



The Auxiliary

Spirit





Volume 39

December 2024





"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)

American Legion Auxiliary 2024-2025 Department President

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays Department of West Virginia! I can not believe that we are already approaching the holiday season! As we enter a very busy time for most of us, please take the time to check with your Auxiliary and Legion members who may be grieving or feeling lonely during this time of year. We are truly a family and need to make sure that we are taking care of one another!

Thank you for the hospitality extended while I attended your District Fall Meetings, and a special thank you to Ceredo-Kenova 93, Elkins 29, and Welch 8 for including me in your Veterans Day parades and dinner. Commander Jeff Wisley and I would like to also thank everyone who attended our Homecoming last month and we appreciate the support from all of you.

As a reminder, the first target membership date of 7%% is fast approaching on December 7th (Pearl Harbor Day). Congratulations to those units who have already achieved that goal and for several other units who are so close! A HUGE shoutout to Wheeling Unit #1 for already achieving 92.31% of goal! Keep up the great work!

> For the Heart of the Matter, Laura Clark Department President Call/Text: 304-939-3607 Email: ala.lauraclark@gmail.com

"Time is a precious thing. Never waste it." - 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



Issue 5



Department Headquarters

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

Unit's 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 UN-SURE OF YOUR UNIT'S STATUS CALL THE OFFICE—Thank you

Directory Update: Piedmont #52—change email address to annettefrancis48@gmail.com

Berkeley Springs #60—There was a miscommunication. Please charge the Email address back to sham4wv@aol.com

PUFL payments have been mailed. Don't forget to add to your membership count.

Beckley Unit #32 President Linda Day 226 Bibb Ave Beckley WV 25801 304-255-5464

Secretary Mary Jennings 929 Old Eccled Rd Beckley WV 25801 304-673-1997

ALA MIS payments are not due to Department until I send you an invoice. Please do not pay early—Thank you

Full access or Write users I do not need new applications that have been entered by you. They are for your records only!

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. The Department will then decide whether the Unit will be give permission.



Those units that have the write program only. You still have to complete a transmittal form when sending 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.

You unit membership count for 2025 year starts on August 1, 2024. Please do not add to the 2024 year.

Reminder—Constitution Article VIII, section 4—All Department officers, Department Executive Committee and Chairmen of Standing Committees must be in good standing in their Units. Dues shall be paid to Department by November 1.

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 included in this Spirit.

Just a small note; Posts and Units may meet on the same day. They just do not hold their business sessions together.

SPRING CONFERENCE 2025 March 22nd -10th District—Capon Bridge #137 (J)

Mail Call-Get Well Cards

Roxie Nicholson, PDP—surgery PO Box 14 Shinnston WV 25431

Debbie Fox, PDP—surgery 874 Longview Dr Berkeley Springs WV 25411

Susan Wade, PDP—surgery 303 N. 1st Ave Paden City WV 26159

Mary Spence-6th Dist. VP 934 Riverside Dr Welch WV 24801

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 & COMMIITT CHAIRS

Spirit articles can not be any longer then 200 words. Single spacing and 10 fonts.

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

Thinking of you

Debbie Morgan, President #81 225 Russell Ave New Martinsville WV 26155

Lois Moles brother recently passed, cards maybe sent to 1822 Adams Ave St. Albans WV 25177

Dortha Parsons, PDP brother Robert Hurst passed on 11/12. Cards maybe send to Dortha at: 130 Washington Ave, Apt 201 Clarksburg WV 26301 American Legion Auxiliary Shinnston Unit 31 Shinnston, WV

At a regular meeting of American Legion Auxiliary, Shinnston Unit 31, of Shinnston, WV held on October 17, 2024 at 7pm at the Post Home. The endorsement of Kim Mellie for the office of Department President for the year 2025-2026 was unanimously approved by membership.

Kim Mellie is eligible through the military service of her father, Theo Audel Tucker Sr., who was an Army veteran of World War II and also through her husband Frank Mellie who served in the Coast Guard during Desert Storm. Frank and Kim have been married 31 years with four daughters and three grandchildren and another on the way. Kim joined the Auxiliary in 2018. She has helped in many capacities with her Unit. She has volunteered to help with the multitude of commitments to prepare food for Shinnston Unit 31, volunteered as a judge for the Oratorical contest, helped with children's holiday parties, and shopped for Angel Tree. She also is cosponsor of the new Juniors at Shinnston Unit 31.

Kim has been very active on the District and Department level. She served two years as Third District President. In the Department, her first year as Historian also led to being a National Page in Arizona alongside PDP Savanna Kaufmann. She has served as Department Historian, Department Chaplain, Department Second Vice and is currently Department First Vice. She has also served as chair of Education for three years and helped process 20+ scholarship applications. She is currently in her second year as the Legislative chair.

