



The Auxiliary Spirit









Volume 39 September 2024 Issue 2





American Legion Auxiliary 2024-2025 Department President

"For the Heart of the Matter"

Colors—Purple (Represents Ambition & Determination); Accent Color(s) Pink, Yellow, Blue (Represents Fun & **Energy**

Flower— Daisy (Represents New Beginning & Cheerfulness)

Hello from the Chocolate Factory! I hope that everyone had a great summer and ready to dive into the Membership Workshop in Clarksburg and our Fall District Meetings!

I hope that you all make plans to attend the workshop as it will be a time of learning, collaborating, and fun with one another! We will kick off the weekend with the showing of the original "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" on Friday, Sept. 13th @ 7:30 pm. This is open to all senior and junior members. Popcorn will be provided, but you will need to bring your own drinks. On Saturday, Sept. 14th, we will discuss programming, provide best practices, and of course, tips to increase MEM-BERSHIP!

We will continue the tradition of the "Betty Rea Purse Auction" to help raise money for my special project. Please bring a purse, tote, or any type of handbag and fill it with lots of goodies. We will then auction them off and all money collected will help us purchase new Automated External Defibrillators (AED) for the WV Veterans Home.

For the Heart of the Matter, Laura Clark (Willy Wonka) Department President ala.lauraclark@gmail.com 304-939-3607

> "Little surprises around every corner, but nothing dangerous." Willy Wonka

Department Officers 2024-2025

President-Debbie Laura Clark 1st Vice President-Kim Mellie 2nd Vice President-Stephanie Handley Secretary/Treasurer-Susan Brown Chaplain-Peggy Swartz Historian-Rebecca Farley

District Presidents

1st District-Paulette Anderson 3rd District-Margaret Yost 4th District-Patsy Greiner 5th District-Beth Kilgore 6th District-Peggy Swartz 10th District-Diana Teter

District Vice Presidents

1st District-Christy Bland 3rd District-Sandra Harper 4th District-Rebecca Farley 5th District -Lisa Harbour 6th District-Mary Spence 10th District-Jill Davis





Department Headquarters



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

Unit Welfare Fund - Veterans' Welfare Fund (any amount the unit can afford or wish to donate), & 10% of Poppy Proceeds. If your unit has a little extra money please consider donating to the Cheer Parties and Gift Shops.

THE UNIT'S MANDATORY FUNDS HAVE TO BE PAID TO KEEP THE UNIT IN GOOD STANDING WITH DEPARTMENT. IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF YOUR UNIT'S STATUS CALL THE OFFICE.

The Unit Officers information was due by June 15th. Chairmen list by October 1st. We're in the process of working on next year's directory. If you did not remit the form by the June 15th date there could be a chance that your unit's information will not be in the directory. The unit's officers information needed submitted even if there was not changes. Department is going to try emailing the Directory to all Officers, Past Department Presidents, **Current Committee Chairman &** Committee persons, & Unit Presidents. This will go out no later than September 11th. If you are unable to download, let the office now. This date will give you a little longer to get officers information to the office.

Here is the list of units that have not submitted their officers list: #7, #10, #13, #16, #18, #20, #21, #28, #32, #38, #48, #52, #62, #64, #67, #81, #86, #94, #97, #122, #140, & #152.
Out of 57 Units with Officers there has only been 35 Units that have fulfilled there obligation to Department. Do

not be that Unit with NO INFOR-MATIO in the directory.

ALA MIS system—it is not mandated by National nor Department that a Unit MUST use the system. The Unit needs

to make a request to Department for us-

age. Department will then decide wheth-

Mandatory Funds: This is the list of Units that have not either paid or have paid a partial payment: (following page)

er the Unit will be give permission.

1st District—Pine Grove #81 **3rd District**—Bridgeport #68, Belington #96, Pickens #122

4th District—Tyler Cty #48, Sistersville #67

5th District—Charleston #20, S. Charleston #94

6th District—Beckley #32, Richwood #97 **10th District**—Piedmont #52

Department will not be entering any new member after July 31st. New applications will be held until September 1st.

First Renewal Notice mailing will be mailed from the printer on September 15th.

The 2025 Membership renewals are available to be paid online or through your Unit.

Those units that have the write program only. You still have to complete a transmittal form when send in dues renewal. The office will return those that are received without one.

New members—when sending in a new application please make sure they are complete. If you are unable to read the new application, how am I suppose to read it. Please clarify illegible writing. The ON-LY 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—That any new member joining after April 1, 2024 will not show on the 2025 roster that is sent with the membership cards. If you would like an update roster just let me know.

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

Department Headquarters

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

Phone 304-845-7410 alawysec@frontier.com

Department Address: 2172 Grandview Road Moundsville, WV 26041

Department Website: www.wvaux.org

Rhododendron Girls State Website www.wvgirlsstate.org

The American Legion
Department of WV
wvlegion@suddenlinkmail.com

American Legion Auxiliary National Website ALAforveterans.org

REMINDER TO ALL DEPART-MENT OFFICERS & COM-MIITT CHAIRS

Spirit articles must be 200 words or less, single space and 10 fonts.

Due into Department by the 15th of each month. Exceptions will be Department President, Membership Chairman, Department Vices, and District Presidents and Vices. Their articles will be due after receiving the target sheet.

