



DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA
PO Box 5227, 5600 P Street
Lincoln, NE 68505-0227
neaux@windstream.net – 402-466-1808



November 2022 Monthly News

The membership is steadily coming into the office, and we have 15 units processing their unit member's payments. Units have been asking about online dues payment credits. The finance advisor is working on that. It is becoming a big process due to many members paying dues online by using debit or credit cards. We are hoping to have all checks written by the end of October.

I have enclosed the 8822b forms with the information that was on file at the Department Headquarters. Many members have questioned who their "responsible party" was in last year's filing. I have your Unit's 8822b last year's filing information on the form. Please let me know if you have any questions or if any changes need to be made. I did request the units mailing the form back to me but if there are no changes to be made and I don't hear anything from you I will take that as the old information is current. Most Unit's 990 E filing needs to be done soon after December 31, 2022.

The ABC books have been mailed. If your unit didn't receive one let the Department know so we can mail one to you.

Preparations are already underway for the Mid-Year Conference. Time sure does fly!

Jacki O'Neill
Interim Department Secretary

Membership has two Rs: Recruitment and Retention

Information from the National website in 2019

Recruitment of women, girls and/or spouses of Legionnaires eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary is only part of a successful strategy for revitalizing Auxiliary Units which are losing members. Retention is also important. Units must find ways to retain newly recruited members as well as current ones.

The consequences of not working on retention along with recruitment can be dire for any membership-based group. Even as the world's largest patriotic veteran service organization, the American Legion Auxiliary has seen dramatic drops in membership through the years.

While we cannot control whether people leave our organization, we can strive to offer them good reasons to stay.

It starts with us keeping in mind that members are humans. People tend to want to be in places and situations where they feel valued and respected, are able to contribute to a greater good, and find fulfillment ... maybe even enjoyment. Having a shared vision, along with meaningful shared experiences, with peers is also motivation to remain part of a group.

Listening to members who voice ideas and opinions, and making sure they know how to contact another member, are other parts of our effort to retain members. All of this applies to the Unit's long-time Auxiliary members, as well as the newly recruited ones.

Here are some other suggestions that might help with Unit membership retention:

1. Educate new members and remind long-time members about our organization's mission.
2. Remind members that they do not have to work on all of the ALA's program areas; they can choose the areas that appeal to them.
3. Try not to immediately give new members too many tasks or a unit role that involves too much responsibility. Otherwise, the new member may experience burnout while still feeling obligated.
4. Host casual gatherings so Unit members can get to know one another.
5. Make meetings interesting — even fun, at times! But do not stray from the business at hand. In general, be efficient and productive. Keep meetings short and to the point.
6. Remind members it is OK if they are not able to attend meetings. Ask them how they would like to contribute to fulfilling the ALA's mission, and be ready to offer suggestions if they ask for them.
7. Remember: ALA Juniors are members too. Find opportunities for your Unit's Juniors to participate. While they should not handle money, Juniors can do nearly everything else adult members can do. For more information, consult the *ALA Junior Activities Handbook* which is available in the Members Only section of the Auxiliary's national website: www.ALAforVeterans.org.
8. Regularly thank all Unit members, including Juniors, for joining. They made a commitment and devotion to the ALA mission and those we serve. Remember that a little gratitude can go a long way.

BASIC CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION – TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE

The applicant must be an American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) member. Applicant must have maintained ALA membership for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years). One grant per grantee in a 12-month period will be awarded. Applicant must have exhausted all other financial options and be able to provide past due bills.

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE COMPLETED BY THE MEMBER AND SENT DIRECTLY TO THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION. FOR PRIVACY PURPOSES THE UNIT AND/OR THE DEPARTMENT WILL NOT HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED.

APPLICATIONS ARE ONLINE AT [AEF \(legion-aux.org\)](https://www.legion-aux.org)

2022-2023 National AEF Program Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements

Here are the national awards for this committee:

Unit Award: Unit Contributing the Largest Amount (per capita)

Deadline: June 1 for contributions

Department Award: Department Award: Largest Contribution

Deadline: June 1 for contributions

Department Award: Department Contributing the Largest Amount (per capita)

Deadline: June 1 for contributions

National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

All contributions to the AEF fund are greatly appreciated and of urgent need. We never know what each of our members are dealing with on a daily basis and with natural disasters the need is great. Give as your heart directs you. Thank you.