Kim has been an educator for 34 years. She has served in many areas of student support services. She also helped coach her soccer team to three State Championships. Over the years, she has helped raise money for school and many other volunteer organizations. She also won the "You Made a Difference" Award nominated by former students. Kim's apparent love of education and children has led to a very successful career helping many students succeed in life.

Shinnston Unit 31 is honored to present Kim Mellie as a candidate for 2025-2026 for the office of Department President.

Shinnston Unit 31 President Andrea Skelley Shinnston Unit 31 Secretary Margaret Yost ~~~~ Membership in the American Legion Family... How Sweet It Is !!! ~~~~~

Membership Chairman

Ladies, as the weather turns toward a chilly mode, we need to turn up the heat o getting members to pay their dues or for new members to join. The holiday season is always busy for everyone and the giving of gifts is high. Give a gift that keeps on giving by getting members to pay their dues or getting a new member to join. This allows us to give to our veterans, our children, and our communities. We need to be a visible force in our units and our communities. Our first goal is 75% by December 7, 2024 Pearl Harbour Day. Wheeling Unit 1 (92.31%) Buckhannon Unit 7 (84.09%) Bridgeport Unit 68 (89.39%) St. Albans 73 (75.76%) Cowen Unit 62 (75%) Capon Bridge Unit 137 (83.85%) have already reached this first goal. *CONGRATULATIONS* Several units are close and I know that many more will get Goal 1. The Laffy Taffy Team is beating the Fun Dip Team by 8%, but I know that it will get much closer as the year progresses. Make yourself visible in your community by wearing apparel that will show your pride of being a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Keep us the great work and make this world sweeter by getting more members

Ann Buchanan Membership Chairman AnnBuch@aol.com

to assist us in serving our veterans.

Department 1st Vice President

Way to go Laffy Taffy team! We are at 55.8% of our goal. Can we get to 65% by December? Yes, we can! You are awesome and have what it takes to make this organization wonderful! Keep up the great work. We are currently last in Central Division so we do need to step up our game a bit more! District 3 - Buchannon and Bridgeport have hit and surpassed the 75% goal for December! Elkins and Braxton you are so close! You can do it! District 5- St. Albans hit the 75% mark. Amazing job! Huntington, Milton, and Barboursville, an Logan are working hard! District 10- Capon Bridge has done it again. You not only hit 75%, but you are also well on your way to 90%! Keep up the great work! Berkley Springs is hot on your tail! :) Let's stretch our minds, come up with new ideas and get members to sign up! Set small goals and celebrate when you reach them and before you know it; vou will be at 100%! Remember. Junior members count as well! Good Luck and I hope you all have wonderful Holidays and spread the cheer to our military families and Veterans! I know you will! For God and Country, Kim Mellie Department First Vice President American Legion Auxiliary Department of WV 304-216-9943 kmellie@comcast.net

Historian

Department 2nd Vice President

Hey there Fun Dips!

I hope everyone is doing well and adjusting to the time change. Let's continue to work hard on membership to get those numbers in. Have you starting using the New Member toolkit? You not only can use it for new members, but you can also give it to current members to keep them informed of new information. Have the units decided on any strategies to recruit new members and to retain current members? Always be mindful to include everyone when gathering ideas. Everyone wants to feel like they contributed to something is someway.

With the holidays fast approaching there a many ways to reach out to members and potential new members during Post events and holiday parties. Remember branding and always speak positive about our organization when asked about what we do and why we do it. Keep processing that membership! Stephanie Handley Department 2nd Vice President



In small towns nestled among snow-covered hills, the members of the American Legion Auxiliary Units of the Department of WV, gather in their historic halls. The buildings, rich with decades of memories, hold countless stories of service, sacrifice, and community. The units have a special mission: to preserve their history. In back rooms, dusty boxes overflow with yellow newsletters, handwritten meeting notes, and faded photographs. These artifacts are the lifeblood of their legacy, yet they have been neglected over the years. On Christmas Eve, they set up long tables and began sorting through the treasures. Laughter echoed as they uncovered photos of past members dressed in vintage uniforms, and tears filled their eyes as they read letters from soldiers, veterans and families thanking the auxiliary for their support. They decided to create a digital archive to ensure these stories would never be lost. A local high school student volunteered to scan documents, while members donated funds for preservation supplies. By midnight, the unit halls glowed with a sense of accomplishment and hope. They had not only honored their past but also ensured that future generations would remember their legacy. This Christmas, let history become your greatest gift! Peace, Love, Joy & History!

Rebecca S Farley 304-674-9908

1st District Vice President

Hello First District! I'm so happy to see membership finally starting to rise, great job to everyone! Keep up the good work! Our total percentage may be a little behind, but I know we can get there. Veteran's Day has come and gone and I've seen some great things the Units have done and assisted Posts in. Pat yourselves on the back, you're all doing a great job. I hope everyone is staying warm while we finally get some fall weather. We've gotten a little spoiled so far. Holidays are sneaking up on us this year. I'd like to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy your day with family and friends and God bless. 1st District Vice President Christy Bland Christy.bland8555@gmail.com

5th District Vice President

It's hard to believe that it's already December and Christmas are right around the corner. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. Even though it's a little bit late, I want to thank Hamlin #111 for hosting 5th District Fall District Meeting. It was a great meeting along with great food and companionship.

