



# The Auxiliary Spirit



Volume 39

October 2024

Issue 3



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!

We are just coming off a wonderful weekend at the Fall Membership Workshop and I am so excited by this year’s attendance. I am not sure of the final numbers, but I know we were well over 55 senior members and 8 junior members. We learned about ways to engage and encourage your members to stay active and learned the importance of providing the necessary tools to run a successful and active unit. A HUGE thank you to my Membership Chairman, Slugworth (aka Ann Buchanan) and the entire membership team for presenting relevant and noteworthy information so that we can ensure that all our members receive their “golden ticket” (membership card) this year!

As you know, my special project this year is to purchase new AED’s (Automatic External Defibrillators) for the WV Veterans Home. At the purse auction, we raised over \$2500 and I have a feeling that final number will be higher. Each AED costs roughly \$2200 and my goal is to purchase at least 5 for our veterans! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Laura Clark (aka Willy Wonka)  
Department President  
(304) 939-3607  
ala.lauraclark@jacaruso.com

“We are the music makers; we are the dreamers of dreams!”  
Willy Wonka

### Department Officers 2024-2025

President-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.**

Here is the list of units that have not submitted their officers list: #21, #38, #81, #94, #97, #140, & #152. When I receive their information I will post to the Spirit.

**Directory Update:**  
Weirton Unit #10  
President—Edith Mitchell  
628 Titus St  
Weirton WV 26062  
304-797-1323 (h) 304-479-7226 (c)

Sec/Tres.-Linda Rutledge  
202 Owings St  
Weirton WV 26062  
304-224-5729 (c)

**Meeting 3rd Monday of the month @ 6:30 pm. Bingo Hall Post Home**

**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 usage. Department will then decide whether the Unit will be give permission.

**Mandatory Funds:** This is the list of Units that have not either paid or have paid a partial payment:

- 1st District—Pine Grove #81
- 3rd District—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

Last of October the 1st PUFL distribution for 2025 year. I will at that time add the Units PUFL to your membership totals.

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 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.**

**There was a new Transmittal form given out at workshop. The past due amount for 2024 was not included. Past dues amount to be sent to Department is \$25.00. Please use the new form.**

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.

Quarterly Meetings will continue in 24-25. The National committee chairmen will hold three meetings with the fourth being pre-convention committee meeting. They will be Americanism, AEF, C&Y, C&B, Chaplain, Community Service, Education, Historian, Juniors, Leadership, Legislative, Membership, National Security, Poppy, Public Relations & VA&R. Look for dates.

### 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)

### 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)

### REMINDER TO ALL DEPARTMENT OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

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.

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

**Membership Chairman**

MEMBERSHIP: How Sweet It Is!  
We had a fantastic Fall Workshop in Bridgeport this weekend. We shared many things that will help each unit. A Membership Tool Kit was given to each Unit attending. If your unit did not attend, contact your District Vice President to find out the contents need to have a Tool Kit at your Unit meetings. I want to give a shout-out to our Membership Team this year. They were great with their assistance during the Workshop. Thanks to:  
Fun Dip Team directed by Stephanie Handley – Christy Bland- District 1, Rebecca Farley-District 4, and Mary Spence District 6.  
Laffy Taffy Team directed by Kim Mellie – Sandra Harper-District 3) was helping on an Honor Flight on Saturday, Lisa Harbour- District 5, and Jill Davis-District 10.  
The skit given by Point Pleasant Unit 23 was a great finish for the Membership Section. Thank you.  
We were thrilled to have 14 members attending for the first time. I hope that everyone left with a sense of excitement for this year and that our membership will meet all our goals.  
Congratulations to Cowen Unit 62 for having the highest percentage on September 15 with 50% and Moorefield Unit 64 is close behind with 46.43%.  
Gold Tickets will start being distributed soon and will give units/members the opportunity to win some great prizes during the year.

Ann Buchanan  
Membership Chairman

**Department 1st Vice President**

Hello all! I hope September finds you well. What an awesome workshop full of fun, learning, candy, and comradery this past weekend. Kudos to President Laura and Ann Buchanan for a job well done! On the more serious side, make sure you have paid your mandatory funds. Remember your mandatory funds need to be paid to stay in good standing with Department. Remember we are here for our Veterans!  
We need to do all we can to ensure our organization grows for our Military Families!  
In terms of membership, let's ban together to meet the first target of 75% by December 7th! We can do this.  
Laffy Taffy you are well on your way at almost 15%. Great Job - District 3 with Buckannon 7, Bridgeport 68 and Shinnston 31 with over 20%. District 5 with Huntington 16 and Hamlin 111 leading the way.  
District 10 with Moorefield 64 with a whopping 46%, Capon Bridge is on their tail with 45% and Romney 91, Pawpaw 128 and Kirby 134 are all 20% or above. Keep up the amazing work District 10!  
Feel free to reach out if you have questions. Look at the dates for the Fall District meetings, we would love to see every Unit represented!  
Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.  
For God and Country,  
Kim Mellie

