



American Legion Auxiliary District 11 Newsletter

September 2026



New News:

Hello Everyone,

My apologies for getting this Newsletter out late. I have been out and away from my desk for training for the Veteran Service Office and with the holiday it's been crazy around here.

National New:

We have new leadership on the National Level.

Dr. Coral May Grout from Massachusetts is our new National President.

Eligibility: Through father, Charles E. Grout, who served in the U.S. Air Force in the Philippines and Australia during World War II. Also adds military service of her grandfather, Stanislas Laplante, who served in the U.S. Army during WWI.

Offices Held: Served several unit-, district-, and department-level chairs and offices, including the district Education chair for 25 years and department president three times. National: chair of Children & Youth, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Education (twice), Americanism, Constitution & Bylaws, Public Relations, Legislative, Leadership, Community Service, and Junior Activities committees. Also served on the National Executive Committee, and as national secretary, national historian, and national vice president.

Professional/personal background: Coral retired from her position as Superintendent of Schools in Acushnet, Mass., in 2006. To keep busy, she accepted an offer to work for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as an evaluator of underperforming school districts and an evaluator for RETELL – a required program to ensure that students who do not speak English receive proper instruction and assistance. Coral left DESE at the end of the 2025 school year. Her education includes an A.B. in Psychology & Education from Mount Holyoke College; M.Ed. in Secondary Administration from Boston College; and Ed.D. in Educational Planning, Research, and Administration from the University of Massachusetts. Coral's religious involvement is with St. Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church in Baldwinville, Mass., where she is a leader, Eucharistic minister, and assists with fundraising.

Within her community, Coral has served on multiple town committees and recently retired after nine years as town moderator. She is involved with the Massachusetts Veterans Cemetery as a volunteer, the Winchendon Historical Society where she formerly served as secretary of the board, financial supporter of the Clark Memorial YMCA and the Charles E. Grout Memorial Golf Tournament, Catholic Financial Life Insurance Corporation Board Member for eight years, USJB Education Foundation Board Member, and has held positions with the Mount Holyoke College Class of 1975 for the past 50 years. For the past 30 years, she's been a national presenter on the topics of educational leadership and grant writing to audiences of 10 to 1000.

Coral enjoys traveling and has visited more than 50 countries. In addition, she tries walking four to five miles per day and has completed The American Legion Family's USA 250 Challenge by walking 250 miles. She enjoys gardening, as well as golfing. She's the only living member of her family and lives in their 100-year-old home in Massachusetts and spends winters in Florida. Chloe, her 8-year-old tiger cat, lives and travels with her.
Reference: My Auxiliary Member Portal member.legion-aux.org/about/national-leadership

District 11 News:

We have new leadership!

Families Accomplishing Rewarding Memories "FARM"

- President - Vicki Cyboron
- Vice Pre. - Lori Reimers
- Historian - Vicki Colson
- Chaplin - Lyndsay Brown
- NEC - Vicki Ozenbaugh
- Treasure - Vicki Ozenbaugh
- Secretary - Roxanne Hiatt
- Membership - Justina Birkel
- The Star Editor - Lorene Bartos

My "FARM" animal for Membership is the Horse. We are racing to get 100% membership this year!

I am once again going to have JAVELAN as my project for this coming 2026-2027 year. I think this is such a great service for our veterans and first responders. I will have raffle items again this year, below is a picture of them. Again, this year I will have 1st and 2nd prizes, and the winner will have their pick on which bundle they want. The Eagle and Pledge of Allegiance picture will be one and the Patriotic Dog and wreath will be the other one. The raffle tickets will be on sale for \$1 for one and 6 for \$5. I will have them displayed in the York County Service Office in the York County Courthouse. I will also bring them with me to County Meetings and other events that I am invited to.

Suicide is the second-leading cause of death among Veterans under age 40. Based on my personal experience and my work at the Veterans' Service Office, I believe it is important for all of us to stay aware and be ready to support those who may be going through difficult times. Please "Be The One" if you know a Veteran who is struggling with depression. To reach the Veterans Crisis Line, dial 988 and press 1. The crisis line is available not only to Veterans, but also to friends and family members who are concerned about a loved one and need guidance on how to help.



