



The Auxiliary Spirit



Volume 37

August 2023

Issue 1



American Legion Auxiliary
2023-2024
Department President

“With Love and Gratitude~~We Support Our Military & Honor Our Veterans”

Colors—Red/White/Blue

Flower— Rose

Hello!

It was so wonderful seeing all of you at Department Convention. Congratulations to the new District Presidents and Vice Presidents and to my wonderful officers! Thank you for allowing me to be your Department President. Love and thanks to my Installing Team. I will do the best I can but, I need your help. What questions do you want to ask? What ALA programs do you need to know more about? What do you need explained? I want Fall Boards to be what you want. Discuss in your units the things you want to know more about. Send them to me or bring them with you.

My theme this year is ~With Love and Gratitude~~We Support Our Military & Honor Our Veterans~~ Membership theme is~~Let’s Be Patriotic (Stars & Stripes)~~ My Special Project is Rhododendron Girls State. We will be having a “Betty Rea” Purse Auction. Please start filling those pocketbooks/totes, etc. with goodies so we can make money for Girl’s State. My colors-Red/White/Blue, Flower-Rose, Song-“God Bless the U. S. A.”: Lee Greenwood

The costumes for this year are casual; anything patriotic, anything military. Show off your favorite branch of the service or patriotic shirts, hats etc. Sport the red/white/blue. My Membership Chairman Lynda will be “Uncle Sam” and I will be “Betsy Ross”. Let’s fill the room at Fall Workshop with military/patriotic clothes. Kim and districts 1-4-6 will be Stars (blue with white stars) and Laura with districts 3-5-10 will be Stripes (red & white stripes). Let’s start working on that membership. Remember, think of membership as a team effort for our department. Some units struggle and some flourish. On the department level, those units who flourish will be helping the department reach goal. “LET’S BE THE ONE” to help each other, our Military/ Veterans and our community in any way we can.

Let’s love more. Let’s play more. Let’s have fun this year. Let’s play some games! Let’s hear any ideas you may have.

In closing, I can never express enough what the kindness and support given to me and my family at convention, with the passing of my dear husband, Kat, meant to me. I wasn’t sure I could go through it but with your love and support and God’s help, I could. Thank you so much!

If I can help you, please contact me.

PS My Homecoming will be on Sunday afternoon at 12:30, October 22 at Post 60. I hope you will be able to attend.

Hugs to all!

“Let’s Be Patriotic”

Department President
Debbie Michael
katndebbie@gmail.com
304-839-7721
234 Breeden Addition
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

Department Officers 2023-2024

President-Debbie Michael
1st Vice President-Laura Clark
2nd Vice President-Kimberly Mellie
Secretary/Treasurer-Susan Brown
Chaplain-Stephanie Handley
Historian-April Wallace

District Presidents

1st District-Paulette Anderson
3rd District-Kimberly Mellie
4th District-Patsy Greiner
5th District-Laura Clark
6th District-Peggy Swartz
10th District-Diana Teter

District Vice Presidents

1st District-Christy Bland
3rd District-April Wallace
4th District-Melanie Paxton
5th Kimberly Evans
6th District-Mary Spence
10th District-Jill Davis





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: (Unit General Fund)- Bonding (\$5.00), Education (Scholarship), & Girls State Project (any amount the unit can afford);

Unit Welfare Fund - Veterans' Welfare Fund (any amount the unit can afford), & 10% of Poppy Proceeds.

August starts a new membership year. If you are paying 2023 membership please use a transmittal for 2023. Department is now accepting dues for the 2024 membership year. Any new members sent to headquarters after July 31, 2023 will have a joining date as of September 1, 2023.

If a unit wishes to increase their membership dues for 2024 year, there will be a cost of \$30.00.

ALA MIS system—if your unit wishes to try the system. Please notify is the office by letter that the unit wish to do so.

Savanna—Thank you for a wonderful year!!!

Note—Unit Member of the Year is to be sent to the Leadership Chairman, not Past Presidents Parley.

Junior members who turn 18 yrs. old before January 1st of the membership year are considered Senior members. Please take notice of their status National has marked on your roster. DO NOT change status

New members—when sending in a new application please make sure they are complete. If you are unable to read a new application, how am I suppose to read it. Please clarify illegible writing. The ONLY time that the unit secretary can sign an application is when a female veteran is joining under herself—No Exceptions! Applications will be returned.

Just a small note; Post and Unit may meet on the same day. They just do not hold their business session together.

Reminder—Your membership is through the Unit not the Post.

Department Headquarters

**Office Hours
Monday-Friday
9:30am-3:30pm**

Phone 304-845-7410
Fax: 304-845-9426
alawvsec@frontier.com

**Department Address:
2172 Grandview Road
Moundsville, WV 26041**

**Department Website:
www.wvvaux.org**

**Rhododendron Girls State Website
www.wvgirlsstate.org**

**The American Legion
Department of WV
wvlegion@suddenlinkmail.com**

**American Legion Auxiliary
National Website
ALAforveterans.org**

NOTICE

Please consider donating to the Cheer Party account when making your unit donations or donate direct to VAMC chairman. Cheer parties and Gift shops are not a mandatory donation. These accounts receive very little donations.

