

# CARING FOR OTHERS



American Legion  
Auxiliary

2022 ALA Annual Report



# In a rush? Need American Legion Family applications quickly for an event?

Try these simpler versions which can be printed from your home office — and without stealing all of your ink!

We removed the color block headers from the original brochure (which you can still order from your department/state ALA office if you prefer) to make

things easier for your membership recruiting activities.

Visit [www.ALAFORVeterans.org](http://www.ALAFORVeterans.org) to download this black-and-white version.

**THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Initial Last  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City State ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Post # Phone # Email Gender  Male  Female  
 Membership (if former member): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please check war era and branch of service below:  
 Global War on Terror  U.S. Army  
 Gulf War  U.S. Navy  U.S. Air Force  
 Panama  U.S. Marines  
 Lebanon/Grenada  U.S. Space Force  
 Vietnam  U.S. Coast Guard  
 WWII  Merchant Marines (WWII only)  
 Other Conflicts  
 I certify that I have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces since December 7, 1941, and have been honorably discharged or I am still serving.  
 Signed by applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of recruiter: \_\_\_\_\_  
 If you are a new member, send this completed application with annual dues to The American Legion, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206  
 (check [www.legion.org/join](http://www.legion.org/join) for dues amount), or take it to a local post. To locate a post near you, click on "Find a Post" at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).

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**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Detachment of: \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron No. \_\_\_\_\_ Recruited by: \_\_\_\_\_ Initial Last  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Initial Last City State ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Street Department of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Veteran through whom eligibility is established \_\_\_\_\_  
 (a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_  
 (c) Relationship of applicant to veteran \_\_\_\_\_  
 Has applicant previously been a member of the SAL? \_\_\_\_\_ for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ annual membership dues  
 I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion and apply for membership.  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Transmit \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility certified by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signed by applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mail completed application to Sons of The American Legion department/state headquarters. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current detachment address, go to The American Legion department/state headquarters, or visit [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).

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**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Call Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # and Location (if known) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birth - 17  18 and over

Eligible Through—Name of Veteran (Female Veterans: List Your Own Name) \_\_\_\_\_  
 If Living: American Legion Member ID # (Required) \_\_\_\_\_ Post # \_\_\_\_\_ City State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deceased (If veteran is deceased, contact ALA unit about the necessary military records.)  
**Veteran Served:**  
 WWII (4/8/1917-11/11/1918)  
 Anytime After 12/7/1941 (check all that apply):  
 Global War on Terror  Lebanon/Grenada  WWII  Other Conflicts  
 Panama  Vietnam  Korea  
 Gulf War  U.S. Coast Guard  
 Merchant Marines (WWII only)  
**Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:**  
 Male Spouse  Female Spouse  Mother  Self  
 Grandmother  Sister  Daughter  Granddaughter

**DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Received From: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Dues  
 Recruiter's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Recruiter's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Recruiter's Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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Cover photo by Matt Roth.



## Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary

**For God and country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:**

*To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;*

*to maintain law and order;*

*to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;*

*to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;*

*to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation;*

*to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;*

*to make right the master of might;*

*to promote peace and goodwill on Earth;*

*to safeguard and transmit to posterity, the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy;*

*to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion;*

*to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.*



## American Legion Auxiliary

Looking forward is often a good idea, but I'm also very excited to look back at the American Legion Auxiliary's accomplishments from the 2021–2022 administrative year.

Our members were relentless in pursuing our mission of serving veterans, military, and their families. Throughout my travels, I enjoyed putting our mission into action—making fleece blankets, putting together care packages for our servicemembers, attending meetings and events, and hearing new ideas on serving those who served and still serve our country.

With our national focus on caregivers, I enjoyed seeing members' grateful faces as I presented them with caregiver certificates of appreciation. I cried reading the extraordinary caregiver stories of trials and triumphs in our *Auxiliary* magazine. And perhaps most impactful: I was humbled by our members who have so much on their plates, yet they continue caring for others. That *Service Not Self* mindset runs deep within our Auxiliary membership. Please continue to think of our caregivers after this administrative year ends.

To all of the departments and units I visited—I appreciate you opening your doors and hearts to me during my travels. I now have so many unforgettable experiences and people I have added in my life. You are all so amazing and incredible, and I will never forget your kindness.

Although my term as national president is ending, I will be forever grateful for the time I spent in this role and the difference it made for me first and foremost as an ALA unit member. I hope to take ideas sparked during my visits and implement them back home. To our grassroots members: Continue doing what you are doing—you make a difference!

Thank you for a great year. I look forward to continuing to work the mission alongside all of you!

Kathy Daudistel

National President  
American Legion Auxiliary

## THE AMERICAN LEGION



Dear American Legion Auxiliary,

You are a cherished member not only of The American Legion Family but the Dillard Family as well. The daughter of Past National President Katherine Morris happens to be my wife, Donna Dillard. As president of the Department of Texas, Donna's theme was "Who We Are, What We Do, and Why We Matter."

I can answer all three questions. You are an amazing group of people who love this country and love The American Legion. You tirelessly support our programs, engage with your community, and raise significant funds for the betterment of veterans and families in need. You matter simply because The American Legion and our nation rely on your patriotic service to make our communities and country places worthy of the sacrifices of its veterans. For more than a century, you have embodied the words *Service Not Self*.

Simply put, the American Legion Auxiliary is the heart of our American Legion Family. You help us live our motto of *Veterans Strengthening America*.

Paul E. Dillard

National Commander  
The American Legion

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



Dear American Legion Auxiliary,

It has been an honor to serve alongside the American Legion Auxiliary—the backbone of The American Legion Family.

This amazing year was marked with unprecedented milestones for the Sons of The American Legion, where none of it would have been possible without the unwavering support of the American Legion Auxiliary.

This year's service project for the Sons was Flying Flags For Heroes with a goal to place 1 million flags on the graves of our nation's heroes. It was a daunting task to accomplish, and without the Family working together, we never would have gotten off the ground. I would like to thank each one of you who participated. There were thousands of Auxiliary members braving the weather supporting this amazing program. Because of our combined efforts, the million flag goal was shattered.

From all of the squadrons throughout this great nation, thank you for your service to the greatest organization. We are The American Legion Family.

Michael Fox

National Commander  
Sons of The American Legion



# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

NUMBER OF AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENTS	52
PERCENTAGE OF DEPARTMENTS REPORTING	94%
NUMBER OF UNITS	7,760
PERCENTAGE OF UNITS REPORTING	42%
AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERS REPORTING	9%

### IMPACT OF VOLUNTEER HOURS AND RESOURCES RAISED AND SPENT

Volunteer hours serving veterans and military	3,265,977
Volunteer hours serving military families	359,273
Volunteer hours serving youth, scholarships, communities	4,379,478
<b>TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS</b>	<b>8,004,728</b>
Resources raised and spent on veterans and military	\$11,007,709
Resources raised and spent on military families	\$1,350,722
Resources raised and spent on youth, scholarships, communities	\$9,831,911
Total raised and spent	\$22,190,342
<b>TOTAL IMPACT</b>	<b>\$314,812,680</b>

### IMPACT MADE SERVING AMERICA'S VETERANS/MILITARY

Volunteer hours serving veterans and military	3,265,977
Total dollars spent serving veterans and military	\$5,270,351
Total number of veterans assisted	462,270
Veterans in Community Schools presentations	12,709
In-kind donations	\$2,368,719
Total number of poppies distributed	1,197,592
Total dollars raised from poppies	\$1,709,158



# WHO WE ARE. WHAT WE DO. SEE WHY WE MATTER.

## IMPACT MADE SERVING MILITARY FAMILIES

Hours volunteered	359,273
Dollars spent	\$1,350,722
Number of military families served	181,725

## IMPACT MADE THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

Total number of scholarships presented and awarded	2,294
Total dollar amount of scholarships presented	\$1,456,432

## IMPACT MADE THROUGH ALA GIRLS STATE

Hours volunteered for ALA Girls State	277,273
Total dollars spent on ALA Girls State	\$1,746,899

## IMPACT MADE IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Hours serving American Legion Family youth activities	377,503
Total dollars raised/spent to benefit children	\$2,586,269
Total dollars in direct aid to help children in need	\$424,892
Total number of children served	454,363

## IMPACT MADE THROUGH SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Total number volunteer service hours in community service not included above	3,724,702
Total dollars spent on community projects not included above	\$3,617,420

Due to publishing deadlines, data represents actual numbers received by American Legion Auxiliary departments in May 2022, with reporting from 94% participation of departments.



# Life as a caregiver: What it's really like

*Members share their experiences*

**A** *Service Not Self* mindset as an American Legion Auxiliary member often pours over into the personal lives of members, including those who are caregivers. Putting others before themselves comes naturally. The Auxiliary has hundreds, if not thousands, of members who have been, are, or will someday be caregivers, each with a unique—yet in some ways similar—story to share.

The 2021–2022 administrative year placed a national spotlight on caregivers, with many getting the recognition they deserve for everything they do for their loved ones. Caregivers were presented with certificates of appreciation, and members' stories were highlighted in ALA media, including the February, May, and August 2022 *Auxiliary* magazine issues and on the ALA blog.

Several Auxiliary members contacted ALA National Headquarters to share what it's like to be a caregiver. Here are a few of those stories, each in the members' own words.