**Department 2nd Vice President**

Hey to all the Fun Dip People, Fall Work Shop was a blast. If you weren't there you missed out on some fun and exciting stuff. The purse auction was very competitive and fun. Now is the time to get focused on getting membership taken care of. Renewal notices from National should be arriving soon to our members. Let's get those golden tickets registered. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me so I can help assist you in finding a way to correct or answer any questions. Looking forward to working with you this year.  
Your Scrumptiddlyumotious bar,  
Stephanie Handley  
Department 2nd Vice  
stephaniehandley@msn.com  
P. (304) 670-4055

Dear Unit Historians,

As guardians of the history of the American Legion Auxiliary, your role is essential in documenting and preserving the incredible work your unit is doing. Every event, project, and outreach effort contribute to the broader story of our organization, and it's important we capture it all.

To create a comprehensive record, I'm asking each of you to submit a brief monthly recap of your unit's activities. These don't need to be long, just a few sentences highlighting key details such as:

The date and name of the event or activity

A short description of what was done

The number of participants (if available)

Any special achievements or notable moments

## ***HISTORIAN***

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- The date and name of the event or activity
- A short description of what was done
- The number of participants (if available)
- Any special achievements or notable moments

Your updates will ensure we have a well-documented history at year's end, helping us celebrate our impact on veterans, their families, and our communities. Please send your recaps to me via email at the end of each month. Your dedication to preserving our history is deeply appreciated, and I look forward to reading about all the amazing work your unit is doing! You can also access many resources on our ALA website. Log in and select resources, then select Historian resources. There is a wealth of information! I am here to help you preserve the legacy. Rebecca Farley  
Department Historian 304-674-9908  
dccoachrebecca@gmail.com

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

Hello First District!! What a great time at Fall Membership Workshop! So happy to see such a great turnout. We all got some wonderful tools to work with to get those membership numbers up. Please, please DO NOT hold your dues! Let's get those in ASAP. A few Units are moving right along, a few are struggling. I know it's early but we need to turn them in when we get them. It's going to be a great year if we make it a great year. Remember, if you're struggling, if you're having problems, please reach out. Always remember why we are here. Be kind to one another. Membership in the ALA, How Sweet It Is!  
Christy Bland  
1st District VP  
christy.bland8555@gmail.com

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

Hello 4Th District Rock Stars!  
What an incredibly informative Fall Membership Workshop! Congratulations to Madam President Laura for a spectacular start to the new year! So much valuable information was shared!  
A special congratulations to Tyler County Unit #48 for achieving their 100% Membership Goal for the 2023-2024 year! Past President Debbie presented them with a certificate and a beautiful ribbon in recognition of their accomplishment.  
As we move into the 2024-2025 year, we're off to a fantastic start! We're currently leading the leaderboard for Team Fun Dip, with 6.10% of members renewing or joining. Shout out to Parkersburg Unit #15 for being at the top with an impressive 13.12%! Williamstown, you're in a strong second place with 5.41%, and Point Pleasant, you're on the board with 0.47%—there's still time to catch up!  
I encourage each unit to reach out to your members to remind them of their 2025 dues. Additionally, ask them to create a list of 10 potential eligible members, and once they have the list, share the details on how to fill out the volunteer interest forms at the following links: <https://www.legion-aux.org/joining> or <https://www.legion-aux.org/volunteer>  
Hope to see you at our district conference on September 29, 2024, in Parkersburg!  
Rebecca S Farley  
4th District Vice President  
304-674-9908  
dccoachrebecca@gmail.com

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

How to best respond to a newcomer at your post home. A person with an unfamiliar face enters an American Legion post. The face has the puzzled look of someone who's seeking information but is not sure where to find it. As it turns out, the visitor is there to learn more about joining the American Legion Auxiliary. What happens next? If those at the Legion post handle the situation appropriately, the scene likely will end with a prospective member who's excited about joining the ALA. But a bungled response could yield a very different outcome: The would-be member might never come back. Learn outreach tips on the ALA blog  
<https://bit.ly/3Xou0bt>  
Just a little tid bit to help with Membership.  
District 3 , we are doing a great job, be we are still not in the lead, we are at about 1.32% behind of lead. There are a couple of Units that are not there yet, Please if I may help out let me know , I would be glad to.  
Units can be AMAZING, no matter their size,  
Third District Vice President  
Sandra Harper  
sandy.harper265@gmail.com  
304-694-2067

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

It was great seeing everyone this weekend at the Members Training. I know that I learned a lot while having fun and I hope everyone else did too. Please use the Membership Toolkit. It has so much information for your use to recruit new members and even help keep the old members. Remember your goal but don't let membership be about the numbers. Ask your members why they joined and let that be your focus. If you didn't get your toolkit, I'll have them at District meeting in October. If you want me to email you the information, please let me know and I will.

