



# HOOSIER AUXILIARY NEWS



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Volume 96, No. 2 • March / April / May / June 2025 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## Creative Arts



**Marme Potts**  
Department Chair

The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is just a few months away. I want to thank all Auxiliary members from the bottom of my heart for their donations, fundraising efforts, ideas, support, and interest. You have done an outstanding job for this extremely important event.

The National Veterans Creative Arts raffle ticket sales are fantastic. I will have tickets available at the Spring Conference, prior to the drawing on Saturday April 5th. The tickets are \$5 each, two tickets will be drawn. The first drawing will win (4) tickets to the first Colts home game for the 2025 season. The second drawing will win a weekend get-away to French Lick Resort.

Unit Creative Arts reports are due on April 15, 2025 to your respective District Creative Arts Chair. Please take the time to fill out your report, even if you submit "nothing to report." I look forward to receiving District reports by April 21, 2025. Please summarize what your Units have done to support Creative Arts this year. Naturally, submit your best Units for Department and personal awards.

I am amazed at all the Units that sent money to Creative Arts on their mandatory fees sheet. A family blessed us by donating \$1000 to Creative Arts in honor of their father. Several members have made personal donations ranging from \$25 - \$200. I am deeply appreciative of everyone that took raffle tickets back to your Units to sell.

A few of the ideas used for fundraising are: (2) homemade quilts, a handmade clock, a guitar purse filled with goodies, a gift that was wrapped then raffled at monthly District meetings, half pot drawings, and gift baskets raffled. It blows me away at everyone's creativity for fundraising. It has been a true honor to have been the Department Creative Arts Chair this year. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Conference.

## President's Message

*"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."*

• Mark Twain

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to spring arriving soon! It's been a busy year so far, but I've enjoyed every minute of seeing what our members are doing for our veterans, military, and their families.

So far this year, I have had the pleasure of attending Department Visitations in Districts 9, 8, 5, 7, 11, and 2, with great turnouts, delicious food, and interesting reports. I'm anxious to attend the other Districts starting in March. I appreciate it when chairs share their ideas on what they are doing for our programs and ways to support our veterans and their families.

Last November I was honored to participate in the Indianapolis parade, tour Grissom Air Museum with the Legion Family, and attend Mission Training in Nashville, Tennessee. In December,

I participated in Christmas Gift Wraps for Roubush VA, Marion VA, and IVH as well as Wreaths Across America at IVH. February included a Four Chaplains Memorial Service in St. John, Indiana and I presented a wreath at President Lincoln's Tomb while attending the Lincoln Pilgrimage in Springfield, Illinois with the Legion Family.

We have had some very cold and snowy weather along with sickness going around. Take a minute to check on your members, neighbors, family, and friends to see if they need some help. Even a simple phone call lets them know you are thinking of them.

Challenge your members to help with membership by contacting those that haven't paid their 2025 dues this year. Perhaps there's a good reason why they haven't paid. The year goes by so fast that sometimes it just slips their mind, and they don't realize it was that time of the year again. If we all work together, we can reach our 100% membership goal. Con-

gratulations to the Units that have already achieved several goals and to those that are close or at 100%.

Remember to look over the Program Engagement Plans. Be sure you are keeping track of what needs to be reported on your year-end reports as well as the dates for essays, scholarships, and the Merit Sheet. We have so many great members that continue to do so much for our veterans, military, their families, and our communities. It's important to tell us what you're doing.

Joint Spring Conference will be April 4th - 6th with the joint session on Saturday, April 5th at 8:00 am. That afternoon, NEC Cherril Threte will have a guest speaker, and Vice President and Legislative Chair Connie Banks will bring back information from her trip to the Washington D.C. Conference to share with us.

The ALA Department of Indiana will be hosting the 25th Annual National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in Indianapolis May 11 - 18, 2025. Put the dates on your



**Roxanna "Roxy" Stoner**  
Department President  
2024 - 2025

calendar and plan on attending. You'll be glad you did! The veterans are extremely creative, and their stories will touch your heart.

Be sure to check our website at [aladeptin.org](http://aladeptin.org) for updates and information. Maria Gottlieb is doing a superb job as our Hoosier Auxiliary News Editor.

Please continue "Ring of Bells for Our Veterans."

## ALA Hoosier Girls State



**Brenda "Sue" Wehr**  
Director

Plans for the 83rd Session of the American Legion Auxiliary Hoosier Girls State Program are well on their way! This is the first year that the ALA HGS application has been available online and it is certainly a learning experience for all the District and Unit ALA HGS Chairs. Both the schools and the potential delegates seem to be very appreciative of this change and it helps to eliminate errors on our part. As a reminder, Units must stay in contact with both the high schools in their area and the delegates and alternates that sub-

mit their applications. Although the applications are due to the District Chair by March 1, 2025, I can assure you that we will still be accepting applications right up until May 1st of 2025!

Once the applications are received at the Unit level, they must be looked at carefully to be sure all signatures are in place and the information is complete. The completed applications and check or checks are then sent to the District Chair. (Remember to make a copy for your Unit records.) Once the District Chair receives the application, she will again look it over to be sure all the information and signatures are correct, make copies of the application and checks before forwarding the application, copy of the checks, and a copy of the submission form to the appropriate person and the checks and a copy of the submission form to ALA Department of Indiana to the attention of Anna Conwell, ALA Department Secretary.

Meanwhile, while the District ALA HGS Chairs are busy working with the Unit Chairs and our Indiana high schools to obtain applications for delegates and alternates to attend our outstanding

program, the ALA HGS staff continue to work tirelessly preparing for another successful ALA HGS session.

The 83rd session of ALA HGS will be held once again at Trine University in Angola, Indiana the week of June 22 through June 28, 2025. As in the past, we are planning to host a Variety Show on Friday evening, June 27, 2025, as a fun way to wrap up an otherwise exhausting week. As plans get underway, the county counselors and the city counselors are busy working together on their agendas for an action-packed, fun week at ALA Hoosier Girls State. Assistant

Director, Nancy Magginnis and I have been busy lining up guest speakers for our evening programs held throughout the week. Lots of work goes on behind the scenes each year as we prepare for the arrival of the 2025 ALA HGS citizens on registration day, Sunday, June 22, 2025.

I would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to everyone who purchased or sold one or more of the ALA Hoosier Girls State Calendar Raffle Tickets. This fundraiser is what makes it financially possible for our ALA Hoosier Girls State outstanding program to continue year after year.



February 24, 2025: Department Commander Burkhardt, Detachment Commander Byers and Department President Stoner laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown, Arlington National Cemetery. Source: The American Legion, Department of Indiana

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**Ringing and Recording**



**Vicky Stainbrook**  
*Department Historian*

We have rung in a new year and with that comes new memories. Many things have happened that have affected our veterans and their families. I do hope that you are able to tie them into your Unit history. Don't forget to include current events.

I've heard some discussions about what is required of a Unit Historian. Let me first clarify by quoting Napoleon, "History is written by the winners." I know we are all winners. Our organization is the biggest winner in the history that we record. What we share with our future will determine the continued success of our program. I know that there are many goals we have set for ourselves, and I don't want to cause anyone to feel like they cannot achieve them by the guidelines set for them in the Program Engagement Plan. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me so we can discuss them. That being said, District 7 will be hosting a workshop to work on recording history on March 22, 2025. I know 8th District has already hosted one as well. If there is enough

interest, I am willing to host one in Columbus or if your District would like to host one and invite me, I would be honored to attend. Any information you can share with me helps me record and report to National all the amazing things our Legion family is doing to serve our veterans, their families, and communities.