## Finances add stress too

Michele Poncier | Department of Georgia



Thank you for featuring stories on caregivers of loved ones. I am a caregiver for my 84-year-old disabled mother, and although there are other caregivers who are in a more difficult situation as I am, it does not make things much easier, but I am grateful for each day I have with my mother. There are days I cry out to God and ask Him to answer my prayers. I hope to get married again ... just unsure how that would work.

My father died in 1980. He was 43 years old and left my mom a widow with my sister and me still at home. I could not afford to go to college. I worked full-time, my sister quit school and got her GED, and my mother took on a second job. Growing up in Miami with no close relatives to help, things were difficult. We were strapped financially before my father's death, and then things got worse.

My sister and I got married and moved out, but our marriages ended in divorce. I met someone else who was interested in marriage, then moved to north Florida to be near him, and then we moved to Georgia and started a family. We saw how difficult it was for my



*Michele Poncier (far right) with her family and mother, for whom she is a caregiver. Although it can be difficult, Poncier wouldn't trade this life.*

mother financially, so we moved her in with us to help take care of my son while I went back to work. I helped my former husband start a business, I suffered health problems, and had to quit work. We were eventually blessed financially, and my mother helped me raise my kids because their father was always away.



**Over 100 years ago, the American Legion Auxiliary was founded on taking care of veterans—we've been caregivers since day one, and we fulfill that vital role today.** There are currently 5.5 million caregivers in our country, with many ALA members filling that role. Most spend over 75 hours a week caregiving.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- » Military caregivers helping veterans from earlier eras tend to resemble civilian caregivers in many ways.
- » Post-9/11 military caregivers differ from pre-9/11 and civilian caregiver groups. They tend to be younger, caring for a younger individual with a mental health or substance use condition, employed, and not connected to a support network. They are more likely to use mental health resources and services, and more often.
- » Post-9/11 military caregivers typically help those for whom they are caring cope with stressful situations or other emotional and behavioral challenges.
- » Military caregivers consistently experience worse health outcomes, greater strains in family relationships, and more workplace problems than non-caregivers, and post-9/11 military caregivers fare worst in these areas.

Fast forward 20 years, and my marriage ended after years of disagreeing over the business/money and raising the kids. He did not want me to work or go to school, so I was involved at church and local community fine arts programs.

Finding myself single again at 50 years old, it was difficult to find work with no degree or a long work history. Low-paying jobs did not pay the bills. My mom and I were homeless—I pretty much lost everything. She was a house mom for a homeless shelter while still teaching preschool. I bounced around renting rooms and working low-paying jobs. I finally had a job that paid bills, I caught up on old debt, and bought a town home, which was a miracle!

I lost my job in June 2020 and moved my disabled mother in with me a few weeks later. It has been so difficult trying to help her get in and out of the home, up and down the stairs, and in and out of my SUV. She has severe mobility issues, edema, rotator cuff injuries, deformed feet, serious arthritis, and osteoporosis. She is a huge fall risk, and we can't afford a

private-pay caregiver.

I am trying to switch her insurance to one that pays for a caregiver. I need to work to pay the bills, but she has multiple doctor appointments that never seem to end. I love her and want to take care of her, but my health has suffered tremendously because I can't afford to go to the doctor or dentist. If I could afford it, I would buy a home with an in-law suite and a vehicle she can get in and out of, but I don't have the funds.

If I placed her in a nursing home, I would not be able to keep an eye on her. She was in one a few years ago for two months with a fractured fibula, and I had to drive there each day, getting onto

the staff for no help to get her to the bathroom, giving foods she is allergic to, wrong medications, etc. It was a nightmare. She misses being sociable.

I am very fortunate that I can leave her while I do outside activities and volunteering for projects on nights and weekends. I am a people-person and have managed busy programs—children through adults—and this change in lifestyle is difficult, to say the least.

“  
**I am a people-person and have managed busy programs ... this change in lifestyle is difficult, to say the least.**  
”



## Your mental, physical health matters

Mary Murphy | Department of Ohio



Nearly 48 years ago, I met this most wonderful guy and we were married. He was a Vietnam veteran, with 30% disability created from a fall exiting a helicopter under fire. We raised two wonderful children and are blessed with four grandchildren. All the time of our marriage, there was a fifth unwelcome member in our family—PTSD. My husband is now 100% disabled, permanent and total.

It was a challenge to recognize the triggers. He was a grunt and served during some horrific times on the ground. He was exposed to the chemicals they called Agent Orange. He has a pacemaker and several diseases created by that exposure. Over the years, I have had to make appointments, talk with doctors, most anything concerning his health. I also have inquired and purchased items to help him along the way.

In the beginning of our marriage, he was very independent; however in our older years, life has become very difficult. Now he has mild cognitive impairment, and it is very hard to understand his confusion and needs. I am trying to keep my health up and his too.

I am involved with a support group and see a psychologist regularly. It is important to keep our mental



*ALA member and caregiver Mary Murphy with her husband, George.*

**It is important to keep our mental and physical health in check so we can take care of others.**

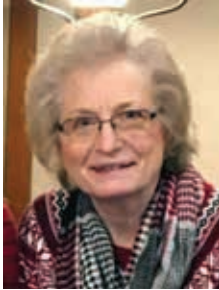
and physical health in check so we can take care of others. COVID has made it near impossible. It can be very difficult some days. I try to do all the research I can. As a caregiver, you are required to wear many hats. I am

always eager to find new ways of support.

He is an amazing man! As long as I am able, I will do what I can to keep him happy and safe. He was drafted and served his country proudly. All gave some and some gave all.

## Caring for the Greatest Generation

Cathy Buxengard | Department of Minnesota



Both of my parents served their country in World War II—my father as an Army medic and my mother an Army nurse. I am so proud of them. They are part of a generation that came home after the war and went to work contributing to our country. They remained quiet about their service.

My parents were no different. They contributed to their community until they retired. My dad was in the construction business, and my mother helped to establish a new hospital in a neighboring town and also worked as an RN at the local hospital until retirement.

My dad had a stroke in 1997. Mom took care of him until his death in 2005. Now, my mother needs assistance at 101. She has been independent and still lives in her own home.

I am a retired registered nurse and live only 30 miles from Mom. I had been going to Mom's every other day

making sure she was safe, eating, and taking her medications. In January, I decided she needed more assistance, and I moved in to help her. She did not want to move in with my husband and me because she wanted to die at home where Dad had died. I felt that was the least I could do.

I feel honored to take care of such a proud veteran. She is the last of the Greatest Generation—a generation that grew up during the Great Depression and went on to serve our country in the greatest war this country has ever fought.

About a year ago, I got Mom a cat. He has been such a wonderful companion to her. He spends a lot of time on Mom's lap, and they nap together. I feel he has helped Mom about as much as I have!

Mom's mind remains good, and it means so much to be able to reminisce. She has told me a lot about her parents and childhood and her service to our country. Also, how she met my dad in the war. We also share stories of our family life when they were raising their family.

Yes, I am still taking care of my mom, and we both are benefiting.



*Jo Strube served as an Army nurse during World War II. Her daughter, Cathy Buxengard, is now her caregiver.*



**I feel honored to take care of such a proud veteran. She is the last of the Greatest Generation.**





## Surround yourself with support

Linda Marty Schmitz | Department of Wisconsin



I am a member of ALA Unit 360 in Waunakee, Wis. I have been involved in caregiving for over 20 years as a caregiver and through activities that support caregivers.

I began providing support to my elderly parents in their 80s, first providing contact informa-

tion, progressing through taking them to appointments and then coordinating all their care through an assisted living facility. I have two brothers who also helped as much as they could, while holding full-time jobs. Since I was retired, most of the work fell to me.

My father was a veteran of WWII and an over 65-year member of The American Legion Duppler Smith Post in Belleville. My mother (former president of the Duppler Smith Auxiliary unit) had Alzheimer's disease, and my father had serious heart issues and prostate cancer. My mostly daily work with them ended when they died four weeks apart in 2008.

I then became involved in local organizations through



*Linda Marty Schmitz's parents (left) at their 60th wedding anniversary celebration in 2004 and Schmitz with her husband at their granddaughter's wedding in June.*

Dane County and Waunakee's Senior Center that supported caregivers. I moderated a monthly caregiver support group until May of this year but led Waunakee's

Memory Café program on a volunteer basis. In addition, I provide care for my husband who was diagnosed with mild Alzheimer's dementia in May (he no longer drives, so I take him to doctor appointments, handle all of his business dealings, etc.) and my brother, who has Parkinson's disease but still lives on his own. I also go to doctor appointments, etc., with him.

Through all of this, I have learned to not be afraid to ask for help and to let people know what's happening in your life. It's not a dirty little secret that those you love need your care and attention.



**I have learned to not be afraid to ask for help and to let people know what's happening in your life.**



**Just like our veterans, military, and their families, ALA members fall on hard times, which is why the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) was created.** Whether they lost their job to a poor economy, lost their house to a wildfire or hurricane, or have fallen behind on their rent due to crushing medical bills, the AEF is a lifeline for members facing a crisis.

You can make a difference in an Auxiliary member's life by donating to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund at [www.ALAforVeterans.org/donate](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/donate) or by sharing information to members who may be struggling.

## Dedicated to nursing

Karen A. Kisner | Department of New Jersey



I am a retired nurse. I have taken care of people most of my adult life. I am an ALA member of Unit 455 for 52 years. I have four grown children, two of which are nurses, and one is an activities director in a rehab and long-term care facility.

In 2018, my mother became ill at 92 years old with cancer. I cared for her until her death four months later.