Fall Conferences Dates

1st District -October 20th—Pine Grove Unit #81(Reg. 9) (Mtg. 10)

3rd District—October 5th—Clarksburg #13(J) (Reg. 9) Mtg. 10)

4th District—September 29th (J) -Parkersburg #15 (Reg. 1) (Mgt. 2)

5th District—October 26th (J) - Hamlin #111 (Reg. 9) (Mgt. 10)

6th District—September 28th—Gary #38 or Welch #8—TBA

10th District—October 19th (J) - Berkeley Springs #60 (Reg. 9) (Mtg. 10)

~~~~Membership in the American Legion Family...How Sweet It Is!!!~~~~~

Membership Chairman

Department 1st Vice President

Department 2nd Vice President

Hello Ladies, our new membership year is in full swing. I hope that each unit has been working on getting your members to pay their due ASAP. This is the time of year that it is the easiest to get them active and involved with all the programs and activities you are planning and contribute to your success. Congratulations to the highest % in each district.

District 1 – New Martinsville #28

District 3 – Buckhannon #7

ber 14.

District 4 – Williamstown #15

District 5 – Huntington Unit 16

District 10 – Capon Bridge #137 Remember 75% by December 7.

We hope to have all units come and participate in the Fall Workshop on Septem-

District Vice Presidents are expected to be there on Friday evening to get important information about what is expected during the year. We will also give you the plan for the membership portion of the program on Saturday. You are a very important part of our TEAM and your involvement with your district's unit will help your district succeed in membership.

We must work as a TEAM and help each other all during the year. We will share success as units, districts, and department. We need members to help our veterans, our children, our communities, and our members.

See you on September 13-14, 2024. Let's keep our membership a sweet treat. Ann Buchanan

AnnBuch@aol.com

Lets go Laffy Taffy! We are 3% higher than the Fun Dips! Keep up the amazing work! Congratulations to Buckhannon #7, Bridgeport #68, Huntington #16, Kirby #134, Capon Bridge#34, who are all over 10% or more! Your Units rock! Remember to save September 13,14 for the Fall Workshop.

I have had the pleasure of attending all the pre-convention zooms! What a way to learn more about this wonderful organization! You can watch them yourself on the National website under National Convention.

Reach out if you have any questions!

Kim Mellie Department First Vice 304-216-9943

Hello

I hope the Fun Dip crew of Districts 1,4,&6 are ready for an exciting upcoming year. I hope to see you at leadership workshop in Bridgeport where we will learn more about our goals for membership. The new membership year has begun so let's get as many golden tickets we can.

God Bless, Stephanie Handley 2nd Vice President

Chaplain

To all our Units
Please send a prayer for President
Laura prayer book you may send to
me; Peggy Swartz at
tenpin@frontiernet.net
"For I know the plans I Have for
you, "declares the Lord, "plan to
prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future/"
Jeremiah 29:11

HISTORIAN

Hello, History Keepers! As we continue to advance our mission, it is vital that we preserve the rich history and achievements of our American Legion Auxiliary units. Each of you plays a crucial role in documenting our activities, contributions, and milestones, ensuring that our legacy is accurately recorded and remembered. Unit Historians, your role in capturing the essence of our events, achievements, and daily activities is indispensable. Please ensure that every significant event, meeting, and contribution is meticulously documented. Your efforts in maintaining detailed records and preserving historical materials—whether through photographs, written summaries, or digital archives—are essential for safeguarding our history for future generations. All Members, we also encourage each of you to contribute to this effort. Keep personal records of your involvement, achievements, and any notable events you participate in. Share your experiences and milestones with your unit historian to ensure that they are included in our historical documentation. Accurate and comprehensive record-keeping not only honors our past but also strengthens our present and future. By working together to document our history, we ensure that the legacy of our efforts and the contributions of our members and veterans are preserved for all to see. Let's make our stories unforgettable and our achievements shine brightly.

Rebecca S Farley Historian 304-674-9908 dccoachrebecca@gmail.com

1st District Vice President

Hello 1st District!

A brand new year is upon us. Let's all work hard in our Units to reach the target goals again! We can do it! Big shout out to all of the hard workers that made the 1st District annual picnic so much fun. Don't forget that the Fall Workshop is Sept. 13th & 14th. Remember to bring a packed purse for the Betty Rae purse auction. Hope to see all 1st District Units attend! Enjoy the rest of your summer! 1st District Vice President Christy Bland christy.bland8555@gmail.com

5th District Vice President

With summer ending, I hope everyone had an awesome time with their family. I am excited for the membership workshop on September 13th & 14th in Clarksburg at the Hilton Garden Inn. This is my first time going and I hope to see a great turn out from District 5. Let us show Willy Wonka, that Laffy Taffy is the best "candy." Please remember that our first target date is December 7th at 75%. I have faith that we can hit this target. If I can be of any assistance, place feel free to contact me. Again, thanks for putting your trust in me

