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AMERICAN  
**LEGION**  
AUXILIARY

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Lincoln, Nebraska 68528  
402-466-1808  
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**MARCH - APRIL 2024**

## DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

### DEPARTMENT SECRETARY'S MESSAGE Roxanne Hiatt

Winter should be over (the freezing cold anyway) and here are some things units need to be taking care of.

**Scholarship applications** should already be in your hands and ready to send to the Department by March 15.

**Americanism Essays** should be judged in your Units and in the hands of Americanism Chair Tina Nelson by March 15 for Department judging.

**Girls State Applications** should already be into Department. Be looking for acceptance letters and asking your candidates if they have received their *WELCOME LETTER* with their QR code to finish registration and forms. Online orientation dates are set. Please read Chairman Brittany Masek's article in this newsletter.

Included in this newsletter is the **Unit reporting form** to Department and the **National Unit Impact report form**. Both are mailed to Department Headquarters – **new building address please** (we no longer have a PO Box) - and by April 15.

You should be preparing for **Poppy Day** and **Memorial Day** coming in May. This is a good use of our Juniors and young Sons.

These are the **2025 National membership deadlines**. These dates are the last day National will allow any changes to be made by Department, so Unit changes must be to us before these dates:

1. **May 8-19** - Departments to submit unit dues rate changes for 2025. You should have already reported this to Headquarters on the 2025 Unit Data form that was to be returned by March 1. Even if there is no change this has the information on your dues remit person and should be returned. You want the dues notices to your members to have the correct dues amount and name of person they return them to. Life's easier when it is done right.
2. **April 1, 2024**: The last day for Department to make changes in ALA MIS so they are reflected on the 2025 printed cards and rosters. New members entered after

this date will not be listed on the roster or have a card printed. Please go through your Unit rosters and have new addresses and those deceased reported to the Department before this date. (*You can use the email for these things*)

3. Start thinking now about who will be picking up your cards at the Department Convention if you want to save your unit \$10 shipping.
4. We are now at the point in the year where individual 2024 dues will have to be paid before paying any back dues.

Volunteers are always welcome in the office. In June, the week ahead of Convention, we could use some assistance with readying the membership packets for transport.

As always, if you have questions or need assistance, the office is open 8-4:30, Monday through Friday. Call ahead at 402-466-1808.

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Unit 990's have been filed. If you have any questions, please call Headquarters at 402-466-1808. – Jacki O'Neill, Department Treasurer

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### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH – Vicki Colson, Chair**

News from National—you can now send your nominations for Good Deed Awards and Youth Hero Awards online. Keep your ears and eyes open for reports of children and youth doing good things in your area.

National has a Children and Youth Facebook page where you can get ideas and share what you are doing and pictures of your events.

I have plans started for the Children and Youth Luncheon at the June Convention in Kearney. It will be held at the Kearney Post Home at noon on Saturday, June 22.

Year-end reports are coming up so make your plans to meet and fill out your reports. It is a great time to look at what you could be doing as well as a review of what you have done. Every Unit should have an ABC book as a reference; also, *The Star*, Newsletters and nebraskalegionaux.net. The National magazine (*American Legion Auxiliary*) also has great information.

Remember to take pictures at your Children and Youth activities or when you include Children and Youth at your Post or Unit activities. Send these as an addition to your report and not imbedded in the report. Thanks.

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## CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS – Kathy Mazur, Chair

Constitution and Bylaws provide for the foundation and function of the American Legion Auxiliary at all levels. At the Mid-Year Conference in Kearney in January, units were encouraged to update their constitution and bylaws.

There have been some changes over the past few years, such as an increase in dues and male spouse eligibility, so units need to make sure their governing documents reflect any changes and are in proper order. To help with this, there is a “Uniform Unit Constitution and Bylaws” on the Department website ([www.nebraskalegionaux.net](http://www.nebraskalegionaux.net)) that units may use as a guide for updating. The document is also fillable online. If no one in the unit has access to a computer to print a copy, you may request a hard copy to be sent to you.

It would be a good idea, also, to review and update any unit standing rules as you are updating your constitution and bylaws.

Once your constitution, bylaws, *and* standing rules have been updated, a copy of them should be sent to the Department to keep on file. This way if the unit misplaces their copy, the Department has one as back up.

Districts should also review and update their constitution and bylaws. Again, there is a “Uniform District Constitution and Bylaws” on the Department website to use as a guide. These being “Uniform Constitution Bylaws,” changes must be made through the Department Executive Committee.

So, start reviewing and maybe learn something along the way you didn’t know before.



## PRAYER BOOK – Vicki Cyboron, Chaplain

Please when you have a moment, I am requesting for some prayers or motivational sayings for President Lisa’s Prayer Book.

You may send the prayers or others to [vcyboron@aol.com](mailto:vcyboron@aol.com).

If you have questions, please call or text me at 402-740-5665. Please have things to me by May 1, 2024.

Thank you

## **GIRLS STATE – Brittany Masek, Chair**

Girls State planning is ramping up more and more each day as we've stepped into the new year. A reminder that in March the applicants your units have chosen will receive a letter. On the letter there will be a QR Code which will direct them to our registration process.