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. **Be The One**

- B – Be the One!**
- E – Encourage others**
- T – Teamwork**
- H – Help each other**
- E – Embrace one another**
- O – Offer Assistance and Support**
- N – Notice and be aware**
- E – Empathize**



Important Dates:

Sept 2026

Sept 7 th	Labor Day
Sept 11 th	Patriot Day – 25 th Anniversary
Sept 19 th	POW/MIA Recongnition Day
Sept 19 th	Fall Round Up
Sept 27 th	Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day
Oct 24 th	President Vicki's Homecoming & Leadership Training

Mark your Calendars!

Fall Round Up – Will be September 19th @ 2:00pm in Friend, NE. Please mark your calendars I would love to see a big turn out!

Let's talk Membership Ladies,

Let's get dues submitted as soon as possible as we begin the new year. Please reach out to members who do not regularly attend meetings and encourage them to renew. Our organization depends on their support. Please do not hold dues—send them in as soon as you receive them. I would hate for someone to miss the opportunity to use the Auxiliary Emergency Fund because dues were not submitted promptly. If you need help calling or texting members in your Unit, please let me know. Let's make District 11 #1 this year!

Let your ladies know that if it is easier to pay their dues online they may do so. Give them this information:

member.legion-aux.org/home

Click on the member log in on the top right of the page and if you are a new user you will have to have your membership number. You will have to put all of your demographics in but once you are in, you can see all of your information and past history.

Attached is a copy of the VA & R 2026 Schedule of Events please take a look and see if any dates work out for you to help.

District 11 Get Together – There will be a Get Together evening this month on Sept 24th in Rowdy's Steakhouse in Fairbury. 321 F Street, Fairbury NE.

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NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY VA & R 2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DOLLAR DAYS – GIFT SHOPS – GIFTS FOR YANKS

STAND DOWNS – CREATIVE ARTS

STAND DOWN: Lincoln – Linda Varejcka – TBD
Omaha – Paula Plien – TBD

CREATIVE ARTS: Omaha – Paula Plien – TBD
Grand Island – TBD Items will be displayed at the State Fair. Event

Please plan to arrive at all events one-half hour before the event time.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY (ALA) VETERANS DOLLAR DAY DISTRIBUTIONS

Tuesday, November 3, 2026	10:00 AM 2:00 PM	Grand Island VA Medical Center – 2 nd Floor Rec Central NE Veterans Home, Kearney
Wednesday, November 4, 2026	10:00 AM	Lincoln Regional Center – Building 5
Thursday, November 5, 2026	2:00 PM	Norfolk Veterans Home, Norfolk Norfolk Regional Center
Tuesday, November 10, 2026	10:00 AM 1:00 PM 3:00 PM	Omaha VA Medical Center Eastern NE Veterans Home, Bellevue Papillion Community Living Center
Sunday, November 15, 2026	2:00 PM MT	Western NE Veterans Home, Scottsbluff

ALA VETERANS MEDICAL CENTER GIFT SHOPS

Shopping/setup - Monday, December 7, 2026	9:30 AM at Walmart setup follows	Grand Island VA Medical Center
Gift Shop date: Tuesday, December 8, 2026	9:00 AM prep	10:00 AM open for Veterans
Gift Shop - Thursday, December 17, 2026	10:00 AM	Papillion Community Living Center (PCLC)
Set up -- Monday, December 14, 2026	10:00 AM	Omaha VA Medical Center
Delivery - December 15 and 16, 2026	10:00 AM	Omaha VA Medical Center

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY GIFT FOR YANKS WHO GAVE

Tuesday, December 1, 2026	10:00 AM 2:00 PM	Grand Island VA Medical Center – 2 nd Floor Rec Central NE Veterans Home, Kearney
Wednesday, December 2, 2026	10:00 AM	Lincoln Regional Center – Building 5
Sunday, December 6, 2026	2:00 PM MT	Western NE Veterans Home, Scottsbluff
Tuesday, December 8, 2026	10:00 AM 1:00 PM 2:30 PM	Omaha VA Medical Center Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home Papillion Community Living Center
Friday, December 11, 2026	2:00 PM	Norfolk Veterans Home, Norfolk Norfolk Regional Center
Saturday, December 12, 2026	2:00 PM MT	Hot Springs SD VAMC

Gift cards for Cheyenne WY VAMC sent to Bonita Dickinson to deliver to the facility at convenience

Updated 6/10/2026 – AW