



The Auxiliary Spirit



Volume 32

April 2019

Issue 9



American Legion Auxiliary
2018-2019
Department President
Rhonda Best

*“Mending Fences While Building New Bridges
To Better Serve and Support Our Veterans”*



This past month has been very busy with Legion 100th Year Birthday Celebrations and 3rd District Conference. I was grateful and blessed to attend several Celebrations and the Conference.

I met and was blessed to get a picture with our American Legion National Commander. In addition I spent time with several Department Officers, Past Department Presidents, and Auxiliary Members. The Legionaries, Auxiliary, SAL Squadrons, and Riders truly represented family unit at each event I attended.

I am excited to continue attending the upcoming events this month and time with more Legionnaires, SAL Squadron, Riders, and Auxiliary. This also puts a focus on how fast this year is moving as well as items to complete.

Please fill out Year-end reports and include a narrative with each one. Pictures and News Articles can be added too. These reports help show Legislation what has been done for Veterans and what still needs to be done.

Remember we can still recruit new members as well as rejoin them. We are down less than 200 then how many members we had at this time last year. I would love to see us retain the same amount if not more. So go for that Touch-down Marshall and Mountaineers.

Thank you to each member for all of your hard work.

Be safe and God Bless
Rhonda Best
Dept. President



Department Officers 2018-2019

President-Rhonda Best
1st Vice President-Sharon Kauffman
2nd Vice President-Cathy Post
Secretary/Treasurer-Paulette Anderson
Chaplain-Kelli Immel
Historian-Savanna Kauffman

District Presidents

1st District-Holly Adams
3rd District-Roxie Nicholson
4th District-Nancy Sundstrom
5th District-Beth Kilgore
6th District-Peggy Swartz
10th District-Sharon Glassford

District Vice Presidents

1st District-Stephanie Handley
3rd District-Carla Wilfong
4th District-Patricia Young-Greiner
5th District-JoAnn Hastings
6th District-Reba Honaker
10th District-Debbie Michael



Department Headquarters

Mission Statement

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 our youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Mandatory Funds: to be a unit in good standing one of the obligations is paying your unit mandatory funds yearly, no later than **July 31, 2019**. If you are attending Department Convention to be seated as a delegate, then it is **30 days before Convention**.

Mandatory Funds are: *Bonding, Girls State Project, Education, Veterans 1st Fund, Poppies, and 10% proceeds.*

Reminders!!

Year End Reports due in Department by April 30th.

Unit Data Forms for Membership due in Department by April 1st.



Membership: National is honoring our “new” female veterans again this year. Please remember to put **“Honor Our Female Veterans”** at top of application. If a member is rejoining, I don’t need an application sent in. You may want one for your records to make sure she is still eligible. If you do send one in, write either “rejoin” or her ID number on the application so she won’t be listed as a new member in the system.

Please don’t send me the DD214. They are for the unit files only. Post Officer signature is all I need on application to verify the eligibility.

All applications sent to the Department Office needs to be the **original**. Copies are for you to keep.

Future Dates To Remember

*****Department Convention***

July 11-13, 2019

***The Doubletree Hotel Huntington
(former Pullman Plaza)***

*****National Convention***

August 23-29, 2019

***Marriott Downton
Indianapolis Indiana***

Spring Conferences

1st District Auxiliary Conference

***Paden City Unit #86 Fire Hall
Sat. March 30th 9:00 Registration***

5th District Joint Conference

***Hamlin Post #111
April 6th 9:00 Registration***

4th District Joint Conference

***Pt. Pleasant Post #23
April 20th 9:00 Registration***

10th District Joint Conference

Petersburg Post #78 8:30 Aux Reg.

6th District Auxiliary Conference

***Beckley Unit #32 Post Home
April 27th
9:00 Registration***

Department Headquarters

Office Hours 9:00-4:00
Monday thru Friday
Phone 304-455-5007
Toll Free 1-888-604-2242
Fax: 304-455-5825
alawvsec@frontier.com

Department Address:

1251 Doolin Run Road
New Martinsville WV 26155-7808

Department Website:

www.wvvaux.org

Rhododendron Girls State Website

www.wvgirlsstate.org

The American Legion

Department of WV
wvlegion@suddenlink.com

American Legion Auxiliary

National Website
ALAforveterans.org

2019-2020 Candidates for Department Officers

President—Sharon Kauffman Unit #14
1st Vice—Cathy Post Unit #48
2nd Vice—Savanna Kauffman Unit #14
Sec./Treas.—Paulette Anderson Unit #28
Chaplain—
Historian—

Candidates for District Officers

1st Dist. Pres.—Holly Adams, #121
1st Dist. Vice—Stephanie Handley, #121
3rd Dist. Pres.—Carla Wilfong, #31
3rd Dist. Vice—Roxie Nicholson, #31
4th Dist. Pres.—
4th Dist. Vice—
5th Dist. Pres.—
5th Dist. Vice—
6th Dist. Pres.—
6th Dist. Vice—
10th Dist. Pres.—Debbie Michael, #60
10th Dist. Vice—

Membership Chairman

I think Spring is finally on the way!!

