



HOOSIER AUXILIARY NEWS



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Auxiliary Emergency Fund



Jenny Tracy
Department Chair

Ring the Bell, Raise the Hope: Indiana's AEF Impact Grows Stronger!

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is more than a program - it is our heart in action. It is how the American Legion Auxiliary lives out "Service Not Self" when our members face hardship or disaster. And this year, the Department of Indiana stepped up in bold, beautiful, and creative ways to ring the bell of hope louder than ever before.

From tribute trees and coin toss games to license plate drives and bell-themed raffles, our members showed up with energy, compassion, and innovation. Through your efforts, we collected almost \$14,000 - with 44 Units giving more than they did the year before. Even more promising: the number of non-contributing Units dropped from 111 to just 90 - a 18% improvement. That's momentum worth celebrating!

This year, we launched the AEF Cardinal Tree Fundraiser, honoring and remembering loved ones through symbolic red cardinals - raising funds and spirits. From Lebanon to Cayuga to Bloomington, these trees became symbols of unity and generosity.

The strength of our program was reflected not only in the dollars raised but in the stories behind them. AEF Chair Janis Sproat of Unit 381 (District 4) created a Tootsie Pop jar and emergency supply raffles - earning \$600 and drawing attention to preparedness. Heidi Steinhiser of Unit 451 (District 3) partnered with American Legion Riders for a high-impact event. In Elberfeld (District 8), Chair Tia Susott-Joyner and Juniors used umbrellas to collect change on a rainy day ...

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President's Message

WOW! What a super year we have had "Ringing Bells for Our Veterans." It was a wonderful time; one I will never forget. Thank you for the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of serving as your 2024-2025 President.

It was such a privilege to ring bells across Indiana and represent the Department as a Legion Family. Thank you, Legion Commander Rob and his wife Susie. You make a great team for Indiana! SAL Detachment Commander Andy Byers and Kristy, it was a joy to get to know each of you better. ALR Director Jeff Everman and wife Angel, Angel our talks were very meaningful. I am thankful to be a part of this Legion Family - attending events together as well as sharing relaxing and enjoyable times - such as just having a pizza together as friends.

I would like to say a heartfelt "Thank You" to Barb Parkhurst and Bev Swaim, my Sergeants-At-Arms, for driving me to our District Visitations and assisting me throughout the year. These district meetings are a way to see the activities of our Units and Dis-

tricts and what they accomplish throughout the year. The chairmanship reports provide a wealth of knowledge and are a great way to share ideas.

The decorations, delicious food, and the camaraderie we experienced are beyond words. I would like to encourage more members to attend these meetings, especially the Department Visitations where your Department Officers are in attendance. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet and share information. Our members make us so proud with their dedication and hard work advancing the Auxiliary's mission. Our future is in good hands.

I was able to attend all but one of the Department Visitations, and that was because I took a big fall at the airport in Indianapolis coming home from DC at the end of February.

I am both excited and grateful for our members outstanding efforts in support of my President's Projects this year. The Indiana Vets House will be able to update or replace some appliances and IVH will be able to purchase some

needed chairs and banners. It is always exciting to go to IVH, to see their smiling faces, and know they feel the love from us. And, we feel the love from them in return. Thank you for your tremendous support of these vital programs.

A few of the highlights of my year as your Department of Indiana American Legion Auxiliary President have been:

It started with a very productive Officer and Chairs Workshop. Presenting the United States Flag at one of the Indianapolis Colts games was next. I was so proud to be a part of the Legion family holding our colors on the field of Lucas Oil Stadium. It is a memory I will cherish.

In September, I enjoyed the Popcorn Festival Parade in Valparaiso with the Legion leadership (even though it rained, we had a great time). At the Fall Conference, we were blessed with a visit with Central Division Vice President Rosemarie Hauck and we were able to attend the POW/MIA Day at the Monument Circle in Indianapolis. Several Juniors were in attendance at the Conference



Roxanna "Roxy" Stoner
Department President
2024 - 2025

and enjoyed working on patches, songs, and many other activities.

We were kept informed with zoom calls from Central and National leaders. These virtual meetings allowed us to remain up-to-date on suggestions and important information. In February, we laid wreaths at many cemeteries including the IVH cemetery.

I attended two Four Chaplain Services and went to Washington DC with the Legion Family and

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Stoner and Otey named recipients of Distinguished Hoosier Award

Indianapolis, Ind., July 11, 2024 - Indiana Lieutenant Governor Micah Beckwith addressed the American Legion Auxiliary delegation during the opening session of the 104th Annual Department Convention.

While Lt. Governor Beckwith acknowledged The American Legion as a "pillar of strength within our communities, he gave credit where credit is due.

"Your role reiterates the fact that even the bravest veterans, service men and women need support. You are a constant reminder that clearly shows everyone needs someone to lean on. Your impact is visible in every community," he said in praise of the Auxiliary's efforts.

He then turned his attention to this year's Auxiliary leadership - Department President Roxanna "Roxy" Stoner and Department Honorary Junior President Grace Otey by awarding them the Distinguished Hoosier Award, one of the highest awards given to Indiana citizens by the governor. The award honors those who distinguish themselves by significant contributions to their communities, and whose qualities and actions endear them in the hearts and minds of Hoosiers.

Lt. Governor Beckwith's convention floor remarks showcase how Roxy and Grace's service "shine a light on the mission to serve above self."



Our Distinguished Hoosiers pictured l-r: Department President Roxanna "Roxy" Stoner, Lieutenant Governor Micah Beckwith, and Honorary Junior President Grace Otey.

"Roxanna Stoner is the president of Wabash Unit 15 in the Fifth District. Her journey began with her father's bravery on Okinawa in World War II and continued through her husband Jerry's service in Vietnam. After 40 years at Ford Meter Box Company, she didn't retire from service - she ramped it up. This year, she has been ringing bells across Indiana to raise donations for the Indiana Veterans' Home and the Dr. Otis Bowen Vets House. Having spent months there caring for her husband, she knows exactly what our veterans need. Her humility, steady leadership, and her compassion set an example for all of us."

"At age 8, Grace Otey asked for donations instead of birthday presents and began volunteering with Helping Veterans and Families. She has continued this mission throughout her childhood. As this year's honorary Junior President, she chose HVAF for her project. When a fire threatened their work last fall, she didn't slow down - she created poppy art,

spoke at American Legion events across the state and raised more than \$20,000 to support veterans in crisis. Her determination shows that even at age 15, one young person's heart can make a big difference. Thank you for setting a wonderful example for all young Hoosiers."

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Chaplain's Corner



Jennifer Pickering
Department Chaplain

I had no idea how fulfilling this year would be. It was a very busy year, but it was a very wonderful and blessed one. It was an honor for me to serve as your Department Chaplain. I have had so many wonderful opportunities to share our love of God and Country, experienced great hospitality while visiting the Districts, and offering prayer at many of the American Legion Family events (such as National Mission Training in Nashville, American Legion Birthday dinners, Joint Spring Conference, Legion Close of Books at Indiana Veterans Home, Junior Meeting & Bingo at Indiana Veterans Home, and Hoosier Girls State).

A lot of our American Legion Auxiliary members and their families have been ill or lost loved ones this year. Our very own Department President Roxy has been one of those members this year that has needed and received our prayers. The Department Prayer Chain is an excellent tool to get information out to everyone to keep prayers going for those in need. A blessing, inspirational quote, and prayers were given to our member or family member in need. I was very busy this year with the prayer chain as we had a lot of prayer requests.

This year the Units and Districts all over our state of Indiana have been busy, "Ring their Bells for our Veterans." Many chaplains reported they attended or participated in special ceremonies such as Veterans Day, POW/

MIA ceremonies, Four Chaplains, and Memorial Day Services. Units and Districts reported sending cards to members, veterans, and the military for the holidays as well as get well, thinking of you, and sympathy cards.

Chaplains and members visited veterans in nursing homes and hospitals. Units attended funeral services and held funeral dinners for the members' families, draping their charters, and making memorial donations in honor of their deceased members. Some Units have or are part of a color guard.

There were 330 deceased members reported to have passed this year. Of these, were two Past Department Presidents: Louis Hyde and Ruth Rairdon; Four Past District Presidents; Eight PUFL members; Seven Charter Members; and Two Honorary Life Members. We honored our beloved Department Treasurer, Kathy Knafel, this year. These members were honored at memorial services in their Units, Districts, and at the Department Convention Memorial Service.

First District: 10 Deceased Members - 1 honorary Life Member, 1 PUFL member.

Second District: 64 Deceased Members - 1 Past District President, 1 Past Unit President.

Third District: 33 Deceased Members - 5 Past Unit Presidents, 1 Life Member.

Fourth District: 24 Deceased Members, 1 Past District President, 2 Past Unit Presidents, 1 Honorary Life Member, 5 Charter Members.

Fifth District: 26 Deceased Members - 3 Past Unit Presidents, 3 PUFL members.

Sixth District: 9 Deceased Members - 2 District Presidents, 1 Unit President, 1 PUFL member, 1 Charter Member.

Seventh District: 44 Deceased Members - 1 Past Department President, 1 Past Unit President, 1 PUFL Member, 1 Gold Star Mother.

Eighth District: 48 Deceased Members - 1 Past Unit President, 1 PUFL Member.

Ninth District: 34 Deceased Members - 1 Unit President, 1 Charter Member.

Tenth District: 20 Deceased Members - 1 Past Department President, 1 Life Member, 1 PUFL Member.

Eleventh District: 18 Deceased Members.

For God and Country, in the spirit of service not self, we advocate for veterans, mentor our youth, promote patriotism, educate our citizens, promote good citizenship, peace and security, and honor our sisters and brothers!

There were 16 Books of Prayer and Devotional Thoughts submitted for judging this year. There were eight District books and seven Unit books, and 1 Junior book. They were all beautiful books, and the judges had a difficult time judging.

The Karen Lowe Monetary Award to the Senior Unit Chaplain's entry for Book of Prayer and Devotional Thoughts goes to: Tammy Cox, Unit 479 of the 7th District.

The Janet Barnaby Monetary Award to the District Chaplain's entry for Book of Prayer and Devotional Thoughts goes to: Brenda Bryan, 3rd District.

The Junior Unit Chaplain's entry for Book of Prayer and Devotional Thoughts goes to: Sophyia Wilborn, Unit 142 Cannelton, in 8th District.

My Personal Award to the Unit Chaplain who submits the best year end narrative goes to: Angie Hamer, Unit 497, in 11th District.

My Personal Award for the District Chaplain who submits the best year end narrative goes to: Pam Mowrer, Unit 81, in 2nd District.

I would like to thank all the Unit and District Chaplains for all the spiritual guidance provided this year. You did a wonderful job. I really enjoyed serving as the Department Chaplain *Ring our Bells for our Veterans*.

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. John 20:29.

From the Desk of the Secretary



Marti Drake
Department Secretary

Greetings from Department Headquarters! My name is Marti Drake, and I am your new/old Department Secretary. I held this position back in 2014-2017 and left and worked for National Headquarters for the American Legion Auxiliary for almost 7 years. For those that don't know me, I've been an Auxiliary member since 2013. My eligibility is through my husband, Bruce, who served in both the Marine Corps and Army before retiring after 23 years of service. Our oldest son, DJ, is currently serving in the Army and our youngest son, Jack will be joining the Army in October. We also have a daughter, Avery, who is currently enrolled at Ivy Tech, studying history.