December 7th is our target date of 75%. Please don't hold any dues. They need to be sent in or processed as soon as possible. St. Albans #73 is still in the lead followed by Huntington #16 with Barboursville #177 and Milton #139 closely behind. Keep up the good work. It's good to see all auxiliaries working so hard. If you have any questions or need any help, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for all the hard work that you do for the veterans. I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year with your friends and family. Lisa Harbour 304-633-0530 wvbravesfan@gmail.com

3rd District Vice President

Hello,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Now it is time to get ready for one of my favorite times of the year, CHRISTMAS It is such a magical time of year and MIRACLES DO HAPPEN. All Units reaching Membership would be an AWESOME MIRACLE. If you are stuck on what to get someone, it would be a great time to pay forward and pay their dues for them. New member joins, pay their first year for them. The Holidays are also a time to make sure we do BUDDY CHECKS. BE THE ONE !! If I can help anyone with their Membership please reach out. District 3 Margaret and I will start our journey of visiting your Unit meetings, if you would like for us to come. This is away of learning and improving **OUR UNITS TO BE GREAT !!** MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR Sandra Harper 304-694-2067 Sandy.harper265@gmail.com

4th District Vice President

In halls where flags are proudly flown, We gather as seeds of service are sown. A mission so noble, a purpose so clear, What gift do we seek as the season draws near? It's not wrapped in ribbons or sparkling bows, It grows in our hearts and steadily shows. It cannot be bought, yet it holds great worth, For it strengthens our family and honors our earth. A number we chase, but it's more than a goal. It unites us in spirit and uplifts the soul. From veterans to youth, all lives it can touch, This gift that we cherish so much. To reach it, we call on the strong and the true, Those willing to serve with a heart pure and new. Each member who joins adds strength to our name, And keeps alive our purpose and flame. So what is this treasure, the best gift of all? It's meeting our goals, answering the call. For with every member, our mission takes flight, Spreading hope, love, and a beacon of light. Now answer this riddle, what gift do we mean? The bond of our members the heart of our team! Merry Christmas to all! Rebecca S Farley 304-674-9908

6th District Vice President

Hello to all our District 6 members. Hoping everyone had a safe and healthy Thanksgiving. I hope that our November goes out like our last few weeks so we can get our Christmas decorations up. Does your home look like mine-- a shared holiday, 1/2 Thanksgiving and 1/2 Christmas? Unit 8 supported our veterans during our annual Veterans Day parade on Monday November 11, 2024. Unit 8 prepared and cooked dinner on the night before our Veterans Day parade hosting our Veterans Day guest speaker Brigadier General Thomas Kahlil Sarrouf. We also were active with the Businessmen's Luncheon following the parade. Patriotic pictures colored by school children were collected from our local elementary school and placed in a store front window and displayed in the Post 8 legion hall as a tribute to our veterans. As a reminder our target date is 75% by December 7, 2024. Hope all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends and that you will enjoy your Christmas Holiday Season. Stay safe. Enjoy your holiday. Mary Spence Vice President District 6

10th District Vice President

Wow, the Holiday season is upon us. It seems we may have a problem with 2 units that have no memberships in. Please know that I am here to help in anyway possible. 1 unit has made the December 7th goal of 75%, 1 unit is about there, and 5 units are 50% or above. Every unit does such wonderful outreach to those in the community and has such a great group of auxiliary members. Remember just paying your dues helps a veteran. This is very important to stay up to date and keep your charter along with your mandatory funds. We need to be sure to get those memberships in quickly. I would love to see next month everyone be very close to goal. Happy Thanksgiving, keep up the great work. It is awesome to not only see on Facebook but also to hear what you are doing. Jill Davis

10th District VP

1st District President

First District Fall Conference was hosted by Pine Grove Unit #81 on Sunday October 20th. There were 5 units attending, with 21 members. Department President Laura Clark, First Vice President Kim Mellie, Second Vice President Stephanie Handley, and Secretary/Treasurer Susan Brown attended and spoke on membership, Department and gave words of encouragement. I would like to thank all who attended and especially Pine Grove Unit #81 for hosting.

Spring Conference will be hosted by Weirton Unit #10. Date will be announced later.

Please keep Pine Grove President Debbie Morgan in your prayers. She is in New Martinsville Nursing Home for rehab. Paden City Unit 86 President Susan Wade had hip replacement surgery on November 13th. Addresses for cards can be found on Secretaries page. Paulette Anderson First District President

5th District President

Wow! What a wonderful turnout we had for our fifth district fall meeting on October 26. We had 25+ members in attendance and quite a few first timers. Hamlin did an excellent job of setting up for the meeting, their lunch and beautiful door prices. I've always said that if you go away from Hamlin hungry, it is your fault. There are some fabulous cooks in that unit, but then again there are fabulous cooks all over the department. Lots of things are coming up with the holidays upon us and it will be a perfect time for you to get membership . It just takes two questions the first being "are you a member of this fabulous organization? " and "would you like to join? "To do this you have to be prepared so I suggest and hope that you are carrying an auxiliary application with you at all times fold away in your billfold. You will have it when you need it.

Remember: how you act in public is the impression people will get of our organization. Be loving. Be kind, and make someone smile.

In the spirit of service, not self... Beth Kilgore, Fifth District President Hello All, District Four membership statistics look gloomy. 51.05% is far from the 75% expected by December 7, 2024. To reach the membership goals are going to have to roll up our sleeves and start working harder to recruit new members, renew current members, and re-instate former members. Units continue to work on projects

4th District President

and programs to further the aims and ideals of the American Legion. However, some unit members have fallen away from our mission. Members are causing strife and dissention in their post homes. That is not "honoring the sacrifices of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military and their families both at home and abroad."

People – there are wars being fought to keep our country safe! It is ridiculous for "Susie" and "Sally" to argue and fight about nonsense. If you are not promoting the American Legion family, you are in the wrong organization, friend.

For the sake of our military and Veterans let's work together to promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security. FOR GOD AND COUNTRY.

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

10th District President

The months are flying by but we have been busy. I was so happy to see all Units did amazing with Veterans Day and showing their appreciation for them. When it comes to outreach we all do such a good job. Christmas is upon us and many are reaching out to the less fortunate and donating to the VA and Veterans. It is a proud moment in the Auxiliaries. Thank you for all your time and effort. I hope you all have blessed Holidays especially because of your unending love for your Youth, Community and Veterans.

Diana Teter District 10 President

Americanism

The American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Program is educationally based divided into three phases: work with the youth, the adult, and work with the community. All matters pertaining to the flag or patriotic education are rightly classified as Americanism How exciting it is to see all of these

being exercised.

Please share your Units activity ,have them posted on the Facebook page , this is a great way to learn and get ideas.

MAKE SURE TO PARTICIPATE IN WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA Help a Family/Veteran that can't get out and go shopping, or decorate for Christmas.

These are just a few ideas, I am sure there are many more. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO! MERRY CHRISTMAS! AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR Sandra Harper Americanism Chairman 304-694-2067 sandy.harper265@gmail.com Please reach out if I can help with anything

Child Welfare Foundation

With the holidays approaching, people have a tendency to be more generous. I hope you have your collection canisters out for the Child Welfare Fund. I suggest you check these often and empty as needed. You can bring your collection and give to me at midwinter or you can deposit and send a check to Sue Brown making sure you let her know what it is for.

NOTE: CWF is a legionnaire program that we were asked to participate in and gladly agreed to do so. They have changed their name and they now are the American Legion Well-Being Foundation. Although the name has changed, the mission will remain the same

Beth Kilgore, Chairman

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE

An Auxiliary Emergency Fund grant may provide temporary assistance to eligible American Legion Auxiliary members during a time of financial crisis when no other source of aid is readily available to pay for past due expenses related to their primary residence and/or for basic household utilities. Grants may be awarded up to \$3,000 with the intent to help members who have suffered a financial setback and offer a helping hand to help reestablish financial stability. Assistance will not be granted to pay medical expenses, credit card debt or any other expenses not related to shelter or basic household utilities.

BASIC CRITERIA FOR QUALIFI-CATION

The applicant must be an American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) member. Applicant must have maintained annual ALA membership for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years). Applicant must be able to provide copies of past due bills for shelter (mortgage statement or landlord letter), basic household utilities (electric, gas, water, sewer, trash), documentation for loss of income, and other information as requested. Only one AEF grant (hardship or disaster) per grantee will be awarded in a 12-month period.

Blessings, Melanie Shambaugh AEF Chairman sham4wv@aol.com 304-258-3307

Children & Youth

A busy time of the year is fast approaching. Your unit should be having different activities that involve our children and youth. I know with Thanksgiving and Christmas units are busy with parties to celebrate the children. And for this I commend you. While having these parties, please take lots of pictures. Reminder National would like to see pictures of your project, but want to see action pictures not posed pictures of a certificate being handed to someone ... Now is the time to think out of the box and plan your activities for April Children and Youth month. I will post the child's military table on our Facebook page as well as the purple up flyer. There are so many different things that can be done for children and youth during the program month of April. Look to your schools, hospitals, and military installations you may have in your area for ideas to take care of the youth Don't forget the good award and the young hero award. Both of these awards are well deserving and nationals wanting to see an award presented to someone and everyone of our states. This should not be a problem. If you have any questions, just give me a call 30-654-7750..

Drop me an email a text or a post on our Facebook page to let me know what your unit is doing. I am so proud of each and everyone of you. Keep up the great work! Beth Kilgore,

Community Service

Greetings family hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving. With the holidays upon us please remember our Veterans in the VA center, Veterans home & nursing home. Some of Veterans have no family members but the American Legion Family. With this being said make sure show we're proud of our Auxiliary. With wearing our unit shirts or name tags something that says American Legion Auxiliary.

Would love you pictures of our units doing things in the community.

Please take time to thank our Veterans for our Freedom & remember December 7 Pearl Harbor Day .

God Bless everyone. Merry Christmas Kelli A Immel 304-283-5092

Junior Activities

Great news! Junior Girls are working with senior members and are reporting! I urge you to continue to send emails and pictures to me regarding your projects. Just a reminder, the goal of the ALA Junior activities program is to develop our junior members into leaders and stay connected with them.

During the holiday season please engage your juniors. Visiting veterans and their families, making greeting cards, singing Christmas carols, are just a few ideas. We do not have to give expensive presents. Your "gift" can be your time, or a phone call, or a brief visit.

Thank you for all you do for our Juniors! I appreciate you.

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

Past President Parley

Happy Fall to All!

Have you formed a Past Presidents Parley in your unit, yet?

If not, please consider it. And if you already have one, are you offering ideas and guidance? This is an avenue of much information.

Our "Timeless Award" has not been given for several years because there were not any applicants. I am encouraging all units to submit that special member for consideration. All units have some members who go the extra mile for their auxiliary.

Also, to be eligible for the "Total Participation Award", you must do something in all programs and, PPP is one of them.

Here's wishing everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving. Keep your family and friends close, as they are our most valuable treasures.

Please contact me if I can help you. Hugs to all PPP Chairman Debbie Michael katndebbie@gmail.com 304-839-7721

Legislative

CALL TO ACTION: Our National Commander asks that you send another message (or 10) to Congress and urge the rapid passage of Senator Elizabeth Dole's 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act.

There is also a CHALLENGE to make Central Division Number 1 in advocating for our veterans and military through the Grassroots Action Center. The Challenge will run from November 10 through July 2025! The Action Center will track all messages sent by the Auxiliary. So WV....lets take on that challenge and email daily! Here is the links http://votervoice.net/ AmericanLegion/home and http:// votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home. Or give me a call and I can send you the QR code. Once you fill in the information from your phone you won't have to enter it again. It literally takes nor more than 10 minutes. You can only send the email once every 24 hours! For God and Country, Prayers for all to experience a wonderful Holiday season. For God and Country, Kim Mellie Department First Vice President American Legion Auxiliary Department of WV 304-216-9943

kmellie@comcast.net

National Security

For those who are interested; this is the website for The Defense POW/MIA information. https://dpaamil.sites.crmforce.mil/ dpaaOurMissingMap I posted the last Vietnam War POW/ MIA earlier this month, the total for WWII is 933; Korean War 179 and Vietnam 27. The number from WWII includes those lost at sea that will never be recovered. The number lost at sea was much lower for Korea and Vietnam. Thank you for the interest shown in this personal mission of respect. If I can be of any hep don't hesitate to

text (304)516-9757. Enjoy the Holidays...Joyous Hanakkuh! Merry Christmas!! Blessed Kwanzaa!!! and Happy New Year!!!! April D. Wallace Chair, National Security Committee



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Poppy

Promote and sponsor the Poppy Poster Contest in local schools. Students who participate, and their parents, will then spread the word about the program. Display the work of students who participate in the contest in local stores, library, etc. When schools do not conduct activities, other youth groups, including Junior members, may participate under direct supervision of the unit. Instructions for the contest were included in the Unit Awards Manual for 2024-2025 distributed by the Department Secretary.

During the holiday season, Units should actively promote the poppy program. Use poppies for decorations. Make a centerpiece for your church, your post home etc. Decorate small white Christmas trees with poppies. Promote the poppy by donating The Poppy Lady to schools or the local library.

Wreaths across America, to honor and remember fallen heroes, will be held on December 14, 2024. Sadly, Wreaths across America does not reach all fallen heroes especially those buried in small country cemeteries. Units are encouraged to purchase a live pine wreath, add a red bow, and add red poppies on the wreath. Place it on the grave of a hero and "say the name" of the hero after the wreath is placed. Shirley Davis, Chairman

Public Relations

The 12 Days of Public Relations WV 1: Showcase Your Impact – Share a heartfelt story about how the Auxiliary has supported veterans or their families in your community this year.

2: Member Spotlights – Feature a member's story on your social media.

3: Deck the Hall with History – Post photos of past holiday events

4: Community Connection – Share a list of local holiday activities your Auxiliary is hosting.