Beverly A. Neel, AEF Chair – Nebraska 402 369 0152 bbneel1912@gmail.com

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me and I will assist to the best of my ability. I have the applications on a flash drive and can email to anyone upon contacting me. Thank you.

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND (AEF) – MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

AEF - Emergency Assistance Grants

Members helping members – that’s the American Legion Auxiliary’s mission of Service Not Self in action. Hard times can fall upon us at any moment. That’s when the American Legion Auxiliary is committed to help. The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is a national grant assistance program that provides temporary emergency assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have endured a significant financial setback as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis.

Established in 1969, the AEF was created with a bequest from the estate of Auxiliary member Helen Colby Small of Burlington, Wisconsin. Five decades later, the AEF is still helping fellow Auxiliary members get back on their feet. In order to carry on the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, we need your generous support.

Application for Members Affected by Natural Disaster

An Auxiliary Emergency Fund grant may provide immediate emergency assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members in areas devastated by a natural disaster, such as fire, flood, hurricane, tornado, earthquake, or other severe weather. The applicant must have received damage to the primary residence and/or been displaced or evacuated from the residence and had out-of-pocket expenses for food, clothing, and shelter. Grants may be awarded up to \$2,400.

BASIC CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION – NATURAL DISASTER

The applicant must be an American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) member. Applicant must have maintained ALA membership for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years). Application must be received within 6 months of disaster. One grant per grantee in a 12-month period will be awarded.

Application for Members Needing Temporary Assistance

An Auxiliary Emergency Fund grant may provide temporary assistance to eligible members during a time of financial crisis when no other source of aid is readily available to pay for shelter, food, and utilities. Grants may be awarded up to \$2,400 with the intent is to help members who have suffered a financial setback and offer a helping hand until financial stability is reestablished. Assistance will not be granted to pay medical expenses or credit card debt.

Change of Address or Responsible Party — Business

▶ Please type or print.

▶ See instructions on back. ▶ Do not attach this form to your return.

▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form8822B for the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-1163

Before you begin: If you are also changing your home address, use Form 8822 to report that change.

If you are a tax-exempt organization (see instructions), check here

Check **all** boxes this change affects.

- 1 Employment, excise, income, and other business returns (Forms 720, 940, 941, 990, 1041, 1065, 1120, etc.)
- 2 Employee plan returns (Forms 5500, 5500-EZ, etc.)
- 3 Business location

4a Business name	4b Employer identification number
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5 Old mailing address (no., street, room or suite no., city or town, state, and ZIP code). If a P.O. box, see instructions. If foreign address, also complete spaces below, see instructions.

Foreign country name	Foreign province/county	Foreign postal code
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6 New mailing address (no., street, room or suite no., city or town, state, and ZIP code). If a P.O. box, see instructions. If foreign address, also complete spaces below, see instructions.

Foreign country name	Foreign province/county	Foreign postal code
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7 New business location (no., street, room or suite no., city or town, state, and ZIP code). If a foreign address, also complete spaces below, see instructions.

Foreign country name	Foreign province/county	Foreign postal code
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8 New responsible party's name

9 New responsible party's SSN, ITIN, or EIN. (CAUTION: YOU MUST REFER TO THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR FORM SS-4 TO SEE WHO MAY USE AN EIN.)

10 Signature. Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this application, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

Daytime telephone number of person to contact (optional) ▶ _____

Sign Here	Signature of owner, officer, or representative	Date
	Title	

Where To File	P. O. Box 5227 Lincoln, NE 68505-0227
Send this form to the address shown here that applies to you.	
IF your old business address was in . . .	THEN use this address . . .
Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin	Internal Revenue Service Kansas City, MO 64999
Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, any place outside the United States	Internal Revenue Service Ogden, UT 84201-0023

Future Developments

Information about any future developments affecting Form 8822-B (such as legislation enacted after we release it) will be posted at www.irs.gov/Form8822B.