An important part of our history is our charter. It is something to be proud of and display. As our National President Trish Ward has traveled around the United States and visited the different Units, she has been talking to them about their charters and taking pictures of them. I thought we could help her out by taking pictures for her of Indiana charters. Sharing our history with her is my goal. It has been a learning experience for me as well. I've asked Units to share with me their charters, and many have included their chartered members as well. This is awesome. I've really enjoyed seeing all of them. I had tried to make it fun by offering a prize to the District with the most Units (by percentage). The best prize is being able to share with our next generation. If your Unit doesn't have a copy of their charter, please let us know as we can get a replacement from National Headquarters. We understand how they get lost or misplaced during change of command or remodels.

As always, I appreciate you and all you do for our veterans and our organization. I am here to help you in any way I can.

*Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
 Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
 The year is going, let him go;  
 Ring out the false, ring in the true.*  
 ~Alfred Lord Tennyson

**Leadership**



**Peggy Eagen**  
*Department Chair*

Hello Units and members. Do you believe that it is February and that year-end reports will soon be due? Please think of nominating a "Unit Member of the Year." I know that all Units have that one member deserving of this recognition. This is open to all senior members who are not currently, nor have ever been in an elected or appointed position higher than Unit President. You must submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less to me by May 15th. Describe the nominee's accomplishments and activities and include their name and address. I am looking forward to receiving a lot of nominations this year.

The Department Leadership award is the Rosie Newman Award which is presented to the Unit and District that submits the best report on "thinking outside the box" in teaching leadership skills to members. Entries must be submitted directly to Rosie at Rosie Newman, 603 S. Cowen Street, Garrett, Indiana 46738.

My personal awards are: 1. To the Unit Leadership Chair that submits the best narrative for year-end reporting. 2. To the District Leadership Chair who conducted a leadership workshop in their District.

Refer to the Program Action Plan for a list of other awards.

I love to read, so I would like to read a lot of narratives on what Units and Districts have done this year.

I would like to thank the 5th District for having Donna and I again this year for a workshop on "Getting Back to the Basics."

Let's keep Ringing Bells for our Veterans.

**Education**



**Brittany Schofield**  
*Department Chair*

The bell has rung, and class is back in session! This year we have been 'Ringing Bells for our Veterans,' but let's not forget those school bells and how we can invite veterans and our program into school classrooms.

Many Units started the school year participating in the "Give 10 to Education" program. Lots of school supplies were delivered to local schools by the Units. If you have not had the opportunity to participate in the "Give 10 to Education" program yet, it is not too late to do so. This is something that can be worked all year. Don't just stop at ten! Make this competitive between members in the Unit or Units within the District. You can also include the American Legion family for a nice competition.

A big thank you goes to the Units that recognized teachers and staff this past November during National Education Week. Now it is time to start planning for Teacher Appreciation Week May 5th through 9th. See what is on different teachers' wish lists (typically created with Amazon) and purchase items from that list to donate. This can also tie with the "Give 10 to Education" program. Units can also consider donating treats or delivering a special lunch to the local schools. Keep that Christmas tree up and continue to decorate it as a giving tree; feature different holidays including "ornaments" of the season (i.e., four leaf clovers, easter eggs, etcetera). The ornaments can be taken and returned with the requested items to be gifted to the teacher.

Did you know that you can earn cash for your local school? The Box Tops for Education are worth 10 cents each to our schools. Earning is easy!

- Scan your receipt and use the Box Tops App to submit your receipt.
- Make this competitive. Who can collect and submit the most?!

Time is fast approaching for scholarship deadlines. Thank you to the Eighth District for hosting a scholarship workshop! National scholarships are due March 1st

and are submitted online via the National ALA Website [www.legion-aux.org/scholarships](http://www.legion-aux.org/scholarships). Department scholarships are due to Units by March 1st then the winners are to be submitted to Department Headquarters by March 15th and can be found on the Department ALA Website [www.aladepin.org](http://www.aladepin.org). Click on "Forms/Files/PEP" - select the Scholarship file. Be sure to utilize the Scholarship Press Release to recognize your winners!

It is also time to nominate an Educator of the Year. Unit winners are to be submitted to the District Chair by March 1st then District winners are to be submitted to the Department Chair by March 15th. The application is also located on the Department ALA website.

Before class is dismissed, please adhere to the assignment deadlines for all scholarships, Educator-of-the-Year applications, and annual reports.

If you haven't already, please join our new Facebook group [American Legion Auxiliary Department of Indiana Education Program](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionAuxiliaryDepartmentofIndianaEducationProgram). Follow along for some great ideas!

*George Washington Carver said, "Education is the key that unlocks the golden door to freedom."*

**Membership**



**Sherri McGee**  
*Department Chair*

Department of Indiana is at 82.45% of our membership goal so we are very close to making the March 4th objective of 85%. We need 1,024 members. If every Unit in the state renewed, rejoined, or recruited four members, we would make our March objective.

How do we do this?

- Check your unpaid member list and call your members to remind them it's time to renew. If you can't print the list, please call your area membership chair or me and I will be happy to email it to you.
- Did one of your members have a baby? Why not pay the dues for the new baby.
- Reach out to your Girls State attendees and ask them to join.
- Gift dues for your members who have been members 50 years or more.
- Ask your members if they have family that would like to join.
- Pay dues for members in nursing homes.
- Write an article about the ALA

and ask them to become a member.

- Call your Unit scholarship winners and ask them to join your Unit.
- See if your members have neighbors who might be interested in membership.
- Talk to people waiting in the doctor's office, the dentist, the pharmacy, or the elevator; tell them about the volunteer work your Unit does then ask them to become a member.

January 31st was the deadline for the National 100% membership contest. Winners from the Department of Indiana are: District 1: Griffith Unit 66, Whiting Unit 80, and Schererville Unit 485. District 3: Michigan City Unit 37. District 4: Hamilton Unit 467. District 6: Pittsboro Unit 426. District 7: Lyons Unit 479. District 8: Cannelton Unit 142. Congratulations to all!

You can be a winner. Recruit or rejoin five members then submit the "Recruit and Rejoin 5" form to your area chair. At the end of the month, one drawing per month will be held to receive a \$25 gift card.

Indiana has 93 Units at 85% or higher and ten Units at 100% or higher. These are the current rankings as of February 13:

First:	District 1	88.67%
Second:	District 8	86.77%
Third:	District 5	83.93%
Fourth:	District 6	83.49%
Fifth:	District 7	83.41%
Sixth:	District 3	83.19%
Seventh:	District 4	81.85%
Eighth:	District 9	80.61%
Ninth:	District 10	79.50%
Tenth:	District 2	79.44%

Eleventh: District 11 78.15%

Congratulations to the following Units at 100% - District 1: Griffith Unit 66, Whiting Unit 80, Schererville Unit 485; District 3: Michigan City Unit 37; District 4: Hamilton Unit 467; District 6 Saint Bernice Unit 108 and Pittsboro Unit 426; District 7 Lyons Unit 479; District 8 Cannelton Unit 142 and Evansville Unit 354.

We currently have 57 Units that need five or less to make 85% and 31 of those only need two or less to make the objective.

The Lincoln Pilgrimage was held in Springfield, Illinois February 11-12, 2025. This is a membership award event. Department of Indiana's winners have to be at 100% with the highest percentage increase, one over 250 members, and the other under 250 members.

Department of Indiana's winners were Griffith Unit 66 (100.36%) and Schererville Unit 485 (111.43%), both from District 1.

President Roxy Stoner, Membership Chair Sherri McGee, Maureen Weber (Griffith), and Karen Staresinich (Schererville) attended the event. They were awarded membership jackets and autographed photos with the National American Legion leadership team.

Attendees toured the Lincoln Museum, visited the Lincoln Tomb, and enjoyed visiting with other membership winners from around the Midwest.

Thank you for the hard work you have done this year working

*continued on page 8*





## Americanism



Michelle Woodburn  
Department Chair

Since we just watched the Super Bowl, do you know which President worked to save football from being banned in the US? The answer to come in a bit!

Americanism takes on many different forms - the Pledge of Allegiance, proper flag etiquette and disposal, celebrating President's Day, and more.