2024 Fall Conferences Schedule

1st District Oct 15 Paden City #86
3rd District
4th District Oct 29 New Haven #140
5th District
6th District Sept 23 Bluefield #9
10th District Oct 21 Berkeley Spring

I am in need of dates for 3rd and 5th District conferences!!

Department Chairmen

*If you need any information on previous plans of works do not hesitate to call the office for the information. Don't forget to look on the National website
Alaforveterans.org*

If you need your plans of works copied, please have them to me by September 8.

Thank You!

The Office will be closed from August 23rd through September 5th for National Convention. If you need help with anything, please call the office phone number 304-845-7410, and I will return your call. The office phone calls will be transferred to my cell.
Thanks

“One Flag! One Land! One Heart! One Nation!

Evermore!”

Oliver Wendell Holmes

~~~~~*Let's Be Patriotic*~~~~~

**Membership Chairman**

Thank you Madam President Debbie for asking me to be your Membership Chairman! We are having a fun and exciting year. The Department Theme is "With Love and Gratitude - We Support Our Military and Honor Our Veterans. The Membership Theme s "Let's Be Patriotic". President Debbie is going to be Betsy Ross and I will be Uncle Sam. We want you for Membership! We look forward to seeing you as you wear and honor your veteran!

Department 1st Vice President Laura will be "Stripes" and overseeing the 3rd, 5th and 10th District. Department 2nd Vice Kim will be the "Stars" and overseeing the 1st, 4th and 6th Districts.

Our first target date will be December 15 with 50% of goal.

More information will be handed out at Fall Membership Workshop and we look forward to seeing you there.

Lynda Lancaster-Loyd

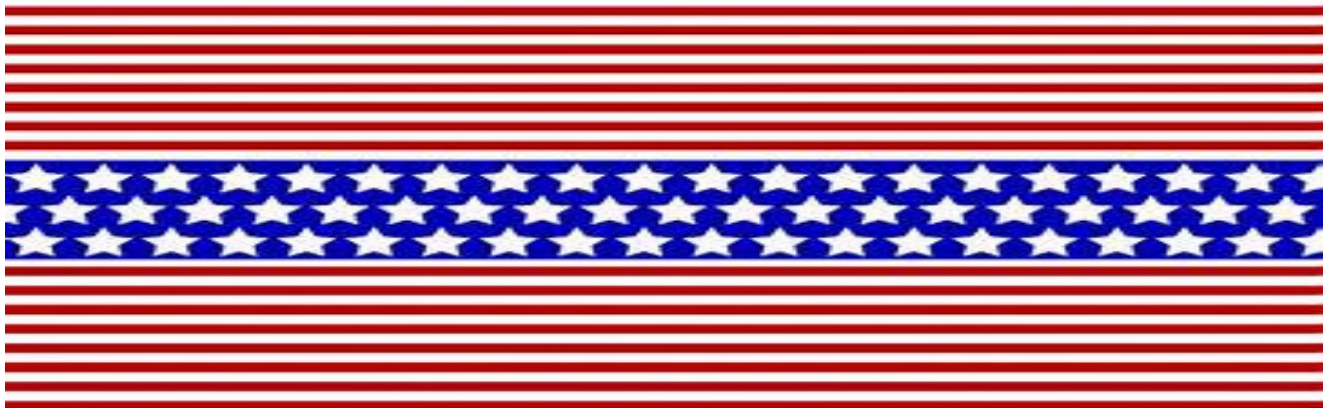
Department Membership Chairman

**Department 1st Vice President**

A huge congratulations to President Debbie Michael for being elected as the Department President for 2023-2024 and thank you to Savanna for such a GREAT year! I am honored and humbled to have been chosen to be your Department 1st Vice President this year. I will be assisting Districts 3, 5, and 10 with your membership goals this year and excited that our theme is STRIPES for our districts. Targets and dates will be released to us soon and we will get started as soon as possible on achieving those goals. I hope to see everyone at the Fall Workshop in Clarksburg on September 16th! In the meantime, please feel free to contact me anytime!  
In Service, not Self,  
Laura Clark  
Department 1st Vice President  
304-939-3607  
laurakclark716@gmail.com

**Department 2nd Vice President**

Thank you to all of you that supported me during the Department Convention. Congratulations to President Debbie Michael and all of her officers and chairpersons! I am glad to have the honor to serve Districts 1,4, and 6. I will be working closely with your District Presidents and Vice Presidents and hope to visit some of the Units! Please feel free to reach out to me if you need anything. We are looking to purchase some shirts for Midwinter! Keep your eyes and ears open!  
Again, I am honored to serve! Thank you all and God Bless.  
Kim Mellie  
2nd Vice President  
304-216-9943  
kmellie@comcast.net



### ***1st District Vice President***

Hello 1st District members!  
Wow what a hot summer I had a great time at convention. It was great catching up with everyone & meeting some new members. Thank you Past President Savannah for a great year. I also wish President Debbie a successful coming year. Membership cards are out, so it's that time again. If we all work together as Units, we can all make our target goals. I'm only a phone call or email away if anyone needs to contact me. September Spirit will have target goals for Units, so until then, membership is our main "goal".  
Christy Bland  
christy.bland8555@gmail.com  
304- 771- 2283

### ***10th District Vice President***

What a great year, thank you for allowing me to be your District Vice President. Please be sure to get your mandatory funds in, these are very important. Congratulations on all units that received awards, your hard work does not go unnoticed. Thank you, Savanna and the whole team for leading us this past year. Remember, as soon as you receive your new cards you can start accepting membership. Let's have another goal year. Thank you all again.

Jill Davis  
10th District VP

### ***3rd District Vice President***

Districts 3, 5, and 10, we are going to start off fast. Our 1st target is 25% on September 15, and remember, Department does not send the first dues notice until September 15th, so it's up to you to get the word out to your members, they need to pay early. This year our districts are Stripes, and the theme is "With Love and Gratitude, We support our Military" The colors are, Red, White and Blue and the flower the Rose. So lets start out as we mean to finish, **FIRST! FAST! FURIOUS!** As always if you have any questions or need any help, contact me at 304-516-9757. Thank you!!! April D. Wallace

### ***1st District President***

I would like to thank units in the 1st District for electing me your District President for 2023-2024.  
Our District picnic is July 30th at Benwood Park. It is from 12:00-5:00. District Secretary Rhonda Best has been contacting units for side dishes. If you haven't responded yet, please do. I hope to see several units there.  