5: 5 Gold Star Families – Recognize and honor Gold Star Families for their sacrifice.
6: Season of Giving – Post about your Auxiliary's holiday donations to veteran homes, shelters, or hospitals.

7: Be the One Campaign – Highlight your role in supporting suicide prevention.
8: Holiday Trivia – Host a fun online quiz about the history of the Auxiliary or the American Legion Family.

9: Auxiliary Christmas Playlist – Share your unit's favorite holiday songs, especially patriotic ones!

10: AUX Craft Corner – Showcase handmade holiday items created by your members.

11: Christmas Cards for Heroes – Share pictures of your members creating and delivering holiday cards for deployed troops or veterans in need.

12: Thank You to Our Members – Post a heartfelt message of gratitude to your members, volunteers, and community supporters for making your Auxiliary's mission possible.

Peace to All!

Rebecca S Farley 304-674-9908

VA&R

Veterans Day activities are behind us, so how do we report these activities? We'll its not a simple question. So let's go over how to charge hours. If your post held a dinner, was it only for veterans and family? These go on VA&R as service to veterans. However, if the dinner was open to others, hours are reported under community service. Providing cards, pins and small gifts to veterans definitely goes under VA&R. Parades, can be reported under Americanism. Handing out poppies go under poppies. Something not covered and still unsure, please feel free to reach out.

Did you know West Virginia has CBOC's (Community Based Outpatient Clinic)? Have you reached out to see if they can use items to hand out to homeless Veterans in the area, or other items? For locations in West Virginia, check the VA page:

https://www.va.gov/directory/ guide/state.asp?

dnum=ALL&STATE=WV As we approach the holidays, don't forget our veterans! Regardless if at the VAMC, nursing homes, or those still living in their own homes, any gift items, baskets, or warm sweat pants, these can go on your comfort drive form. Happy Thanksgiving! Lisa Cadwallader VA & R Chair





American Legion Auxiliary WV Rhododendron **Girls State**

Rhododendron Girls State

Happy Thanksgiving and Holiday Greetings

I hope you have been busy preparing for Girls State prior to the holiday season. If not, I encourage you to secure your donations now before the end of the year. Talk to other organizations (League of Women Voters, Women's Club, VFWs, Moose, Lions, Rotary and local businesses in your communities. 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. You just need to ask!

Are you utilizing yours previous citizen's to help with your Units with your Christmas parade, Wreaths Across American, your Junior members and poppy days? This is a great way to keep them involved.

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. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your district representative or myself. Lynda Lancaster-Loyd Girls State Chairman

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	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
Store State	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
NEWTON .	6th Dist. — Peggy Swartz P O Box 124 Gary WV 24836 304-448-2394
FAIRMANT MARPHIRUR	10th Dist.— Debbie Fox 874 Longview Drive Berkeley Springs, WV 25411 304-258-5804
REALEY HARDNESS	

Ways and Means

There were twenty-two \$25.00 winners for October and one winner for the \$200 drawing. Congratulation to all the winners!

The 2025 tickets are available for purchasing. If there is any special numbers that you would like, email or call to see if their still available. They make great birthday or Christmas gifts.

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 have 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

Name	#'s	City	State	Date	\$\$\$
Lisa Graley	708	Groveport	OH	10/1/24	25.00
Michael Novotmey	121	Wheeling	WV	10/2/24	25.00
Jennifer Thompson	912	Cameron	WV	10/3/24	25.00
Amy Rock	271	Upperglade	WV	10/4/24	25.00
ALA Spencer Unit #21	315	Spencer	WV	10/5/24	25.00
SAL Berkeley Springs	890	Berkeley Springs	WV	10/7/24	25.00
Kathy Haynes	371	Petersburg	WV	10/8/24	25.00
Randy Buckley	810	Romney	WV	10/9/24	25.00
Barbara Beaver	679	New Martinsville	WV	10/10/24	25.00
Lori Hindman	300	Triadelphia	WV	10/11/24	25.00
Marjorie Wall	529	Whitesville	WV	10/12/24	Donated
Irene Weber	431	Berkeley Springs	WV	10/14/24	25.00
Shannon Harshbarger	644	Huntington	WV	10/15/24	25.00
Lucius Michael	923	Berkeley Springs	WV	10/16/24	200.00
John Powell	268	Wheeling	WV	10/17/24	25.00
Jenna Griffith	294	Vienna	WV	10/18/24	25.00
Autumn Dvorcek	619	Triadelphia	WV	10/19/24	25.00
Shirley Davis	836	Kenova	WV	10/21/24	25.00
	999			10/22/24	
	360			10/23/24	
Laura Clark	878	Huntington	WV	10/24/24	25.00
Shirley Davis	248	Kenova	WV	10/25/24	25.00
JoAnna Camp	929	Spencer	WV	10/26/24	25.00
Frank Cooley	945	Welch	WV	10/28/24	25.00
	479			10/29/24	
	590			10/29/24	