February is full of Presidential history. Let's see how many of these questions you can get

correct.

- How tall was Abraham Lincoln? Remember he was our tallest on record to date!
- How many days did William Henry Harrison serve as President before he passed away?
- Which president served in Congress after his time in office and suffered a fatal stroke on the floor of the House Chamber?
- Famed inventor Alexander Graham Bell tried to save the life of this president after he was shot by an assassin?
- According to his wishes, this president was buried wrapped in the American flag and his head rested on a copy of the U.S. Constitution?
- Which president, along with several members of his cabinet and a few congressmen, pitched in to put out a disastrous fire at the Library of Congress?
- Out of the five presidents to have worn a beard, this presi-

dent is purported to have had the longest.

- Who was the only man to be elected twice as U.S. Vice President and twice as President of the United States?
- Which president has long been labeled a self-proclaimed lover of pickles?
- Sixteen years after leaving office, this president was elected to serve in the Confederate House of Representatives?

How did you do?

Remember the Americanism Essay Contest is quickly approaching. The essay contest topic for the year is, "What Does America the Beautiful Mean to Me?" All winning district entries are due to me by April 10, 2025, with the cover sheet included. I would hate to have anyone disqualified for not completing the form. You can find it on the Department website. Also, new to the website is a grading rubric for the essay contest. If you have your own system, that's great, but it's

another tool for you to use. There are coloring sheets available for younger children on the Department website, but if you cannot access them, please let me know. I'm happy to send them your way. What a great way to partner Education and Americanism! Remember the Oratorical competition, Junior Shooting Sports, and American Legion Baseball are all around the corner. These are great ways to work as an American Legion Family in your communities. As we come closer to the end of the year, just a reminder about reporting. Year-end Unit reports are due to the District Chair by April 15, 2025, while year-end District reports are due to me by April 28, 2025. We are striving for 100% reporting at both the District and Department levels so even if there is "nothing to report," please send a report so we can count that for your Unit.

Back to our trivia question at the beginning of this article. Did you figure out which President worked to save football from be-

ing banned in the United States? It was our 26th President, Theodore Roosevelt! I hope you spent the day on February 20th remembering those who came before us and celebrate our country's patriotism.

Answers to the other Trivia Questions:

- 6'4" tall
- 32 days
- John Quincy Adams (6th President)
- James A Garfield (20th President)
- Andrew Johnson (17th President)
- Millard Fillmore (13th President)
- Rutherford B Hayes (19th President)
- Richard Nixon (37th President)
- Thomas Jefferson (3rd President)
- John Tyler (10th President)



## From the Desk of the Secretary



Anna Conwell  
Department Secretary

Hello to all!

2025 sure has started off as a cold one! That hasn't stopped our Membership team from continuing to build our membership! The office is continually updating and answering the many questions that you may have. As a reminder, Units, if you have a question that the Unit officers or chairs cannot

answer, forward those questions to your District officers or chairs. If they cannot answer for you, then they will get the answers from the Department. Many Units are already using the ALA MIS program and are finding that so much of the information that is needed is on this site. It is an excellent resource as well as a convenient way to get those memberships paid quickly without having to rely on snail mail.

Also, the Unit Data Forms have been sent out to the District Presidents to distribute to the Units. These forms can also be found on the website: [aladepntin.org](http://aladepntin.org). Go to the "News" tab and click on the "Click here to see the current mailout."

Even if there is no change in your Unit dues for 2026, all Units need to turn this form in to Department by April 15, 2025.

As always, thank you all for all you do!

## Merit



Jocelyn Curtis  
Department Chaplain

Hello Department of Indiana ALA!

I hope all of the Units have been keeping track of all the Unit activities, contributions, and donations that have been accomplished so far this year. Keep track as you go as it is a lot easier than having to go back and try to remember everything at the end. Check with all of the Unit members to see what they have participated in throughout the year. It is not too late to earn points toward your end-of-the-year Merit report.

Annual Reports:

Unit reports are due to the District Merit Chair by June 15, 2025. District reports are due to me by June 29, 2025. I hope all 11 Districts have 100% reporting!

If you have any questions or need any help, please contact me at [jkcurtis72@gmail.com](mailto:jkcurtis72@gmail.com).

Thank you for all you do for our veterans and keep ringing those bells.

## Chaplain's Corner



Jennifer Pickering  
Department Chaplain

Our Chaplains have been very busy providing prayer for their meetings, meals, and special programs. Our Chaplains are our spiritual advisors, and they have been working very hard this year with our members on their prayers, sending cards, making visits to members, and preparing meals. It is always nice to say prayers for our members and to send cards letting them know that we are thinking of them. The power of prayer helps all of us. Let's be kind to one another as we do not know what our members are dealing with in their lives.

This year, many of our members have been ill, had surgeries, have lost loved ones. The Department Prayer Chain has been a great asset this year. I send our prayer requests to a lot of our members to keep the prayers going up for our members in need. If you are not currently receiving the prayer chain and would like to be added, please send me your email address. Mine is:

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

Please feel free to contact me with any prayer request that you would like for me to share on the prayer chain. Please be sure to send the deceased member form to your District Chaplain as well as myself. We want to remember those we lost this year with memorial services in the Districts and at the Department Convention. Auxiliary members, please submit to me your prayers and devotions for President Roxy's Book of Prayers and Devotional Thoughts. Typed and handwritten prayers are accepted. Please refer to your Program Engagement Plan for Prayer Book Rules as well as Department awards. The Junior Chaplain Book of Prayers and Devotional Thoughts must be taken to the Department Junior Conference in June for judging.

Unit Annual Reports are due to your District Chaplains by April 15, 2025 and the District Annual Reports are due to me by April 30, 2025. I look forward to reading the reports of all the wonderful work you have done in the Units and Districts in the Department of Indiana this year Ringing Bells for our Veterans and our members.

*"Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul,"*

*"Gratitude is when memory is stored in the heart and not in the mind,"*

*"Wear gratitude like a cloak and it will feed every corner of your life," and*

*"Nothing is more honorable than a grateful heart."*

## Hoosier Auxiliary News

Official publication owned and conducted exclusively by the Indiana Department of The American Legion Auxiliary. Three issues are published each year under supervision of the Indiana Department of the American Legion Auxiliary, 5440 Herbert Lord Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46216. Distribution is by Third class non-profit bulk mailing from the U.S. Post Office. Publisher is AIM Media Indiana Printing, Greenfield, IN. Send information for publication to: Editor Maria Gottlieb, 982 Arrowwood Drive, Carmel, IN 46033-9040. Deadline for news in each issue is the first of the month preceding publication.

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:

Anna Conwell, Secretary  
5440 Herbert Lord Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216

Effective March 1, 2025, ALA National Headquarters is implementing a 3-month deadline for Auxiliary Emergency Fund Disaster applications.

For more information go to: <https://www.legion-aux.org/aef>



## District 2



**Peggy Eagen**  
*President*

Second District may not be among the top ranks in membership, but we are 100% committed to “Ringing Bells for Our Veterans.”

Units have been busy working on many of our programs.

Beside working the Auxiliary programs, many Units have been working with their Legionnaires to make their Posts and

Units a welcoming place where they want to visit and get involved.

There have been bake sales, bingos, fish fry dinners, and spaghetti dinners to help raise funds so that we can continue to work our programs.

Many Units honored veterans by hosting a Veterans Day dinner and program.

Wreaths Across America is something that all the Legion families should participate in and attend.

While this is just a brief overview of our numerous activities of our members, I could brag more about all the good work of the District! I am so proud of our impact. We do a lot and make a positive difference!

Thank you to all the dedicated members.

Big thanks go to all the Units that have worked hard on their membership.

Donating their time to VA centers and donating money for the things that are needed to keep our veterans comfortable while they reside there. Comfort items were donated along with cards, puzzles, books, crafts, and other games to help keep them very busy.

