



# The Auxiliary Spirit



Volume 37

December 2023

Issue 5



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 my Stars and Stripes!

Congratulations to all those units who have reached or exceeded the 50% goal. Please don't let up. Keep getting those former and new members. Keep adding those junior members, also.

As I have said before, Lynda and I don't want to wear a Wisconsin shirt at National Convention. Please help us. Remember, Department membership is a TEAM effort!

It was great seeing everyone at the 10th District Conference. Thanks to Unit 60 President, Nichole and her team for a beautiful day. Also, a special thanks to 10th District President, Diane and her officers for a wonderful meeting.

Thank you to all who attended my homecoming. I was overwhelmed to see the huge attendance. Thank you so much for the wonderful gifts and the donations to my special project (RGS). You all are the best!

More thanks go out to New Haven Unit 140 for hosting a fantastic 4th District Conference. 4th District President Patsy, you rocked it! The hospitality was amazing. Great job to all.

And finally, thank you to Buckhannon Unit 7 for hosting the 3rd District Conference. It was great gathering with familiar and new faces. 3rd District Vice, April did an amazing job along with the other officers. Congratulations, 3rd District President Kim for your team's win!

I would like to remind everyone to please send me or my Scrapbook Chairman any pictures that you might have to use for my scrapbook. Thanks!

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

Here's wishing all a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. Reach out to those military members and check on our Veterans. BE THE ONE to ask how they are doing!

As always...“LET'S BE PATRIOTIC”

Hugs to all!

Department President  
Debbie Michael

katndebbie@gmail.com  
304-839-7721

## 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-Melinda Paxton  
5th District -Kimberly Evans  
6th District-Mary Spence  
10th District-Jill Davis





# Department Headquarters



*Directory Updates:*  
 Follansbee Unit #45  
 President Pam Campbell 46 Harley Dr  
 Colliers WV 26035  
 Carla Lada-Hull 207 Marquette Ave  
 Follansbee WV 26037  
 Email—cjjacobs232@gmail.com

**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.

When you are doing a name change or address change for a member. I need you to use a "Membership Data Form" and return to headquarters. Thanks!

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 with further information.

**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**

**Notice to Units: Now is the time to make changes to the Unit's remit to person and address. Please inform the office in writing if you need to.**



**Gift Shop Dates**  
 Beckley VA—No Date  
 Clarksburg VA—Nov 30th & Dec 1  
 Huntington VA—Dec 4th & 5th  
 Martinsburg VA—Dec 8th & 9th

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 THAN 200 WORDS. I WILL NEED TO RETURN YOUR ARTICLES 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.

## Mail Call

Judy McAllister, Wellsburg #34 secretary husband passed on September 12th, please send cards to:  
 Judy McAllister  
 41-12th Street  
 Wellsburg WV 26070

Susan Wade, PDP brother Brent Neff recently passed away. Cards can be sent to:  
 Susan Wade  
 303 N 1st Ave  
 Paden City, WV 26159

Joy Potts, Unit #71 will be having heart surgery in the near future and her husband Wayne is home from the hospital. Please keep them both in your prayers.

Cards may be sent to:  
 Joy Potts  
 407 N. Mildred St  
 Charles Town, WV 25414

## Department Headquarters

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

Phone 304-845-7410  
[alawvsec@frontier.com](mailto:alawvsec@frontier.com)

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

**Department Website:**  
[www.wvvaux.org](http://www.wvvaux.org)

**Rhododendron Girls State Website**  
[www.wvgirlsstate.org](http://www.wvgirlsstate.org)

**The American Legion**  
**Department of WV**  
[wvlegion@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:wvlegion@suddenlinkmail.com)

**American Legion Auxiliary**  
**National Website**  
[ALAforveterans.org](http://ALAforveterans.org)

## 2023/2024 Spring Convention Schedules

1st District Apr 20 Wheeling Unit #1  
 3rd District—TBA (J)  
 4th District Apr 4 Parkersburg Post #15(J)  
 5th District Mar 16 Ceredo-Kenova Post #93 (J)  
 6th District Apr 27 Beckley Unit #32  
 10th District Mar 30 Capon Bridge Post #137 (J)

“Man has his will, but woman has her way.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

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

**Membership Chairman**

Fabulous job – Keep up the great work! Membership Target Date is December 15 with 50% of goal. We have 30 Units that have already reached this target: #1, #3, #7, #8, #10, #15, #16, #18, #21, #23, #28, #31, #33, #45, #60, #62, #63, #64, #68, #71, #81, #86, #97, #121, #122, #134, #136, #137, #139, #174. Twelve Units are so close!!! I'm sure by December 15th you will have met this target.

I have contacted both Department Vice Presidents to check with their Districts to see what they can to help. We have a couple of Units are less than 10% so any help they can provide please feel free to reach out to the district vice presidents, department vice presidents or myself. We are behind from this time last year and we are at 48.24% of

goal. Remember our challenge from Wisconsin about wearing t-shirts from the winning department. Well, we have some catching up to do as they are in the lead in Central Division with 59.94%. I know you don't want President Debbie or I wearing another state's t-shirt, do you? On the bright side, if we win, they will have to wear a West Virginia shirt. That sounds a lot better!

We are doing great things and let us be loud and proud! I wish for a very happy, safe remember the reason for the Season.