Lisa Harbour Wvbravesfan@gmail.com 304-633-0530

3rd District Vice President

HELLO everyone, are we getting ready to enjoy some football, LETS GET OUR MEMBERERSHIP kicking off with a FIELDGOAL!!!

the first target date is December 15th ,with 75% of your unit in good standing.

I have a poem to share, MEMBERSHIP POEM:

M-Memories we had created togather E-Everything is better when you have someone to share it with

M-Many awesome programs that help others

B-Belonging to something greater than us: An organization that helps support our Veterans

E-Enables us to guide and encourage our juniors (OUR FUTURE)

R-Relationships& friendships that last a lifetime

S-Sacrifice is what our loved ones have made so we can have Freedom H-Honor each other with respect, and GOODWILL

I-Inspired by the joy and smiled on Veterans faces

P-Pray that we as members will always work together and never let this Patriotic organization fail.

PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOP SEPTEMBER 14,2024, YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID! If I can be of any help please let them know

Thank you for all you do Sandra Harper, Unit #174 304-694-2067

4th District Vice President

Hello 4th District RockStars! The new membership year has begun! It is vital to focus on both retaining our dedicated members and bringing new faces into the American Legion Auxiliary. Our collective strength is rooted in the passion and commitment of each member, and by enhancing our engagement, recognition, and outreach efforts, we can ensure the continued growth and vitality of our units and community partnerships. Engagement is at the heart of retention. Regular communication through updates, personal invitations, and activities that resonate with members' interests strengthens their connection to our mission. Recognition is equally crucial; by celebrating members' achievements in our newsletters and on social media, we show appreciation for their invaluable contributions. We must also prioritize providing value through educational opportunities and fostering a supportive community. Ensuring open lines of communication and regularly seeking feedback will help us meet the evolving needs of our members. Outreach remains essential for attracting new members. Sharing the impact of the ALA through testimonials and success stories, maintaining a strong online presence, and offering virtual involvement options are key strategies. Let's continue to invite those who share our mission to join us in serving. Together, we can grow the "golden ticket" line!

Rebecca S Farley 4th District Vice President 304-674-9908 dccoachrebecca@gmail.com



6th District Vice President

Hoping everyone is safe and healthy and that you have had a great summer. We have started our new membership building year. All members should have received their Membership booklets with the 2024-2025 cards by now. You should have started processing membership renewals for 2025. I plan on attending the Membership workshop on September 13-14, 2024 at Hilton Garden Inn, Bridgeport, WV hope to see you there. A date to remember is District 6 Fall

Conference September 28, 2024 with Gary Unit #38 as hostess. Looking forward in working with my units this coming year. Labor Day is coming upon us, hope that all you celebrate with family and friends.

Prayers for all to be safe.

Mary Spence, Vice President

District 6

10th District Vice President

We have 7 units thus far on the board to making 75% on December 7th. I have spoke to some of you and you are collecting membership dues. Just don't forget to get them into Susan so you also can be on the board. Don't forget about the workshop coming up in September. I encourage that you try to get at least one representative from your unit to come to any meeting or workshop. This is where you can find your most information and get any of your questions answered as there are many seasoned members at these meetings.

Way to Go, 10th District, we are in the lead for membership. Let's try to make this a 100% for all units. Don't ever give up as your veteran never gave up on you/us! When you feel like quitting put yourself you in the veteran's spot. Sure, there were many times they wanted to quit but they couldn't. Hope to see you at workshop!

Jill Davis 10th District VP

4th District President

Hello All.

District Four was well represented at the American Legion Auxiliary Convention held July 11 – 13, 2024. District President Patsy Greiner and District Vice President Rebecca Farley were ratified and installed. Rebecca Farley was also elected Department Historian. Congratulations! Thanks to all District Four members who attended the convention. We sure made a lot of noise!! Folks knew we were in the house. Although the annual convention is over it is not too late to work on membership! The membership year runs through December 31, 2024. We can still recruit, retain and reinstate members. New membership packets should be in the hands of your unit membership chairmen very soon. Let's keep the ball rolling!!!

Congratulations to Department President Laura Clark. We look forward to a fun, fast paced year full of surprises and patriotism.

Remember, it is the "Spirit of Service Not Self." For God and Country, we will honor the sacrifices of our veterans, our military, and their families.

If you love your Freedom, Thank a Veteran.

Patsy Greiner 4th District President 304-483-8296 (cell) Patsygirl2@gmail.com

1st District President