We will again this year have our orientation posted on our website <http://girlsstate.net/nebraska/wp/orientation/>, which will be updated mid-March with the 2024 information. Please do not direct your applicants there until then. Under each heading is a quick video explaining different parts of the week and expectations. There will also be Q&A sessions with our Vice Chairmen Shelby and Vicki. Dates for those will be listed below. We encourage any of our units and parents to join in these sessions and ask questions as well. Another reminder is that in the past the girls have received a "Packet" in the mail with information. This year on our website under Forms and Information you will find the "2024 Delegate Packet" with all the information we go over in orientation.

### **Dates**

Sunday, April 14, 2024 – 7 pm Central Time  
Thursday, April 25, 2024 – 7:30 pm Central Time  
Tuesday, May 7, 2024 – 8:30 pm Central Time

I look forward to updating you more later in the Spring!

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## **MEMBERSHIP – Loree Hendrickson, Chair**

Hello again, Members of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA)! Thanks to all of you who have worked so hard on membership. I'd like to hear from our Nebraska Units about any innovative ways to approach those who have yet to send in their membership renewals. If you read the most recent issue of *The Star*, you'll be familiar with the following ideas I've heard in the past:

- One Unit had a member who was going through some unexpected health issues and the resulting medical costs thereof. Money was a serious issue for this member at the time. But the member was very creative, so the Unit voted to pay her dues renewal if she would be willing to make the tray favors for the Unit that year. She was beyond grateful to be asked.
- One Unit had a couple of members who had moved to nursing homes and were not able to pay their own dues. That Unit voted to pay the dues for any long-term Auxiliary member (ten or more years of membership) who was no longer able to manage his/her finances.

- Another Unit focused on the adult children of their members who were now in care facilities. Knowing that these children were proud of their parents' service within the Legion Family, they quietly let the children know that Legion Family grave markers are only available to members who are in good standing at the time of their passing. The children wanted to be sure their parents' service would be remembered and took over making the dues payments.
- One Unit had all their renewals in place but could not get their Unit to 100 percent in membership because that required finding two new (or rejoined) members. This Unit contacted the families of those with eligible children in their households and highlighted the scholarship programs available to Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary. The Unit gained three new Junior members, lifting them to 100% status.

How about it, Nebraska Units? What innovative ways have you approached those members who are slow to renew their dues?

Best wishes, Pony Express Riders. Let's make Department President Lisa Moore proud and prove that we are **"Nebraska Strong and Faithful by Serving Veterans Always."**

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## **HISTORY – UNIT NARRATIVE – Ruth Hietbrink, Department Historian**

### **SENIOR UNIT NARRATIVE HISTORY RULES**

**(History April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024)**

**Submissions must be set to the Department Historian by May 15 (note change of date from the ABC Book)**

Title Page (30 points): Listed on the first page should be Unit name, Unit number, Unit town, the District number, name of the Unit Historian, and Narrative History Year 2023 to 2024.

Content (60 points): The history narrative needs to be a minimum of five paragraphs and should start with the installation of officers and the close of your administrative year in chronological order. Within the narrative should be the unit officers, chairman, and other events or activities. Any font can be used, and it can be typed or handwritten.

Unit Historian Signature (10 points): Please have the Unit Historian sign the last page of the narrative.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE - Marla Furrow, Chair

Greetings! Thank you to all for your continuing support and hard work for our veterans through the ALA Community Service Program.

### **REMINDER: Saturday, April 27, 2024, is American Legion Family Day**

From the [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org) web page:

- The National Executive Committee of The American Legion passed Resolution No. 7 in October 2022, establishing American Legion Family Day to be observed on the last Saturday of April.
- Posts are encouraged to open their doors to members of their community for the day to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion members, Legion Riders, and The American Legion Auxiliary.

The [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org) web page has steps to help you plan a successful event. Please visit this website and set up a fun-filled, informational day for your community.

There is a Unit Award for Best Promotion of the American Legion Family Day.

Speaking of awards, here is a list of awards for the ALA Community Service Program this year:

- Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Community Service Program
- Unit Award: Best Promotion of American Legion Family Day (April 2023)
- Department Award: Best Department Community Service Program

**ANOTHER REMINDER:** As per the February-March issue of *The Star*, the 2024 Centerpiece and Tray Favor Assignments chart has quite a few empty spots yet. Please sign up.

Remember to keep track of your hours, who was served, expenses, mileage, and number of volunteers for end-of-year reporting.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!!

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## NATIONAL SECURITY – Vicki Ozenbaugh, Chair

The time for Year-End Reporting is near. But that doesn't mean we stop working on our programs. I hope you have been working National Security throughout the year. Here is a listing of suggestions on what can be reported for National Security (or which you can still do).