Purpose of Form

Use Form 8822-B to notify the Internal Revenue Service if you changed your business mailing address, your business location, or the identity of your responsible party. Also, any entities that change their address or identity of their responsible party must file Form 8822-B, whether or not they are engaged in a trade or business. If you are a representative signing for the taxpayer, attach to Form 8822-B a copy of your power of attorney. Generally, it takes 4 to 6 weeks to process your address or responsible party change.

Changing both home and business addresses? Use Form 8822 to change your home address.

Tax-Exempt Organizations

Check the box if you are a tax-exempt organization. See Pub. 557, Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization, for details.

Addresses

Be sure to include any apartment, room, or suite number in the space provided.

P.O. Box

Enter your box number instead of your street address only if your post office does not deliver mail to your street address.

Foreign Address

Follow the country's practice for entering the postal code. Please do not abbreviate the country name.

"In Care of" Address

If you receive your mail in care of a third party (such as an accountant or attorney), enter "C/O" followed by the third party's name and street address or P.O. box.

Responsible Party

Any entity with an EIN is required to report a change in its "responsible party" on lines 8 and 9 within 60 days of the change. See Regulations section 301.6109-1(d)(2)(ii). See Form SS-4, Application for Employer Identification Number, and its instructions, for guidance about who can be a "responsible party" for line 8 and which identification number to enter for line 9.

Signature

An officer, owner, general partner or LLC member manager, plan administrator, fiduciary, or an authorized representative must sign. An officer is the president, vice president, treasurer, chief accounting officer, etc.



If you are a representative signing on behalf of the taxpayer, you must attach to Form 8822-B a copy of your power of attorney. To do this, you can use Form 2848. The Internal Revenue Service will not complete an address or responsible party change from an "unauthorized" third party.

Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice.

We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. Our legal right to ask for information is Internal Revenue Code sections 6001 and 6011, which require you to file a statement with us for any tax for which you are liable. Section 6109 requires that you provide your identifying number on what you file. This is so we know who you are, and can process your form and other papers.

Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by section 6103. However, we may give the information to the Department of Justice and to other federal agencies, as provided by law. We may give it to cities,

states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. commonwealths or possessions to carry out their tax laws. We may also disclose this information to other countries under a tax treaty, to federal and state agencies to enforce federal nontax criminal laws, or to federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism.

If you are an entity with an EIN and your responsible party has changed, use of this form is mandatory. Otherwise, use of this form is voluntary. You will not be subject to penalties for failure to file this form. However, if you fail to provide the IRS with your current mailing address or the identity of your responsible party, you may not receive a notice of deficiency or a notice of demand for tax. Despite the failure to receive such notices, penalties and interest will continue to accrue on any tax deficiencies.

You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law.

The time needed to complete and file this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated average time is 18 minutes.

Comments. You can send us comments from www.irs.gov/FormComments. Or you can write to the Internal Revenue Service, Tax Forms and Publications Division, 1111 Constitution Ave. NW, IR-6526, Washington, DC 20224. **Don't send the form to this office.**

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
NEBRASKA REPORTING FORM
April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023**

This is a simple form for your Unit to complete and submit for compilation. It is not expected that you do everything, but rather identify what you do and can do in your Unit. The list behind each program is what Units typically do. Your Unit may do other things for the program.

Please Submit by April 20 to Department of Nebraska, P.O Box 5227, Lincoln, NE 68505 or email to neaux@windstream.net

***Please send a narrative for special events for award consideration.**

Unit Name and Number# _____ Date _____

Americanism – (Americanism Essay Contest, Star Spangled Kids, Flag Etiquette, Flag Disposal, Constitution, Citizenship, get out the Vote, Oratorical, Patriotic coloring books)

Total: Hours: _____ Dollars: _____ Miles _____ # of People Served _____ Who was served? _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Auxiliary Emergency Fund (Donated funds, fundraising, providing Grant Applications,)

Total: Hours: _____ Dollars: _____ Miles _____ # of People Served _____ Who was served? _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Children and Youth (Military Children "Purple up," KDH2, Youth Hero and Good Deed Awards, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, 4-H.

