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AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

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NOVEMBER 2025 DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

UNIT PRESIDENTS

It is important that you share this newsletter at your meetings and inform others that all Newsletters are available on the Nebraska Website (nebraskalegionaux.net). Thank you!!

FROM YOUR DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

SIRRING UP MEMBERS – SUM = SUCCESS



As autumn paints Nebraska towns with golden leaves and cool breezes, it also brings us a moment to reflect – on gratitude, service, and the unwavering spirit of those who have worn the uniform. Veterans Day reminds us not only to honor their sacrifice but also to renew our mission as Auxiliary members: to support, serve and remember.

This fall let's keep "STIRRING UP" our strength, our camaraderie, and our service. Together we can each make a difference.

Let us grow our impact! Please invite a friend, neighbor or relative to a Veterans Day Celebration. Why not invite them to an auxiliary meeting, or hand them a membership form?

If you have any questions, please call Headquarters, or you can call/text me at 402.239.6371 or email me at rhietbri@gmail.com.

Key dates for the American Legion Auxiliary in November

- American Legion Auxiliary Birthday (November 10): The Auxiliary was founded on November 10, 1919. Local units often mark the occasion with special meetings or other celebratory events.
- Veterans Day (November 11): This is a key day for the entire American Legion Family. Auxiliary units participate in parades, ceremonies, and luncheons to honor veterans. The ALA Foundation also organizes a "Veterans Day of Giving" to support veterans through fundraising.
- Marine Corps Birthday (November 10): Many American Legion Family members celebrate the Marine Corps' founding on this day.
- Buddy Check Week (Around Veterans Day): This initiative encourages American Legion Family members to contact and check in on fellow veterans and their families.

- American Education Week (November 17-21): This observance is a time to honor those who work in public schools. The Auxiliary supports programs for youth and education, making this a relevant celebration.
- Thanksgiving (November 27): Some Auxiliary units and posts host special dinners for veterans, service members, first responders, and their families.

Ruth Hietbrink

Department President



DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN
Vicki Colson

We are in the season of celebrations: Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and then New Year's Day. People are remembering, shopping, cooking, and enjoying fellowship with friends and family.

In the ABC book, you will find this year's Christmas program. It was one I found in our unit's file cabinet. I dusted it off and renewed it. Hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

Remember to send me prayers for Department Presidents Ruth's prayer book. Your unit could make a prayer book for District contests. Rules are also found in the ABC book.

Happy Holidays!



FROM THE OFFICE

SECRETARY NOTES
Roxanne Hiatt

What is life without change? Here at the office things are a bit hectic and warrant your patience. Our Treasurer and Bookkeeper Jacki O'Neill has decided to pursue a different career path so here at the office we are busy, busy trying to keep up and learn new duties.

Past Department President Vicki Ozenbaugh has been coming in several times a week to assist with the bookkeeping. A great help for me. Thanks Vicki. We would not be able to function financially without the volunteer assistance of Julie Totten and Eileen Gentrup. Thanks so much for your time.

Poppy orders keep coming in, and I don't know if we will be able to fill all of them as we have only one poppy maker at this time. You may not get poppies if you ordered after the November 1 deadline. One of those times that being timely pays off. Thanks to those Units and Districts that have been trying to find ways to help. It is appreciated.

Donations have been coming in like gangbusters. Thanks for that. We have Dollar Days, Gifts for Yanks and Gift Shops dates coming up and Unit donations ensure each year we can show our appreciation to our veterans in our State Homes and VA Hospitals.

Membership is rolling in, and I am working as quickly as I can to meet the weekly deadline to National for the reports. Keep up the good work, Units.

Fall Roundups are now finished, lots of donations were collected for President Ruth's AEF project. I know she appreciates this support.

We are already planning for Mid-Year in Norfolk, January 16-18, 2026. Risk & Compliance and Finance meeting dates are set. NW National Vice President Shareen Johnson of Wyoming will be in attendance. The new Department fund raising project will be announced and ticket sales will begin. Please come, and plan on a fun and educational conference.



TEMPORARY DEPARTMENT TREASURER
Vicki Ozenbaugh

Never thought that I would be the Temporary Department Treasurer. Sure I am the treasurer for the Ohio Chamber and Ohio Rescue, but Department Treasurer? Quite a difference. When asked by Jacki, who helped me by being our "temporary" secretary/treasurer when I was Department President, how could I say no. Please note the word "temporary."