As for the children, different items were given such as coats, gloves, and other clothing to help and support our youth.

Money making projects included the sale of candy, nuts, noodles, and raffles. These fundraisers are vital to providing aid and services to our communities, veterans, and children.

As the Legion birthday is fast approaching, we will be celebrating with meals, birthday cakes, and many celebrations. We give thanks for The American Legion and wish them a happy birthday!

Collecting items for our schools is a busy pursuit. The Auxiliary provides supplies and treats for our teachers that do so much for their students. Our educators are shaping our future citizens. We extend a big thank you. Teachers, you are appreciated!

Thank you, President Roxy, for asking us to Ring Bells For Our Veterans. The Fifth District ladies are ringing them very loud.

## District 5



**Sue Fugitt**  
*President*

Greetings from the Fifth District! We are all Ringing Our Bells for Veterans loud and long.

We have been having many events to help our communities by donating items to help our residents in homes, pantries, and veterans that are in need. Donations of money, food, blankets, and other such items are needed.

Fluffing poppies for contests, center pieces, decorations around our Posts keep the ladies busy. Our members are also collecting donations to help our veterans make their lives a little easier.

Christmas parties were given around the District. Children and families also were helped at a time in need. Santa was very busy this year.

## District 6



**Eva Williams**  
*President*

Greetings from the Super 6th District. I am honored to lead this District and be one of President Roxy’s daughters. We continually work the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary, “In spirit of service, not self” by ringing bells for veterans daily. We honored the sacrifices of those who have served and those currently serving by embracing their families in our communities.

Many Units participated in the “10 for 10” by getting supplies for their schools. They also had trunk or treats for the kids in their communities, wiener roasts, adult Halloween parties, veterans’

breakfasts, fish fry, car shows, bingo events, and other activities at their Post that involved their communities.

Our District was responsible for the Christmas parties at the Indiana Veterans’ Home in West Lafayette. The usual three-day wrap was completed in just two and a half hours due to all the awesome wrappers we had as well as the great preparation that was done before wrap day. A big THANKS to all that assisted.

We had a party for the memory care residents on their ward since they were unable to attend the usual party. One resident wanted a baby doll and the look on her face when she unwrapped it was priceless. This is a memory I will never forget. There were several moments like this at the party.

Mr. and Mrs. Claus came the next day and brought presents for all the other residents. There were smiles and laughs all around that day.

Department President Roxy Stoner, President-elect Tanna Shepherd, and I attended the Wreaths Across America program and participated in the laying of the wreaths ceremony at the IVH cemetery. What a sight it was af-

ter all the wreaths were laid. “Remember. Honor. Teach.” is a wonderful mission.

Nashville, Tennessee was the place to be for Mission Training with National President Trish Ward. She had several great ideas for membership and very informative information. If you have never been, you don’t know what a good time you are missing.

The National Creative Arts Festival is May 11- 18, 2025 in Indianapolis. Our District is responsible for the hospitality room drinks and snacks. This is an experience for anyone to see just how talented our veterans are.

Congratulations to St. Bernice Unit 108 for reaching 105.88% membership goal and Pittsboro Unit 426 for getting 102.38%. We have several Units needing six or less to reach the 85% goal by March 4. I am so proud of the hard work everyone has done. Keep up the good work.

Let’s keep those bells ringing for our veterans so they will know what they mean to us and how thankful we are for all their sacrifices.

Hope to see you all at the Spring Conference in April. God willing and the creek don’t rise.

## How ALA’s intermediate bodies like districts matter to our mission

Most American Legion Auxiliary members know there are a few different levels in the ALA — unit: local; department: state; and national is national. But what about the district level?

### An important bridge between units and departments

“The districts in Indiana support the department leaders and their goals by disseminating their needs and progress to our units, and supporting our units to achieve their unit goals and the goals of the department,” said Melissa Clawson, Indiana District 11 president.

ALA districts, also referred to as counties or councils in some states, represent units, and the district has a voice to ensure our organization exists for another century, Clawson added. Active members at the district level attend department conferences, annual department conventions, and ALA National Convention to make certain all changes to the Constitution & Bylaws are fair and equitable for units, departments, and the national organization.

Leadership positions at the district level are the same as positions at national, department, and unit levels.

It’s important for the ALA to have districts, Clawson said.

“Without the district level,

there would be a lot more work for the department leaders to do,” she said. “Or there would be less support for our units that do amazing grassroots work for our veterans, military, and their families on top of supporting department goals.”

There are many benefits to

ting your ‘feet wet’ is very much a requirement if you want to be a successful leader on the next level. Learning the ALA way is also its own map to navigate, but having the ALA Academy sure does help.”

Clawson offers advice for what all members can do to support the district level, which, in turn, helps all levels of the Auxiliary.

“Attend district meetings,” she encouraged. “For some reason, there is this myth that if the district is involved, the unit is ‘in trouble.’ Nothing could be further from the truth, and if more unit members attended our district meetings, they would see our purpose as a district is to support our department and our units however we can.”

### How we’re structured: Levels of the American Legion Auxiliary

- Unit (over 7,000 in the U.S. and other countries)
- Intermediate bodies: District/county/council (varies per state)
- Department (52)
- Division (5)
- National (headquartered in Indianapolis)

Learn more: [www.ALAforVeterans.org/about/organizational-structure](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/about/organizational-structure).

Source: ALA National HQ



Lincoln Pilgrimage 2025 Membership Honors: Left to right: Sherri McGee, Maureen Weber, Trish Ward (National American Legion Auxiliary President), Roxy Stoner, and Karen Staresinich.



## District 7



**Shirley Brinson**  
President

Greetings from the Seventh District.

The Seventh District has been very busy these past few months focusing on our ALA programs and taking care of our regular business. I knew my year as District President was off to a good start in July when President Roxy was installed as our Department President. I do believe that ringing those bells for our veterans and being kind to one another are both so important.

Two of the main goals this year were to finish the District's governing documents and to make sure that all twenty-five Units are in compliance. Our Constitution & Bylaws committee consisting of Shirley Firkins as Chair, Sharon Regnier and Phyllis Banks as members, have spent many hours, traveled many miles for meetings, spent much energy, and made many sacrifices to make sure that the Seventh District's Constitution & Bylaws were updated and accepted. The same ladies are now working on the District's Virtual Meeting Policy. The District would like a policy in place, so our virtual members understand how to participate, and members attending physically understand the expectations from the virtual attendees. I am sure these hard-working ladies will have the policy completed and it will be implemented soon.

This year our Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chair,

Jenny Tracy, suggested we try an experimental project. Service to Veterans, Creative Arts, and VA&R will be linked together this Auxiliary year. Jenny Tracy will act as program director and Chair of VA&R with six different Unit team members; Lisa Garrett is the Creative Arts Chair with two additional Unit team members; and Mary Ferling is the Chair of Service to Veterans with seven different Unit team members which makes a total of 15 different Units from the District participating in the experiment. The large VA&R team has zoom meetings and discusses ways to support veterans and ways to work the ALA programs. District 7 was divided up to support the following local VA Clinics: 1. Bloomington and Monroe County VA Clinics; 2. Terre Haute VA Clinic; 3. Martinsville VA Clinic; 4. Wakeman VA Clinic-Edinburgh.

Some of the accomplishments of the team this year are:

- The WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA project was able to support six locations and help them honor approximately 3,000 veterans and assisted Lyons Unit 479, Edinburgh Unit 233, and Franklin Unit 205 with their first year of participation.
- District Units donated \$25 each to help supply the NV-CAF Hospitality Room.
- Funds were collected and District 7 donated \$207 to the VMAC Gift Wrap.
- Several Units donated to the Veterans Shower Fund.
- Bloomington Unit 18 supported a luncheon for the staff at Bloomington VA Center. They served 33 staffers.
- A check from Bloomington 18 for \$366 was presented for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.
- The team is collecting paperback books from now until March 31st for the Roudersbush VA Hospital.