For those that don't know, our beloved Treasurer, Kathy Knafel passed away on April 1, 2025. She is greatly missed not only for her infectious smile, but her friendship and love for everyone and for this organization. It's a great loss for all of us personally as well as for our organization. She took a lot of institutional knowledge with her, and we are working fervently to get things in order. We appreciate your patience as we navigate through all of this.

Exciting things are happening here at DHQ. We're going digital...as much as we can. With

the cost of postage going up and how unreliable the USPS has become lately, we really think this will save us all money and frustrations. We plan on sending out all the Department mailings via email and also make them available on the website (<https://www.aladeptin.org/>). Fillable transmittals will be available on the website, you can fill them out and email them to us and we can take a credit card over the phone, or you can mail a check if you'd prefer. We want to make your life easier and make the process more efficient for everyone. Remember, you can also sign up for ALA MIS and process your dues yourself if your Unit has a credit or debit card. This is a great tool to boost your membership and save your Unit money on postage and lost checks.

In your 2026 membership card packet, you will find a lot of extra information. Your poppy order form is in there and your merit sheet. There are a few changes to the merit sheet and ways to earn extra points this year. You may also notice that the transmittals don't have dollar amounts. Oops, sorry about that! The price is the same, \$26.00 for Seniors and \$3.75 for Juniors is what is sent in to Department. We apologize for the inconvenience.

I want to give a special shout out to Judy Otey, our Membership Specialist, who you all already know! I couldn't have transitioned back into this role without her. Having her many years of knowledge has been invaluable to me. We are blessed to have her! I am blessed to have her! Thank you for everything you do for me and for this organization!



Finance



Florence Briggs
Director

This Finance Committee started the year meeting at Department Headquarters to compile the 2024-2025 annual budget, mandatory fees, and monetary sheets.

We were thrilled with the response to our Department Sweepstakes and the drawing held at the 2024 Fall Conference. Our members do love to gamble!

Sadly, our membership has dropped again this year, so we can

no longer rely on dues to pay for the Department obligations.

The Finance Committee approved the hiring of our Department Secretary, Marti Drake. Welcome back Marti!

The Indiana Natural Disaster Fund has been established thanks to Past Department President Rose Ann Dziegłowicz. The fund has \$6,000 to be granted to members of the Department of Indiana who have suffered from a natural disaster. Application forms and information will be in the fall packets.

I hope this will be a blessing for some of our members.

After extensive research, the Finance Committee found that we were losing nearly seven cents per poppy made, plus the cost of postage in some instances. We could not keep losing money on poppy production. The new cost for poppies is \$25 per hundred for in-state orders, plus postage if mailed and \$30 per hundred for out-of-state orders, plus postage.

This year, it was time for a new Department vehicle. The Finance Committee and DEC have approved the purchase of a 2025 Chevrolet Traverse with trade-in of the 2022 Kia Sorento.

The Finance Committee and the DEC have approved the establishment of an Indiana Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) with a three-member committee to establish procedures and guidelines. This would mean that your AEF contributions would stay in Indiana instead of being sent to the National Auxiliary.

We have received approval from The American Legion to plant a tree at Department Headquarters in memory of Kathy Knafel, Department Treasurer.

This has been an emotional, challenging, and learning year for this Finance Chair and I thank everyone for your patience and understanding with accounting questions directed to our Department Headquarters staff.

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Roxanna "Roxy" Stoner, Department President
647 Seminole Lane, Wabash, IN 46992

The subscription of \$1.25 per year for each adult Auxiliary member is included in payment of the annual dues plus an annual assessment of 65 cents per member payable by each Unit. Annual subscriptions for persons who are not Auxiliary members are \$2.00 each. The name and address of the subscriber should be forwarded to:

Marti Drake, Secretary
5440 Herbert Lord Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216

Leadership



Peggy Eagen
Department Chair

Thank you to everyone that sent a Leadership report. The Department of Indiana has many hard-working members, and it shows on your reports. Currently, I don't have the numbers to report amid the move - all my files are at my new house and I am writing this from my apartment. However, the narratives I received were wonderful. I had a very hard time picking just one; full details were given on the Convention floor. Thank you, President Roxy, for allowing me to serve as your Leadership Chair.



Legislative



Connie Banks
Department Chair

Greetings Auxiliary members, It's hard to believe that we have come to the end of the year. The ALA Legislative program was a great opportunity for members to apply our Department President's theme, "Ringing Bells for our Veterans." Units and Districts shared their legislative activities concerning veteran matters and issues affecting their daily lives and well-being.

At Spring Conference, I was asked to give a presentation on our Legislative program and my trip to the Legislative conference in Washington DC. We reviewed the 2025 American Legion pri-

orities, highlighting a few talking points from each priority. We also had a little visitor. "Mr. Bill" showed up and sang his famous schoolhouse rock song, "I'm Just a Bill." We had a little fun sharing some trivia by handing out crossword and seek & find puzzles regarding state legislation and Indiana fun facts. Participation was outstanding! Some Auxiliary members stated they didn't know they could have such fun in a legislative session.

At the DC Conference, I made two trips to Capitol Hill. On the first day, I traveled to the Hill for our first legislative meeting where we discussed bills and resolutions pertaining to our veterans and the military. It was an awesome feeling to be there representing our Department on behalf of our veterans. Day 2, I traveled to the Hill with our very own Vickie and Jim Koutz and Ron Byrley. We met with Indiana US Representative Mark Messmer to discuss key points related to the American Legion's 2025 legislative priorities. We expressed our concerns over veterans' healthcare benefits and the increasing percentage of female veterans' homelessness and the need for resources to get assis-

tance. He stated his profound respect for our veterans and would do his part to make a difference in their lives. Auxiliary members, please continue to vote for legislators that support and make our veterans a high priority. This is just another way to thank them for their service.

Now, let's look at our Department's legislative accomplishments. Year-end reporting was slightly above 2024 but still needs improvement. Nine of 11 Districts submitted reports which included 84 of 240 Units reporting. It was reported that 2,690 emails were sent to federal, state, and local officials, with 1,766 replies. Letters mailed totaled 105 with 179 replies. The total number of calls was 134 with 60 discussions. Lastly, the total number of visits was 69 with 28 follow-ups.

A total of 3,774 hours was reported for legislative advocacy, volunteering, and supporting the 2025 American Legion priorities. Activities and events included: Town hall meetings, meet the candidates, roundtable discussions, attending state house legislative sessions and hearings, local board meetings, city, county and commissioner meetings, national

congressional meetings with representatives, members signed up using the grassroots action center alerts, volunteering for voting polls, voter education and registration. District 11 (Indianapolis) attended a Senior's Legislation Day at the state capitol building. In attendance were the Indiana Department Commander, District 11 ALA Legislative Chair, Amy Alyea, and other Legion family members. Also in attendance was veteran Margaret Brown. She served in the Air Force during WWII. She also celebrated her 101st birthday on that visit to the state capitol. What a blessing.

The winners for the legislative program were announced at the Department Convention. The Rose Ann Dziegłowicz Monetary Award for the Unit submitting the best narrative for year-round reporting goes to Kokomo Unit 6, District 5, Barb Parkhurst, Chair.

The District with the best year-round legislative program narrative goes to District 11, Amy Alyea Chair.

Congratulations to our winners and a big thank you to all of you for your continued support of our veterans' legislative affairs.

Membership



Sherri McGee
Department Chair

It's been my honor to serve as the Membership Chair this year for 2024-2025. We had 100% reporting from all 11 Districts.

Indiana finished at 94.94% with 93 Units and District 1 at 100%. Fifty-nine of those Units also made the 102% objective.

RANKING OF DISTRICTS
as of 7/1/25.

Rank	District	%
1st	1	101.10%
2nd	8	98.28%
3rd	3	97.13%
4th	7	96.86%
5th	5	96.09%
6th	6	95.85%
7th	10	94.13%
8th	2	93.28%
9th	4	93.00%
10th	11	91.17%
11th	9	90.80%

The membership team was: Northern Area, Diann Scott; Central Area, Tina James; and Southern Area, Donna Mills. District 1: Denise Delaney Wroten; District 2: Terry Wray; District 3: Jan Kowalski; District 4: Pat Turner; District 5: Suzie Burkhart; District 6: Karen Lowe; District 7: Phyllis Banks; District 8: Martie Smitler; District 9: Vicky Stainbrook; District 10: Janine Eldridge; and District 11: Jill Mooror.

The following were winners

of the Recruit and Rejoin 5: Donna Mills, French Lick; Vanessa French, Martinsville; Rebecca Neighborgall, Mooresville; Versie Jeffries, Kingsford Heights; Jacki Hill, Connersville; Kristy Byers, Crawfordsville; Alyssa Schmucker, North Webster; LuAnn Osborne, Lafayette; and Eileen Weiss from Lafayette Unit 11. We received 45 forms. Each winner received a \$25 gift card.

A Goal Contest was held for each of the seven objectives with two possible winners each time. Units that met the objective went into a drawing for a \$25 check.

The first objective was 25% and 107 Units qualified. Winners were ALA Unit 279 Gary and ALA Unit 168 Hammond - both from District 1.

The 50% objective had 129 Units qualified. The winners were the ALA Unit 280 Remington in District 2 and ALA Unit 495 Leo F Welch Jr in District 11.

The 75% objective had 50 Units qualified. The winners were ALA Unit 279 Gary, District 1 and ALA Unit 464 St. Leon, District 9.

The 85% objective had 155 Units and seven Districts qualified. The winners were ALA Unit 495 Leo F. Welch Jr. in District 11 and ALA Unit 120 Loogootee, District 7.

The 95% objective had 89 Units qualified. The winners were ALA Unit 284 South Bend in District 3 and ALA Unit 117 Pendleton in District 5.

The 100% objective had 81 Units qualified, and the winners were ALA Unit 37 Michigan City and ALA Unit 1919 Greenwood, District 7.

The last objective was 102% and 59 Units qualified. The winners are ALA Unit 161 Mishawaka, District 3 and ALA Unit 35

Jeffersonville, District 8.

From the 93 Units at 100%, we pulled six winners for \$100. The 100% Unit drawing winners are: ALA Unit 20, Crown Point, District 1; ALA Unit 12, Frankfort, District 5; ALA Unit 72, Crawfordsville, District 6; ALA Unit 205, Franklin, District 7; ALA Unit 204, Sellersburg, District 8; and ALA Unit 239, Lawrenceburg, District 9.

The highest percentage Unit over 250 members is ALA Unit 152, Knightstown, District 10 at 114.98%. The highest percentage Unit under 250 members is ALA Unit 485 Schererville, District 1 with 134.29%. ALA Unit 485 Schererville swept the Past Department President's membership awards, winning the Denise Delaney Wroten, Pam Shook, and the Shirley Firkins monetary awards.

The personal award for the best District narrative is District 3, Membership Chair Jan Kowalski. No Units submitted a narrative.

The winner of the Lincoln Gavel is District 1. They were the first District to make 100%.

The Lincoln Pilgrimage winners were: ALA Unit 66 Griffith and ALA Unit 485 Schererville - both from District 1.