Lynda Lancaster-

Loyd

Membership Chairman



**Department 1st Vice President**

I can't believe that the holidays are already here and I hope that you and your families have a wonderful holiday season. I am so proud of the Stripes team (3rd, 5th, and 10th Districts) for already achieving our first target of 50% by December 15th! As of November 15th, we have reached 53.78% of our goal and we all need to keep going strong! There are still a couple of units who have not processed membership applications and remember that as soon as you get a new member, send it in as soon as possible. We have 15 units who have achieved 50% or more of target and big congrats to the following units who are leading their districts:

3rd District- Buckhannon Unit #7: 75%

5th District- Huntington Unit #16: 64.61%

10th District- Charles Town Unit #63: 82.50%

Need a gift idea? Membership to the Auxiliary is always the right color, always fits perfect, and has an amazing return on investment!

Happy Holidays!

Laura Clark

Department 1st Vice President

**Department 2nd Vice President**

Hello all!

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. As of 11/2 our membership is growing! Come on Stars we need to compete with the Stripes. We are 8% behind District 3, 5 and 10. Those that have reached their 50% goal....Kudos to you! Keep up the amazing work!

District 1

Wheeling Unit 1 at 65%

Moundsville Unit 3 at 60%

New Martinsville Unit 28 at 62.5 %

Paden City Unit 86 at 66%

District 4

Parkersburg Unit 15...you are almost there at 58%

District 6

Welch Unit 8 at 55.5%

This time of year, is a special time to help people feel included with a welcoming attitude! Spread the Holiday Cheer and try to invite new members to join. Work on ideas to promote our Juniors!

If you need anything please feel free to reach out!

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! Remember our goal is to help our Veterans and Families. Thank you for all you do!

Kim Mellie

Department 2nd Vice President

304-216-9943

**Chaplain**

Hello to everyone,

I would like to ask our members and units to submit a prayer or prayers to be placed in Department Debbie's prayer book.

"If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader." – Dolly Parton

Stephanie Handley

Department Chaplain

stephaniehandley@msn.com



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

Hello 1st District members! Wow, where did October go? Holidays are coming up quick. I know everyone is busy, busy, this time of year. Don't forget about membership. Please send it in, even if it's just one. Every ONE counts! We and 10th District have both surpassed our target goal for Dec 15th of 50%! Yaay to all! Now working toward that 75%. Hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving! Gobble till you wobble!

God Bless  
Christy Bland  
1st District VP

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

Hello to all our District 6 members. Hoping everyone had a safe and healthy Thanksgiving. I hope that our November goes out like our last few weeks so we can get our Christmas decorations up. Does your home look like mine-- a shared holiday, 1/2 Thanksgiving and 1/2 Christmas?

Unit 8 supported our veterans during our annual Veterans Day parade on Saturday, November 11, 2023. Unit 8 prepared and cooked a dinner on the night before our Veterans Day parade hosting our Veterans Day guest speaker Lt. Col. Matthew Wimmer, Commander of United States Space Force. We also were active with the Businessmen's Luncheon following the parade. Patriotic pictures colored by school children were collected from our local elementary school and placed in a store front window as a display of patriotism. Our March 15, 2024 membership target goal is 75% of all dues collected. Congratulations to Richwood, Cowen, and Welch for having above 50% of goal and collection of dues.

Hope all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends and that you will enjoy your Christmas Holiday Season.

Stay safe.  
Enjoy your holiday.  
Mary Spence  
Vice President  
District 6

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

Fall Conferences are over. Thank you for allowing me to visit...if I haven't been to your District...see you in the Spring!!!

The 3rd District is doing very well in membership. Keep up the great work!! Encourage those granddaughters (and greats) to become members (they also make Super Christmas, Hanakah and Kwanza gifts.) What a great way to get the younger generation involved. Give the gift of Patriotism and Americanism! Don't forget the male spouses of your Veteran members!

As we come to the end of the year, lets get those memberships in before the December 15th Target Date.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter. The 3rd District might have something special up their sleeve. You never know with those "Stars!"

Wishing everyone all the joys of the season and always praying for Peace! For God and Country in the Spirit of Service not Self

April D. Wallace  
3rd District Vice President  
(304) 516-9757 (text only)  
aprilwallace0513@yahoo.com

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

Plans of Action were mailed out to units that didn't attend Fall Conference. Updated information for Follansbee Unit #45 is on the Department Secretary's page in this Spirit. If you are able to attend Gift Shops this year, please do so. They are so rewarding!

1st District will be having a Hospitality Room at the Midwinter Conference. Our District Secretary Rhonda Best will be contacting units soon to give you more information on how you can help.

I hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving. Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season!  
Until next month!  
Paulette Anderson  
1st District President

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

Hello 5th District! It was such a pleasure seeing all who attended the 5th District Fall Conference. A special Thank you to Barboursville Unit 177 for hosting.

We are coming up fast on our First Membership target date December 15th. GREAT job Huntington Unit 16 for first in the District to meet the goal, and sitting at 60% WOW!!! Milton Unit 139 is really close to the goal at 49.33%. With this being said Please DO NOT hold membership dues! Send them in!

I hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving!

--  
Kimberly Evans  
5th District Vice President  
knsevans2014@gmail.com  
304-710-6078

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

Merry Christmas! It is the Holiday Season, not that we should only be kind now but all year. As we go through this holiday season, let's not only remember the veterans that you run into but those MIA and that are abroad.

10th District, we are still in the lead on membership, however 1st District is running close with us. Let's not hold those memberships or transfers. Don't forget to get your new members as well. We have 4 units that are close to 50 percent, 4 units that are close to 75 percent, 2 units that are almost at 90 percent. Piedmont and Keyser, looks like you guys are just now starting to get membership in. One thing that may help is to reach out to your members via phone, email, or mail and just a friendly reminder may help. In our State, 10th district we are running close to 3rd as well, they have us just by a few, let us show them all that we are the best and we can come out ahead of all districts.

Please if you need my help with anything just reach out. I am looking forward to mid-winter and hope to see a lot of you there. I hope you have a very Merry and Blessed Christmas. Don't forget to thank a vet!

Jill Davis

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

Happy, Happy Holidays!  
Please try to remember our Veterans and their families during this season. Awesome job District 3 as we have reached our 50% goal before December even came around!  
Keep up the amazing work.  
Shout out to  
Buchannon #7 and Shinnston #31 and Braxton #33 who are over their goal! Remember to visit a Veteran in the hospital, nursing home, etc. Check on them and their families and Be The One to talk to if need be.  
Thank to everyone who helped make District 3 Fall Conference a success. My team won the State Soccer Championship for the 2nd year! It was amazing and Thank you to District 3 Vice President - April Wallace for all the help!  
May God Bless us All and help us spread the Holiday Cheer.  
Kim Mellie  
District 3 President  
304-216-9943

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

Hello Everyone  
Hope everyone has survived Thanksgiving and has survived Black Friday .  
Hope to see everyone at Mid-Winter. Guess you have made your reservation by now heard that rooms were going fast because of Valentine Day.  
Mary Jennings from Beckley Unit 32 has broken her arm, wishing her a speedy recovery. Welch Unit 8 has been a little busy with Veterans Day . We put up pictures that the children from Welch Elementary had colored. We had a dinner for the Veterans on Friday Night think we cooked steaks for 49 people. On Saturday we were in the parade and after the parade we went to a luncheon at the Armory.  
Hope all Units are working on membership. Hope mandatory und gas . Please keep all Veterans in our prayers. And God Bless each and everyone.  
Peggy Swartz, President  
6th District

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

The District 4 Fall Conference was held on October 29, 2023, at New Haven Post #140. The Auxiliary Unit did a wonderful job! My thanks to all of you! We enjoyed a wonderful meal, great hospitality, and beautiful door prizes. We were honored to have Department President Debbie Michael and Department Secretary/Treasurer Susan Brown as special guests. They shared a lot of information about American Legion Auxiliary programs. Americanism, Community Service, Education, Membership, Poppy, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation just to mention a few. Please take time to read the monthly "Spirit." Department chairmen and officers share important information in every issue. Please share the "Spirit" with unit members.  
The holidays are here! Please reach out to our Veterans and their families. It only takes a moment to bring a smile and some joy to our comrades and sisters. A card, a meal, and a phone call are simple ways to express our appreciation

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

My grandparents were just small children on the Day of Pearl Harbor but the stories that were handed down by their parents and down to me still ring over in my head and heart.  
December 7 would have been for us a day of preparation for Christmas, buying presents, purchasing items to bake cookies and cakes and all that brings joy from the birth of one little boy baby.  
As this holiday nears please remember the families of Veterans that have gone on but especially families of those that are deployed. How they long to be home and sitting around the table talking and laughing rather than watching their surroundings not only for themselves but the others they are with.  
JUST FOR YOU AND ME.  
My heart swells and my eyes fill with tears when I think of their sacrifices.  
Please remember to reach out to the Veterans and their families during this season whether it be in a Nursing home, school or just next door. They need us.  
  
Merry Christmas everyone.  
Diana Teter

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

Hello and Happy Holidays 5th District! We had a wonderful 5th District Conference and a special THANK YOU to Barboursville Post/Unit 177 for hosting on Saturday, November 4th. We had 6 units represented and shared ideas and received district and department committee reports from several chairmen. I encourage anyone who can join us for Mid-Winter in Oglebay to register and book your hotel now as it is a wonderful opportunity to learn from one another. MARK YOUR CALENDARS: 5th District Spring Conference will be on Saturday, March 16th at Ceredo-Kenova #93. Registration will begin at 9 am and the meeting will begin at 10 am. Remember to be kind to one another and to check on one another during this holiday season! Thank you all for everything you do for the veterans, children, and your local communities!  
For God & Country,  
Laura Clark  
5th District President

### ***Past President Parley***

Hello Auxiliary Members,  
I would like members to share any creative ideas each unit comes up with to hold unique fundraisers, raffles, etc. We need mentors for the new and less experienced members now more than ever before.  
  
Leave you with a quote: "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."  
  
For God and Country  
Savanna Kauffman  
PPP Chairperson



## *Americanism*

Have you contacted your local schools yet to check on potential students to may wish to enter the Americanism Essay Contest? It is not too late to start. I know with the holidays coming up time will be short, so start planning. I would like to see several entries this year. You have the Essay Cover Sheet in with your Action Plan. Be sure to have it filled out completely and turned in with the essay. Remember the deadline to send to me is April 1, 2024.

What has your unit done for Star Spangled Kids? I still have kits available to mail. If your unit wishes to have one, please contact me.

Next month I will be writing on Flag Alliance.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Paulette Anderson

Americanism Chairman

## *Junior Activities*

December is an exciting month for our Junior Girls. Please include them in all unit activities. At our Fall Conference the Junior Girls made Christmas cards for deployed soldiers. We added mini candy canes and today they are going in the mail to our adopted Unit overseas.