## District 8



**Diana Lain**  
President

It is clear that the "Great 8" Units have been incredibly active and dedicated to supporting veterans, their communities, and their own organizations. I am extremely proud to say all Units have truly been ringing their bells this year for all veterans. Here's a summary of their impressive accomplishments.

**Veteran Support** - Our Units have done so many things such as feeding veterans, donating food, supplies, and bus tokens to VA centers, and hosting Veterans Day celebrations. Several Units participated in Wreaths Across America, sponsored veterans from IVH with monthly donations, and distributed handmade items to veterans. One Unit donated \$300 for the Veterans Thanksgiving dinner at VAMC and donated \$500 to provide gifts to two veterans as part of the VA Holiday

Giving program. In addition to those two gifts, they donated \$1,340 to veterans at a medical rehabilitation center. Another Unit gave \$2,000 to assist a Marine reservist who is currently recovering from an accident. This Unit has donated \$10,500 to help other veterans as well. Simply amazing! Of course, this isn't everything as far as monetary donations, but I wanted to brag a little about how hard District 8 is working for our veterans.

**Community Engagement** - Wow, is all I can say. Listen to what they have done to get more members involved in the ALA. They have hosted Christmas parades, Santa visits at posts, trunk-or-treat events, family picnics, helped with underprivileged children, placed flags at cemeteries, assisted veterans with medical expenses, checked on ill veterans, and gathered can goods for Christmas gift baskets. One Unit donated to the Toys for Tots annual drive and had 101 children take part in this event. Knowing that many children were positively impacted by this annual drive makes me feel overjoyed.

**Fundraising** - Units hosted a variety of events such as: A fish fry drive-thru, euchre tournaments, bake sales, bingo, craft fairs, yard sales, Bunco days, and raffles just to name a few. The District AEF Chair challenged all Units within our District to participate in the

"Umbrella" fundraiser. Each Unit was given a colorful umbrella to display at their post to receive donations for the emergency fund.

**Our Juniors** - They have been super busy doing great things. They have been learning how to conduct and host their own meetings. In addition, they have participated in our District meetings, made crafts for veteran visits, gave Girl Scout Cookies to local veterans, attended Mission Trainings, participated in parades, held coloring contests for younger children, and have won awards for their creativity and hard work. One Unit had a clothing drive for HVAF to aid those affected by the massive fire at the facility. Another Unit also gave toiletries to HVAF. It has been exciting to watch them respond to meet the needs of our veterans.

In addition to all the above, some Units have been working hard at their post homes. Activities include updating kitchens, painting interior/exterior of their post, redecorating, replacing AC units, and making plans for new appliances. Now, to me that is called dedication! These Units have truly demonstrated an impressive commitment to their mission of supporting veterans and their communities.

Keep up the great work "Great 8" and remember to continue to ring those bells for our veterans loud and clear!

## District 10



**With loving memory of Ruth Rairdon**

Hello from the 10th District. My name is Jeannine Eldridge. Due to the passing of Ruth Rairdon, I have been asked to step up and fulfill her responsibilities as 10th District President. Even though President Ruth had some tiny feet, she has left some big footprints to fill. I do hope I make

her proud of me.

This year has gone by so fast. It is hard to believe the year is half over. I know everyone is out there working hard for our veterans and their families. With the weather being so cold and snowy, it's been hard for some of you to get out or even want to get out. Hopefully the weather will be warming up soon so we can get out to ring our bells for the veterans and their families. Please don't forget your homeless veterans; so many are in great need of help.

I have only been in this position for a couple of weeks, so I have some catching up to do. Soon it will be time to send year-end reports. I'm sure you all have been asked to keep track of your hours serving veterans throughout the year as well as record all the money that has been spent on them. It is so much easier to do this as the year goes by rather than try-

ing to remember at the last minute everything that you have done. I can't stress enough how important the year end reports are. This is how the organization receives some of its funding.

While the Department and District suffered a tremendous loss with PDP Ruth's passing, I look forward to finishing this year on a positive note. Continue working your programs and ringing bells for the veterans. While doing this, don't forget to keep working membership. I hope everyone has a successful year and I hope to see you at Spring Conference. Thank you all for your support throughout the year. If anyone has any questions, I will be happy to answer them. My address and phone number are in the Department Unit Guidebook under Service To Veterans. Thank you so much for all you do for our veterans. Continue the good work. Thank you.

**2025 Joint Spring Conference**  
April 4-6 - Marriott Hotel East  
Indianapolis



Great meeting with Congressman Mark Messmer and staff. American Legion Legislative Priorities were discussed. L to R: PNP Vickie Koutz, PNC Jim Koutz, Congressman Messmer, Connie Banks, Ron Byrley. Photo courtesy of Past National Commander Jim Koutz.



PDP Cherril Threte lights a candle during the Four Chaplains ceremony at KND Wayne Post 64 on Sunday, February 2, 2025. Photo courtesy of Wayne Post 64

**Support the Creative Arts Raffle at Joint Spring Conference.**  
Tickets \$5 each for a chance to win  
Colts tickets OR a  
French Lick Getaway.





**Indiana Veterans' Home**



**Janet Barnaby**  
*Department Chair*

I know the weather is cold and you do not want to get out in it, but let me ask you this ... how long has it been since you've been to the Indiana Veterans' Home? Did you visit last summer, even though Close of Books was held in Indianapolis? Did your District hold an event in which you participated, or did you stand by and let other do the work because it was not your chairmanship?

The residents at IVH are waiting for a visit from YOU. They want someone to talk to, other than the nurses and the staff, and the walls of their room. They want YOU. Surely now that spring is coming, you can get a car full of members for a day trip that would include a half-hour visit to IVH and a friendly visit with a few residents. Contact me for information and maybe I can help to give you ideas for planning a visit (1-765-543-8722).

The question has come up as to why I open packages and mail that you send to me for your resident. Here is the answer: To keep the Auxiliary out of trouble (if possible) because there are strict rules that must be followed (most of you are, but a few are not). So, I check the dates on all snacks, candy, food as well as ensure there are no nuts. I also check sizes of clothing and if the gift needs a gift bag or wrap, I take care of that for you (who likes a gift in just a plain brown box?). Did you send a card in the gift? If not, I will add one telling who it came from. I am trying to help you, and your Unit look good to the resident. If we are to keep the goody-cart running, we cannot let these things slide. My job as chair is to ensure we are adhering to all rules and guidelines. I am happy to address any concern about anything I do in this chairmanship. Please feel free to ask me or let President Roxanna know and she will tell me. I have nothing to hide.

I hope to see several of you in April at the Joint Spring Conference. Please make yourself known to me as I have not met all of you yet – except by phone. Until then, drink another cup of coffee, as I will be (warm and with hazelnut flavor). Be safe.

*"May I never get too busy in my own affairs that I fail to respond to the needs of others with kindness and compassion."*

- Thomas Jefferson



**Logansport State Hospital**

**Janice Mort, Hospital Representative**

As we work to fulfill part of our mission to "enhance the lives of our veterans," those who are in our hospitals sometimes need it the most.

Our Department hospital representatives care for these veterans in VA Medical Centers & State Hospitals in Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky. I proudly bring comfort to

the veterans at Logansport State Hospital. It is a state-operated mental health and addiction facility. There are currently five veterans who reside there. The patients have been court-ordered to receive treatment at this facility.

I would like to thank everyone who donated to our "Veteran Shower" at Fall Conference. Those donations are distributed amongst all our hospitalized veterans in these facilities. It helped with the Christmas giving at Logansport. I would also like to thank Past Department President Janet Barnaby – Camden 413; Sue Comerford and Kokomo 6 along with ALA 2nd District for their continued dedication to the veterans at Logansport with both their time and donations. A special thank you to SAL Squadron 223 Commander Tristan Mort for travelling with me to deliver items to the hospital. I travel to Logansport usually once a month. I am always in contact with the Community Service director, who is also a veteran, to

schedule my visits. I inquire what their needs might be and always add a few extras. I regularly take personal care items, card games, clothing such as socks, and t-shirts. Also, food items that are by request only.