Total: Hours: _____ Dollars: _____ Miles _____ # of People Served _____ Who was served? _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Community Service (Blood mobile, blood donation, funeral dinners, community food bank, partnering with other service organizations, transportation, church, meals on wheels, community clean-up)

Total: Hours: _____ Dollars: _____ Miles _____ # of People Served _____ Who was served? _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Constitution and Bylaws (Redo and update yearly)

Total: Hours: _____ Dollars: _____ Miles _____ # of People Served _____ Who was served? _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

County Government (Help with lunch, provide food, help with set up and clean up.)

Total: Hours: _____ Dollars: _____ Miles _____ # of People Served _____ Who was served? _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Education (Communication with the schools, Give 10 to Education, American Education Week, Veterans in the Classroom, Adult Literacy, Scholarships: National, Department, Unit. Veteran Education Programs)

Total: Hours: _____ Dollars: _____ Miles _____ # of People Served _____ Who was served? _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Girls State (Communication with the school, Girls State interview, sponsor delegate, volunteered at program, general donation.)

Total: Hours: _____ Dollars: _____ Miles _____ # of People Served _____ Who was served? _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Junior Activities (Patch program, Junior Activities Program, incorporate Junior members in activities, recruit Junior members.)

Total: Hours: _____ Dollars: _____ Miles _____ # of People Served _____ Who was served? _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Leadership (ALA Academy, Senior Auxiliary Basic Course, *Unit Guide Book*, Department Workshops, Midyear Education Conference, Mission Training.)

Total: Hours: _____ Dollars: _____ Miles _____ # of People Served _____ Who was served? _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Legislative (Advocate for the American Legion Legislative Agenda, Sign up for American Legion Advocacy Alerts, communicate with Legislators)

Total: Hours: _____ Dollars: _____ Miles _____ # of People Served _____ Who was served? _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Membership (Renew, Recruit and Rejoin, appreciate member participation, Membership is every Members' Job)

Total: Hours: _____ Dollars: _____ Miles _____ # of People Served _____ Who was served? _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

National Security (Supporting Military Service members and their families, Welcome Home Programs, Blue Star Banners, Red Cross service to armed forces, care packages, USO donations, working with family readiness groups, promoting employment for returning service members, POW/MIA Remembrance, clipping coupons.

Total: Hours: _____ Dollars: _____ Miles _____ # of People Served _____ Who was served? _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Poppy (Poppy Poster Contest, National Poppy Day, Poppy Distribution, increase the number of poppy makers, collecting and remitting donations, education of the history of the poppy.

Total: Hours: _____ Dollars: _____ Miles _____ # of People Served _____ Who was served? _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Public Relations (Auxiliary branded clothing, Unit Facebook Pages, Unit Website, Articles in local papers, radio and television spots, Newsletters to members.)

Total: Hours: _____ Dollars: _____ Miles _____ # of People Served _____ Who was served? _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (Volunteering at Gift Shop, Gifts for Yanks, Dollar Days, Stand Downs, Creative Arts Festival, donations, serving Veterans in your area, sending cards and letters, making calls, adopt a Veteran at the home)

Total: Hours: _____ Dollars: _____ Miles _____ # of People Served _____ Who was served? _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Service to Veterans - Making tray favors, centerpieces, door hangers.

Total: Hours: _____ Dollars: _____ Miles _____ # of People Served _____ Who was served? _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

Date: _____ Activity _____

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Form 8822B Form – Due December 31
2022 – 2023

Department Reporting Form
Symbols of Christmas Service
Service to Veterans
Poppy Proceeds Reporting Form



DEPARTMENT of NEBRASKA

PO Box 5227 - 5600 P Street - Lincoln, Nebraska 68504
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DEPARTMENT PRSIDENT'S NOVEMBER NEWS

Greetings ALA Members!

Our Auxiliary year is quickly passing by. Soon it will be Mid-Year (January 13-15) in Norfolk and then a quick six months to the end of my year as your President. It is time for your monthly update.

DISTRICT FALL ROUND UPS are just about over. Only District 4 in Alliance remains on Saturday, November 12. A correction in the starting time—registration begins at 12:30 pm Mountain Time (1:30 pm Central Time) at the St. John's Church, 2090 Emerson Avenue. Thank you to those who have attended the Fall meetings and supported your District and my President's Projects.