Indiana had nine Units that made 100% by January 31st winning the National 100% red membership ribbon. Those Units are: District 1: ALA Unit 66 Griffith, ALA Unit 80 Whiting, and ALA Unit 485 Schererville; District 3: ALA Unit 37 Michigan City; District 4: ALA Unit 467 Hamilton; District 6: ALA Unit 426 Pittsboro; District 7: ALA Unit 479 Lyons; District 8: Cannelton Unit 142 and Otis Stone Unit 354.

Let's ring those bells for membership and our veterans!



Department Leadership Chair, Peggy Eagen (right), announces the 2025 ALA Member of the Year Eloise Passwater (left), Unit 331, District 6. Congratulations

President's Message continued from page 1

assisted Commander Burkhart and SAL Detachment Commander Byers lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

We were honored in May to host National President Trish Ward while she attended the National Creative Arts Festival. We were able to take her on a tour of the Indy Vets House and a tour of HVAF. At the time, our own Honorary Junior President, Grace Otey, presented HVAF with a check.

We were also honored to co-host the 2025 Creative Arts Festival as a Platinum co-sponsor. What a great experience! Every District helped with supplying snacks and making this event successful. The Juniors were also involved as ushers at

Clowes Hall. I am beaming with pride over our Hoosier Hospitality, and I thank you for making Indiana shine!

In June, I had the pleasure of attending Hoosier Girls State at Trine University in Angola. There were 271 delegates with 28 young ladies in the new Stoner City. Thank you, Director Sue Wehr and Assistant Director Nancy Magginnis.

Again, thank you for the privilege of serving as your Department President for 2024 - 2025. I am so proud of the dedication and accomplishment of the Auxiliary. It was a year that I will never forget. I have made many friends that I will cherish forever.

Remember, "Be Kind" and "Keep Ringing Bells for Our Veterans." God Bless and God Bless America.

Community Service



Heather Elson
Department Chair

A lot of bells have been heard this year with the number of good deeds being completed by the American Legion Auxiliary! A total of nine out of 11 Districts reported and these numbers are unmatched!

Did you know that one volunteer hour equals \$33.49 in monetary value?

Our Districts reported a total of 41,276.5 hours served. When multiplying these hours by the amount that one hour is worth, Indiana donated time is valued at \$1,382,349.99! On top of the hours collected, Indiana spent/donated over \$107,812.61 as well as drove around 26,749 miles.

Units have reported celebrating their communities by hosting birthday, Halloween, Christmas, and Easter parties. They raised funds for different local charities such as Granted, Community Angels, Boys and Girls Club (in their town), League of Miracles as well as national charities such as Ronald McDonald's house, and Breast Cancer Awareness. Others hosted drives for women shelters and hurricanes, volunteering with church community programs, donating time at farmers markets, and lent a hand at other local organizations such as the Shriners. In addition, Units reported clean-

ing up parks and hosting a Family Legion Day.

Awards:

The Carolyn Cunningham Monetary Award for Best Year-Round Community Service: Mooresville Unit 103 from the 7th District.

The Department Award entitled, "Thinking Outside the Box" goes to: District 7, Unit 351.

This year Unit 351 teamed up with a local organization called Community Angels and helped them gather presents for the children in their community. Not only did the Auxiliary help, but they also created a Jeep side by side Fun Run event with their Rider chapter. At the end of the run, the Legion held the final night of the event where the Juniors helped with games and snacks, the Auxiliary held a silent auction, and the Legion Family raised \$1,200 for the organization. In total, the organization raised \$16,000 and served gifts to 45 kids.

Personal Awards:

American Legion Family Day Award: Mooresville Unit 103 of District 7. The family worked together to create a community event with proceeds being split between their local Boys and Girls Club as well as a local 7-year-old who is fighting cancer. They advertised by submitting an article to their local paper and sending and posting flyers throughout their community. During the event, those in attendance had the opportunity to enjoy oversized games, a dunk tank, a bounce house, as well as enjoying some smoked pork butt.

The Unit Member Award is awarded to the Auxiliary member who reported the most hours served. The Unit Member Award goes to: Jone Nicholoff from Unit 241 of the 4th District with a total of 1790.5 hours served.

tend so bad that she hired an Uber driver to take her from Lebanon, Indiana all the way to Angola, Indiana!

On Monday, June 23, 2025, we were honored to have several of The American Legion dignitaries join us including Commander Robert (Rob) Burkhart. Our special guest speaker for the evening was, Major Jonathan Turnbull. Major Turnbull, US Army Retired was given a zero percent chance of living beyond 24 hours after suffering devastating injuries from an ISIS suicide bomber attack on January 16, 2019, while on a special mission in Syria. He suffered extensive head trauma and is totally blind, but he has lived to defeat all odds. Although he walks with minimal pain, his mind is fine. Currently Major Turnbull continues to train, mentor, and inspire others through speaking engagements. He and his wife, Samantha, are the authors of the book, Zero Percent Chance, and a children's book, *A Detroit Tigers Hat from the Ballpark to the Battlefield*. Major Turnbull and his family reside in Michigan where

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Education



Brittany Schofield
Department Chair

As the final bell rings and we wrap up our class, The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Department of Indiana has gone above and beyond this past year to promote quality education for children. This was the year to - Ring our Bells for Children in Education!

Members gathered at the Indiana Auxiliary Fall Conference to learn and receive instructions about the ALA programs. During the Education presentation, class was in session for what members could do to have a successful Education program and earn an A+.

With tools in hand, the Units and Districts stepped up and started promoting the various elements of the Education program. The Unit and District reports were "chalked" full of exciting and busy activities demonstrating our commitment to the education of children and the future of our nation.

Units reached out to their local school(s) inquiring about specific needs then delivered! Knox Unit 131 found out that a new pre-school had been started so they donated clothing items that were requested for emergency situations. Remington Unit 280 hosted their annual backpack program. They included school supplies, but they also included a birthday bag with a cake mix, frosting, candles, and a birthday card for each student. Cannelton Unit 142 made backpacks, filled them with the items listed on the school supply lists (contributing over \$3,600), and gave them to the students.

Units in the First District reported sending \$17,998.17 to a local grocery store "Apples for Education" to be given to local schools for playground equipment and needed items. Several Units in the First District also donated items and money to purchase items for the "Care Closet" at the middle and high schools for families needing school supplies and hygiene items.

Starting with the ALA's Give 10 to Education, it was reported that 31 Units participated in this program, giving a monetary value of \$11,407.98. Mooresville Unit 103 sponsored a school supply drive with the whole Legion family participating. An ALA member created a collection box that was placed at the Post, along with handouts listing needed items. An announcement about the event was published in the Morgan County Correspondent, sharing

the program and encouraging community participation. Members distributed the collected supplies along with trays of cookies and muffins to the local schools.

Lyons Unit 479 ensured the collected Give 10 to Education supplies matched their schools' needs. Members contacted the schools, explained the program and its purpose. They provided a copy of the suggestion list and suggested that they also identify items needed that were not on the list. With the lists in hand, members shopped and distributed supplies to the local middle schools.

Next, it was reported that 35 Units promoted American Education Week and Teacher Appreciation Week, giving \$5,673.71. Several reported gifting multiple items to their favorite teachers! Unit members delivered school supplies and treats for students and staff at local schools during these weeks.

Food is always a nice treat for our educators. Lyons Unit 479 members prepared and delivered trays of muffins, fruit and cheese to local schools for American Education Week. Hamilton Unit 467 prepared and served lunch for the staff at their local school during Teacher Appreciation week then presented a small gift to each teacher to show them some love. During American Education Week, Mooresville Unit 103 delivered approximately \$190 worth of needed school supplies and popsicles for the children of two local schools. Cannelton Unit 142 delivered donuts to their local schools during American Education week.

Gift cards were handed out during these two weeks as well. For American Education Week, a restaurant donated a \$50 gift certificate that the Lafayette Unit 11 delivered to an elementary school for a drawing held during one of their staff meetings. Then for Teacher Appreciation Week they delivered two \$25 gift cards to Barnes & Noble to be drawn during a staff meeting.

Indiana Units adopted classrooms and schools this past year. Eleven Units reported adopting a classroom or school and contributed \$5,560.29. Units set up trees and decorated throughout the different holidays. These trees were set up like an angel tree where members could take a listed item needed by the school or classroom, purchase that item, then bring back to the Post to be donated to the classroom or school.

Lafayette Unit 11 adopted a school this year and they worked to enhance their little library by providing subscriptions to the Ranger Rick magazine.

Hymera Unit 298 participated in the Adopt a Classroom/School program. Members donated totes of necessary supplies to each class, including physical education, as well as funds to support field trips, ensuring that the teachers did not have to pay out of their pocket!

While ringing bells for our Veterans, eight Units reported

participation in the Veterans in Community Schools, giving \$1,096.43. Syracuse Unit 223 sponsored a Veterans in the Classroom on Veterans Day. She is the Post Commander and a dual member.

Next, it was reported that 41 Units presented/awarded 105 scholarships, totaling \$58,800. Units also reported donating \$4,813.45 for the Department scholarships. The price is always right, when students apply for a scholarship with the American Legion Family! A promotional brochure was developed this past year to share with members and was leveraged on social media.

A new Facebook Group for the Indiana ALA Education Program was implemented this past year. This social media platform was leveraged to communicate with members more broadly and provide ideas to utilize throughout the year. In addition to the new Facebook Group, an Educator of the Year Award was promoted.

As one can see, Indiana was busy with educational activities this year volunteering approximately 729 hours and donating over \$87,000 to the various education initiatives. It is a difficult task to mention all the activities, hours, funds, and smiles that the Department of Indiana has endured during the Education class this year, but the bell has rung, and class is now dismissed.

Awards

Academic Gift for Juniors - Elizabeth Clark, District 8, Unit 351 Elberfield.

Hoosier Academic Gift - Trista Jones, District 8, Unit 213 Tell City; Elizabeth Clark: District 8, Unit 351 Elberfield.

Past President's Gift - Brianna Greenlee, District 3, Unit 357 South Bend.

Educator of the Year - Jen Birch, District 5, Unit 402 Laketon.

Unit submitting the best overall year-round narrative report - Unit 103 Mooresville, Sonja Sprowl, Chair.

District submitting the best overall year-round narrative report - 7th District, Sonja Sprowl, Chair.

Unit presenting the largest number of scholarships - Unit 223 Syracuse, Carolyn Gunder, Chair.



Congratulations to Harley Henney, 4th District Scholarship winner in the amount of \$1,000 presented by Joni Tempe. Haley will attend Purdue University studying nursing. Photo courtesy of Merri Lanier

ALA Hoosier Girls State



Brenda "Sue" Wehr
Director

The 83rd Session of ALA Hoosier Girls State is now in the history books. On Sunday, June 22, 2025, on the beautiful campus of Trine University in Angola, Indiana, 275 excited, yet scared, young women registered for a week-long program that would forever change their lives. In 2024, if you recall, there were two delegates that were so determined to attend our program that when their car broke down on I-69, they called a tow truck to bring them the rest of the way. This year, we had a delegate that wanted to at-

Creative Arts Hospitality Room



Vickie Koutz
Past National President

Team Indiana hosted the National Veterans Creative Arts Hospitality Room from May 11 through 18th, at the Marriott Hotel.

There were 119 gold medal winners, along with 46 caregivers/companions, with us that week. 46 volunteers helped for a total of 993 hours.

Each day, the veterans received a special gift from Team Indiana and the last day, the caregivers/companions were given a thank you bag with all the gifts.