- Blue Star Event
- POW/MIA flag posted at every event
- Conduct a POW/MIA White Table Ceremony
- Recognize First Responders and Firemen
- Promote Remember Everyone Deployed (RED) Friday

- Recognize military children
- Promote Purple Up for Military Kids
- Promote preparing for disasters (Prepare with Pedro – Disaster Preparedness Activity Book from US Department of Homeland Security)
- Sponsor Stop the Bleed Class
- Take the online Stop the Bleed course ([www.stopthebleed.org/training](http://www.stopthebleed.org/training))
- Quilt of Valor
- Coupon clipping
- Salute to Servicemember nomination

Also, remember the awards. If your Unit submits a Year-End Report (see reporting form included in this Newsletter) with at least one 2023-2024 activity completed, your Unit will be placed in a drawing for a \$25 donation to one of the resources listed for National Security. The other award is to submit a narrative detailing a National Security activity your Unit completed. The Department winning narrative will be submitted to National for the Most Outstanding Unit National Security Program award. I have faith that Nebraska can produce a winner!

### **POPPY – Lori Reimers, Chair**

Poppy Poster Unit level deadline to me is approaching. They need to be postmarked by April 15. This year they need to have a cover sheet (included in this newsletter). Make sure there is a physical address. The Poppy Posters need to be mailed to Lori Reimers 2011 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Central City, NE 68826. The rules for the Poppy Poster Contest are in the ABC Book.

National Poppy Day is May 24. Donation labels to fit on a Pringles can can be printed off at [ALAforVeterans.org/Programs/Poppy](http://ALAforVeterans.org/Programs/Poppy).

All Units can participate in the Poppy Centerpiece Contest at District level. Then the winner from each district will be judged at the State Convention in June.

Information I received from our National Poppy Chair, Norma Tramm, provides that we are able to donate our Poppy proceeds to the Armed Services YMCA of the USA. Here is the information:

*“In 2013-2014, The American Legion expanded the use of poppy funds to include*

*the assistance of active duty servicemembers and their families.*

*The American Legion Auxiliary has a MOA with the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) to combat food insecurity. By supporting the existing network of food pantries and food distribution events offered by the ASYMCA. With the donation of ALA poppy funds, we can ease the stress of our service members by helping to feed their families. Make sure and note on your poppy fund donation that it is for the food bank program. The following is a list providing food bank programs.*

*You may also connect with the main office: Armed Services YMCA of the USA; 14040 Central Loop, Suite B; Woodbridge, VA 22193 Phone: (866) 427-9622.”*

### **ASYMCA BRANCH DIRECTORY**

#### **ALASKA**

*Armed Services YMCA Alaska  
10449 Luke Avenue  
JBER, AK 99506  
Phone: (907) 552-9622  
VISIT BRANCH WEBSITE*

**CAMP PENDLETON**

*ASYMCA Camp Pendleton  
200090 Ash Rd. & Wire Mountain Rd. Camp  
Pendleton, CA 92055  
Phone: (760) 385-4921  
VISIT BRANCH WEBSITE*

**HAWAII**

*ASYMCA Hawaii  
100 McChord St., Bldg 1859  
JBPHH, HI 96853  
Phone: (808) 473-3398  
VISIT BRANCH WEBSITE*

**SAN DIEGO**

*ASYMCA San Diego  
3293 Santo Rd.  
San Diego, CA 92124  
Phone: (858) 751-5755, ext. 101  
VISIT BRANCH WEBSITE*

**TWENTYNINE PALMS**

*ASYMCA Twentynine Palms  
Bldg 693 Del Valle Dr. Suite 102  
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278  
Phone: (760) 830-7481  
VISIT BRANCH WEBSITE*

**FORT CAMPBELL**

*ASYMCA Fort Campbell  
207 Illinois Ave.  
Fort Campbell, KY 42223  
Phone: (270) 798-4722  
VISIT BRANCH WEBSITE*

**FORT LEONARD WOOD**

*ASYMCA Fort Leonard Wood  
13900 Replacement Ave.  
Waynesville, MO 65583  
Phone: (573) 329-4513  
VISIT BRANCH WEBSITE*

**FORT LIBERTY**

*ASYMCA Fort Liberty  
2411 Rodney Trail #2  
Fort Liberty, NC 28307  
Phone: (910) 436-0500  
VISIT BRANCH WEBSITE*

**OKLAHOMA**

*ASYMCA Oklahoma  
860 NW Cache Rd.  
Lawton, OK 73507  
Phone: (580) 481-523  
VISIT BRANCH WEBSITE*

**EL PASO**

*ASYMCA El Paso  
7060 Comington St.  
El Paso, TX 79930  
Phone: (915) 263-7164  
VISIT BRANCH WEBSITE*

**KILLEEN**

*ASYMCA Killeen  
110 Mountain Lion Rd.  
Harker Heights, TX 76548  
Phone: (254) 690-9622, ext. 109  
VISIT BRANCH WEBSITE*

**HAMPTON ROADS**

*ASYMCA Hampton Roads  
1465 Lakeside Rd.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23455  
Phone: (757) 363-1884, ext. 8770  
VISIT BRANCH WEBSITE*

I am taking a donation of \$5 for wooden Poppy pins. The money raised will go to the Veteran's Homes and Veteran's Hospitals in Nebraska. I will have them at the State Convention in June. If you would like them before, you can email me or call me.

My email is lljunker66@live.com.  
My phone number is 402-604-8636.

LET'S HAVE A "POPPY PROUD YEAR!