October 2024 Ways and Means Winners

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	T
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve—Office Closed				
			Red Shirt Friday— Every Friday		Programs VA Field S	& <i>R</i>

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

Date 11/15/2024 Department Goal 4691 — Membership to Date— 2528 Department Unit 200 Goal 232 — Membership to Date— 79 First Target Date 75% - December 7, 2024

Stephanie

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District 1				
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal	
Wheeling #1	26	24	92.31%	How Tally Laily
Moundsville #3	265	54	20.38%	Row WIGTERS
McMechen #5	15	0	0	hartana
Weirton #10	68	42	61.76%	
Cameron #18	125	71	56.80%	
New Martinsville #28	113	73	64.60%	
Wellsburg #34	23	14	60.87%	
Follansbee #45	61	22	36.07%	
Pine Grove #81	68	31	45.59%	"Laffy Taffy"
Paden City #86	77	47	61.04%	Team Goal—2565
Wheeling #89	10	6	60%	To Date—1433
Newell #114	20	2	10%	55.87%
Chester #121	125	46	36.80%	
TOTALS	996	432	43.37%	
District 4				
Unit	2025 Goa	al 2025	% of Goal	SLU&WORTH
Parkersburg #15	381	258	67.72%	Membership
Spencer #21	30	20	66.67%	Chairman
Pt. Pleasant #23	215	105	48.83%	1
Tyler County #48	45	1	2.22%	
Sistersville #67	32	1	3.13%	
New Haven #140	124	60	48.39%	
Williamstown #159	74	15	20.27%	
TOTALS	901	460	51.05%	"Fun Dip"
				Team
District 6				Goal—2126 To Date 1016
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal	47.79%
Welch #8	45	24	53.33%	
Bluefield #9	23	0	0	
Beckley #32	20	10	50%	
Gary #38	93	58	62.37%	STATES - COO
Cowen #62	20	15	75%	(ITTAL)
	• • •	17	60.71%	rully
Richwood #97	28	17	00.71%	

District 3			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Buckhannon #7	44	37	84.09%
Clarksburg #13	46	8	17.39%
Elkins #29	108	66	61.11%
Shinnston #31	271	147	54.24%
Braxton County #33	32	20	62.50%
Bridgeport #68	66	59	89.39%
Belington #96	16	0	0
Pickens #122	20	1	5%
Morgantown #174	120	71	59.17%
TOTALS	723	409	56.57%
District 5			
Unit	2025 Goa	1 2025	% of Goa
Huntington #16	134	80	59.70%
Logan #19	20	10	50%
Charleston #20	28	5	17.86%
St. Albans #73	33	25	75.76%
Ceredo-Kenova #93	212	86	40.57%
So. Charleston #94	10	5	50%
Hamlin #111	40	17	42.50%
Milton #139	68	35	51.47%
Barboursville #177	148	83	56.08%
TOTALS	693	346	49.93%

District 10			
Unit	2025 Goal	2025	% of Goal
Martinsburg #14	68	40	58.82%
Piedmont #52	22	0	0
Berkeley Springs #60	197	142	72.08%
Charles Town #63	38	0	0
Moorefield #64	84	51	60.71%
Charles Town #71	151	75	49.67%
Petersburg #78	62	42	67.74%
Romney #91	155	92	59.36%
Paw Paw #128	43	16	37.21%
Kirby #134	32	20	62.50%
Ridgeley #136	69	36	52.17%
Capon Bridge #137	192	161	83.85%
Keyser #152	36	3	8.33%
TOTALS	1149	678	59.01%

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: <u>www.wvaux.org</u> 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:	

POPPY WREATH CONTEST

Wreaths are made of styrofoam, available at Wal-Mart, for approximately \$8. The styrofoam wreath is size 2" x 15.6" Flora Craft Flora FM Floral Arranging Wreath in green. If you cannot find the wreath, contact Shirley Davis, <u>psdavis1524@msn.com</u>, or text 304-544-1838. (Shirley bought extra wreaths.)

Rules:

1. Wreaths must be made from ALA Poppies

2. All tags must be removed

3. Other flowers, small amounts of ribbons, tulle or ferns (not to predominate the poppies) may be used.

4. The poppy must be dominant. Use a sufficient number of poppies to make a nice arrangement.

5. Wreaths must be made by member(s) of the American Legion Auxiliary

6. Entries are judged by their Unit and the winner is brought to Mid-Winter to be judged.

7. Judging at Mid-Winter is by monetary donations.

Please be sure to tag each wreath with:

Name, Address, and Unit number

Include a description of how wreath will be used afterwards.

CHAIRMAN'S CHOICE CONTEST

Units or individuals are encouraged to submit pictures of how poppies have been used during the year. Photos of decorations, crafts, centerpieces, corsages, tray favors, artistic works, etc. may be submitted.