On Sunday morning, we prepared 200 thank you bags with a bottle of water and snacks for



their return home. Everyone was so appreciative of our hospitality.

Team Indiana went above and beyond the norm showing our true "Hoosier Hospitality." A special thanks to all our members who took the time to help volunteer that week and to all the Units and Districts who donated items for the room.

All of you made it a success! Thank you!

For full National coverage of the annual Festival, open the hyper-link: [AuxiliaryMagazine 2025-08-lr.pdf](https://www.auxiliarymagazine.com/2025-08-lr.pdf)



ALA Hoosier Girls State

continued from page 4

he serves as County Commissioner of the county where he resides.

Wednesday evening was "Party Rally" night when state candidates from both parties gave their campaign speeches. On Thursday morning, the County and City counselors and the citizens in Justice County were awakened at about 5:00 am to a fire alarm in their building. Thankfully, there was no fire! A sensor in the sprinkler system had gone out setting off the fire alarm. Everyone was quickly evacuated from the building. Both campus safety and the Angola fire Department were there within minutes. Unfortunately, both the counselors and many of the delegates were functioning all day Thursday with only two or three hours of sleep as most were up late working on speeches or preparing for debate.

On Thursday, during the flag retreat, I had the honor of announcing the names of the 2025 ALA HGS elected state officials. Governor Mackenzie Lehner is from Carmel, Indiana where she attends Carmel High School. Mackenzie is the daughter of Nhu-Y Lehner and was sponsored by Unit 104 in the 6th District. Other elected state officials were Lieutenant Governor, Annisa Turpen; Secretary of State, Riya Koya;

Auditor of State, Zoya Syed; Treasurer of State, Abigail DeHondt; and Attorney General, Katelyn Bolduc.

During the Thursday evening program, we were honored to have ALA Department President, Roxy Stoner bring greetings to the ALA HGS citizens and staff. Ms. Jilleen Battle, our guest speaker, and the Privacy Officer for the Health and Hospital Corporation from Marion County swore in the ALA Legislature and the Elected State Officials.

The Outstanding Girl from our 2025 ALA HGS session is Lauren Thompson. Lauren is from Noblesville, Indiana and attends Noblesville High School. Lauren is the daughter of Morgan and Jayme Thompson.

This year's Samsung winner is Audrey Kixmiller from Fishers, Indiana where she attends Fishers High School. Audrey is the daughter of Jared and Lori Kixmiller and was sponsored by the 6th District.

July 19 through 26, 2025, our two Girls Nation Senators, Saanvi Yarrapotu, daughter of Nagendra and Anuradha Yarrapotu and Audrey Kixmiller, daughter of Jared and Lori Kixmiller will be representing Indiana near Washington D.C. Abigail DeHondt, daughter of Tanya DeHondt was chosen as Girls Nation Alternate.

On behalf of the ALA HGS staff and myself, "Thank You" to Suzie Burkhart for making the additional new city and

county banners as well as providing the ribbons for Pride County and Honor City. Thank you to St. Leon Unit from the 9th District for once again providing the beautiful wooden city keys that were presented to the mayors of each of the ten cities at ALA HGS. In addition, thank you to all the Units that made monetary donations throughout the year and to the volunteers from Auburn Unit 97 and Angola Unit 31 for helping with the staff lunch on Saturday. A huge thank you to our ALA HGS Board Members and ALL the staff at ALA HGS. Without your help and countless hours of preparation, this program would not be the amazing program that it is today.



Pictured left to right: Jennie Maune, Mackenzie Lehner HGS Governor, Brenda Wehr, HGS Director, Lauren Thompson HGS Outstanding Citizen, and Nancy Maginnis.

Children and Youth



Mary Lou Melton
Department Chair

This year, we rang bells loud and proud for Children & Youth! Congratulations to the following award winners:

Peggy Bishop Award, recognizing the Unit with the largest percentage of contributions to the National Child Welfare Foundation, goes to: Unit 66 Griffith, District 1, Maureen Webber.

Personal Awards

1. Award for the Unit that has the best fundraiser for the National Child Welfare Foundation: Unit 66 Griffith, District 1, Maureen Webber;

2. Award for the District submitting the most Youth Hero or Good Deed Awards: Unit 464, District 9, Jennie Maune.

Best Children and Youth 1st Place Narrative: District 7, Unit 479 Lyons, Bridgett Edwards; 2nd place Narrative: District 9, Unit 292 Dillsboro, Lana Melton.

Finally, the President's Award of Excellence, by President Roxy Stoner, went to District 7, Unit 479 Lyons, Bridgett Edwards.

Congratulations to our award winners. Thank you to all who rang bells for C&Y this year!



The American Legion Family



**BRINGING TOGETHER THE
LEGION FAMILY SINCE 1919**

The American Legion National Convention stands as the organization's largest annual gathering, bringing together approximately 9,000 members from The American Legion Family. National convention delegates meet each year to approve changes to the Legion's constitution and bylaws, pass programs that determine the course of the Legion, set membership dues for the upcoming year, and elect a national commander and five national vice commanders to serve until the next convention.

August 22 - 28, 2025

[National Convention
Calendar & Information |
The American Legion](#)

Junior Activities



Stephanie Cutter
Department Chair

The Juniors had an amazing year of achievements throughout the Department this year. With Honorary Junior Department President Grace Otey at the helm, over \$27,000 has been raised for HVAF this year.

Juniors have been active in their Posts as well as in their communities.

Activities our Juniors reported participating in include visiting local nursing homes, delivering treats to residents, and caroling. They attended and volunteered at Post Christmas, Halloween, Memorial Day, Veterans Day parties, and parades. Unit 351 in District 8 won the best overall float for a local Kids Day Parade. At local events & festivals, they offered face painting, balloon twisting, and games.

Others participated in their Post Honor Guard and helped at 6:00 am on Veterans Day while cannons were fired. Juniors assisted with Wreaths Across America and placing flags at the cemeteries.

Poppy Distribution for Poppy Day and throughout the year, in and out of the Posts, was one of the most popular and easiest activities for the Juniors. Decorating Posts for holidays and birthday dinners for veterans was also a common activity.

This year, Juniors had the opportunity to attend National Junior Meetings, Junior Fall Conference, IVH Bingo and Junior Convention, and Junior Installation at Department Convention. The Junior participation is growing, and we are excited about the future of our programs because of the increased youth engagement.



ALA Department Junior Members

Congratulations to HGS Senators, Saanvi Yarrapotu and Audrey Kixmiller who represented Indiana at Girls Nation!

Americanism



Michelle Woodburn
Department Chair

What does Americanism look like in action? For the American Legion Auxiliary, it looks like flags, parades, patriotic essays, and thousands of hours spent teaching our youth and serving our communities - all wrapped in red, white, and blue. This year, members across our organization proved once again that Americanism isn't just a concept we talk about during patriotic holidays -

it's something we live every day.

Patriotism with Purpose - Let's start with the numbers, because they speak volumes:

- 1,634 hours were volunteered in direct support of youth-centered Americanism efforts.
- We spent \$14,971.53 on activities designed to educate and inspire the next generation.
- An additional \$21,664.82 in direct aid was provided to support children in need.
- Over 7,127 children were reached and impacted by our programs.
- We gave \$7,875.00 to other child-focused service organizations, because our mission doesn't stop at our own programs.

Our members taught lessons in patriotism that extended far beyond the classroom. We guided students in flag-folding ceremonies, supported Americanism essay contests (with 14 submis-

sions!), and handed out over 150 American flag comic books - because who says learning about the flag can't be fun? Some Units sold American flag scarves to raise money for purchasing actual flags to distribute in their communities. Others donated flags to schools and memorials - including Lyons Unit 479, which provided an American, Indiana, and POW/MIA flag for the Newberry, Indiana Veterans Memorial. At local libraries, the spirit of patriotism was front and center. A growing community program in North Webster brought in over 400 attendees and provided patriotic books and bookmarks for circulation. And in schools across the state, we brought coloring contests, flag education, and a love of country into the hearts of our youngest citizens.

Building Traditions & Teaching Respect

In schools, libraries, parades, and cemeteries, our Auxiliary members showed up to ensure

America's legacy is honored and remembered. We hosted flag disposal ceremonies with local Scout troops, taught etiquette to youth organizations like the Boys and Girls Club, and brought "Betsy Ross" to life for curious kids. We passed out flags, pins, pencils, and bracelets at community festivals, making patriotism tangible and exciting. Our members stood tall with honor guards at funerals and remembrance events, led Memorial Day parades complete with golf cart decorations and balloon releases, and participated in Wreaths Across America - placing more than 150 wreaths at cemeteries to honor those who served. And when the holidays arrived, we kept the flame of Americanism burning - literally. At the annual tree lighting in Avilla, we served cookies to children waiting to see Santa. Our coloring contest winners were even the first in line to sit on his lap! We honored our military families by encouraging

local children to wear purple on Military Kids Day, and we proudly wore red on Fridays for "Remember Everyone Deployed." We also packed care packages for active military members and supported Honor Flights and Quilts of Valor presentations - because service doesn't end at the battlefield.

Investing in Our Communities

Our Americanism work went hand-in-hand with service to our communities. Auxiliary members reported a staggering 13,590.5 community service hours, and we invested \$91,407.40 in projects that made a difference in the lives of neighbors, veterans, and families alike. Our events ranged from Trick or Trunk celebrations and holiday food drives to patriotic "Patriotic Pops" concerts and participation in local festivals. We showed up with enthusiasm, snacks, and (sometimes) glitter - because nothing draws a crowd

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History



Vicky Stainbrook
Department Historian

This year has been such a blessing. I have gotten to talk to many members and learn a lot about how the Department of Indiana work together as a Legion family to better serve and "Ring our Bells for our Veterans."

As the year started, like many of you, I had goals and plans on what I wanted to do this year. Things don't always go as we plan but Winston Churchill gives me encouragement with his famous quote, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is courage to continue that counts." Courage to

continue we have; and we always prevail. We learn as we go and documenting success and failures along the way is so important. While I worked on getting my things together for the year-end, I didn't see many failures. I know we had them and we discussed them, but they aren't getting documented to share with our future leaders. Perhaps we can work on that; help those who come after us by sharing what we could have done to make things better.

I was excited to help National President Trish Ward with her project of collecting charters with every National President's signature on it. Thank you to those who took the time to send me a picture of your charter. District 11 won my contest with the highest percentage turned in with District 7 close behind.

March was awesome thanks to all those who helped highlight Hoosier ladies making a difference in history. We covered every day and shared some amazing facts that I didn't know, even information about Elberfield Unit 351. I received information from

the National Archivist about how we need to preserve our documents better. First, if your document is touching the glass, it could damage it by sticking to the glass. We need to make sure we keep these items dry, away from moisture, flat and out of direct light. It is recommended they be removed from the frames, if possible, digitized and stored away in a place where no light reaches them. They should be digitized at 600 dpi TIFF for preservation purposes and at 300 dpi jpeg. A print can be made from the jpeg and placed in a frame instead. Make sure that you and your Unit make the decision for your documents wisely. This brings us to another history item, the beautiful shiny vintage jewelry. Each item has a history and meaning. Whether it be the pin your mentor wore or the charter your ancestors signed. Katie Jasionowski has taught me a lot about the wonderful pieces that those before us wore. She is a wealth of knowledge and willing to share with you what she knows.

