
SHOWER PACKAGE!**

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Call Toll-Free 1-800-991-5339

**SAFE STEP
WALK-IN TUB**
www.BuySafeStep.com

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub.
Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase.
Offer available while supplies last. No cash value.
Must present offer at time of purchase.

Call Today for Your Free Shower Package

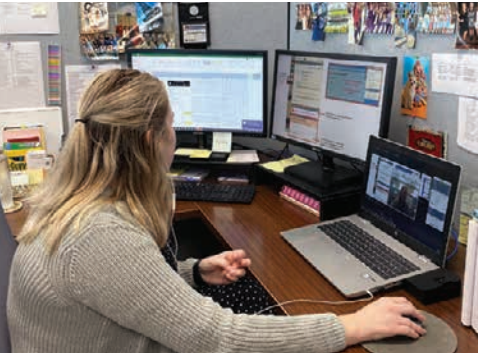
1-800-991-5339

FINANCING
AVAILABLE
WITH APPROVED
CREDIT



BEHIND THE *scenes*

NOTES FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS



ADVANCE NOTICE: Samantha Caudill, events coordinator, participates in a prep meeting with members of the National Executive Committee using virtual meeting software.

WE WERE CREATED FOR TIMES LIKE THESE

This year definitely has been rough: lockdowns enacted; social distancing encouraged; flights canceled; hurricanes and wildfires tearing through. And that doesn't include the impact on health — the people who tested positive for COVID-19 no doubt have had it harder than any of us.

It's always good to know someone's got your back. Think about all of those instances in your lifetime. Your sister stuck up for you when a kid on the school bus called you names or tried to bully you. A jar of pickles was about to be cussed at until your husband stepped in and popped it open. The car tire was low until a neighbor stopped by with an air compressor, buying you enough time to get to the mechanic.

What is the commonality among those things? The answer is simple: Someone is always looking out for you, and it may not always be a relative or familiar face. It's no different with American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters. Our staff, during all those months of

COVID craziness, stood by members, making sure customer service never wavered despite not having a familiar office setup in place inside our homes.

These past several months, the business section of your trusted news outlet more than likely contained stories about companies that couldn't keep up with their everyday practices, and it wasn't always related to the pandemic. Truth is, those businesses didn't adapt to a sudden shift in how they serve their customers.

Not National Headquarters. We were created for times like these. It's always been our duty to make sure members aren't inconvenienced on the business side of things (renewing memberships, updating database information, etc.). When things run smoothly in these areas, it means members are able to fully focus on the American Legion Auxiliary's mission of serving veterans, military, and their families.

Take the virtual National Executive Committee meeting held in August, for example — our Events Team provided detailed materials in advance to make sure members weren't anxious or nervous about logging in and participating. The team even held practice meetings a few days before to work out any kinks, as well as to make sure everyone was connected and cool, calm, and collected.

There's a famous Vidal Sassoon commercial campaign from a few decades back in which the narrator says, "If you don't look good, we don't look good." At National Headquarters, we have our own take on that. If we're not providing you with the utmost customer service during seemingly unbalanced times, it means your commitment in serving the mission is affected. In other words, we've got your back.

American Legion Auxiliary

A Community of Volunteers
Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families
November 2020



Published by
American Legion Auxiliary
National Headquarters

Executive Director
Kelly Circle

Communications and Marketing Director
Michael Butt

Communications Manager
Aaron Meyer

Managing Editor
Stephanie L. Holloway

Webmaster
Travis Perkins

Communications Senior Writer
Landa Bagley

Communications Specialist
Sara Fowler

Communications Specialist
Jennifer Donovan

Communications Coordinator
Alexa Freeman

Contributing Writers
Sydney DeLong, Zac Felty,
Angela Graham, Trish Ward

2020-2021 National Officers

National President Nicole Clapp

National Vice President Kathy Daudistel

National Secretary Linda Boone

National Treasurer Marybeth Revoir

ADVERTISING

James G. Elliott Company Inc.
NEW YORK (212) 588-9200
DETROIT (248) 530-0300
CHICAGO (312) 236-4900
LOS ANGELES (213) 624-0900

ADDRESS CHANGE:

Email name, previous address, new address and membership ID (9-digit number above your name on magazine label) to: alamishelp@ALAforVeterans.org

Contact Us: ALA National Headquarters
3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268
(317) 569-4500 | www.ALAforVeterans.org
email: ALAMagazine@ALAforVeterans.org

American Legion Auxiliary Magazine is published quarterly by the American Legion Auxiliary with a yearly non-refundable allocation of \$3.40 from membership dues. Letters, unsolicited articles and photographs are not guaranteed to be published or returned and may be edited. See www.ALAforVeterans.org/Media/Magazine-Submissions for further details. Opinions expressed in this publication may not necessarily represent policy or positions of the organization. Advertisements do not reflect endorsement by the organization.

Non-member Subscriptions

Send \$15 (checks only) to address above,
Attention: Accounting
Payable to: National Treasurer, ALA

The American Legion Family
The American Legion
(317) 630-1200 www.Legion.org

Sons of The American Legion
(317) 630-1200 www.Legion.org/Sons

American Legion Riders
(317) 630-1200 www.Legion.org/Riders

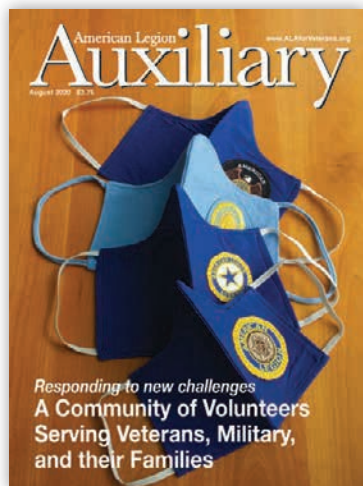


ALA ON THE GO

Auxiliary magazine is fully digital and available for download at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

TOOLS & TIPS IN A CLICK

In addition, you'll find expanded magazine content, valuable unit and department resources, plus downloadable templates, news releases, and other ALA promotional materials available on the ALA website 24/7.



WHERE CAN I GET ONE OF THOSE FACE MASKS?

We received quite a few questions from readers about *The American Legion Family* branded face masks featured on the August cover of *Auxiliary* magazine. Here's how you can show your Family pride during the pandemic:

Crafty types can make their own masks: After you've purchased the fabric, visit American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales to buy Legion Family embroidered emblem patches that can be added to the masks. Online: emblem.legion.org. Phone: 1-888-453-4466.



Buy masks directly from Emblem Sales: American Legion Family masks were added to the Emblem Sales catalog in the summer. The branded masks are 2-ply with a polyester outer layer and soft cotton inner layer, washable for repeated use, and made in the USA. Masks featuring logos of *The American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and American Legion Riders* are available for purchase. Also available: hand sanitizer.

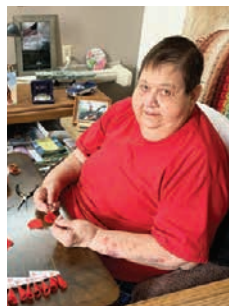
MONTANA MEMBER RENEWS BECAUSE OF STORY IN AUXILIARY MAGAZINE

Our 40-year member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 25 in White Sulphur Springs, Mont., was reading the national magazine this spring and saw an article about people making poppies.

Two years ago, Sandy Gratz told us she did not want to continue her membership because she felt she could not benefit the unit now that she is living at the Mountainview Medical Center Nursing Home. Because the unit did not want to let her give up her membership, they continued it for her.

When Sandy read the poppy article, she phoned the unit secretary/treasurer and asked where she could get a kit to make them. The unit purchased a kit for her, as it would give her a pastime, let her be productive, and help the unit.

This picture shows Sandy with her poppies. She has completed over 700 so far. The unit is very proud of her for her dedication to this project.



— Joanne Cummins, Montana

WHERE'S THE LINK?

I am writing in response to your article about Taylor Curro on page 17 of the August 2020 issue.

Before even finishing the article, I'd determined to help her reach her goal of 2,020 thank-you cards for our active military. I can see how your editors felt inspired by this young member's initiative to include her story in

your magazine. Unfortunately, they weren't inspired enough, because they neglected to include the Survey Monkey web link assigned to her project, where readers across the country could post our thank-you messages for her handwritten transcription.

Please correct this oversight by including the link on your website and in "From Our Readers." Thank you so much for highlighting one of our bold and thoughtful future leaders as she supports our veterans and active military members.

— Audrey LaRoche, New Jersey

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you for supporting the American Legion Auxiliary's longstanding mission of serving veterans, military, and their families. We don't typically print links, addresses, and other items that go to organizations outside of ALA National Headquarters because they often expire or lead to non-affiliated sources. In this case, Taylor's survey link is still available as of presstime. You may access it at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5NP6Z3T>.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ON THE ALA BLOG

We wrote a blog post on the importance of members renewing their annual dues. Here's what our followers told us:

"I renew to honor those in my family who served: grandfather, father, brother, and son. They served the country, while I choose to honor those who have served."

— Janice Boyer

"I renew because I believe we are making a real difference."

— Marge Christianson

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM *you*

Email: ALAMagazine@ALAforVeterans.org or send letters to: ALA National Headquarters 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268

Story and Photo Submissions: Visit www.ALAforVeterans.org/Magazine for more details.

JUNIOR *members*



SCHOLARSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE FOR FORMER JUNIOR MEMBERS

American Legion Auxiliary Junior members are the future of our organization. To reward those who retain their membership into adulthood, the American Legion Auxiliary offers the Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship to current college students. Ten scholarships, in the amount of \$2,500 each, have been awarded to current college students for 2020. *Auxiliary* magazine takes a closer look at a few of the award winners.

Julie Posey, Department of New York



“My ALA membership has been a part of me for my entire life, so that carries great weight for me,” she said. “Because I have and have had so many of my family members serve, my membership and the responsibilities that come with it mean that it is always on my mind and it is something I always want to do more for.”

For Posey, who has been a member for 18 years, continuing her membership from a Junior to a senior member was a no-brainer.

“I believe that my generation is the generation that has the best chance at making a huge impact for

the ALA,” she said. “We have great new technology and rapid ways of communication that we can use to spread as much information about our organization as possible.”

She is using the scholarship at Redford University in Southwest Virginia, where she’s studying music education and international studies with a concentration in percussion.

To Juniors who may be debating continuing their membership past age 18, Posey said do it.

“There is no greater reward than helping those who are risking their lives for us,” she said. “Being an ALA member holds significant weight that not many other people my age can say they have.”

For others who may be interested in applying for this scholarship, Posey recommends being your most vulnerable and open self when filling out the application.

McKensi Spears, Department of New Mexico



Spears has been part of the ALA since she was 13 years old, contributing hundreds of hours and holding various offices.

“Being a Junior member in the American Legion Auxiliary has helped shape, cultivate, and challenge me; therefore, because of the many things I have learned, it encouraged me to continue my membership as a senior member,” she said.

The Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship will help Spears at New Mexico State University, where she is double majoring in psychology and criminal justice with a minor in forensic science. After, she plans to obtain a Master of Science in criminal psychology.

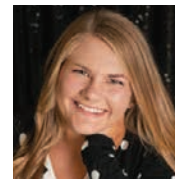
Being a recipient of this scholarship is incredibly meaningful to Spears, she said.

“Without the help of scholarships such as this in addition to maintaining a part-time job, I would not be able to achieve my dreams, lifelong goals, or career,” she said. “I have strived, excelled, pushed myself beyond limits in order to earn help and assistance from my supporters. This scholarship has given me a boost in the right direction and will provide the aid I have desperately worked toward.”

Because of the many benefits ALA membership provides, Spears recommends other Juniors continue their membership, just like she has done.

“The service to others, volunteering, and fun only begins as a Junior member,” she said. “As I am continuing into senior membership, one can truly see, feel, and experience the influence and impact of your service to others.”

Lexus Efta, Department of Minnesota



“When I found out I was one of the Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship recipients, I was and still am very grateful,” Efta said. “This scholarship will be a huge help during this tough time.”

It’s important that other Juniors continue their membership into adulthood as well, not only because

Congratulations to the 2020-2021 ALA honorary national Junior division vice presidents!

Central Division: Mackenzie Townes (Michigan)
Eastern Division: Elizabeth Leonard (Vermont)

Northwestern Division: Emily Suess (Minnesota)
Southern Division: Jasmine Harris (Florida)

Western Division: Samantha Hook (Nevada)

they can apply for this scholarship, but because of the many benefits Auxiliary membership holds.

“Not only is being a member a wonderful opportunity to be a part of something greater, but it has also helped me become who I want to be in many ways,” she said. “My advice for others to continue their membership is that there are many things we can be a part of, but not everyone is able to be a part of the American Legion Auxiliary. I have been able to be who I want and experience different moments with amazing people.”

She is attending Northland Community and Technical College in East Grand Forks, Minn., majoring in liberal arts.

Anisa Cornett, Department of Texas



Cornett’s motivation to continue from a Junior member to a senior member is her mom.

“She has always been very involved in the ALA, and I want to follow in her footsteps,” Cornett said.

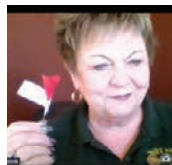
By continuing her membership, it enabled her to become eligible for this scholarship, helping with the rising costs of tuition.

“Being able to call myself a member of the American Legion Auxiliary is a benefit already, so being able to apply for this scholarship and being rewarded has been such a blessing,” she said.

Cornett is attending Texas A&M University and majoring in kinesiology and would like to apply to physical therapy school after graduation.

“Through your time as a Junior member, you do so much community service and leadership projects to give back to veterans,” she said. “At the end of your membership as a Junior, the ALA will help you and give back to you because that is what this organization does. It helps veterans, our nation, AND our youth.”

JUNIOR EARNS PATCHES VIRTUALLY



ALA member Diana Sirovina began helping her granddaughter, Addison

Kollmorgen, with some of her homeschooling work a few times a week when COVID hit. This

took place over Zoom calls with Sirovina living in Wisconsin and Kollmorgen in Washington.

Soon, the calls became more than just about schoolwork, but about the Auxiliary’s Patch Program.

“These kids are the future of our organization, and they need to get involved when they are young so they can be our future leaders,” she said.

JUNIOR CREATES MEMBERSHIP-RELATED VIDEOS



Knowing videos would be a practical way to reach members during a pandemic,

10-year-old Junior member Lauren Ballay in Texas embraced technology.

With a little help from her grandmother, Teresa Simmons Copeland, the videos Ballay created have been about Junior membership and dues reminders.

This is Ballay’s second year on the Junior Membership Committee

Discussions have been about the Americanism, Physical Fitness, and Poppy patches.

For others who aren’t sure how to convert ALA programs from in-person to virtual, Sirovina offers advice.

“Have your information ready, and study it ahead of time,” she said. “Get whatever props you need, and be organized. Schedule time in advance with Mom or Dad so there are no conflicts, and you will have enough time. If you can get parents to help with printouts and props, it makes it easier to tell the program story.”

Completing the program virtually has been really fun for Kollmorgen. Although miles separate them, sharing that bond and learning about the Auxiliary has been invaluable.

“I learned a lot about veterans and the poppy,” she said, “and I want to learn about more Auxiliary things.”

and her first year as chair.

Her videos have been shared on several Facebook pages and groups as well as on personal social media pages of members.

Ballay has received positive feedback about her videos.

“Everyone likes them and says nice things about them,” she said.

Through the videos, Ballay’s goal is to get more Junior dues paid and hopefully encourage more Junior members to join.

For Juniors who are interested in doing something similar, Ballay offers tips of her own.

“It’s easy and fun, but don’t make it too long, and make sure you can see your notes,” she said.



Now Available: ALA Poppy and Halloween Coloring Books

Purchase at emblem.legion.org or by calling (888) 453-4466, or download free at ALAforVeterans.org/Resources



I AM THE ALA

“I am proud to be an ALA member because it gives me a purpose greater than myself.”

MARIA MOSS



Some people spend most of their lives searching for their purpose. Maria Moss found her purpose long ago, and she

continues to dedicate much of her time fulfilling it as a member of the American Legion Auxiliary — a community of volunteers serving veterans, military, and their families.

“I am proud to be an ALA member because it gives me a purpose greater than myself. Through its programs, the Auxiliary gives me the opportunity to educate myself about how to help veterans, the troops, their families, and my community,” said Moss, a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) ALA member of Unit 149 in Paradise, an unincorporated community just south of Las Vegas, Nev.

“As a military wife who moved around and lived in many different states and countries, surrounded by many other military families, I saw how these families could use some help from the [civilian] world. They deserve our support,” she added.

Moss feels equally strong about offering comfort and care to veterans. She serves as lead volunteer at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ Southern Nevada Healthcare System, and is the VA Voluntary Services (VAVS) Deputy of Southern Nevada. She has completed nearly 10,250 volunteer hours in the VAVS program.

Along with her husband, Victor, a PUFL member of American Legion Post 149 in Paradise, Moss belongs to that post’s American Legion Riders.

What are your favorite ALA events or outreach activities? Why?

I really like volunteering at food drives throughout the year at the local U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs clinic, and at the Fisher House — comfort homes where military and veterans’ families can stay while their loved ones are hospitalized. Those volunteering opportunities give me more contact with the veterans and families who need attention and support. I also enjoy being involved with the Blue Star moms, with active-duty military families, and with stand downs carried out with other veteran organizations in the Las Vegas area. Stand downs typically include food, shelter, and clothing offerings, health screenings, benefits counseling, job counseling, and referral services for veterans. I also like meeting the residents at the State Veterans Home. And, I enjoy when Unit 149 works with Post 149 for the post home’s annual “Rock the Troops” poker run.

What have you gotten out of being part of The American Legion Family?

I have been able to meet other people, share ideas, and accomplish our goals as a Legion Family.

Do you feel welcome among your fellow ALA members in your unit? Why or why not?

Yes — because we love each

other, respect one another, and work together.

What is the best advice you’ve been given, and from whom?

The best advice I’ve ever received was from the late Kris Nelson, ALA Past National President (2011–2012). During her visit to the Nevada State Veterans Home in Boulder City, PNP Nelson said: “If you believe in what you are doing, they will follow you.” That advice means a lot. I educate myself on how to be a better leader, and I believe in the ALA’s mission of supporting veterans, military, and their families. That’s also my mission — and my purpose.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT:
Unit 149 in Paradise
(near Las Vegas, Nev.)

ELIGIBILITY THROUGH:
PUFL Legionnaire Victor “Doc” Moss,
husband (U.S. Air Force veteran)

YEARS IN THE ALA: 16

ALA ACTIVITIES:
Nevada VAVS Deputy 2007–Present
First Vice President, Department of Nevada 2010–2011
Second Vice President, Department of Nevada 2009–2010
Sergeant-at-Arms, Department of Nevada, 2006–2007
First Vice President, District 2, Department of Nevada 2006–2007
President, District 2, Department of Nevada 2007–2009
First Vice President, Unit 14, Las Vegas 2013–2015
President, Unit 149, 2010–2011; 2019–2020; 2020–2021
Sergeant-at-Arms, Unit 149, 2018–2019
President, Unit 8, Las Vegas, 2006–2007
Historian, Unit 8, Las Vegas, 2005–2006
Chaplain, Unit 8, Las Vegas, 2004–2005



SHARE YOUR MEMBERSHIP STORY!

Tell us about yourself and how you support the American Legion Auxiliary as a unit member who also loves the ALA’s mission of serving veterans, the military, and their families. Contact us at ALAMagazine@ALAforVeterans.org or (317) 569-4500.

ROSS + SIMONS

fabulous jewelry & great prices for more than 65 years



**While some see a
fine sterling necklace...**

We see a delightful mix of exquisite craftsmanship and extraordinary value. You'll see an extra dash of elegance. That one perfect piece that turns a little black dress into a special evening out and takes a favorite crewneck from casual to stunning.

\$99

Plus Free Shipping

Sterling Byzantine Necklace

18" length. ¼" wide. Lobster clasp.

Other lengths also available: 16" \$89; 20" \$109

Ross-Simons Item #849437

To receive this special offer, use offer code: **THEBEST406**

1.800.556.7376 or visit ross-simons.com/thebest



Membership retention by using your voice

When was the last time you reached a fellow member by phone?



When we call members who regularly renew their dues, as well as those who lapsed in their membership, it shows we care. A simple thank-you or “How are you doing?” goes a long way. A quick phone check-in with unit members makes them feel

they are a dynamic part of our organization.

Rally around our veterans, community, and members. Take the time to personally reach out to those who have dedicated their time to the Auxiliary.

Learn how you can connect even further:
Visit www.ALAforVeterans.org

“We do not remember days. We remember moments.”

— Cesare Pavese, Italian poet



When did veterans become part of the American Legion Auxiliary’s mission? Our organization was founded in 1919, but the answer is well before that. We were alongside World War I veterans when they grew frustratingly tired of not receiving the care and benefits they deserved from the U.S. federal government. From WWI to today, Auxiliary members are a major force supporting veterans, military, and their families. This Veterans Day, we remember and honor those who defended our freedom and the sacrifices they made.

Above: Legionnaires at the 2017 New York City Veterans Day Parade (photo: Amy C. Elliott).



ALA ACADEMY LIVE

Looking to Learn More about Delivering the ALA Mission?

Unable to travel for training due to the pandemic? Our new, live virtual training allows you to participate from the comfort of your home. Topics include:

- How to identify the veteran needs in your community
- Engaging volunteers in mission delivery in your area
- Where to discover the most effective tools

Start today by going to www.ALAforVeterans.org/ala-academy



IT'S ALL *good* GOOD IDEAS FROM ALA MEMBERS

What are some positives that came from the COVID-19 lockdowns?



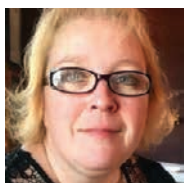
“The use of technology for meetings. We were able to have a 90-year-old member who has not been able to attend in years. The joy and the excitement in her voice was something I will not forget. We are going to continue conference calls in the future.”

— Doreen Gallagher, New Jersey



“Knowing we can still help veterans from afar. The small things we do make a great impact.”

— Deborah Volkens Williamson, Michigan



“I’ve learned to appreciate everything so much more.”

— Petra Smith Anderson, Wisconsin



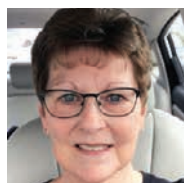
“It gave us the opportunity to think outside the box in order to continue supporting our beloved veterans and communities. Old-school letter writing, as well as FaceTime, has been fun!”

— Paulette Caron, Maryland



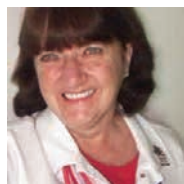
“Employers finding work from home is a viable option.”

— Christina Wray, Washington



“Social media has provided us with the tools to connect and meet so many ALA friends from all over the United States. We’ve been able to offer other units a few suggestions, and we have also been able to learn from others.”

— Sharon Gray Knauff, Ohio



“Appreciation for all the ‘normal’ things that were taken for granted that are now a privilege, but no longer a necessity.”

— Wanda Rookey Ayers, New York

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @ALAforVeterans. You could be featured in an upcoming issue of *Auxiliary*.



Women Embrace Breakthrough Pill

A top medical doctor discovered a natural formula that targets your thyroid to combat lack of energy, mood concerns, and many other signs of thyroid imbalance needlessly affecting millions. Even men find it works after age 40.

By S.A. Nickerson, Health Correspondent

Patient after patient had similar complaints — lack of energy, mood swings, lack of romantic interest, and even more weight gain!

That's when Dr. David Brownstein discovered there was a common cause — a **problem with his patients' thyroid!**

In fact, 80% of Americans suffer from sub-optimal thyroid function. **And women over 45 are particularly vulnerable.**

"An incredible number of women across the country visit their doctor each year complaining of feeling tired, grumpy, or not quite right. Far too many of them are told this is normal for their age. Or even worse, that it's all in their head," says Dr. Brownstein.

Users Call ACTALIN® a 'Godsend'

"It is wonderful. For the first time in many years, I have my numbers right on my thyroid test. God bless you Dr. Brownstein."

Lois W. — Goldthwaite, TX

"I had several symptoms of low thyroid (low energy, cold hands and feet, hair loss from eye brows and top of forehead, etc.). I tried taking ACTALIN a few months ago and experienced an improvement in energy and the temperature of my hands and feet."

David B. — Calgary, AB

"So far I have a "good feeling" about ACTALIN for the thyroid.....I believe now that my fingernails are stronger now."

Mark A. — Lake Worth, FL

"The product ACTALIN worked wonderfully"

Lisa B. — Palm Harbor, FL

"My hair has stopped falling out and I am not so cold all the time any more. My energy has also improved."

Janice M. — Romulus, MI

"My hair was coming out by the handfuls. Since ACTALIN my hair has grown and my weight has stabilized."

Bobbie S. — Rockingham NC

"Don't buy into this big lie," he warns, "because nothing could be further from the truth."

Dr. Brownstein is no ordinary doctor. **He's both a medical doctor and a renowned natural physician** serving as medical director of the respected Center for Holistic Medicine.

Before writing a prescription for a powerful drug with potentially harmful side effects, he always first seeks to find a natural remedy.

Thyroid Test Not Always Accurate

Dr. Brownstein cautions: *Very few women realize their thyroid isn't functioning adequately.*

This means their **health concerns are often ignored** or not taken seriously. And a common lab test for thyroid function may be misleading. So unfortunately, many sufferers have been told their thyroid is just fine when it's actually operating at a sub-par level.

Jumpstart Your Thyroid, Get Your Energy Back

Your tiny thyroid gland drives the metabolic rate of every cell in your body, 24 hours a day. It particularly impacts your energy level, your weight, and your mood.

From the beating of your heart to the function of your sex organs, your thyroid exerts a powerful hormonal influence on numerous critical tasks throughout your body.

Dr. Brownstein created a natural formula called **ACTALIN®** — a proprietary blend of **17 nutrients beneficial to thyroid health**, including iodine.

And contrary to what you hear, the iodine in table salt is simply not enough for full thyroid health.

With daily use, **ACTALIN** provides the body with a non-drug way to rev up a sluggish thyroid and regain lost energy.

In fact, **ACTALIN** has become so popular, over 600,000 bottles have already been sold.

Adrenal Support and Stress

While a high-stress lifestyle is a key factor impacting thyroid health, the adrenal glands also suffer. So the advanced **ACTALIN** formula offers support for your overtaxed adrenal glands with a unique blend that includes adrenal glandular powder. This provides more overall support for your busy, stressful life.

RISK-FREE 30-Day Trial of ACTALIN®



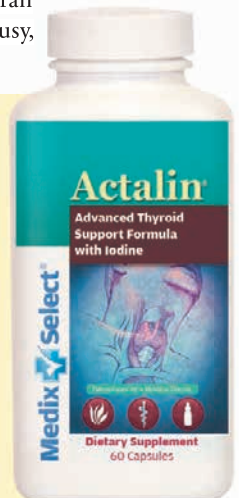
DR. BROWNSTEIN

We at Medix Select, one of the nation's premier nutraceutical companies, are sure you'll love **ACTALIN**, too. That's why we're offering a risk-free 30-day trial supply at **NO COST**. That's a **\$39.95 value!** Just cover a small shipping fee of \$4.95, that's all.

You'll also receive Dr. Brownstein's detailed special report "**A Doctor's Guide to a Healthy Thyroid**" as a **FREE** bonus gift (a \$20 value).

Toll Free: (877) 445-1453

Online: Actalin.com/USA



*Trial offer requires enrollment in SmartShip program. See Website for details. These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease. Testimonials are from actual customers who have used our products. Testimonials reflect their experience but may not be representative of all those who will use our product.



ALA's MISSION: Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Charles Hammond hugs his daughter after a five-month deployment (photo: Seaman Logan C. Kellums/Navy).

RENEWING YOUR AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP MEANS NO ONE IS FORGOTTEN

The American Legion Auxiliary turns 101 on Nov. 10. You could say we've been through a lot in our century of service. In fact, when we were first being established as an organization, the world was slowly overcoming another major health event — the 1918 influenza pandemic.

Back then, despite the colossal rough patches, the Auxiliary was able to grow membership numbers — and more importantly — become a strong, loving support system for veterans, military, and their families.

Because of COVID-19, things have changed in how members serve our mission today. American Legion post homes are closed, people are directed to socially distance themselves from others, and we're affected by the cancellation of events that could've given us recruitment facetime with the public. But those things, as challenging as they may be, don't have to thwart our mission outreach efforts.

ALA National Headquarters has

received numerous heartwarming stories about our members and their mission outreach activities over the past several months: members made face coverings from home; hosted drive-by poppy events; stocked food pantries; helped medical centers when supplies were needed;

Tell us: Why did you renew your annual dues?

"I enjoy seeing the impact our Auxiliary unit has on our veterans, their families, and community. We support our Legion Family and our community, and it feels nice to be a part of something bigger than myself." — Shannon Barie

"To continue to honor veterans and to work to make this organization actually relevant to my generation and Gen Z, and to actually support racial equality — to make this organization better and stronger." — Angela Gerrits

"During these trying times, we should double down to make sure

attended blood drives; held "parades" to residents in nursing homes to uplift spirits; provided lunches; made phone calls to fellow members; provided snacks to nursing homes for veterans and employees; and made donations of pampering items to nurses.

What does all of that mean?

It means your membership makes a difference! We may not be able to do a lot of our usual activities in person, but our dues help keep our organization going strong, remain a remarkable force, and continue to be a familiar face to those we serve.

It means our veterans at home and at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facilities aren't forgotten. It means our ALA Girls State and Girls Nation programs can continue to inspire. It means our military children and youth will always have our full support.

We shouldn't back down because of COVID-19. We should instead become more focused on our veterans, military, and their families. They need us. Our organization needs us.

our veterans and their families are safe and cared for. Their sacrifices need to be acknowledged and honored regardless of age or years of service." — Sandi Rockwell Fisher

"I renew to continue my commitment to the mission and purposes of the American Legion Auxiliary. This year will mark my 50th as a member, and in celebration, I will enroll to become a Paid Up For Life member on my birthday." — Evelyn Navarre

"To uphold a 101-year-old legacy of honoring the service of our veterans." — Holly Heatly

Renew your American Legion Auxiliary membership today:

- Visit www.ALForVeterans.org to renew online with your member ID on your card. You must log in to pay your dues. Click "Renew" and log in with your username and password. If you do not have a username or password, simply click "Create Account" to get started.
- Pay by phone to ALA National Headquarters at (317) 569-4570, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST. Visa/MasterCard or Visa/MasterCard Debit are accepted when renewing online or by phone.

inogen

Oxygen. Anytime. Anywhere.®

"Having the Inogen One G5 has made working, dining with friends, and generally living my life just like it was before becoming ill."

CALL NOW
for your
FREE Guide!



Inogen One® G5



Imagine getting back to the life you had before. Let us help you reclaim your freedom.

- Runs up to 13 hours on a double-battery*
- Converts the air around you into medical grade oxygen
- Clinically validated for use 24/7
- Incorporates Inogen's Intelligent Delivery Technology®

CALL NOW

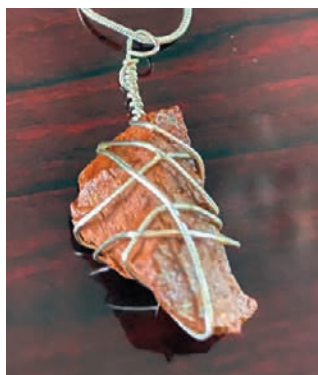
to speak to one of our Inogen Oxygen Specialists and get this free guide to learn about our respiratory care solutions.

1-888-309-2349

or visit [GetInogen.com/savings](https://www.getinogen.com/savings)



*Applicable for the Inogen One G5 only
MKT-P0209 © 2020 Inogen, Inc. All rights reserved.



UNIQUE JEWELRY: Georgia Auxiliary Unit 207 makes jewelry with bricks from a fire that destroyed their Legion post.

A LITTLE PIECE OF HOME

As a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, you are a part of The American Legion Family, and every family needs a home. All American Legion Family members have a Legion post or unit where they can call home. Unfortunately for members of American Legion Post 207 in Tucker, Ga., a fire burned their home to the ground in March 2019.

Legion Post 207 was built in the early 1940s and had held a special place in the hearts of veterans and the military community of Tucker for decades. Sadly, a year has passed since the devastation, and there is still no date to rebuilding the post home. It was once a building full of memories and memorabilia. Now it's a pile of fallen, fire-seared bricks.

"We lost everything. It burnt all of our trophies, flags, photo albums — everything," said ALA Unit 207 member Rebecca Blair Anderson. "I thought that there has to be something our members could carry around with us to remind us of our home. So, I came up with the idea of making jewelry from the bricks."

Anderson introduced the idea to her fellow Auxiliary members as a new, unique, and meaningful way to help raise money for their Legion Family. A few of the artistic and creative members immediately began creating and crafting the irreplaceable handmade jewelry. The rest of the unit pitched in when needed, and later purchased the

necklaces and earrings.

"This brick jewelry is a piece of history, something unique, and will always be in style — a reminder of the memories we have shared and the friendships we have made and of The American Legion Post 207 that brought us all together," emphasized Anderson.

After a lot of heart and hard work being put into this project, Auxiliary Unit 207 unveiled their homemade jewelry on Memorial Day 2020. The brick necklaces and earrings were put on display for the public to purchase that holiday weekend, and the unit raised nearly \$300. They offered different color necklace chains for men and women that were sold for \$15 each, and the earrings were sold for \$10 — a great price to pay for as much history and love that's in each piece.

"Everyone loves them! And, it's been a great advertisement for the Legion Family," said Anderson. "We are doing a lot of little projects, but this is the 'breadwinner' that has been very successful."

Decades of great memories were made in the Post 207 home, and now members can bring a little part of that happiness along with them wherever they go. ALA Unit 207 takes pride in knowing that their meaningful project has helped veterans and the military community mourn the loss of their Legion home while also honoring it.

HELPING STUDENTS IN NEED OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES

During a "normal" year, Auxiliary members nationwide would visit local schools to help collect supplies and items for those in need, while educating youth about our organization. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ALA members had to think outside of the box to fulfill their mission, and that's just what members of American Legion Auxiliary District 18 in California accomplished.

"The needs are still there; the times have just changed. We thought since kids aren't going to be in school to donate materials, we could collect boxes and supplies ourselves," said District 18 President Maureen O'Brien-Sacco. "And then bring it to [local foster home] Serenity House and they can give it to the children in foster care so that we are still getting things out there to kids who really need it."

District 18 originally planned on completing 100 boxes of supplies for those in need, but after the effort of district Children & Youth Chair Christine Marshall-Evans, members



UNDERSTANDING: Unit 172 members prepare to sleep in a "box city" outside their post home to support homeless veterans.

INDIANA UNIT RAISES AWARENESS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

Upon returning home from deployments, our nation's veterans face many challenges that can lead to homelessness. Fortunately, there are organizations like the American Legion Auxiliary that consist of devoted members who focus on helping and improving the lives of all veterans.

There isn't a considerably large number of homeless veterans in the small town of Jasonville, Ind., but raising awareness and providing funds to help homeless veterans is significantly

were able to receive more donations than they could have imagined.

"I call her my propane tank because she comes up with ideas and throws them out there and then has so many people who want to participate and want to be involved," said O'Brien-Sacco.

After news spread of what ALA District 18 was doing, people from the community began sending and dropping off donations to help contribute to the cause. Within a two-week period, members were able to secure 300 boxes worth of supplies donated. Some of the items donated were American flags, Prisoner Of War flags, notebooks, pencil boxes, highlighters, erasers, and pens, etc.

"It was unbelievable how many items we were able to collect, and that people donated thinking about the community's needs. It was a good feeling to be able to do all that and see the community come together for something so meaningful," said O'Brien-Sacco.

Trying to make a difference in the community, Auxiliary members

in California District 18 "adopted" their local foster care home, Serenity House, and have helped them with a lot of projects and fundraisers throughout the years. During these unprecedented times, O'Brien-Sacco knew there was going to be an even larger need for supplies within the home.

"During COVID-19, the courts are closed, domestic violence is higher, and families are together for long spans of time causing stress, so there have been a lot more issues and the kids have been staying in foster care longer than they normally would have," said O'Brien-Sacco.

District 18 and Evans originally planned to give everything to Serenity House, but after the abundance of supplies donated from their community, the district chose to share the 300 boxes of supplies with the Fort Irwin Army base school, and other local veteran families.

"As we collected more items, we saw that there was more of a need



TEAMWORK: California ALA Unit 13 member Maureen O'Brien-Sacco (left) and Unit 755 members Christine Marshall-Evans and Kim Clemens help their District 18 collect supplies for community members in need.

for them. We thought, 'Who else could we reach out to?'" said O'Brien-Sacco. "We put 100 boxes together for Serenity house, 150 boxes together for Fort Irwin, and we are keeping 50 boxes local in case someone reaches out in need."

Based on the amount of support and donations California District 18 received during the event, they plan to organize a toy drive during the holiday season.



important to ALA Unit 172 President LuAnn McDonald.

"We don't know them by name, we don't know exactly where they are, but we do know they are out there and need our help," said McDonald, who also serves as Indiana's 7th District president.

McDonald and other Unit 172 members arranged an overnight fundraiser called "box city" outside of their post home. They planned to sleep on cardboard boxes throughout the night as a way to help educate their community of the hardships and suffering that

homeless veterans endure.

"They don't know what nightfall will bring their way or what morning will bring for them. And, many probably just pray that they will see the morning light," said McDonald. "Certainly makes one think of their many, many blessings."

After a few months of planning and marketing the event — and with the full support of Post 172 — McDonald and other unit members were able to get boxes and a shopping cart donated for the fundraiser. The Legion Family spent an afternoon decorating the boxes and filling the shopping cart with items that would illustrate what little these homeless veterans may have.

"Many homeless don't have as much as a piece of cardboard, or a scruffy piece of blanket to cover up with as they lie down on the sidewalk, or under an overpass, to try to get some rest," added McDonald.

Their marketing effort paid off when a nearby media outlet contacted Unit 172 to do an advance story about the fundraiser — helping publicize the event even more. On the day of, the news channel came back to interview McDonald and run a segment on the event.

The community showed up to support Unit 172, and area residents even drove by to donate money. The Auxiliary's passion and effort shown throughout this project inspired the whole town of Jasonville, including a few eligible ALA members.

"Our community really supported us," said McDonald. "A couple people came in after and asked how they could get involved with what we were doing and joined."

When it was over, Auxiliary Unit 172 raised close to \$2,500 from the box city project that they will donate to an organization which focuses on helping homeless veterans.

Good works to share? Visit www.ALAforVeterans.org for details.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU!

Help the ALA by serving on one of these new national committees

As a result of recommendations from both the national Strategic Planning and Constitution & Bylaws committees, National President Nicole Clapp appointed two special committees at the virtual National Executive Committee meeting in August.

The first committee appointed — Inclusion & Diversity Special Committee.

“There are important discussions and impactful dialogue regarding inclusion and diversity that are happening around the world, and we need to be a part of this dialogue — to demonstrate that our organization is keeping up with the times,” said National Headquarters’ Executive Director Kelly Circle. “We’re looking for people with an appreciation for different cultures and opinions who like to learn about differing community social norms.”