Changes are always being made at this facility. The safety of their patients, health care workers, and visitors have brought many guidelines. No food items unless requested to help control their patients with food and drug interaction. No sharp objects – crayon markers only. No pictures of children or animals. Also, no alcohol or tobacco graphics on any item. My visits are scheduled. My contact person needs to know I am coming, even if I am just dropping items off. Please do not try to take items to this facility unless you contact me first. Once again, safety is their priority. Thank you.

If you would like to know how you can help or have questions about Logansport State Hospital or any of our hospital facilities, please reach out to our ALA hospital representatives. We would love to hear from you. I will be at Spring Conference to answer any questions if necessary.

I have been caring for these veterans for many years. There were 27 veterans when I started. I have five at this time. Many of you have been part of our caring support which has contributed to their recovery. Please continue to give in any way that you can and keep "RINGING OUR BELLS FOR OUR VETERANS. Please know that we do make a difference!



**Roudebush VAMC**

**Dottie McIntyre, Department Representative**

Happy Spring! Hope you are all able to enjoy it. I'm still working in the ALS clinic on Tuesday mornings and in the Audiology and Speech Pathology clinic in the afternoon. I am also at the information desk at Brownsburg VA Clinic on Thursday afternoon.

Eloise Passwater of Unit 331 attended the Creative Arts Show on the Butler University campus in August. It will be so exciting to have the National Creative Arts event here in Indianapolis in May; I hope many of you can attend to see the veterans' talents displayed.

Department President Roxy Stoner, Past Department President Karen Lowe, Department Sergeant-At-Arms Barb Parkhurst, and 6th District President Eva Williams joined Judy Jarrett, Linda Osborn, Eloise Passwater, and myself of Unit 331, along with Katie Cooper of Unit 64 to wrap holiday gifts for the hospitalized patients on November 20th at Post 331. Katie Cooper (the new Roudebush deputy) and I distributed the gifts to the in-patients December 10th. Fifty more packages of gifts were delivered to domiciliary care at Fort Harrison for distribution to the former homeless patients there.

Roudebush has a 96% veteran satisfaction rating, and the medical staff

is doing full open-heart surgeries now. The Post-Discharge Clinic is the newest recipient of the Indianapolis Coalition for Patient Safety (ICPS) Team Patient Safety Hero Award. A Bloomington contract clinic will be officially upgraded to a VA Clinic with VA staff and will be open in September or October. The VA is leasing a new facility on the east side of Indianapolis to be called Indy East Clinic, estimated to open in early 2027.

The Salute to Veteran Patients event at Roudebush and the Brownsburg Clinic was held February 10th through 14th. Valentines, treats, and ALA information were passed out to the patients. We take clothing, toiletries, and games for the patients once or twice a month using monies from all of you. We can always use sweatshirts and pants, all-body wash, and denture items for donation. If you donate, be sure to send along a note with the items, cost, your Unit number, and an acknowledgment address; also drop me an email or text so I can include that information on my annual report. We still need drivers at the Indianapolis facility, also office assistants, aides, and greeters. For questions or to sign up to volunteer, please call Voluntary Specialist Kiyana Anderson (317-988-2734) or Voluntary Service Chief Tabitha Ingram (317-988-4055) and leave a message.

Thank you to all the members who have donated to Roudebush or any VA facility this year. Keep on Ringing the Bells of service for our veterans and their families!

**Service to Veterans**



**Jeannine Eldridge**  
*Department Chair*

It is hard to believe that the year is half over already. I do hope your Units are having a successful year and are working on your Service to Veterans projects. Be sure to keep track of the money and hours you are spending on your projects.

I know it is sometimes hard to distinguish between Service to Veterans and other programs. The purpose of the program is to provide services to veterans outside of the Veterans Administration and medical centers. This could

include nursing homes, homeless shelters, or even in their own homes. I am sure there are many more programs that would be considered Service to Veterans. I come from a very small town. I hear every day about homeless veterans that are in need of help. I also work with a local church and on holidays we have the kids help with making cards or making small gifts for each veteran.

You can also check with the people at your local Post to see if anyone knows of a veteran that would need help with anything. This time of year, you could help remove snow. In the summer, help with yard work. Maybe just make them some cookies, deliver a meal to them, or find time to visit them, and just talk. Some get very lonely.

Organizing a Stand Down could also be something your Unit could consider doing. This could be a great way to give a homeless veteran a leg up and get them started on their way to finding a job or gaining stability. Please don't

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**Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation**



**Barb Parkhurst**  
*Department Chair*

Central Division VA&R Chair Kristen Hensley has received questions regarding VA&R reporting that I am sharing with you.

- If services are provided to a veteran and spouse and the veteran passes away, are the services continued for the widow of the veteran part of VA&R or another program? Answer: At the 2024 National Convention, it was voted

to expand the purpose statement of the VA&R committee as follows: "The purpose of the VA&R committee is to promote programs, events, and services that assist and enhance the lives of veterans, their families, their caregivers, and their survivors, ensuring the best quality of life possible and the continuing honor of their memory." With that expanded purpose, supporting a veteran's family continues to be the mission of the VA&R committee beyond the veteran's demise.

- If a veteran lives with you such as spouse, direct or extended relative, or roommate, or a direct relative living outside your home, and you are their caregiver, can you claim hours for filling that role? Answer: Starting in 2021, caregivers can be awarded five hours a week if they are taking care of a veteran family member that they do not live with and ten hours

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## National Security



**Cherril Threte**  
Department Chair

“A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles,” Christopher Reeve.

We have such extraordinary heroes in our military personnel, veterans, first responders, and our members who support and take

part in our national security. The purpose of the National Security Committee is to promote a strong national defense.

ALA members, you can recognize our heroes today. There is no need to wait until June 1st to nominate service members for the Service Member of the Year Award. The process is simplified, apply directly by clicking on the link located on [legion-aux.org](http://legion-aux.org) for the Salute to Service Members Award. Established in 2003, this award honors one enlisted service member (pay grade E1-E9) from each branch of service (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, and the National Guard/Reserve). Recipients will be recognized at the 2025 National Convention in Tampa, Florida as guests of the Auxiliary. The deadline is June 1, 2025, 5:00 p.m. EST. The goal is to have at least one submission

from every Department and ensure every branch of the military is represented.

Raising awareness of POW/MIA is part of the National Security program. As of February 4, 2025, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) has identified/repatriated 20 service members this year.

The Department of Indiana is getting quite active. Here are a few highlights:

8th District Chair Jennifer Moulden reported:

### New Albany Unit 28

- Presented a Blue Star Banner in September to a member whose son is on active duty in the Marines.
- In October, a Gold Star Banner was presented to two members. This was a long-time coming. Their loss was a son/brother in Iraq shortly after 9/11. At the time, the

ladies were not members and were unaware of the Gold Star Banner. At the next meeting, this Gold Star family brought a framed certificate signed by President Bush.

- The Unit always displays the POW/MIA banner and has a moment of silence. The Unit donated \$350 to Wreaths Across America and participated in the placement of wreaths at New Albany Cemetery.

### Newburgh Unit 44

- The American Legion family replaced a stolen flag at the Lucas Place in Evansville which is a sustainable/transitional housing for veterans. The SAL Commander is in the local Fire Department and was instrumental in getting the flag raised. The Unit National Security Chair was

on hand to witness. The Unit also made Christmas baskets for active-duty military and their families.

### Booneville Unit 200

- Facilitated blood drive in July and regularly supports a soldier stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

### Cannelton Unit 42:

- Several members participated in laying Wreaths Across America at the local cemetery in Cannelton on December 14th.

