



The Auxiliary Spirit



Volume 37

October 2023

Issue 3



American Legion Auxiliary
2023-2024

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

Colors—Red/White/Blue

Flower— Rose

Hello to all!

National Convention was an amazing experience. The patriotism and enthusiasm in one room with so many people was beautiful!

What a wonderful time at Fall Boards. Thank you so much for all who attended. I hope you enjoyed yourself and learned a few things. I know I did. My sincere appreciation to my great team of officers and my amazing Membership Chairman, Lynda and our membership team, Laura, Kim and the District Vices. You all rocked it! A special thanks to Christy and Jill for serving as my Sgt at arms and to Kim for standing in as our chaplain. A great big thanks to my chauffeur, Debbie Fox and Irene Weber for her loving support. Love you gals!

The “Betty Rae” Purse auction was so much fun and a huge success thanks to you and our auctioneer team of Beth, Rosemary and the vices. Great job, ladies! We could feel Betty in the room with us.

Remember, membership is the job of all members. Let’s help our department reach goal this year. Lynda and I do not want to wear a Wisconsin t shirt at the National Convention. lol Please start now with dedication to retaining the current members and gaining those new members. I would love it if everyone could sign up one new member. Some would join if they were only asked. Sign all those daughters and granddaughters. They make thoughtful Christmas gifts as well as growing your unit’s membership. We all probably hear “I don’t want to join because I don’t want to attend meetings.” Tell them that just paying their dues is supporting the resolutions addressed in Congress that help our Veterans. We are ALA TEAM WV! We can do this!

Keep our Military and Veterans in the for front and “BE THE ONE” to help, if needed.

If you want to come to my homecoming (Sunday, Oct. 22 12:30), just text or email me and I will add you to the list.

Units, please sell those Ways & Means tickets. If you didn’t get any, contact Susan, our Department Secretary. We need to sell these. They, too, make wonderful Christmas gifts.

Contact me if I can help you.

6th District

See you Saturday, September 23

1st District

See you Saturday, October 7

“LET’S BE PATRIOTIC”

Hugs to all!

Department President
Debbie Michael
304-839-7721
katndebbie@gmail.com

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 District -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.

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

ALA MIS system—if your unit wishes to try the system. Please notify this office by letter or email that your unit wishes to do so. I will get back with you for further information.

Department headquarters' email was once again hacked. The Department lost all email addresses and emails. The hackers clean us out. Please inform your unit members that if they were getting a "Spirit" and now they are not that is what happened. Have them email department or call.—Thanks!

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.

REMINDER TO ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN OR ANYONE WISHING TO PUT A NEWS ARTICLE IN THE SPIRIT—ARTICLES CAN NOT BE ANY LONGER THAT 200 WORDS. I WILL NEED TO RETURN YOUR ARTICLES TO YOU FOR CORRECTIONS. THANK YOU

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

Mail Call

Pam Rinker of Petersburg Unit #78 fiancé Sheldon Miller III recently passed. Please remember she in our prayers. Card maybe sent to

Pamela Rinker
1437 Franklin Pike
Petersburg WV 26847-8031

2024 Fall Conferences Schedule

1st District Oct 7 Paden City #86
3rd District Nov 4 Buckhannon #7
4th District Oct 29 New Haven #140
5th District Nov 4 Barboursville #177
10th District Oct 21 Berkeley Spring

Directory Update

Jill Davis phone number on page 22 is wrong please change to 304-856-1895 or 540-303-6907

Nichole Shepherd ask that the following email address be used;
wvala60@hotmail.com
304-702-1427

Savanna Kauffman zip code is 25414

"Most people are willing to take the Sermon on the Mount as flag to sail under, but few will use it as a rudder by which to steer."

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

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

**Membership Chairman**

Happy Fall Y'all -- Wow, what a great turn-out for the Membership Workshop and hope that everyone that attended had a wonderful time and learned a few new things! Was very pleased that we had several first-time attendees. Please be sure to look at the handouts that were in the folders and membership incentives and awards for the year.

Our Department Vice Presidents will be checking in with the District Vice Presidents to see how they can help you in any way this membership year. If your Unit needs anything please contact your District Vice President.

Our first Target Date is December 7th. We still have several Units that have not turned in any memberships. I know next month will be different. Let's make President Debbie 100% membership!