Good Day to all of the First District! Warm days and cool nights, feels like Fall weather! Speaking of Fall, our Conference will be held on Sunday October 20th at the Byrd Center in Pine Grove, hosted by Pine Grove Unit #81. The cost is \$10.00 a person. Registration is 9:00-10:00 with our meeting starting at 10:00 am. Credentials and Registration forms will be going out by September 9th, so watch your email/mail. Please adhere to the date of returning back to Rhonda Best and Pine Grove.

All Department Officers and Chairmen are invited to attend. Please let me know a week in advance so I may let Pine Grove know.

New membership year has started with the first target date of 75% on December 7th. You have plenty of time to get your members in, but don't hold them!

Fall workshop will be held on Saturday September 14th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Clarksburg. Registration is 8:00-9:00. The cost is \$15.00 a person. Sue Brown will have 2025 fundraiser tickets also. Looking forward to seeing you all there! Paulette Anderson

First District President

5th District President

I am so excited to be your 5th District President this year and looking forward to working alongside 5th District Vice President, Lisa Harbour. As a reminder, if you are experiencing any challenges within your units or have any questions, please feel free to reach out to myself and/or Lisa. We are here to help all of you. If you haven't already, please be sure to follow the Department Auxiliary Facebook page as well as the 5th District Facebook page. There are lots of updates and announcements that are put on those pages and we want everyone to be in the know. I hope to see many of you at the membership workshop next month in Clarksburg on Saturday, September 14th. We will be kicking the workshop with a movie night at 7:30 pm and encourage all of you to come join the fun! Workshop will be informative and interactive and would love to see 5th District well represented!

Beth Kilgore

5th District President

Email: 3609MBK@gmail.com Call/Text: 304-654-7750

6th District President

Hi To All:

Hope this note finds everyone well. Just a few notes for 6th District our Fall District Meeting will be hosted by Gary Unit 38, this meeting will be at the Sterling Drive Inn, Stewart Street, Welch, WV. Registration will be from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM on Saturday, September 28, 2024, hope to see all Units in attendance, and anyone that would like to attend. I guess we will order from the menu.

Hope to see everyone at the workshop in Bridgeport, WV in September. Well it is getting time to pay membership so lets make our Dept. President proud and all become a Goal Unit this year. Mandatory Fund can be paid. Haven't heard from the Units but I am sure they are working hard. I know Welch 8, has been delivering food to some of our members that are sick and also to our adopted veteran.

So until next time lets keep all our Veterans and members in our prayers.

Sixth District President

Peggy Swartz

10th District President

Well, it has surely been a warm summer and many things have been happening in the Units.

I find it exciting when I see pictures of all the things you do to help Veterans. Please keep posting what you are doing this is so encouraging to other Units.

I am very proud of you all. We had the pleasure to meet with a couple of Units recently and find it so inspiring to hear the great ideas you have and have been bringing to fruition.

Unit 63 Charles Town we really enjoyed lunch. Thank you.

We would love to come visit your Unit to hear of all the exciting events you have been doing or are planning to do. Contact us anytime to set up a meeting.

Please always remember why we do what we do. Veterans are our main priority so make them yours as they did you when they went out to fight for our freedom.

Keep a positive spin on life and pour your positive vibes on others.

Please remember your Unit forms need to be in to State.

If you have not already done so please update your Standing rules, By-laws and always try to discuss everything with your members. Remember their ideas are as important as yours. Keep in mind that just because it doesn't seem like a good idea, try it anyway. It just might work

Hope to see you at Workshop in a couple weeks. 9/13/24 and then again in October at the Conference in Berkeley Springs.

God Bless you all. Diana Teter District 10 President

Americanism

September 11,2001 was a day that changed our lives forever, The attack on the United States that day was a day that we will never forget.

There where 2,977 people killed on this day, making it the deadliest terrorist attacks in history.

In response to the attacks the United States waged the multidecade global war on terror to eliminate hostile groups deemed terrorist organization, as well as the foreign governments purported to support them.

Our country pulled together to help on this day, from a person walking on the street to our Military, Police force, Firefighters and Paramedics,

There are a great number of ways to show Americanism, simple as replacing a torn Flag or just helping person in need. Be the ONE to really listen when someone is talking to you. A quote from our National President " The truth is that listening is a form of kindness: one that can make someone feel heard and understood. The next time you ask someone how they are, really

Thank you for everything you do! Sandra Harper ,Unit 174 304-694-2067

listen to what they have to say.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

I would like to thank President Laura for appointing me as the Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman for the 2024-2025 year.