I was an only child, and it was my love for her that I cared for her in every way possible. In 2019, my aunt Peggy, my father's sister and 89 years old, became ill. Her only child, a son, lived in North Carolina. She lived alone, independently, enjoying her card and bingo groups, and her senior clubs. Her son depended on me to watch over her and take care of things that needed to be done.

She had two major surgeries and was diagnosed with colon cancer. This was a woman who previously was in a hospital only one time, and that was for her son's birth. After seven hospital admissions, two major surgeries, and rehab, she was finally back in her home. I was doing her grocery shopping, light housework, and driving her to many, many doctor appointments. She was doing quite well, using a walker to move around the house, but basically doing the hygiene and cooking, which she loves to do herself.

On Jan. 19 this year, my aunt fell, fracturing her humerus bone in her upper right arm. She had surgery once

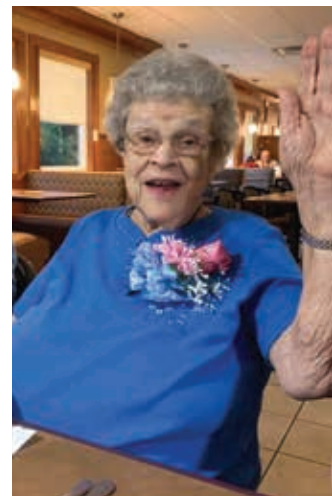
again to have rods to help heal the bone. She is currently in rehab regaining her strength. This time, we are uncertain if she will be able to go home since she can't use her right arm for three months. I've been her caregiver for two years. I'm now her power of attorney, and I continue to help with whatever she needs, visiting her daily and keeping her clothes clean and washed for rehab.

In 2020, my aunt's only child passed away suddenly on a golf course in North Carolina. So, I am the only person she has to care for her and do what is in her best interest. The two of us have been through a lot of ups and downs in two years and everything in between. I love her dearly and will continue to care for her. She's now 90 years old with a very sharp mind.

Being a retired nurse, I have always been a caregiver. I loved nursing. Every one of my patients was treated like family. I think caregiving is in my blood and will remain there until I die.

And yes, I am a proud mama with my three girls caring enough to work in the nursing field.

My doctor once told me, "You're retired now from nursing. You should be enjoying YOUR life now." But caregiving isn't something you just stop doing! My life career is CAREGIVER!



- » The AEF is a national grant assistance program that provides temporary emergency assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary up to \$2,400 as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis.
- » Grant funds may be used only for shelter or utilities.
- » Members of the American Legion Auxiliary whose dues are current and who have maintained membership for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years) are eligible to apply for a grant.

**DID YOU  
KNOW?**



## Report: National President

*Kathy Daudistel, National President*

What a year! I am so thankful for all of the mission-in-action moments I was able to be a part of during the 2021-2022 administrative year. One thing is certain: Our members are incredible and continue to focus on veterans, military, and their families.

With an extra emphasis on caregivers, the *Caring for Those Who Care for Others* theme truly hit home for many. I appreciate everyone who steps up and cares for their loved ones. I understand how hard of a task it can be at times. Just remember: You are appreciated, and I hope that by bringing a focus to caregiving this year, you

realize how much.

I heard countless caregiver stories during my travels, and each of them was inspiring. I really wish I could talk about every single one! I do, however, want to mention one caregiver who continually inspires me. ALA member Janine DeGusto Dougherty is a caregiver for her veteran husband, Kevin, as well as for her mother, Pauline. She does so much for both and has found that taking time for herself—whether it’s five minutes, half an hour, or a weekend—is crucial because caregiving can be such an emotionally and mentally draining role. “It takes a strong person to do it,” she said. Yes, Janine, it sure does.

Thank you for doing what you do so selflessly.

In addition to meeting caregivers, I loved being part of the grassroots projects that are serving our mission at the local level throughout the country. Keep doing what you are doing! You are amazing and making a difference.

I am grateful for the time I had as your 2021–2022 national president. You taught me so much and continuously reiterated why we do what we do as members. Continue to give our caregivers love and support beyond this administrative year, and keep focused on serving our veterans, military, and their families.

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## Report: National Vice President

*Vickie Koutz, National Vice President*

It has been a privilege and honor to serve as national vice president of this amazing organization.

This Auxiliary year has been different than the two years before, as we’ve had the opportunity to have more face-to-face meetings again.

Mission Trainings, National Chairmen’s Meeting, and Department Leadership National Conference were all held in person this year.

Planning for the upcoming year began in September 2021. Once I shared my ideas on speakers and content, our National Headquarters staff played an

integral part in assuring all of the meetings went well. It also gave me a chance to meet the upcoming department leadership.

Even though we lost an abundance of members due to death this

**“This Auxiliary year has been different than the two years before, as we’ve had the opportunity to have more face-to-face meetings again. Mission Trainings, National Chairmen’s Meeting, and Department Leadership National Conference were all held in person this year.”**

past year, we have several 100% departments. This shows the ones who work the hardest, reap the rewards. Congratulations!

We were blessed once again to

be a co-presenter of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival that was held in the spring for the first time, instead of the fall. The federal VA still had lots of COVID-19 restrictions in place, so the event was not open to the public, but the performance on Sunday afternoon was livestreamed so everyone at home could enjoy the entertainment.

As this American Legion Auxiliary year comes to an end, it has been such a pleasure working alongside National President Kathy as she shared her love for our veterans, caregivers, and their families. I wish her the very best in the future!

## Report: National Secretary

*Dr. Coral May Grout, National Secretary*

Throughout the American Legion Auxiliary's history, the position of national secretary was an administrative component of the national organization's leadership. However, as nonprofits have modernized, conflicts of interest can arise when an individual is both a member of the governing board and a paid employee. The decision was made in 2019 to transition the national secretary and national treasurer positions into purely volunteer positions—reasons all pointed to better meeting the needs of the organization, as well as supporting the Internal Revenue Service 990 reporting requirements.

Both are positions appointed by the national president and approved by the National Executive Committee.

During this past year, I worked with the executive director and national officers to build this volunteer position. We held several Zoom and Executive Committee sessions where the normal process of paying a professional notetaker (as is done at our in-person meetings and conferences/conventions) was not used. The national secretary took the minutes instead.

Other responsibilities included leadership with relation to the national division vice presidents' visitations and required paperwork upon completion of each visit. The

national secretary has oversight over contracts, agreements, and memorandums of understanding executed by the executive director, as well as to sign checks.

The importance of recognizing our wonderful national staff is something that applies to all of us. I have implemented a recognition program that includes a card and message to each employee as he or she reaches an anniversary with the ALA, as well as remembering their efforts at Christmas.

The national secretary is a corporate officer and part of the leadership team accountable for steering the organization to stay aligned with its tax-exempt mission.

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## Report: National Treasurer

*Marybeth Revoir, National Treasurer*

It is with pleasure I report to my fellow members as national treasurer at the conclusion of my second term. There will always be new things to learn and challenges to face, but I have gained confidence in this role and the responsibilities it requires. My collaboration with the national Finance Committee and Finance Division at National Headquarters continues to be a positive and fruitful partnership. All participants are ever mindful of our responsibilities and the need to work in harmony.

Our great organization has now entered its second century. This milestone comes with great responsibility. We have been given a

phenomenal legacy to uphold. How do we lay the foundation to make it last another 100 years?

As we try to put the pandemic years behind, new societal realities show us that change is needed. How can we learn from what we were forced to endure these past several months and make the American Legion Auxiliary stronger?

Our fiscal stability is directly tied to our income from membership dues. All operations, including management of mission initiatives, communications, training, compliance, and numerous other functions, are funded solely through the membership dues each of us pays annually. In 2017, we identified the need for

an adequate dues structure to fund operations at the current levels. A plan to avoid future shortfalls was not adopted, and we are again faced with deficit budget projections.

Considerable effort has been expended on how we can learn to work smarter and streamline processes. Technology can be a great building block on which we must depend. Staffing needs and operational expenses are consistently reviewed to identify where we can reduce costs. We can never become complacent.

The Auxiliary's future is now in our hands. Let's think about what each of us can do to guarantee its continued success.



## Report: National Chaplain

*Carol T. Robinson, National Chaplain*

God commands us to love others. One of the most straightforward ways to love is by helping when we see someone in need, whether it is our time, money, or prayer, each in our own faith. Hebrews 13:16 says, “And do not forget to do good and share with others, for God is pleased with such sacrifices.”

Reviewing the department chaplains’ reports, I learned how the units showed love, kindness, and *Service Not Self* to their members. The units were busy this year with invocations and benedictions at meetings, and incorporating music in their programs. They participated in holiday memorial services and POW-MIA

ceremonies, draping charters, Four Chaplains services, preparing food or food baskets for those less fortunate or shut-ins, flag raisings and disposals, 9/11 remembrances, and cemetery dedication ceremonies. They also sent get-well, thinking-of-you, and sympathy cards, praying for and assisting caregivers, and sending boxes to troops overseas.

Here are a few highlights of sharing the love:

- **Delaware:** Ms. Lee McClain of Unit 6 was nominated Chaplain of the Year.
- **Georgia:** Northeast Georgia presented 163 Quilts of Valor to veterans this past year.
- **Iowa:** One unit held a Gold Star

Mothers program.