Let's be creative! There will be so many opportunities for the Unit and Junior Girls to work together. Some activities might include local parades, Pearl Harbor Day events, Wreaths Across America day December 16th, visits to nursing homes, holiday dinners for our Veterans, making and signing Christmas cards for Veterans and deployed soldiers. Juniors love to participate; please include them in all our unit activities.

Our Junior Girls are the future leaders of America. Our job is to teach them about patriotism, Americanism, the meaning of poppies, the history of the American Legion. Please write, call, email or text me. I would love to hear about what Units are doing to involve our Juniors. For God and Country.

Patsy Greiner  
Junior Activities Chairman  
708-45th Street  
Vienna, WV 26105  
304-295-8844 (home)  
304-483-8296 (cell & text)  
Patsygirl2@gmail.com

## *Auxiliary Emergency Fund*

Fellow Auxiliary Members,  
The National Executive Committee approved an increase for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund grants in February. The new grant amount took effect at the beginning of the 2024 fiscal year, October 1. The updated grant award is now \$3,000 for ALA members who have been affected by a natural disaster or other crisis and need urgent financial assistance. The increase from \$2,400 to \$3,000 is a result of the rising cost of living and inflation. These rising costs impact millions of Americans, making it increasingly difficult for them to attain economic security. The updated applications can be found on the ALA website. 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  
sham4wv@aol.com

## *Legislative*

This may seem a bit off the topic but feel free to visit Crown Royal's website. They will allow you to pick 4 snacks to send overseas! It is an awesome opportunity to send some love and appreciation to our troops! The Wounded Warrior Access Act was passed by the Senate and will be sent to President Biden's desk for a final signature. This will provide transparency and access for veterans to their own claims. Remember to stay abreast on the issues and email, call, our Senators and Representatives. Have a wonderful Holiday Season. God Bless All  
Kim Mellie  
Legislative Chair  
304-216-9943

## *Children & Youth*

American Legion Auxiliary Units are encouraged to engage in activities benefiting children and families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. Put emphasis on children of veterans. Some suggestions are to host a Thanksgiving dinner at the Post home for the neighborhood. Provide food baskets to needy families with children. Make food donations to local foodbanks. Sponsor a food drive; ask Unit members to donate peanut butter, a good source of protein for children and too expensive for foodbanks to buy. If possible, organize a Christmas party for children of veterans and underprivileged children. Donate toys and presents to local organizations like Toys for Tots run by the US Marine Corps Reserve, who collect unwrapped toys. The Angel Tree of the Salvation Army provides a wish list for gifts that a donor may purchase for a child. Ask your local schools if there are children who are in need.

This holiday season pray for our youth that they remain safe. Also pray for the safety of our troops, especially those that have been deployed overseas.

Remember to pray for their families too.

Shirley Davis  
Chairman

## *Community Service*

Try to help a veteran if they may need help with. Sometime they might need wood brought in or maybe you can take them a cake, or soup on a cold day. This would be great for Community Service or maybe you could help clean the kitchen. So until next time.  
Peggy Swartz, Chairman  
Community Service

## ***National Security***

With the holidays quickly approaching, begin reaching out to local military families in your communities, also known as Blue Star Families. They may need support if not monetarily or in kind, but may just need some emotional support. Emotional support can go a long way in easing their burdens. So many of our deployed military are a part of a reserve group so their families may be even more isolated in our communities. The holidays can be difficult for not only those who are deployed and away from their loved ones, but for their families who are left to feel their absence.

Thank you for all you do and I hope you have a wonderful holiday season!

Merry Christmas!  
Laura Clark  
National Security Chairman

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and please remember our military and their families this Thanksgiving and say a special thank you to all of them.

## ***Poppy***

Good morning to all Auxiliary Members. This month we held several District meetings and we also had celebrations for Veterans Day, this was a good opportunity to use our Poppies. Now is the time to contact your schools about having the students to do a Poppy poster for mid-winter. If last years contestants are still in school they can participate again this year. Instructions were in the Plan of Works I handed out at fall workshop, if you did not get one let me know.

If your unit makes their own poppies now is the time to start working on them.

Start thinking of where you want to set up, and encourage the members of post to help.

Next month I will have decided on what the Poppy Project will be for Mid-Winter.

If you need my help call me at 304-592-0247, or e-mail me at:

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

Carla Wilfong  
Poppy Chairman

## ***Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation***

As we roll into colder weather, we start thing about items for the Comfort Drive during Mid-Winter. This year I am strongly encouraging you to take your items directly to your local VAMC. Why you ask, well it is being harder and harder to find able people to lift and load the boxes and haul them from Mid-Winter to each VA and the WV Veterans Home. When you deliver take with you a listing of items, the value, the name and address of your unit, S.A.L. and/or Post. Make a copy of that listing and drop the listing off at the Comfort Drive Room. These donations do not have to wait for Mid-Winter time, you can donate now giving extra time for the warm clothing items to be enjoyed. The listing of suggested items are attached in the newsletter. There is one for the VAMC's and one for the WV Veterans Home.

VA S.A.V.E. blends in with The American Legion's Buddy Check program and the Be The One campaign. There are 4 lessons to view online free and you can download a certificate after completion. S.A.V.E. stands for Signs, Ask, Validate, Encourage Expodite.