Our District Fall Conference will be held October 21st in Paden City. Credentials and Registration Forms will be sent out early September. Watch your email/mail for it and send it by the due date.  
Until next month  
Paulette Anderson  
1st District President

### ***5th District Vice President***

It was a pleasure to meet you at this year's 2023 Auxiliary Department Convention. A big congratulation to our new Department President Debbie Michael and all of the new Department and District Officers. With this being said, I'm looking forward to working with District 5 and the membership team! I'm so honored you elected me to be your District 5 Vice President. It is my goal to help you in any way I can. We are hoping for a fun & successful year. Thank each and everyone of you for what you do for Veterans & Community! Keep up the phenomenal work.  
Thank You,  
Kimberly Evans  
5th District Vice President  
knsevans2014@gmail.com  
304-710-6078

### ***3rd District President***

Remember to check out and post pictures to our District 3 Facebook page. Welcome April Wilson Wallace as Third District Vice President and our State Historian. Congratulations! November 4th is the date for our Fall Conference with a location to be announced in the next Spirit.  
I'm here if you need anything. Please feel free to call or email or text.  
Have a wonderful Labor Day weekend!  
Kim Mellie  
Third District President  
304-216-9943  
kmellie@comcast.net



### ***4th District President***

Congratulations to Past Department President Savanna Kauffman, all 2022 – 2023 officers, and program chairmen for a great convention held in Huntington, West Virginia, on July 6 - 8. What an honor and privilege to be a part of the American Legion Family. Plaques, awards, and certificates are a huge part of our year-end traditions. Thanks to all who made Savanna's year a great one. Congratulations to newly elected Department President Debbie Michael and all 2023 – 2024 officers. Although the new year is just beginning, we are looking forward to new themes, special project ideas, and programs. The new year promises to be fun, simple, patriotic, and full of love and gratitude for our Veterans and families.

The District 4 Fall Conference will be held on October 29, 2023, at New Haven Post #140. Registration will be at 9 a.m. Meetings will begin at 10 a.m. Registration will be \$15 per person. Lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the meetings.

Please continue to recruit, retain, and maintain membership.  
For God and Country.

Patsy Greiner  
4th District President  
304-295-8844 (home)

### ***5th District President***

My name name is Laura Clark (Unit 16) and I am your 2023-2024 District President. Congratulations to District Vice President, Kim Evans (Unit 20) and your Officers and Chairmen:  
Secretary/Treasurer- Ann Buchanan, PDP (Unit 16)  
Chaplain- Lisa Harbour (Unit 177)  
Americanism- vacant  
Children & Youth- Beth Kilgore (Unit 16)  
National Security- Kitty Kelly-Smoot (Unit 16)  
V A & R- Ann Buchanan, PDP (Unit 16)  
We look forward to working with each of your units this coming year.  
For God & Country,  
Laura Clark  
5th District President  
304-939-3607  
Laurakclark716@gmail.com

### ***Chaplain***

“Freedom is the open window through which pours the sunlight of the human spirit and human dignity.”

Herbert Hoover

Stephanie Handley  
Chaplain

### ***10th District President***

They say time flies. Well, I do not know who all “they” are but I will say I agree.

A year has gone and it was a good one thanks to Everyone in District 10 and Department for your help.

It takes hard work and dedication to keep a Unit going and my goodness it shows. During the Convention there were many awards given. It is such a proud moment for ALL when Units are recognized. Please begin now keeping track of all you do, turn in those reports when they are due.

We want our Veterans to benefit from our efforts.

As we begin a new year it is again my pleasure to be your District President. I look forward to another great year.

Diana Teter  
District 10 President

### ***Historian***

“Don't interfere with anything in the Constitution. That must be maintained, for it is the only safeguard of our liberties.”

Abraham Lincoln

April Wallace  
Historian



### *Americanism*

Thank you President Debbie Michael for asking me to chair this program and Flag Alliance. I will have new supplementals at the workshop for units.

Remember to fly your flag every day and if you see a tattered or worn out flag, try to have it removed and a new one put in its place.

More next month!

Paulette Anderson  
Americanism and Flag Alliance

### *National Security*

Thank you to President Debbie for this appointment this year as your National Security Chairman. I am looking forward to the 2023-2024 year.

Key Program Statements:

The ALA National Security program maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families.

Support active-duty military families by working with an installation Family Readiness Group (FRG). Contact the Family Readiness Center on your nearby military installation for more information.

Raise awareness of POW/MIAs and the work being performed by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in the search for missing personnel