Now on to the winners of History awards for the year. First, I

want to thank those who took the time to enter History Books. You are all winners for your time and effort passed on to the next generations. The Louise Loyd Monetary Award to the Best District History Book goes to District 10, Wanda Cooley. Thank you for your great book and also to District 9 Historian Judy Cox for your first entry. Looking forward to seeing next year's book. Cheril Threte Monetary Award to the Best Junior Unit History goes to Junior Honorary Department Historian Ellie DuPont from 8th District. My personal awards for Best Unit History books: Second place goes to District 7, Unit 479, Historian Julie Baker; and my first-place winner goes to District 6, Unit 113, Historian Tess Hogston. All the books were very nice. I know how much time was spent working on them. I appreciate all the efforts, especially from Marme Potts and Cindy Kelly for hosting workshops in their Districts. I added an honorable mention to Robert E Kennington, Unit 34, District 11 for submitting a digital book via Microsoft pro-

gram. Some of us are really thinking outside of the box to preserve history and it shows. My award for "Most Member Remembers / Senior and Junior Members" goes to The Hinshaw family. While we had many veterans highlighted in our history books, they are the only videos I had submitted to me. Kristin interviewed a couple of Unit 500 members while Maggie and Evelyn helped with the recording. These videos are available to watch on YouTube so please take the time to watch them. I ended the Awards with a special vintage ALA jewelry box being awarded to Katie Jasionowski for her endless time and money spent for the preservation of American Legion historic items. Katie has a collection of items not just from the American Legion Auxiliary but from the Legion family that she is sharing with her post. Thank you, Katie, for all you do to preserve history.

Here's to the future. It will be what we make it. Let's make it the best it can be!



Vicky Stainbrook, Department Historian, awards Katie Jasionowski an ALA jewelry box in special recognition of her tireless efforts preserving the ALA history.

"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Indiana, appreciates our nation's heroes and supports the armed forces in their efforts to ensure a strong national defense. This is evidenced by all that you are doing for the National Security program. Out of the 279 Units in the Department of Indiana, 78 Units and eight out of 11 Districts reported the following:

Service for Veterans, Active-Duty, Reserve Military

Total Hours Volunteered: 4,889
Total Dollars Spent: \$21,872.40
Value-of-in Kind donations received: \$10,564.00

ALA Service to Military Families

Total Hours Volunteered: 4,567
Total Dollars Spent: \$3,129.99
Donations: \$26,163.74

Service Representing our Communities

Total Hours: 4,380
Dollars Spent: \$28,065.00

Members planned veteran recognition programs, participated in POW recognition ceremonies, Wreaths of America, and donated items for USO Camp Atterbury, and Indianapolis Airport. At our Joint Spring Conference, USO Area Operations Manager, Kasey Stan, addressed

over 100 attendees about the impact Indiana has on the USO expressing to the attendees that over 81,000 have been served in 2024 at Camp Atterbury, Indianapolis Airport and Outreach. For more information and how to help, visit www.uso.org.

Thank you to all the Unit and District Chairs for volunteering to educate and support the National Security program. There was no submission for my personal award or the Billie Bubala plaque. The winner of the Betty Slagle Monetary Award to the District Chair with the best narrative for year-round reporting in National Security goes to Brittany Schofield, 7th District Chair. Congratulations Brittany. It has been an honor to serve as your National Security Department Chair for 2024-2025. Good job in "Ringing Bells for Our Veterans."

"We stand united with our veterans and their families ensuring a nation noteworthy of their sacrifice."

National Security



Cheril Threte
Department Chair

Constitution & Bylaws



Rose Ann Dziegłowicz
Department Chair

I am happy to report all 11 Districts submitted a Constitution & Bylaws report with 115 Units reporting. A huge thank you to all the District Chairs for compiling and sending me these reports. Nine Districts and 35 Units stated they reviewed their Constitution & Bylaws and made revisions.

Five Districts and numerous Units completed major changes to comply with Department and National. Other changes reported included changing dues, day and time of meetings, donations, adding a Parliamentarian, going from two secretaries to one, adding audit requirements, officer/election appointments, two signature checks, adding Risk & Compliance Committee, and adding Code of Ethics.

One District held a workshop to help members understand how and what to change in their Constitution & Bylaws. Questions were answered and members stated they were more comfortable with attempting to update their Constitution & Bylaws. I also received numerous phone calls and emails throughout the year and thoroughly enjoyed conversing with members and answering their questions.

Always remember to first refer to your Constitution & Bylaws to answer questions and if the answer is not found there, refer to Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised. Also, any changes to the National Constitution & Bylaws made by National automatically replace the Unit, District, and Department Constitution & Bylaws. A vote does not need to be held for these changes.

The Sally Wilhelm Monetary Award for the best year-round Constitution & Bylaws program is Fourth District, Diana West, District Chair. Congratulations!

Please continue to update your Constitution & Bylaws. It is the road map of our organization and important to our Units, Districts and Department running smoothly and consistently.



Merit



Jocelyn Curtis
Department Chair

The Department of Indiana has had a fantastic year under the leadership of President Roxy Stoner. We all have been "Ring-ing Bells for our Veterans."

I am pleased to report that I received reports from all 11 Districts, so thank you very much. You have been working hard this past year to ensure that our mission, "Serving our Veterans," was the main focus. You didn't just work on the mission, you made huge contributions to AEF, Indy Vets House, IVH, the VA shower, and so much more. Units had representation at Fall Conference, sponsored young ladies to attend Hoosier Girls State, and let's not forget the countless hours working on history and prayer books. Some of you even submitted entries for the President Awards of Excellence.

These are just a few of the things that Units did to earn points on the Merit Sheet. Now, let's get to the numbers.

District 1: Barbara Sales, Chair
15 Units and 15 Reported
Superior Units (3): Cedar Lake 216, St. John 369, Schererville 485

Excellent Units (3): Crown Point 20, Gary 279, Griffith 66
Good Units (3): Hobart 54, Lake Station 100, Lowell 101

District 2: Adele Ferrini
32 Units and 13 Reported
Superior Unit (1): Lafayette 11
Excellent Units (5): Kouts 301, Monticello 81, Remington 280, Syracuse 223, W. Lafayette 492

Good Units (6): Camden 413, DeMotte 440, Portage 260, Rose-lawn 238, South Haven 502, Wheatfield 406

District 3: Carol LaGard
28 Units 10 Reported
Superior Unit (1): Walkerton 189

Excellent Units (5): South Bend 50, New Carlisle 297, La-porte 83, South Bend 357, Bremen 191

Good Units (2): Wakarusa 307, Michigan City 37

District 4: Diana West
26 Units and 16 Reported

Excellent Units (2): Angola 31, Leo 409

Good Units (9): LaGrange 215, Kendallville 86, Bluffton 111, Avilla 240, Ft. Wayne 241,

Ft. Wayne 47, Ft. Wayne 82, Or-land 423

District 5: Sue Fugitt
27 Units 7 Reported
Excellent Units (3): Rossville 342, Roanoke 160, Tipton 46

Good Units (2): Greentown 317, Montpelier 156

District 6: Kristy Byers
32 Units 9 reported

Superior Unit (2): Pittsboro 426, Terre Haute 104

Excellent Units (6): Browns-burg 331, Carmel 155, Craw-fordsville 72, Lebanon 113, Whit-estown 410, Zionville 79

Good Units (1): Rockville 48
District 7: Sharon Regnier

25 Units 21 Reported
Superior Units (2): Lyons 479, Mooresville 103

Excellent Units (7): Sullivan 139, Jasonville 172, Franklin 205, Edinburgh 233, Martinsville 230, Greenwood 1919, Linton 22

Good Units (12): Bloomington 18, Shelburn 197, Shoals 61, Greenwood 252, Spencer 285, Hymera 298, Elhara 245, Bloom-field 196, Cole City 141, Princ-etown 25, Vincennes 73, Brazil 2

District 8: Diana Lain
31 Units 31 Reported

Superior Units (8): Cannel-ton 142, Boonville 200, Elber-feld 351, Ferdinand 124, Floyds Knobs 42, New Albany 28, Sell-ersburg 204, Tell City 213

Excellent Units (8): Evansville 265, Evansville 354, Jasper 147, Jeffersonville 35, Milltown 332,

Newburgh 44, Santa Claus 242, Tennyson 463

Good Units (12): Alton 133, Charlestown 335, Dale 444, Hol-land 343, Marengo 84, Mt. Ver-non 5, New Harmony 370, New Washington 62, Rockport 254, St. Meinrad 366, Winslow 115, Evansville 8

District 9: Donna Asbell-Mills
22 Units 12 Reported

Excellent Units (5): French Lick 76, Aurora 231, St. Leon 464, Seymour 89, Columbus 24

Good Units (1): Vevay 185
District 10: Florence Briggs

26 Units 7 Reported
Excellent Unit (1): Yorktown 321

Good Units (5): Eaton 90, Rid-geville 507, Selma 437, Conners-ville 1, Middletown 216

District 11: Judy Otey
11 Units 6 Reported

Excellent Unit (1): Speedway 500

Good Units (5): Indianapolis 438, Leo F. Welch 495, Tillman Harpole 249, Beech Grove 276, Robert E. Kennington 34

All the Units mentioned received a Certificate of Merit. District 1 and District 8 both had 100% of their Units reporting and will receive my personal award as well as District 7 with 84% reporting. Congratulations to everyone for a great year. Thank you to President Roxy for the opportunity to serve as your Department Merit Chair.

Risk & Compliance



Phyllis Banks
Department Chair

This year has been a learning experience for most of us as we navigated through the Federal Regulations as they apply to a non-profit 501(c)(19) veteran's organization as well as the American Legion Auxiliary guidance and governing documents. We have established a relationship with the National Headquarters team which has enabled us to foster a culture of transparency and proactive vigilance in regard to our Department Auxiliary Risk & Compliance business health activities. Throughout the year, we have worked closely with multiple District and Unit officers and chairs to ensure compliance with state and national guidelines. We have offered guidance, support, and resources to empower every Unit member who requested assistance in helping their organization become compliant with State and Federal regulations. We promoted best practices and continuous education in risk management with our aim to safeguard the

well-being of members and up-holding the organization's commitment to integrity.

We provided assistance and recommended resolutions to Units in six (6) of our eleven Districts. This included actions pertaining to gaming license, authority of the Post Commander with the Auxiliary Unit, Fidelity Bond coverage, and responses to IRS notifications.

We coordinated with National Headquarters and implemented their supplemental instruction to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 1024 Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(a) or Section 521 of the Internal Revenue Code. This supplemental instruction is titled, "American Legion Auxiliary National Organization SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTIONS - FORM 1024 TO SEEK REINSTATEMENT OF RECOGNITION AS A 501(C)(19) VETERANS' ORGANIZATION (UNITS, DISTRICTS, COUNTIES OR COUNCILS)" "To Seek Reinstatement of Recognition as a 501(c)(19) Veterans' Organization (Units, Districts, Counties Or Councils)." We have created a standardized financial table to assist Units and Districts in compiling their required financial information for the 1024 form.