Find creative ways of holding membership drives. Wearing red on Friday or even just an auxiliary shirt is a way to start up conversations that could lead to getting new members.

I know everyone in 5th district is working hard. Huntington #16 is in the lead followed by Hamlin #111, and Barboursville #177.

Keep up the hard work that you are doing for our veterans. If I can be any assistance, please feel free to email me or call.

Please remember District meeting October 26 at Hamlin #111.

Lisa Harbour-Adkins  
wvbravesfan@gmail.com  
304-633-0530

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

What a great Fall Workshop, so much learning as well as fun. Thank you everyone that came. I want to encourage each unit to try to make these workshops as there are so many things to learn. It was so nice to see all the faces, some new and many seasoned.

Out of the 13 units that we have, 9 units have made an impact on getting their memberships in. Please don't hold them, if possible, try to get them in once a week. This is very helpful to make the goals. First goal is not until December 7 (Pearl Harbor Day), but you should be at 75% at this time. I would love to see and challenge your unit to be the first with 100% into department.

I do ask that we be kind to one another. We need to put our personal feelings aside and get along. Learn to agree to disagree on different subjects. Being kind also brings in new members. We do a lot of great things. I am sure that each unit could always use more help with all that I hear is going on.

If there is ever anything I can do to help with membership or anything, I will be glad to help in any way. You can email me at pits\_me1@yahoo.com or call me at (540) 303-6907- it is ok to leave a message. I will call you back when I get a free minute.

Thank you for all that you do to help your veterans. Keep it up!

Jill Davis

10th District Vice President

Reminder: October 19th is our District Meeting at Berkeley Springs.

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

Good Day to All!

If you missed the workshop this past weekend you missed a great time! Department President Laura and Membership Chairman Ann did an outstanding job! Sad to say we only had 3 units that attended from our District.

I have the unit's plan of action and directories to mail out this week. Please watch for them. There are a few units information missing in the directory for First District. Please send this information in to the Department Secretary ASAP. Don't forget to send your credentials and registration in for the Fall Conference by the deadline.

Our Department President will be attending.

Paulette Anderson  
First District President

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

Hello Ladies

For those of you who did not make fall Workshop in Bridgeport Saturday morning, you missed a very fun and informative event. If you did not learn at least one new item about the Auxiliary then you were asleep.

Ladies, I hate to bring this up, but at least two of our units have not paid any of their mandatory funds for several years. They need (must) pay for 2024 at least the bonding fee of \$5.00 and at least \$1.00 each of the other mandatories for a total of \$9.00. Then they need to catch 2025 up for the same amount. Another unit needs to pay the Veterans Fund at least \$1.00 and last but not least one unit has paid their bonding fee, but not the other mandatories. So ladies of these units PLEASE, PLEASE pay these mandatories so all the units in Third District can be in good standing. Then do the same for the 2025 year. If you need any help whatsoever, please let me or Sandra Harper know.

Third District Conference, Saturday, October 5, 2024 at Clarksburg Post 13, more information coming.

For God and Country

Margaret Yost

Third District President  
mdyost2010@gmail.com

### *4th District President*

Hello All,  
The District Four Fall Conference is scheduled for September 29, 2024, at Post #15 in Parkersburg, WV. Vice President Rebecca Farley has planned an exciting membership program to present to auxiliary unit members. It is a brand-new year, and we are ready to recruit and retain members!  
There are seven units in the 4th District. We only get to meet twice a year. Please make every effort to attend this Fall Conference. If you need transportation, please contact me.  
Department President Laura Clark chose "For the Heart of the Matter" for her theme. Her special project is WV Heart Association (Go RED for Women). Here membership Theme is "Membership in the American Legion Family... How Sweet It Is!"  
The focus this year is getting back to basics. Remember why we became members. Remember the Veterans in your circle. 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