Please reach out if you have any questions!

Laura Clark/ Chairman  
304-939-3607  
laurakclark716@gmail.com

### *Children & Youth*

How can you show thanks for the brave men and women in the armed forces who defend our country and the freedoms we cherish? Join with Dollar Tree in their 2023 Back to School Brigade, July 5-August 3, by purchasing school supplies to support military children. Purchase school supply items at Dollar Tree and drop them in a collection box in the store. If there isn't a Dollar Tree in your area, support military children through your local schools or make direct donations to families.

Important Note About REPORTING Volunteer Hours  
Wearing an article of clothing does not count toward volunteer hours, much like hours spent flying a flag in your front yard doesn't count. Volunteer hours should reflect direct mission service and direct impact in your community. Wearing a red/purple shirt for 8 hours is a non-service activity. Volunteer hours are reported to Congress via The American Legion. Our volunteer hours need to reflect our actual hands-on mission outreach, as Congress uses those numbers when considering funding in the veterans realm.

If you have questions or need help, call or text: 304-544-1838

I thank Department President Debbie Michael for this appointment.  
Shirley Davis, Chairman

### *Legislative*

Thank you, President Debbie, for this appointment. I will be sending more information as I learn for myself. I am excited to be on a new committee. I have been looking into the SCAR initiative started by Lindsay Gutierrez and other legislative sites. Our mission is to help keep our Veterans on the agenda for our legislators. The American Legion's Grassroots Action Center offers information to stay informed on the issues and tools to communicate online with lawmakers and the media about the organization's priorities. Excited to help share what is going on with legislation! Here if you need anything! God Bless.

Legislative Chair  
Kim Mellie



## Poppy

Here it is another year just starting. I would like to thank President Debbie for asking me to be her Poppy Chairman. Each year we learn something new.

We should all remember to use our Poppies wherever possible. Use them in centerpieces. Keep a tally on how many you use.

It is always an honor to give traveling plaques to Units that really work hard. Take pictures and include them in your reports.

I will have more in the coming month. If you need my help, call me at 304-592-0247, or email me at carlajwilfong@gmail.com. God Bless our Veterans

Carla Wilfong  
Chairman

## Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

As we start our New year, I ask that you remember to track all hours and donations, so at report time it will be much easier. VA& R is NOT only service to veterans in VAMC's. It includes all veterans. Do you assist at your Post home? If your answer is yes those hours count! On the National website under the VA& R committee, there is a guide. This guide explains both service to veterans at the VA and service to veterans outside the VA. This is a very wide committee and I'm sure we all do volunteering somewhere within this committee. Please let's show just how much WV does in this committee, this year!

Lisa Cadwallader, Chair  
Lisac.ala71@gmail.com

## NEC

If you missed the Department Convention in Huntington, you missed meeting the National President Vickie Koutz.

Wednesday I picked up the National President at the Charleston airport, and took her to the hotel in Huntington. That evening several of us took her out to eat and had an enjoyable meal.

Thursday she was taken to the WV Veterans Home for a tour of the facility and lunch, then to the Huntington VA where she was introduced to the Director and toured the facility. Then on to Fisher House for a tour. Dinner was at the hotel, then she rested for the evening. Thank you Frema Wilson for escorting!

Friday she attended convention, and that evening she went to Ceredo-Kenova Post #93 for a steak fry.

Saturday was convention, and later watched the installation of new officers. She attended the Commanders/Presidents Banquet.

Sunday she flew out early for home.

Thank you Cathy Post, Rhonda Best, President Savanna, and other Auxiliary members for making her visit a success!

Until next month!

Paulette Anderson, NEC

pauletteanderson2848@gmail.com

## Constitution & Bylaws

If you attended Department Convention, we made lots of changes to the Department's. Most were housekeeping issues. Please review your Units and stay on top of them. It's always easier to make a few changes here and there, then to let them build to a larger task. Are committee is just starting a new year, so give us a little time. We have one Units which I will be getting out to the other committee members. I look forward to working with this year's committee.

Lisa Cadwallader, Chair  
Lisac.ala71@gmail.com

## Standing Rules

A new year has begun with new Department Officers and Chairmen. Congratulations to all and hope for a successful year!

The new Standing Rules Committee is myself as Chairman, Kim Elliott from Chester Unit #121, and Michelle Powell from Wheeling Unit #1.