I was blessed to be able to attend 3 American Legion 100 yr. Anniversary Celebrations!! Thank you to Clarksburg #13 Legion Family; Bridgeport #68 Legion Family and Shinnston #31 Legion Family. I also attended District 3 Conference hosted by Clarksburg Unit #13.

I want to Thank you all for the wonderful hospitality and great food. It is always a pleasure to spend time with Our Legion Family!

I want to Congratulate the following Units who have reached Target 7 at 80%: Wheeling Unit 1 at 88.46 %; Tyler Co. Unit 48 at 96.87 %; and Bluefield Unit 9 at 82.14%. Great job!!!

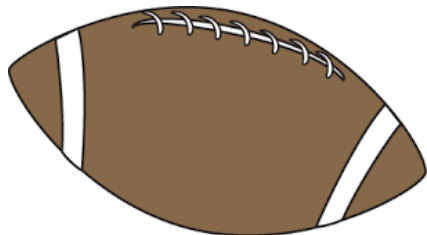
The Mountaineers are still ahead of The Herd, but not by much!!! Let's keep moving down the field!! I would love to see a tied up game with a Buzzer beating Grand Finale!!

I want to encourage all Units to reach out to all unpaid members. It is not too late to do a Membership Drive!!

Remember to be Kind and Remember Why we are in this Great Organization!!!

God Bless You and Thank You All for your Dedication!!!

Susan Wade
Membership Chairman



Department 1st Vice President

Hello Marshall Herd

First I would like to say thanks to all the Birthday Celebrations that I have attended they were all wonderful. It is always great to get together. I had a great time at 3rd District Conference.

We are still down in numbers. Make sure that if you have a volunteer don't push them, get their email and let them know some things your unit is doing. Keep in contact with them after 3 months talk to them about joining. As a member organization, our success is based on the decathlon of our members.

We are behind the WVU by 63 member. I know the membership is coming in slow. Maybe a phone call or just a reminder card from your unit might encourage them. People like things like that.

Easter is coming, so everyone have a Great Easter and remember those members who don't have family.

Dept. 1st Vice
Sharon Kauffman



Department 2nd Vice President

Hello Lady Mountaineers,

Our hearts go out to Michelle Hart's family, please keep them in your prayers.

I attended the wonderful 100th Birthday Celebration at Shinnston Post 31. It was fantastic. Thank you ladies for the tasty meal. It was great seeing so many in attendance. Hats off to Department Commander Bill Combs for a job well done.

We are finally ahead of the Herd Ladies...Way to go!! Proud of ya! We have one unit just about to make goal, Tyler County Unit 48 and Wheeling Unit 1 is not far behind.

I recently sent in my endorsement for 1st Vice your support is greatly appreciated.

My tip this month: "Use social media to its fullest!" I did a write up on my personal page on Facebook and picked up members already and have several interested. IT WORKS! Don't forget your local papers and radio stations. My unit has its Juniors up and running, they are having a ball doing visits with the veterans, coloring holiday pictures and delivering holiday trays. It won't be long until they step into our places, let's have them prepared. Most all of us have little ones that can join.

Get your room reservations in for convention; I'm sure it is filling up fast.

Its SPRING...make sure to help a veteran!!

In the spirit
of service not self,
Cathy D. Post
2nd Vice President



1st District Vice President

Hello 1st District,

It seems that membership numbers have come to a crawl during this second half of the year so far. We need to become creative and find ways to get those numbers up.

Have any units done a membership drive or have one in the works? Are you reaching out to current members who have yet to send in their membership? Don't give up and keep pushing forward. Let's get a good finishing push going and get those numbers going on an up swing.

Keep up the hard work, even though it can be frustrating at times.

God Bless,
Stephanie Handley
1st District Vice President

3rd District Vice President

Spring is, here now is the time to really get out there and visit our Auxiliary members that are home bound and have not paid their dues this year. We are lagging behind right now, but I know we can do better.

I am happy to say that Third District has no Units under 10 Members paid, now lets work on the next ten. I know sometimes it is hard to get that next member to pay but keep at it.

Keep up the good work. If you need my help, call me at 304-592-0247 or e-mail me at carlajwilfong@yahoo.com.
God Bless America and our Veterans
Carla Wilfong
Third District Vice-President

5th District Vice President

Hello Ladies,

Sorry to say that our membership is behind. This means that will have to start working harder on membership.

Talk to people and tell them what we stand for. You can have membership drives. Try calling people on the phone to tell them what we do for the veterans and there families.

We are having the Fifth District Spring Conference March 6th at Hamlin Unit #111 and I hope to see you all there.
Thank you.
JoAnn Hastings
Fifth District Vice President

4th District Vice President

Greetings to Members of the 4th District,

It's hard to believe we are about to wrap up another year. I am sure all the Auxiliary Units in District 4 have been busy working on Membership.

On March 15th District 4 was at 50.49% in membership. Our target was to achieve 80% per unit by March 15th. Congratulations to Tyler County #48 for reaching 96.97%. Yay, Mountaineers!! Following closely is Sistersville #67 with 74.53%; New Haven #140 is at 55.00%; Parkersburg #15 at 48.89%; Pt. Pleasant #23 at 47.31%; Williamstown #159 at 46.98%; and Spencer #21 at 39.8%. Our membership statistics continue to increase.