I look forward to working with any unit or member that may need assistance this year.

I ask that each Unit do what you can this year to raise funds for this program that is so important to our members in need.

Blessings, Melanie Shambaugh AEF Chairman sham4wy@aol.com

Children & Youth

As Fall approaches and we begin planning all your fall activities, I hope that you are including children in the community as well as children of the deployed and our veterans. There are many opportunities over the next couple of months to involve children and their families. As a reminder, the national website is a great resource for all programs and provides a lot of information on how you can make your Children & Youth program in your unit successful.

See you next month at Fall Workshop!!

Beth Kilgore Children & Youth Chairman Email: 3609MBK@gmail.com Call/Text: 304-654-7750

Community Service

A major outreach program of the Auxiliary since 1926, Community Service also demonstrates our longstanding commitment to supporting the work of American Legion posts and other organizations in providing assistance with blood drives, first aid and CPR training, child safety programs, support for people in shelters, and ...

Remember while we are out in the community make sure we are branded with the American Legion Auxiliary.

Hope to see a lot of our Auxiliary family next month for fall boards.

God Bless.

Kelli A Immel Community Service

Education

I am taking over for Carla this month

as she asked me to write an article on Education. We all know school is starting very soon, and we needup very soon, and we need to go to the schools and ask the teachers what we can do to help them get ready for their classes this year and see if they need anything. As I'm sure you all know, some schools are having trouble getting and keeping teachers, so I'm sure they would appreciate any help we can give them. See how many students are expected in each classroom and if the teachers know of any students who may need help. There is usually some families who could always use a helping hand. Be it for a warm coat or a pair of shoes, whatever is needed the American Legion Auxiliary should always be ready to lend that hand. Also, be ready to give the information on Scholarships that will be available. Roxie Nicholson Co-Chairman

Legislative

We are asking all to contact Congress to request support for the Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act! These women worked in forward areas and faced the same shelling, strafing, poison gas, and other dangers faced by the Doughboys and were paid by the Army. Despite their oaths to the nation and compliance with orders, they were considered "civilian contractors." The American Legion supports this legislation, and we appreciate all the emails you have sent so far.

Please remember to post only nonpartisan political views on any Auxiliary page! Your views are yours. But we are all representative of our organization. Be kind.

Have a wonderful day! Kim Mellie Legislative Chairman

Junior Activities

Junior Girls held an annual convention in July. The meeting was opened by Honorary President Avery Tallman. The acting Honorary Secretary was Samantha Walker. Prayer was given by Honorary Chaplain Emily Tallman. Newly elected Honorary officers: President Samantha Walker; 1st VP Clara Michael; 2nd VP Abbie Springer; Secretary Avery Tallman; Chaplain Emily Tallman; and Sgt. At Arms Lilly Michael. Honorary officers were installed by Past Department President Lynda Lancaster Lloyd. The Junior members presented an American flag that was flown over the Capitol in Washington, D.C. to Department President Debbie Michael. The girls also presented a hand-made, signed booklet of prayers, poems and positive thoughts to President Debbie.

The Kati Hart Department Honorary Junior President award was presented to 2024-2025 President Samantha Walker. The Betty Shumate Best Overall Report with membership 10 to 150 submitted by Sandra Harper, was awarded to Mountaineer Unit #174. The Junior Member of the year travelling plaque was presented to Auxiliary Unit #14 for their submission Gabriella

We are so excited to be working with Department President Laura Clark! We look forward to a wonderful new year! For God and Country

Patsy Greiner Junior Activities Chairman 304-483-8296

Child Welfare Foundation

I'M HUNGRY FEED ME!!!!



National Security

Addressing food insecurity is a top priority for improving the quality of life for military personnel. No service member should worry about where their next meal is coming from or how they will adequately feed their family. The attached document provides an update on the Department of Defense's initiatives to improve food security within the military. It also includes information about future plans and available resources to help combat food insecurity among our military personnel.

https://www.facebook.com/download/495794576213025/strengthening-food-security-in-the-force-strategy-and-roadmap-2023.pdf?

av=100003217081068&eav=AfZa4_TQipwWGGVCly8Lv7

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This link is for more information.

April D. Wallace

Convention Chairman

Hello.

I would like to thank Past Department President Debbie Michael for giving me the opportunity to experience being convention chairman.

I want to thank all the amazing members for helping with the registration while I needed to be away from the table.

We had a few new members this year and many returning members. I'll have a complete report at Fall board meeting. Debbie Fox

Convention chairman