### *6th District President*

Hi Everyone  
Hope all is enjoying this fall weather we are having.  
Hope everyone is working on Mandatory Funds and getting them in soon.  
We have a change in our District Meeting that is scheduled for Saturday September 28, 2024. This meeting will be hosted by Gary Unit 38, and will be located at THE LITTLE GRILL AND CHILL located at 745 Riverside Drive, Welch, WV. The cost of the luncheon will be \$12.00 per person. Hope to see a lot of members at this meeting. So come out and enjoy the meeting.  
Sorry if you weren't able to attend the workshop in Bridgeport this past weekend you missed a good meeting.  
Hope you are working on membership. Our District Vice President daughter was in an accident so she and her husband has gone to be with her, she is a member of our Unit. Please say a prayer for her.  
This will be a short message but wanted to let you know the change in our District meeting.  
Until next time lets keep our veterans in our prayers and all of our memberships.  
Peggy Swartz, President  
Sixth District

### *10th District President*

What a great time at Fall Workshop!  
It is always so nice to see our sisters and share time with them.  
Thank you Laura and everyone involved for making this workshop a success.  
10th District Fall Conference is on October 19, 2024 at Berkeley Springs. Registration at 8:00.  
We look forward to seeing you there.  
Please remember to be positive. A little kindness goes a long way.

Diana Teter  
10th District President

### *Auxiliary Emergency Fund*

September is Disaster Preparedness Month and the theme for 2024 is "Start a Conversation."  
Talking about bad things that could happen like a disaster or emergency isn't always easy. We may think we're protecting the people we love by avoiding these conversations, but they are important to start taking steps to get ready and stay safe.  
Starting a conversation today can help you and your family to take more actions to prepare. By taking simple steps, you can build your preparedness at your own pace:

- \*Set aside a time when everyone is calm and relaxed.
- \*It may help to hold the discussions over a set time period, so decisions aren't rushed, and people feel more comfortable talking about the topic.
- \*Talk about steps you've taken to prepare and encourage others to ask questions about preparedness actions that might work for them.

Blessing,  
Melanie Shambaugh  
AEF Chairman

### *NEC*

Woohoo West Virginia! Toot your horns!! While at National Convention West Virginia Units had recognitions from the stage, won awards, and had a Service member awarded.

Mentions

#60 Berkeley Springs for their Education work

#71 Charles Town for their food bank donations & for their fundraiser benefit to To The ResQ.

#93 Ceredo - Kenova for their fields of honor

Awards

#60 Berkeley Springs- Central Division Education

Poppy Posters

#16 Huntington submission won class 4

#71 Charles Town submission won class 1

Salute to Service Member award

Donnie Lambert submission by #71 Charles Town

Lisa Cadwallader

NEC

## *Americanism*

September 14, 2024 will be a day I never forget, I got to Chaperone a WWII Veteran on the Honor Flight,

There is too much to go into detail in this article, but it was an HONOR and Privilege to spend the day with 96 Veterans and hear their stories and see their faces light up as we visited the Memorial that was designated for them. To see other groups of Veterans from other States, walk up and "THANK" to each other for their Service.

The Veteran that I escorted was 102 years old, WWII, and had never flown on a plane.

I highly suggest that if you are able to be a chaperone that you DO IT!

**LEAD THE WAY to AMERICANISM!**  
Promote Americanism in the community  
Educate our Youth on the History of the United States: Patriotism /The US Constitution

Americanism Essay contest- The essays are due by March 15, 2025 to me, in order to get sent to Nationals by April,

Topic for this year's Essay ( "What does America the Beautiful mean to me" regarding Veterans and Military)

Oratorical Contest

Promote Flag etiquette

**TOGETHER WE ARE THE "MIGHTY ALA"**

Americanism Key Resources available online [www.legion-aux.org](http://www.legion-aux.org)

Sandra Harper

sandy.harper265@gmail.com

304-694-2067

## **Community Service**

Good Day Members,

Hope you have a great weekend just remember when we were out in the public make sure we have something on that says ALA. So people know we're working helping our Veterans & Community. (I will always remember Anne B saying we're the ALA not the Lions club) put the best foot forward remember we're showing what great people we have in our West Virginia American Legion Auxiliary.

Blessing

Kelli A Immel

## *Children & Youth*

Wow! What a wonderful weekend we spent in Bridgeport at the membership conference. Willy Wonka made a special appearance with his good friend Slugworth. The attendance was overwhelming and the number of first timers made you feel warm inside. There are ladies in our department that want the information the auxiliary has to give. If you were unable to attend this past weekend, you missed a fantastic time.

I hope everyone is planning your holiday parties whether it be Halloween Thanksgiving or Christmas. I'm going to also ask you to think out of the box about nontraditional ways to help our youth. Please let me know any ideas or projects that your unit is participating in. Also include pictures of the events. NOTE: any pictures that are sent to national need to be action shots. Although we want to see the picture of those working projects as a group, national would like to see the project being worked. Next year in Tampa, at the national convention, I would like to see lots of pictures from West Virginia on the big screen.