As you know, every member counts. If you have elderly auxiliary members or members who have fallen on hard times, please consider paying their dues. Paying dues for friends and family can also be a great birthday present.

Auxiliary Membership Chairmen, please don't hold dues. Process them as soon as possible. Remember to carry some ALA Membership applications with you. Invite family, friends and acquaintances to join our great organization. "Enhancing and Strengthening Our Membership Through Teamwork, Good Communication, and our Mission" keeps our organization strong. Let's all work to recruit, retain and reinstate members.

**If you love your Freedom,
thank a Veteran!**

Patsy Young-Greiner
4th District Vice President
304-295-8844
Patsygirl2@suddenlink.net

10th District Vice President

Hello Ladies,

I guess we are all looking forward to spring. Those few warm days were a tease but it won't be long till spring is really here.

I'm not going to say much about membership. We all know what we need to do. We are slightly behind 1st District by only 1.12%. We are very close so just keep getting those renewals and new members and maybe we will again take the lead.

I hope all of you are making plans to attend our 10th District Spring Conference at Petersburg #78, on April 13th.

I have sent a copy of the minutes and finance report from the Fall Conference that was held at Romney #91, in September, to the unit's president or secretary. Please share them with your members.

Everyone should have received their Credential Sheets. Please send them back to me by **March 30th**. Also, remember to send your Registration Forms and money to Petersburg ALA Unit 78, President Wreatha Funkhouser by April 1st.

If you have not done so, please send your **deceased members list** to our District Chaplain, Melanie Delawder for the Memorial Service. Her email is melaniedelawder@gmail.com or call her with your names at 304-851-2087.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you on the 13th!

Please continue the prayers and cards for our District President Sharon.

Hope you are working on those Unit Reports to send to the Department Headquarters by April 30.

Debbie Michael
10th District V P
katndebbie@gmail.com
304-258-2705



1st District President

Hello Ladies-

Spring is just around the corner
"Yippee" and with it comes warm weather.

Year end reports are due to Department Headquarters by April 30th. Get together with your units and put all your work throughout the year out there. We all do things for the betterment of supporting our veterans and their families.

Our unit special monthly programs for May are "Poppy" and "Past Presidents Parley". Has your unit prepared and organized to promote these programs?

Don't forget your unit reports at District Conference.

God Bless

Holly Adams

1st District President

304-670-4105

Hollyadams847@gmail.com

4th District President

Reminder to all units of 4th District:

4th District Spring Conference
April 20th
Pt. Pleasant Post #23
Registration 9:00 am

Please let the Post know if you plan to attend. I know it is a Holiday weekend, and some may not be able to attend.

Memorial Service will be held, please send your deceased members to the District Chaplain.

Election of officers for 2019-2020 will be held at this conference.

Nancy Sundstrom
4th District President

5th District President

YOU ARE INVITED!!

5th District would like to invite you to our Spring Conference on April 6th in Hamlin #111 at their Post home. Registration will begin 9 am. We will begin with a joint session with the Legion and then break away into our individual meetings. We would love to see you there. We will have our district elections at this time. If you have any questions you can either call or text me at 304-654-7750 or send me an email to MBKilgore@frontier.com. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Keep those memberships coming in. You are doing an excellent job and I know you are working hard on recruiting members. Keep up the good work.

I hope everyone has begun working on their year-end reports. I know several units who are just interested in helping the veterans in their local community and are not interested in the awards but keep in mind, these reports are combined with other reports and this compilation is then sent to the National Headquarters. When added to all the states, these numbers are then reported to Congress, who decided on veterans' benefits. So, when you submit your reports, YOU ARE helping your local veteran.

See you in at the 5th District Conference!
Beth Kilgore
President 5th District



Remember Our Friends

Michelle Hart, Past Dept. Junior Activities Chairman, passed away Monday March 18th from a long battle with cancer. Let's keep Scott, Eric, Kati, and grandchildren in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Cards may be sent to the family at:

Scott Hart & Family

67 Augustine Ct.

Kearneysville WV 25430-2814

Janice Gamerdinger, PDP, is in Assisted Living in Hurricane WV now, close to her daughter Lori. No other information is available right now.

As soon as I get info I will send an email out to update the Directory.

Nancy Sundstrom, PDP, is recuperating from Upper Respiratory Infection. Please keep her in your prayers.

Cards may be sent to Nancy at:

Nancy Sundstrom, PDP

1307 23rd Street

Parkersburg WV 26101

Leadership

Thank you to everyone who participated in Mid Winter and our workshop. I hope you felt our time together was meaningful and helpful to you as leaders.

What a fabulous mission statement we have to guide our thoughts and actions as American Legion Auxiliary members. We dug deep. We challenged one another to think about what "could be" instead of just what IS. Your participation made it clear that no matter how or why we became Auxiliary members and leaders...

we are all in this because we believe in the future of this organization and our country. Isn't that a wonderful feeling? Sure, there are lots of problems and things about which we could complain. But there are also countless opportunities for us to "get a grip" and make a positive difference in the world around us. Stay the course. Focus on the positive. Build a culture of goodwill and help make this a complaint free world... one day at a time, one project at a time, one person at a time. It is important for us to remember:

"Leadership is not just about what you do but what you can inspire, encourage and empower others to do."