Photos may be: 3.5×5 , 4×6 , and 5×7 maximum size.

Please submit highest quality photos. Maximum number of photos that can be submitted is <u>four</u>. Photos submitted should feature different items.

One (1) ticket will be given for each photo submitted—four tickets maximum.

Poppy themed prizes awarded.



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of West Virginia, Inc.

2024-2025 POPPY ORDER FORM

Unit Name & Number _____ Mail to:____

If you are ordering a KIT for your unit you MUST order through Department All poppies and kit will be at cost plus postage. ALL PRE-MADE POPPY ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVE BY April 1, 2025

Must Include This Order Form With ALL Orders

Pre Made Poppies	Quantity	Amount
1000 Poppies——-\$200.00		- Inourie
750 Poppies———\$150.00		
500 Poppies———\$ 100.00		
250 Poppies———\$ 50.00		
100 Poppies———\$ 20.00		
Poppy Kits (makes 1000) \$80.00		

Postage cost to the Unit _____ (office use only)

Sub Total TOTAL ENCLOSED

Make check payable to: Mail Order form & payment:

ALA Dept. of WV Treasurer 2172 Grandview Road Moundsville, WV 26041

WILL DELIVER TO CONFERENCES AND MIDWINTER @ NO CHARGE

Oglebay Reservations Mid-Winter Conference February 7-8, 2025

Web Reservations System Link below for making reservation

Group Name: <u>WV American Legion</u> Meeting: Thursday, February 6, 2025 - Sunday, February 9, 2025

Group Access: Group ID: 47947 Password: 936043534

Reservation Manager Oglebay Resort

Link for reservation:

https://book.rguest.com/wbe/group/616/Ogleba y-Resort/auth?BookID=47947

CANCELLATION MUST BE 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE TO RECEIVE REFUND

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 44th ANNUAL MID WINTER CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 7-8, 2025

OGLEYBAY RESORT WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA

ADVANCED REGISTRATION - \$30.00 AT DOOR REGISTRATION - \$35.00

RETURN BOTTOM PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT

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

NAME (S)

TITLE: _____

ADDRESS_____

POST/UNIT/SAL NO.

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

DEADLINE DATE: February 3, 2025

44th Annual Mid-Winter Conference 2025 ADVERTISING FORM

The American Legion
 Department of West Virginia, Inc.

I hereby authorize the following advertisement to be placed in the official program of the 44th Annual Mid-Winter Conference of The American Legion, Department of West Virginia, Inc., scheduled February 7-8, 2025, at Oglebay Resort, Wheeling, West Virginia.

Date: _____, 2025

Name of Post/Unit/SAL

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

Ad should read as follows:

Authorized Signature:

Price List: Full Page \$100 Half Page \$60 Quarter Page \$35 Eighth Page \$25 Full Page (Color)\$160Half Page (Color)\$100Quarter Page (Color)\$70Eighth Page (Color)\$ 50

Please send your ad along with a check made payable to:	The American Legion
	P.O. Box 3191
	Charleston, WV 25332
Ad and Payment Deadline is January 15, 2025.	

Ad and Payment Deadline is January 15, 2025. No Deviation

2025 AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONVENTION RESERVATION INVOICE

AUGUST 22 - AUGUST 28, 2025

EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON TAMPA DOWNTOWN CONVENTION CENTER

513 SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE

TAMPA, FL 33602

NAME(S) OF ATTENDEE(S)

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

E-MAIL:

King/Doubles (\$149 per night plus 13.5 % hotel tax) tax rate subject to change

Parking rate per day---Valet Only \$29 per day

PLEASE MAIL PAYMENT BY MAY 1, 2025

ARRIVAL DATE TO HOTEL	
DEPARTURE DATE FROM HOTEL	
KING OR DOUBLE	
	Quanity

ONE NIGHT'S ROOM DEPOSIT @	\$169.12	\$0.00
ADDITIONAL OCCUPANT IN ROOM PER DAY - \$20 Per person; Rollaway N/A		\$0.00
REGISTRATION FEE @	\$35.00	\$0.00
NATIONAL COMMANDER'S BANQUET @	\$65.00	\$0.00
SOUTHERN BLOC BREAKFAST @	\$60.00	\$0.00
HOSPITALITY ROOM FEE @	\$25.00	\$0.00
TOTAL		\$0.00

FIRST NIGHT'S DEPOSIT REQUIRED. We will bill you for other charges.

If arrival date is not provided on form, then arrival date will be August 22th If departure date is not provided on form, then departure date will be August 28th

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:

Total

THE AMERICAN LEGION

PO BOX 3191

CHARLESTON WV 25332

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

First Night Deposit Required

PLEASE RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE"

THANK YOU

*You will not be charged for the Delegate fee. If you are not elected as a

delegate at your District Convention or on the floor at the State Convention,

Department Headquarters will bill you for the \$35.00 registration fee after State Convention.