Lynda Lancaster-Loyd  
"Uncle Sam"  
Membership Chairman



**Department 1st Vice President**

Hello Stripes! What a GREAT membership workshop in Clarksburg and I am so excited that many of you were able to attend! It was very informative and the main thing that I took away was that EVERYONE is responsible for membership. The goal, purpose, and mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is one of the best hidden secrets and we need to do a better job in recruiting, retaining, and engaging with our members. Have you reached out to your current and past members and simply just invited them to a meeting or invited them to a function? Have you picked up the phone to just "check on someone?" We need to get back to the basics of building relationships and rapport with our members. These 3 units are the leaders in their districts as of the 15th of September:

3rd District: Shinnston Unit #31 with 31.46% of goal!

5th District: Huntington Unit #16 with 24.62% of goal!

10th District: Capon Bridge Unit #167 with 45.51% of goal!

As a whole, the stripes are sitting at 15.03% of goal and we have a target of 50% by December 15th! As a reminder, all of your unit officers need to have their renewals in by November 1st!

Thank you for all you do!

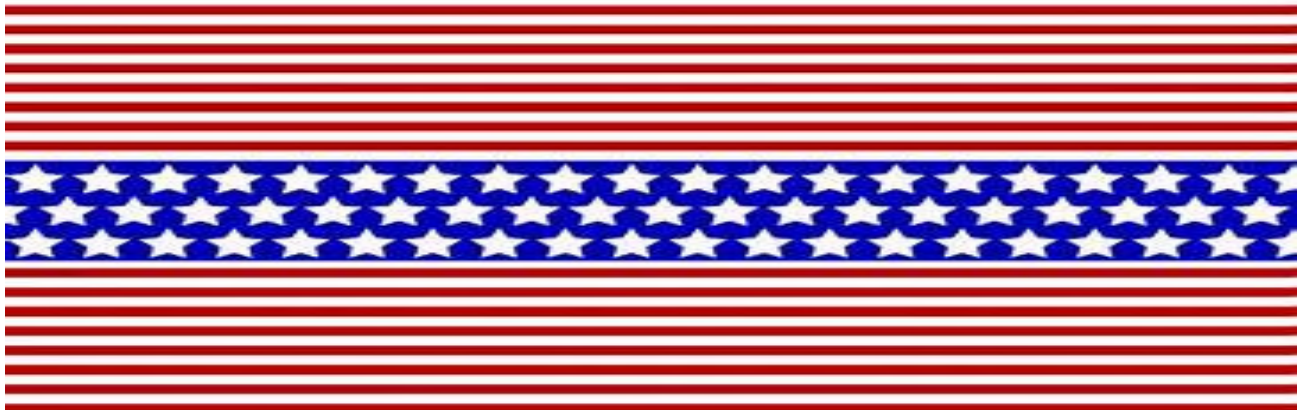
Laura Clark  
1st Vice President  
304-939-3607  
laurakclark716@gmail.com

**Department 2nd Vice President**

Hello all! We had a wonderful time at the Fall Workshop! We missed those that didn't attend. Let's get our Stars "glowing". We have a competition with the Stripes. As most of you know I teach full time and help coach Soccer for my high school (2x State Champions, hopefully on our way to our third). This is my busiest time of year! If I can't make it to your Fall District Conferences, I will definitely make it to your Spring Conferences. If you need anything, please feel free to email or text me.

kmellie@comcast.net or 304-216-9943  
In the Spirit of Service NOT Self, may God Bless us all.

Kim Mellie  
Department 2nd Vice



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

Hello everyone,

First off I want to thank President Debbie for the great workshop! I personally had lots of fun and learned several things. The Betty Rae Purse auction was loads of fun.

5th District is on a roll with their goals. Huntington Unit 16 is coming in first with 24.62% wow this is great! Next is Charleston Unit 20 with 12%. With this being said please do not hold or wait to get your membership in, the faster they are in the faster we make our goals.

5th District Conference will be hosted by Barboursville Post 177 on Saturday, November 4th. Registration will begin at 9 am. I hope to see each of you there.

If anyone is interested in a membership drive please contact me. We plan to set up at the WV Pumpkin Festival with others in the American Legion Family. We would love to have you with us!

Kimberly Evans  
5th District Vice President  
304-710-6078  
knevans2014@gmail.com

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

Hello all! We had a wonderful time at the Fall Workshop! We missed those that didn't attend. Let's get our Stars "glowing". We have a competition with the Stripes. As most of you know I teach full time and help coach Soccer for my high school (2x State Champions, hopefully on our way to our third). This is my busiest time of year! If I can't make it to your Fall District Conferences, I will definitely make it to your Spring Conferences. If you need anything, please feel free to email or text me.

kmellie@comcast.net or 304-216-9943  
In the Spirit of Service NOT Self, may God Bless us all.  
Kim Mellie  
Department 2nd Vice

### ***6th District Vice President***

It was great to network with everyone at our Fall Membership Workshop in Bridgeport.