Website Link: [https://](https://learn.psycharmor.org/courses/va-save#)

[learn.psycharmor.org/courses/va-save#](https://learn.psycharmor.org/courses/va-save#)  
James H. Parks Scholarship, is a \$20,000 Scholarship offered. Each VAMC can nominate a 10th grader or higher who has completed 100 student regularly scheduled hours by September. Nomination are due by December 31. For more information see these 2 websites

Website Links:

<https://www.legion-aux.org/scholarships/james-h-parke-scholarship>

<https://www.volunteer.va.gov/ParkeScholarship.asp>

Lisa Cadwallader  
VA&R Chairmen

## ***Constitution & Bylaws***

Well my first call with National is coming up at the end of the month, so next month I will be sharing information with you from that. In the meantime please remember the Department has a different committee for Standing Rules. Send your Constitution & Bylaws to me and your Standing Rules to Paulette Anderson. Also, it is helpful to include an email and phone number when you send them. We hope to be in contact with all units that we currently have by December 1.

Thank you,  
Lisa Cadwallader  
Constitution & Bylaw Chairmen

## ***VAMC Gift Shop***

Hello Auxiliary Members,  
It's Christmas season!  
Gift shop is almost here.  
December 7 will be set up day  
December 8th & 9th will be gift shop at the VAMC in the Shenandoah room

Merry Christmas to all! We only have 6 more weeks left.

Leave you with a quote: "It's the most wonderful time of the year!"

For God and Country  
Savanna Kauffman  
Martinsburg VAMC Gift Shop  
Chairperson



*From Our Family  
to Your Family  
Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year!*

*From  
Debbie Michael,  
President  
Susan Brown,  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Department of West Virginia*





# American Legion Auxiliary WV Rhododendron Girls State

## *Rhododendron Girls State*

I know this is a very busy time of the year but in addition to the holidays, we need to be thinking of the 2024 Girls State Session which will be held Sun, June 10 – SATURDAY, June 16, 2024 at Davis & Elkins College in Elkins, WV. The 2024 Girls State Session will be \$300.00 per citizen. You may notice that there is an EXTRA day that has been added to our schedule (and for the same price as last year's). This cost will also include the cost of the parade t-shirt. Again, as this past session, we will send the citizens elected to the Board of Public Works to be transported to the State Capital to meet with their elect West Virginia counterparts. What an amazing opportunity you are providing these citizens. They become more engaged in leadership, patriotism and being informed citizens and form lifelong friendships.

Please if you have not already started to start securing funding for these citizens. Contact your schools and let them know who you are and start working together. We look forward to another successful year but we need your help in getting them interested and to attend.

If anyone has any questions, please contact your district representative or myself if we can be of any assistance.

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 Twenty \$25.00 winners for October and a \$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

***October 2023 Ways and Means Winners***

| Name                | #'s | City        | State | Date     | \$\$\$ |
|---------------------|-----|-------------|-------|----------|--------|
|                     | 193 |             |       | 10/02/23 |        |
|                     | 098 |             |       | 10/03/23 |        |
| Sherman Baxa        | 927 | Buckhannon  | WV    | 10/04/23 | 25.00  |
| Terry Baker         | 542 | Mt. Airy    | MD    | 10/05/23 | 25.00  |
| Steve Raddie        | 741 | Cameron     | WV    | 10/06/23 | 25.00  |
| Lisa Ann Hoires     | 053 | Romney      | WV    | 10/07/23 | 25.00  |
| Teresa Crilley      | 887 | Groveport   | OH    | 10/09/23 | 25.00  |
| Ed Smith            | 303 | Buckhannon  | WV    | 10/10/23 | 25.00  |
| Lisa Mason          | 136 | Columbus    | OH    | 10/11/23 | 25.00  |
|                     | 251 |             |       | 10/12/23 |        |
| Roger Gatts         | 050 | Moundsville | WV    | 10/13/23 | 25.00  |
| Leslie Jenkins      | 010 | Moorefield  | WV    | 10/16/23 | 25.00  |
| Vanessa Frost       | 481 | Cumberland  | MD    | 10/18/23 | 200.00 |
| Shelly Ledsome      | 099 | Morgantown  | WV    | 10/19/23 | 25.00  |
| Ralph Dawson        | 699 | Buckhannon  | WV    | 10/20/23 | 25.00  |
| Betty Lou Chamber   | 220 | Cameron     | WV    | 10/21/23 | 25.00  |
| ALA—Martinsburg #14 | 014 | Martinsburg | WV    | 10/23/23 | 25.00  |
| Connie Pyles        | 249 | Rio         | WV    | 10/24/23 | 25.00  |
| Jim Dotson          | 648 | Bluefield   | VA    | 10/25/23 | 25.00  |
| Albert Burke        | 836 | Loneconing  | MD    | 10/26/23 | 25.00  |
| Melanie Delawder    | 095 | Old Fields  | WV    | 10/27/23 | 25.00  |
| Brandy McUly        | 980 | Cumberland  | MD    | 10/28/23 | 25.00  |
| Betty Jo Bryson     | 143 | Thorpe      | WV    | 10/30/23 | 25.00  |
| Lisa Little         | 480 | Morgantown  | WV    | 10/31/23 | 25.00  |
|                     |     |             |       |          |        |
|                     |     |             |       |          |        |
|                     |     |             |       |          |        |
|                     |     |             |       |          |        |