- **New Mexico:** Unit 95 members joined forces to clean the local cemetery.
- **New York:** Jefferson County American Legion Family hosted the burial of Lyle Savage, 80 years after his death in Pearl Harbor on the USS Oklahoma.
- **Reports received:** 32
- **Volunteer senior hours:** 97,451
- **Volunteer Junior hours:** 232
- **Condolence cards:** 2,606
- **Get-well/thinking-of-you cards:** 4,856
- **Monetary donations:** \$96,104

It was my pleasure to serve as chaplain this year. God’s blessings and grace be with all of you.

## Report: National Historian

*Carol G. Campbell, National Historian*

The American Legion Auxiliary’s first national president, Edith Hobart of the Department of Ohio, in the October 1922 Fourth Annual Convention report, said, “It is our pride to call ourselves the American Legion Auxiliary, and to renew to you here the pledge to serve you which we made a year ago.”

As the celebration of the ALA’s 100th anniversary ended in August 2021 at the 100th National Convention in Phoenix, members felt that same pride and sense of renewed spirit going into our second century of service. Members selflessly looked forward to more mission

moments during the 2021–2022 administrative year, especially with National President Kathy Daudistel’s focus on caregivers and her visits to departments.

Ten years ago, ALA members were tasked by the late National Historian Diane Harley, Department of South Carolina, to “make footprints for those who will follow by striving to fulfill the mission of serving veterans, military members, and their families.” One of the definitions of a “footprint” is the impact that a particular activity, person, or group has on the environment. Footprints during 2021–2022 were most definitely caring hearts!

This year was still hard for many

units due to COVID-19, especially with the variants that surfaced around the holidays, but it did not slow down the support our members gave to veterans, military, and their families, and communities. And to highlight these phenomenal efforts, historians passed along information at department conferences, through social media, newsletters, and in-person and Zoom meetings on how to capture these efforts. Members participated in the Veterans History Project through the Library of Congress and “members remember” history project. Members also participated in Women’s History Month activities, especially honoring military women.



## Report: Executive Director

*Sara Riegel, Interim Executive Director*

If there's one thing the pandemic and the new normal taught us about ALA National Headquarters staff, it's that we're quite resilient and diligent. Over the past few years, we had become accustomed to doing more with less, but COVID and other disruptors really put things into perspective.

National Headquarters certainly isn't immune to the global "Great Resignation" problem, as we learned over the past year. Several vital positions were vacated—with some open for months despite our attempts to fill them in the changing and competitive environment—thus

adding multiple job duties to everyone's to-do lists while the positions remain open.

One of those openings is the executive director. Since taking on an interim role, I've learned a lot about what each and every staff member

**"All of our staff members continue to keep the ALA mission in focus by stepping up and taking on extra roles to make sure no veterans, military servicemembers, or their families are left behind."**

does at National Headquarters. I'm honored to work with a team that is willing to keep their heads held high during this time of change. All of our staff members continue to keep the ALA mission in focus by stepping up and taking on extra roles

to make sure no veterans, military servicemembers, or their families are left behind.

We've also done an excellent job adapting to the changes, with an average ALA-member-to-staff ratio of 15,900 to 1. That's a lot of

people! Many divisions are having to step back and take a new approach of cross-training in an effort to incorporate the extra

duties to develop a more seamless service. I am a big proponent of everyone working as a team too vs. in silos, as it promotes a more efficient environment. When we're all on the same page, we get more done and in a smoother fashion.

## Committee: Risk & Compliance

*Jeri Greenwell, National Chairman*

The five-member Risk & Compliance Committee serves in a risk aversion and oversight role for both the American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, offering advice and recommendations to the NEC. Its main responsibility is to oversee the validity of financial statements, including related disclosures, and to ensure compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; to maintain overall integrity of internal control processes, procedures, and regulations; and to substantiate our financial credibility and long-term viability to our members, donors, and the public.

Kudos to our National Headquar-

ters staff whose continued adherence to ethical standards and execution, once again, resulted in a stellar audit!

The committee confirmed Alerding CPA Group as the external audit firm and Gregory and Appel for business insurance coverage, as well as the remuneration and terms of their engagements.

Self-assessments and brainstorming sessions were conducted in helping to identify potential exposure to financial, operational, organizational, and reputational risks within our organization, and recommendations were made on policy and procedural updates.

The committee met periodically with management and the auditors

to gain a greater understanding of potential risks facing our organization and to propose necessary controls to reduce exposure and to ensure that recommendations made in the auditor's letter to management were implemented. We are pleased to report that there have been no findings or concerns about financial mismanagement or improprieties raised, as of this report!

We acknowledge that appropriate internal controls serve as our first line of defense in safeguarding assets and detecting and preventing errors, fraud, and impropriety, allowing us the ability to identify areas of weakness and to respond accordingly.



## Committee: Finance

*Sharon Conatser, National Chairman*

The national Finance Committee continues to tackle the challenges of good fiscal planning to meet today’s needs, as well as future fiduciary requirements. Your Finance Committee is represented on the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board of Directors and the Risk & Compliance Committee.

The last two years have been challenging for everyone. We need to remember the why of our mission and purpose, and get back to supporting the ALA programs we love. Remember that no donation given is too small. What is your why for joining our ALA?

The Finance Committee reviews

the draft budget, makes any adjustments that may be necessary to reflect new or changing goals, and recommends a budget for the National Executive Committee (NEC) consideration and adoption. Also, in carrying out the role as fiduciary stewards, the ALA national Finance Committee is responsible for investment planning, reviewing financial statements, monitoring member benefits and fundraising campaigns, overseeing the financial policies of the organization, and making fiscal policy recommendations for NEC action to ensure that the ALA national organization is meeting nonprofit benchmarks and governmental requirements.

We feel that ALA Mission Train-

ings and the ALA national Junior meetings are very important to the education and support of our unit members. The reviews of the first year back in person were phenomenal, and members appreciated the investment made by our national ALA.

In order to continue to fulfill our future obligations to our members and to our veterans, action is needed to address the declining operating revenue from dues. In the last two years, we have lost over \$500,000 in revenue alone in membership dues. Members need to step up their responsibility and help retain and recruit members. Another way to help is supporting the fundraisers sent to your mailbox.

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## Report: American Legion Auxiliary Foundation

*Cathleen MacInnes, ALA Foundation Board of Directors President*

The value of the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation was clearly demonstrated during the 2021–2022 administration year. The ALA Foundation supported the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, ALA Girls Nation, caregiver initiatives, and 30 grants to support needs at the unit and department levels.

None of this would have been possible without our donors. The more than 9,000 donations made have provided \$417,153 in needed support to veterans, military, and their families. That impact will be felt for years to come.

Veteran Projects Fund grants have

provided nearly \$23,000 to replace diminished siding at a veterans home; to provide a bingo machine for the community living center at a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and outdoor furniture for a state veterans home; to establish a veterans food pantry; and to install a sanitary, hands-free water fountain at a homeless center for veterans.

Three Veterans Creative Arts Festival grants have been awarded to support local Veterans Creative Arts Festivals at the VA Western New York Health Care System, the VA Finger Lakes Health Care System, and the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center.

Mission in Action grants helped

15 ALA units and departments become recognized for their good works by awarding more than \$28,000 for branded table runners, pop-up tents, banners, storage containers, and more.

Finally, subgrants provided over \$72,000 to support Purple Up! Day activities, ALA Girls State programs, and other unit and department initiatives.

The ALA Foundation is proud to serve our nation’s heroes. We are grateful to those who live out the American Legion Auxiliary’s promise of *Service Not Self* by applying for ALA Foundation grants or by donating to make all the Foundation does possible.

# Report: Financial Statement

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS FY21

### CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash and cash equivalents	1,076,500
Investments	44,835,627
Investments, PUFL	4,914,915
Prepaid expenses	175,845
Property & Equipment, net	2,620,530
Other assets	132,906

<b>Total assets</b>	<b>53,756,323</b>
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### CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Accounts payable	1,206,202
Accrued expenses	301,252
Accrued scholarships	128,000
Deferred revenue, dues	2,831,745
Deferred revenue, PUFL	4,826,780
Deferred revenue, other	2,000
Liability for pension benefits	887,237
Note payable	566,500

<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>10,749,716</b>
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### NET ASSETS:

Without donor restrictions	42,735,063
With donor restrictions	1,594,138
Total net assets before accumulated other comprehensive loss	44,329,201
Accumulated other compressive loss	-1,322,594

<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>43,006,607</b>
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<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>53,756,323</b>
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### SUPPORT & REVENUE:

Contributions	1,415,686
Membership dues	6,382,677
Advertising	211,950
Other	488,838

<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b>8,499,151</b>
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<b>Investment Income, Net of Expenses</b>	<b>7,758,941</b>
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### EXPENSES:

#### Program Services:

Member and department support services	4,464,611
Youth and education services	737,379
Veteran and military families programs	439,457

#### Supporting Services:

Management & general	1,701,934
Fundraising	870,710

<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>8,214,001</b>
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<b>Excess of Support &amp; Revenue over Expenses</b>	<b>8,044,001</b>
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## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION INC. FY21

### CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash	789,521
Investments	2,061,267
Other assets	11,000

<b>Total assets</b>	<b>2,861,788</b>
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### CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Accounts payable	193,217
Deferred revenue—other	5,000

<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>198,217</b>
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### NET ASSETS:

Without donor restrictions	12,015
With donor restrictions	2,651,556

<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>2,663,571</b>
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<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>2,861,788</b>
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### SUPPORT & REVENUE:

Contributions	851,162
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<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b>851,162</b>
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<b>Investment Income, Net of Expenses</b>	<b>328,574</b>
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### EXPENSES:

#### Program Services:

Member and department support services	21,655
Youth and education services	49,119
Veteran and military families programs	143,164

#### Supporting Services:

Management & general	79,129
Fundraising	334,808

<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>627,875</b>
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<b>Excess of Support &amp; Revenue over Expenses</b>	<b>551,861</b>
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The above American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Inc. FY21 audited financial information reflects contributions of \$196,230 received from the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters to fund certain organizational and other costs incurred by the ALA Foundation. Our financial statements as of Sept. 30, 2021, and for the year then ended have been audited by Alerding CPA Group in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Alerding CPA Group's Independent Auditor's Report, dated Jan. 18, 2022, expressed an unmodified opinion on the fair presentation of those financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The condensed financial information presented herein is derived from the audited financial statements. The complete FY21 audit report is available in the American Legion Auxiliary Proceedings of the 2022 Mid-Year NEC Meeting.