We all enjoyed sharing information, ideas, and going out to lunch and dinner together.

Reports from our District 6 units, indicates that they are preparing for Veterans Day activities. One of our units supports the Bingo nights, another activities is they purchased tires for a veteran for his vehicles and they also purchased wood for a veteran for the winter.

**DATES to REMEMBER:**  
February 9-10, 2024. Mid-Winter.  
Oglebay Park Wheeling, WV  
Fall has arrived make sure to collect our dues and not be tricked by our membership goblins  
Mary Spence  
6th District Vice President

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

A great Fall Workshop held this past weekend at Hilton Garden Inn in Bridgeport. Thanks President Debbie and Membership Chairman Lynda Lancaster-Loyd. There were only 4 Units represented from our District. Plans of Actions were given out to Units and District Reps. I will have the Units who didn't attend at our Fall Conference.

If you haven't registered for the Conference yet please send in asap. Send Credentials to Rhonda Best. Remember the date for the Conference is October 7th in Paden City. If you are traveling south on Rt. 2, go through the light and you will see the Paden City Library on the left. The Senior Citizen Bldg. is behind it. You can park in the United Methodist Church parking lot. If you are traveling north it is right before the light on the right. There is only one light in Paden City. Registration is 9:00-10:00.

I would like to invite any Department Officer and/or Chairman to attend. Please let me know if you are attending as soon as you can.  
Paulette Anderson  
1st District President  
pauletteanderson2848@gmail.com

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

Thank you for such a wonderful and informative membership workshop. It was wonderful to see everyone of the family again as well as the new family members that we got to meet.

There are a few units that do not have their mandatory funds in, if you have not paid them, let be sure that we get them paid.

District 10 has 2 bets with District 1- Bet 1- We have to make 50 percent before December 15th, if not we owe Department Debbie's Special Project (Girl's State) \$25.00. Bet 2 - We need to make 75% first or we owe Department Debbie's Special Project (Girl's State) \$25.00. Let's not hold our membership. We as all units make District 10, please encourage your members to pay and as membership Chairperson get them into to Department.

Our District 10 conference is October 21 at Berkely Springs, please do the best you can to make it as all conferences, conventions, and workshops are very informative and at lot of knowledge is gotten from these.

One last thing, there is a lot of bickering about people being unkind, sassy, and just nasty to other members. Remember we are all a TEAM! Everyone is learning, no matter how much of a seasoned member you are, lets just be kind and gentle when we answer questions. No matter the position that you hold, you are no better than the new member.

Jill Davis  
Tenth District Vice President



### 5th District President

It was so great seeing everyone at the membership workshop this month and thank you to President Debbie Michael and Membership Chairman, Lynda Lancaster-Lloyd for a very productive and informative session. Please make sure that you are visiting the ALA National Website for the updated Plan of Works for each of your committees. You will find wonderful ideas on how to further the "aims and purposes of the American Legion..." on the website and feel to reach out to your Department Chairman as well for any insights, suggestions, or questions you may have, I am excited to work alongside 5th District Vice President, Kim Evans, on ideas on how to increase and retain our members. Please MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Saturday, November 4th for our Fall 5th District Conference at Barboursville 177. More information will become available soon and I will be sure to get that to your unit presidents and post on the 5th District Auxiliary Facebook Page. Thank you for all you do and see you in November!  
Laura Clark  
5th District President  
304-939-3607  
laurakclark716@gmail.com

### 6th District President

Hello To All  
Hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather we are having now. I finally woke up to get something in the Spirit this month. Hope everyone is staying well.  
Our Fall Meeting is being hosted by Bluefield Unit 9, I just received the information from them. The meeting will be held at the First Christian Church, 2200 Bland Road, Bluefield, WV 24701. The registration will be from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM and the meeting will start at 10:00 AM. The cost of the luncheon will be \$15.00 per person. Hope to see a lot of people in attendance.  
I hope to see a lot of members from Sixth District at the workshop in Bridgeport, WV this coming Saturday The 16th of September. I am sure we will learn a lot of new things that are going on since some members went to the Convention in Charlotte, NC the last of August so I hope they will go over the things they learned.  
Hope everyone is working on membership. I am looking forward to seeing our new Department President again. Please if any of our Units in Sixth District would let me know what they are doing in their Units I will be glad to get it in the Spirit.  
Please keep everyone in our prayer our Veterans and our Legion and Auxiliary Members, Our Sons, Our riders and all the sick people.  
So unit next time God Bless everyone.  
Peggy Swartz, President  
Sixth District