If your unit has any changes in your Standing Rules this year, please send them to me at 1251 Doolin Run Rd. New Martinsville WV 26155. Please do not send to the Constitution & Bylaws. Please make sure they aren't in conflict with your C & B.

More on Standing Rules in later Spirits. You can contact me if you have any questions at 304-771-0984 or at the email below.

Paulette Anderson  
pauletteanderson2848@gmail.com





# American Legion Auxiliary WV Rhododendron Girls State

## *Rhododendron Girls State*

Thank you Madam President Debbie for the opportunity to serve as Girls State Chairman. I know we just completed a very successful Rhododendron Girls State session. Now is a great time to use your citizens to report to your units, your contributing organization and to help with your upcoming Poppy Drive.

It is not too early to start working on next year's session. Please start to solicit businesses and secure funding from organizations as they are preparing next year's budgets.

I wish each of you a very successful year. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or your district representative.

Lynda Lancaster-Loyd  
Girls State Chairman



## *District Representatives*

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. — Cathy Post  
308 Main Street  
Middlebourne, WV 26149  
304-758-5114

5th Dist. — Ann Buchanan  
105 Cheyenne Trail  
Ona WV 25505  
304-654-9932

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

10th Dist. — Debbie Fox  
874 Longview Drive  
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411  
304-258-5804



## Ways and Means

There were Eighteen \$25.00 winners for June and no \$200 winner. Congratulations to all the winners! Yes, ticket number 594 was back to back this month.

Cost for a 2023 ticket is \$20.00 and are good for the whole year! Never too late to purchase a ticket. They make GREAT gifts!

Ticket sales are slow this year. Remember this is the only fundraiser that Department has. Please support!

Please cash your checks!

NOTICE—Please mail check and stubs to:

Susan Brown  
2172 Grandview Rd  
Moundsville WV 26041

Check Payable to:  
ALA Ways & Means

Thanks!

Susan Brown  
Linda Crumm

## May 2023 Ways and Means Winners

| Name              | #'s | City             | State | Date      | \$\$\$ |
|-------------------|-----|------------------|-------|-----------|--------|
| Jean Chambers     | 914 | Cameron          | WV    | 6/01/2023 | 25.00  |
| Ruth Bowne        | 362 | Elbert           | WV    | 6/02/2023 | 25.00  |
| John Turpin       | 182 | Paw Paw          | WV    | 6/03/2023 | 25.00  |
| Holly Adams       | 424 | Chester          | WV    | 6/05/2023 | 25.00  |
| Tricia Crites     | 846 | Moorefield       | WV    | 6/06/2023 | 25.00  |
|                   | 378 |                  |       | 6/07/2023 |        |
|                   | 992 |                  |       | 6/08/2023 |        |
| Barb McLaughlin   | 374 | Romney           | WV    | 6/09/2023 | 25.00  |
| Amanda Ruckman    | 309 | Rio              | WV    | 6/10/2023 | 25.00  |
|                   | 870 |                  |       | 6/12/2023 |        |
| Richard Sirk      | 617 | Romney           | WV    | 6/13/2023 | 25.00  |
| Rena Fleming      | 946 | Hawesville       | KY    | 6/14/2023 | 25.00  |
|                   | 565 |                  |       | 6/15/2023 |        |
| Melanie Delawder  | 095 | Old Fields       | WV    | 6/16/2023 | 25.00  |
| Lorraine Edgecomb | 923 | Capon Bridge     | WV    | 6/17/2023 | 25.00  |
| Tammy Campbell    | 651 |                  |       | 6/19/2023 | 25.00  |
|                   | 594 |                  |       | 6/20/2023 |        |
|                   | 594 |                  |       | 6/21/2023 |        |
|                   | 163 |                  |       | 6/22/2023 |        |
| Ceredo Kenova #93 | 401 | Kenova           | WV    | 6/23/2023 | 25.00  |
| Barbara Beaver    | 438 | New Martinsville | WV    | 6/24/2023 | 25.00  |
| Jerry Wilson      | 448 | Marlington       | WV    | 6/26/2023 | 25.00  |
|                   | 795 |                  |       | 6/27/2023 |        |
| Jerry F Brown     | 223 | Sutton           | WV    | 6/28/2023 | 25.00  |
| Nancy Frost       | 357 | Cumberland       | MD    | 6/29/2023 | 25.00  |
| Shawn Fersnow     | 422 | Berkeley Springs | WV    | 6/30/2023 | 25.00  |
|                   |     |                  |       |           |        |



# August 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

|    |                                                                                        | 1            | 2                                         | 3            | 4                                                                         | 5  |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 6  | 7<br> | 8            | 9                                         | 10           | 11                                                                        | 12 |
| 13 | 14                                                                                     | 15           | 16                                        | 17           | 18                                                                        | 19 |
| 20 | 21                                                                                     | 22           | 23<br>Leave for<br>National<br>Convention | 24<br>Closed | 25<br>Closed                                                              | 26 |