Past President Parley

Hello to all!

I hope you have considered forming a PPP in your unit, if you don't have one. Or, if you already have one, what will you do different this year to promote and include those past presidents in your unit? district? department?

I will have info for the Past Presidents Parley at Fall workshop. I hope you have made plans to attend. So much interesting information and ideas for you to take back to your unit.

If I can help you, please let me know. Love & hugs! Debbie Michael PPP Chairman katndebbie@gmail.com 304-839-7721

~~Looking forward to seeing some of you in New Orleans~~

Standing Rules

Hello Fellow Auxiliary Members, I would like to "Thank" Laura Clark, Department President for allowing me to be the Standing Rules Committee Chairman. At this time I want to introduce the 2024-2025 Standing Rules Committee: Rhonda Best, Paulette Anderson, and Holly Adams. Any unit that submitted a revision on your standing rules and are awaiting for them to be returned will receive them soon.

I encourage all units to visit The National American Legion Auxiliary Website: www.alaforveterans.org. and get familiar with National's Standing Rules. If a unit has revised their Standing Rules and want to submit them to us, then you can either email them to rlcbest37@aim.com or mail them to 3000 Christy Lynn Dr., Moundsville, WV 26041.

Until next month, Be Safe and God Bless!!! Rhonda Best Standing Rules Chairman

Poppy

ATTENTION: A POPPY WREATH CONTEST WILL BE HELD AT THE 2025 MIDWIN-TER CONFERENCE. All wreaths will be the same size and composition. The Department Poppy chairman will have inexpensive wreaths for sale at the September workshop in Bridgeport. The wreaths will cost \$8.00 and rules for decorating will be available. If you wish to participate in the contest, please get your wreath at the fall workshop to avoid paying postage. Only one wreath may be submitted by a Unit. The Plan of Works will also be available at the workshop. National has made several changes in the Poppy program. That information will be available along with several worksheets, coloring books, and ideas for Units to use in schools and the community to promote the poppy program. You will learn about using poppies for a wall of honor and a wall of donors, how to make paper plate poppies and more ideas to add fun to the poppy program. Each attendee will have a chance to win a poppy tote. Shirley Davis, Poppy Chairman psdavis1524@msn.com (304) 544-1838

Public Relations

Hello WV Rockstars! Boosting your unit's public relations efforts can significantly increase visibility and community engagement. Which can in turn help your membership retention and recruitment efforts. Here are some key strategies to consider that will help your unit build stronger community connections and raise awareness about the important work you are doing. Press Releases: Share important events or achievements with local media to highlight your unit's activities. Social Media Campaigns: Use platforms like Facebook and Instagram to update and engage with the community. Community Newsletters: Regularly inform your mailing list about news, upcoming events, and volunteer opportunities. Event Flyers and Posters: Create eye-catching materials to promote events within the community using proper ALA branding. Local Media Features: Pitch stories to local newspapers, radio, and TV about your unit's community involvement. Volunteer Spotlights: Acknowledge dedicated volunteers in newsletters or social media to inspire others to get involved. Collaborative Events: Partner with local organizations for joint events to boost visibility. Community Outreach Programs: Participate in local service projects to increase your unit's impact. Open House Events: Invite the community to learn more about your unit's activities. Educational Workshops: Offer workshops on relevant topics to engage and inform the public. Let me know how I can help elevate your public relations efforts. I'm here to support your success and make your story shine! Rebecca S Farley Public Relations Chairman

304-674-9908

dccoachrebecca@gmail.com

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Check with your local VA, many are getting ready for their annual baby shower. And with cooler weather not far off, they will be lining up stand downs and need needing blankets, coats, hats and gloves. Now is the time to start planning how you can help. Don't have a VA close by, what about Veterans in a nursing home or homeless veterans? If your Post Home is in an area that has homeless veterans, maybe provide a hot meal for them. Download the VA &R guide at https://member.legion-aux.org/ member/guides/volunteer-guide We all do good work for veterans, TRACK your hours! Its important! More information on what and how to track will be available at workshop. Hope to see many there! Lisa Cadwallader VA & R Chair





American Legion Auxiliary WV Rhododendron Girls State

Rhododendron Girls State

You know it's not too early to start planning for this upcoming Girls State Session.

Please start to solicit businesses and secure funding from organizations as they are preparing next year's budgets. We want to make sure you have the funding necessary to provide this once in a lifetime opportunity for a well deserving young lady.

Also, please use your past Girls State citizens for your Veterans Day, Poppy Day, Christmas Parade, Wreaths Across America or to help out with a Unit function!

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

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-three \$25.00 winners for July and one winner for the \$200 drawing. Congratulation to all the winners!