Strategic Planning Committee

Chairman Linda Boone described the goals for the group: examine current practices and identify opportunities for improvement; engage members in conversations about inclusion and diversity; target areas for membership diversification; develop goals and strategies to achieve these goals; create a transparent leadership selection process; identify what success looks like; and get ALA members on board.

The second committee appointed by Clapp — National Code of Ethical Conduct Review Committee.

“This committee will recommend changes to the Code of Ethical Conduct that may include clarifications, as well as substantive changes,” said Trish Ward, national Constitution & Bylaws Committee chairman.

This group will review the existing Code of Ethical Conduct, develop procedures for enforcing the code, and recommend any necessary changes.

Both committees are seeking American Legion Auxiliary members who can expect to serve until at least the 2021 National Convention, who like working as part of a team, and have good listening skills and respect for differing opinions.

For the National Code of Ethical Conduct Review Committee, detail-oriented people with knowledge of grammar and sentence structure are being sought. If you like word problems, debating the meaning of a word, and appreciate how one word can change the meaning of a sentence, this is the committee for you! If you have experience in law or parliamentary procedure, that’s even better!

These new committees may meet as often as weekly via videoconferencing, so technology skills and reliable internet are musts.

Never served on an ALA national committee? Now is the time! Log in to the MyAuxiliary member portal at www.ALAforVeterans.org to apply by Dec. 31 and help make a tremendous impact on the future of our organization.

Inclusion & Diversity Special Committee

Want to create a fun and welcoming environment for all?

You’ll help:

- Figure out where we are
- Identify where we want to be
- Involve members in discussions on inclusion and diversity
- Develop inclusion and diversity goals and strategies
- Expand leadership opportunities for all
- Identify what success looks like
- Get our members on board!

National Code of Ethical Conduct Review Committee

We’re looking for you!

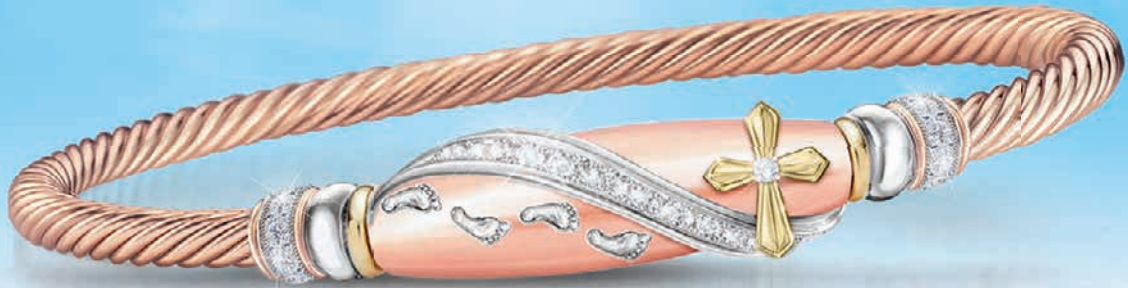
This new committee will:

- Review the existing Code of Ethical Conduct
- Develop procedures for addressing violations
- Recommend changes to ALA Constitution & Bylaws
- Meet weekly via videoconference
- NOT be addressing unit/department-level conduct

Log in to the MyAuxiliary member portal at www.ALAforVeterans.org to apply by Dec. 31.

Footprints in the Sand

Copper Wellness Bracelet



Sparkling Crystal and
Sterling Silver Plated Accents

Hand-crafted Design
Plated in Copper, 18K Yellow
and Rose Gold

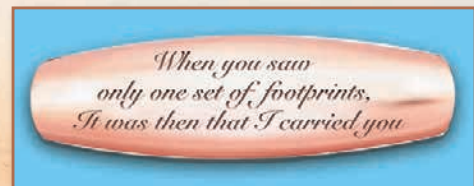
Beautifully Engraved Message

A Sparkling Symbol of God's Infinite Love

An expression of faith to treasure, this inspirational bracelet will bring beauty and meaning to each day with its uplifting message and healing potential. Plus, it makes a memorable gift!

Our exclusive twisted cable-style bracelet is hand-crafted and plated with copper, which has been thought to possess healing benefits since ancient times. Along with the potential to improve circulation, relieve fatigue, and soothe arthritis pain, the bracelet features a winding path of footprints inspired by the "Footprints in the Sand" poem. The tiny footprints follow a pavé wave of sparkling crystals over the beautiful centerpiece to a cross with a crystal center. Sterling silver and 18K yellow and rose gold plated accents bring contrast and richness to the bracelet

Order online at bradfordexchange.com/31298



Engraved with an excerpt from
the inspirational poem on the reverse
side of the centerpiece

with pavé crystal rondelles adorning both sides of the centerpiece. The center segment of the bracelet conceals a hinged closure, making it easy to put on and take off. The reverse side of the centerpiece is finely engraved with the quote "When you saw only one set of footprints, It was then that I carried you," adding to the bracelet's uplifting design. Sized to fit most wrists.

A Remarkable Value...Available for a Limited Time

This inspirational bracelet is a remarkable value at just \$99.99*, and you can pay for it in 3 installments of \$33.33. To reserve yours, backed by our 120-day guarantee, send no money now; just mail in the Priority Reservation today. This is a limited-time offer... so don't delay!

©2020 The Bradford Exchange

01-31298-001-BI

PRIORITY RESERVATION

SEND NO MONEY NOW



9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the "Footprints in the Sand" Copper Wellness Bracelet for me as described in this announcement.

Please Respond Promptly

Signature _____

Mrs. Mr. Ms. _____
Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

*Plus \$9.98 shipping and service. Please allow 4-6 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

01-31298-001-E24501



TELLING STORIES: The American Legion's *Tango Alpha Lima* podcast hosts have helped quadruple the number of monthly downloads since it launched in April 2020.

AMERICAN LEGION 'TANGO ALPHA LIMA' PODCAST LAUNCHED

As we venture into the next century of American Legion Family service and settle into this "new normal," technology and media platforms have become easier to operate and are a more convenient way to stay connected. The American Legion podcast, *Tango Alpha Lima*, was launched as a new way to interact with members and reach a wider audience. With just a click of a button, you can listen to three post-9/11 veterans discuss current events, news, and stories related to the military community.

our digital products, all of which our members love, but the podcast gives us a different way to tell stories and offer different perspectives on what is happening today that is of interest to veterans, servicemembers, and military families," said Henry Howard, deputy director of the Media & Communications Division at The American Legion National Headquarters.

Longtime American Legion staff member Mark Seavey joined two other Legionnaires, Jeff Daly of Hollywood Post 43, and Ashley

Gorbulja-Maldonado of Post 180 in Vienna, Va., on April 1, 2020, to launch the first *Tango Alpha Lima* episode.

All three veterans have media/communications experience, are familiar with podcasts, and are passionate about helping the military community. They each have their own unique personality that provides their listeners with authentic, open, and diverse discussions throughout every podcast.

"We did about three or four trial runs before we actually launched, and the camaraderie among the three was just amazing from the very first taping," said Howard. "That's not something you can teach; it just has to happen."

The hosts began airing two episodes monthly. When their downloads grew, the team increased the episode frequency from twice a month to weekly, alternating between a roundtable discussion among cohosts one week, and the following week they have a different special guest join them.

"In the month of July, the number of our downloads quadrupled since that first month of April. We are very excited about that, and we like that it is a different way to do storytelling," said Howard.

Seavey, Daly, and Gorbulja-Maldonado keep the dialogue relevant to today's younger veterans, and young members of the military, as a way to connect with them. The Legion's Media & Communications Commission hopes this new media outlet will help connect the organization to younger veterans.

"This is a way to introduce them to who we are. This gives them a new perspective of the new American Legion — that there are a lot of younger members who are doing a lot of great things," added Howard.

Tango Alpha Lima episodes are released every Wednesday on tangoalphalima.fireside.fm/episodes. Each episode also has a video option available on the Legion's YouTube channel that allows you to visually see the hosts interact with each other. For more information about *Tango Alpha Lima*, visit www.legion.org/tangoalphalima.

AUXILIARY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Words associated with birthdays (ALA turns 101 on Nov. 10).

ACROSS

- 4. sweet mixture of flour
- 7. never old
- 9. sugar with butter
- 10. wax with wick
- 11. showing contentment
- 13. friendly request
- 14. showing experience

DOWN

- 1. paper greeting
- 2. cheerful and celebratory
- 3. happening later
- 5. planned occasion
- 6. filled with helium
- 8. shining brightly
- 12. gifts

Answers can be found on page 57.

IT'S ALL good

GOOD MEMBERSHIP: RECRUITING



ALA WELCOMES MALE SPOUSES AMONG MEMBERSHIP

It's been over a year since the American Legion Auxiliary extended its membership to include male spouses of female veterans. This new eligibility change creates new opportunities throughout all aspects of the organization. It expands the ALA's membership recruitment pool, adds more diversity within the organization, increases available resources, and opens more possibilities to better serve our nation's veterans, military, and their families.

At the American Legion Auxiliary's 2019 National Convention, ALA delegates voted to adjust the Constitution & Bylaws to follow the change from The American Legion regarding ALA's membership eligibility. During the same convention, the Legion voted to replace the word "wife" with "spouse" in their Constitution & Bylaws section related to the American Legion Auxiliary's membership eligibility criteria, thus opening our membership to eligible male spouses. At the end of that historic week, we welcomed our first two male ALA members. Since then, over 700 male spouses, from all over the country, have joined the American Legion Auxiliary.

"Joining the ALA is a great way to support your significant other and all veterans. There's a lot of value to be a member of the organization," said AJ Detzler-Cox, ALA member of Missouri Unit 404.

Detzler-Cox joined the Auxiliary

to support his wife, Shanna, a dual member of Missouri Post 404, and to help make a difference in the lives of veterans and the military community. Like many other male ALA members, AJ is not a dual member. There is a common misconception that male Auxiliary members have to be Legionnaires — this is not true. In order for a male spouse to join the ALA, their veteran spouse must be a member of The American Legion, but they do not have to be. The ALA's membership change extends to male spouses of living or deceased veterans, as long as their military service meets a Legionnaire's eligibility requirements.

"The Legion Family does a lot of great work, and the face of the Family has changed over the last few years. It seems to be much more inclusive," said Detzler-Cox.

For the past 100 years, the American Legion Auxiliary has been considered a "women's" organization dedicated to supporting veterans, the military, and their families. During that time, female spouses have had the ALA to lean on while their significant other is deployed, but what about male spouses of our female veterans? With this eligibility change, male Auxiliary members will receive the same support while their loved ones are deployed — and whenever they need a friend to lean on.

"My unit has been exceedingly welcoming of me," added Detzler-Cox. "They were quite excited when I joined because they've been trying to push this eligibility change for the last few years."

Thanks to the majority vote at last year's National Convention, eligible male spouses can join the Auxiliary online or in person at their desired local unit. For more details regarding eligibility requirements, membership information, and all things ALA, visit www.ALAforVeterans.org.

NEED A QUICK VISUAL ON ALA MEMBERSHIP TO ACCOMPANY YOUR RECRUITING EFFORTS?

Use this graphic explaining membership eligibility in simple terms. Want a digital copy to share on social media, distribute at events, include in your newsletters, or place an ad in local newspapers and publications? Email us at PR@ALAforVeterans.org.

RELATIONSHIP TO VETERAN:

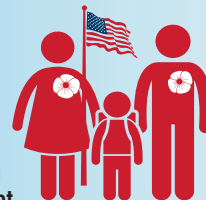


- ★ MOTHER
- ★ DAUGHTER
- ★ SISTER
- ★ GRANDMOTHER
- ★ GRANDDAUGHTER
- ★ SELF — FEMALE VETERANS WHO HAVE SERVED
- ★ MALE or FEMALE SPOUSE

TWO PATHS FOR ALA ELIGIBILITY:

PATH ONE:

The potential member is related to a living veteran by one of the relationships stated above and the veteran "is living AND a current member of The American Legion.



If the potential member is a female veteran, she only needs to have served during the eligible time periods to be eligible for ALA membership.

PATH TWO:

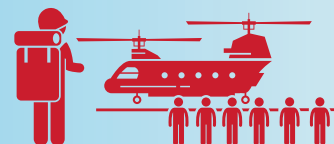
The potential member is related to a deceased veteran who served during the eligible time periods and was honorably discharged.



The deceased veteran did not have to be a member of The American Legion in order for the potential member to join the ALA.

ELIGIBILITY PERIODS:

April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941



For more information, please visit www.ALAforVeterans.org



ALA ACADEMY LIVE

Are you a caregiver or know someone who is?

Learn about November's National Caregiver Month, including resources available from both the VA and private organizations:

- How to recognize a caregiver – you may be one yourself!
- Improve access to care
- Assisting with long-term care
- How to serve our mission in the caregiver arena
- Improve patient satisfaction and much more

Start today by going to www.ALAForVeterans.org/ala-academy



IT'S ALL good

GOOD LEARNING

MEMBERS: LEARN VALUABLE SKILLS FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME

ALA Academy goes live with new virtual courses

American Legion Auxiliary member benefits continue to grow with several new learning opportunities: ALA Academy has expanded to include virtual training sessions! These sessions are listed under ALA Academy Live.

The webinar ALA Mission Delivery – Basic Training kicked off ALA Academy Live in the fall. The course material was based on ALA's in-person Mission Training events. Participants learned how to discover the mission needs in their own community and think differently about how we attract others to join us in this service. The three sessions offered filled up quickly. Because of this course's popularity, more sessions will be offered in the future.

Also launched was ALA Mission Delivery – Veteran Service. This webinar focused on the needs of veterans in local communities. It provided ideas and resources to tailor programs to meet the unique needs of veterans in your community and how to get involved with VA facilities.

More ALA Academy Live courses are in the works, so watch ALA media for information as it becomes available.

ALA Academy courses can be done anywhere, anytime

In addition to the webinars, ALA members can take advantage of the ALA Academy on their own schedule, at their own pace. Every

ALA member, no matter their level in the organization, is encouraged to take advantage of this member benefit.

"I explain this is for all members, not just officers," said Marge Blankenship of Alaska. "It can be taken any time of day. You can take a course at 1 a.m. in your jammies."

Most of these courses take under an hour to complete. The ALA 101 course takes only 35-40 minutes and provides general information about the ALA and our mission. It's great for new members, but it's also a good refresher for all members.

"I've recommended others to take the courses. It helps remind you why this organization was started — and all the good we can accomplish!" said Rosemary Lancaster of Iowa. "I've grown from a Junior member to a senior member. While taking the courses, I learned a few things and refreshed a lot!"

You don't need a lot of time to take an ALA Academy course. You can squeeze these courses in when you have time. On your lunch break, take the ALA Communications course, and in just 15 minutes you'll learn how to improve your communications skills and use social media.

"The ALA Academy courses are so easy to take, and I can always pick up information and ideas to grow on," said Sharon Thiemecke of Minnesota. "So far, my favorite has been ALA 101 because it is the basics."

The courses are not only beneficial to help members grow within the organization, but they can help personally and professionally too. Learn about hosting fundraisers, how to deal with conflict, leadership skills, and so much more.

What members are saying about ALA Academy

"I have taken most of them and find each one has great information and learning opportunities for leaders and members." — Lisa Hoyland, Florida

"I've taken them all and highly recommend them!" — Kelly Elliott, Iowa

"I've completed all available. Learned a lot." — Linda Marie Doege, Texas

"I've completed all of them. Did each one as they were released." — Kim Oaks, Florida

"I've taken all of them and waiting on the new ones to be available. All of the courses were great!" — Marcia Cottrell, Kansas

ADVANCED DIGITAL HEARING AID TECHNOLOGY

Now Rechargeable!

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
Reg: ~~\$599.98~~
Only \$299⁹⁹
Each When You Buy a Pair - **LIMITED TIME ONLY!**

How can a rechargeable hearing aid that costs only \$299⁹⁹

be every bit as good as one that sells for \$2,400 or more?

The answer: Although tremendous strides have been made in Advanced Digital Hearing Aid Technology, those cost reductions have not been passed on to you. Until now...

The MDHearingAid® VOLT uses the same kind of Advanced Digital **RECHARGEABLE** Hearing Aid Technology incorporated into hearing aids that cost thousands more at a small fraction of the price.

Over 350,000 satisfied MDHearingAid customers agree: High-quality, digital, FDA-registered **rechargeable** hearing aids don't have to cost a fortune. The fact is, you don't need to spend thousands for a hearing aid. MDHearingAid is a medical-grade digital rechargeable hearing aid offering sophistication and high performance, and works right out of the box with no time-consuming "adjustment" appointments. You can contact a licensed hearing specialist conveniently online or by phone — even after your purchase at no cost. No other company provides such extensive support. Now that you know... why pay more?

MDHearingAid® >>>

DOCTOR DESIGNED | AUDIOLOGIST TESTED | FDA REGISTERED



SHOP AT HOME!
Skip the Clinic
with Remote Care

"This is truly a miracle... I don't even know how to begin thanking you for giving me my life back!"

— Sherri H., Granville, NY

CHARGE AT NIGHT **AND GO** ALL DAY



CHARGING READY

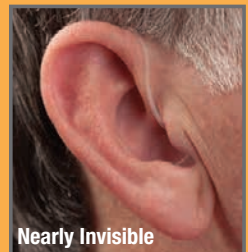
45-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!

If you are not completely satisfied with your MDHearingAids, return them within 45 days for a FULL REFUND!

For the Lowest Price Call

1-800-819-8554

www.MDVolt.com



Use Code **KG20**
and get **FREE** Shipping

Proudly assembled in America!





VIRTUAL MEETINGS HELP ALA MEMBERS STAY CONNECTED WHEN GATHERING ISN'T POSSIBLE

Being together while remaining apart during the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging for everyone. Public health guidelines calling for social distancing and limits on gatherings have been making it tough for American Legion Auxiliary members to take care of business normally done during in-person meetings.

But many ALA leaders at various levels of the organization are tapping into technology to hold their meetings virtually, and Auxiliary members are participating. With the use of apps like Zoom, GoToMeeting, and Microsoft Teams, these online meetings are live and interactive, with audio and visuals — unlike telephone conference calls.

“I think virtual meetings are great. We call it ‘doing Zoom,’” said ALA member Pat Thielman of Unit 260 in Monticello, Minn. Thielman has “done the Zoom” for two of the four unit meetings between April and July. After that, Thielman opted to be one of the few ALA members who participated in virtual meetings from

the unit’s post home while following local public health guidelines and safety measures. Masks were worn, and social distancing in the meeting area was in place.

“Doing Zoom will help people who don’t feel comfortable coming to the [post home] because of the pandemic. It is helpful for members who, for whatever other reason,

“Don’t buy in on stereotypes that someone’s age means they can’t Zoom...I’m 82 years old, and I did it.”

cannot make it to the meetings, even when we are not dealing with a pandemic. And if the weather is too bad for driving, we don’t have to cancel a meeting. We don’t have to delay important things, like voting on money matters. We can just do the Zoom,” Thielman added.

Another benefit of having virtual meetings: ALA members who spend part of the year in a different state — such as “snowbirds” who leave cold-weather states during the winter

months for warmer climates — can attend. It’s a way for them to find out firsthand what’s going on instead of waiting for written minutes of the meeting to be sent to them. Plus, it’s a way to take part in discussion of issues on the meeting agenda at the time the topic is introduced and before it’s put to a vote.

Participating in virtual meetings was a new experience for almost everyone in Unit 260. As is the case with most new activities, some trial-and-error was involved. And when computers, cellphones, and internet service are in the mix, there’s bound to be occasional technical glitches.

“Sometimes, people couldn’t hear me when we were doing the Zoom. One time I couldn’t hear anybody, so I tried to use my cellphone at the same time, and there was [audio] feedback. And one time, everyone was talking all at once. But we got it worked out,” Thielman said.