As we adapt to these evolving standards, collaboration, and open communication will be central to our approach. Looking ahead, we are hopeful that we can establish critical training, workshops, and seminars designed to clarify compliance issues, for

Department, District and Unit officers and committee members, while sharing best practices and resources with one another. This collaboration will strengthen our understanding of key requirements, ensure greater organizational transparency, and equip us to better serve our American Legion and Auxiliary programs. Looking ahead, we remain committed to ongoing education and vigilance, recognizing that strong compliance not only protects our organization but also underpins the trust our organization places in us.

As we reflect on our accomplishments and challenges, it becomes clear that sustained progress relies on the curiosity and engagement of every member. Ensuring participation in compliance training and the annual reporting process continues to grow, demonstrating a collective commitment to excellence, and accountability.

Moving forward, we will focus on further strengthening the network of support among Districts and Units. By leveraging the expertise developed this year, we intend to introduce peer mentorship opportunities, where experienced members can guide those who are new to navigating compliance tasks. This spirit of collaboration will not only ease the learning curve but also foster a sense of unity and shared purpose across all levels of our organization.

Additionally, we are exploring the integration of digital tools and resources to streamline documentation and reporting procedures.

Developing user-friendly checklists, online tutorials, and regular Q&A sessions will empower members to feel confident in managing compliance requirements independently, while still having access to guidance when needed.

Our vision for the coming year is ambitious but achievable—with continued dedication, open communication, and the willingness to adapt, we can make compliance an accessible and rewarding aspect of our mission. Together, we will uphold the highest standards of integrity, ensuring that the Department of Indiana continues to earn the trust and respect of its members and the communities we serve.

Upcoming Important Dates

AUGUST 1ST
Membership
Target Date #1
(Aim 7% renewed)

AUGUST 2ND
Officers and Chairs
Workshop
(Carmel American
Legion Post 155)

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation



Barb Parkhurst
Department Chair

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Indiana is proud to 'Lead the Way' by supporting our veterans through the VA&R program. We started the year on a sad note when VA&R Chair Sandy McCool passed away. Sandy was a dedicated member of the ALA and actively supported our veterans.

The year began by having a Veterans Shower at the Department Fall Conference where \$4,532.00 was raised for our hospitalized veterans. The Department VA&R Chair asked for volunteers to take donations, and the ladies stepped up in a big way.

HVAF is a homeless veteran's facility in Indianapolis. There was a massive fire at HVAF last fall. The ALA donated money, food, hygiene products, and clothing to the displaced veterans. The Units took collections to help restock

the food pantry.

The Department VA&R Chair attended Christmas Gift Wraps at the Danville VA, Marion VA, and Indiana Veterans' Home. The Units donated items for the veterans at these hospitals. The gift wrap at Marion VA is a little different. Gifts are also picked out by the patients for their family members; volunteers wrap the gifts, and the gifts are placed in mailing boxes and mailed to the family members. Due to bad weather, the department chair was unable to attend the Richmond VA gift wrap but attended the quarterly birthday party. The veterans appreciate all the ALA does for them.

The Units reported volunteering for the Honor Flights throughout Indiana. Thank you cards, snacks, and Welcome Home celebrations are some of the activities reported for the Honor Flight. Many Units donate money to the guardian to go on the flight with the veteran.

Some of the activities reported by Units were: Donations to Camp Carson; Veterans Day Program; helping a veteran's family dealing with the loss of a family member by providing support in the sorting and removal of items from the home; cleaning and assistance with funeral arrangements; flag placement at the cemeteries for Memorial Day; supporting Blue Star Mothers; National Legacy Run; Tunnel to Towers; Operation Comfort Warriors; providing

meals and childcare for military children; Veteran's baby shower; Camp Read A Lot; I Can Volunteer; National Guard send-off; welcome home events; providing Christmas to needy veteran families; donating Buddy Bags; setting up information tables at County Stand Downs; and sending care packages. One Unit provides the County Service Office with gift cards in \$25 to \$50 increments to give to veterans who come to the VSO for help. The cards are to be used for food and gas that is so necessary when applying for jobs; the same Unit donated money to a War Dogs Chapter 3 dog handler to help with food and medical expenses for the retired dog he adopted.

Many Units sponsor Wreaths Across America. The veterans in Camp Atterbury Prison Post also help with the wreaths.

The Impact Report information concerning VA&R is as follows:

Our ALA Service for Veterans, Active-Duty, Reserve Military:

- 19,982 hours volunteered.
- \$110,549.00 members spent/donated.
- 10,055 veterans/military members assisted.
- 66,673.00 value of in-kind donations received.

Our ALA Service for Military Families:

- 2,042 hours that members volunteered.
- \$17,377.00 dollars members personally spent/donated.

- 539 military family members served.

The Nancy Gunning Monetary Award presented to the District reporting the best hands-on activities held at a VA or state hospital facility was awarded to District 7.

The Personal Awards were presented to:

- The Unit that submitted the best narrative report on work accomplished with homeless veterans was presented to Mooresville Unit 103 in District 7.

- The Unit that submitted the best year-end VA&R narrative report was presented to Lyons Unit 479 in District 7.

- The District that submitted the best year-end VA&R narrative report was presented to District 7.

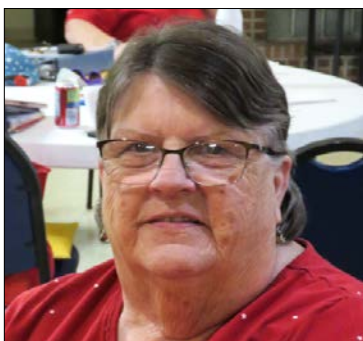
- The Junior or Junior Unit that submitted the best narrative report on work accomplished following the VA&R program was presented to Grace Otey.

We have been 'Ringing Bells for Our Veterans' across the Department of Indiana.



American Legion Auxiliary Units - Carmel 155, Fishers 470, Whitestown 410, and Cicero 341 - supported HVAF with donations of furnishings and essential items for the 23 units of the newly renovated HVAF Manchester Apartments.

Indiana Veterans' Home



Janet Barnaby
Department Chair

We, currently, have a census of approximately 120 residents that includes: Five female veterans, 52 Army, 17 Navy, 16 Marine, 22 Air Force, and one National Guard; Ten female spouses, and one married couple.

Everyone has two or more sponsoring Units, and most of you are doing very well sending cards, gifts, or money to your residents. You also sent money, treats, and hygiene items as well as puzzles books for the goodie cart (which we offered to the residents for free). Some of you sent baseball-style caps with military insignias on them. Boy, did they like getting those! They were a big hit. A few of you came to visit when that was an option and the residents always enjoyed that. A few of you were there for Wreaths Across America Day and Salut-

ing Branches, as well as the many bingos held; the residence love bingo.

According to the reports submitted, you spent \$26,912 on the residents; 56 of you volunteered 1400; and 122 came to visit your resident. I know these are low numbers because not all Units sent reports. We can always hope for better reporting. I want to give a big thank you to my assistant Erin Sturgeon. She made my job go a lot easier due to her energy and enthusiasm. A big thank you goes to the 2nd District IVH Chair Bonnie West. She volunteered many days with the goodie cart. I also want to give a big thank you to my other District Chairs. This is not a "gravy" job. It is hard work trying to keep everyone sponsored and happy. They all did a good job relaying messages for me.

Please come for a visit or coffee at 10:00 am in the library.



IVH Representative Tom Smith accepts a check for \$9,200 from President Roxy for her IVH President's Project.

Poppy



Tamra Everhart
Department Chair

The Department of Indiana was busy Ringing our Bells for our veterans and working the poppy program this past year. I received ten reports, representing 101 Units. Units reported 55,670 poppies ordered, which was an increase of 6,400 poppies over last year. In total, 57,620 poppies and 3,138 poppy items were distributed. Through these activities, \$107,696.41 was raised and \$73,437.19 of that was used to help over 1,688 veterans and their families. Units also reported 3,903 hours volunteered and 2,981 miles driven. Just imagine what those numbers would be if every Unit reported!

How did Units promote the poppy? Almost every Unit reported handing out poppies on or around Poppy Day! Several Units were able to get the mayor to proclaim May 23rd Poppy Day. One

Unit reported being on the radio and talking about the meaning of the poppy. Members used the newspaper, local news and your own newsletters to get the word out. Lots of Units utilized social media too. In addition to that, you placed donation cans in your can-tees and in businesses in your communities. You participated in parades and festivals and distributed your poppies and poppy items. You placed wreaths and decorations around town as well as in your Post homes. You wore poppies and poppy items daily. One Unit held a Poppy Dance! Juniors got involved with all these activities too. One Junior told the poppy story to her class and handed out poppies to fellow students. Several Units mentioned other school events where the poppy was the focus including reading, The Poppy Lady to an elementary class. Members were determined to get the poppy out there and educate communities about the poppy and what it means!

What types of poppy items were distributed? There were corsages for all kinds of events along with boutonnieres, centerpieces, bouquets and other decorations. Some Units made items; others purchased them. There were poppy keychains, bags, bookmarks, coloring books, hot pads, snap pouches, seeds, hats, pins, pins with ribbons, plates, canisters, stickers, wreaths, cookies, poppy wrapped suckers, crocheted pop-

pies and can covers, the history of the poppy, and copies of, "In Flanders Field."

How did Units use the \$73,437.19? A lot of Units reported using their poppy money for HVAF and helping them after the devastating fire. Creative Arts was another program that many Units supported with their poppy funds. The Honor Flight Network was another big recipient of our Indiana poppy funds. In fact, the poppy can contest at Spring Conference brought in over \$6,100 for the Honor Flight Network! Units also donated to VA Food Banks to help the military families they serve. Several Units reported using their money to support their VAMC and help with a VAMC baby shower. Some other uses of your poppy funds were helping a veteran with medical expenses, veteran support packages, food for a veteran in need, homeless veterans, veterans on hospice, and many more. Several of the uses reported do not really qualify for poppy fund use, so I urge you to read your rules and stay vigilant.

Now for the contests and awards. I am pleased to announce that we have an Indiana Little Miss Poppy this year! She is a young lady who is very involved with the Juniors, the Auxiliary, the Legion Post, her school, her church, and her community. In

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Auxiliary Emergency Fund

continued from page 1

proving that even a drizzle can water the seeds of service.

One especially impactful effort came from Judy Cox and the District 9 team, who went beyond traditional fundraising by taking steps to build their own local emergency support fund. With their "Share the Wealth" initiative, District 9 members began contributing to a district-level pool, with one-third of the funds retained to support Auxiliary members facing urgent needs close to home. This initiative not only raises awareness of AEF but builds a sustainable model of care and responsiveness at the local level. Their vision is one of empowerment, community investment, and long-term resilience.

These remarkable efforts were honored during the Department Convention with AEF Bell Awards that echo the compassion of our membership:

- Golden Bell Unit Award – Sue Beeler, President, Unit 150 (District 10), for the highest per capita contribution.
- Harmony Bell Fundraiser Awards – Janis Sproat (Unit 381), Heidi Steinhiser (Unit 451), and Tammy Woodruff (Unit 113) for powerful, creative fundraising.
- Harmony Chime Awards – Judy Cox (District 9) and Darcy Pfeiffer (District 8) for uplifting and mentoring Units across their Districts.
- Resonance Bell Award – Lois Daube (District 3), whose District led with the highest Unit reporting rate in the state.
- Junior Bell Ambassadors – Jenelle Jackson (Unit 263), Ryleigh Pitts and Hannah Queen (Unit 351) - Junior members who stepped up and inspired us all.

Ruth Rairdon Monetary Award: Lillian Keen, AEF Chair, District 11 for the District with the highest contribution per senior member. Their contribution per member was almost double what other Districts donated. The per capita amount for District 11 was \$1.08. This award carries extra meaning this year as we honor Ruth's legacy after her recent passing.

The top 10 per capita funds ranking for the AEF Program:

RANKING	LOCATION	UNIT #	DISTRICT	PER CAPITA AMOUNT
1	Rushville	150	10	\$15.15
2	Michigan City	451	3	\$7.75
3	Lyons	479	7	\$4.67
4	Lakeville	363	3	\$4.62
5	Kokomo	6	5	\$4.31
6	Rome City	381	4	\$3.86
7	Lebanon	113	6	\$3.69
8	Speedway	500	11	\$3.68
9	Greenwood	1919	7	\$3.18
10	Hartford City	159	5	\$2.91

I would like to provide our top 10 fundraising Units a CONGRATULATIONS.

RANKING	LOCATION	UNIT #	DISTRICT
1	Speedway	500	11
2	Rome City	381	4
3	Michigan City	451	3
4	Kokomo	6	5
5	Newburgh	44	8
6	Lebanon	113	6
7	Lyons	479	7
8	Rushville	150	10
9	Bloomington	18	7
9	Moorseville	103	7

The Money Bell Award goes to: Denise Albrecht, AEF Chair, and her team at Unit 500, District 11. They raised over \$1,300 this year for AEF. Great Job!

At a District Level, the Money Bell Award goes to: Vicki Swafford, AEF Chair, and her team at District 7. District 7 contributed \$2,507 to AEF this year (this includes Unit donations, additional contributions sent to Department, Cardinal Tree participation, and Dean's Double Down challenge).

The numbers may measure our donations, but it's our compassion that defines our success. Six members in Indiana expressed the need for assistance - and thanks to you, those calls were not met with silence, but with support.

As we look ahead, I encourage every member, Unit, and District to get involved. You don't have to raise thousands to make an impact. Host a game night. Hang a tribute tree. Share the AEF Facebook page. Talk about the grant process at your next meeting. Every action, big or small, rings the bell louder for those who need us.

Let's make 2025-2026 the year every Unit joins the effort. Let's keep the momentum, the creativity, and the care alive. Because when we support one another, we don't just rebuild lives—we strengthen our entire Auxiliary.

Keep ringing those bells, Indiana.



Paula Evans District 6 AEF, Jenny Tracy Dept IN AEF, and Tammy Woodruff Unit 113 AEF



Jenny Tracy Dept IN AEF and Cherril Threte Central Division AEF



District 7 Certificate of Appreciation given to Phyllis Banks, President, of Unit 479 Lyons. Pictured Cindy Kelly District 7 AEF Committee Member (Unit 103), Phyllis Banks, President of Unit 479 Lyons, and Vicki Swafford, District 7 AEF Chair (Unit 18).



Vicky Stainbrook, Department Historian, honoring her mentor Sally Wilhelm from District 9 (and Past Department President) whom she honored with an AEF contribution to the AEF Cardinal Tree.

2025 Fall Conference • September 19th - 21st

Marriott Hotel East, Indianapolis

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE



Americanism:
AEF:
Children & Youth
Community Service
Creative Arts
Education
IVH
Junior Activities
Legislative

Membership
National Security
Poppy
Public Relations
Service to Veterans
VA& R

Betty Zoller
Tammy Woodruff
Bridgett Edwards
Beverly Seitz
Sue Comerford
Denise Delaney-Wrolen
Bert Ash
Janice Mort
Barb Parkhurst
Rose Ann Dziegłowicz
Susi Greathouse
Janna Stollery
Shanan Walker
Sherri McGee
Gretchen Fleming
Debbie Kent

District 6 Unit 104
District 6 Unit 113
District 7 Unit 479
District 8 Unit 42
District 5 Unit 6
District 1 Unit 279
District 5 Unit 6
District 2 Unit 223
District 5 Unit 6
District 1 Unit 369
District 5 Unit 6
District 2 Unit 223
District 8 Unit 200
District 7 Unit 230
District 8 Unit 200
District 7 Unit 230

BE IN THE KNOW!

Visit our websites and join our Facebook pages. If you have a digital platform you'd like to share, please contact Department HQ.

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Indiana Website
<https://www.aladeptin.org/>

The American Legion Auxiliary National Website
<https://www.legion-aux.org/about/national-headquarters-divisions>

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Indiana Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/indianaauxiliary>

The American Legion Auxiliary National HQ Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/alaforveterans>

The American Legion Auxiliary Chaplain Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61578109392698>

The American Legion Auxiliary History Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61563124130159>

The American Legion Auxiliary Education Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/7708494739278740>

The American Legion Auxiliary VA&R Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1771063857622714>

The American Legion Auxiliary HGS Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/alahgs>

Poppy

continued from page 8

In addition to all of this, she finds time for dance team and beauty pageants. Your Indiana Little Miss Poppy is Jenelle Jackson from Cayuga Unit 263 in the 6th District.

Poppy poster: I received 11 posters for the poppy poster contest. Unfortunately, they were not spread across all the classes. The winner for Class V was Taylor Turner and the winner for Class VI was Arabelle Capes, both submitted by Tipton Unit 46, District 5. These were sent, along with two others because our judging was so close, to compete in the National competition. I had three submissions that were not the right size, but I would like to give them honorable mentions because otherwise, they were great! Class I was Journee Durbin, Class II was Analeigh Wilborn, and Class III was Sophia Wilborn. All three are from Cannelton Unit 142, District 8.

The senior poppy can contest was judged at our Spring Conference and the winner was District 6. Margie Eades from Unit 104 in Terre Haute created the winning can. A very close second was District 11 with a bell tower created by Terri Rene, Unit 276.

At the Juniors Convention in June, we had a corsage contest, a poppy can contest, and a miscellaneous item contest. We had some wonderful submissions and first place for the corsage went to Grace Otey, District 11, Unit 500. Second place went to Addy Cutter, District 9, Unit 185. The winner of the poppy can contest was Madeline Cooley, District 3, Unit 83. The winning miscellaneous item was a wreath submitted by Ferdinand Unit 124, District 8.

At our Department Convention in July, we had several poppy contests and had some beautiful items on display! Thank you to everyone who brought something, and a special thank you to my judges. You had a difficult job! I'm glad I did not have to judge them! The winner of the poppy hat competition was Annette DeVries, District 1, Unit 261. First place for the corsage went to Sydnee Randle Solomon, District 2, Unit 492, and the second-place corsage was Sherry Stackhouse, District 9, Unit 76. The winning wreath was from Terri Rene, District 11, Unit 276. The winning centerpiece was from Rebecca Niehauser, District 9, Unit 235. The winning miscellaneous item was a decoration submitted by Terri Rene, District 11, Unit 276.

Finally, the winner of the Judy Morris monetary award for the best narrative from a Unit that best utilizes poppies throughout the year goes to Karen Aldrich, Unit 81, District 2. The Lisa Liford monetary award for the District Chair with the best reported year-round use of poppies goes to Nancy Patterson, District 7.

Congratulations to all the winners! Keep spreading the poppy and ringing your bells!

Thank you for the honor of serving as your poppy chair this year.



Poppy Hat winner modeled by Junior member, Mina Tarka of Unit 369 of the First District. The winning hat was made by Annette DeVries, District 1, Unit 261.

Americanism

continued from page 6

like cookies and coloring pages with a side of patriotism. We also supported organizations such as the Mooresville Athletic Department, Morgan County Boys and Girls Club, and the League of Miracles, demonstrating that our commitment to youth and American values extends well beyond a single flag or parade.

Americanism Is Who We Are

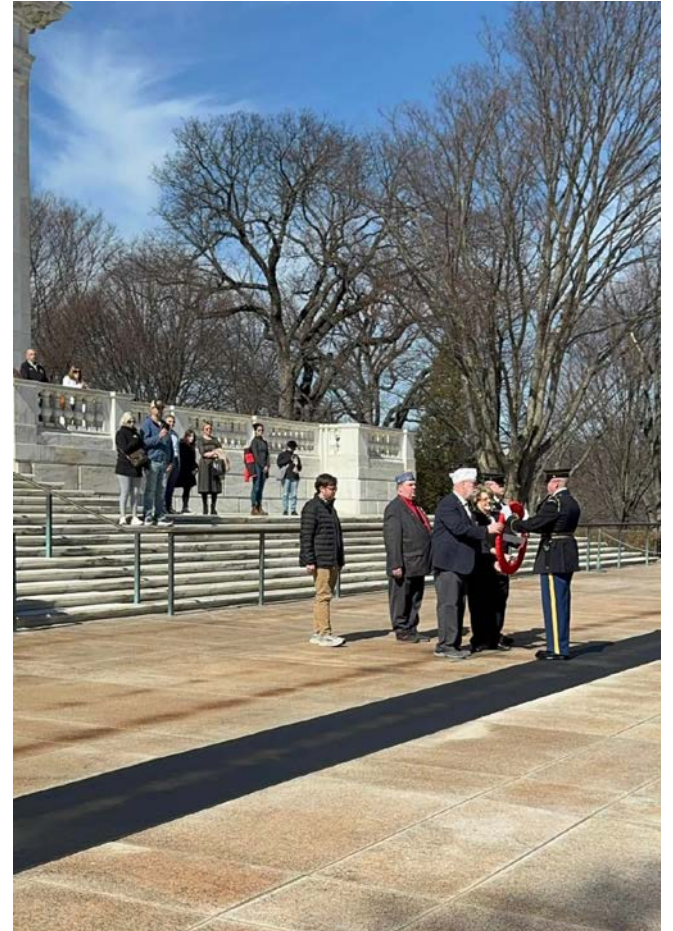
As Auxiliary members, we don't just promote Americanism - we embody it. Whether it's standing beside a veteran at a gravesite, handing a flag to a wide-eyed child, or explaining the meaning of the stars and stripes in a fourth-grade classroom, we are living examples of service and civic pride. This year's numbers are impressive. But even more powerful are the stories - of children learning to respect the flag, of communities coming together to remember, and of volunteers giving their time, heart, and even pie-baking skills in service to our country's ideals. In every small act - whether it's presenting the colors at a concert or helping a student craft their first Americanism essay - we plant seeds of patriotism. And thanks to your hard work, those seeds are growing. So, here's to you - the flag folders, parade planners, essay readers, cookie bakers, and scarf sellers. You're not just keeping traditions alive - you're making sure the next generation understands exactly what it means to be proud Americans. And if anyone asks what Americanism looks like, just point them to your Auxiliary Units where love of country is stitched into every act of service.



Close of Books



State Senator JD Ford reads resolution recognizing HGS & HBS!



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery



Juniors Bingo at IVH



Happy 100th Celebration of PDP Louise Loyd



In Loving Memory of Kathy Knafel, Department Treasurer



Indy House Visit with National President Trish Ward



Hoosier Hospitality for National President Trish Ward!