## Report: Central Division

*Denise Delaney-Wrolen, Central Division National Vice President*

Departments in the Central Division were busy promoting the ALA mission.

The Department of Illinois celebrated the 100th year of Hines VA with a respite garden for patients and their caregivers. A granite and brass marker declares the garden was made possible by The American Legion Family.

Indiana assisted Kentucky when multiple tornadoes struck, with donations amounting to \$5,225. They received recognition for donating \$20,144.03 to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund and collecting \$10,095 for the creative arts!

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds requested school systems provide a flag in each classroom. Units purchased hundreds of flags to fill the request. One unit had 90 fifth grade students participate in the essay contest.

Kansas hosted National President Kathy Daudistel. She attended the Department Oratorical Competition and later presented four caregiver awards and two Good Deed Awards. They celebrated their 100th year being chartered on Feb. 21, 2022.

The Department of Michigan had a new state-of-the-art veteran facility open. They are proud to say, thanks to the work of their members, they attained goal on May 13.

Members of Missouri attended oratorical contests and Four Chaplains services. They had a successful ALA Girls State.

Ohio's Juniors made bags for military children and expectant military women. Many units prepared boxes, including phone and gift cards, for active-duty military.

West Virginia's president's project was a Gold Star Mothers living memorial and planting 55 apple trees, one for each county in the state. She also chose as a project Wreaths Across America.

The need for training and ways to focus on family activities and events were identified in Wisconsin for a stronger Legion Family.

## Report: Eastern Division

*Marie J. Pytka, Eastern Division National Vice President*

Connecticut: At the Past Presidents Parley, checks were presented in memorial for past presidents and families to give out as scholarships to nursing students.

Delaware: A "Back to Motown" AEF fundraiser was held at Post 28. It was a family affair.

District of Columbia: The department adopted veterans, helped do grocery runs, and volunteered to transport veterans to get their COVID-19 vaccines.

Maryland: The president's project was Warrior Canine Connection, which provides service dogs to veterans at no cost.

Massachusetts: Shirts were made with the department president's theme of "American Legion, Family Strong" and sent over \$2,000 to the creative arts program.

New Hampshire: Department President Donna Bryant's project was the Manchester food bank, and they raised \$4,800 for it. Backpacks were also given to students who needed food and hygiene products.

New Jersey: Students created Christmas cards for the VA hospital, and units made wreaths for veterans. Two new units were also chartered.

New York: The department president's project was America's Vet Dog, which provides service dogs to veterans, active-duty servicemem-

bers, and first responders.

Pennsylvania: An ALA Girls State raffle raised \$12,000. VA&R chairman and Juniors filled ditty bags to donate to the VA nursing homes, homeless shelters, and hospitals. The C&Y project was "Stuff the Sack for Needy Children."

Rhode Island: The theme was "Pay it Forward to the ALA." Recipients were Rhode Island ALA Girls State, AEF, scholarship fund, Children & Youth, and Child Welfare Foundation.

Vermont: President Massey's project, "Paws & Boots," raised over \$3,800 to provide dogs for vets. Members also supported Dodge House for transitional veterans.

## Report: Northwestern Division

*Dee Dee Buckley, Northwestern Division National Vice President*

Colorado: The towns of Superior and Louisberg were devastated by a fire that took 1,000 homes. Units raised funds and donated household items, clothing, and money.

Minnesota: There was \$35,000 in monetary donations, 925 pairs of children's pajamas, \$2,861 to purchase pack-and-plays and toddler beds for kids, and over 250 children's pillowcases donated to the department president's project supporting the holistic therapies at Eagle's Healing Nest. The facility prevents veteran suicide, providing hope and healing to those who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, military sexual

trauma, and those conquering addiction and depression.

Montana: Working with another community organization, members were able to financially help a military member come home for Christmas. Through their funds, they also helped local children have a merrier Christmas.

North Dakota: Unit members across the state attended send-offs and greeting parties for members of Minnesota and North Dakota National Guards returning to the Fargo airport facility. Troops were greeted by veterans from all service organizations and their auxiliaries. Unit members shipped goodies and personal care items to troops overseas. They

also packed and shipped goods to assist the refugee crisis in Ukraine.

South Dakota: At the June convention, changes were made to governing documents. Chairmen will now serve a two-year term with alternating chairmen elected each year. Half were elected for one year and half for two years. The reason was to give the new chairmen a mentor to help guide them during their first year.

Wyoming: The department made a push to get more members attending department meetings by offering monetary incentives. \$400 was donated back to the units. Two drawings were held for a free Auxiliary membership. They raised over \$4,000.

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## Report: Southern Division

*Gabriele Barnett, Southern Division National Vice President*

The 14 departments of the Southern Division continued to be committed to promoting Auxiliary programs.

Alabama hosted its annual Youth Leadership Camp for 60 children. Arkansas held a high tea honoring female veterans.

Their neighbor, Florida, continued to host leadership workshops. Their Auxiliary Basic Concept (ABC) school has 10 certified instructors who travel throughout the state to teach protocol, officer duties, Constitution & Bylaws, and much more.

Meanwhile in Kentucky, the department president's and department commander's special project,

"Helping Veterans, One Paw At A Time," raised \$135,000 to Dogs Helping Heroes. Dogs from local shelters were matched with veterans and trained to assist the veteran with day-to-day activities.

In Louisiana, smoke detectors were donated to veterans. Mississippi's theme this year was "There is No Place Like Home"—let's bring members back and get to know each other again.

The Department of North Carolina raised over \$22,000 for adult therapy robotic pets. The money will be divided between four VA medical centers and their long-term care patients.

Many units in the Department

of Oklahoma set up outside department and grocery stores to promote and distribute poppies. In Puerto Rico, the Auxiliary held a job fair. South Carolina honored caregivers—they awarded one Junior and two senior caregiver certificates.

On Aug. 21, 2021, massive flooding occurred in Tennessee. The Auxiliary raised \$4,750 and presented a check to Post 34 in Waverly. Meanwhile, in Texas the Auxiliary placed over 1,800 flags on veterans' graves honoring their service.

The Department of Virginia held a membership roundtable via Zoom with a Q&A session. They had two male Auxiliary members talk about why they joined.



# Report: Western Division

*Toni Gimpel, Western Division National Vice President*

Alaska had our national president present caregivers with certificates during her visit. Alaska, with help from an American Legion Auxiliary Foundation grant, purchased patio furniture for the VA home in Palmer.

Arizona’s strong relationships in the community through positive social media and different programs overlapped in service to “Make a Brighter World for our Veterans.”

California “Caught the Wave” as they served the homeless—one unit alone logged 34,252 hours seeking homeless veterans camped near freeways, under bridges, and parks.

Hawaii’s director of ALA Hawai’i

Girls State was honored by the Women’s Fund of Hawai’i where Oprah made a donation of \$100,000.

Idaho went “Back to Basics” by encouraging members to read the Constitution & Bylaws, attend meetings, and recruit new members—gaining 122 members.

Nevada kept in contact with units via monthly Zoom conference calls to minimize risk, knowing that their members are part of a very vulnerable population.

New Mexico had an outstanding “Hallelujah Year,” holding on to first place membership at the national level and along with our other departments, made Western Division first place for membership

(as of this writing).

Oregon department president’s goal was set at \$10,000 and was exceeded as members supported a transitional village of tiny homes to help our homeless veterans get off the streets.

In Utah, for Memorial Day weekend, Tanger Outlets in Park City bought poppies from the ALA and provided them to mall stores. All donations supported the Poppy Program.

Washington’s “Play Ball!” membership campaign had World Series of membership and baseball-themed jewelry sales raising money for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

# American Legion Auxiliary’s Declaration

*The American Legion Auxiliary’s declaration—  
the story of who we are, what we do, and why we matter*

We are the American Legion Auxiliary.

We are called to serve.

We respect our country and the service of those who defend our freedoms.

We are loyal to our United States Constitution and to those who protect it.

We are humbled by the courage of our veterans, and their families.

We are alone, yet we stand together.

We are daughters, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers. We are family.

We are of every color. We are of every faith.

We are of every age.

We are anyone and everyone.

We are common and extraordinary.

We are citizens.

We live in small towns.

We live in suburbs.

We live in cities.

We work in fields, in factories, warehouses, offices, at home.

We are a community. We help one another.

We love our flag and all that it stands for.

We are many. We are one.

We are the American Legion Auxiliary.

A community of volunteers serving veterans, military, and their families.