Being new to the virtual world, without an awareness of how things appear and sound in virtual settings, can lead to a couple of awkward moments that later warrant a chuckle.

“At the start of our meeting, everyone stood up to say the Pledge of Allegiance, and all you saw was a bunch of stomachs on screen!” Unit 260 member Cheryl Latham said lightheartedly, adding that, stomachs aside, she feels these online meetings went well.

Thielman emphasized that virtual meetings are not just an option for the younger generation.

“Don’t buy in on stereotypes that someone’s age means they can’t Zoom,” she said. “I’m 82 years old, and I did it. You have to be willing to do it and be willing to learn in order to be successful with this. Just give it a try. And then give it another try. You probably won’t get it right the first time, and that’s true in other parts of life. But don’t give up.”



Guess which well-known American Legion Auxiliary events were held virtually this year? Several Auxiliary departments held virtual ALA Girls State events to sustain the program’s energy and involve as many students as possible while social distancing. Check out the full story on pages 36-37.

Celebrate the Blessings of the Seasons

Includes 4 swap-out seasonal wreaths!



A red, white and blue salute to the patriotic spirit of the 4TH OF JULY.



Deck the halls with all the splendor of the CHRISTMAS season.



A harvest of AUTUMN time colors is the perfect way to welcome Fall.



EASTER flowers bloom just like in Thom's painted spring meadows.



Shown larger than approximate size of 9" high

Bless your home with beauty all year long!

Thomas Kinkadee's "Heavenly Light Throughout The Season Angel" is a FIRST-EVER limited-edition figurine that includes 4 sculpted "wreaths" you can easily interchange during the year!

Handcrafted and hand-painted.

Standing an impressive 9" tall, every inch of this heavenly beauty is **crafted and painted by hand**. From her etched "feather" wings that twinkle with **hand-applied glitter** to her **satin-look robes** that shimmer with dozens of **sculpted faux pearls**.

Plus, each wreath (**Christmas, Easter, 4th of July and Autumn**) is accented with special paint finishes and glitter to capture the beauty of the seasons.

Handcrafted and hand-painted.

Reserve this **hand-numbered** Thomas Kinkadee figurine today for just three payments of \$33.33*; only your first installment will be billed prior to shipment. Hamilton Certificate of Authenticity included. **Full money-back guarantee!**

©2020 HC. All Rights Reserved. Sunday Evening Sleigh Ride © 1996 Thomas Kinkadee.

Fastest way to order:
HamiltonCollection.com/TKHeavenly



MAIL TO:

The Hamilton Collection

09-08576-001-B12

A Division of **The Bradford Exchange**

9204 Center For The Arts Drive, Niles, Illinois 60714-1300

SEND NO MONEY NOW!

YES! Please accept my order for Thomas Kinkadee's "Heavenly Light Throughout The Season Angel" as described in this announcement.

Name _____
 (Please print clearly.)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email (optional) _____

Signature _____

*Add \$14.99 for shipping and service, and sales tax; see HamiltonCollection.com.

09-08576-001-E24501

All orders are subject to product availability and credit approval.

Limited to 95 casting days. Allow 6 to 8 weeks after initial payment for shipment.



A PASSION FOR POLITICS: Olga Diupina attended ALA Girls Nation in 2018 and was a member of the Nationalist Party.

BECAUSE OF #GIVINGTUESDAY, VETERANS, MILITARY, AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE GIVEN A CHANCE TO REINVENT THEMSELVES

Olga Diupina: Learning new skills through ALA Girls Nation



Olga Diupina (left) with fellow ALA Girls Nation Senator Ursula Bakken.

Olga Diupina is halfway through her sophomore year as a government and international politics major at George Mason University.

Though she's always had an interest in politics, she credits American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation with solidifying her passion for this subject.

"It's a life-changing experience for a lot of girls," Diupina said, "where they can participate in the government, learn more about it, and then take those skills into the world and become better citizens in their communities."

Diupina and her family came to the United States from Russia just over four years ago, so being involved

in a program like ALA Washington Girls State and ALA Girls Nation helped her feel included and valued in a new place.

"It really gave me an opportunity to participate in the government, and I just felt very accepted," she said. "Even though I'm an immigrant, it showed me that I still have a lot of opportunities here, and that was really important to me."

While at ALA Girls State, Diupina loved experiencing mock government events and stepping into the shoes of lawmakers. She knows that experiencing leadership roles is extremely important for young women, as it was for her. She grew from events like answering questions on the fly, debates, and even presenting a nuclear energy bill in front of the entire program at ALA Girls Nation.

Amidst the excitement, what Diupina found most touching was the camaraderie she felt with people from all walks of life.

"I learned a lot about bipartisanship and taking the time to listen and try to understand where people are coming from," she said. "Even though at first, I might disagree, it's just about really appreciating someone else's input."

Diane: ALA Foundation grant-supported organization helps veteran thrive



Diane

Editor's note: U.S. Army veteran Diane asked that her last name remain anonymous.

From a young age, Diane was inspired by her mother, who worked on a U.S. Army base. Diane knew that one day she wanted to serve her country by enlisting in the military.

"Going into the military was a dream come true, or so I thought," Diane said. "Within a few weeks of arriving at Fort Stewart, my life would change forever."

Diane became a victim of military sexual trauma and abuse. She felt hopeless, with no one to turn to. She felt her military career was ruined.

"I became depressed, had panic attacks, and I tried to kill myself for the first time," Diane said.

Without giving herself a chance to heal properly, Diane struggled in several abusive and failed relationships, all while trying to raise a family. She eventually ended up homeless, living in a car with her dog. Finally, one night they ran out of gas, and she got in contact with Phyllis Abbott and Lady Veterans Connect, a nonprofit organization based in Kentucky dedicated to providing high-quality, comprehensive services to assist female veterans and prevent homelessness.

"She came and scooped me up, fed me, put me in a hotel, and got me on my way to healing," Diane said.

Though Lady Veterans Connect started as a small organization that could serve only a few veterans at a time, they have quickly grown with the help of their community. In addition,

two local American Legion Auxiliary units and the ALA Department of Kentucky have received Veteran Projects Fund grants from the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation totaling \$24,000 to help renovate a former elementary school into housing for up to 32 women veterans.

After a complete overhaul of the building, the new home was opened and began providing vital services to women veterans in April 2020.

“Lady Veterans Connect changed my life,” Diane said.

“They helped me get the help I needed for so long. Besides helping me get counseling, they changed my whole outlook on life. I began loving myself again and became the strong person I used to be.”

Patrick Ward: Writing talent turns therapeutic



Patrick Ward

Patrick Ward always thought of himself as an athlete. A fifth-generation U.S. Navy veteran, Ward’s physical health was always important to him. That’s why, when he sustained serious injuries while on active duty, Ward struggled to be motivated in his everyday life.

After 55 surgeries and an amputation, Ward wasn’t sure what was next for him. Most days, even after his physical recovery, he wasn’t interested in getting off the couch.

“I needed to get engaged in life again,” he said. “When your options change, you need to change your life, because otherwise you can get in a bad place.”

While Ward was healing, the Miami Veterans Affairs Medical Center encouraged him to get involved with the Veterans Creative Arts Festival, a program co-presented by the American Legion Auxiliary. Though arts had never been a major part of his life, he gave it a shot.

Despite never thinking of himself as a writer, Ward quickly learned he had a knack for it. The inspiration he felt being surrounded by other veteran artists pushed Ward to try something new — and it was a perfect fit. Today he is a published writer, has won several awards, and writes a monthly column for a writer’s magazine.

“If you don’t think of yourself as creative, you don’t have to be around [the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival] long before you start to dream,” Ward said.

“Being near people who are so brilliant and so talented and so outgoing, I leave energized and I

always think I can do anything.”

The American Legion Auxiliary enhanced the experience for Ward by going above and beyond to serve the artists — bringing them quilts when they were outside in the snow, providing them with a hospitality room, and always encouraging them to do their best.

This newfound talent and artistic expression turned things around for Ward, who once felt lost.

“I thought those doors were closed, but it’s so personal, life-changing, and a second chance,” he said, holding back tears.

“I always say if you get that second chance, grab it, run, and don’t look back.”

Because of #GivingTuesday, Olga Diupina discovered her passion for government and politics and found acceptance in a new country. Diane was able to rebuild her life from its lowest point and feel hope again. Patrick Ward was given a second chance to participate in activities that excite him at the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, despite the physical setbacks he endured during his time in the service. You can help more veterans, military, and their families through hard times by making a gift to the ALA Foundation on #GivingTuesday, Dec. 1. See below for the easy ways to donate.



#GivingTuesday December 1, 2020

Two easy ways to give this #GivingTuesday:

1. Online at www.ALAFoundation.org/GivingTuesday.
2. Mail a check to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation at 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268, and write #GivingTuesday in the memo line.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
FOUNDATION

Ensuring Our Mission of Service Endures

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity that supports the American Legion Auxiliary. All gifts to the Foundation are tax-deductible as allowed by the United States Tax Code and U.S. Internal Revenue Service. © American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters. All rights reserved. 09/2020

NO ONE CAN AFFORD TO LET QUESTIONS GO UNANSWERED WHEN MANAGING ALA MONEY

Sometimes, the smartest person in the room is the one who asks questions when he or she doesn't understand.

The same can be said for an American Legion Auxiliary member who serves on a finance committee or board at any level of the ALA — especially when faced with choices of whether or how to spend or save money. It's important that informed decisions are made. And, there might be others at the meeting who also have questions but aren't making inquiries.

Asking questions to gain an explanation or clarity is not only OK, it can be essential for making fiscally sound decisions. That's true for novices or experts in the financial field.

"ALA members are volunteers. Most of us are not professionals in this area. Still, we have been entrusted with decisions about money that essentially does not belong to us. These funds have been given to our organization, or raised by our organization, to help fulfill our mission of selfless service

to America's veterans, military, and their families. So it's our responsibility to gather all of the information and facts we need to make prudent and fiscally responsible decisions with this money," said ALA National Treasurer Marybeth Revoir.

Gary Ward, director of finance at ALA National Headquarters, agrees. He sees another benefit to asking questions, particularly during meetings.

"When you step up and ask questions, you help to get a dialog going. In many situations, others join in. The meeting becomes more interesting, and it can be helpful to those in charge of making decisions," Ward explained.

POINTS TO PONDER BEFORE ASKING QUESTIONS

An inquiry into financial matters can be taken the wrong way; intentions could be misunderstood. Accusations of wrongdoing might be assumed. The likelihood of that happening could be reduced if questions are posed in a non-threatening way. Consider these helpful tips:

Be mindful of your tone and attitude.

Avoid an accusatory tone. Even if your words are not accusatory, your tone may be. Try not to ask questions like a seasoned courtroom prosecutor ready to pounce and yell "Gotcha!" Also, avoid sarcasm, condescending tones, or strong language that can make a question sound like an attack on the person's integrity. Try not to be aggravated or frustrated because you don't understand or know something. But if you are feeling that way, be careful that you don't project those emotions onto others.

Words matter.

Besides being a mark of good manners, "please" and "thank you" go a long way in helping you get your questions answered. Beyond that, the situation will likely influence the word choice for your inquiry. Here are two phrases that can be adapted and applied to a variety of situations.

- ★ "Would you please explain this a little differently so I can grasp what the situation is, and what you're telling me, so that I can make my decision?"
- ★ "I'm sorry; I must have missed it. Would you please explain what that payment was for, and how much that payment was? I'm not clear on it."

Keep it strictly business.

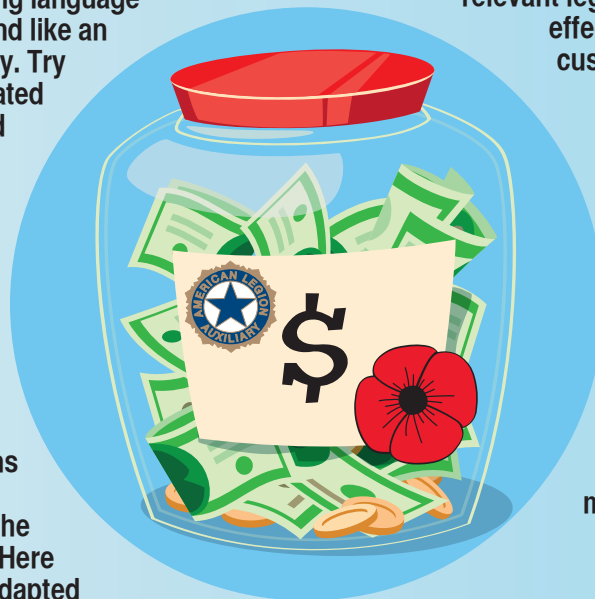
Take personalities and emotions out of it. Asking questions in search of an explanation or clarification — with the intention of gaining a greater understanding of the facts, figures, or relevant legal concepts — is part of being effective in your role as a financial custodian. It is not an opportunity to cast aspersions or insults.

Be respectful of the person to whom you are posing the question.

Give the same respect you hope to receive. Beginning a question with "No disrespect meant" does not neutralize an accusatory, derogatory, sarcastic or condescending message or tone that follows in the rest of the question.

If you are at a meeting, obey the rules of the meeting.

If a presenter asks that questions be held to the end of the presentation, please do so. If you need to be recognized before speaking from the floor during a meeting, please follow this procedure.



Finally... a better mobility solution than Scooters or Power Chairs.

The **Zoomer's** versatile design and 1-touch joystick operation brings mobility and independence to those who need it most.

If you have mobility issues, or know someone who does, then you've experienced the difficulties faced by millions of Americans. Once simple tasks like getting from the bedroom to the kitchen can become a time-consuming and potentially dangerous ordeal. You may have tried to solve the problem with a power chair or a scooter but neither is ideal. Power chairs are bulky and look like a medical device. Scooters are either unstable or hard to maneuver. Now, there's a better alternative... the Zoomer.

After just one trip around your home in the Zoomer, you'll marvel at how easy it is to navigate. It is designed to maneuver in tight spaces like doorways, between furniture, and around corners. It can go over thresholds and works great on any kind of floor or carpet. It's not bulky or cumbersome, so it can roll right up to a table or desk- there's no need to transfer to a chair. Its sturdy yet lightweight aluminum frame makes it durable and comfortable. It's dual motors power it at up to 3.7 miles per hour and its automatic electromagnetic brakes stop on a dime. The rechargeable battery powers it for up to



8 miles on a single charge. Plus, its exclusive foldable design enables you to transport it easily and even store it in a closet or under a bed when it's not in use.

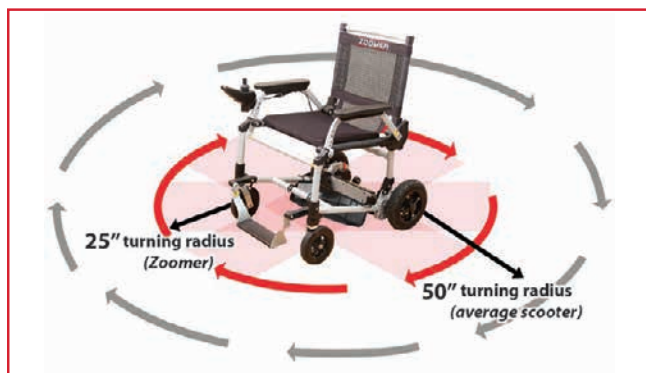
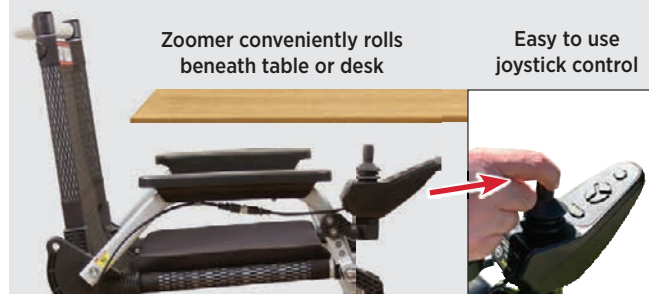


Folds to 12" in seconds

Why spend another day letting mobility issues hamper your lifestyle? Call now and find out how you can have your very own Zoomer.

Who can drive a Zoomer? - everyone!

The secret to the Zoomer is its simple steering system. You operate it with a simple-to-use joystick, giving you precision maneuverability and the ability to navigate tight spaces easily with a 25" turning radius. It is designed to let you pull right up to a table or desk. You no longer have to move to another chair to work or eat at your table.



Ready to get your own Zoomer? We'd love to talk to you.

Call now toll free and order one today! **1-888-252-1446**

Please mention code 113736 when ordering.



The Zoomer Chair is a personal electric vehicle and is not a medical device nor a wheelchair. Zoomer is not intended for medical purposes to provide mobility to persons restricted to a sitting position. It is not covered by Medicare nor Medicaid. © 2020 firstSTREET for Boomers and Beyond, Inc.



FINDING ANSWERS IN NEW PLACES (top, left to right): Texas ALA members read the ALA Constitution & Bylaws in front of the Alamo in San Antonio; ALA Department of Kansas members read the C&B with their two Past National Presidents (Dora Seymour and Mary Koger) looking on; (at bottom): Members read our Constitution & Bylaws at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

COVID-19 LEADS TO A NEW AUXILIARY HOLIDAY THIS NOVEMBER

The global pandemic, with its quarantines and social distancing, has changed the way American Legion Auxiliary units, departments, and National Headquarters conduct business. Restrictions have made it difficult, if not impossible, to meet in person. Members have had to find alternatives to traditional methods of meeting and voting, thus bringing up important questions: Are virtual meetings allowed? Can our members vote electronically? What are the guidelines in our Constitution & Bylaws? The answers to these questions vary in each unit and department.

To find answers, many members have had to review the Constitution & Bylaws for the first time in years, or maybe the first time ever. One thing missing from many of these documents — what to do

in emergency situations, such as COVID-19 quarantine periods.

“The COVID crisis has made reading, understanding, and amending our governing documents more critical now than ever as these documents define what can and cannot be done, an issue that has gotten the attention of every one of our departments,” said Trish Ward, national Constitution & Bylaws Committee chairman.

The ALA national Constitution & Bylaws Committee has received numerous inquiries from members to get a greater understanding of their role as members and how to impact their governing documents. Many members have expressed interest in making changes to governing documents to address emergency situations. This has brought attention to the need for

Constitution & Bylaws to be reviewed on a regular basis. It’s important for members to become familiar with their governing documents.

To remind members to read these governing documents while having a little fun, a special ALA holiday was created. The ALA National Executive Committee, in its virtual meeting in August, voted on a resolution to designate Nov. 14, 2020, as ALA National Read Your Constitution & Bylaws Day.

Leading up to this day, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee actively has been challenging members to read the national C&B in front of landmarks across the country. Where will you be caught reading your ALA Constitution & Bylaws? Members are encouraged to send photos to National C&B Committee Chairman Trish Ward at tbw_ksaux@yahoo.com.



Here are some things to keep in mind while reading your C&B:

- Do you have words in your governing documents that are confusing to your members?
- Are the documents clear and concise?
- Are the documents in compliance with the directives of the American Legion Auxiliary National Constitution & Bylaws?
- Inspect your governing documents for direction regarding meetings and how/when they are to occur.

It’s important for all members to have access to their unit Constitution & Bylaws. To help achieve this, consider including a copy of your unit C&B in any welcome packets you send to new members.