If you have ticket stubs and money still out, and you would like to return to Department. I will be happy to taken them off your hands.

I will have the 2025 tickets with me at the workshop. If there is any special numbers that you would like, please email before August 30th.

Please cash your checks! We still one outstanding check from 2023 that needs cashed.

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

Juen 2024 Ways and Means Winners

Name	#'s	City	State	Date	\$\$\$
Tammy L Dillon	650	Anawalt	WV	7/01/24	25.00
Jeff Wisley	721	Lavalette	WV	7/02/24	25.00
	980			7/03/24	
	714			7/04/24	
Dale Gloyd	992	Cacapon	WV	7/05/24	25.00
Debra Nebo	275	Riley	WV	7/06/24	25.00
Jeff Wisley	056	Lavalette	WV	7/08/24	25.00
Connie Pyles	038	Rio	WV	7/09/24	25.00
Steven Potts	401	Charles Town	WV	7/10/24	25.00
Linda Phillips	043	Cameron	WV	7/11/24	25.00
Frank Kidwell	609	Paw Paw	WV	7/12/24	25.00
	776			7/13/24	
Randy Buckley	631	Romney	WV	7/15/24	25.00
	402			7/16/24	
Betty Cutlip	795	Princeton	WV	7/17/24	200.00
H. Patricia Pearce	739	Gore	VA	7/18/24	25.00
Larry Ruckman	727	Rio	WV	7/19/24	25.00
Michelle Powell	379	Wheeling	WV	7/20/24	25.00
Larry Judy	107	Wardensville	WV	7/22/24	25.00
Savanna Kauffman	617	Charles Town	WV	7/23/24	25.00
Virginia Burek	005	Wheeling	WV	7/24/24	25.00
Roger Gatts	797	Moundsville	WV	7/25/24	25.00
Sally Reid	788	Capon Bridge	WV	7/26/24	25.00
Pam Hebb	926	Edegwater	MD	7/27/24	25.00
Connie Pyles	038	Rio	WV	7/29/24	25.00
Margaret Yost	899	Gypsy	WV	7/30/24	25.00
Jim Dotson	135	Bluefield	VA	7/31/24	25.00



Sept. 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2 Labor Day Office Closed	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 DAY	12	13 Workshop Bridgeport	14 Workshop & Executive Board meeting
15	16	17	18	19	20 DOWNAL	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Gold Star Mother's Day	30					
			Red Shirt Friday— Every Friday		Program o Junior A Mu	ctivities

"Membership in the American Legion Family...How Sweet It Is!"

Date 08/15/2024 Department Goal 4691 — Membership to Date— Department Unit 200 Goal 232 — Membership to Date— First Target Date 75% - December 7, 2024

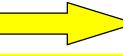
Stephanie

District 1			1
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Wheeling #1	26	0	0
Moundsville #3	265	18	6.79%
McMechen #5	15	0	0
Weirton #10	68	0	0
Cameron #18	125	1	.80%
New Martinsville #28	113	19	16.81%
Wellsburg #34	23	0	0
Follansbee #45	61	0	0
Pine Grove #81	68	0	0
Paden City #86	77	0	0
Wheeling #89	10	0	0
Newell #114	20	0	0
Chester #121	125	0	0
TOTALS	996	38	3.82%

District 4			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Parkersburg #15	381	5	1.31%
Spencer #21	30	0	0
Pt. Pleasant #23	215	0	0
Tyler County #48	45	0	0
Sistersville #67	32	0	0
New Haven #140	124	0	0
Williamstown #159	74	1	1.35
TOTALS	901	6	.67%

District 6			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Welch #8	45	0	0
Bluefield #9	23	0	0
Beckley #32	20	0	0
Gary #38	93	0	0
Cowen #62	20	0	0
Richwood #97	28	0	0
TOTALS	229	0	0





"Laffy Taffy" Team Goal—2565 To Date— 134 5.22%

STU&WORTH,

Membership Chairman



"Fun Dip" Team Goal—2126 To Date 44 2.07 %



Kim

D: 4 : 4 2			
District 3			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Buckhannon #7	44	9	20.46%
Clarksburg #13	46	0	0
Elkins #29	108	0	0
Shinnston #31	271	2	.37%
Braxton County #33	32	0	0
Bridgeport #68	66	8	12.12%
Belington #96	16	0	0
Pickens #122	20	0	0
Morgantown #174	120	2	1.67%
TOTALS	723	20	2.77%

District 5			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Huntington #16	134	18	13.43%
Logan #19	20	0	0
Charleston #20	28	1	3.57%
St. Albans #73	33	2	6.06%
Ceredo-Kenova #93	212	0	0
So. Charleston #94	10	0	0
Hamlin #111	40	1	2.50%
Milton #139	68	2	2.94%
Barboursville #177	148	8	5.41%
TOTALS	693	32	4.62%

District 10			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Martinsburg #14	68	0	0
Piedmont #52	22	0	0
Berkeley Springs #60	197	3	1.52%
Charles Town #63	38	0	0
Moorefield #64	84	0	0
Charles Town #71	151	1	.66%
Petersburg #78	62	1	1.61%
Romney #91	155	2	1.29%
Paw Paw #128	43	0	0
Kirby #134	32	7	21.88%
Ridgeley #136	69	1	1.45%
Capon Bridge #137	192	67	34.90%
Keyser #152	36	0	0
TOTALS	1149	82	7.14%



Commander Jeff Wisley and President Laura Clark

OCTOBER 26, 2024

Cocktail Hour: 6-7 pm & Dinner at 7 pm

Menu: Baked Steak OR Fried Pork Chops with 2 sides, side salad, and dessert

\$20 per person (includes 2 Drink tickets)

Huntington Post 16 1421 6th Avenue Huntington, WV 25701

RSVP by October 15, 2024 Jeff @ 304-730-2575 or Laura @ 304-939-3607

Further Information for

Commander Wisley & President Clark's Homecoming October 26th in Huntington, WV

Cocktail Hour: 6- 7 pm Dinner Served: 7 pm
Entree Choices: Baked Steak OR Fried Pork Chops (entree comes with 2 sides, side salad, and dessert)
Cost: \$20 per person (includes 2 drink tickets)
RSVP by October 15, 2024 to: ala.lauraclark@gmail.com
HOTEL ROOM BLOCK INFORMATION:
Hampton Inn Huntington- University Area
Rate: \$109 for a King or 2 Queens
Call:304-523-8001 (Ask for the American Legion Family Block)
OR
Book Online: https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/htshuhx-hampton-huntington-university-area
1 Select Dates
2. Click on "SPECIAL RATES"
3. Enter Group Code: AME
4. Select Room Type

Call To Department Fall Meetings

September 13-14, 2024

Hilton Garden Inn Clarksburg WV

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

September 13, 2024—Friday Meeting Room 1 (Rhododendron Room)

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