Tell City Unit 113 participated in Wreaths Across America.

District Chair Jennifer Moulden has also presented copies of the history of the Blue Star Banner and ceremony protocol to each Unit in her District.

7th District National Security Chair Brittany Schoefield presented a challenge to Units in the 7th District to participate in a spinoff from Give 10 to Education. The 7th District has Give 10 to National Security, the form can be used for donating items to the USO. She also created a form “What I did for Service Members” which can be turned in at each District meeting to showcase what members are doing for service members and their families.

Remember to submit the Unit Annual report to your District National Security Chair by April 15th and District Chair, please send your reports to me by April 28th. Members continue to let me know what you are doing for the program and share pictures. Hopefully the Department of Indiana can be highlighted at National Convention.

Note some important observations: April is the Month of the Military Child and May is National Military Appreciation Month as well as Month of the Military Caregiver. These are additional opportunities to collaborate with other organizations and stay active in our communities.

I hope to see submissions for my personal award to the Unit with the best overall narrative consisting of 300 to 500 words on their National Security program.

Don't forget the Department awards. The Billie Bubala POW/MIA Award and the Betty Slagle Monetary Award. Please refer to your Program Engagement Plan or Department Guidebook for criteria.

Keep ringing those bells for our veterans and let it be known on Fridays we wear Red (Remember Everyone Deployed) until they all come home and stay on mission to Be the One! Ask, listen, and reach out.

“The veterans of our military services put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms that we enjoy. They have dedicated their lives to their country and deserve to be recognized for their commitment.” Judd Gregg.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### March – Community Service

- 8th ALA Honorary Jr. Dept. Meeting Lafayette Unit #492 / IVH
- 16th 6th District Visitation Brownsburg #331

### April – Children & Youth

- 4th-6th Joint Spring Conference, Marriott East Hotel, Indpls, IN
- 8th 10th strict Visitation –Shelbyville, #708th
- 12th 3rd District Visitation Nappanee #154
- 15th End of Year Reports due from Units to District Chairmen
- 18th Good Friday Office Closed
- 20th Easter Office Closed
- 27th End of Year Reports due from District to Department Chairmen

### May - Poppy

- 5th Impact Reports due from Department Chairmen to Department President
- 7th 1st District Visitation - TBD
- 11th Mother's Day
- 15th End of Year Reports due from Department Chairmen to Nat'l Chairmen
- 24th National Poppy Day
- 27th Memorial Day (Office Closed)

### June – ALA Hoosier Girls State & Junior Activities

- 1st Impact Report due to National from Department President
- 2nd Legion Close of Books @ IVH
- 14th ALA Honorary Jr. Department Meeting Post 500
- 14th Flag Day
- 15th Father's Day
- 22nd – 28th ALA Hoosier Girls State Trine University, Angola, IN
- 30th ALA Department Close of Books

### July – Department Convention

- 4th Independence Day (Office Closed)
- 10th -13th Legion & Auxiliary Department Convention, Marriott East Hotel, Indianapolis, IN
- 19th- 26th Girls Nation – Washington, D.C.

### August – National Convention

- 22nd-28th Tampa Bay, FL

### District Meetings

- March 5: District 11, Indy 497
- March 6: District 1, Lowell 101
- March 8: District 3, Lake Fish 400
- March 8: District 7, Jasonville 122
- March 12: District 2, Valpo 94
- March 15: District 5, Fairmount 313
- March 16: District 6, Brownsburg 331\*
- March 16: District 8, Sellersburg 204
- April 2: District 11, Indy 34
- April 3: District 1, Whiting 80
- April 8: District 10, Shelbyville 70\*
- April 9: District 2, Warsaw 49
- April 9: District 4, LaGrange 215
- April 12: District 3, Nappanee 154\*
- April 12: District 7, Bloomington 18
- April 13: District 6, Cloverdale 281
- April 13: District 8, Mt. Vernon 5
- April 19: District 5, Jonesboro 95
- May 1: District 1, TBA\*
- May 3: District 7, Brazil 2
- May 4, District 6, Zionsville 79
- May 7: District 11, Indy 495
- May 10: District 3, Kingsford Heights 434
- May 10: District 9, Sunman 227
- May 14: District 2, Monticello 81
- May 17: District 5, Frankfort 12
- May 18: District 8, Booneville 200
- May 21: District 4, Ft. Wayne 47\*
- June 1: District 6, Close of Books at IVH
- June 4: District 11, TBD
- June 7: District 7, Greenwood 252
- June 10: District 10, TBD
- June 11: District 2, Roselawn 238
- June 11: District 4, TBD
- June 14: District 3, Westville 21
- June 21: District 5, Roanoke 1160
- TBD: District 9

\* denotes Department Visitation



## Resolutions



**Karen Lowe**  
*Acting Department Chair*

On behalf of the late PDP and Department Resolutions Chair Ruth Rairdon, I am sharing the important information she wrote on resolutions.

**RESOLUTION IS:** A written description of a problem or situation that needs to be changed in the rules that are the governing document of your organization. This type of resolution must be voted on by your membership before it can be changed.

**COURTESY RESOLUTION:** A written description to give praise or thank you for a job well done.

**WRITING A RESOLUTION:** A resolution is a formal written motion to make a change in the rules of your organization to make it easy for the members of your organization to consider the proposed change.

- Resolutions have two sections: The first section tells the reason what the resolution is for. The second section is "Whereas" telling the main reasons a motion should be adopted.
- Resolution clauses should focus on the most important reasons for the change. This should be done in one or two sentences, with the third sentence telling who is responsible and timeline.
- "Whereas" clauses should not be less than three points or no more than five points. If you do less than three, you most likely will not make your case. If you use more than five, you may just confuse the issue.
- **IMPORTANT** - stay focused on the points that are necessary.
- You can find more information in Robert's Rules of Orders Newly Revised or going to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Indiana website. You can find templates for writing resolutions also on the website.

**ALL RESOLUTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT SECRETARY BY March 15, 2025.**

If I can assist you, please contact me or contact one of the committee members.

## Candidate for Department Historian 2025-26



**Michelle Woodburn**

At the 11th District Meeting held on December 4, 2024, the members proudly endorsed Michelle L. Woodburn as a candidate for the 2025-2026 Department of Indiana Historian. Michelle is an active, 26-year PUFL member of Leo F. Welch, Jr. Unit 495. She obtains her eligibility from her husband, Senior Master Sergeant, Chad T. Woodburn, Retired, (USMC & USAF) along with her father, uncle, and grandfather who all served in the US Navy.

Michelle has worked in higher education for over fifteen years. She is currently employed by Indiana University School of Medicine as a Business Manager, Fiscal Officer, and Health Service Administration Specialist.

### Department of Indiana

- 8th District: 2nd Vice President; 1st Vice President & Membership Chair; District President (2015-2016).
- Department: Children & Youth and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chairs.

### Department of Illinois

- Unit: #466 Chaplain; Historian; Vice-President.

- 17th District: Americanism; Membership; and Past Presidents Parley Chairs; District Vice President; District President (2019-2021).
- Division: Finance committee (5-years) & Junior Activities Chair.
- Department: Children & Youth; Poppy; and Membership Chair; Member of the Department Executive Committee.

National American Legion Auxiliary Committees: Children & Youth; Junior Activities; Public Relations; Leadership; AEF; Membership; National Security; and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

### Current Appointments:

- Unit #495 Finance Chair
- 11th District Historian
- Department of Indiana Americanism Chair
- National Central Division Community Service Chair

Michelle represents the ALA's motto of "Service Not Self" as a servant leader, putting others above herself. She emphasizes the importance of the American Legion Auxiliary programs and the betterment for our veterans and communities. She is very knowledgeable of the Auxiliary's programs, committed, energetic and enthusiastic with a positive outlook in all her undertakings and always with a smile. She is an asset to the American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 495, and the 11th District. It is our recommendation her exemplary record qualifies her as a candidate for the 2025-2026 Department of Indiana Historian.