We commit ourselves to the ideal: *Service Not Self.*

## Committee: Americanism

*Norma Tramm, National Chairman*

Star Spangled Kids was created in 2015–2016 when Diane Duscheck was the Children & Youth Committee national chairman. Back then, Diane said it was a great way for kids to embrace Americanism. Star Spangled Kids teaches kids about the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. It is important to have children become more interested in our founding documents. In 2017–2018, a patch was created for Juniors.

In 2019, it was decided to move Star Spangled Kids to the Americanism program and to focus on Star Spangled Kids as part of the Americanism program. We

offered a challenge to units—they were to share how they promoted Star Spangled Kids and would have an opportunity to receive a box of Americanism items in a random drawing.

Winners of the drawing were Hayes-Velhage Unit 96, West Hartford, Conn.; Durkee-Seager Unit 550, Cement City, Mich.; and Unit 360, Weatherly, Pa. Units were reminded to use the items in the box and share with others if they could not use everything. Georgeann Herling of Unit 360 did just that and at their spring executive meeting. Karen Livenood of Unit 445 was the winner of the DVD *For Which It Stands*, as

Unit 360 already had one. What a wonderful way to share the wealth and knowledge!

Units reached out to elementary students, sharing the U.S. Constitution with patriotic coloring books, activity books, and distributing U.S. Constitutions. Facts about the U.S. Constitution were placed in weekly newspapers. A great way to share the Constitution is as an introduction to The American Legion Oratorical Contest, which the Legion Family supports.

Through the Americanism program, the American Legion Auxiliary continues to promote patriotism and responsible citizenship.

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## Committee: Children & Youth

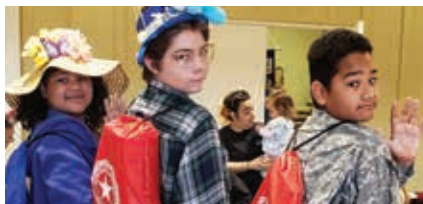
*Trish Ward, National Chairman*

The Children & Youth Committee works collaboratively with The American Legion to promote programs that protect, care for, and support children and youth, especially those of our military and veterans.

Florida's Old Glory Unit 183 got creative with their "Tushies and Toes" event, which was targeted to raise awareness of the need for socks and shoes for schools in a high poverty zone. Together, they collected 539 pairs of socks, along with additional garments and cash to support needy children in their community.

Spearfish Unit 164 in South Dakota made the initiatives of the Children & Youth program a priority for their

members. The unit started a program called Operation Gold Angels to support a child suffering from a rare form of brain cancer and support his family. They raised money, donated



gift cards, and surprised the family with generous donations.

The Department of Minnesota's Children & Youth project was to create children's pillowcases loaded with care items for donation to the Eagle's Healing Nest, where they are distributed to children of servicemembers

who suffer from the invisible wounds of war.

Across the wider landscape, units and members proudly wore purple to create awareness of military children in April and participated in activities that communicated the unique challenges often faced by these children.

Recognizing young caregivers was a special focus, and the Children & Youth program's Youth Caregiver Award enabled units to honor young people who made caregiving to others a priority.

As we look forward to our next century of service, our focus on the care and welfare of America's children creates a brighter future on behalf of those we serve.



## Committee: Community Service

*Denise Conrad, National Chairman*

As the effects of the pandemic are still being felt across the world, American Legion Auxiliary members are caring for others in our communities because this is who we are and what we do. Being visible in our communities through community projects helps to let people know why we matter.

Many of our units chose to have food drives for their food pantries. Events in Nebraska included a “Stuff the Truck” with food for the local pantry, and, of course, they didn’t forget the pets. In New Hampshire, they displayed a “Memory Tree” at local funeral homes and around the community.

The tree is lit with colored lights, and anyone can honor a loved one with the purchase of a light for \$1. The colored light is then changed to a white light, and the money is donated to the local food pantry. Units

**“Being visible in our communities through community projects helps to let people know why we matter.”**

also reported assisting family members with funeral arrangements and celebration of life ceremonies.

Units posted colors at local sporting events, and some provided meals for athletes before or after the events. Meals were also made for first responders during an emergency event or as a thank-you for all they do for

the community. In Tennessee, they have “Coffee for Cops,” where they invite the community to meet and greet local law enforcement officers. They also invite all veterans and have an American Legion service officer on hand to answer questions.

South Dakota partnered with the Northern Hills Training Center Residential Services to help mentally or health-challenged community members find a place to live that best fits their needs. Ohio chose to focus on the caregivers of the mentally ill as a department project.

Our members always wear their American Legion Auxiliary apparel with pride, letting our communities know we are here to help.

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## Committee: Education

*Melanie Taylor, National Chairman*

Elizabeth Warren once said, “A good education is a foundation for a better future.”

The American Legion Auxiliary believes education is vital, and by investing our time and money in the students and schools in our communities, especially the children of our military and veterans, we are investing in America’s future.

American Legion Auxiliary departments continued to be tested this past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite this, the Give 10 to Education program was very successful. Many departments reported creative ways of collecting and deliver-

ing these items to schools.

Fifteen Children of Warriors National Presidents’ scholarships, five Spirit of Youth scholarships, five Non-Traditional Student scholarships, and eight Junior Member Loyalty scholarships were awarded this year, totaling \$130,000!

Notably, the Department of Illinois reported 104 scholarships were awarded, totaling \$56,033.75.

Unit 360 in Weatherly, Pa., took part in the Dr. Seuss Read Across America Day by providing books to their schools and reading to the classrooms. They and the school staff dressed up as the Cat in The Hat, Thing One, and Thing Two to some very excited students.

Twelve units in the 18th district Department of California came together to collect books for the Lewis Elementary School Library at Fort Irwin, located in Southern California. A total of 1,013 books were delivered to the Fort Irwin PTA.

In observance of Teacher Appreciation Week, General Daniel “Chappie” James Unit 776, Department of Ohio, showed their appreciation to the teachers and staff of Beverly Gardens Elementary School by providing doughnuts, coffee, and orange juice.

American Legion Auxiliary units continue to improve the lives of our children by their generous donations of time and money. All of our members can be proud.



## Committee: ALA Girls Nation

*Nancy Magginnis, National Chairman*

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs have experienced a few challenges after going through two years of various COVID-related circumstances, from canceling sessions to converting to virtual programs, and now transitioning in 2022 back to in-person sessions. However, the ALA Girls State directors and their committees found ways to meet and overcome every obstacle thrown their way.

Post-COVID found departments looking to fundraising efforts and/or increased fees to help with the financial burdens they faced due to lower delegate numbers. A few departments

moved their site locations. Most departments dealt with increased insurance costs. The Department of Wisconsin, which canceled ALA Badger Girls State the previous two years, looked to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation for assistance. Knowing their attendance numbers would be down, they requested funds to help promote their program and the ALA to the delegates who attended. The Foundation also provided funding for a new flag, flag holders, badge holders, gavels, totes, tablecloths, banners, and a tent with the ALA emblem on it. All materials granted were branded items that will be reused every year.

A number of ALA Girls State sessions added or enhanced social media

through their programs. Several departments now livestream sessions for family members, friends, and unit members — giving others the opportunity to learn more about ALA Girls State. They also added virtual opportunities in other significant ways to strengthen their programs. The Department of Minnesota chose to eliminate paper and marker campaign signs. Citizens were given a website where they edited a page for their political campaign.

Since going through the challenges COVID presented, most departments can echo what the Department of Utah stated: “Being forced to go virtual forced us to evolve.”

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## Committee: Junior Activities

*Debra Albers, National Chairman*

Department Junior Activities Chairman Starr Purnell of Maryland said it best: “We focus on the reasons we joined. Zoom, conference calls, and social media are ways to keep Juniors participating.” The Departments of Maryland, New York, Virginia, Alaska, and Arizona hosted virtual meetings. The Department of Illinois had three Junior meetings across the state. Making cards, gifts, treat bags, and singing Christmas carols in front of veteran homes were popular activities.

Florida and Iowa’s Juniors participated in camps designed to learn about the ALA; the Departments of Alabama and Georgia

held leadership camps for Juniors, Kansas hosted a Junior lockdown, and Texas had a pool and pizza party. In nearly every department, Juniors worked on the Patch Program, packed boxes for troops, held poppy distributions, conducted flag ceremonies, placed flags on Memorial Day, held flag disposal ceremonies, and participated in parades. Unit 321 North Carolina Juniors identified Blue Star families and presented them with banners. Juniors in Maryland raised over \$3,700 for Our Military Kids and donated over \$2,500 to purchase homeless care bags.

Juniors from Michigan recognized National President Kathy Daudis-

tel’s project by helping caregivers. Juniors helped elderly neighbors with pets, yard work, and helped with hair while others volunteered at veterans homes and assisted living facilities. Juniors earned caregiver patches and certificates. Ohio Juniors raised \$5,600 for “caring bags” for veterans and senior citizens.

Community Service activities included Halloween Trunk-or-Treat events, Christmas and Valentine parties, and Easter egg hunts. They helped with filling food pantries and backpacks for school supplies. Kansas and Delaware Juniors packed diaper bags to donate to veterans and Nevada Juniors engaged in activities to help new mothers.