| 27 | 28<br>Closed                                                                           | 29<br>Closed | 30<br>Closed                              | 31<br>Closed |                                                                           |    |
|    |                                                                                        |              |                                           |              | <b><i>Program of Month<br/>National<br/>Convention<br/>Leadership</i></b> |    |



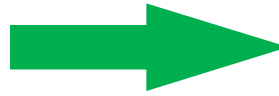
# “Christmas 365 around the World”



**July 18, 2023**  
**Department Goal— 4935 Membership to Date— 4628**  
**Department Unit 200 Goal—136 Membership to Date— 123**  
**100 % Goal**

## Laura

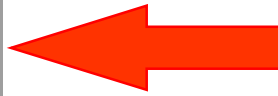
| District 1           |             |            |               |
|----------------------|-------------|------------|---------------|
| Unit                 | 2023 Goal   | 2023       | % of Goal     |
| Wheeling #1          | 21          | 18         | 85.71%        |
| Moundsville #3       | 244         | 255        | 104.51%       |
| McMechen #5          | 31          | 17         | 54.83%        |
| Weirton #10          | 65          | 64         | 98.46%        |
| Cameron #18          | 156         | 116        | 74.36%        |
| New Martinsville #28 | 104         | 102        | 98.08%        |
| Wellsburg #34        | 29          | 22         | 75.86%        |
| Follansbee #45       | 52          | 45         | 86.54%        |
| Pine Grove #81       | 81          | 68         | 83.95%        |
| Paden City #86       | 90          | 74         | 82.22%        |
| Wheeling #89         | 22          | 3          | 13.64         |
| Newell #114          | 16          | 15         | 93.75%        |
| Hundred #120         | 38          | 27         | 71.05%        |
| Chester #121         | 134         | 134        | 100%          |
| <b>TOTALS</b>        | <b>1083</b> | <b>960</b> | <b>88.64%</b> |



**“Candy Canes”  
 Team**  
**Goal—2459**  
**To Date— 2419**  
**98.37 %**



**Membership  
 Chairman**



**“Gingerbread”  
 Team**  
**Goal—2340**  
**To Date 2086**  
**89.15 %**



## Debbie

| District 3         |            |            |                |
|--------------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| Unit               | 2023 Goal  | 2023       | % of Goal      |
| Buckhannon #7      | 40         | 32         | 80%            |
| Clarksburg #13     | 43         | 56         | 130.23%        |
| Elkins #29         | 121        | 108        | 89.26%         |
| Shinnston #31      | 248        | 262        | 105.65%        |
| Braxton County #33 | 35         | 26         | 74.29%         |
| Bridgeport #68     | 62         | 66         | 106.45%        |
| Belington #96      | 19         | 15         | 78.95%         |
| Pickens #122       | 25         | 17         | 68%            |
| Morgantown #174    | 60         | 100        | 166.67%        |
| <b>TOTALS</b>      | <b>653</b> | <b>682</b> | <b>104.44%</b> |

| District 5         |            |            |               |
|--------------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| Unit               | 2023 Goal  | 2023       | % of Goal     |
| Huntington #16     | 146        | 121        | 82.88%        |
| Logan #19          | 22         | 17         | 77.27%        |
| Charleston #20     | New        | 16         |               |
| St. Albans #73     | 29         | 27         | 93.10%        |
| Ceredo-Kenova #93  | 223        | 202        | 86.67%        |
| So. Charleston #94 | 12         | 8          | 66.66%        |
| Hamlin #111        | 47         | 27         | 57.45%        |
| Milton #139        | 57         | 70         | 122.81%       |
| Barboursville #177 | 132        | 152        | 115.15%       |
| <b>TOTALS</b>      | <b>668</b> | <b>640</b> | <b>95.81%</b> |

| District 10          |             |             |               |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Unit                 | 2023 Goal   | 2023        | % of Goal     |
| Martinsburg #14      | 71          | 74          | 104.23%       |
| Franklin #30         | 22          | 14          | 63.64%        |
| Piedmont #52         | 20          | 15          | 75%           |
| Berkeley Springs #60 | 182         | 182         | 100%          |
| Moorefield #64       | 86          | 84          | 97.67%        |
| Charles Town #71     | 118         | 142         | 120.34%       |
| Petersburg #78       | 78          | 67          | 85.90%        |
| Romney #91           | 174         | 158         | 90.81%        |
| Charles Town #63     | 41          | 33          | 80.49%        |
| Paw Paw #128         | 38          | 39          | 102.63%       |
| Kirby #134           | 37          | 30          | 81.08%        |
| Ridgeley #136        | 70          | 62          | 88.57%        |
| Capon Bridge #137    | 158         | 163         | 103.16%       |
| Keyser #152          | 43          | 34          | 79.07%        |
| <b>TOTALS</b>        | <b>1138</b> | <b>1097</b> | <b>96.40%</b> |

| District 4        |            |            |               |
|-------------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| Unit              | 2023 Goal  | 2023       | % of Goal     |