### 10th District President

Happy Autumn Everyone!!!  
What a great Fall workshop held in Bridgeport. It was so nice to see everyone and for those that could not be there we missed you. I encourage as always, if you are able to come to this you should do so. There is a lot of work put into it and you will learn so much.  
It is always important to go to Conferences, Workshops and Conventions because there is so much you can take back to your Units to help with growth.  
I am so happy to hear of the accomplishments of the Units. We do make a difference for our Veterans and their families. Keep up the good work.  
I recognize with all holidays coming up there is little time to volunteer but even a share of events on Facebook or word of mouth to the community about what we are doing is volunteering.  
Every little thing in the Auxiliary is a big thing and it is appreciated. Remember I am here to help if you need me. Please send correspondence through email and I will get back to you as soon as I can. If I don't write back within a day feel free to send me a friendly reminder. We all get busy and side tracked.  
Diana Teter  
District 10 President  
Dteter40@gmail.com



## *Americanism*

If you missed the 2023-2024 Membership Workshop this past weekend you missed an opportunity to know more about this years' membership, and programs. Thank you Lynda Lancaster-Loyd and President Debbie Michael for a job well done! I attended my first Americanism Zoom meeting of the year on Thursday before leaving for the workshop. A few of the items that were gone over were The Americanism Essay Contest and "Star Spangled Kids" kits that were donated by a grant from the Child Welfare Foundation through The American Legion. I have a limited amount to distribute, and am going to do a "sample" packet for any **unit** that contacts me for one. Please use these items as a launching pad to promote patriotism and educate our youth about the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, and the freedoms unique to our country. If you plan to attend President Debbie's Homecoming I can bring them to you. I will go into the Americanism Essay Contest more next month.

Until then  
Paulette Anderson  
pauletteanderson2848@gmail.com

## *Auxiliary Emergency Fund*

Fellow Auxiliary Members,  
Do you have a plan to keep you and your family safe in the event of a natural disaster? Here are some tips taken from the AEF Blog on the National Website to help you stay safe in the event of a tornado. Have the following items on hand: Fresh batteries and a battery operated TV, radio or internet enabled device to listen to the latest emergency weather information; an emergency kit (including water, non-perishable food and medication); a list of important information, including telephone numbers. Immediately go to a safe location such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar or small interior room on the lowest level of a sturdy building. Stay away from windows, doors and outside walls. Protect yourself by covering your head or neck with your arms and putting materials such as furniture and blankets around or on top of you.

Your best chance for survival is to be like the Boy Scouts and "Be Prepared"! If I can be of assistance to you or your unit in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Blessings,  
Melanie Shambaugh  
AEF Chairman

## *Community Service*

Things Units can help with: ALA members can be part of the city they are located by volunteering to help or serving on a committee. Schools in your area might need help with supplies, you might want to check with the school.

Peggy Swartz, Chairman  
Community Service

## *Children & Youth*

The Children & Youth program emphasizes protecting, caring for, and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans and military families.

The American Legion Auxiliary has three excellent coloring books that can be purchased from Emblem Sales and donated to schools. The coloring books are Have a Safe Halloween, America the Beautiful, and ALA Poppy Coloring Book. The cost is minimal; 100 copies for \$25.

The coloring book that emphasizes Halloween safety for young children and gives additional safety tips for parents is Have a Safe Halloween. It is geared to prekindergarten through second grade. This coloring book should be donated to children before Halloween. Order early—it takes about 2 weeks to receive the coloring books. America the Beautiful illustrates the song written by Katherine Bates and is excellent for grades 3, 4, and 5. America the Beautiful highlights the beauty of our land, inspires pride in our country and our heroes.

The ALA Poppy Coloring Book presents the history of the poppy and "In Flanders Fields" a poem written to honor soldiers killed in battle. Honor and support for veterans is emphasized in this coloring book for grades 3, 4, and 5.

Shirley Davis, Chairman



## *Education*

A big THANK YOU to Roxie Nicholson for filling in for me at Fall Workshop.

Once the National and Department Scholarship application dates have been updated send them to your school contacts asap.

The 5 Scholarships - West Virginia American Legion Auxiliary Department Scholarship Grant, Children of Warriors National Presidents' (online scholarship), Spirit of Youth Scholarship, Junior Auxiliary Loyalty (NOT for high schoolers), Non-Traditional Student Scholarship (NOT for high schoolers) along with any ALA Unit Scholarships. Need help creating a Unit Scholarship Fund, send me an email.