Please keep me posted of the projects and ideas that your unit is working on. April is children and youth month and not too early to be thinking about projects during that month.

If anyone needs a copy of the military child's table setting, please let me know, and I will email it to you.

Beth Kilgore,  
Chairman

## *Child Welfare Foundation*

I know many of you have a pig that's left over from prior years to collect money for CWS. We are now being charged a dollar per pig therefore, I am not ordering any this year. If you still have some, I would like to suggest that you put them out on your bar to receive any change or bills, that your patrons would like to give. Empty the jars about once a month. If you do not have any pigs, I suggest that you get some jars of some type to put on the bar marked for CWF. Be sure to put an explanation of what you're collecting for and how it is to benefit the children in different communities. This is a Legion program that the auxiliary is supporting. If you would like to know more about the CWF, I suggest you go to the Legion website, and check it out.

Always remember, service not self!  
Beth, Kilgore,  
Chairman

## *Education*

For those who missed Fall Workshop this past weekend you missed a very informative meeting. Plan of works were handed out. Several Chairperson Discussed new items for this year. The purpose of the Education Committee is to promote quality education for children, especially for military children and adults. Encourage schools to invite Veterans into the classroom to speak. To provide scholarships for Students who desire a college education.

Scholarship information: West Virginia American Legion Auxiliary Department Scholarship. Non-traditional Student Scholarship.

Next month I will list more scholarships and important dates. If you need My help call me at 304-592-0247 or email me at [carlajwilfong@gmail.com](mailto:carlajwilfong@gmail.com).

God Bless Our Veterans

Carla Wilfong

Education Co-chairperson

## *Junior Activities*

Junior Girls participated in the Department ALA annual Fall Conference at the Hilton Garden Inn on September 13-14, 2024, in Clarksburg, WV. The weekend began with a special premier showing of "Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" on Friday night. President Laura and her helpers handed out popcorn at the start of the movie.

On Saturday morning juniors joined senior members as they opened the Fall Workshop. President Laura announced junior member Lilly Michael would serve as the official bell ringer for the opening ceremonies. Junior honorary president, Samantha Walker participated in a special POW/MIA ceremony with senior members.

Following the POW/MIA ceremony the juniors were dismissed. Honorary President Samantha Walker opened the Junior Fall Conference meeting. The acting Honorary Secretary was Abbie Springer. The acting Honorary Chaplain Clara Michael gave the prayer. Following the business meeting the juniors discussed flag etiquette and practiced folding the American Flag. Juniors created patriotic pictures and a get-well card for Ed Walker, junior president Samantha's father. Juniors held a roundtable discussion about the American Legion organization and why they are members. The juniors will work on recruiting members.

For God and Country  
Patsy Greiner  
Junior Activities Chairman  
304-483-8296  
Patsygirl2@gmail.com



## *Legislative*

CALLING ALL Auxiliary! We need you to send emails daily, hourly, whenever you can! The Department of Veterans Affairs faces a 15-billion-dollar budgetary shortfall. If Congress does not act by September 20th, Disabled Veterans, Survivors, and Student Veterans are at risk of losing their earned benefits. Write as many as you can, make as many calls as you can.....make it known that earned veterans' benefits is non-negotiable!

<https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>

It is this easy! Just fill in the info and send. Click on any of the bills to send a quick email. It is composed for you and if you do it on your phone ..your personal information is automatically entered. It takes less than 5 minutes to send an email!

Legislative Chair  
Kim Mellie  
kmellie@comcast.net

## *National Security*

WOW!!! What a Super Duper Gobstopper Great Membership Workshop!! Start looking at any Reservist and Active Duty military that you know or possibly have in your Units, Posts or Squadrons and the requirements to nominate them for a Service member of the Year Award!! There is work that must be done from their end so it is never too early to start looking for candidates!!! POW/MIA National Day of Recognition is Friday, September 20. Try to do something with the your Legion Family. If you do anything to memorialize this day...send JPEG photos to me for a Board at Mid-Winter!! Mrs. Wonka whispered there might be a surprise involved! You never know what is up a sleeve!!!!

April D. Wallace  
National Security Chair

## *Music*

You will receive the Plan of Action for Music from your District President if you didn't attend the workshop this past weekend.

Remember to use music in your meetings. You can play patriotic music on a CD player, sing along for a "getting to know your members" are some examples. Create your own ideas. Think outside the box.

Paulette Anderson  
Music Chairman

## *Scrapbook*

Hello Ladies

I wish to thank President Laura for appointing me her scrapbook chairperson for the 2024-2025 year.

There is some exciting news coming in either 2024 or 2025 in the area of scrapbooks. I will let you know more in the coming months. Just remember when you are doing your scrapbook, that this is also a history of your Unit only in pictures.