— Jon Gordon

Rosemary M. Thomas
Chairman

Poppy

Don't forget your End of Year Reports are due into Department by April 30th.

I am looking forward in reading what your unit has done for the Poppy Program.

Until next time
Nancy Sundstrom
Poppy Chairman



Chaplain

What a blessing it was to be able to attend a few of the American Legion 100th Birthday Dinners and spending time with the National Commander Bret Reistad.

I'm wishing everyone safe travels with the district conferences starting this month. Again I need all the prayers for President Rhonda's prayer book Also if you know an American Legion Family member who needs a pick up card sent please let me know so I can get that taken care of .

"Come and see,"- Jesus, You had the angels invite the women in to see for themselves that You had risen. You invite me into these personal revelations every day. Forgive me for sometimes rushing about and forgetting to come and see for myself ... You, Your Word, Your insights.

Please keep the family of Michelle Hart in your prayers. Michelle passed away from a battle of cancer Monday March 18th.

God Bless
In God And Country
Chaplain
Kelli A Immel



Americanism



Happy Spring everyone, and Happy 100th Birthday to our American Legion!

Please remember to check the awards manual for deadline dates for awards and remember to send your end of year reports to Department Headquarters.

I'm sure everyone will be quite busy in your communities now that the weather is warming up.

Please remember your Branding and of course proper Flag etiquette, and above all to have fun with each other while you're working together.

Tammy Workman
Chairman

Historian

Hello Ladies,

I would like to thank Clarksburg Post 13, Bridgeport Post 68, Shinnston Post 31, Capon Bridge Post 137, and Jackson-Perks Post 71 for inviting me to their 100th Birthday Dinner. They were nice to be at and I enjoyed myself at all of them.

Please make sure you are getting your end of year reports ready because the due dates going to be getting here before we know it.

Happy 100th Birthday to The American Legion.

If you are wanting to know: Applications for the ALA Foundation board position due April 8.

April is month of the Military Child. Remember National Poppy Day is May 24th.

Hope to see several History Books at the State Convention.

For God & Country
Savanna Kauffman
Historian

Public Relations

Hello Ladies,

Have you been keeping track of what is happening in your unit? Have you been using social media or your local paper as your way of communication with your community about your events.

Don't forget that final reports are due in April. So start gathering your information now so nothing gets missed.

Looking forward to seeing what the units have done.

Service not self,
Stephanie Handley
Public Relations

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Hello Ladies,

I am excited because, Spring has officially "Sprung" in the great state of West Virginia! The longer days and warmer weather offer opportunities for fun outdoor events like barbeques, sporting tournaments, concerts and cash bashes. These activities are the perfect place for fundraising.

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund needs your help. Any amount of money your Unit can donate is greatly appreciated!

I recently had the privilege of working with Capon Bridge Unit 137 to raise \$500.00 with a paint night party. All the proceeds went to support the Auxiliary Emergency Fund! I would like to encourage every Auxiliary Unit in the state to keep the ball rolling.

How can your Unit contribute? You could ask the other members of your American Legion Family to match a small donation to support the Auxiliary Emergency fund. If your Auxiliary unit will contribute \$25.00 to the fund then, ask The Legionnaires, The Sons and The Riders to match your donation, your post could easily donate \$100.00. If every post in the state was able to raise \$100.00, we could potentially raise over \$6,000 for the Auxiliary Fund! Wouldn't that be wonderful!

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund is the American Legion's way to help members who have suffered losses from natural disasters. Spring's volatile temperatures bring stormy weather. West Virginia is no exception to violent Spring storms. Tornadoes, hail, lightning fires, floods and mudslides are prevalent this time of year. I want to encourage you to be someone's silver lining. Please donate to the Auxiliary Emergency fund today!

Thank you for your support.
Holly Smith
AEF Chairman



Constitution & Bylaws

We have received several Constitutions & By-Laws for the committee to review. The committee is reviewing these and we will be in touch soon.

If your dues amount is listed in your Constitution & By-Laws, consider moving it to your Standing Rules so it can easily be updated when or if your due increase.

If you are updating your Constitution & By-Laws, please email them to MBKilgore@frontier.com or mail them to 1562 Holderby Road, Huntington, WV 25701. If you have any questions, give me a call at 304-654-7750.

Service not Self!

Beth Kilgore, Chairman
Linda Crumm, Member
Dede Kelly, Member

Junior Activities

Hi Ladies,

Now that spring is just around the corner, give those Juniors something to do. How about helping to clean up your Post grounds or maybe help to organize some of those things within the unit that you have put off. They are very agile and can get into places that are difficult for us. Lol! There are many things they can do. Bake sales? They have the perfect demeanor with the public. Their smiles alone will sell things.

If your Juniors are working on the Patch Program, get that info to me so I can get the patches for them.

Don't forget our "We Care" program. Take them to visit someone lonely or in need or our Veterans. Take cookies, candy, food etc. Remember, their smiles are always welcomed and appreciated.

I hope everyone is working on their Year-end Reports. If you have Juniors in your unit, you've got something to report. I want to be able to let National know what the Juniors in West Virginia are doing.

If I can help you in any way, please let me know.