ABC BOOK should be in the hands of all Unit Presidents. Share it with your members. Anyone can have access to it via our website, www.nebaskalegionaux.net. There is an "ABC Book" tab. When needed, updates will be added to the tab. If you have a question about a program, look for the answer in the ABC Book. If you cannot find it there, contact the program chair.

THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS that are on the website are now in a fillable format. You can share that with your schools. Direct them to www.nebaskalegionaux.net, "Scholarship" tab, and they will find the six available Nebraska scholarships as well as a link to the National website for the National scholarships.

DEPARTMENT REPORT FORM 2023 is also on the website in a fillable format. Currently you will find it in red lettering on the Home page, as well as under the "Forms" tab and the "Dept. HQ Newsletter" tab. The dates to include on this form are April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. A hard copy is also included in this mailing.

DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT VACANCIES are a concern. Currently District 5 and District 9 do not have a Vice President. There is a possibility that District 1 and District 11 may have VP openings. I urge members of these Districts to step up and help fill these spots. We have many outstanding members who would be excellent in these positions. Reach out to the Presidents in those Districts with your suggestions (which could even be YOU)!

POPPY ORDERS are due **November 1**. If you have not submitted yours, please do so ASAP. Included in this mailing is the form to use to submit your proceeds from your poppy donations. I urge Units to submit **ALL** your donations minus your cost.

INFORMATION FOR DEPARTMENT JUNIORS about their awards, activities, and contests will be published in the December issue of THE STAR. That information will then be available on our website (don't look for it until after THE STAR reaches you).

WHO DOESN'T LIKE A GOOD AUCTION? I sure do—just ask District 10! There will be an auction at Mid-Year! It will be a “Family Affair,” with the proceeds being split between National Emergency Fund (Legion) and Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF). The auction will be held on Friday evening, January 13 following our “Family Gathering” at the newly dedicated Norfolk Legion Post 16. More details to come!

SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS SERVICE is enclosed from our Chaplain Ruth Hietbrink. You will be able to find it on our website. I strongly suggest including showing the YouTube video *Christmas Where You Are* that is included with the service. If you use the service from our website, you can simply right-click on it to open and play the video. Or you can type in <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UGmzBCQ80c> on your internet server.

MEMBERSHIP continues to be a high priority. How is your Unit doing? Remember, ALL MEMBERS can help with getting the renewals and new members. Ask your Unit's Membership Chair who has not yet renewed and that you would be willing to contact some of them. There has been some frustration among our Units that the National renewal notices have the incorrect dues amount, incorrect membership name and/or address, and even some members names/addresses incorrect. Why? My best explanation is that with the transition of a new President (me) and a different Pro Tem Secretary/Treasurer, some details were overlooked and not entered correctly in ALAMIS. My apologies for this misfortune. What can be done? At this time, we can only correct the names/addresses in ALAMIS so that the second mailing (January) of dues renewal notices are accurate. What can you do? Help your membership chair by splitting the list of those who have not yet paid their dues and personally contact them to provide them with the correct dues amount and whom to submit them to. Together **WE CAN DO IT.**

JUST WHAT IS DONE WITH MY DUES? Have you asked yourself that question, especially with the State and National increase coming in 2024? To put it simply, the dues are used to operate our non-profit business. Every business has expenses, and we are not exempt from them. The basic areas that the money received from each member (which this year is \$10.25 per member) is used for State and National meetings (which accounts for about 43% of this year's budget) and General Administration (payroll, permanent membership, office operations/supplies, insurance, bonding, etc) and accounts for 57% of the budget. In those two categories, THE STAR publication (State) runs at \$46,000 and payroll (administration) is \$50,900. Also, remember that for our State Life Members (SLM), we must send \$12 per SLM to National. This year Nebraska must send \$9,672 for our 806 SLM's. If we would make goal of 17,091 members this year, we would have \$175,182.75 to operate. That is \$13,267.25 short of what was budgeted for 2022-2023.

In the Spirit of Thanksgiving, I extend a heartfelt Thank You for all you do!

Remember our Veterans on November 11 (and every day!)

Patriotism is a Veteran's smile.