For God and Country  
Margaret Yost  
Scrapbook Chairperson  
mdyost2010@gmail.com  
304-629-0688



## *Past President Parley*

Hello to all!

It was great seeing all of you at the Fall Workshop, although, I did miss those who are always there, but could not attend this year. Wonderful job, President Laura!

I am hoping to make the PPP a supportive group for all members. To do this, I need your help. All past presidents can be mentors to our members. You can take new/old members under your wing and help them learn all about the ALA. There are always questions and those members will continue to wonder how or why something is done.

I believe the more we all know about the ALA, the more comfortable everyone will be at reporting all they do.

I am urging Past District Presidents to form a District PPP. A good place to start is at your Fall District Conferences. This would be another avenue to promote and support our ALA programs and possibly fundraisers. Also, a great way to get together and remember district meetings from the past. A district history?? Just a thought. I welcome your input.

If your unit does not have a PPP, please form one. It could be a good source of information/ideas for your unit.

I would like to know how many units have a PPP. Please send me an email if your unit has/does not have a PPP. Can't wait to hear from you.

Enjoy the wonderful weather and have a "Sweet Fall".

I'm here to help any way I can.

Hugs!

Debbie Michael

PPP Chairman

katndebbie@gmail.com

304-839-7721

## **Poppy**

### **SPRINKLE YOUR WORLD WITH POPPIES!**

Share the poppy story in the schools and in the community. Teach the history of the poppy and its significance to veterans and the American Legion family. Distribute the American Legion Auxiliary Poppy coloring books to second and third grades. Emblem Sales offers a good price for the books.

Coloring pages and other resources were given to Unit members at the Fall workshop. Make copies and distribute them to elementary schools. After the pages are colored, they should be displayed for the public.

Place them in windows of local businesses, churches, community rooms, and the American Legion post.

Stimulate enthusiasm for the poppy program by holding fun activities like a poppy themed party. Encourage school children to participate in the Poppy Poster Contest. Juniors may participate in the Little Miss Poppy contest and the Poppy Poster Contest too.

School children can make and distribute cards to veterans for Veterans Day. Juniors can make cards too and put a poppy in the card. Let Junior members distribute poppies at parades and other celebrations. Share the poppy story in your community. **WEAR A POPPY—REMEMBER A VETERAN!**

Shirley Davis, Chairman

psdavis1524@msn.com

(304) 544-1838

## *Public Relations*

Lights, Camera, Action WV! Let's step up your visibility!

Strengthening your connections with local and regional media can significantly boost your unit's visibility and help promote the great work you're doing. Here are a few tips. Start by compiling a detailed list of local reporters, editors, and producers who cover community issues, veterans, and local events. Be sure to include their names, roles, email addresses, and phone numbers to keep your outreach organized. Gather key information about your unit, leadership bios, past press releases, upcoming events, and important statistics about your veteran community impact.

Send concise and timely press releases. Make sure each release has a strong headline and key facts, and tailor the content to suit the specific audience of each media outlet. Follow and engage with reporters on platforms like Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook.

Media coverage will amplify your efforts and increase awareness for your unit.

Don't Forget: Public Relations Tool Kit is available for download log into your ALA account and click on Public Relations.

I am here to help you shine and stand out, please let me know how I can help!

Rebecca Farley

Public Relations Chairman

304-674-9908

dcoachrebecca@gmail.com

## *Standing Rules*

Hello Fellow Auxiliary Members, I hope all is well with everyone. I would like to share with you a couple of Standing Rules Updates/Corrections:

Updates/Corrections for printed versions prior to following edit dates:

2/24/2024 - Amend Standing Rule Standing Rule XI, Units, #7 (pg 53) to read: A Unit member within the same Unit can challenge the membership eligibility of a current member, or a person considered for membership. NEC Vote February 24, 2024 Special Meeting in Executive Session

5/2/2023 – Correction: pg. 17, Article IX Unit Organizations, Section 5, second line, 8th word should be “membership,” not “ALA.” Correct Sentence should read: Section 5. Each Unit of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be responsible for verifying eligibility and deciding its membership, subject to the restrictions of the national governing documents.

I encourage and ask each unit to go to our National Website: [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org) and review National's Standing Rules. If you have any questions/concerns, then contact me. Until Next Month

God Bless and Be Safe!!!

Rhonda Best, Standing Rules Chairman



## *Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation*

If you missed workshop, you really missed a fun and informative time! One of the activities was to write down, why you joined, what your purpose is. We sometimes forget.

The member tracking sheet in your folders is updated to include number served.

That should be attached to the email with this Spirit. Please pass this out to members so they can track their hours for VA, Service to Veterans or they can use for any Auxiliary program if they like.