Hoosier Girls State 2025

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



100 PERCENT UNITS

DISTRICT	UNIT #	UNIT NAME	CURRENT TOTAL	OBJECTIVE 1-Jun	CURRENT %
1					
9 Units at 100%					
JOB WELL DONE!!!!!! 101.10%	20	Crown Point	170	162	104.94%
	66	Griffith	292	275	106.18%
	80	Whiting	78	70	111.43%
	100	Lake Station	156	155	100.65%
	232	Hammond	81	78	103.85%
	261	Cedar Lake	209	204	102.45%
	279	Gary	51	51	100.00%
	369	Saint John	148	148	100.00%
	485	Schererville	47	35	134.29%
2					
4 Units at 100%					
	11	Lafayette	512	511	100.20%
	81	Monticello	233	229	101.75%
	260	Portage	201	201	100.00%
	301	Kouts	169	163	103.68%
3					
13 Units at 100%					
	21	Westville	97	87	111.49%
	37	Michigan City	78	68	114.71%
	83	La Porte	210	210	100.00%
	161	Mishawaka	37	34	108.82%
	189	Walkerton	110	110	100.00%
	191	Bremen	72	69	104.35%
	284	South Bend	208	201	103.48%
	295	Union Mills	91	88	103.41%
	297	New Carlisle	134	133	100.75%
	303	South Bend	182	173	105.20%
	363	Lakeville	53	51	103.92%
	365	North Liberty	60	52	115.38%
	451	Michigan City	128	123	104.07%
4					
6 Units at 100%					
	148	Fort Wayne	113	105	107.62%
	202	Butler	116	116	100.00%
	409	Leo	329	313	105.11%
	420	Monroeville	254	254	100.00%
	423	Orland	242	231	104.76%
	467	Hamilton	30	24	125.00%
5					
10 Units at 100%					
	6	Kokomo	193	189	102.12%
	12	Frankfort	132	132	100.00%
	15	Wabash	215	209	102.87%
	85	Huntington	122	103	118.45%
	117	Pendleton	96	88	109.09%
	127	Anderson	133	125	106.40%
	159	Hartford City	86	86	100.00%
	160	Roanoke	304	304	100.00%
	286	North Manchester	103	103	100.00%

	402	Laketon	85	83	102.41%
DISTRICT	UNIT #	UNIT NAME	CURRENT TOTAL	OBJECTIVE 1-Jun	CURRENT %
6					
11 Units at 100%					
	72	Crawfordsville	532	529	100.57%
	108	Saint Bernice	45	34	132.35%
	155	Carmel	239	231	103.46%
	184	Newport	57	51	111.76%
	290	Rosedale	126	126	100.00%
	328	Riley	179	176	101.70%
	331	Brownsburg	516	495	104.24%
	384	Kingman	42	42	100.00%
	410	Whitestown	109	107	101.87%
	426	Pittsboro	43	42	102.38%
	501	West Terre Haute	41	35	117.14%

DISTRICT	UNIT #	UNIT NAME	CURRENT TOTAL	OBJECTIVE 1-Jun	CURRENT %
7					
11 Units at 100%					
	103	Mooreville	271	265	102.26%
	120	Loogootee	59	53	111.32%
	139	Sullivan	185	178	103.93%
	141	Coal City	19	19	100.00%
	172	Jasonville	129	128	100.78%
	205	Franklin	232	230	100.87%
	230	Martinsville	342	318	107.55%
	233	Edinburgh	200	196	102.04%
	285	Spencer	127	125	101.60%
	479	Lyons	110	106	103.77%
	1919	Greenwood	33	32	103.13%

DISTRICT	UNIT #	UNIT NAME	CURRENT TOTAL	OBJECTIVE 1-Jun	CURRENT %
8					
17 Units at 100%					
	8	Evansville	70	68	102.94%
	28	New Albany	307	305	100.66%
	35	Jeffersonville	131	120	109.17%
	42	Floyds Knobs	159	148	107.43%
	84	Marengo	48	45	106.67%
	115	Winslow	73	70	104.29%
	124	Ferdinand	303	300	101.00%
	133	Alton	61	61	100.00%
	142	Cannelton	149	141	105.67%
	200	Boonville	187	182	102.75%
	204	Sellersburg	200	181	110.50%
	213	Tell City	158	153	103.27%
	332	Milltown	82	82	100.00%
	351	Elberfeld	246	241	102.07%
	354	Evansville	46	41	112.20%
	370	New Harmony	90	68	132.35%
	444	Dale	27	25	108.00%

DISTRICT	UNIT #	UNIT NAME	CURRENT TOTAL	OBJECTIVE 1-Jun	CURRENT %
9					
3 Units at 100%					
	173	Versailles	172	172	100.00%
	239	Lawrenceburg	127	127	100.00%
	337	Sunman	73	69	105.80%

DISTRICT	UNIT #	UNIT NAME	CURRENT TOTAL	OBJECTIVE 1-Jun	CURRENT %
10					
8 Units at 100%					
	19	Muncie	99	86	115.12%
	65	Richmond	162	162	100.00%
	129	Greensburg	132	130	101.54%
	137	New Castle	106	100	106.00%
	152	Knightstown	353	307	114.98%
	167	Albany	52	49	106.12%
	321	Yorktown	114	113	100.88%
	391	Fortville	186	183	101.64%
11					
1 Unit at 100%					
	276	Beech Grove	171	166	103.01%



Janet Barnaby delivered four fidget boards to the memory care unit of the Indiana Veterans' Home. They were given in memory of two PDPs - Ruth Rairdon and Louise Hyde.

Department Welcomes
Back Marti!

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Indiana is excited to announce the return of Marti Drake to Headquarters. Marti is returning as Department Secretary after some time working for National American Legion Auxiliary as Membership Coordinator.

Marti is a wonderful addition to our staff. Marti is a member of eUnit 438 in Indianapolis. Her eligibility is through her husband, Bruce, who retired from the U.S. Army after 24 years of service. Not only is she the wife of a retired veteran, she is also the daughter and now the mother of a veteran. Her dad served in the U.S. Air Force, and her son is currently serving. Her brothers both served as well, so the love of the military runs deep in her family.

Marti has many life skills she gained while serving with her husband that assist her in being a well-rounded benefit to our organization. While working for National Headquarters during COVID, it honed her adaptability skills which may come in handy in the future. She is easy to communicate with and shows a good example of what our organization is all about. She has had the chance to work with some of our country's heroes first-hand and listen to their stories, and she says, "there is nothing better than that."

One of Marti's favorite programs is American Legion Auxiliary Hoosier Girls State, where she has served on the board for many years. She enjoys watching the young women and how well-spoken and inspiring they are at such a young age, giving her hope for our future.

Please join the Department of Indiana in welcoming Marti Drake back as Department Secretary. We appreciate you and your dedication to our veterans, their families, our communities, and our organization.

59 UNITS at 102 PERCENT

DISTRICT	UNIT #	UNIT NAME	CURRENT	OBJECTIVE	CURRENT
1			TOTAL	30-Jun	%
6 Units at 102%	20	Crown Point	170	162	104.94%
	66	Griffith	292	275	106.18%
	80	Whiting	78	70	111.43%
	232	Hammond	81	78	103.85%
	261	Cedar Lake	209	204	102.45%
	485	Schererville	47	35	134.29%
2			TOTAL	30-Jun	%
1 Unit at 102%	301	Kouts	169	163	103.68%
3			TOTAL	30-Jun	%
10 Units at 102%	21	Westville	97	87	111.49%
	37	Michigan City	78	68	114.71%
	161	Mishawaka	37	34	108.82%
	191	Bremen	72	69	104.35%
	284	South Bend	208	201	103.48%
	295	Union Mills	91	88	103.41%
	303	South Bend	182	173	105.20%
	363	Lakeville	53	51	103.92%
	365	North Liberty	60	52	115.38%
	451	Michigan City	128	123	104.07%
4			TOTAL	30-Jun	%
4 Units at 102%	148	Fort Wayne	113	105	107.62%
	409	Leo	329	313	105.11%
	423	Orland	242	231	104.76%
	467	Hamilton	30	24	125.00%
5			TOTAL	30-Jun	%
6 Units at 102%	6	Kokomo	193	189	102.12%
	15	Wabash	215	209	102.87%
	85	Huntington	122	103	118.45%
	117	Pendleton	96	88	109.09%
	127	Anderson	133	125	106.40%
	402	Laketon	85	83	102.41%
6			TOTAL	30-Jun	%
6 Units at 102%	108	Saint Bernice	45	34	132.35%
	155	Carmel	239	231	103.46%
	184	Newport	57	51	111.76%
	331	Brownsburg	516	495	104.24%
	426	Pittsboro	43	42	102.38%
	501	West Terre Haute	41	35	117.14%
7			TOTAL	30-Jun	%
7 Units at 102%	103	Mooresville	271	265	102.26%

	120	Loogootee	59	53	111.32%
	139	Sullivan	185	178	103.93%
	230	Martinsville	342	318	107.55%
	233	Edinburgh	200	196	102.04%
	479	Lyons	110	106	103.77%
	1919	Greenwood	33	32	103.13%
DISTRICT	UNIT #	UNIT NAME	CURRENT	OBJECTIVE	CURRENT
8			TOTAL	30-Jun	%
13 Units at 102%	8	Evansville	70	68	102.94%
	35	Jeffersonville	131	120	109.17%
	42	Floyds Knobs	159	148	107.43%
	84	Marengo	48	45	106.67%
	115	Winslow	73	70	104.29%
	142	Cannelton	149	141	105.67%
	200	Boonville	187	182	102.75%
	204	Sellersburg	200	181	110.50%
	213	Tell City	158	153	103.27%
	351	Elberfeld	246	241	102.07%
	354	Evansville	46	41	112.20%
	370	New Harmony	90	68	132.35%
	444	Dale	27	25	108.00%
DISTRICT	UNIT #	UNIT NAME	CURRENT	OBJECTIVE	CURRENT
9			TOTAL	30-Jun	%
1 Unit at 102%	337	Sunman	73	69	105.80%
DISTRICT	UNIT #	UNIT NAME	CURRENT	OBJECTIVE	CURRENT
10			TOTAL	30-Jun	%
4 Units at 102%	19	Muncie	99	86	115.12%
	137	New Castle	106	100	106.00%
	152	Knightstown	353	307	114.98%
	167	Albany	52	49	106.12%
DISTRICT	UNIT #	UNIT NAME	CURRENT	OBJECTIVE	CURRENT
11			TOTAL	30-Jun	%
1 Unit at 102%	276	Beech Grove	171	166	103.01%

Weekly Division Membership Standings and Updates



RENEW NOW!

**MEMBERS NOT RENEWED FOR 2025
ARE NOW EXPIRED.**

2026 MEMBERSHIP BEGINS JULY 1ST



www.legion-aux.org/renew



American Legion Auxiliary

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY EXPLAINED

RELATIONSHIP TO VETERAN:



- MOTHER
- DAUGHTER
- SISTER
- GRANDMOTHER
- GRANDDAUGHTER
- SELF — FEMALE VETERANS WHO HAVE SERVED
- MALE or FEMALE SPOUSE

ELIGIBILITY PERIODS: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941

TWO PATHS FOR ALA ELIGIBILITY

PATH ONE

The potential member is related to a living veteran by one of the relationships stated above and the veteran is living AND a current member of The American Legion.



If the potential member is a female veteran, she only needs to have served during the eligible time periods to be eligible for ALA membership.

PATH TWO

The potential member is related to a deceased veteran who served during the eligible time periods and was honorably discharged.



The deceased veteran did not have to be a member of The American Legion in order for the potential member to join the ALA.

For more information, visit
www.ALAforVeterans.org