Supporting Give 10 to Education can be done anytime throughout the school year. The suggested donation list can be downloaded from the National ALA website. Keep track of your donations and costs so that you can report the contributions in your annual year-end report.

Earn cash for your schools with Box Tops for Education.

[www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com)

Start preparing for American Education Week November 13-17, 2023. Thank school personnel for all they do (i.e., bus drivers, custodians, cafeteria workers, etc.).

Signup to receive the American Legion's Legislative Action Alerts, and support alerts regarding the GI Bill. Hope everyone has a safe & spooktacular Halloween!

Creativity is intelligence having fun!

Nichole Shepherd  
Education chair  
[wvala60@hotmail.com](mailto:wvala60@hotmail.com)  
304-702-1427

## *Legislative*

All Units, please be prepared to contact your Senators and House members to give input on the bills. I will publish the locations, phones, emails of all when the time comes. As of right now our VA's are battling the Electronic Health Record system called Oracle. It has created many issues. The roll out in 2020 only complicated a Veteran's access to health care. This is unacceptable for the men and women who fought for us. I will keep you posted on the 118th agenda as we get more information. Be prepared to help write, call, and speak up for our Veterans.

May God Bless

Kim Mellie

Legislative Chair

304-216-9943

Advocate Alert

Reach out to your representative in DC and ask them to support the Veterans Service Recognition Act. This act would allow noncitizen service members (24,000) to apply for naturalization during basic training. There are tens of thousands of Veterans who have completed their service yet have not been awarded the citizenship they were promised.

Senator: Shelly Moore Capito - <https://www.capito.senate.gov/contact/office-locations>

Senator: Joe Manchin - <https://www.manchin.senate.gov/contact-joe/email-joe>

House Rep.: Alex Mooney - <https://mooney.house.gov/>

House Rep.: Carol Miller - <https://miller.house.gov/>

## *National Security*

Have you ever asked yourself what can you do for our troops serving our country? Adopt a troop and send military care packages! There are many things to consider when starting a military care package program. For example, the packages have to be mailed to a specific servicemember. Ask around your neighborhood, church, etc., to identify families with deployed loved ones.

What to Send — Here are a few ideas:

Drink mix packets

Pre-packaged, individual-size healthy snacks

Non-perishable, pre-packaged food

Pre-packaged, individually wrapped chocolate candies or bars (mailed during the winter to decrease the chances of the chocolate melting)

Travel-size toiletries Don't forget to check the expiration dates!

Include a brief note in the care package, letting the recipient know that your ALA unit is the sender.

What NOT to Send — There are restrictions on what can be shipped using the U.S. Postal Service. Plus, some international governments prohibit certain products from coming into their countries. Get details at your local post office, or visit [www.USPS.com/ship/shippingrestrictions.htm](http://www.USPS.com/ship/shippingrestrictions.htm)

Get creative and have fun! Our service members will LOVE getting something from home! Make sure you are taking pictures and recording your activities for your end of year reports!

Laura Clark

National Security Chairman

304-030-3607

[laurakclark716@gmail.com](mailto:laurakclark716@gmail.com)



## Poppy

Good morning to all Auxiliary members.

It was nice to see and talk with members at Fall Conference this past Saturday.

I would like to Congratulate Miss Emily Tallman, for submitting her Poppy poster this year. Emily was the Central Division for Grades 10 & 11 winner.

A National Citation was given at Fall Workshop.

The Poppy Plan of Works was given out at Workshop, please contact your local schools about participating in the Poppy Contest.

I received a letter from Norma Tramm, National Poppy Committee Chairman. In it she said that we are now able to use our Poppy Funds, (Welfare Funds) for Honor Flight. If you need my help, call me at 304-592-0247, or email me at: [carlajwilfong@gmail.com](mailto:carlajwilfong@gmail.com). I look forward to working with you this year.

God Bless America and God Bless our Veterans.

Carla Wilfong  
Poppy Chairman.

## Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

First, I want apologize for my report getting cut short at workshop, due to time. But the good news is, we got out an hour earlier this year.

Are you Aware there are 2 parts to the VA program? One is work done in a VACM, the other is Service to Veterans. From the VA&R Guide Revise 2022. "Anything done directly for a veteran outside of a VAMC is considered Service to Veterans"

It use to be that caregivers hours for a family member who was a Veteran did not count. Now they can, from the that same Guide "Caregivers can now be awarded Service to Veterans hours which may accumulate for hour bars for time spend providing care and assistance to veterans and their families if they do not receive PROFESSEIONAL compensation for doing so. If the caregiver lives with veteran, they may be awarded 10 a week. If they do NOT live with the veteran, then they may be awarded 5 hours a week. The onus is placed upon the caregiver to report these hours."