## Committee: Legislative

*Beth McGinn, National Chairman*

Successes were many this year for The American Legion Legislative Division. These wins were due in part to the involvement of the American Legion Auxiliary grassroots members who signed up and responded to Action Alerts issued throughout the year for support of major bills that impacted veterans and military. The Department of Arizona members did not let a pandemic stop them from sharing legislative information with their units. Many attended the Washington Conference virtually, as did many other Auxiliary members, and contacted their legislators through phone calls, letters, emails, and Zoom 574 times!

There were significant wins for the nation’s women veterans. Two of the gains were The Protecting Moms Who Served Act that will improve mental health care for veterans and The Deborah Sampson Act which established an office of women’s health within the VHA to oversee women’s health programs and ensure standards of care for women veterans.

To share the importance of voting, many units held Get Out the Vote events at their post homes, Meet the Candidates nights, and Town Hall meetings. California Alpine Unit 258 held a free breakfast where they invited the county mayor who is a veteran and a member of an American Legion

post in Chicago. They reported that the mayor’s wife signed up as an Auxiliary member after the event.

A major initiative for 2021-2022 was passing the Honoring Our PACT Act that would ensure veterans who were exposed to toxic airborne hazards are taken care of in a proactive manner. Over 18,000 communications were sent to Congress by members of The American Legion Family urging the passing of this bill. American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard traveled to seven states to build grassroots support for this act.

Don’t stop now! There is still work to be done.

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## Committee: National Security

*Diana Sirovina, National Chairman*

The National Security program maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military servicemembers and their families. Our members were there with caring hearts and helping hands whenever and wherever they were needed.

Virginia’s Unit 1 was contacted on behalf of the Blue Star Families organization to assist with Christmas gift purchases for families of five active-duty airmen who were geographically separated from family readiness groups and military bases where they could have otherwise received assistance. Unit 1 collaborated with other members of The

American Legion Family, and the project came together in just six days. Each household received a patriotic quilt, gifts from the children’s wish lists, and \$150 gift card.

Members of a Washington, D.C. unit adopted an active-duty family who was sent on medical emergency to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. The family had just reunited with the servicemember in Germany when he was taken seriously ill. The whole family returned to the U.S., and this unit provided clothing, toiletries, and household goods for their temporary living situation. They even provided babysitting and meals for the family. Unit 1 supported this family for six months

until the servicemember was cleared for duty and returned to Germany.

Units also actively participated in the many other phases of the ALA National Security program. They organized blood drives and sponsored Community Emergency Response Trainings (CERT). They held recognition events for first responders and donated blankets, comfort items, and toys to local police and fire departments.

Many units distributed Blue Star Banners and participated in Gold Star remembrance ceremonies. Units participated in POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremonies, Silent Marches, and POW/MIA Remembrance Day in September.

## Committee: Poppy

*Sallie Rossman, National Chairman*

The American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program continued to grow with members working with our youth and schools to expand the poppy story and *In Flanders Field*. This knowledge allowed the poppy mission to go beyond the youth and out into our communities. Units worked in schools to produce poppies from paper to ceramic, displaying the poppies on walls, windows, and lawns. Students created motivating poppy posters displayed in their schools and the community to expand the Auxiliary's presence from schools to businesses. At a Georgia high school, the agricultural teacher was presented with

poppy seeds, which the students planted in areas around the school. All are great ways to show the Auxiliary's mission.



Poppy painting in the Department of Colorado combined learning with fundraising. Through HEAL HER Art, an Arizona program that provides an avenue for women veterans to express themselves, members had the ex-

perience of poppy painting. Their artwork was donated to assist in fundraising for Colorado's Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

Poppy distributions begin on National Poppy Day® with poppy distributions held throughout the year, allowing members to collaborate with organizations and businesses to share the ALA's mission of the red poppy supporting our veterans, military, and their families. Members reported accomplishing their mission with 10,197 members volunteering 20,988 hours, distributing 414,287 poppies for a total donation of \$1,792,288. Units ordered 786,251 red poppies for distribution in 2021–2022.

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## Committee: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

*Lisa Williamson, National Chairman*

The mission of our Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation program is to enhance the lives of veterans, military, and their families.

Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) and Service to Veterans are significant parts of our VA&R program. Generally, any service for a veteran done inside a VA facility would fall under VAVS; anything else would be Service to Veterans.

Recognition of the time an ALA member has is in the form of a Service to Veterans pin and associated hour bars. Hour bars are for all volunteers whose hours are attributed to VA&R, both inside and outside of a VA facility.

As you can surmise, with access to VA facilities limited the past couple of years, ALA volunteers weren't able to spend much time in-



side the VA facilities, but they made up ground outside. ALA National Headquarters is seeing a trend of more requests for hour bars, with some departments requesting them that haven't done so in several years.

National President Kathy

Daudistel's focus—*Caring For Those Who Care For Others*—also allowed us to adjust those who can earn pins and bars. Caregivers are now being awarded Service to Veterans pins and hour bars for time spent providing care and assistance to veterans within their families if they do not receive monetary compensation for doing so. If the caregiver lives with the veteran, they were awarded 10 hours a week; if they didn't live with the veteran, they earned five hours a week.

Upcoming national ALA leadership has vowed to continue honoring caregivers with hour bars, so keep track of your hours and make sure to report them in the future to earn your Service to Veterans hour bars.



# Committee: Auxiliary Emergency Fund

*Pamela Bates, National Chairman*

The mission of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is to educate members about the two grants available should members need disaster or temporary assistance, and encourage donations to the fund through holding fundraisers at all levels.

This administrative year, the AEF has currently provided 184 grants for a total of \$119,842.14. There were wildfires, tornadoes, flooding, snowstorms, hurricanes, and more. When the division chairmen heard of a disaster, they contacted the AEF department chairmen to offer assistance if needed. The AEF Facebook group had weekly information posts from the national and division chair-

men. The division chairmen wrote a weekly bulletin to their departments, who shared that information with their members. The number of weekly grants per department and the amount awarded was posted in the AEF Facebook group.

Members who received grants for either disaster relief or temporary relief felt the full measure of what the AEF is all about. Members who participated in the fundraisers understood the meaning of helping each other in a time of need, and they understood how their efforts were not unnoticed by those receiving grants and those participating in donating to the AEF.

Since the AEF solely relies on its

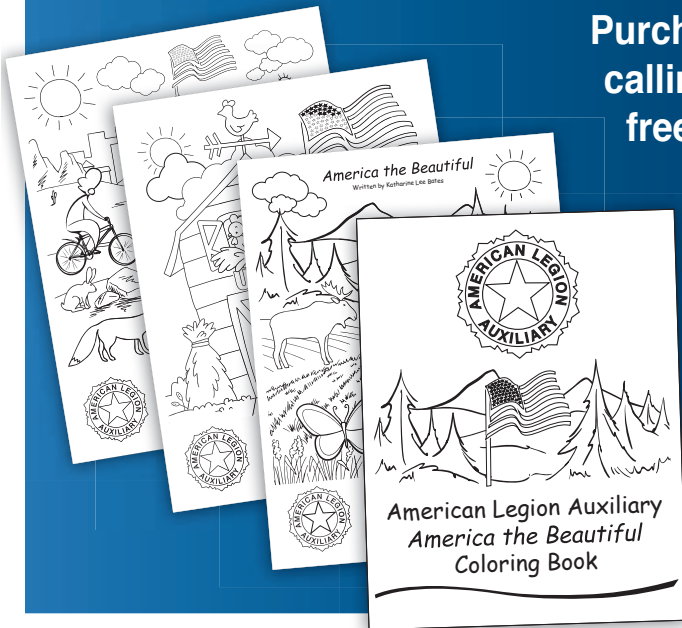
members for donations, fundraising ideas were shared in our quarterly Zoom meetings and division bulletins to departments. The creative and sometimes unconventional fundraising ideas ranged from department challenges with other departments, department/unit chairmen challenging other American Legion Family members, fill the bottles and piggy banks with coins, a silly tax on members' household items, dinners, a Motown show, bake sales, raffles, food fairs, auctions, and individual/unit memorial donations.

Members exemplified the AEF motto of "Members Helping Members" and the ALA promise of *Service Not Self*.



## New ALA Coloring Book: *America The Beautiful*

Purchase at [emblem.legion.org](http://emblem.legion.org) or by calling (888) 453-4466, or download free at [www.ALAforVeterans.org/coloring-books](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/coloring-books)



Halloween and poppy coloring books are also available.

## Committee: Constitution & Bylaws

*Pam Ray, National Chairman*

What a year of learning it was, not only for units and departments, but for this national chairman as well.

Governing documents are necessary for a consistent, smooth-running unit, department, or national organization. With questions we received, it was clear that big things are in the bylaws, but many situations are not addressed in the bylaws or the standing rules.

If there is something you do each year, make it a standing rule. If you have expectations of your officers and chairmen, make them part of your bylaws and/or standing rules. You can't expect members to know traditions.

All reports stated that units and departments were reviewing their

governing documents. Indiana reported that 80 units made major revisions in their C&B and standing rules this year. Kansas held two interactive presentations at their Fall Conference and Mid-Winter in-person meeting. They planned a brown bag event at their department convention. Minnesota worked with Professional Parliamentarian Chris Dickey to improve and clarify their standing rules. Mississippi reported that units and members were more aware and excited about their governing documents. They had no idea how many conflicts and situations could and should be handled via their documents. The C&B is a ray of HOPE: H for harmony, O for

opportunity, P for people's participation, and E for equality. Thank you, Mississippi!

Several departments reported working on wording to address the pandemic and/or a catastrophic event. Nebraska won the services of Chris Dickey in an American Legion Auxiliary Foundation auction. They took full advantage of that privilege—they will be considering a full revision of their bylaws at their convention.