President Vicki
Never Forget, Ever Honor

Symbols of Christmas

(from Ruth Hietbrink, Chaplain)

Symbols of Christmas are found everywhere, have you ever thought about the meaning of these symbols?

Let's review the meaning of these symbols; and as we go through the images, decorate your home or meeting room, using the icons that we discuss in this program.

Star

Stars are symbols that are used everywhere. You may find one topping the Christmas Tree, hanging on a branch of the tree, or as a wall decoration. The star is one of the most familiar icons of the Christmas Holiday. Before Jesus was born, Samuel foretold the signs of the Savior's birth, which included the presence of a bright star. The bright star, also known as the Star of Bethlehem, led the Wise Men to the barn where Jesus was born.

Matthew 2:7-11

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Angel

Angels are an especially important part of Christianity. Angels are known to be messengers of God, watching over individuals, and providing direction through God's orders. Angels have delivered messages to God's servants, namely Gabriel, who played an prominent role as a messenger preceding the birth of Christ.

Luke 1:19

¹⁹The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.

Poinsettia

The poinsettia originates in Mexico. This plant symbolized new life. The petals of the flower resemble the shape of a star, like the star that led the Wise Men to baby Jesus in Bethlehem. Also, the red color of the poinsettia can remind us of the blood that Christ shed for us.

Hebrew 9:14

¹⁴ How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Christmas tree

I discovered that the first Christmas tree brought inside and decorated was during the 16th century by Martin Luther. He could see the stars through the evergreen trees, he ran home to tell his children that it reminded

him of Jesus. Martin Luther wrote a sermon about this experience for his church, this led to the people decorating the trees with candles as a symbol of letting Jesus into their homes. The symbol of a Christmas tree represents Jesus and the light he brings to the world. Also, the Christmas tree is forever green and alive.

Acts 3:23

²³Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a **Savior, Jesus**, as he promised.

Bells

Bells stand for the proclamation of the birth of Christ when the angels in heaven praised God. Now bells are rang during Christmas to declare the beginning of the holiday season and to announce the birth of Jesus. The ringing of bells has also been thought to drive out evil spirits throughout winter celebration.

Luke 2:9-14

⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; ¹¹for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

Candle

There are many separate reasons why candles are associated with Christmas, no one really knows when they first became connected to the event!

One of the earliest records of candles being used at Christmas is from the Middle Ages, where a large candle was used to represent the star of Bethlehem. Jesus has been known to be called 'the Light of the World' by Christians. This might have started the custom of the Advent wreath with Candles.

Candles were also the first decoration placed on Christmas trees.

Matthew 5:16

¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Prayer

Dear God, we offer this meek prayer as we grow near the Christmas season. We come before you to pray with a song of thanks in our hearts—a song of salvation, a song of courage and renewal. We pray for joy in our hearts, hope for the future, love to forgive, and peace upon the earth. We ask for redemption of all our family members and friends, and we pray your blessings on all people. May there be food for the hungry, love for all people, recovery for the ill, and safety for our country. Please be with our servicemembers and keep them in Your care. We ask this in your name. Amen

Five For Fighting/Jim Brickman - Christmas Where You Are [Official Lyric Video] -
YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UGmzBCQ80c>)

Christmas Where You Are – Jim Brickman

[Verse 1]

There are stockings
Full and waiting
From sea to shining sea
Jingle bells are ringing
In keys of... liberty
Children celebrating
Santa and his sleigh
Of reindeer who found their way again
Across the home, home of the brave
'Tis the 25th day of December
In a season best to remember
That blessings and bows and mistletoes
Are not without tolls...
Guardian souls
A soldier has a soldier's duty
That takes no holiday
So because you're far from home this winter
There's one thing I'd like to say...

[Chorus]

Thank you!
For the gift of freedom
That lights these Holy stars
Thank you!
For each & every Christmas tree
Across this sacred land of ours
May angels fly beside you
May heaven steel your heart
May God remind you in his grace
Though tonight I cannot touch your face
It doesn't matter if you're near or far
It's Christmas where you are

[Verse 2]

Your chair is empty at the table
Still I take your hand
As we pray for peace in this small world
On our knees we stand
Of this body of this nation
You are the heart and spine
So to each great generation
Of heroes down the line...