There are two narrative reports for the VA program. One for Service to Veterans and the other is an overall narrative that includes both VAMC and Service to Veterans. Hours and costs are reported on 1 form. Remember actives can be mentioned in multiple program Narratives, however hours and costs can only be recorded in 1 report. That assured there is no double counting when sent to National.

Lisa Cadwallader, Chair  
[Lisac.ala71@gmail.com](mailto:Lisac.ala71@gmail.com)

## Past President's Parley

***Hello Auxiliary Members,  
The National Convention held in  
Charlotte North Carolina this  
year went well. If you have never  
been to one you should plan to go.  
Glad to see everyone at Fall work-  
shop. Red/White/Blue is so patri-  
otic to see. It's nice to have 4 new  
members there for the first time. I  
reported to you at workshop:  
Make sure you send me your PPP  
reports this year with a narrative  
in April. I will remind you when it  
gets closer. The Unit Member of  
the year and Service Woman of  
the year award will NOT be a part  
of the PPP committee, it goes un-  
der Leadership committee.***

***The only award comes to me will  
be Timeless award. Let's make  
this award goes to someone be-  
cause if I remember this award  
has not been awarded for 2/3  
years.***

***Leave you with a quote: "To han-  
dle yourself, use your head; to  
handle others, use your heart."***

***For God and Country  
Savanna Kauffman  
PPP Chairperson***





## *Constitution & Bylaws*

Update from Workshop. I read this email from the National Constitution, Bylaws & Standing Rule Chairman....

Thanks for reaching out. Just to clarify... National will not step in on a Department or Unit issue. Departments and Units are their own entities. Units are in charge of policing themselves. So with all that being said, if a Department wants to review a Units C&B and sign off whether it is correct or not it is the Departments choice. Keep in mind that could put the Department at risk or worse liable depending on what is reviewed in the governing documents. It is totally up to the Department ... I can tell you my Department (Florida) no longer reviews the Units C&B , however we do publish all units C& B's on our website. This way they are available to read and help the unit with any of their questions that may come up. As we both know ... most questions can only be answered according to the Units governing documents .

I'm sorry i could not give you a yes or no just more to think about.

Thanks  
Michele

It was then brought up during the Department Executive Committee meeting. There was discussion, Lynda Lancaster talked about how we are incorporated and that protects the Department. She moved, 2nd by Debbie Fox for the Department to review and sign governing documents and file in Department Headquarters. Motion carried, with only 5 against out of 20 voting members.

Lisa





# American Legion Auxiliary WV Rhododendron Girls State

## *Rhododendron Girls State*

The 2024 Girls State Session will be held June 9-15, 2024 at Davis & Elkins College, in Elkins, West Virginia. The cost once again is \$300 per citizen. Please note that this session will now include six days instead of the five. We have a great program for these young ladies but we need YOU! An informative brochure is currently being designed to gain more interest in our program.

Please start to secure your sponsors now. Please go to your local businesses and organizations to help secure sponsors.

Feel free to use your past citizens in helping to secure sponsorships as well as talking to future citizens.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact your district representative or myself.

Lynda Lancaster-Loyd  
Rhododendron 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 Seventeen \$25.00 winners for August and no \$200 winner. Congratulation to all the winners!

I will have 2024 tickets with me at workshop. If there is a special numbers you wish to have, please call the office and let me know. Price of tickets this year is still \$20.00.

This year there will be a contest for the person and the Unit selling the most tickets. They will receive a gift for their efforts.