Let's go over reporting hours. Caregivers are helping Veterans who have problems performing daily living tasks, such as dressing, or bathing. Not because I'm married to a Veteran and go out to mow the lawn or perform other household chores. Caregivers can report 10 hours a week if they live with the Veteran and 5 hours a week if they do not live with the Veteran. VA Hours are anything you do at or for a VA. To name a few, hours shopping for gift shops, cheer parties, baby shower, VA Cemeteries, treat bags or fill treat bags as long as they are reported to the VA can for included under VA.

Service to Veterans are hours spent doing for Veterans outside the VA hour reporting. To name a few, this would include nursing home Veterans, Wreaths Across America, Honor Flights, flags on veterans graves, or driving Veterans to doctor appointments. Helping your Legion Post only counts in hours reporting if you are helping with an activity such as Wreaths Across America or a fundraiser to send a Veteran on something such as an hour flight. Just cooking a dinner for a post event does not count.

Both the VA & R guide and Poppy guide are good recourses and talk about hours and how poppy funds can be used.

If you are unsure, please just ask! If I need to get clarification, I will.

My why, my purpose, is helping Veterans and honoring my military family,

Lisa Cadwallader

VA&R Chair

Lisac.ala71@gmail.com



# American Legion Auxiliary WV Rhododendron Girls State

## *Rhododendron Girls State*

It's not too early to start planning for this upcoming Girls State Session. This is the time of year businesses prepare their budget's. I know you would like some donations for your Unit and get on their list. Many businesses and organizations would love to help send a deserving young lady to Girls State.

The impact you have on a deserving young lady is a life-time opportunity. They will remember attending Girls State for years to come but only you can help secure the funding for them.

Also, please use your past Girls State citizens for your children's Halloween parties, Veterans Day, Poppy Day, Christmas Parade, Wreaths Across America or to help with any 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 nineteen \$25.00 winners for August and one winner for the \$200 drawing. Congratulation to all the winners!

I will have the 2025 tickets with me at the workshop. If there is any special numbers that you would like, email or call to see if their still available.

Once again this year the committee will be offering a cash prize for the individual and unit that sells the most Ways & Means tickets.

Please cash your checks! We still one outstanding check from 2023 and early 2024.

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*

| <b>Name</b>       | <b>#'s</b> | <b>City</b>      | <b>State</b> | <b>Date</b> | <b>\$\$\$</b> |
|-------------------|------------|------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
|                   | 802        |                  |              | 8/01/24     |               |
| Shawn Mulac       | 426        | Washington       | PA           | 8/02/24     | 25.00         |
| David Rose        | 761        | Wheeling         | WV           | 8/03/24     | 25.00         |
|                   | 956        |                  |              | 8/05/24     |               |
| Shauan Walker     | 194        | Bellaire         | OH           | 8/06/24     | 25.00         |
|                   | 422        |                  |              | 8/07/24     |               |
| Jeff Wisley       | 510        | Lavalette        | WV           | 8/08/24     | 25.00         |
| Dale Thayer       | 686        | Sutton           | WV           | 9/09/24     | 25.00         |
| Tammy Bouelle     | 847        | Augusta          | WV           | 8/10/24     | 25.00         |
| Mike Wallace      | 000        | Buckhannon       | WV           | 8/12/24     | 25.00         |
| Patricia Greiner  | 413        | Vienna           | WV           | 8/13/24     | 25.00         |
| Peggy Swartz      | 024        | Gary             | WV           | 8/14/24     | 25.00         |
| Leslie Jenkins    | 048        | Moorefield       | WV           | 8/15/24     | 25.00         |
|                   | 802        |                  |              | 8/16/24     |               |
|                   | 207        |                  |              | 8/17/24     |               |
| Brenda Proctor    | 352        | Falling Waters   | WV           | 8/19/24     | 25.00         |
| Lynn Rose         | 548        | Berkeley Springs | WV           | 8/20/24     | 25.00         |
| John Powell       | 268        | Wheeling         | WV           | 8/21/24     | 200.00        |
|                   | 703        |                  |              | 8/22/24     |               |
| Carla Wilfong     | 534        | Enterprise       | WV           | 8/23/24     | 25.00         |
|                   | 869        |                  |              | 8/24/24     | 25.00         |
| Tiffany Davis     | 067        | Capon Bridge     | WV           | 8/26/24     | 25.00         |
| Chester Unit #121 | 028        | Chester          | WV           | 8/27/24     | 25.00         |
| Ronnie Wilfong    | 208        | Romney           | WV           | 8/28/24     | 25.00         |
| Tom Hicks         | 629        | Moundsville      | WV           | 8/29/24     | 25.00         |
| Ron Smith         | 712        | New Freedom      | PA           | 8/30/24     | 25.00         |
| Cathy Henrie      | 544        | Dunbar           | WV           | 8/31/24     | 25.00         |
|                   |            |                  |              |             |               |