# December 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

|                                                             |                                           |                    |                                  |                                                                                            |                                                                                                   |                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>The office will be closed Nov. 10th for Veterans Day</p> |                                           |                    | 1                                | 2                                                                                          | 3                                                                                                 | 4<br>5th District & 3rd District Fall Conferences                                         |
| 5<br>Daylight Saving Time Ends                              | 6                                         | 7<br>Election Day  | 8                                | 9                                                                                          | 10<br>USMC<br> | 11<br> |
| 12                                                          | 13                                        | 14                 | 15                               | 16                                                                                         | 17                                                                                                | 18                                                                                        |
| 19                                                          | 20                                        | 21                 | 22                               | 23<br> | 24<br>       | 25                                                                                        |
| 26                                                          | 27                                        | 28                 | 29                               | 30                                                                                         |                                                                                                   |                                                                                           |
|                                                             | National Veterans & Military Family Month | Warrior Care Month | National Family Caregivers Month |                                                                                            | <p><b><i>Program of Month</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Public Relations</i></b></p>                       |                                                                                           |

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

**Date 11/15/2023**  
**Department Goal 4994 — Membership to Date— 2528**  
**Department Unit 200 Goal 210 — Membership to Date—85**  
**First Target Date December 15, 2023—50%**

**Kim**

| District 1           | 2024 Goal   | 2024       | % of Goal     |
|----------------------|-------------|------------|---------------|
| Unit                 |             |            |               |
| Wheeling #1          | 23          | 16         | 69.57%        |
| Moundsville #3       | 254         | 154        | 60.63%        |
| McMechen #5          | 25          | 6          | 24%           |
| Weirton #10          | 68          | 35         | 51.47%        |
| Cameron #18          | 130         | 66         | 50.77%        |
| New Martinsville #28 | 104         | 74         | 71.15%        |
| Wellsburg #34        | 30          | 7          | 23.33%        |
| Follansbee #45       | 50          | 30         | 60%           |
| Pine Grove #81       | 75          | 38         | 50.67%        |
| Paden City #86       | 80          | 54         | 67.50%        |
| Wheeling #89         | 20          | 1          | 5%            |
| Newell #114          | 20          | 2          | 10%           |
| Hundred #120         |             |            |               |
| Chester #121         | 136         | 59         | 43.38%        |
| <b>TOTALS</b>        | <b>1015</b> | <b>542</b> | <b>51.62%</b> |

| District 4        | 2024 Goal  | 2024       | % of Goal     |
|-------------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| Unit              |            |            |               |
| Parkersburg #15   | 394        | 258        | 65.48%        |
| Spencer #21       | 29         | 19         | 65.52%        |
| Pt. Pleasant #23  | 225        | 113        | 50.22%        |
| Tyler County #48  | 42         | 1          | 2.38%         |
| Sistersville #67  | 48         | 1          | 2.08%         |
| New Haven #140    | 135        | 4          | 2.96%         |
| Williamstown #159 | 85         | 17         | 20%           |
| <b>TOTALS</b>     | <b>958</b> | <b>413</b> | <b>43.11%</b> |

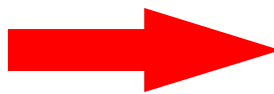
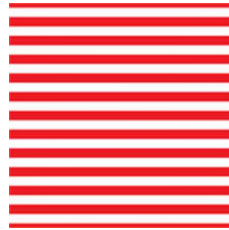
| District 6    | 2024       | 2024      | % of Goal     |
|---------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| Unit          |            |           |               |
| Welch #8      | 45         | 25        | 55.56%        |
| Bluefield #9  | 27         | 2         | 7.41%         |
| Beckley #32   | 25         | 11        | 44%           |
| Gary #38      | 90         | 29        | 32.22%        |
| Cowen #62     | 23         | 12        | 52.17%        |
| Richwood #97  | 33         | 18        | 54.55%        |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>243</b> | <b>97</b> | <b>39.92%</b> |

**Laura**

| District 3         | 2024 Goal  | 2024       | % of Goal     |
|--------------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| Unit               |            |            |               |
| Buckhannon #7      | 40         | 30         | 75%           |
| Clarksburg #13     | 54         | 7          | 12.96%        |
| Elkins #29         | 115        | 56         | 48.70%        |
| Shinnston #31      | 267        | 182        | 68.17%        |
| Braxton County #33 | 30         | 17         | 56.67%        |
| Bridgeport #68     | 62         | 38         | 61.29%        |
| Belington #96      | 20         | 0          | 0%            |
| Pickens #122       | 22         | 16         | 72.73%        |
| Morgantown #174    | 102        | 68         | 66.67%        |
| <b>TOTALS</b>      | <b>712</b> | <b>414</b> | <b>58.15%</b> |

| District 5         | 2024 Goal  | 2024       | % of Goal     |
|--------------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| Unit               |            |            |               |
| Huntington #16     | 130        | 84         | 64.61%        |
| Logan #19          | 22         | 0          | 0%            |
| Charleston #20     | 25         | 6          | 24%           |
| St. Albans #73     | 32         | 3          | 9.36%         |
| Ceredo-Kenova #93  | 215        | 88         | 40.93%        |
| So. Charleston #94 | 13         | 1          | 7.69%         |
| Hamlin #111        | 40         | 16         | 40%           |
| Milton #139        | 75         | 40         | 53.33%        |
| Barboursville #177 | 154        | 74         | 48.05%        |
| <b>TOTALS</b>      | <b>706</b> | <b>312</b> | <b>44.19%</b> |