[Chorus]

Thank you!
For the gift of freedom
That lights these Holy stars
Thank you!
For each & every Christmas tree
Across this sacred land of ours
May angels fly beside you
May heaven steel your heart
May God remind you in his grace
Though tonight I cannot touch your face
It doesn't matter if you're near or far
It's Christmas where you are

[Bridge]

Every day is Memorial Day
Every day the 4th of July
Let all religions celebrate
The freedom that you provide
For if we stand together
We will never fall
Merry Christmas to the one I love!
Merry Christmas to one and all!

[Chorus]

Thank you!
For the gift of freedom
That lights these Holy stars
Thank you!
For each & every Christmas tree
Across this sacred land of ours
May angels fly beside you
May heaven steel your heart
May God remind you in his grace
Though tonight I cannot touch your face
When hopes seems a hundred miles away
Just close your eyes, and you will see his sleigh
It doesn't matter if you're near or far
It's Christmas where you are

SERVICE TO VETERANS

Alice Vieselmeyer

Upon research in the new **2022 VA & R Guide**, I came across some interesting news I'd like to share. In the past we have stated you cannot track hours of a veteran in your home. According to the new guide, you can. You can find the guide on the ALAforVeterans.org website under the "Guides" tab.

Hour bars for your Service to Veterans pin can be earned through work done on behalf of veterans in state or community-based nursing homes/soldiers homes, contracted veterans homes, daycare centers, foster homes, halfway houses, hospices, homeless shelters, stand downs, Christmas Gift Shops (not at a VAMC), veteran cemeteries or gravesites for any service tasks including but not limited to transportation, snow removal, landscaping/yard mowing, and assisting with tax preparation. Hours can also be earned through work done in your home for the benefit of homebound, sick or injured servicemembers and veterans. These activities might include sewing, mending, and/or babysitting while the veteran attends medical appointments or rehab sessions or making quilts or knitting for hospitalized or homeless veterans. Anything done directly for a veteran outside of a VAMC is considered Service to Veterans.

Caregivers can now be awarded Service to Veterans hours which may accumulate for hour bars for time spent providing care and assistance to veterans within their families if they do not receive PROFESSIONAL compensation for doing so. **If the caregiver lives with the veteran, they may be awarded 10 hours a week. If they do NOT live with the veteran, then they may be awarded 5 hours a week.** The onus is placed upon the caregiver to report these hours through the existing structure within their units and departments. These hours can be counted only once and not reported again under another committee such as National Security or Community Service. If you are unsure which committee your hours belong to, just pick the one that makes the most sense. The most important thing is that hours are counted only one time for your department.

ALA Junior members may also earn hours through services provided while under supervision of a senior volunteer (examples: reading, playing board games, planning activities around special holidays, and upkeep of veteran gravesites). Volunteers who are not members of the ALA may also receive hour bars as long as their volunteer hours are included in their local unit's impact numbers for the year. These hours may be cumulative over the years; therefore, resulting in higher increments of hour bars awarded.

(Above found on pages 15 and 16 in the VA & R Guide.)

Keep track of your hours, mileage, and the money you spend and REPORT – REPORT – REPORT!!

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA**

UNIT # _____

2022 – 2023 POPPY PROCEEDS

TOWN _____

DISTRICT # _____

Each Unit is asked to send in ½ or more of their Poppy proceeds from the current year.

Donations received \$ _____

Unit expenses \$ _____

Donations minus expenses equals \$ _____

Total amount submitted to Headquarters \$ _____

Check # _____

Date _____

SAVE THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA**

UNIT # _____

2022 – 2023 POPPY PROCEEDS

TOWN _____

DISTRICT # _____

Each Unit is asked to send in ½ or more of their Poppy proceeds from the current year.

Donations received \$ _____

Unit expenses \$ _____

Donations minus expenses equals \$ _____

Total amount submitted to Headquarters \$ _____

Check # _____

Date _____

ACCOUNTING USE ONLY

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Check # _____

Date _____

RETURN THIS PORTION WITH PAYMENT TO: ALA, PO BOX 5227, LINCOLN NE 68505