Departments are sending newsletters monthly with information and training.

I leave you with a question that I learned is always the first thing to say: "What do your governing documents say?"

## Committee: Leadership

*Brenda Collins, National Chairman*

Divisions worked with departments, districts, and units to promote the Leadership program.

Indiana concentrated on three areas: nurturing a culture of goodwill, mentoring, and the ALA Academy, and they had a successful year.

New York recognized members who took the leadership test, and several leadership workshops were held at their Fall Conference.

Colorado prepared leaders by educating, engaging, and empowering members.

Numerous department leadership chairmen put together leadership survival kits. South Caro-

lina also put one together for the Juniors, replacing the rubber band with a stress ball, to hopefully reduce accidents. Items in the leadership survival kit:

- A rubber band to always remind you to be flexible.



- A paperclip to hold reports and volunteer hours together.
- An eraser to remind you that mistakes are not permanent.
- Bubblegum to remind you that the child within you is important.
- Crayons to inspire you to go out

and color the world.

- Smarties to remind you that you are smart and to make good decisions.
- Post-it notes to keep communications flowing.
- Quotes to inspire the leader within.
- Snickers bars to keep you laughing.
- Pencils to write down those good ideas.
- A Band-Aid to remind you to heal problems and hard feelings.
- Stars to remind you what you are reaching for.

Idaho reported their department leadership training at their department convention had several topics, some of which were *Planning for Success and Setting an Example*.



## Committee: Membership

*Michele DeGennaro, National Chairman*

I am so proud of all the hard work each and every one of you has done this year! In reading your reports, there were so many “aha! moments.” And now, to highlight just a few...

The Department of Michigan’s membership theme was “Bee-lieve”—the more they believed, the more aha! moments they had. With a few emails, calls, and visits by other members, struggling units reached record highs—some units doubling membership to over 200%. They played membership games, held pay-it-forward challenges, and then it happened! In the words of

Department Membership Chairman Connie Kovacs: “The ultimate *AHA!* MOMENT—Michigan made goal!”

The Pennsylvania department Membership chairman had her own aha! moment. While talking to a new employee at work, she quickly realized the new employee’s father was a past state commander. In speaking with her further, she also found out her membership had expired. Not only was the Membership chairman able to present the new hire with a picture of her father in his American Legion uniform, but she also supplied her with two applications for her and her mother.

Department of Arizona was reaching for the goal as their Membership

team contacted units in their district to see if they could assist them with renewing, recruiting, and rejoining members. They posted kudos and congratulations to units reaching 100% and cheered on the awesome job members did with membership.

Unit 13 Canon City in the Department of Colorado made themselves visible to the community. They were in constant contact with membership for meetings and events. They mentored new members and reached their 100% goal before the first department goal in November 2021.

It has been an amazing year. I am honored and humbled to have served as your national Membership Committee chairman.

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## Committee: Public Relations

*Joyce Cooper, National Chairman*

In a world of technology, public relations is like an artist’s dream.

We have a slew of canvases to work and choose from. Webster B.

Harrison Unit 26 in Maryland has a project where they take donated wedding dresses, sew them into gowns, and take them to local hospitals where they donate them to parents who recently lost an infant or child.

The gowns are presented to grieving families so they can bury their loved ones in them. Webster B. Harrison Unit 26 calls this their angel gowns. A story ran in the May 2022 issue of *Auxiliary* magazine.

Another canvas: The Department of Hawaii Honorary National Junior Division Vice President hosted students from a variety

**“There are unlimited ways we can promote our program, such as social media by using and creating flyers or posters, and sending thank-you cards. Branding and wearing our logo when you go out or when making those flyers or posters is important.”**

of NYC schools around the Pearl Harbor military sites in an effort to spread aloha, awareness of military service, and to honor Pearl Harbor. Also in Hawaii, the Junior depart-

ment president earned the third highest rank in the state for their JROTC program at the nationally ranked Punahou School.

There are unlimited ways we can promote our program, such as social media—like Facebook, Instagram, and more—by using and creating flyers or posters, and sending thank-you cards.

Branding and wearing our logo when you go out or when making those flyers or posters is important.

Don’t forget: You can go to [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) where there is a fount of information you can use.



## FIND ALA PROGRAM COMMITTEE GROUPS ON FACEBOOK

Discover what your fellow ALA members are saying in the committee Facebook groups! These easy-to-access forums provide an arena for organic discussion about your local programs or services and present the opportunity to cultivate brand awareness.

Find the list of groups here:  
[www.Facebook.com/ALAforVeterans](http://www.Facebook.com/ALAforVeterans).

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## School is Back in Session!

As students return to the classroom, many military families will begin to feel the burden of ever-rising college costs. American Legion Auxiliary scholarships help students follow their dreams—while lessening the financial impact on themselves or their families.

You can change the life of a deserving student by starting a monthly gift in support of ALA scholarships. You can become a Hero Giving Hope to those in need.

Use your smartphone camera and scan this code to donate!

(or go to [donate.legion-aux.org/Scholarships](http://donate.legion-aux.org/Scholarships))



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*Dee Dee Buckley,  
Northwestern Division  
NVP*



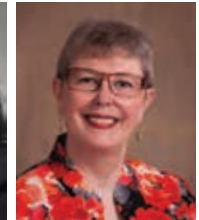
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Southern Division NVP*



*Toni Gimpel, Western  
Division NVP*



*Sara Riegel, Interim  
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*Cathleen MacInnes,  
ALA Foundation Board  
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Emergency Fund*



*Nancy Magginnis,  
ALA Girls Nation*



*Norma Tramm,  
Americanism*



*Trish Ward,  
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*Denise Conrad,  
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*Pam Ray,  
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*Melanie Taylor,  
Education*



*Sharon Conatser,  
Finance*



*Debra Albers,  
Junior Activities*



*Brenda Collins,  
Leadership*



*Beth McGinn,  
Legislative*



*Michele DeGennaro,  
Membership*



*Diana Sirovina,  
National Security*



*Sallie Rossman,  
Poppy*



*Joyce Cooper,  
Public Relations*



*Jeri Greenwell, Risk &  
Compliance*



*Lisa Williamson,  
Veterans Affairs &  
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Penelope Mazonna,  
Alaska



Patricia Lugo,  
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Carol Dalton,  
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Illinois



Jennie Maune,  
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Iowa



Paula Sellens,  
Kansas



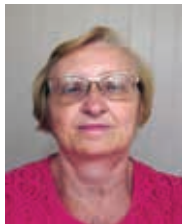
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Kentucky



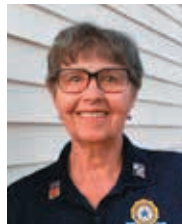
Mary Cauthen,  
Louisiana



Joan Caron,  
Maine



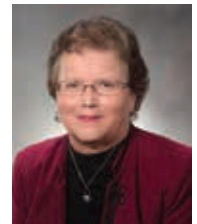
Alta Glotfelty,  
Maryland



Donna Blattenberger,  
Massachusetts



Georgia Downs,  
Michigan



Raleen Tolzmann,  
Minnesota



Mary Smith-Ried,  
Mississippi



Marsha Mooney,  
Missouri



Susan Davidson,  
Montana



Kathleen Mazur,  
Nebraska



Glynis Seeley,  
Nevada



Linda Dupont,  
New Hampshire



# 2022 ALA Annual Report



*Lynda Stadler,  
New Jersey*



*Cecilia Martinez,  
New Mexico*



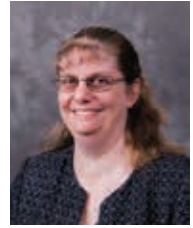
*Patricia Hennessy,  
New York*



*Janice MacLeod,  
North Carolina*



*Tammy Ryberg,  
North Dakota*



*Kristen McLaughlin  
Little, Ohio*



*Jody Chisolm,  
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*Krisann Owens,  
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Hernandez-Morales,  
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*Laura "Susie" Clyde,  
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*Rhonda Davidson,  
Tennessee*



*Christine Trahan,  
Texas*



*Corinna Colson,  
Vermont*



*Dr. Lisa Chaplin,  
Virginia*



*Laura Bondurant,  
Washington*



*Rhonda Best,  
West Virginia*



*Bonnie Jakubczyk,  
Wisconsin*



*Vicki Paddock,  
Wyoming*

*Not pictured: Judy Daybell, Utah.*



# The ALA Foundation wants to support YOUR unit!

Did you know the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation offers grants to support ALA units, districts, and departments?

These grants can be used for:

- Select appliances, equipment, or furniture for the veterans' home in your community
  - Craft supplies, awards, or promotional materials for your local Veterans Creative Arts Festival
  - Branded tablecloths, pop-up tents, or banners to show your ALA pride at events
- ... and MORE!

Visit [www.ALAFoundation.org/grants](http://www.ALAFoundation.org/grants) or call (317) 569-4500 to learn what the ALA Foundation can do for your unit, district, or department.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
*FOUNDATION*

Ensuring Our Mission of Service Endures

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***In the spirit of Service Not Self,***  
*the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary*  
*is to support The American Legion*  
*and honor the sacrifice of those who serve*  
*by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military,*  
*and their families, both at home and abroad.*  
*For God and Country, we advocate*  
*for veterans, educate our citizens,*  
*mentor youth, and promote patriotism,*  
*good citizenship, peace, and security.*