| District 10          | 2024 Goal   | 2024       | % of Goal     |
|----------------------|-------------|------------|---------------|
| Unit                 |             |            |               |
| Martinsburg #14      | 77          | 36         | 46.75%        |
| Franklin #30         |             |            |               |
| Piedmont #52         | 20          | 1          | 5%            |
| Berkeley Springs #60 | 187         | 114        | 60.96%        |
| Charles Town #63     | 40          | 33         | 82.50%        |
| Moorefield #64       | 89          | 56         | 62.92%        |
| Charles Town #71     | 146         | 84         | 57.53%        |
| Petersburg #78       | 71          | 33         | 46.48%        |
| Romney #91           | 164         | 81         | 49.39%        |
| Paw Paw #128         | 44          | 18         | 40.91%        |
| Kirby #134           | 35          | 23         | 65.71%        |
| Ridgeley #136        | 70          | 44         | 62.86%        |
| Capon Bridge #137    | 167         | 137        | 82.04%        |
| Keyser #152          | 40          | 5          | 12.50%        |
| <b>Totals</b>        | <b>1150</b> | <b>665</b> | <b>56.84%</b> |



**Stripes Team**  
**Goal— 2568**  
**To Date—1391**  
**53.75%**

**Membership Chair**  
**Uncle Sam**



**Stars Team**  
**Goal 2216**  
**To Date 1052**  
**46.74%**



## **WV Veterans Home**

### **For Recreation Dept.**

Cash/Check  
TTA Bus Tickets (\$5 increments)  
Tickets to Sporting Events  
NFL/NASCAR/Baseball  
Gift Cards (Wal-Mart, etc.)  
Movie Passes  
Camping & Fishing equipment  
Sporting Equipment  
Archery Arrow & Pool Cues  
Remote control cars & planes  
Oil/ Acrylic paint & brushes  
Hand Tools & craft supplies  
Darts and Dart supplies  
Small Folding tables  
Digital Picture Frames  
DVD Players  
Music (CD's) Radios/ CD Players  
  
DVD Movies & Blue Ray movies  
Surge Protector  
Individually wrapped snacks  
Individual microwave popcorn  
Individual Hot chocolate  
Coffee, Creamer, & Tea Bags  
Holiday Decorations  
Bottled water, Gatorade, & pop  
Snack, cracks, chips  
Chocolates  
Mountain Bike (men's)

### **For Veterans**

Cologne  
Women  
Clothing  
(2X, 3X, 20-22)  
Bandoliers  
Sanitizer  
Hats, Gloves, & Jackets  
Liquid Fabric softener & laundry Pods (Tide etc.)  
Hand & Body Lotion  
Sewing & Eyeglass Repair Kits  
Wallets & Watches  
Batteries (AA, AAA, c, & d)  
Triple and Quad Blade Razors  
Dryer Sheets  
Denture Adhesive/cleaner  
TV Sets (flat screen)  
Blue Ray players  
Clock Radios/ Alarm Clocks  
Bedside Lamps  
Laundry Bags  
Men's Pocket T-Shirts (M-6X)  
Diabetic Socks,  
Men's underwear,  
Men's Pajamas (M-6X) (men)  
Sweatpants & Shirts  
(M-6X)  
Pillows & Twin Sheets WHITE  
(XL) bed blankets & sheets  
Musical Instruments  
Guitar Strings & Music  
Coffee Mugs  
Keychains  
Cards & Board Games  
Shower/Pool Shoes  
Assorted Gift Cards  
Robes  
Umbrellas

## Comfort Drive Items For VAMC's

- Clothing items - sizes (Small - 4XL)
  - Men- Underwear- Old Fashioned Boxers
  - Men- Underwear- Boxer Briefs
  - Women- Underwear
  - Gym Shorts
  - Sports Bras
  - T-Shirts
  - Sweatpants
  - Sweatshirts
  - Hoodies
  - Winter Coats/ Jackets
  - Winter Hats & Gloves
  - Men's Tennis Shoes (Reg and Wide)
  - Cargo Jackets
  - Boots: Composite boots - sizes (9, 9.5, and 10)
- Personal Care Items – **Non-Alcoholic Only**
  - Shaving Cream (**Non-Alcoholic**)
  - Aftershave (**Non-Alcoholic**)
  - Chapstick (**non-medicated**)
  - Shampoo
  - Deodorant
  - Body Wash
  - 4 a day- Pill Boxes
  - 2 a day- Pill Boxes
- Arts and Crafts
  - Adult Coloring Books / Colored Pencils
  - Individual colored pencil sharpeners
  - Puzzle Books- Crosswords
- Other items for Homeless, or Welcome Home baskets
  - Drawstring Bags
  - New Weighted Blankets w/ new Covers
  - Bed in a Bag (Full or Queen)
  - Buckets, Brooms, Mops, Dust Pans, Dish Soap, Dish rack, Kitchen garbage can, bathroom garbage can, Garbage bags, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Shower Curtain with hooks, Bathroom Towels, Hand Towels, kitchen utensils

**2024 ANNUAL MID-WINTER CONFERENCE  
RESERVATION INFORMATION**

February 9-10, 2024  
Oglebay Resort & Conference Center  
465 Lodge Drive  
Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

**\$125.00** per night room rate (plus 15% tax)  
One night's room deposit of  
**\$125.00** (plus 15% tax) = \$143.75 per night  
6% City Hotel Tax; 6% WV State Sales Tax & 3% Historical Tax  
room rate includes two (2) breakfast vouchers per room per day

Reservations accepted, until Monday January 8, 2024  
Check in: 4:00 p.m. Check out: 11:00 a.m.