Debbie Michael
Junior Activities
katndebbie@gmail.com
304-258-2705



Children & Youth

Hello Ladies,

Well, what an amazing weekend we had in the eastern panhandle with the National Commander Brett Reistad. Thank you to all the posts, auxiliaries and squadrons for all their hospitalities.

As our year begins to wind down it's time to get our end of year reports sent in to the department office by April 30th.

Please remember if you help with Christmas party or Easter egg hunt, your unit needs to report on your Children & Youth report.

So on to the month of April. As most of you know April is Children & Youth month. But did you know that in 1986 Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger designated each April "**The Month of the Military Child**". The entire month we recognize and highlight the sacrifices children of service members overcome. Our organization performs the "**Military Child's Table Ceremony**".

This ceremony depicts through items or symbols that holds significance in a child's life. Another part of the month we celebrate is the Operation Purple Program better knew as "**PURPLE UP**". This program could also be called Operation Camouflage, because purple comes from all the branches of military- Coast Guard blue, Army green, Navy blue, Marine red, and Air Force blue.

As I reported last month our National organization is asking that we look for "Youth Hero Award" and "Good Deed Award" recipients. These young people are out in our communities doing good deeds all the time. Most of them don't think they have done much but ask the person whose life they changed.

Until Next Time
For God and Country

Community Service

To all Units

Please don't forget to do something for someone in your community or help a veteran. Ask the Fire Department or the Police Department if you can assist them in anyway. I'm sure they would appreciate it very much.

Thanks
Peggy Swartz
Community Service

Education

Unit Education Chairmen,

Thanks to all of you that submitted scholarships for consideration. Holly Adams, Kelli Immel and I have a difficult job ahead judging these scholarships. We will choose one for each of the scholarships--Spirit of Youth, Children of Warriors National President and Non-Traditional Student to forward to the Central Division Education Chairman. We will also choose a winner of the Department Scholarship.

Your next assignment is to fill out the year-end reports and send to Department Headquarters by April 30. In order to compete for a Department award, a narrative must be included with the report form. If you wish your report/narrative to be considered for a national award, be sure and add the National Report and Award Cover Sheet. You can find a copy of this sheet on the national website: alaforveterans.org.

Thanks for all your hard work and please let me know if you have any suggestions for next year's Education Program.

Dianne McClung
Chairman

As you may know, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation is offering you the opportunity to put a personalized brick in front of the new ALA National Headquarters building in Indianapolis. I am reaching out today to let you know that this opportunity ends March 31st!

If you want to honor or memorialize Past Department Presidents, Past National Presidents, or any of your local units want to honor certain veterans from their area, make sure to put in your order soon.

Feel free to share this with units or members that you think would be interested. We hope to see your Department's name on our front lawn for years to come! If you have any questions whatsoever, feel free to contact me at any time and I will be happy to help. You can fill out the online form and pay with credit card or send in your donation with a check. Additional information can be found via this link: <http://alafoundation.org/leaving-an-ala-legacy-brick-by-brick/>

Thank you for your consideration and support for the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.
Sydney DeLong, ALA National Development Coordinator

100 Years of Celebration 1919-2019



Happy 100th Birthday to The American Legion!! The American Legion's 100th Birthday was March 15th, 2019. I

know many started their Birthday celebrations early March. I know many of you have helped your post with their Birthday celebrations. I've seen several very nice posting on face book.

From the NEC meeting I attended in February, they reported that not enough ALA Departments were planning things for our 100 year. They reported some Units and Departments were having special designed T-Shirts made for our 100 years. Some Legions and Auxiliaries celebrating together, some were placing time capsules.

There was an artwork done for our 75th year. It was approved to shadow-box the 75th year and add the last 25 years to make up the 100th year artwork. They located the original artist that did the 75th and the 100th year will also be done by the original artist.

National is asking all Departments to bring their colors for the National Parade.

Ladies we will start our 100 year before you know it. Please start thinking and planning on what your Unit will do. Be proud of what we do and what we stand for!! Show the community what wonderful things we do and have done for 100 years.



Lisa Cadwallader, Chairman
Roxie Nicolson, Committee Member
Beth Kilgore, Committee Member

Legislative

Greetings,

By the time you are reading this hopefully spring has sprung and you are wrapping up your Legislative year-end reports with narratives!

Just a few comments..

**Please continue to educate yourselves on current and pending legislation in the American Legion Legislative Agenda!

**Consider joining ALA Legislative Facebook group, and checkout the blog alaintheknow.wordpress.com

Remember...our voices do make a difference...let's all Become an advocate for our Veterans...Stay Connected by logging-on and logging-in!

Susan Yoho,
Legislative Chairman

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Now is the time to start working on your report. Set down and make a list of all the members in your Unit and then what they did for Veterans. You might be surprised at the hours they have accumulated.

Remember if you sit with a Veteran, take them to a Doctors appointment, or take them shopping this time counts. There are so many things you can do for our Veterans that can count for hours.

Do not forget to claim the hours and money you turned in on your report for comfort items. When you submit your report, please remember to send a narrative if you want to be considered for an award.

I am looking forward to reading a lot reports and narratives this year. If you need my help, please call me at 304-592-0247 or e-mail me at carlajwilfong@yahoo.com.