| Parkersburg #15   | 402        | 392        | 97.51%        |
| Spencer #21       | 29         | 24         | 82.76%        |
| Pt. Pleasant #23  | 227        | 220        | 96.92%        |
| Tyler County #48  | 42         | 38         | 90.48%        |
| Sistersville #67  | 56         | 36         | 64.29%        |
| New Haven #140    | 143        | 128        | 89.51%        |
| Williamstown #159 | 89         | 76         | 85.39%        |
| <b>TOTALS</b>     | <b>988</b> | <b>914</b> | <b>92.51%</b> |

| District 6    |            |            |               |
|---------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| Unit          | 2023 Goal  | 2023       | % of Goal     |
| Welch #8      | 55         | 41         | 74.55%        |
| Bluefield #9  | 31         | 22         | 70.97%        |
| Beckley #32   | 33         | 19         | 57.58%        |
| Gary #38      | 97         | 84         | 86.60%        |
| Cowen #62     | 23         | 18         | 78.26%        |
| Richwood #97  | 30         | 28         | 93.33%        |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>269</b> | <b>212</b> | <b>78.81%</b> |

The SPIRIT is emailed to all **Unit Contacts** and any **Unit Officers or member** with an email address, and has asked for the Spirit to be emailed to them.

**All Department Officers, Department Chairmen, District Presidents/Vice Presidents, Past Department Presidents** with email addresses. Spirits are posted monthly on the website: [www.wvaux.org](http://www.wvaux.org)  
Unit Presidents **with no email contact** will receive a free copy by mail.

*Subscription will Cost \$18.00*

*Runs August through July Each Year*

**MAIL TO:**

**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of West Virginia  
2172 Grandview Road  
Moundsville, WV 26041**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS OR PO BOX: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

**HILTON GARDEN INN PRE-REGISTRATION FORM**  
**2024 MEMBERSHIP WORKSHOP SEPTEMBER 16 2023**  
**DUE INTO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AUGUST 31, 2023**

**UNIT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **UNIT #** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAMES OF MEMBERS ATTENDING**

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**REGISTRATION FEE \$15.00**

**YOU MAY PAY IN ADVANCE OR PAY AT THE DOOR**

**HILTON GARDEN INN ROOM RESERVATIONS SEPTEMBER 2024 WORKSHOP**

**LINK TO RESERVE ROOMS COPY AND PASTE IN BROWSER**

**<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/ckbgigi-hilton-garden-inn-clarksburg>**

**GROUP NAME WV AMERICAN LEGION**

**CHECK IN SEPTEMBER 14, 2023**

**CHECK OUT SEPTEMBER 16, 2023**

**HILTON GARDEN INN CLARKSBURG**

**606 EMILY DRIVE**

**CLARKSBURG WV 26301**

**PHONE # 304-326-9200**

**Booking rate \$99.00**

**Includes Breakfast for 2 people**

**(NOTE: The page will also allow to adjust check-in and check-out dates)**

**IF MORE THAN ONE PERSON STAYING IN ROOM, PLEASE PUT A SECOND  
NAME DOWN FOR CHECK IN**

**Cut-off date is September 7, 2023 all unused rooms will be released after that date**

## Call To Department Fall Meetings

September 15-16, 2023

### Hilton Garden Inn Clarksburg WV

This is a notice to all concerned about the Finance Committee Meeting and the Department Fall Executive Board Meeting. The purpose of these meetings are to set up the administrative year for our Department for 2022-2023.

#### September 15, 2023—Friday Meeting Room 1 (Rhododendron Room)

**1:00 pm**—Finance Meeting—**The three members of the Department Finance Committee**

Department President—ex-officio member without vote

Department Secretary/Treasurer—ex-officio without vote

Purpose of this meeting is setting up budget for this administrative year to be ratified by the Department Executive Committee.

**4:00 pm**—Membership Committee—**Department President, Department Membership Chairman  
Department Vice Presidents, District Vice Presidents**

**5:00 pm**—Rhododendron Girls State, Inc. Executive Board Meeting—5 Board of Incorporators, Department President, 6 District Representatives, Girls State Finance Officer, Treasurer, Secretary, Registrar, Director and Assistant Director

#### September 16, 2023—Saturday Meeting Room 1 (Rhododendron Room)

**5:00 pm**—American Legion Auxiliary, Department of West Virginia, Inc. Executive Board Meeting

According to Department Constitution: Article VII, Executive Committee: Section 1: Department Executive Committee which shall be composed of the Department President, Department First Vice President, Department Second Vice President, Department Secretary/Treasurer, Department Chaplain, Department Historian, National Executive Committeewoman, the eight District Presidents, all Past Department Presidents, and Chairmen of all Standing Committees (Americanism, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Children & Youth, Community Service, Constitution & Bylaws, Education, Finance, Girls State, Junior Activities, Leadership, Legislative, Membership, National Security, Past President's Parley, Poppy, Public Relations, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. (Bylaws, Article IV, Committees, Section 2).

Section 2: All members of standing committees, **exclusive of the chairmen**, may attend Executive Committee meetings **with the privilege of discussion with no vote.**