# October 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

|                                                                                           |                    |    |                                      |                                                                                                                                              |    |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|
|                                                                                           |                    | 1  | 2                                    | 3                                                                                                                                            | 4  | 5  |
| 6                                                                                         | 7                  | 8  | 9                                    | 10                                                                                                                                           | 11 | 12 |
| 13<br> | 14<br>Columbus Day | 15 | 16                                   | 17                                                                                                                                           | 18 | 19 |
| 20                                                                                        | 21                 | 22 | 23                                   | 24                                                                                                                                           | 25 | 26 |
| 27                                                                                        | 28                 | 29 | 30                                   | 31<br>                                                   |    |    |
|                                                                                           |                    |    | Red Shirt<br>Friday—<br>Every Friday | <div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px;"><p><i>Program of Month</i></p><p><i>Education<br/>Constitution &amp; Bylaws</i></p></div> |    |    |

***“Membership in the American Legion Family...How Sweet It Is!”***

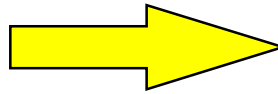
**Date 09/12/2024**  
**Department Goal 4691 — Membership to Date—**  
**Department Unit 200 Goal 232 — Membership to Date—**  
**First Target Date 75% - December 7, 2024**

**Stephanie**

| <b>District 1</b>    |            |           |              |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| 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        | 30        | 26.55%       |
| Wellsburg #34        | 23         | 0         | 0            |
| Follansbee #45       | 61         | 1         | 1.64%        |
| 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        | 1         | .80%         |
| <b>TOTALS</b>        | <b>996</b> | <b>51</b> | <b>5.12%</b> |

| <b>District 4</b> |            |           |              |
|-------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| Unit              | 2025 Goal  | 2025      | % of Goal    |
| Parkersburg #15   | 381        | 50        | 13.12%       |
| Spencer #21       | 30         | 0         | 0            |
| Pt. Pleasant #23  | 215        | 1         | .47%         |
| Tyler County #48  | 45         | 0         | 0            |
| Sistersville #67  | 32         | 0         | 0            |
| New Haven #140    | 124        | 0         | 0            |
| Williamstown #159 | 74         | 4         | 5.41%        |
| <b>TOTALS</b>     | <b>901</b> | <b>55</b> | <b>6.10%</b> |

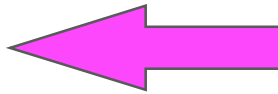
| <b>District 6</b> |            |           |              |
|-------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| Unit              | 2025 Goal  | 2025      | % of Goal    |
| Welch #8          | 45         | 0         | 0            |
| Bluefield #9      | 23         | 0         | 0            |
| Beckley #32       | 20         | 0         | 0            |
| Gary #38          | 93         | 0         | 0            |
| Cowen #62         | 20         | 10        | 50%          |
| Richwood #97      | 28         | 0         | 0            |
| <b>TOTALS</b>     | <b>229</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>4.37%</b> |



**“Laffy Taffy”  
 Team  
 Goal—2565  
 To Date— 134  
 5.22%**



**Membership  
 Chairman**



**“Fun Dip”  
 Team  
 Goal—2126  
 To Date 116  
 5.46 %**



**Kim**

| <b>District 3</b>  |            |           |              |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| Unit               | 2025 Goal  | 2025      | % of Goal    |
| Buckhannon #7      | 44         | 9         | 20.46%       |
| Clarksburg #13     | 46         | 0         | 0            |
| Elkins #29         | 108        | 2         | 1.85%        |
| Shinnston #31      | 271        | 76        | 28.04%       |
| Braxton County #33 | 32         | 0         | 0            |
| Bridgeport #68     | 66         | 15        | 22.73%       |
| Belington #96      | 16         | 0         | 0            |
| Pickens #122       | 20         | 0         | 0            |
| Morgantown #174    | 120        | 20        | 16.67%       |
| <b>TOTALS</b>      | <b>723</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>2.77%</b> |

| <b>District 5</b>  |            |           |              |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| 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%        |
| <b>TOTALS</b>      | <b>693</b> | <b>32</b> | <b>4.62%</b> |

| <b>District 10</b>   |             |           |              |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| 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            |
| <b>TOTALS</b>        | <b>1149</b> | <b>82</b> | <b>7.14%</b> |



**DEPARTMENT OF  
WEST VIRGINIA**

**Homecoming**

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](mailto: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

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: \_\_\_\_\_