## Candidate for Department Historian 2025-26



**Tamra Everhart**

several chairmanships for the District. Tamra always has a smile on her face and always willing to help others with their chairmanships. She has been a great asset and leader to our District and the Department of Indiana. She loves the American Legion Auxiliary and is devoted to helping our veterans and their families.

On the Department level, Tamra has served as Service to Veterans Chair and Community Service Chair. She currently serves as Poppy Chair.

Tamra works for Revolution Sustainable Solutions in Terre Haute as the Sales and Marketing Coordinator where she also serves on the FUN Committee helping to plan events for employees as well as the Employee Advisory Board working to make an impact within the organization. She is a member of the VFW Auxiliary and Eagles Auxiliary and is an associate member of the Marine Corps League. She attends Memorial United Methodist church.

Tamra is happily married to Vic Everhart who is a six-time Past Commander of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 104 who has also served in other positions and is currently the Squadron's Judge Advocate. They have been married 18 years. Tamra has four grandchildren, Jordan, Wade, Madeline and Leo through Vic's three children, and two great grandchildren, Ada and Walter through grandson Wade.

With pride, the 6th District unanimously endorses Tamra Everhart for Department Historian 2025-2026.

The members of the American Legion Auxiliary, Sixth District, unanimously endorse Tamra Everhart for the office of Department Historian for 2025-2026. Tamra has been an active member of Krietenstein Unit 104 in Terre Haute since 2013 and is eligible for membership through her late father, Charles Wineland, who served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. She also has several uncles and cousins who served in the Army, Airforce, and Navy.

Tamra is a four-time Past President of Unit 104 and is currently serving her second year as Unit Historian as well as Leadership Chair, Constitution and Bylaws committee member, and finance committee member. She has also held the Unit offices of Vice-President, Secretary, and Chaplain, along with multiple chairmanships over the years.

Tamra has also held several positions at the District level including District Vice-President 2019-2021 and President 2021-2022. Tamra is currently serving as Finance Chair and has held

## Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

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a week if they reside in the same home. We give no further criteria as what tasks would constitute "care."

- If we serve an active-duty service member by providing food for them, can we claim the time under VA&R since all active-duty are also technically veterans too? Answer: No. The service to that active-duty service member would fall under National Security until such time as they are discharged and have been issued their DD-214.

Report time will soon be upon us. The Unit Annual Report is due to your District Chair by April 15, 2025. The District Annual Report is due to Department Chair Barb Parkhurst by April 28, 2025. The answers on the reports are needed for the Impact Report which is due to President Roxy by May 5, 2025. Read the questions on the Annual Report carefully and answer

the questions as correctly as possible. We want the Impact Report sent to National to show the hard work the Department of Indiana puts into providing for our veterans. If your Unit has volunteered to help needy veterans, homeless veterans, VA hospitals, VA Christmas Gift Wraps, Honor Flights, Creative Arts, TAL birthday dinners, Stand Downs, job fairs, etc., please include these activities in your narrative report.

Please read your VA&R Program Engagement Plan for awards presented at Department Convention. I would love to present the Chair's Personal Awards to your District or Unit. I have four personal awards and the Nancy Gunning Monetary Award to present.

Are you planning to attend the National Veteran's Creative Arts Festival in Indianapolis this year? I have attended the NVCAF three times and every time I have been in awe of the talent displayed by our veterans. The Stage Show will be on May 18, 2025 at Butler University. Please mark that date on your calendar.

## Service to Veterans

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forget to wear your American Legion Auxiliary shirts, jackets, or jewelry; whatever you may have so everyone knows who the American Legion Auxiliary are and what we do.

There are so many ways we can help our veterans. Just don't quit now. We still have a lot of year left to help our veterans. I hope you all have started keeping track of your hours and money as the year has gone by. It is so much easier keeping track from the beginning than trying to remember everything in the end.

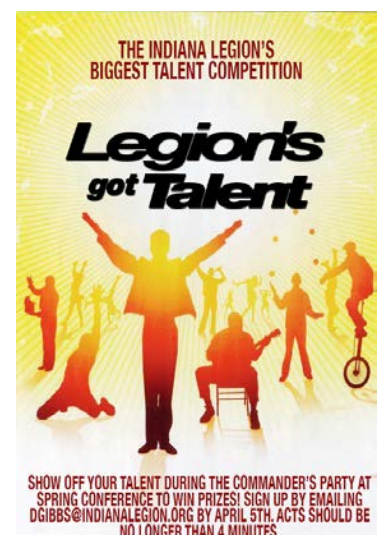
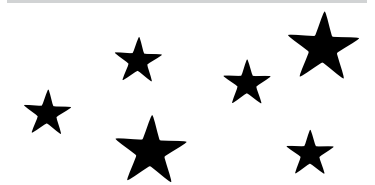
Also, don't forget your reports are due to your District Chair by April 14 and District reports are due to me by April 22. I am very excited to be your Service to Veterans Chair for this year. I am looking forward to seeing every report and all you have done for our veterans. Each and every one of us has an opportunity to help our veterans. Let's make a difference.

## Membership

*continued from page 2*

membership.

We can make it to 85%. Let's show them what Team Indiana can do!





# Ringling Bells Across Indiana



Carmel Post 155 Auxiliary hosted Scott and Ruby as ambassadors for Pets Healing Vets at their January meeting. The Auxiliary donated to, and learned more about, this worthy program that "helps save a life on both ends of the leash." Photo Carmel 155



ALA Spencer Unit 285 hosted and donated \$100 to District President Shirley's project Veterans Wall of Honor at the 7th District meeting. Photo courtesy of District 7



Marine Veteran, Mike Mason, receiving his quilt from American Legion Unit #44 Auxiliary Quilter, Cathy Feldbusch. Thank you, Mike, for your service and thank you to the Quilters for making the Quilts. Courtesy of Vicky Stainbrook, Department Historian



District 8 Juniors are collecting funds to help with supplies for Creative Arts through a March fundraiser. If you are interested in sponsoring a day in March (example: March 10th = \$10 for Creative Arts) please reach out to the 8th District Juniors. Photo courtesy of Diana Lain



Auxiliary Unit 204 Sewing Circle ladies are creating something special. Beyond quilts, they're crafting pillow cases for veterans in nearby nursing homes and those transitioning to permanent housing, as well as fidget blankets for memory care patients at the VA Hospital and local nursing homes. Photo courtesy of Diana Lain



Patriot Day 2024: Post 351 got an AED! Thank you to Deaconess for granting this life-saving device. Thank you to American Legion Auxiliary Unit 351 of Indiana for buying the box to put it in. Thank you to Chris Dyer for getting it placed. The hope is never having to use it but are grateful to have it at the Post. Photo courtesy of Diana Lain



Speedway Post 500 Auxiliary made care packages in support of homeless outreach. IMPD joined Legion family members as they distributed their care packages in downtown Indianapolis. Photos: Post 500



"HONOR REMEMBER & TEACH" were on full display with Jenny Tracy and fellow Auxiliary members for 2025 Wreaths Across America Bloomington, Indiana. Photos courtesy of Jenny Tracy.



Members of American Legion 492 and its Auxiliary spread the love by hosting a Valentine's Day Dinner. Photo courtesy of Unit 492



Carmel Cares: Carmel Post 155 members sent care packages to Camp Arifjan and some of its out stations. Soldiers gratefully picked up boxes at the Task Force Spartan Chaplain office. Photo Carmel 155



History workshop in Newburgh Unit 44. Photo courtesy of Diana Lain



Staff and volunteers gathered at Post 500 to be honored for their contributions. Fun and fellowship were enjoyed by all! Photo: Post 500

Let's hear how you're ringing bells across the Department. If you have a photo or event you would like featured, please reach out to [HANeditor@ameritech.net](mailto:HANeditor@ameritech.net).