Section 3: Any member in good standing may attend the Executive Committee Meeting **with the privilege of discussion but without vote.**

#### September 16, 2023—Saturday Workshop Meeting Rooms 1 and 2

**Registration**—8:00 am to 9:00 am (**\$15.00**) each **Session:** 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Purpose of this session is for instruction to Units/members/Officers and to announce the membership program for 2023-2024 year. There will be some different items for all to enjoy. **ALL AUXILIARY MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THIS WORKSHOP.** Good tool for learning if you want to help with leadership in your Unit, in your District and on Department level.

**Travel Allowances:** Travel allowances will be paid by Department to **all Department Officers, District Presidents, Department Finance Chairman, and Department Parliamentarian** that attend Department Executive Board Meeting. They will be allowed one day per diem (\$60) plus (if eligible) mileage as per Standing Rule #1. If not spending the night will receive \$20.00 plus (if eligible) mileage. (as per Department Budget)

**District Vice Presidents** that attend the Membership Workshop. They will be allowed one day per diem (\$60) plus (if eligible) and mileage. If not spending the night, will receive \$20 plus mileage. (as per Department Budget)



**Fall Membership Workshop  
2023 Agenda  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Tentative Schedule  
Meeting Room 1 and 2**

**8:00 –9:00 Registration**

**Lobby**

**9:00 Junior Meeting**

**Welcome**

**Prayer**

**Moment of Silence**

**Pledge**

**National Anthem**

**Preamble**

**Mission State**

**Debbie Michael, President**

**Stephanie Handley, Chaplain**

**Debbie Michael, President**

**Paulette Anderson, Americanism Chairperson**

**Kitty Kelly-Smoot, Music Chairperson**

**Lisa Cadwallader, Constitution & Bylaws**

**Lisa Cadwallader, Constitution & Bylaws**

**9:15 POW/MIA Ceremony**

**Stephanie Handley, Chaplain**

**9:30 Membership Team**

**Lynda Lancaster-Loyd, Membership Chairperson**

**Laura Clark, Dept. 1st Vice**

**Kimberly Mellie, Dept. 2nd Vice**

**Six District Vice Presidents**

**10:30 Department Action Plan & Question and Answers  
On Programs and Forms**

**Past & Current Department Chairmen**

**11:30 LUNCH**

**1:00 Competition Questions & Answers—Auxiliary Programs  
& Forms**

**Past & Current Department Chairmen**

**1:30 Special Project**

**Debbie Michael, President**

**1:45 Secretary Remarks**

**Susan Brown, Secretary/Treasurer**

**2:00 Questions & Answers**

**2:15 Auction**

**Survey Sheets**

**Closing Prayer**

**Adjournment**

**4:00 Fall Executive Board**

**Have a Safe Trip Home**



***“BETTY REA’S PURSE AUCTION”***  
***SATURDAY September 16, 2023***  
***Membership/Leadership Workshop***  
***HILTON GARDEN INN CLARKSBURG WV***



***Please donate a new or gently used purse***  
***Filled with surprises!!!!***

***Proceeds to benefit President Debbie’s Special Project***  
***“Rhododendron Girls State”***

***DROP OFF FRIDAY EVENING OR BRING SATURDAY MORNING***

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**HOMELESS VETERANS  
STAND DOWN**

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2023      10 AM - 2 PM**  
**624 Ninth Street, Huntington, West Virginia**

**Attention Community Partners!**

**A table and two chairs will be provided**

**Plan to bring a tent**

**Let us know if you need electricity**

**Please consider bringing goodies and a door prize!**

*Proudly hosted by*

**Hershel "Woody" Williams VA Medical Center  
Community Resource and Referral Center  
VA Homeless Veterans Program**

*Fowl Play*  
**Black and White Photography**  
By Caryn Cash

U.S. Army veteran Caryn Cash served as a combat medic. She captured her photograph while her neighbor, Alexander, was outside talking to his chickens. Cash said they were right there, like they were listening, and then Alexander picked them both up.

Cash thought it would be a cute picture and could surprise Alexander's mom with it. Editing the photo into a black and white version gave it the nostalgic feel she wanted.

"It makes my heart smile," she said of the photo. "I feel like it shows how the world used to be — before cell phones and video games — just a kid, outside, enjoying the things, animals, family members around him. One person told me, 'I know the story just by looking at this picture.'"

Like other veterans, Cash has been helped by the arts in many ways.

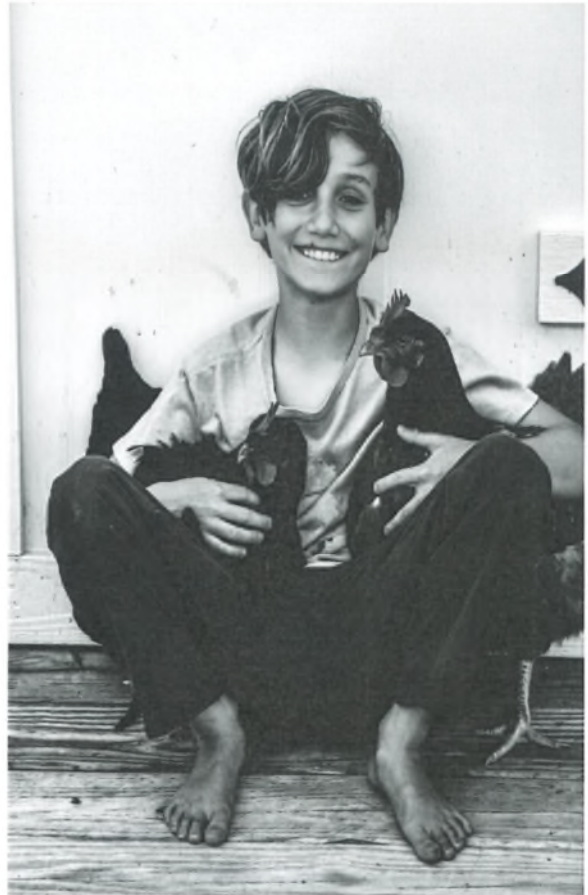
"Participating in photography helps me by allowing me to have a creative outlet," she said.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities use the creative arts as one form of rehabilitative treatment to help veterans recover from and cope with physical and emotional trauma. The American Legion Auxiliary has been co-presenter of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival since 2000.



For more information about NVCAF,  
visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

[www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org)



**Thanks so much for your  
monetary donation to  
my special project  
this year!**

*Vickie Koutz*

**Vickie Koutz  
American Legion Auxiliary  
National President  
2022-2023**