Department President—ex-officio member without vote Department Secretary/Treasurer—ex-officio without vote

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

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

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

September 14, 2024—Saturday Meeting Room 1 (Rhododendron Room)

4:00 pm—American Legion Auxiliary, Department of West Virginia, Inc. Executive Board Meeting

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

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

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

September 14, 2024—Saturday Workshop Meeting Rooms 1 and 2

Registration—8:00 am to 9:00 am (\$15.00) each Session: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Purpose of this session is for instruction to Units/members/Officers and to announce the membership program for 2024-2025 year. There will be some different items for all to enjoy. ALL AUXILIARY MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED
TO ATTEND THIS WORKSHOP. Good tool for learning if you want to help with leadership in your Unit, in your District and on Department level.

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

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



Fall Membership Workshop 2024/2025 Agenda Hilton Garden Inn Tentative Schedule Meeting Room 1 and 2

8:00 -9:00 Registration

9:00 Junior Meeting

Lobby

Welcome Prayer Moment of Silence

Pledge
National Anthem

Preamble
Mission State

Laura Clark, President
Peggy Swartz, Chaplain
Laura Clark, President
Sandra Harper, Americanism Chairperson
Paulette Anderson, Music Chairperson
Peggy Swartz, Constitution & Bylaws
Peggy Swartz, Constitution & Bylaws

9:15 POW/MIA Ceremony

9:30 Membership Team

Ann Buchanan, Membership Chairperson Kim Mellie, Dept. 1st Vice Stephanie Handley, Dept. 2nd Vice Six District Vice Presidents

10:30 Four Pillars of the ALA; Best Practices/Question & Answer Americanism (15 minutes)
Children & Youth (15 minutes)
VA&R (15 minutes)

Current Department Chairmen

Peggy Swartz, Chaplain

11:30 LUNCH

1:00 Back to Basics

Dept. President Laura Clark Ann Buchanan, Past Department President

1:30 Special Project

Laura Clark, President

1:45 Secretary Remarks

Susan Brown, Secretary/Treasurer

2:00 Questions & Answers

2:15 Auction

Survey Sheets

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

"BETTY REA'S PURSE AUCTION" SATURDAY September 14, 2024 Membership/Leadership Workshop HILTON GARDEN INN CLARKSBURG WV



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

Proceeds to benefit President Laura's Special Project
"For the Heart of the Matter"
The Purchase of 5 New AED's for West Virginia Veterans Home

DROP OFF FRIDAY EVENING OR BRING SATURDAY MORNING

HILTON GARDEN INN PRE-REGISTRATION FORM 2025 MEMBERSHIP WORKSHOP SEPTEMBER 14, 2024 DUE INTO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS SEPT. 6, 2024

NIT NAME	UNIT #_	
	NAMES OF MEMBERS ATTENDING	

REGISTRATION FEE \$15.00 YOU MAY PAY IN ADVANCE OR PAY AT THE DOOR

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

X MEANS PAID UNIT AUDIT OF MEMBERSHIP & MANDATORY FUNDS — June 11, 2024

FIRST DISTRICT - Paulette Anderson President, Christy Bland Vice President

Unit/Number	Bonding	Scholarship	Veterans Fund	Girls State	10%	Membership
#1 Wheeling	X	X	X	X	X	22
#3 Moundsville	X	X	X	X	X	261
#5 McMechen	X	X	X	X	X	10
#10 Weirton	X	X	X	X		66
#18 Cameron	X	X	X	X		120
#28 New Martinsville	X	X	X	X	X	112
#34 Wellsburg	X	X	X	X	X	19
#45 Follansbee	X	X	X	X	X	58
#81 Pine Grove						66
#86 Paden City	X	X	X	X	X	73
#89 Wheeling	X	X	X	X	X	4
#114 Newell	X	X	X	X		15
#121 Chester	X	X	X	X	X	121

THIRD DISTRICT - Kim Mellie President, April Wallace Vice President

Unit/Number	Bonding	Scholarship	Veterans Fund	Girls State	10%	Membership
#7 Buckhannon	X	X	X	X	X	42
#13 Clarksburg	X	X	X	X	X	41
#29 Elkins	X	X	X	X	X	97
#31 Shinnston	X	X	X	X	X	269
#33 Braxton County	X	X		X	X	28
#68 Bridgeport	X					62
#96 Belington						12
#122 Pickens						16
#174 Morgantown	X	X	X	X	X	117

FOURTH DISTRICT - Patsy Greiner President, Melinda Roush-Braxton Vice President

Unit/Number	Bonding	Scholarship	Veterans Fund	Girls State	10%	Membership
#15 Parkersburg	X	X	X	X	X	378
#21 Spencer	X	X	X	X	X	26
#23 Mason County	X	X	X	X	X	200
#48 Tyler County						42
#67 Sistersville						21
#140 New Haven	X	X	X	X		118
#159 Williamstown	X	X	X	X	X	62

FIFTH DISTRICT: Laura Clark President, Kimberly Evans Vice President

XUnit/Number	Bonding	Scholarship	Veterans Fund	Girls State	10%	Membership
#16 Huntington	X	X	X	X	X	131
#19 Logan	X	X	X	X	X	15
#20 Charleston						25
#73 St. Albans	X	X	X	X	X	26
#93 Ceredo-Kenova	X	X	X	X	X	207
#94 South Charleston						6
#111 Hamlin	X	X	X	X	X	36
#139 Milton	X	X	X	X	X	63
#177 Barboursville	X	X	X	X	X	142

<u>SIXTH DISTRICT</u> - Peggy Swartz President, Mary Spence Vice President

Unit	/Number	Bonding	Scholarship	Veterans Fund	Girls State	10%	Membership
#8	Welch	X	X	X	X	X	41
#9	Bluefield	X	X	X	X	X	18
#32	Beckley						13
#38	Gary	X	X	X	X	X	90
#62	Cowen	X	X	X	X	X	16
#97	Richwood						22

TENTH DISTRICT - Diana Teter President, Jill Davis Vice President

Unit/Number	Bonding	Scholarship	Veterans Fund	Girls State	10%	Membership
#14 Martinsburg	X	X	X	X	X	57
#52 Piedmont						18
#60 Berkeley Springs	X	X	X	X	X	198
#63 Charles Town	X	X	X	X	X	34
#64 Moorefield	X	X	X	X	X	79
#71 Charles Town	X	X	X	X	X	147
#78 Petersburg	X	X	X	X	X	51
#91 Romney	X	X	X	X	X	140
#128 Paw Paw	X	X	X	X	X	40
#134 Kirby	X	X	X	X	X	28
#136 Ridgeley	X	X	X	X	X	65
#137 Capon Bridge	X	X	X	X	X	190
#152 Keyser	X	X	X	X	X	32

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

STATE:	
	STATE: