



# American Legion Auxiliary District 11 Newsletter

October 2025



## New News:

My theme for this year is along with our Legion's "Be The One" initiative. My focus is on our Veteran's PTSD and mental health issues.

Let's **BUILD** each other!

- B** – Be the One!
- U** – Unite and help each other achieve our goals!
- I** – Inspire and motivate one another!
- L** – Listen to each other!
- D** – Dedicate ourselves to helping each other!



My project for this year is to raise money for a program named JAVELAN.

This program was started by Robert Dean. His wife is a Veteran and needed a service dog and they personally seen how important these dogs are, so they decided to try to do a program to help others. How this program works is when a Veteran (or First Responder) would like a service dog they need to contact them and the only cost to the Veteran (or First Responder) is \$25. If the Veteran has a dog that is 3 years or younger they will come out and train their dog that they currently have. If they don't have a dog, then the JAVELAN program will get a dog through Pet for Vets (another rescue program for Veterans) or the local Humane Society. If the Veteran wants a specific kind of dog, they need to acquire that on their own. The Trainer comes to the Veteran and will train the dog at the expense of the JAVELAN program. This program is nonprofit and relies solely on donations. When I spoke with Mr. Dean he told me that if anyone would like him to come to their meetings and would like more information he would be glad to do so.

I will be raffling off a couple things to make money for a donation to this program. The 1st prize is an Eagle lawn Decoration and a Patriotic picture of bird houses and cardinals. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize is a Patriotic picture of dogs in the back of an old pickup and flag and a patriotic table centerpiece. I will try to display these at County meetings that I am available to attend please let me know if you have any questions or if you know any one that would benefit from a service dog and need more information.

## State Fair:

The Nebraska State had a Veterans Day this year on September 1<sup>st</sup>. They had a very nice program with some good speakers. The Auxiliary walked behind the color guard in the parade.



## Fall Roundup:

Fall Roundup was on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. I think we had a great turnout. **Our District Flags are ordered and should be here soon!!!** Robert Dean from the JAVELAN program was there and spoke to the joint session to promote and explain his program.

**President Ruth** - spoke and shared why our organization is so important to her. She invited everyone to attend her Homecoming which was September 27<sup>th</sup>. I think she had a great turn out for this. She also shared that her project for the year is Auxiliary Emergency Fund and why it's so important. She is raffling off 2 cutting wooden boards with the Auxiliary seal stamped on them. Tickets are \$1 a ticket and 6 tickets for \$5.

**Vicki Ozenbaugh** – Reported on Girls State and how well that went. She also raising money for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund and had a fun activity to raise some money. She also stated that she is the interim Treasure for the Department, and they are currently looking for someone to fill that position. So, if you have any accounting skills and need a job please contact the Department.

**Deb Albers** – Spoke on the Blue Star Manners, Military Person of the Year Award and the POW/MIA memorial. She stressed how membership was so important and getting our due in as soon as possible and asked every member to ask just one person to join the Auxiliary.

**Loree Hendrickson**, Department Legislative Chairperson spoke on how writing to our legislators is so important and easy it is. She also stated that Nebraska as always had a sufficient supply of poppies because the inmates at the penitentiary were making them and they are no longer allowed to do so. So any Unit that would be willing to be trained on how to make them would be appreciated. She also stated that there is a get together every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month and that they have been getting together at the Roadrunner in Daykin at 6pm. This is not an official meeting it's just a get together the help us all get to know each other.

**District Vice President Karen White** – gave a very informative report on her trip to the National Convention.

## Important Dates:

November 1, 2025	Poppy Orders Due
November 2, 2025	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 4, 2025	Election Day
November 10, 2025	Marine Corps Birthday
November 11, 2025	Veterans Day
November 17-21, 2025	American Education Week
December 7, 2025	Pearl Harbor Day
December 13, 2025	U. S. National Guard Birthday & National Wreaths Across America

**Department Mid Year Conference** – Will be January 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> 2026, in Norfolk at the Norfolk Lodge & Suites their phone # is (402) 379-3833 Use this number to get the discounted rate. Make sure you state the American Legion Auxiliary. The rate is \$110 per night before tax.

**District 11 Convention** – will be March 21<sup>st</sup> in Beatrice beginning @ 10am



**ABC Books** – are now available and will be sent out to each Unit President. If you would like a copy please contact Roxanne at Department the cost for each is \$10. If you would like to print one off for yourself, they are on the Department website [nebraskalegionaux.net](http://nebraskalegionaux.net) it is under the About Us ~ tab.

### **Ready, Set Go for Dues this year!!**

Secretary Roxanne said she can start taking them at any time now for all members. She also has a challenge to the first District to reach 100% membership by Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> (her birthday), she will personally pay for the hotel room for up to 3 nights at the Department Convention!

### **Let's go for 2 years in a row for District 11 to get to #1 for getting Dues in!!**

Deadline for getting Dues awards! Let's help get those Dues in early! See attached for the Awards!

#### **Unit Awards:**

There is a Drawing for the following:

25% Award by SAL Birthday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – two \$25 awards

60% Award by ALA Birthday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – one \$60 award

85% Award by TAL Birthday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – one \$85 award

(Our Department needs to reach this Goal to be considered for the Merit Medallion Award at National)

100% Award by President Ruthie's Birthday, June 10, 2026 – 2 \$100 awards.

## **2026 Membership Awards**

#### **Member Award: Recruit/Rejoin 10**

- **Award:** Special gift selected by the National Membership Chairman
- **Presented to:** Members who recruit and/or rejoin 10 Senior and/or Junior members. Rejoined members must not have renewed since 2022 or earlier.
- **Deadline:** Members must be entered and paid in ALAMIS member database by June 1, 2026.
- **FORMS** must be received at National HQ by June 6, 2026.
- **Materials** and guidelines:
  - Forms can be printed from the ALA national Membership Committee page of the national website ([www.AIAforVeterans.org](http://www.AIAforVeterans.org)). You must be logged in to the My Auxiliary area to access the page.
  - One entry per recruiter.

#### **Member Award: Family 3**

- **Award:** Special gift selected by the National President
- **Presented to:** Members who recruit 3 New Legion members, 3 New Auxiliary members & 3 New SAL members.
- **Deadline:** Members must be entered and paid for in the database by June 1, 2026.
- **FORMS** must be received at ALA National HQ by June 6, 2026
- **Materials** and guidelines:
  - Forms can be printed from the ALA national Membership Committee page of the national website ([www.AIAforVeterans.org](http://www.AIAforVeterans.org)). You must be logged in to the My Auxiliary area to access the page.
  - One entry per recruiter.

**Unit Award: 100% Unit Award**

- Award: ALA Key Chain with phone stand and cleaner, 2 per unit for the unit president and unit membership chairman.
- Presented to: Units that reach 100% of their 2026 membership goal by January 31, 2026.
- Deadline: January 31, 2026
- Materials and guidelines:
  - This award will be based on units that reach 100% of their reported goals by January 31, 2026, as verified by ALAMIS.

**Note: Departments must submit unit goals to National Headquarters by September 1, 2025, to be eligible for the 100% Unit Award. These must be sent in a specific format which will be provided by NHQ. Key chains for winning units will be mailed to each department for distribution.**

Thank you everyone for all your help getting this new year started. I hope to see you all soon!

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