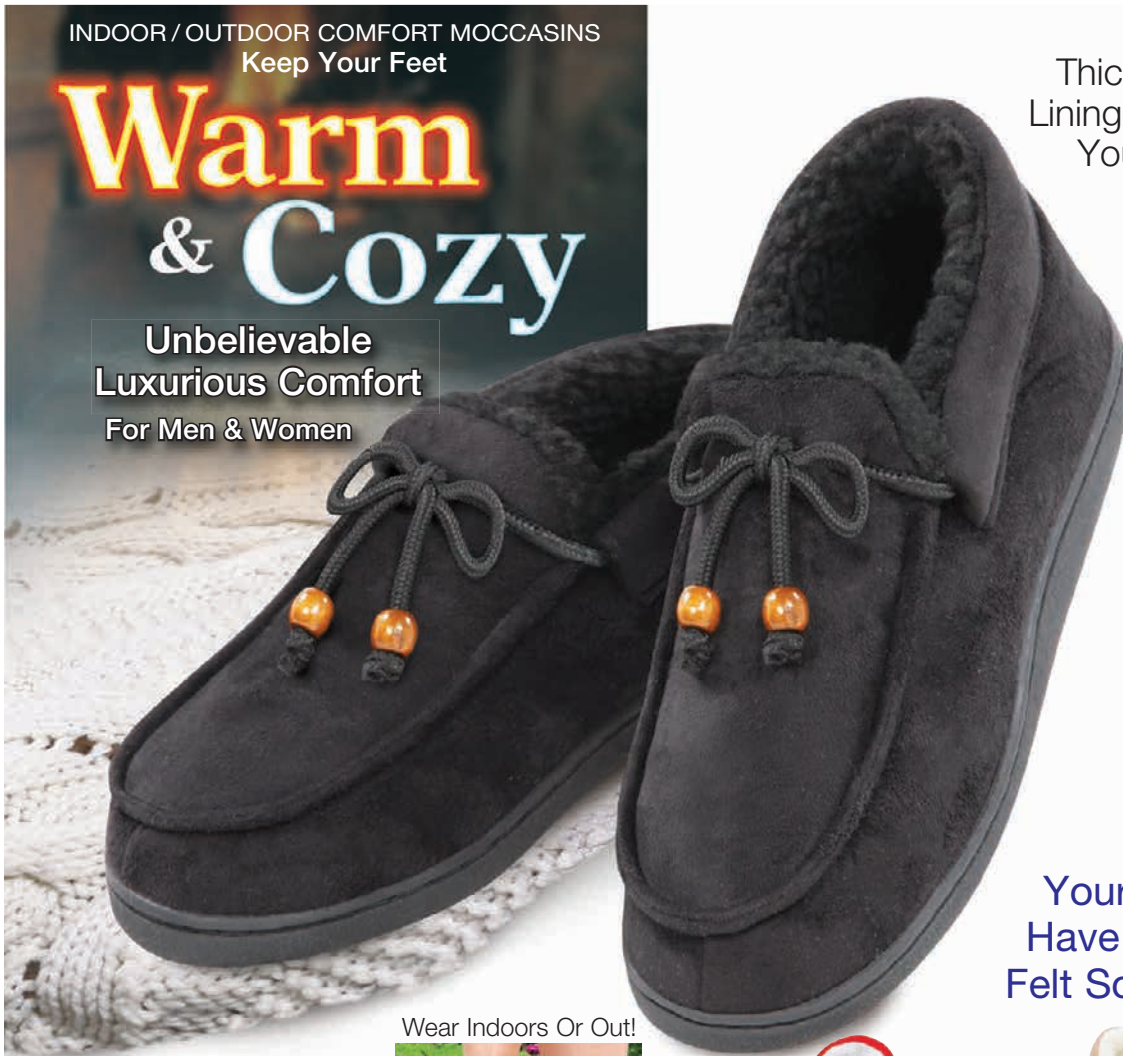
Mark your calendars for Nov. 14, and get creative on ways to observe ALA National Read Your Constitution & Bylaws Day. Has the date passed and you’re just now seeing this? That’s OK – you can still participate by planning a day to read the C&B.

INDOOR / OUTDOOR COMFORT MOCCASINS
Keep Your Feet

Warm & Cozy

Unbelievable
Luxurious Comfort
For Men & Women

Thick Fleece
Lining Caresses
Your Feet



Source Code 79266 © Dream Products. (Prices valid for 1yr.)

Your Feet
Have Never
Felt So Good!

SAVE \$10.00
Off Catalog Price
only \$9.99

FREE
SHIPPING

Wear Indoors Or Out!



Non-Slip Tread



Available
In 4
Fashion Colors

Memory Foam Insole

Connect With **DreamProducts.com** website offers may vary

*We may be required to collect sales tax. Please visit DreamProducts.com FAQ page if you need more information.

Order Now Toll-Free **1-800-530-2689**

M-F 6am-1am CST, S-S 6am-9pm CST

Whether you're relaxing indoors or making a trip out to the mailbox, these ankle high, fleece-lined moccasins will keep you warm and comfortable. These fashionable faux suede moccasins have a thick fleece lining and memory foam insole that hugs your feet, making them so comfortable, you'll feel like you're walking on clouds. Fashion import made with a non-slip tread is great for indoors and out.

Satisfaction Guaranteed or
Return For Your Money Back

	Indicate Color & Number Of Pairs Ordered Under Size			
Men's 370410	S (5-6½) 212	M (7-8½) 213	L (9-10½) 214	XL (11-12) 215
Gray - 110				
Tan - 247				
Red - 628				
Black - 101				
Women's 370411	XS (5-6) 211	S (6½-7) 212	M (7½-8½) 213	L (9-10½) 214
Gray - 110				
Tan - 247				
Red - 628				
Black - 101				
____ Pair(s) Comfort Moccasins @ \$9.99 pr.				\$
*Add Applicable State/Local Sales Tax				\$
Add \$4.00 Handling (No Matter How Many Ordered)				\$4.00
FREE SHIPPING				FREE
Please Print Clearly			Total	\$

VISA American Express Exp. Date /

MasterCard Discover®/NOVUSSMCards

Card# _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone # _____

Email _____

Source Code **79266**

To receive this offer on the web, you MUST input the source code when ordering

Send order to Dream Products, 412 Dream Lane,
P.O. Box 3690, Oshkosh, WI 54903-3690



RICH HISTORY (above and opposite page): Bill Elkins talks about his gold medal winning piece, *Remember the Warrior*, at the 2004 NVCAF in Salt Lake City, Utah; Festival chorus members in Riverside, Calif., at the 2008 NVCAF perform *Hollywood Medley*.

NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL REACHES MILESTONE YEAR

A veteran stands next to his artwork, explaining the details of what led him to create the piece. Nearby, another veteran shares an excerpt from her creative writing story, detailing how the arts have helped her overcome her PTSD. Soon after, the stage lights are dimmed as the next performer readies himself. He begins to strum his guitar, a soft melody pulsating out over the auditorium audience.

Welcome to what the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) is all about — the therapeutic healing power of the arts. 2020 marks the 40th anniversary of the event and the ALA's 20th anniversary as a co-presenter. The event brings together creative veterans throughout the country who made it to the national level after competing at local U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facilities.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Festival will be a virtual, at-home event the week of Nov. 30. Despite the change to *NVCAF at Home*, veteran artists across the country will still get to take part in the event to commemorate their hard work.

"The NVCAF is a testament to the therapy that is happening daily in the VA's national health care system across the country, utilizing the creative arts therapies in rehabilitation and maintenance of physical and mental health," said Elizabeth "Liz" Mackey, who was part of NVCAF since 1986 and was the previous national director for 23 years. "The Festival showcases the artistic

"I encourage you to get involved in the local level to witness it and help. Local events are always looking for supplies and judges."

achievements of veterans, and many stories of the veterans' life challenges are told through their art, music, dance, drama, and written work."

The history of the Festival is long and rich, leaving a positive influence on hundreds of veterans over the years who have benefited from the arts. The event is co-presented by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the American Legion Auxiliary.

"It's rewarding to us to support and sponsor it and help veterans take

relief from their daily routine," said ALA Past National President Kristine West, who helped get the Auxiliary involved with the NVCAF back in 2000.

The VA's music and visual arts competitions originated in 1981 as two separate events. Shirley Jefferies, a recreation therapist at the Waco, Texas VA Medical Center, initiated the performing arts competition: The National Music Competition for Veterans. The second show was the visual arts competition: VET ARTS, created by Muriel Barbour, then-chief of recreation therapy at the McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Va.

The two events merged in 1989, and the drama and dance divisions were added to create the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition and Festival. This event was designed to spotlight the four creative arts therapies of art, music, dance, and drama.

A fifth creative arts division, creative writing, was added to the competition in 2005.

In 1999, the Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center was preparing to host the 2000 NVCAF. Mackey said there was a need for a sponsor who would serve in a long-term role and become a partner with the VA. A meeting took place between the VA and West, who agreed to highlight the Festival during her term as Auxiliary national president. She wanted to focus on veterans as her special-emphasis project. She asked the national presidents after her to also support the program — not as their special project, but at least to promote the program so the sponsoring could continue.

West said she can't believe it's been 20 years since the ALA first got involved.

"It just blows my mind," she said. "Time goes by so fast. I think it's wonderful we've kept it in the limelight. So many people have embraced it around the country."

In 2004, a memorandum of understanding between the VA and American Legion Auxiliary was signed, with the Auxiliary officially becoming the co-presenter of NVCAF, which significantly increased awareness of the program among ALA members and throughout communities across the country, Mackey said.

With local competitions held across

the country, the ALA plays a large role in helping those succeed. Members have been big supporters of these local showcases through volunteering — serving refreshments during the shows, helping with the setup and judging, escorting veterans from the medical center to and from the events, and through monetary donations.

In recent years at the national Festival, the ALA has sponsored a social where companions of attending veterans learn of VA resources available to caregivers. Additionally, ALA members serve in areas such as meal counting, the costume room, and are a source of support for veterans by lending a hand and a listening ear when needed.

The NVCAF has continued to be a prime example of the American Legion Auxiliary's mission.

"The Festival aligns with our mission of caring for the veteran, which is what the Legion was founded for — care for veterans, widows, and orphans right after World War I," West said. "We knew back then they had to care for the ones who were wounded after war. The mission that was established over 100 years ago is still caring today for veterans."

The ALA's mission has helped guide members and volunteers over the years in playing this crucial role in helping our nation's veterans.

"It's important for caring and the support to the veteran who is still suffering in many, many ways," West said. "A lot of them still have PTSD and they are just so down — it's a great way of promoting them and helping them learn. You can tell just by talking to them how much enjoyment and satisfaction they are getting from doing their work."

Helping our veterans focus on the arts is invaluable to their overall well-being.

"Participation in the creative arts therapies provides veterans with ways to express themselves that may not be possible through more traditional therapies," Mackey said. "This participation may lead to self-discovery, increased self-esteem, and relief from depression and anxiety."

Involvement in the competition by

veterans and VA medical facilities has steadily increased over the years. More than 3,700 entries were submitted from 120 VA medical facilities in the 2020 competition.

Mackey said it's important for a variety of reasons to have a Festival like this for our nation's veterans. It motivates veterans to set goals for themselves and gives them the opportunity to receive recognition for their creative accomplishments.

Year after year, Mackey has hoped veterans take away a sense of confidence that encourages them to pursue the arts and perhaps other life goals.

"By sharing their art, other veterans may strongly identify with the creative work as it could represent something similar to what they have also experienced," she said. "It speaks to them and tells their story too in a way that perhaps they found difficult to express, and even though the veteran who created the work may never know their impact on others, it's important to keep this in mind."

The ALA has had a positive impact on this Festival for 20 years and counting, making our involvement in the event key to our nation's heroes, their health, and well-being.

For ALA members interested in helping, West suggests visiting their VA and asking how they can support the Festival.

"I encourage you to get involved in the local level to witness it and help," West said. "Local events are always looking for supplies and judges."

Festival becomes 'NVCAF at Home' for 2020 event

Final preparations are being made for this year's at-home event in late November. Despite the change, the importance and impact of the Festival at the local and national level is still being felt from the past four decades and will continue to make a difference for veterans in future years.



Although the Festival has switched from on-site to virtual for 2020, veterans will still be celebrated for their artistic talents, sharing their artwork, creative writing pieces, and stage show performances, just in a different format.

"I am looking forward to the future of the NVCAF while feeling grateful and appreciative of the past," said NVCAF Director Amy Kimbler. "Our team is excited to build on experiences and bring new challenges and artist opportunities to veterans."

To learn more about NVCAF and how the American Legion Auxiliary supports the event, visit www.ALAforVeterans.org. Be sure to check out the February 2021 issue of *Auxiliary* magazine to see our coverage of this year's Festival!





A different way to engage in ALA Girls State



This year's ALA Girls State programs go virtual

ALA Girls State staff members across the country were preparing to have their programs last spring when the unthinkable happened — COVID-19 led to schools closing. ALA units had just begun or were planning to select girls to attend their state's ALAGS program. With schools closed, many units were unable to recruit, interview, and select representatives.

As cancellations began happening, not only in The American Legion Family, but in schools, sports, etc., disappointment was felt by volunteers with the realization that ALA Girls State may be the next event to be canceled.

American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters canceled ALA Girls Nation but left the decision up to each state program

on how they wished to proceed. As the news came in that in-person sessions would not be possible, programs gathered their leadership to discuss their options. Is it possible to go on? What would a virtual program look like? Would it still be beneficial to the attendees? And the list of questions went on.

Ten programs decided to venture into this unknown territory and deliver a variation of the "normal" ALA Girls State program virtually. In a short period of time, technology had to be researched, and programming had to be altered to fit a virtual format.

Reasons varied for why programs decided to continue. **ALA Empire Girls State** in New York wanted to preserve the continuity and integrity of the program. They also feared not having a program would take away the opportunity for some students to

apply for scholarships or to list ALA Girls State on college

and military academy applications.

The first program to test the waters was **ALA Volunteer Girls State** in Tennessee. ALAVGS condensed the program to two days with speakers and covered two to three topics each day.

"We had the capability to do this and felt it was worthwhile, even with all of the extra work, to give these girls a live session rather than canceling," said Julia Wells, director of ALA Volunteer Girls State.

ALA Jersey Girls State in New Jersey knew they wanted to offer an alternative. The staff investigated how many volunteers were needed and researched online platforms.

"We did not want the delegates to miss the opportunity to be involved in the program in some way. Just giving them a certificate for being selected was not sufficient enough for us," said Laurel Matthews, director of ALA Jersey Girls State. "We were bound and determined to give them as much of a full experience as possible. The idea was to learn the process of the government to help them become better citizens."

California opted to do a one-day program in the form of a town hall that included a webinar and virtual meeting. "We wanted to provide exposure to ALA Girls State and the American Legion Auxiliary, as well as facilitate networking and mentoring opportunities for the delegates," said Kimberly MacKinney, director of **ALA California Girls State**.

Congratulations, 2020 Graduates!

Your senior year and graduation were unlike any other. The American Legion Auxiliary recognizes your hard work and is honoring ALA Girls State alumnae who graduated in 2020 with a special video on the ALA National Headquarters Facebook page (@ALAforVeterans). Just click on videos to find it.

Despite the obstacles of not having in-person sessions, there were benefits to the virtual format. Just like everything else during these times of COVID-19, there were downturns, but benefits also were discovered in trying something



new while adapting to the current climate.

Some of the advantages of having a virtual program included the ability to have staff involved who normally wouldn't have been able, minimal expense, flexibility, and having speakers be able to record a video message if they were not able to join live.

The virtual format was a benefit for speakers in Rhode Island.

"Without the constraints of physical settings and work schedules, we were able to interact with leaders who seemed more accessible to us, speaking from their house or their office," said Lorraine Boucher, director of Rhode Island's **ALA Little Rhody Girls State**.

It also allowed citizens to have more time and flexibility to work on materials. "I liked doing the program virtually because I could do the course material on my time," said Julia Ritchie, **ALA Texas Bluebonnet Girls State** citizen.

The disadvantages included not being able to host a weeklong program, lack of camaraderie, and communication issues. **ALA Hawai'i Girls State** leaders felt the online sessions were not as personal as the usual in-person program but still found ways to connect.

ALA Jersey Girls State didn't see many disadvantages and was impressed with how the participants overcame obstacles. "The only real disadvantage was the delegates not being able to meet in person," said Matthews. "A surprising benefit was that the delegates seemed to 'step up' more to be able to get to know the other delegates."

"The idea was to learn the process of the government to help them become better citizens."

ALA Girls State is often referred to as a once-in-a-lifetime and memorable experience. Many had concerns it wouldn't be the same online. Although the girls didn't have a normal experience, it was still an opportunity. ALA Girls State

allowed an important part of their high school junior year to continue. This is why North Carolina thought it was important to go virtual.

"We felt we could do something virtually for these students who wanted to participate in our program, since a majority of their spring semester was disrupted," said Emily Clayton, **North Carolina's ALA Tar Heel Girls State** director.

Friendships were still formed despite having a computer screen between them.

"ALA Girls State was not just about expanding my knowledge of government, but also about meeting girls from all over Texas. Thankfully, with technology, my city was able to share social media accounts with each other to stay in touch," said Emma Neidig, ALA Texas Bluebonnet Girls State citizen. "The amazing girls I met made this experience worthwhile."

"I truly believe I created bonds with many girls in my city. We got to learn about each other's passions and goals, and doing so made connections that are unique," said Sophia Wilson, ALA Texas Bluebonnet Girls State citizen. "And I know the friendships I made will forever stick with me."

It may have been disappointing to not have an in-person ALA Girls State and ALA Girls Nation this year, but these 10 programs exhibited how they can be resilient and still present a meaningful experience remotely. ★

By Jennifer Donovan, Staff Writer

Shining Moments from ALA Girls State

"We were able to have a panel with the three women Tennessee Supreme Court justices with questions from the delegates. We also had a great session on the 19th Amendment."
— Julia Wells, Tennessee

"The final ceremony when it was quite apparent that there was a sisterhood that developed."
— Brister Thomas, Hawai'i

"The two candidates for governor, who could not have been more different from each other in background, worked to co-sponsor a bill to address the unequal funding of education in public schools."
— Lorraine Boucher, Rhode Island

"The large number of girls who ran for city office."
— Lori Swann, Texas

"We had our Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen speak to our participants. They were able to see her in another mode than the 'crisis' mode we see her in on the news and COVID press conferences."
— Emily Clayton, North Carolina

American Legion Auxiliary Jewelry: Family Heirlooms Symbolize Generational Bonds of Selfless Service, ALA Pride, and Patriotism



SENTIMENTAL SYMBOLS (above): These jewelry pieces belong to American Legion Auxiliary member Mary Hendrickson of Minnesota. Look for her heartfelt story in our upcoming blog series *Vintage Finds: ALA Jewelry and Its Sweet Meaning* at www.ALAforVeterans.org/blog.



Tammy Conklin Quinn ALA Unit 1990 in Nesbit, Miss.

- **Blue Rhinestone and Pearl ALA Brooch (Three-generation family heirloom)**
- **ALA Bow Pin (Two-generation family heirloom)**

American Legion Auxiliary member Tammy Conklin Quinn has childhood memories of playing dress-up with her sister, Tasha, and often wearing their mother's ALA ribbon bow pin, or the blue and pearl ALA brooch their mom inherited from their grandmother, Roberta Conklin.

It was OK. Their mom, ALA member Betty Conklin, gave them permission. Plus, Tammy and Tasha were ALA Juniors, signed up by their mother shortly after their births. Even at their young ages, they knew these ALA costume jewelry pieces meant something special to their mother. Betty Conklin only wore the pin or brooch to ALA functions, but she trusted her daughters with them.

"This ALA jewelry represents

being in a military family and being an ALA member. My mom was just very proud of that and proud of the veterans and servicemembers in our family. She wanted to help all the vets, including my dad, John Conklin — who was a Navy Vietnam War veteran. My grandfather, Orville Conklin, was a Navy World War II veteran. My uncles, and so many other relatives served our country, too. Mom was proud of them all," Quinn said.