God Bless America and our Veterans
Carla Wilfong
VA&R Chairman

National Security

I finally got another newsletter from the Central Division National Security Chairman, and she mentioned something I wish to share with you. **Do not cut** the embroidered stars from a United States Flag and distribute them to anyone anywhere. The American Legion National Americanism Commission does not subscribe to this practice nor does it advocate the practice of cutting the United States Flag into individual pieces prior to its proper disposal no matter what the reason or occasion may be. The Commission is of the opinion that when a flag is no longer fitting for display; it should be disposed in its entirety, preferably by burning properly in a formal and fitting ceremony. The flag began as a whole and should be disposed of as a whole.

Don't forget our active military and their families. They continue to need our support and advocacy.

I am looking forward to getting many National Security annual reports. Please do not let me down. Thank you in advance for anything you might have done as a part of The National Security program.

Mary Waybright
National Security

Past President's Parley

I attended the NEC meeting at the end of February and the only thing that might impact this committee next year at the National level is National is considering moving the Unit Member of the Year Award under Leadership and the Salute to Servicewomen Award to the National Security Committee.

Unit Past Presidents, we are approaching that time of the year that Units will be forming their nominating committees and those committees presenting a slate of interested members wanting to run for an office. We as Past Presidents should be mentoring them and assisting them as well as all members.

Past District Presidents, your Spring conferences are around the corner, encourage members to run for an office and get involved.

Reminder to all Past Department Presidents, I am still in need of your information from your year.

Remember those members stepping up want involvement, they want to help, give them a chance. Hopefully, this organization and the wonderful things we do continues long after we are gone.

Lisa Cadwallader
Lisac.ala71@Gmail.Com
304-707-1121

Strategic Planning Committee

Goal 2

“Create an Internal Culture of Goodwill”

Change is hard for everyone, and sometimes fear of the unknown, or something new, presents itself in a know-it-all attitude or unwillingness to adapt. The way you approach conflict in your unit is really important because you have to model the good behavior you want to see. So, for starters, that means being respectful and compassionate to all people – even when you disagree – and try to understand why they feel there is no room for change during meetings.

Usually, everyone just wants to feel like their concerns are heard and their opinions are validated. In this case, the seasoned members probably feel like they are being pushed out from an organization they love.

Be understanding, respectful, and compassionate, and let them air their grievances. Let them speak; don't interrupt. Address their concerns and explain that although change is hard, it is necessary to retain members and ensure the American Legion Auxiliary is around to continue our mission of serving veterans.

Paulette Anderson—Goal 2

National Executive Committeewoman

I got the honor to tour the New National Headquarters when I was there for the NEC meeting. Very nice!! They are still working on some things but still they have done a beautiful job with it so far. They are planning on offering tours during National Convention.

Wow, where to start, lots of information. I am hoping to get it all in this newsletter but we will see.

During the August 2018 meeting 19 New Charters and 14 reinstated Charters were approved. During this meeting 54 Charter's were canceled. Making 8234 Active Units.

National level Committee replacement appointments approved, the ones effecting us are Community Service Chairman Elaine Mackenzie replaced with Raleen Tolzmann, Education Committee member Susan Lee replaced with Amanda Washburn, Girls Nation Committee member Hailey Mills replaced with Lauren Lloyd, and Patricia Waltz resigned from the Audit Committee and that position is open.

Resolution submitted by the Department of Maryland Executive Committee and adopted at the February 2019 NEC meeting that Standing Rule X.3 be changed to include ***Transfer is final upon verification of eligibility, evidence of paid membership, and acceptance of the transferee by the new Unit.*** I will scan the whole old and new and ask that it be included with the Spirit.

There are Proposed changes to the National Standing Rules that will be presented to the National Convention delegates. However, in the mean time they are wanting to know how you feel about these.

To sum it up... History Committee moved under Historian, Liaison to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation move to Children & Youth, Unit Member of the Year Award move to Leadership, and Salute to Servicewomen move to National Security. For Standing Committees currently have 2 to 4 committee members, drop them and have 1 Vice Chairman and keeping the Division Chairman, with the exception of VA&R and Education. VA&R and Education would change from 3 committee members to 1 Vice Chairman & 1 committee member serving a 2 year term instead of a 3 year term. Bylaws would change from a chairman and 4 members to a chairman and vice chairmen, which works closely with staff. Please let me know how you feel so I can get back to National from our department. I added a poll to the Department face book page.

Mission Training attendance was 522 members.

Over 3,000 have taken the ALA Academy Courses. The first 5 courses are out there, One for the juniors and one for fundraising might be ready by National Convention. The new junior handbook is online. What emblem sales has is old.

There is talk about if they keep the red book or not. However, it is on the National Web site and updated there.

Over 6,000 members are paying by phone. National is thinking about offering a ALAMIS training and splitting the cost among National and Departments. They are also thinking about sending out the dues notices and having them get returned to National instead of the Departments. Not much more was said at this time.

I am going to stop here but have lots more to share for the NEC meeting. I truly see why National strongly recommends electing NECs for terms of more than 1 year.