**877-436-1797**

**Group Code  
48009**

**Reservation link for reservation(s)  
on-line will be available  
Monday October 16<sup>th</sup>**

Thank you for requesting access to our Web Reservations System.  
Please click on the hyperlink included to access the following group's page.

Group Name: [WV American Legion 2023](#)  
Meeting: Wednesday, February 07, 2024 - Monday, February 12, 2024

Group Access:  
Group ID: 48009  
Password: 936043534

Reservation Manager  
Oglebay Resort

If you are experiencing problems with the link please navigate your browser to:  
<https://book.rguest.com/wbe/group/616/Oglebay-Resort/auth?BookID=48009>

*CANCELLATION MUST BE  
48 HOURS IN ADVANCE  
TO RECEIVE REFUND*

YOU ARE INVITED  
TO THE 43<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL  
MID WINTER CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 9-10, 2024

OGLEYBAY RESORT  
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA

ADVANCED REGISTRATION - \$25.00  
AT DOOR REGISTRATION - \$30.00

RETURN BOTTOM PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT

-----  
I AM SENDING \$ \_\_\_\_\_ FOR \_\_\_\_\_ ADVANCED REGISTRATION(S).  
**SPELL NAME AS IT IS TO APPEAR ON NAME BADGE DURING CONFERENCE**

NAME (S) \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POST/UNIT/SAL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA  
PO BOX 3191  
CHARLESTON WV 25332

**DEADLINE DATE: February 5, 2024**



# 43<sup>RD</sup> Annual Mid-Winter Conference

2024

## ADVERTISING FORM

The American Legion  
Department of West Virginia, Inc.

I hereby authorize the following advertisement to be placed in the official program of the 43<sup>RD</sup> Annual Mid-Winter Conference of The American Legion, Department of West Virginia, Inc., scheduled February 9-10, 2024, at Oglebay Resort, Wheeling, West Virginia.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Post/Unit/SAL

Please specify exactly how your ad should read. Only the information you supply will be published. An attached copy of your ad is very helpful. Be sure to state if Legion, Auxiliary, or SAL Emblem is requested.

Ad should read as follows:

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Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

|             |                     |              |                             |              |
|-------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Price List: | <b>Full Page</b>    | <b>\$100</b> | <b>Full Page (Color)</b>    | <b>\$160</b> |
|             | <b>Half Page</b>    | <b>\$60</b>  | <b>Half Page (Color)</b>    | <b>\$100</b> |
|             | <b>Quarter Page</b> | <b>\$35</b>  | <b>Quarter Page (Color)</b> | <b>\$70</b>  |
|             | <b>Eighth Page</b>  | <b>\$25</b>  | <b>Eighth Page (Color)</b>  | <b>\$ 50</b> |

Please send your ad along with a check made payable to: **The American Legion**  
**P.O. Box 3191**  
**Charleston, WV 25332**

Ad and Payment Deadline is January 15, 2024.

No Deviation

Full Page 8 ½ x 11 in  
Half Page 8 ½ x 5 ½ in  
Quarter Page 4 ¼ x 5 ½ in  
Eighth 4 ¼ x 2 ¾ in  
Per the request of Commander Sampson

**2024 AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONVENTION  
RESERVATION INVOICE**

AUGUST 23 - AUGUST 28, 2024  
HILTON GARDEN INN  
1001 SOUTH PETERS STREET  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130

NAME(S) OF ATTENDEE(S)  
ADDRESS:  
PHONE:  
E-MAIL:

King/Doubles (\$149 per night plus 16.2 % hotel tax) + \$1.00 per night/room

**Parking rate per day**---Valet Only \$45 per day

**PLEASE MAIL PAYMENT BY MAY 1, 2024**

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| ARRIVAL DATE TO HOTEL     |  |
| DEPARTURE DATE FROM HOTEL |  |
| KING OR DOUBLE            |  |

|   | Quantity |  |               |
|---|----------|--|---------------|
| ONE NIGHT'S ROOM DEPOSIT @  | \$174.14 |  | \$0.00        |
| ADDITIONAL OCCUPANT IN ROOM PER DAY - \$10.00 triple/quad Rollaway \$50 |          |  | \$0.00        |
| REGISTRATION FEE @  | \$35.00  |  | \$0.00        |
| NATIONAL COMMANDER'S BANQUET @  | \$60.00  |  | \$0.00        |
| SOUTHERN BLOC BREAKFAST @   | \$54.00  |  | \$0.00        |
| HOSPITALITY ROOM FEE @  | \$25.00  |  | \$0.00        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |          |  | <b>\$0.00</b> |

**FIRST NIGHT'S DEPOSIT REQUIRED.**

**WE WILL BILL YOU FOR OTHER CHARGES**

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:

**Total**

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
PO BOX 3191  
CHARLESTON WV 25332

If you have any questions, please contact Department Headquarters at 1-888-534-4667

**First Night Deposit Required**

PLEASE RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE"

THANK YOU

\*You will not be charged for the Delegate fee. If you are not elected as a delegate at your District Convention or on the floor at the State Convention, Department Headquarters will bill you for the \$35.00 registration fee after State Convention.



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: \_\_\_\_\_