During those carefree days of childhood, it never occurred to Quinn just how important the pin and brooch would become to her later in life. Nor did she ever think about inheriting the jewelry. But she did, and it happened much sooner than anyone expected. Quinn's mother died when she was in seventh grade. The pin and brooch were among numerous items she inherited.

In addition to the sentimental value of having something her mother and grandmother treasured, the pin and brooch took on additional meaning for Quinn. They came to also symbolize the



home atmosphere she and her family found in the ALA and The American Legion Family.

ALA Unit 100 in Columbus Junction, Iowa, the unit to which Quinn, her sister, and her mother originally belonged, extended support to the girls when their mother died. The unit paid membership dues for Quinn and her sister until they graduated high school.

Knowing she was unable to attend meetings and other activities, Quinn did not continue her membership after that. From there, her life took her in different directions — away from home, Unit 100, and her post home.

Through the years, the pin and brooch took on yet another meaning for Quinn.

“They became reminders that I needed to find another unit and post home that were good fits for me. My family has always been big on patriotism, giving back to the community, and being part of the ALA and Legion Family. Plus, I love helping people. That was an ALA bond involving my grandmother, mother, and me. I needed to get back to that. Now that I’m in a unit and post home I love, I’m so grateful,” said Quinn, a member of ALA Unit 1990 in Nesbit, Miss.

Quinn said she plans to leave the pin and brooch to her niece, if she joins the ALA. Otherwise, the jewelry will be left to her current ALA unit.

Lisa Liford

ALA Unit 18 in Bloomington, Ind.

- ***Crystal ALA Brooch (Three-generation family heirloom)***



One of Lisa Liford’s prized possessions is the American Legion Auxiliary crystal brooch that has passed through three generations of ALA members in her family. The brooch originally belonged to Lisa’s grandmother, ALA member Martha Gillespie; then to her mother, ALA member Sue Liford Freeman, who gave it to Lisa.

It is eye-catching to see the crystals capture white light and separate it into the bright colors of a rainbow. But the true beauty of the brooch is more than the metal that frames its edges, or its crystals and their kaleidoscope-like light show.

“It’s a beautiful piece of jewelry. But there’s purpose and meaning behind it. There’s American Legion Auxiliary pride that you won’t find behind regular jewelry. My grandmother was an active ALA member, supporting our programs. Then, my mom ended up with the brooch — and she has worked our programs and our mission for 70 years. That makes it even more special to me. I have been an ALA member for 56 years,” said Liford, an Honorary life Member of ALA Unit 18 in Bloomington, Ind.

The brooch was among the other possessions Liford Freeman, an Honorary Life Member of Unit 18 in Bloomington, inherited after the passing of her mother, Martha Gillespie. Liford Freeman waited for the right time to give the brooch to her daughter. She found the perfect moment: just before Liford was installed as ALA Department of Indiana President (2014-2015).

“It’s a very special piece of jewelry for me because I feel as if I always have bits of my grandmother and my mom with me when I wear it,” Lisa Liford said.

The emotion embodied by the brooch also stems from the big role that the American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion played in Liford’s life.

“We grew up as a Legion Family. My grandmother was very active in the Auxiliary. She was the one who signed me up for the Auxiliary when I was born. Her husband — my grandfather, Navy veteran Charles Gillespie, served in World War II.



ALA ACADEMY LIVE

Looking for a Grant to Help Support Your Local Veterans, Military, and their Families?

ALA Foundation grants will help mission outreach grow! Learn how:

- **To identify new needs for your local veterans**
- **To identify ALA branding opportunities for your programs**
- **You can impact your local Veterans Creative Arts Festival**
- **To meet the qualifications and submit an ALA Foundation grant**
- **The ALA Foundation, a 501(c)(3), can help you**

Start today by going to www.ALAforVeterans.org/ala-academy



My mom has been a very active member. My father, Navy World War II veteran, John R. Liford, was active in The American Legion. I have four brothers. They were all Sons of The American Legion members. My mother worked for the Department of Indiana for 22 years as their secretary/treasurer. There's just a lot of Auxiliary service, and a love for that, in our family."

ALA membership continues in Lisa Liford's family, and this ALA brooch will be given to another generation of the family.

"I will, in turn, pass the brooch on to my daughter, Molly Brown, who is a 22-year member of The American Legion Auxiliary. It will mean a lot to me to give that to her," Liford said. Brown is a member of Unit 18 in Bloomington. She served as Indiana's ALA Honorary Junior Department President (2010-2011) and (2014-2015).

Cheryl Latham

ALA Unit 260 in Monticello, Minn.

• **Multicolored Snowflake ALA Brooch — Two Generations (Originally belonged to her mother, ALA member Doris Frederick)**

"This snowflake [brooch] makes me think of my mom and my dad, and all we did as a family with the purpose of helping veterans and their families. The ALA was a big part of our lives. My little brother was a Sons of The American Legion member, and he was active in that. It's what we did. My stepfather, Dick Frederick,



was an Army World War II veteran. I plan on passing this snowflake pin on to one of my nieces who is an ALA member."

Pam Shook

ALA Unit 97 in Auburn, Ind.

• **Silver and Blue-stone ALA Sweater Guard — Two Generations (Originally belonged to her mother, ALA member Marjorie Magginnis)**



"This sweater guard was my mother's. It's very precious and has some sentimental value. That ALA emblem is very important to me,

too. The sweater guard stands out. People see that emblem. That then opens the door for me to talk about the Auxiliary, our programs and what we do, and about our Legion Family. That is also precious to me because I want everyone who's eligible to join the ALA, or other parts of our Legion Family, to do so. As for the future of this sweater guard, I will pass it on to my niece, ALA member Pam Mobley of Unit 97 in Auburn, when the time comes. I know she'll pass it on to her daughter." ★

By Landa Bagley, Staff Writer

Where'd you buy that?

American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales, of course!

All of the pieces of jewelry featured in this article appeared, at some point, in at least one of the older catalogs of Emblem Sales.

Today, Emblem Sales is still the source of American Legion Auxiliary jewelry, accessories, apparel, American flags, and so much more, such as a wide variety of branded merchandise of The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, and American Legion Riders.

There's also an assortment of patriotic pins and tacks, plus plenty of useful items for ALA units, Legion posts, Sons squadrons, Riders chapters, and their programs.

Contact Emblem Sales:

- Call (888) 453-4466 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET
- Online at emblem.legion.org



Two-generation family heirloom ALA jewelry given to an Auxiliary unit in Florida

The late Beatrice Williams Barnard, an American Legion Auxiliary member, had a small collection of ALA jewelry. Among those pieces are the ones shown here: a photo locket charm bracelet and a turtle pin. Barnard's daughter, Jane Jorgensen, received these and other pieces, after her mother passed away. Several years ago, Jorgensen decided these and other ALA jewelry items should be given to family ... the ALA family. The jewelry was donated to ALA Unit 1 in Titusville, Fla., where Barnard served as unit president (1956-1957). The pieces have been placed into a shadow box to be displayed at their Post 1 home, said Unit 1 President Cathie McMullin.



IMPACT ALA!

AUXILIARY MISSION CONTINUES INTO THE 2020-2021 YEAR

We are up and running in our expanded administrative year! As a continuation of the 2019-2020 year, the focus on our mission of helping our nation's veterans, military, and their families will not falter. We ended 2019-2020 strong, making a difference in our communities during a worldwide pandemic.

We will continue our mission with the resilient attitude we've perfected over the last century as our organization has made it through many national and worldwide events through the years.

The 2019-2020 national officers, chairmen, and committee members will continue to serve in their roles until the 2021 National Convention or upon resignation. Part of continuing this administrative year, ALA National President Nicole Clapp will continue her department visits. The first priority will be to those who had to cancel due to COVID-19 hitting hard in the spring and early summer. Clapp will likely do repeat visits to departments with the extra year/time to do so.

Her focus continues to be on

adaptive sports, emphasizing the health and well-being of veterans. It's an area in which all ALA programs, members, and volunteers can make an impact. Additionally, it relates to the reason the Auxiliary was established: to take care of veterans, military, and their families.

Since she's been in office, Clapp has had the opportunity to learn more about adaptive sports. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs reports that in the past two decades, the number of veterans using prosthetics, sensory aids, and other equipment has increased more than 70 percent, allowing more of these men and women to be more independent.

As part of her focus, Clapp has experienced firsthand several of these assistive devices — she's tried a driving simulator, specially equipped tricycle, modified golf cart, and has even experienced walking with a prosthetic leg, which was difficult to maneuver, she said. Experiencing these devices firsthand has given her insight into what our injured military men and

women go through as they live with these assistive aids.

Clapp looks forward to more department visits and the opportunity to experience these devices and how they are making a difference in the lives of those who have served. Departments, units, and members can help with this year's focus by partnering with their local VA center to learn about adaptive sports they may have on site and how the ALA can work with the VA on funding adaptive sports, volunteering with these events, or helping to get adaptive sports started at the VA facility.

Additionally, donations made to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Veteran Projects Fund will help provide veterans with the support they so desperately need and deserve to regain confidence and mobility. Visit www.ALAFoundation.org/Grants to learn more about what you can do.

Our resilience through tough times will be helpful in serving our mission. We look forward to continuing Celebrating a Century of Service in 2020-2021!

ADAPTING TO AUXILIARY MEETINGS IN A VIRTUAL WORLD

As we continue to see online meetings and events take place, National Headquarters' Events Team offers tips to members on how to have a successful video conference:

- Find a quiet room with as little background noise as possible.
- Make sure you are professionally dressed.
- Sit in the center of the camera shot to ensure proper camera framing.
- Make sure your face is well lit by sitting in a room with plenty of light. If you can't find a well-lit room, place a small lamp in front of you, but out of the camera view.
- Do not sit in front of a window.

This will cause the camera to adjust for the light, making your face look very dark.

- Adjust the camera to be level with your eyes. This will produce the best camera angle. If using a laptop, you may need to put it on an elevated surface in order to get the camera level with your eyes.
- Always be aware of what is in the camera shot. Make sure there is nothing sitting in the background that you wouldn't want viewers to see.
- Use headphones or earbuds to listen to the audio. This helps with the sound quality and ensures you will always be able to hear clearly.

■ Keep your microphone muted during the call unless you are speaking.

- When speaking and not wearing a headset or earbuds, keep your speaker volume at the lowest setting while still being able to hear. This helps get rid of echoes coming back through your microphone.
- Use a cabled internet connection when possible. Most connection issues are due to a bad wireless connection.
- Do a test call beforehand to make sure your microphone, speakers, and webcam are all working properly.

— Source: Markey's AV

COMMUNITY SERVICE: THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX WHILE SERVING

John F. Kennedy said, “Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”

While American Legion Auxiliary members have been supporting and recording their activities of helping others through the Community Service program since 1926, this year, members continue to search for unique and creative ways to be visible in their service to others.

■ **Initiate:** Providing meaningful volunteer opportunities within our communities is one of the purposes of our organization. Start by gathering ideas of needs and support. Welcome all ideas. Create a message center for members to share ideas.

“Borrow” ideas from other units and tailor them to meet the needs of your community. The ALA Community Service Facebook group offers a place to share thoughts and ask questions

related to the program. Visit www.facebook.com/groups/ALACommunityService and request to join the group.

■ **Cooperate:** Other organizations and their representatives need to have current contact information for your American Legion Auxiliary unit.

Visit the Community Service Committee page on the member portal to view the “How to Partner for Community Outreach” support tool, which is helpful in organizing a community service event.

■ **Find unique ways:** Drive-by celebrations, yard/door/window messages, virtual contact, and safe dropoff and pickup locations are some of the ways units are continuing their mission outreach.

Create ways to continue the connection of service during this time of uncertainty.

■ **Celebrate National Days of Service:**

- Veterans Day: Nov. 11
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service: Third Monday of January
- National Volunteer Week: Third week of April

While these National Days of Service are great opportunities to showcase the awareness of the American Legion Auxiliary in your community, any day when members can help those we serve is a Day of Service.

Being creative in serving veterans, the military, and their families and members of the communities each of us live in will continue to be the future of the American Legion Auxiliary. Adapting to the needs of those who are being served will ensure the growth of our organization.



Jeanne Haas is a 67-year member. She belongs to Phillips-Stuckey-Shaffer Unit 296 in Gridley, Kan.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: IMPORTANCE OF PR DURING TIMES OF COVID-19

“Double your pleasure, double your fun” is a familiar jingle for Doublemint gum and it’s appropriate to use as we begin another year of celebrating our centennial.

COVID-19 has changed how we host meetings, events, and fundraisers. This also means we may have to change public relations

strategies.

Social media is an important resource to spread our message. When working the mission, take pictures for social media. Be sure to wear branded clothing and masks! Branded masks are a great way to spread the news. Not only are they useful for your social media pictures, they are great to wear in public.

Wearing a branded mask gives someone the opportunity to ask you about the American Legion Auxiliary! Many members have made masks with the ALA emblem and you can also order ALA masks from American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales at www.emblem.legion.org.

As your unit finds ways to serve our veterans, military, and

their families, don’t overlook the importance of including the media. Continue to send press releases.

Now, more than ever, it’s important to also send pictures and/or videos. Limited resources may make it difficult for reporters to come on site, so giving them materials to review in advance increases your chances of coverage.

The American Legion Auxiliary’s Public Relations program is part of every event, every activity, every ceremony, and everything we do.

Together, we can continue to pass on our passion and fulfill our commitment to the health and well-being of our veterans.



Marty Peters is a 28-year member of C.E. DeLario Unit 50 in Cleburne, Texas.



VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION: NVCAF AT HOME 2020

The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) will be changing formats from its usual in-person event to a virtual, at-home event the week of Nov. 30 due to concerns for public health related to COVID-19. The change permits veterans to continue to be artistically engaged and recognized for their creative accomplishments.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs made this decision out of an abundance of caution for the health, safety, and well-being of veterans who would have traveled to participate in the Festival, as well as the general public who attend the event locally.

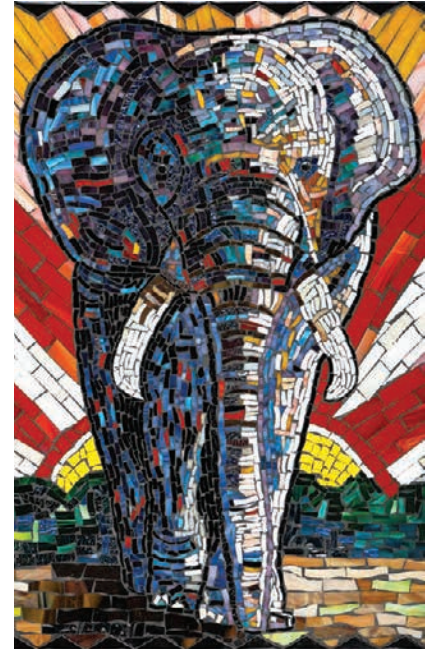
This year, the Festival will be “NVCAF at Home.” Gold medal finalists have been selected, and invitations to the Festival have been sent.

With the virtual format for

this year, more members of The American Legion Family nationwide, as well as veterans who would not be able to attend a traditional in-person event will have the unique opportunity to see the incredible talent firsthand via showcases featuring performance pieces, as well as displays of artwork and writing online.

The next NVCAF is scheduled for April 2022 at the Bay Pines VA Medical Center in St. Petersburg, Fla. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available at www.ALAFORVeterans.org as well as through ALA National Headquarters’ various social media channels.

Also available on our website is information on how to start a local competition if you live close to a VA facility that doesn’t have a Creative Arts Festival.



Vickie Koutz is a 47-year member of the Auxiliary. She belongs to Unit 200 in Boonville, Ind.

EDUCATION: VETERANS IN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS DURING PANDEMIC



Endorsed by The American Legion, Veterans in Community Schools brings veterans into schools to share their personal glimpses of history through their experience in the military.

Information for organizing a Veterans in Community Schools program can be found on our

website at www.ALAFORVeterans.org. Steps include 1) contacting schools, 2) making an activity plan, 3) identifying veterans for speaking roles, 4) preparing the veteran(s) and audience, which includes questions, and 5) implementation.

Veterans and schools may not be accessible due to COVID-19. Many schools around the country have not resumed in-person learning, and those that have may not be allowing volunteers in the building. What can American Legion Auxiliary members do to avoid losing those valuable lessons veterans can provide?

One suggestion would be to record a video of a veteran for teachers to share in their classrooms. Videos can be used anytime and place in their curriculum. What about a Zoom meeting? Students could ask a panel

of veterans the same questions they would at a live event. These virtual experiences can never replace the face-to-face contact with students, but it would at least give them a sample of Veterans in Community Schools.

This program not only has the potential to help students understand what a veteran has contributed to our country, but also to possibly heal emotional wounds for the veteran.

One veteran related after a program, “This was the first time I have been able to talk to anyone, including my family, about my time in the service.” Consider sponsoring a Veterans in Community Schools program in your local classroom.



Debra Albers is a 48-year member and belongs to the Davenport American Legion Auxiliary in Davenport, Neb.

IMPACT ALA!

WHAT'S NEW AT NHQ

NEW STRATEGIC PLAN BETTER ALIGNS WITH NHQ STAFF DUTIES

Effective strategic planning articulates not only where an organization is going and the actions needed to make progress, but also how it will know if it is successful. By developing a more mission-centric plan, this will help the American Legion Auxiliary be stronger and here for another century of service to veterans, military, and their families.

After the ALA's previous 5-Year Centennial Strategic Plan wrapped up, National Headquarters staff and volunteers got to work on the next strategic plan. Goals include:

- 1) Cultivate a variety of mission engagement opportunities.
- 2) Enhance organizational effectiveness of all levels: national, department, unit.
- 3) Recruit and retain members through mission engagement.
- 4) Ensure financial stewardship of resources to maximize mission delivery.

5) Enhance and foster the family relationship with The American Legion.

After these goals were adopted, staff retooled mission delivery and outcomes in their daily work to ensure alignment with the adopted goals. Those evaluations led to some staff reorganization and new ideas that assisted in the development of division strategic plans that the committee recently reviewed.

For each goal, strategies and tactics were developed by the NHQ division directors and describe what each division will focus on to contribute to the success of the adopted goals. Strategy metrics were also included in division plans and will be used as evaluation steps to measure progress toward accomplishing the strategies.

Comparing the ALA's previous 5-Year Centennial Plan to the current process, there are several differences:

■ The National Executive Committee/governing board still adopts goals, but staff, with input from volunteers, implements the strategies to reach the goals.

■ Moving forward, division budgets will include resources to implement strategies and tactics, as opposed to the previous plan, which had its own strategic plan budget. This time, no strategic planning reserves will be established.

■ Individual staff performance will be tied to division strategic plans. Previously, staff was taxed with completing regular job duties AND strategic plan duties, which often had nothing to do with their core job functions.

■ Metrics will be used to evaluate, report, and, when necessary, modify strategies, allowing the ALA to monitor progress and recognize achievements — two things members noticed were lacking from the previous plan.

FINANCE, DEVELOPMENT DIVISION CHANGES AT NHQ BENEFIT MISSION

2020 has been an exciting year for the Development and Finance divisions at ALA National Headquarters with changes made to better serve our members.

The national treasurer/director of finance positions have now been split with Gary Ward as the director of finance and Marybeth Revoir as national treasurer. In the financial field, it is considered best practice regarding oversight to have a national treasurer who reviews information and goes back to the director of finance or other leadership with questions. Additionally, a compliance officer position was added that can focus on assisting units requesting guidance on various issues. Sara Riegel has filled that role.

General job duties for each of these positions include, but are

not limited to: oversee financial matters of the organization and timely report that information to leadership, the committees, and provide information for those committees to report to the NEC (director of finance); work with director of finance and other leadership on matters involving risk coverage, such as insurance, grants, and other risk management areas of the national organization (compliance officer); and custodian of the funds of the national organization and sign checks disbursed by the national organization (national treasurer).