Please help get the word out that the Department is taking applications for the position. The Oct/Nov STAR has an ad for the position as well as our website. Of course, you can call the office (402-466-1808) for information about the position.

As I slowly learn what the job entails, I ask for your patience. There is so much to learn, and I thank Jacki for the "crash course" before she left as well as thanks to Julie Totten and Eileen Gentrup for their continual guidance. With that said, I do not have any "treasurer tidbits" to share in this newsletter. Just a simple request—if you or you know someone who might be interested in the job, please consider it and contact the office. Again, it is temporary for me—especially with my other ALA commitments. Thanks!



AMERICANISM
Cie Kauth, Chair

Some fun facts on flags. Just in case you didn't know...in the event that lowering your flag to half-staff is not feasible, a black mourning ribbon or material streamer attached to the top of the flag serves as an appropriate expression of respect. For flags affixed to houses or indoor flag sets, the ribbon should be black, corresponding to the size of a stripe on the flag, and secured to the staff beneath the spearhead or ornament, with the ribbon(s) flowing freely.

A little on the Americanism essay. Some ladies in units say the teachers say that their curriculum is already full. So you could actually see if 4-H clubs, Girl Scouts, or Boy Scouts leaders would like to participate in this for fun.

Americanism trivia:

1. Star Spangled Kids: Educate the youth on the history of the United State from the aspect of what?

Answer: Patriotism, Americanism, and the U.S. Constitution.

2. Where should the American Flag be positioned at in any events?

Answer: On the right side of the speaker, and on the left side of the observers.



AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND (AEF)


Vicki Ozenbaugh, Chair

Did you know that the Auxiliary Emergency Fund Program is the only program that assists and aids our members? That is where we get the phrase “members helping members.”

If your Unit donated to President Ruth’s project and/or to the National AEF fund, your Unit has helped. Thank you!

If you attended your District’s Fall Round Up and participated in the M & M activity, you helped. Thank you!

There is another way individual ALA members can donate. On the national website (alaforveterans.org) under the AEF Committee link, there is a “DONATE” link. This allows you to donate electronically. You set up the amount and frequency. Please note there are five different donations from which you can choose.



Honor Their Service: Donate to Support Our Veterans and Their Families

Donations to the American Legion Auxiliary are vital in supporting the health and well-being of veterans, active-duty service members, and their families. Your contribution helps fund programs that provide financial assistance to ALA members, scholarships, and community outreach. Your gift ensures that the American Legion Auxiliary can continue its mission of serving those who have served us.

1. Choose an amount:

\$ 25

\$ 50

\$ 100


\$ 250

\$ 500

Or enter your own amount:

\$

☐ Repeat my donation monthly

Select a gift designation 

< select a fund >

< select a fund >

ALA Greatest Need

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Cavalcade of Memories

National Presidents' Scholarship Fund

Spirit of Youth Scholarships

2. Your information:

This is not me!

First Name

Last Name

Ozenbaugh

By selecting “Auxiliary Emergency Fund,” your donation is credited to you, your Unit, and our Department and it helps your fellow ALA members when they are in need. Please consider using this simple option to help build the National AEF Fund.

PS—if your Unit would like to use the “M & M” activity at one of your meetings, please contact me for the details. It is simple and rewarding!



EDUCATION
Cindy Moore, Chair



American Education Week happens the week prior to the week of Thanksgiving, November 17 - 21, 2025. Festivities honor the team of people who work in our nation’s public schools, everyone from the bus driver and classroom teacher to the cafeteria worker, coaches, and administrative staff.

This is a perfect time to engage with our schools! Tell them about the American Legion Auxiliary as well as share your Unit program information. Besides a “thank you,” let this be a conversation on how you can work together to improve communication and build a relationship to work on other projects. For example, Veterans Day programs, essay and poster contests, scholarships, Girls State, etc.

Some ideas on how to honor educators include:

- Make thank you notes and provide treats
- "Give 10 for Education" — ask what they need, not always school supplies
- Donate books to educate about patriotism, Veterans, poppies, etc.
- Give them a flag and flag etiquette book to use as a classroom resource
- Honor staff who are veterans
- Host an open house at your post to honor staff
- Volunteer at events they may be having that week
- If your post has a marquee sign outside, ask them to post a sign or message supporting this cause, showing your community connection
- Post a positive message on social media platforms as well as local media



POPPY
Justina Birkel, Chair

Did you know there are specific guidelines for how poppy funds can be used? See the handout included in this newsletter for more information.