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

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


## *August 2023 Ways and Means Winners*

| Name              | #'s | City             | State | Date      | \$\$\$ |
|-------------------|-----|------------------|-------|-----------|--------|
| Charles Alpaugh   | 084 | Romney           | WV    | 8/01/2023 | 25.00  |
|                   | 130 |                  |       | 8/02/2023 |        |
| Brenda Shoemaker  | 765 | Purgitsville     | WV    | 8/03/2023 | 25.00  |
| Sharon Kauffman   | 921 | Martinsburg      | WV    | 8/04/2023 | 25.00  |
| Peggy Miller      | 459 | Elbert           | WV    | 8/05/2023 | 25.00  |
| Kathy Kuykendell  | 754 | Romney           | WV    | 8/07/2023 | 25.00  |
|                   | 835 |                  |       | 8/08/2023 |        |
| Susan Wade        | 031 | Paden City       | WV    | 8/09/2023 | 25.00  |
|                   | 654 |                  |       | 8/10/2023 |        |
| Danielle Davis    | 116 | Capon Bridge     | WV    | 8/11/2023 | 25.00  |
| Betty Lou Chamber | 220 | Cameron          | WV    | 8/12/2023 | 25.00  |
| Bryan Crites      | 614 | Moorefield       | WV    | 8/14/2023 | 25.00  |
| Lisa Baker        | 183 | Washington       | PA    | 8/15/2023 | 25.00  |
|                   | 539 |                  |       | 8/16/2023 |        |
|                   | 569 |                  |       | 8/17/2023 |        |
|                   | 052 |                  |       | 8/18/2023 |        |
|                   | 958 |                  |       | 8/19/2023 |        |
|                   | 035 |                  |       | 8/21/2023 |        |
| Brenda Joseph     | 710 | Wheeling         | WV    | 8/22/2023 | 25.00  |
|                   | 893 |                  |       | 8/23/2023 |        |
| JoAnna Camp       | 515 | Spencer          | WV    | 8/24/2023 | 25.00  |
| Dale Thayer       | 054 | Sutton           | WV    | 8/25/2023 | 25.00  |
|                   | 081 |                  |       | 8/26/2023 |        |
| Bea Golliday      | 104 | Berkeley Springs | WV    | 8/28/2023 | 25.00  |
| Sharon Armentrout | 731 | Webster Springs  | WV    | 8/29/2023 | 25.00  |
| ALA—Unit #137     | 578 | Capon Bridge     | WV    | 8/30/2023 | 25.00  |
| JoAnna Camp       | 730 | Spencer          | WV    | 8/31/2023 | 25.00  |