Additionally, the Finance Division also works with the national treasurer and Finance Committee on making sure ALA funds are responsibly maintained, tying together the staff and volunteer

sides of the organization.

The Development Division has also made changes this year with additional staff, going from a three-person team to four.

“The main addition is the focus on corporate relations and sponsorships, as well as grant writing,” said Madison Maves, director of development. “However, each team member has more time to dedicate specifically to their area, so I'm excited to see new things from everyone.”

With these changes, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation will benefit with someone dedicated solely to it and not trying to split time among other projects.

For more information about the changes for both divisions, read an extended article on the ALA blog at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

Provided by *Mary Anne Casadei, National Chaplain 2020-2021* | www.Facebook.com/groups/alachaplains

NOVEMBER

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

— ISAIAH 55:8-9

If you tell a child “no” or “not yet,” that child doesn’t just say, “OK; you are right” and walk away. They get angry, may scream, cry, and they certainly would question you. Many of us have all gone through that scene in a grocery store. As an adult, you know that the “no” is for the child’s own good. We never withhold from our children to hurt them, but to protect them. We love them deeply, and we want to do what is right for them. They are the child, and they do not know the right answer. They want what they want when they want it.

When God tells us “no” or “not yet,” it hurts. We feel confused, frustrated. We mope around, and we get angry. We yell. We do not always understand the “no.”

But we are adults, and we know and believe that God withholds because of His deep love for us. While it hurts and we may not always understand, we can be thankful for God’s all-knowing wisdom and His loving and protective “no.”

Be thankful that God knows what is best for us. He has a plan. Rejoice in God’s plan. Give thanks for every “no” on our journey through life. Trust that there is a divine purpose behind His “no” — and an even bigger better “yes” ahead.

“All knowing God, I thank You for all you have given me. I also thank You for all the times you said “no” or “not yet.” I will rejoice in your plan for me. Amen.”

DECEMBER

“In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.”

— ISAIAH 30:15

As we prepare for Christmastime, we get caught up in the hustle and bustle of all the things that make it our holiday season. No matter what religious beliefs we follow, we will all admit that this is a tough time of year. Stop and take a break. Let the wonder of the season take hold of you. Become a child again. Leave your troubles and wander down the path of a child’s imagination of wonder and delightful joy.

This is a time for us to rejoice and let joy fill our lives. You can spread joy and inspiration. Allow God’s light to radiate from you to others. Even the most serious of us find it hard to resist the mystery of this glorious season. Christmas lights, decorated trees, lighted menorahs, sledding, making snowmen, or just sitting around retelling stories everyone knows by heart — whatever it is that you do to make this season special, DO IT!

My family takes delight in cooking and baking together. We make fudge and peanut brittle. We do the 7 fishes on Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day, it is always something with sauce: gnocchi, lasagna, or ravioli. But it is not the food. It is not the baked goods or cookies. No, it is just being together, being able to forget sickness, work, and the outside world. We just enjoy being together. We all go to midnight mass together, and then we go home and open one present, go to bed and wait for Santa. Traditions! Our parents passed these down to us, and we are passing them down to our children.

“Dear God, thank you for rekindling my dreams of peace and joy. Amen.”

JANUARY

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.”

— PSALM 32:8

The thought of a new year is exciting. Just think of all the possibilities! Your opportunities are endless ... that is, if you allow it. If we face our future with anxiety and fear, wondering when the next disaster will hit or when we are going to receive the next piece of bad news, we will miss out on the excitement and wonder of waiting for the good things. We worry about financial setbacks, personal problems, work, and now we have the pandemic to worry about. All of this can cloud our vision and make it impossible to see our future in a positive way.

We need to place our hope for the future in God’s hands. He loves us deeply. He wants us to be happy. He wants our future to be bright. He will make sure we are on the right path. He will bring joy and confidence to our lives. If we walk through life only seeing the negative, it will be a dark and angry life. If we walk through life in the light of God, the whole journey becomes a joyous experience.

Believe in the promises of God. Approach the new year in His loving presence. Turn off the news, forget about the pandemic, and stop looking at your finances. Turn all your troubles over to God. Think about the wonder of life. Think about all you have to be thankful for, all that makes you happy. God knows what is best for us. Spend the new year with God.

“God of love, guide my journey through life. Take away all my anxiety and fears. Amen.”



Mary Anne Casadei is a PUFL member of Henry P. Smith Unit 24 in Rome, N.Y.

CENTENNIAL Moments

ALA MEMBERS' MAJOR MILESTONES

PATRICIA CASCIANO

It's a sense of belonging within a tight-knit community, and a feeling that everyone there is family



ALA member Patricia Casciano (right) with her daughter, ALA member Celeste Silvonek.

with a shared goal: helping our nation's veterans, troops, and their loved ones. That's the meaning of Patricia Casciano's American Legion Auxiliary membership.

"You know, it makes you feel better if you do something for somebody else," said Casciano, a member of ALA Unit 314 in Lehigh, Pa. Casciano, who has been an Auxiliary member for 73 years, reached a personal milestone recently. She turned 100 years old Aug. 19, and is an Honorary Life Member at Unit 314.

Even when the ALA unit she originally joined, Unit 406 in Fountain Hill, Pa., closed about 10 years ago, Casciano insisted on maintaining her Auxiliary membership. It was that important to her. Casciano joined Unit 314, which is where her daughter, Celeste Silvonek, belongs.

"I enjoyed participating in all of the various activities that the Auxiliary put together, especially the ones around the holidays. The events geared for the children were my favorite, with Christmas, Easter bunny, and things like that," Casciano said.

In one way or another, military life and The American Legion Family have played major roles within the Casciano Family.

Patricia's late husband Dennis was a Legionnaire at Post 406 in Fountain Hill for many years. He was a U.S. Army World War II veteran who also served in the Army National Guard in Pennsylvania. The couple's son Anthony, a U.S. Navy Vietnam War veteran, was a Legionnaire for many years.

Casciano said she also enjoyed attending American Legion Auxiliary National Conventions and meeting other members of the Legion Family.

"We came up with new ideas and talked about what we were doing in each of our post [homes]. I always learned something new, even at my age," she explained.

Casciano is a graduate of Bethlehem Business College. She worked for 35 years in the offices of Bethlehem Steel Corp.

GRACE GUSTAFSON



ALA member Grace Gustafson

American Legion Auxiliary member Grace Gustafson has had many roles in her life: daughter, sister, wife, and mother. At 105 years old, an age milestone reached Sept. 7, Gustafson has outlived her parents, siblings, husband, and three children. But she stays positive about life, maintaining her sense of humor and determination to continue living in her own home — being as independent as possible.

Gustafson has touched the lives of so many people through the years, and continues to do so.

She keeps in contact with her

relatives who live in Sweden, and is embraced with love from her 17 nieces and nephews, six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and her fellow ALA members at Unit 189 in Chenango County, N.Y. Eligible under the military service of her late husband Frank Gustafson — a U.S. Navy veteran and American Legion member, Grace joined the ALA in 1987. She's been a member ever since, and is an Honorary Life Member of Unit 189.

"Grace is the sweetest ALA member and a great asset to our unit. As of late, she has not been able to attend Auxiliary meetings and events, and we miss Grace's beautiful smile," said Unit 189 President Sophie Liberatore.

Gustafson is fond of her ALA unit as well.

"I love the people, they have great parties, and I love playing cards," she said.

She definitely knows a lot about great parties. For many years, starting at the age of 16, Gustafson lived with a prominent family in her community of Norwich, N.Y. During the week, she cared for the family's children. Her job also was to help with the cooking and help serve at the high society parties and elegant dinner events. The affairs were like some spectacular scene of a 1930s black-and-white movie featuring a fancy party.

But all those old fancy parties pale in comparison to Gustafson turning 105. Though there could not be a big party for her milestone birthday, mainly out of precaution because of the COVID-19 pandemic, she is celebrated every day by all who know and love her.



LOOK TO THE FUTURE ... WORKING TOWARD ALA'S NEXT 100 YEARS

A century of delivering selfless service and support to our nation's veterans, military, and their families is quite an achievement! It's definitely worth celebrating. The American Legion Auxiliary reached

that major milestone when this storied organization turned 100 years old Nov. 10, 2019. And this month, the ALA turns 101. It may not sound as exciting as reaching 100. But it is! Our 101st year is the start of the ALA's second century of service.

Honoring and helping America's veterans, servicemembers, and their families has been a longstanding ALA tradition — one our organization fully intends to continue. Think about the millions of people impacted positively by the Auxiliary's programs and outreach, plus the support members and volunteers provide to The American

Legion in its advocacy role, and other efforts made, on behalf of those we proudly serve. Then, think of how many more lives we can touch in the decades to come.

Celebrating major milestones is fun. It's a terrific opportunity to look to our past, ALA's rich history of service, to unearth a wealth of inspiration and education. But we can also look to the future as we work toward the ALA's upcoming 100 years. Our next century of selfless service has already dawned for the American Legion Auxiliary. It's time for us to greet the morning, roll up our sleeves, and continue our work!



ALA History with HOLLYWOOD STARS



In 1942, while on tour selling war bonds, Hollywood actress Carole Lombard (left) receives a War Bond Pledge from ALA National Treasurer Cecilia Wenz.



At the ALA's 1946 ALA National Convention States Dinner, radio star Bob Hope served as master of ceremonies. Flanking Hope are National President Jennie Craven (left) and Past National President Ruth Mathebat.



In 1950, TV star and WWII servicemember entertainer Ken Murray accepts a poppy bouquet during ALA poppy days with (from left) D. O'Rourke, Mrs. D. Strahm, and Mrs. G. Farrand.



I Love Lucy stars Desi Arnaz and Lucille Ball receive the ALA's 1954 Golden Mike Award from California member Mrs. Leon A. Farrand.



National President Petie Ahnemiller presents the ALA's 1961 Golden Mike Award to actor Robert Young for his television show, *Father Knows Best*, and Academy Award winner Loretta Young.



Building ALA brand loyalty



ALA BRANDING GAME NOW LEGION FAMILY FOCUSED

Originally created as part of a long-term strategic plan, the ALA Branding Game was designed to get members thinking about the brands we know and use or once used on a regular basis, why we recognize

them, and how we feel about those brands.

This year, the branding game was adapted to make it American Legion Family friendly, adding in the Family emblems and changing the wording and logos used throughout to be more encompassing.

The senior member version includes 22 logos of well-known company/organization brands, while the Juniors/Sons version has 22 logos but with brands that appeal to a younger target audience.

Purposes/objectives of the game:

- Learn more about branding

and how it applies to the American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion Family.

- Discuss the importance of branding through review of current company brands.

- Discover the potential positive and negative consequences of branding.

- Learn about and discuss public perception for both members and those who aren't familiar with our organization.

Visit www.ALAforVeterans.org today to download the documents to play. Everyone walks away from this game as winners!

ALA DECLARATION DESCRIBES WHO WE ARE

For decades, the American Legion Auxiliary has followed our mission and vision statements, which have helped guide members and volunteers to better serve our nation's veterans, military, and their families. We are still focused on these statements, but recently, ALA National Headquarters has been working to more clearly define what our organization is about, what our members and volunteers do, and why the ALA matters in an effort to attract more volunteers, members, and donors to the organization.

These brainstorming sessions have led to the creation of the ALA declaration (at right).

We encourage our members to share the declaration with volunteers, prospective members, and donors to help them learn more about the people who are part of the Auxiliary. To view the declaration video or download the declaration flyer, sign, or poster, visit www.ALAforVeterans.org.



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

We are the American Legion Auxiliary.

We are called to serve.

We respect our country and the service of those who defend our freedoms.

We are loyal to our United States Constitution and to those who protect it.

We are humbled by the courage of our veterans and their families.

We are alone, yet we stand together.

We are daughters, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers. We are family.

We are of every color. We are of every faith.

We are of every age.

We are anyone and everyone.

We are common and extraordinary.

We are citizens.

We live in small towns.

We live in suburbs.

We live in cities.

We work in fields, in factories, warehouses, offices, at home.

We are a community. We help one another.

We love our flag and all that it stands for.

We are many. We are one.

We are the American Legion Auxiliary. A Community of Volunteers

Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families.

We commit ourselves to the ideal: *Service Not Self.*



A REFRESHED NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY WEBSITE

www.ALAforVeterans.org has undergone various changes over the years to better serve our members, volunteers, donors, and those new to the ALA with crucial information about our worldwide organization. Once again, we have made updates to our online presence to better reflect our mission and what we do. Tell us what you think about the changes! Drop us a line at ALAMagazine@ALAforVeterans.org.

Source Code. 79316 © Dream Products (Prices valid for 1yr.)



FINALLY! The PERFECT Watch!

Glow-In-The-Dark Comfort Watch

Keeps You On Time Day & Night

BRIGHT LUMINOUS FACE
Makes It Easy To Read,
Even In Total Darkness

- Comfortable Wrist Band
- Self-Fastening Closure For A Perfect Fit

only
\$19⁹⁹



For
Men & Women!

FREE
Shipping & Handling

A luminous yellow/green face shines brightly, making the large, bold numbers easy to read, even in total darkness. No difficult buckles to deal with, this watch features a comfortable wrist band with self-fastening closure, for a comfortable, perfect fit every time. Zinc alloy casing and one size fits most; adjustable nylon strap with one touch closure. An amazing price for the best watch you've ever worn!

Order Now Toll-Free

1-800-530-2689

M-F 6am-1am CST
S-S 6am-9pm CST

Connect With

DreamProducts.com

website offers may vary

*We may be required to collect sales tax.
Please visit DreamProducts.com FAQ page if
you need more information.

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return
For Your Money Back

Glow-In-The-Dark Comfort Watches

Item #369333 Ladies' Glow-In-The-Dark Comfort Watch @ \$19.99 ea	\$
Item #367962 Men's Glow-In-The-Dark Comfort Watch @ \$19.99 ea	\$
*Add Applicable State/Local Sales Tax	\$
FREE Shipping & Handling	FREE
Please Print Clearly	Total
	\$

VISA American Express Exp. Date
 MasterCard Discover@/NOVUSSMCards

Card#

Name

Address

City ST Zip

Daytime Phone #

Email

Send check/money order payable to Dream Products
412 Dream Lane, P.O. Box 3690, Oshkosh, WI 54903-3690

Source Code **79316**

To receive this offer on the web, you
MUST input the source code when ordering

ALL THINGS ALA GIRLS STATE & ALA GIRLS NATION



STEPPING UP: Junga (Nora) Youn (center), a 2019 California ALA Girls State alumna and ALA Good Deed Award recipient, hosts a benefit concert for veterans at the Livermore VA facility.

CALIFORNIA ALUMNA INSPIRED TO SERVE VETERANS

Junga (Nora) Youn's experience at California ALA Girls State in 2019 gave her a greater appreciation for veterans. Soon after attending, she organized a benefit concert for veterans at the Livermore VA facility as a way to give back.

ALA MEMBER FONDLY RECALLS ALA GIRLS STATE EXPERIENCE DECADES LATER



Joyce Patterson

Joyce Patterson grew up in The American Legion Family and has been a member for nearly 60 years. Her father was a charter member and past commander of the

Capt. Wm. G. Shoemaker Post 345 in Lynn, Mass. Her mother was an active member of the Auxiliary unit.

When the Juniors program began at Unit 345, Patterson's parents signed her up immediately, and she

love music and believe that it has the power to move people. I have many friends who are into music and wanted to participate.

Do you plan to do any other fundraisers for veterans? Yes! I have experience with a benefit concert now, so it would be great to organize another event. Every bit helps, and that's the mindset I had going into the

became the first Junior president for the unit. She later was chosen as a delegate to Massachusetts ALA Girls State.

Why did you decide to attend ALA Girls State? As a youngster growing up in an American Legion Family, I was well aware of ALA Girls State and hoped one day I would be able to attend. In 1964, I was thrilled when I was chosen for the 20th Massachusetts ALA Girls State.

What do you remember about the program? I remember the morning flag raising, the inspiring speakers, the debates, the party caucuses, writing bills and presenting for final action, challenging conversations, running for offices, and the friendships and camaraderie

Youn's efforts have not gone unnoticed. She recently was recognized for going above and beyond for veterans. She received an ALA Good Deed Award for hosting the benefit.

Why did you decide to do a benefit concert? The first thing that came to mind was a benefit concert because I

benefit concert, because even though our impact was small, it was positive.

How has attending ALA Girls State impacted you? ALA Girls State taught me leadership, confidence, and how to forge connection — and all in such a short time! It also taught me how important it is to participate in politics, and it flipped my previous belief that I couldn't change anything. And of course, it taught me to be grateful for the veterans. These all together helped me host and organize the benefit concert.

What would you say to other girls thinking about attending ALA Girls State? I would definitely encourage them to take the opportunity. These kinds of chances don't come easily, and this may be the only time in their life to be able to practice in such a realistic setting, meet amazing people, and learn important lessons and skills. It's just a week, but it is truly lifechanging.

with the many wonderful girls who came from all over the state.

Did ALA Girls State impact your adult life, and if so, how? Attending ALA Girls State definitely impacted my adult life. It enabled me to develop my public speaking skills. I gained confidence to lead groups and meetings and accept officer positions in various organizations.

What advice do you have for girls considering attending ALA Girls State? This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. You will hear extraordinary speakers, participate in many activities, make lifelong friendships, and gain a deeper understanding of how government works.



Tell us about yourself!

We're seeking short videos from all ALA Girls State and ALA Girls Nation alumnae. Submit a video by sharing your memories of the program and why others should attend and how it has influenced your life. Please include the program and year you attended. These videos will be used for marketing purposes. Send to PR@ALAforVeterans.org. If the file is too large, email it through [WeTransfer.com](https://www.wetransfer.com).

ALA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

RECEIVING SCHOLARSHIP DURING PANDEMIC A 'VOTE OF CONFIDENCE'



Morgan Jefford (right)
with her grandmother,
Janet Jefford.

Spirit of Youth Scholarship recipient Morgan Jefford has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary since she was born in 2001. With a great-grandfather who served in World War II,

and an ALA Past National President for a grandmother (Janet Jefford, 2014-2015), her membership was inevitable.

"My grandmother has been super involved and got me involved in the ALA. I traveled to a convention with her once and she has kept [the American Legion Auxiliary] a constant in my life," Jefford said.

Attending ALA National Convention with her grandmother was an eye-opening experience for Jefford.

"I just saw all the different types of people who were involved. It was just really cool, because I always heard her talk about it, but I didn't know how big it was until I went," she said.

Like her grandmother, Jefford has a passion for service. She has been engaged with her local community, started clubs with her friends, and participated in service trips to Guatemala. As she attends Fordham University, she plans to pursue new service opportunities in New York City.

"Fordham is in the Bronx and there are other boroughs. I really want to do something to help kids who are less fortunate or come from

a difficult family life," Jefford said.

Upon receiving the Auxiliary's Spirit of Youth Scholarship, Jefford's family was happy to have assistance with the exceptional price tag that comes with college, and her grandmother was extremely proud.

However, Jefford shared that in a pandemic when so many things have been negatively affected, the scholarship meant even more to her.

"It was just a piece of really good news. Someone out there thought I deserved this money and they had faith that I was going to use my college education for good and that I was going to do something. It was just a really nice vote of confidence," Jefford said.

When asked what she would say to those who make ALA scholarships possible, Jefford pointed out how important the scholarships are to young students and to the future of the ALA.

"Receiving a scholarship reinforces that idea that you are going somewhere academically and that you are smart and that you have a bright future ahead of you," she said. "For the recipients of scholarships, it reminds them to stay active in the organization."