Lisa Cadwallader, NEC
Lisac.ALA71@Gmail.com
304-707-1121

OLD RESOLUTION

Adopted
2-23-19

RESOLUTION FOR 2019 NEC MEETING

WHEREAS, at the 2016 National Convention a Standing Rule was revised and passed to clarify the transfer of members from one unit to another, and

WHEREAS, Standing Rule X.3 potentially implies, or could be interpreted that, acceptance is automatic thus denying the Unit its right to be “judge of its own membership,” and

WHEREAS, the new Unit cannot be assured that the prior unit performed its due diligence in verifying eligibility, and

WHEREAS, the National Bylaws, Article VIII, Unit Organization, Section 5, the Unit Guide and other National documents state that the unit shall be responsible for verifying eligibility and deciding its membership, and

WHEREAS, Standing Rule X.3 reads in part:

“A member who is not subject to suspension or membership revocation under due process is eligible to transfer her membership to another Unit if she has paid her membership dues to her current Unit for either the current year or immediate past membership year. A member transferring to a new Unit must pay current year dues to either her current Unit or the Unit into which she wishes to transfer.

“Evidence of Paid Membership includes:

1. American Legion Auxiliary membership card.
2. Verification of membership by ALA Department of National Headquarters membership records.
3. Other documentation verifying payment of current or immediate past year membership dues such as a canceled check or receipt; or
4. When verifying documentation is not available, a sworn statement that the member’s membership dues payment was rendered,” and

WHEREAS, it is within the authority of the NEC to amend this Standing Rule,

NEW RESOLUTION

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Standing Rule X.3 be changed to read in part:

“A member who is not subject to suspension or membership revocation under due process is eligible to transfer her membership to another Unit if she has paid her membership dues to her current Unit for either the current year or immediate past membership year. A member transferring to a new Unit must pay current year dues to either her current Unit or the Unit into which she wishes to transfer.

Transfer is final upon verification of eligibility, evidence of paid membership, and acceptance of the transferee by the new Unit.”

Evidence of Paid Membership includes:

1. American Legion Auxiliary membership card.
2. Verification of membership by ALA Department or National Headquarters membership records.
3. Other documentation verifying payment of current or immediate past year membership dues such as a canceled check or receipt; or
4. When verifying documentation is not available, a sworn statement that the member’s membership dues payment was tendered.”

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this change becomes effective immediately.

***Approved by the Department of Maryland Executive Committee
January 15, 2019***

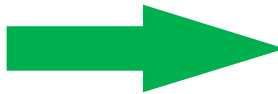
Enhancing and Strengthening Our Membership Through Teamwork, Good Communication, and Our Mission

Target #7—March 15th—80%

Department Goal—9966 Membership to Date—5,063 (50.80 %)

Department Unit Goal—86 Membership to Date—74

District 1			
Unit	2019 Goal	2019	% of Goal
Wheeling #1	26	23	88.46%
Moundsville #3	428	228	53.27%
McMechen #5	73	35	47.95%
Weirton #10	112	46	41.07%
Cameron #18	262	135	51.53%
New Martinsville #28	217	125	57.60%
Wellsburg #34	48	17	35.42%
Follansbee #45	65	37	56.92%
Benwood #46	131	71	54.20%
Pine Grove #81	112	83	74.11%
Paden City #86	178	89	50.00%
Wheeling #89	39	18	46.15%
Newell #114	57	23	40.35%
Hundred #120	115	46	40.00%
Chester #121	269	154	57.25%
TOTALS	2132	1128	52.91%



Special Teams
Coach
Goal—4915
To Date—2463
50.11% %

Membership
Chairman
Special Teams
Coach



Special Teams
Coach
Goal—4965
To Date 2526
50.87 %



District 3			
Unit	2019 Goal	2019	% of Goal
Buckhannon #7	83	37	44.58%
Grafton #12	32	11	34.38%
Clarksburg #13	230	77	33.48%
Elkins #29	253	141	55.73%
Shinnston #31	412	249	60.44%
Braxton County #33	48	29	60.42%
Philippi #44	41	10	24.39%
Bridgeport #68	93	47	50.54%
Belington #96	43	16	37.21%
Pickens #122	41	17	41.46%
Jane Lew #166	65	31	47.69%
Morgantown #174	30	13	43.33%
TOTALS	1371	678	49.45%

District 5			
Unit	2019 Goal	2019	% of Goal
Huntington #16	347	152	43.80%
Logan #19	30	11	36.67%
St. Albans #73	65	29	44.62%
Ceredo-Kenova #93	489	249	50.92%
South Charleston #94	26	11	42.31%
Hamlin #111	99	42	42.42%
Milton #139	113	60	53.10%
Barboursville #177	243	125	51.44%
TOTALS	1412	679	48.09%

District 10			
Unit	2019 Goal	2019	% of Goal
Martinsburg #14	151	82	54.30%
Franklin #30	19	15	78.95%
Piedmont #52	72	15	20.83%
Berkeley Springs #60	338	172	50.89%
Moorefield #64	136	89	65.44%
Charles Town #71	326	163	50.00%
Petersburg #78	126	54	42.86%
Romney #91	353	198	56.09%
Charles Town #102	45	27	60.00%
Paw Paw #128	68	32	47.06%
Kirby #134	71	35	49.30%
Ridgeley #136	136	76	55.88%
Capon Bridge #137	214	104	48.60%
Keyser #152	77	44	57.14%
TOTALS	2132	1106	51.88%