# October 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

|                                                     |                   |                                                                                           |    |    |                                                                                                                                              |                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                                                   | 2                 | 3                                                                                         | 4  | 5  | 6                                                                                                                                            | 7<br>1st District<br>Auxiliary Fall<br>meeting—<br>Paden City |
| 8                                                   | 9<br>Columbus Day | 10                                                                                        | 11 | 12 | 13<br>                                                    | 14<br>Commander<br>Matt Sampson<br>Homecoming                 |
| 15                                                  | 16<br>Patriot Day | 17                                                                                        | 18 | 19 | 20                                                                                                                                           | 21<br>10th District<br>Fall meeting<br>Berkeley<br>Springs    |
| 22<br>President Deb-<br>bie Michael<br>Homecoming   | 23                | 24                                                                                        | 25 | 26 | 27                                                                                                                                           | 28                                                            |
| 29<br>4th District<br>Fall meeting<br><br>New Haven | 30                | 31<br> |    |    |                                                                                                                                              |                                                               |
|                                                     |                   | Breast Cancer<br>Awareness<br>Month                                                       |    |    | <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Program of Month</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Education<br/>Constitution &amp; Bylaws</i></p> |                                                               |

~~~~~"Let's Be Patriotic"~~~~~

Date 9/14/2023
Department Goal 4994 — Membership to Date— 589
Department Unit 200 Goal 155 — Membership to Date—13

Kim

| District 1 | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| Unit | 2024 Goal | 2024 | % of Goal |
| Wheeling #1 | 23 | 7 | 30.43% |
| Moundsville #3 | 254 | 30 | 11.81% |
| McMechen #5 | 25 | 0 | 0% |
| Weirton #10 | 68 | 1 | 1.4% |
| Cameron #18 | 130 | 11 | 8.46% |
| New Martinsville #28 | 104 | 24 | 23.08% |
| Wellsburg #34 | 30 | 1 | 3.3% |
| Follansbee #45 | 50 | 1 | 2.0% |
| Pine Grove #81 | 75 | 0 | 0% |
| Paden City #86 | 80 | 13 | 16.25% |
| Wheeling #89 | 20 | 1 | 5% |
| Newell #114 | 20 | 2 | 10% |
| Hundred #120 | 35 | 0 | 0% |
| Chester #121 | 136 | 4 | 2.94% |
| TOTALS | 1050 | 95 | 9.05% |

| District 4 | | | |
|-------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| Unit | 2024 Goal | 2024 | % of Goal |
| Parkersburg #15 | 394 | 53 | 13.45% |
| Spencer #21 | 29 | 6 | 20.7% |
| Pt. Pleasant #23 | 225 | 12 | 5.33% |
| Tyler County #48 | 42 | 0 | 0% |
| Sistersville #67 | 48 | 0 | 0% |
| New Haven #140 | 135 | 4 | 2.96% |
| Williamstown #159 | 85 | 11 | 12.9% |
| TOTALS | 958 | 86 | 8.98% |

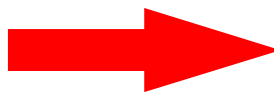
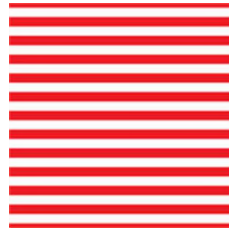
| District 6 | | | |
|---------------|------------|----------|--------------|
| Unit | 2024 Goal | 2024 | % of Goal |
| Welch #8 | 45 | 1 | 2.2% |
| Bluefield #9 | 27 | 1 | 3.7% |
| Beckley #32 | 25 | 1 | 4.0% |
| Gary #38 | 90 | 0 | 0% |
| Cowen #62 | 23 | 3 | 13.0% |
| Richwood #97 | 33 | 0 | 0% |
| TOTALS | 243 | 6 | 2.47% |

Laura

| District 3 | | | |
|--------------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| Unit | 2024 Goal | 2024 | % of Goal |
| Buckhannon #7 | 40 | 10 | 25% |
| Clarksburg #13 | 54 | 7 | 12.9% |
| Elkins #29 | 115 | 45 | 4.35% |
| Shinnston #31 | 267 | 84 | 31.46% |
| Braxton County #33 | 30 | 12 | 4% |
| Bridgeport #68 | 62 | 2 | 3.2% |
| Belington #96 | 20 | 0 | 0% |
| Pickens #122 | 22 | 0 | 0% |
| Morgantown #174 | 102 | 6 | 5.88% |
| TOTALS | 712 | 126 | 17.75% |

| District 5 | | | |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| Unit | 2024 Goal | 2024 | % of Goal |
| Huntington #16 | 130 | 32 | 24.62% |
| Logan #19 | 22 | 0 | 0% |
| Charleston #20 | 25 | 3 | 12% |
| St. Albans #73 | 32 | 3 | 9.5% |
| Ceredo-Kenova #93 | 215 | 10 | 4.65% |
| So. Charleston #94 | 13 | 1 | 7.7% |
| Hamlin #111 | 40 | 1 | 2.5% |
| Milton #139 | 75 | 15 | 5% |
| Barboursville #177 | 154 | 10 | 6.49% |
| TOTALS | 706 | 75 | 10.62% |

| District 10 | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|------------|---------------|
| Unit | 2024 Goal | 2024 | % of Goal |
| Martinsburg #14 | 77 | 2 | 2.6% |
| Franklin #30 | 20 | 0 | 0% |
| Piedmont #52 | 20 | 0 | 0% |
| Berkeley Springs #60 | 187 | 19 | 10.16% |
| Charles Town #63 | 40 | 0 | 0% |
| Moorefield #64 | 89 | 7 | 7.87% |
| Charles Town #71 | 146 | 40 | 27.40% |
| Petersburg #78 | 71 | 2 | 2.82% |
| Romney #91 | 164 | 31 | 18.90% |
| Paw Paw #128 | 44 | 2 | 4.55% |
| Kirby #134 | 35 | 7 | 2% |
| Ridgeley #136 | 70 | 2 | 2.9% |
| Capon Bridge #137 | 167 | 76 | 45.51% |
| Keyser #152 | 40 | 0 | 0% |
| Totals | 1170 | 188 | 16.07% |



**Stripes
Team
Goal— 2588
To Date—389
15.03%**

**Membership
Chair
Uncle Sam**



**Stars
Team
Goal 2251
To Date 187
8.31%**





American Legion Auxiliary
Homecoming for
Department President
Debbie Michael

Sunday, October 22, 2023

Social Hour: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Dinner: 1:30 p.m. No cost

Followed by a short program

“Let’s Be Patriotic”

Dress Casual – Military or Patriotic shirts

At some time during this year please consider
donating to Debbie’s Special Project
Rhododendron Girls State.

Checks can be made payable to
ALA Department Headquarters
(earmarked RGS)

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA

Homecoming Banquet for
Department Commander
Matt Sampson

Saturday, Oct 14, 2023

Mountaineer Post 174
3470 Earl Core Rd, Morgantown WV

EVENT

5 PM Social Hour
6 PM Dinner
7 PM Program
8 - 11 PM Karaoke

MENU

Fried chicken
Pulled Pork
Various side dishes
Sheet cake

Cost: \$20 per person

Includes 2 drink tickets

Attire: business casual

RSVP by Oct 2nd w/payment to Post 174,
ATTN: Commander's Homecoming, PO Box 43,
Dellslow WV 26531

Questions: ALMountaineerPost174@gmail.com

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
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: _____