As someone who works very hard in school and believes that a quality education is vital to one's impact, Jefford's favorite quote lines up with her philosophy on education:

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" - Nelson Mandela.

Help young students like Morgan Jefford change the world by supporting their education. Donate to ALA national scholarships at www.ALAforVeterans.org/Donate or mail a check to ALA National Headquarters, 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268 and put "ALA Scholarships" in the memo line.

National Scholarships offered by the American Legion Auxiliary:

Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship



Fifteen \$5,000 scholarships are awarded annually (three per geographic division), to direct descendants of veterans who served in the Armed Forces during eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion.

Spirit of Youth Scholarship Five \$5,000 scholarships (one per



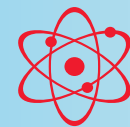
geographic division) are awarded each year to ALA Junior members.

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

Five \$2,000 scholarships are awarded (one per geographic division) to a member of the Legion Family returning to school after a break in studies.



Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship



Ten \$2,500 scholarships (two per geographic division) are awarded

to current college students who retained their ALA Junior membership into adulthood.

Learn more and start your application for an ALA scholarship at www.ALAforVeterans.org/Scholarships.

Wise PEOPLE SAID



SERVING TOGETHER: Ted and Shirley Kubiak, dual members of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, belong to Post and Unit 360 in Waunakee, Wis. (photo: Roberta Baumann/Waunakee Tribune).

Helping others has been a way of life for American Legion Auxiliary members Ted and Shirley Kubiak, even before the couple met and married.

Ted was a medic in the U.S. Air Force. He followed that with a

20-plus year career as a physician assistant, including some work in occupational medicine. Shirley became a nurse — a profession she felt drawn to after time spent caring for her grandmother, who was blind. Shirley joined the

Wisconsin Army National Guard, serving 21 years full-time as an Occupational Health Nurse and earning her way up to the rank of colonel. She also served in the Army Reserves.

The Kubiaks are retired now, and they're still touching the lives of others in positive ways. They volunteer regularly at a medical clinic in an Amish community 43 miles away from their home. Ted and Shirley also help people as dual members of the ALA and The American Legion. The couple belong to Legion Post and ALA Unit 360 in Waunakee, Wis. This year, Ted became the first man to serve as president of Unit 360. Shirley is serving as unit secretary. The Kubiaks value their dual memberships in the ALA and the Legion.

“Our organizations are tied to something I believe in: supporting our veterans,” Ted said. “I joined ALA to honor my wife’s military service. And, maybe more men will join the

TED AND SHIRLEY KUBIAK

Why is helping veterans, military, and their families a lifelong commitment?

Ted: I have this sense that I’m supposed to do that. Maybe it’s because of basic training or how I was brought up. I was brought up very much an American. As a kid, I said the Pledge of Allegiance, and my dad told me how to properly handle the U.S. flag. He was proud of his service. I joined the service. I was proud to do so. I was happy to give back. I had the opportunity to serve our nation. I had the G.I. Bill and all of these benefits. Given all that I had, I felt that there’s a responsibility

to give back. In our case, it’s an enjoyable responsibility.

Shirley: It’s not just even my military career and what I’ve done. I think I’ve always felt that lifelong commitment, and part of it had to do with being in the nursing field, too. It’s wanting to help people. Knowing what our soldiers have been doing in the wars, and what they go through when coming back home, makes me want to help them more. And we do all we can. In fact, [Legionnaires] have helped veterans move back into the community and get settled. We always say, ‘veterans helping veterans.’

What is the best advice you’ve received, and from whom?

Ted: You always check twice. Maybe not go with your first

impression; check twice. I got that from my dad.

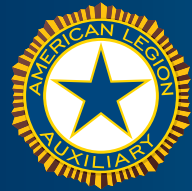
Shirley: A military general said to me, ‘You always have to be ready for your next career or promotion. Always make sure you’re ready for it.’ That has always stayed with me.

What was the biggest obstacle you’ve been faced with, and how did you overcome it?

Ted: Getting rid of habits. One, I quit smoking. And two, I quit drinking alcohol. It was 1978 when I quit smoking. Stopping drinking, yeah, that was pretty tough. I have since learned that I don’t need alcohol; my brain works better without it. It’s not an obstacle I’ve overcome; it’s an obstacle I’m overcoming. I’m not looking for applause. It’s just one of the paths I’ve



Membership eligibility explained! Women *and* men, visit www.ALForVeterans.org/join to learn more about how you can join the American Legion Auxiliary’s community of volunteers serving veterans, military, and their families.



ALA ACADEMY LIVE

Looking to Learn How to Lead ALA Juniors?

Check out this new Junior Leader Training webinar for adult ALA leaders. You'll learn:

- How to make Junior meetings more fun and mission-focused
- How to build Junior recruiting tools
- How Juniors can be involved in being active members of The American Legion Family

Start today by going to www.ALAforVeterans.org/ala-academy



American Legion Auxiliary once they realize that male spouses of military veterans can be ALA members. The ALA is for all people who meet eligibility requirements and who are proud of their spouses' service or the military service of other relatives."

Shirley appreciates the teamwork she sees between the Legion and the Auxiliary: "It's the Legion Family working together to do things for our community, for our veterans, and a variety of other positive things. After being in the Legion, and seeing all that the Auxiliary does, I realized how grateful I am for the ALA's help with Legion members on community programs and projects."

Shirley's military service qualifies her for Legion membership. Her military service, along with her Legion membership, makes her eligible to join the Auxiliary. Her husband is eligible for ALA membership through

Shirley's military service and because she is a Legionnaire. Ted had already been a Legionnaire, qualifying for Legion membership through his military service. He is a Paid Up For Life member of the Legion.

In August 2019, American Legion Auxiliary membership was extended to male spouses of veterans, living or deceased, whose military service makes them eligible to become Legionnaires. If the veteran spouse is living, he or she must be a Legion member in order for the spouse to join the ALA. A complete listing of eligibility requirements for ALA membership can be found at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

The Kubiaks share some of the wisdom they've acquired, and the motivation that sustains them as individuals, as a couple, as military veterans, and as proud members of The American Legion Family.

taken in life. Maybe someone else reading this will see he or she can stop, too.

Shirley: My biggest obstacle was getting a divorce from my first husband. I was always taught that when we get married, it's for a lifetime. You made your bed; you sleep in it. When I had problems with my first husband, it was very, very difficult. I had two children. And I thought many times, earlier in our marriage, to maybe end it [her marriage]. But I was thinking that I couldn't do this by myself. I had two children, and they needed a family.

But when it really came down to it, I realized how bad it was and that I had to get out of that relationship. That was the biggest hurdle I've ever had to jump. And I was married for almost 20 years to my first husband.

What is the biggest life lesson you learned, and when did you learn it?

Ted: Tragedy can occur at any time. Enjoy life. Don't be afraid of death. Why let fear stop you from enjoying? Keep going. You just don't know what's coming down the pike. But I just can't see being a quivering mass in a corner just because I'm afraid.

Shirley: Growing up, my mom always told me, 'You can do what you want to do. And don't say, I can't do this. Just try it and see what happens.' I was in grammar school having problems with schoolwork. I struggled with stuff. But I came home and worked on it. The same thing with nursing. I always had to take my notes, come home, rewrite them, and reread them again. That's how I keep things straight. I was in my 40s before I realized that I'm dyslexic. My mom was right. You can do whatever you want to do if you put your mind to it. And I say, if you're helping others while doing it, even better.



Your Auxiliary Member Benefits: *There's More In It For You!*



The value of being an American Legion Auxiliary member is growing! You bring untold value to the Auxiliary and America's veterans through your service to our mission. To show our appreciation, we bring valuable benefits to you! Your membership brings you access to a wide array of discounts, products, and services.

- Insurance: Accident and Long-Term Care Plans
- Healthcare: Hearing, Dental, and Prescription Discounts
- Home and Moving Services
- Travel: Hotel Discounts
- Entertainment: Discounts for Movie Tickets, Theme Parks, Restaurants, and More!

To learn more, visit our member benefits page at www.ALAforVeterans.org/Resources/Member-Benefits and start saving today!

© American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters. All rights reserved. 07/2020



Fun for Adult and Youth Members! Everyone Wins in The American Legion Family Branding Game



With this exciting and interactive three-round game, Legion Family members will compare and discuss The American Legion Family brand and challenge each other to care for and promote our brand with a new awareness of how others see us.

The American Legion Family Branding Game objectives:

- ★ Learn more about branding and how it applies to The American Legion Family.
- ★ Discuss the importance of branding through review of company brands.
- ★ Discover the potential positive and negative consequences of branding.
- ★ Learn about and discuss public perception for both members and those who aren't familiar with our organizations.

Log in to the Members Only section at www.ALAforVeterans.org to download the free game

© American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters. All rights reserved. 05/2020



(Photo: A24 and AppleTV+)

AN AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY TAKES VIEWERS INSIDE BOYS STATE

In 2018, a film crew set out to get an inside look at The American Legion's Texas Boys State at the University of Texas. The result — an award-winning documentary appropriately named *Boys State*.

Filmmakers Jesse Moss and

Amanda McBaine envisioned this project would reveal political viewpoints of teenagers. They were interested in discovering how young people from different political backgrounds come together and engage over political issues.

During the week of *Boys State*, the crew followed four of the statesmen as they campaigned for elected positions and worked to get

their parties to agree on a platform. The filmmakers not only captured the basics of the program, they captured the emotions of the statesmen and how the experience affected their view of politics and the importance of being civically involved.

One-on-one interviews in the film allow viewers to become invested in their stories. It sheds a light on the decisions they made and why they sometimes told voters what they wanted to hear, instead of their true opinion.

Boys State is getting noticed. The film won the Grand Jury Prize for documentary at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. Following the festival, Apple and A24 bought the rights to the documentary for a reported \$12 million.

Boys State is available to stream on AppleTV+.

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS PROVIDE AID IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

American Legion Family members continue to unselfishly come to the aid of others during the pandemic and natural disasters such as Hurricane Laura.

In August, Hurricane Laura made landfall in Cameron, La., leaving a path of destruction in Louisiana and Texas. Legion posts across the South immediately took action to help those in need. Posts began collecting water, food, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, and more. Several posts decided to deliver the supplies to those areas in the most need.

Financial help is available for victims of natural disasters. The American Legion's National Emergency Fund (NEF) is available to help American Legion members and posts, and Sons of The American Legion members, who have been impacted. To apply, go to www.Legion.org.

Auxiliary members can also get help through the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Information can

be found at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

Meanwhile, efforts continue in pandemic relief. American Legion posts continue to host blood drives, provide drive-through meals, provide personal protective equipment, and more.

The American Legion has also been helping veterans and their families with virtual events such as online career fairs and VA benefits assistance.

100 MILES FOR HOPE RAISES NEEDED FUNDS

American Legion National Commander Bill Oxford kicked off his 100 Miles for Hope campaign in August to benefit the Legion's



Veterans and Children Foundation. American Legion Auxiliary

National President Nicole Clapp and Sons of The American Legion Commander Clint Bolt joined the campaign.

Legion Family members were

challenged to cover 100 miles through Veterans Day by walking, running, or any other way they would enjoy. Some achieved the 100 miles on their own, while some post homes hosted events.

In addition to raising money for the Legion's Veterans and Children Foundation, Legion Family members have shared stories about how it has helped them step up their fitness routine. For others, it made them realize they can still do something to help during the pandemic.

Cindy Boehnlein of ALA Unit 421 in the Department of Ohio is taking the challenge beyond the 100 miles. Boehnlein plans to go over 500 miles and continue fundraising. The additional funds will not only support the Veterans and Children Foundation, but she plans to donate 50% to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

The American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation provides financial assistance for disabled veterans, military families, and young people who lost parents in service to our nation.

For more, visit www.Legion.org.

CONTINUING TO SERVE

Units get creative working mission during pandemic

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way American Legion Auxiliary units have operated in our communities across the country and world, it has not stopped the mission from continuing — it has simply required us to adapt. Units have come up with creative ways to persevere with mission-focused activities, all while maintaining social distancing and wearing masks.

There are many activities members can do without attending meetings or working in-person events. We encourage you to borrow these ideas and keep making a difference!

Idea No. 1: Stock food pantries



Always eager to lend a helping hand, members assisted in recent months by physically stocking food pantry shelves, purchasing needed items, and collecting donations from their communities.

- Unit 227 in East Moline, Ill., gave \$300 to its local food bank.
- Unit 397 in Monterey Park, Calif., has been running a food bank based on household or individual dietary needs and has delivered items.
- Unit 521 in Pasadena, Texas, gathered and donated 10 bags of food for the city's food drive to help stock the pantries.

Idea No. 2: Help medical centers/community members with needed supplies



As COVID-19 hit across the nation, members stepped up to help medical centers with supplies, namely sewing

masks to better protect frontline workers against the pandemic. From Junior to senior members, many sewed or otherwise made masks to add that extra layer of protection in addition to health care workers' N95 and surgical masks. Units also made masks for veterans homes and for their communities, ensuring access to

protection from the virus.

- Unit 135 in Sabattus, Maine, donated 100 cloth face masks each to two of their veterans homes. Additionally, the unit has a member who started making masks when the pandemic began and left them at a few businesses in town at no charge. She has made over 6,000 masks that were given out in the community.

Idea No. 3: Attend/host blood drives



Members stepped up during the crisis for those in need of blood donations. In fact, this was an

American Legion Family affair for some communities that attended and/or hosted blood drives after seeing the need.

- Unit 360 in Weatherly, Pa., sponsored a blood drive in its community.

Idea No. 4: Hold "parades" for residents in nursing homes to uplift spirits



For those in nursing homes, COVID has been especially hard with many enforcing a zero-visitor policy for months, leaving residents without a personal, physical connection with loved ones. Some,

not knowing what was going on, could have felt abandoned, lonely, or confused. Many members pulled together to create parades for those in nursing homes so they knew they hadn't been forgotten. From walking by to driving by, to handmade signs held up outside residents' windows, ALA members helped give positive vibes to those in nursing homes.

- Unit 164 in Spearfish, S.D., had Junior members use homemade signs outside the windows of residents at the Spearfish Canyon Healthcare Center to help cheer them up during the pandemic.

Idea No. 5: Provide meals



An activity that was done even before the pandemic, units across the country continued to make meals for people in their communities. Through this simple act, members met the basic needs of hundreds through a *Service Not Self* mindset.

- Unit 524 in Ocean City, N.J., provided meals for the homebound, elderly veterans, hospital workers, firefighters, police, and EMTs.

Idea No. 6: Make phone calls to fellow members



Sometimes, all someone needs is a simple phone call to let them know you're thinking of them, especially during a pandemic when many have missed that social, in-person interaction. Members across the country took time to make phone calls for a health and well-being check on each other, as well as offering to help with running errands as needed.

- Unit 5 in Tampa, Fla., sent "thinking of you" cards and did Buddy Checks on members.

American Legion Auxiliary social media

Visit our social media at www.ALForVeterans.org/social-media



JOIN ALA NATIONAL FACEBOOK GROUPS TO CONNECT WITH MEMBERS

Are you looking for new ideas to serve the American Legion Auxiliary mission? Do you have questions about a particular program? Do you want to learn more about all things ALA?

Find the answers you need via ALA national Facebook groups. American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters has 16 Facebook groups dedicated to programs, offering an opportunity to interact with fellow members, as well as national committee chairmen and members. You can ask questions in these groups, get and give advice, and see what others are doing to serve the ALA's mission.

For example, if you're looking for ideas on how to recruit members or need explanations on membership eligibility, check out the ALA

membership group. If you need ideas on distributing poppies, go to the ALA poppy group.

Most of these groups are private, meaning only members of the group can see posts, and only members of the group can see who else is a member. Posts are not shareable from private groups, allowing members to feel comfortable communicating with each other without fear of the content being shared to other accounts.

Important reminder about ALA national Facebook groups: To keep these forums as useful as possible, members should post only content that is relevant to the program or group they're posting in. If the content is about Americanism, post only in the Americanism group, not the AEF group.

If you are interested in joining any of these ALA groups, visit @ALForVeterans on Facebook and click the "Groups" tab. You can also use the search function and enter the group name you want to join. Select the group, and request to join. Be sure to answer the required questions upon requesting to join, making it easier for administrators to verify that you're a member.

ALA National Facebook Groups

- AEF, American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund
- ALA Children & Youth
- ALA Community Service
- ALA Education Program
- ALA Girls State Leaders
- ALA Leadership Program
- ALA Legislative
- ALA National Security
- ALA Public Relations
- American Legion Auxiliary 100th Anniversary Celebration
- American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Program
- American Legion Auxiliary Chaplains
- American Legion Auxiliary Historians
- American Legion Auxiliary National Membership Group
- American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program
- American Legion Auxiliary Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R)

PROTECT OTHERS WITH AUXILIARY PRIDE!



Auxiliary Face Mask

(307.805)

2-ply, with polyester outer layer and soft cotton inner layer.

Washable for repeated use.

Full-color sublimated Auxiliary emblem.

One size fits most.

Made in USA.

* Proceeds support American Legion Family programs

American Legion Emblem Sales

1-888-453-4466

Emblem.Legion.org

AUX MG 1120

Auxiliary's Crossword answers from page 22

ACROSS

4. Cake
7. Ageless
9. Icing
10. Candles
11. Happy
13. Invite
14. Wiser

DOWN

1. Cards
2. Festive
3. Belated
5. Event
6. Balloon
8. Sparkling
12. Presents

Spread the word about the work your unit is doing. Share pictures on social media and tag us @ALForVeterans and use #AmericanLegionAuxiliary.

“An enthusiastic heart finds opportunities everywhere.”

— Paulo Coelho, Brazilian author



It all started when a young woman with a baby outside a grocery store needed food and diapers. ALA members Carol Pirone-Udell and Marcia Silva of Unit 347 in Lady Lake, Fla., were shopping when they saw the woman and purchased some items for her. This got Carol wondering how many people must be without work because of the coronavirus, and thus efforts for a food drive began. The post Family, after receiving donations from 155 vehicles via drive-through donation dropoffs at the post, then came together in a superhuman effort — they provided an estimated 8½ tons of food worth over \$42,000, as well as over \$4,000 in cash and gift cards, all for three food banks in the area.

Above: A massive amount of food and supplies was sorted within a day for the food drive, thanks to 34 volunteers from The American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders at Post 347.



#GivingTuesday | December 1, 2020

Because of #GivingTuesday, hundreds of veterans gather each year to display their artistic talents, helping them heal from physical and emotional wounds acquired during their service.

Because of #GivingTuesday, thousands of young women have been empowered to use their voice for good.

Because of #GivingTuesday, servicemembers across the nation have been provided with the resources they need to build a better life.

Imagine what will happen this year — because of #GivingTuesday.

Join us December 1 to support our nation's heroes.

Donate today at
www.ALAFoundation.org/GivingTuesday,
or mail a check to the ALA Foundation
at 3450 Founders Road,
Indianapolis, IN 46268,
or call (317) 569-4500 to learn more.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
FOUNDATION

Ensuring Our Mission of Service Endures

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity that supports the American Legion Auxiliary. All gifts to the Foundation are tax-deductible as allowed by the United States Tax Code and U.S. Internal Revenue Service. © American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters. All rights reserved. 07/2020



Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Bolingbrook, IL
Permit No. 2046

American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters
3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268

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



Our dues matter even more today

We know the pandemic may keep us from our usual in-person mission outreach activities. But in these times of extreme change and adaptation, our membership dues matter most.

They keep our American Legion Auxiliary going strong, and most importantly: that continuity of support our veterans, military, and their families need from us.

We shouldn't back down or take a break because of COVID-19. Instead, let's become even more focused on our mission and those we serve.

Renew your American Legion Auxiliary membership at www.ALforVeterans.org or call us at (317) 569-4570.