District 4			
Unit	2019 Goal	2019	% of Goal
Parkersburg #15	1080	528	48.89%
Spencer #21	98	39	39.80%
Pt. Pleasant #23	484	229	47.31%
Tyler County #48	33	32	96.97%
Sistersville #67	106	79	74.53%
New Haven #140	220	121	55.00%
Williamstown #159	215	101	46.98%
TOTALS	2236	1129	50.49%

District 6			
Unit	2019 Goal	2019	% of Goal
Welch #8	100	54	54.00%
Bluefield #9	28	23	82.14%
Beckley #32	98	36	36.73%
Gary #38	159	70	44.03%
Cowen #62	62	25	40.32%
Lewisburg #69	100	37	37.00%
Richwood #97	50	22	44.00%
TOTALS	597	267	44.72%



American Legion Auxiliary WV Rhododendron Girls State

Rhododendron Girls State

Happy Spring! I hope with the warmer temperatures that you and your Units are in full swing with Girls State. Remember the application deadline is May 1, 2019.

Our 77th Annual Rhododendron Girls State session will be held June 9 - June 14, 2019 at Davis & Elkins College in Elkins, WV. This year's theme will be "In the Spirit of Service, Not Self Experience the Power of Giving" and special project will be Honor Flight.

Once again the cost is \$250 per citizen and this includes the cost of the parade T-shirt.

This year, parents will be able to attend the Inauguration on Thursday as well as our Closing ceremony on Friday morning.

If you know of a female veteran you would like to be honored please notify our Director Michelle Sirbaugh at michelle.girlsstate@yahoo.com.

Please feel free to contact your district representative or myself if you have any questions.

Lynda Lancaster, Chairman
Rhododendron Girls State



1st Dist. — Susan Brown
2172 Grandview Rd.
Moundsville WV 26041
304-845-5122

3rd Dist. — Mary Jo Thomas
279 Rock Lake Road
Fairmont WV 26554
304-366-2912

4th Dist. — Nancy Sundstrom
1307 23rd Street
Parkersburg WV 26101
304-422-1263


5th Dist.— Beth Kilgore
1562 Holderby Road
Huntington WV 25701
304-654-7750

6th Dist. — Peggy Swartz
P O Box 124
Gary WV 24836
304-448-2394

10th Dist.— Lynda Lancaster
PO Box 1037
Ranson WV 25438
304-676-3979

April 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 <i>April Fool's Day</i>	2	3	4	5 <i>Office Closed Leave for Hamlin</i>	6 <i>5th District Spring Conf. Hamlin Post #111</i>
7	8	9	10	11	12 <i>Office Closed Leave for Petersburg</i>	13 <i>10th District Spring Conf. Peterson Post #78</i>
14	15 <i>Target #8 90% Spirit Articles Due</i>	16	17	18	19 <i>Good Friday Office Closed</i>	20 <i>4th District Spring Conf. Pt. Pleasant Post #23</i>
21 	22 <i>Spirit Out VA Checks Mailed</i>	23	24	25	26 <i>Office Closed Leave for Beckley</i>	27 <i>6th District Spring Conf. Beckley Unit #32</i>
28	29	30				

WHO RECEIVES SPIRIT: Emailed to all **Unit Contacts** and any **Unit Officers** with an email address. It is emailed to

All Department Officers, Department Chairmen, District Presidents/Vice Presidents, Past Department Presidents with emails. Spirits are posted monthly on the website: www.wvvaux.org Unit Presidents **with no email contact** will receive a free copy.

Subscription will Cost \$18.00

Runs August through July Each Year

MAIL TO:

**Department of West Virginia
1251 Doolin Run Road
New Martinsville WV 26155-7808**

NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS OR PO BOX: -----

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

ALL Reservations must be booked, no later than May 26, 2019 and must be accompanied with the 1st night deposit. ANY reservations that are received, after 5/26/2019 will be booked at the rate of \$129.00, plus tax.

**2019 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
RESERVATION FORM**

July 11-13, 2019
Doubletree by Hilton
1001 3rd Avenue
Huntington, West Virginia 25701

\$96.00 per night room rate (plus 13% tax)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

Arrival Date _____ AM PM Departure Date _____

Room Type: (circle one) Doubles King

Non-Smoking Facility

Handicap Room: (circle one) wheelchair oxygen tank other

If you circled "other", please explain. _____

*Members with wheelchair disabilities will receive first priority.

One night's deposit must accompany this request to reserve a room. Any form, without a deposit will be returned.

Enclosed, please find one night's room deposit of **\$96.00** (plus 13% tax) = \$108.48 per night

(circle one)

check

cash

credit card

credit card # _____

type _____

expiration date _____

Your credit card may be charged for the one night's room deposit.

**Mail to: Doubletree by Hilton
 ATTN: Eugene Robinson
 1001 3rd Avenue
 Huntington, West Virginia 25701**

**This form must be mailed to reserve a room at the Doubletree by Hilton. (No phone calls for rooms will be accepted.)
PLEASE PRE-REGISTER EARLY- THANKS!**