MEMBERSHIP
Deb Albers, Chair

“Don’t Stop the Party”

**We are Celebrating the U.S.A’s 250th
Birthday in 2025-2026**



Let’s get everyone “Stirred Up with Membership.”

This week I have been working with Zero percent Units. Please do not hold your memberships. The only way a member can be a member is by submitting membership to the Department to be registered or by paying dues online. Members expect to be part of the organization when they pay their dues.

One reason to have continuous membership in the American Legion Auxiliary:

*Auxiliary Emergency Fund - a member’s dues must be current and have maintained continuous membership for at least 3 years to apply for a Hardship grant or Disaster Assistance.

Unit Awards

There will be a Drawing for the following:

25% Award On the SAL Birthday, September 15, we had 78 Units eligible for this award. We drew two Units- Tilden # 170 and Farnum #288 and each unit received \$25.

60% Awards by ALA Birthday, November 10, 2025

1 - \$60 award

85% Award by TAL Birthday, March 15, 2026 (Our Department needs to reach this Goal to be considered for the Merit Medallion Award at National)

1 - \$85 award

100% Award by President Ruthie’s Birthday, June 10, 2026

2 - \$100 awards

Currently we have one 100% Unit: Congratulations to Winside #252 who is at 104.55%

National Awards -

- **Family 3** – Member recruiter who recruits 3 New Legion members, 3 New Auxiliary members, and 3 New Sal Members and dues paid by June 1, 2026.
- **Recruit/Rejoin 10-** Members who recruit and/or rejoin 10 junior or senior Auxiliary members for the 2026 year. Rejoins must not have paid membership dues since 2022 or earlier.
- **Unit Award-** 100% Unit Award.

***Just for fun Award-** Identify four songs used in the captions of Membership Articles in the Star, ABC book, or newsletters with the word Party in them. Email me by January 1, 2026. The first 5 will receive a gift from me.



VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION (VA & R)

Amanda Washburn, Chair

National Veterans & Military Family Month

Veterans & Military Families Month was established in 1996 by the Armed Services YMCA, with the U.S. Government recognizing the occasion every year since. Each November, the President signs a proclamation declaring November National Veterans & Military Families Month, and with hundreds of thousands of service members deployed overseas, recognizing the daily sacrifices made by active duty, Guard, and Reserve military families has never been more important.

There are so many ways for our members to help make the active-duty military members, veterans, and their families feel remembered and cared for. Here are some ideas:

- Download a 'Military Family Month' packet from the Armed Services YMCA at www.asymca.org.
- Share the Sesame Street for Military Families Free App.
- Tell Military families about Operation Kid Comfort where their children can get a free custom-made photo transfer quilt or pillow.
- Home Depot offers a 10% in-store discount for those with valid military ID, but the company is also recognized as an important employer of military spouses. A Home Depot employee-run resource called Military Appreciation Group, "is dedicated strictly to supporting active military associates, deployed reservists and their families" according to the Home Depot official site.
- Donate Thanksgiving meals to military members and their families through the USO-Metro's Turkeys for Troops and the ASYMCA's Operation Holiday Joy.
- Create Care Packages for both service members and their families with items that would help either ease stress during a deployment.
- Adopt-a-Soldier for the Holidays through local programs.
- Thank an Active-Duty Member, Veteran, Military Spouse, or Military Child for their service.
- Fly the U.S. Flag.
- Visit a veteran receiving care in a VA hospital, Veterans Home, or nursing home.
- Offer to volunteer childcare or dog sitting to a military or veteran neighbor to get errands accomplished or to even enjoy a few hours to recharge.
- When you see someone in uniform be sure to thank them for their service or surprise them with a free coffee, dessert, or drink if they are in line behind you.

Each year on Veteran's Day, November 11, we acknowledge and appreciate our veterans of the past and present for their noble and brave service to our nation. We offer our gratitude for their sacrifice and for the security and protection of our freedoms. Even the smallest of gestures make a difference to our military members, veterans, and their families.



