



November 2023

Greetings American Legion Auxiliary:

Thanks for all that you do to place the spotlight on our veterans, our stars as we carry out the theme of Lights, Camera, Action: Starring Veterans. Many of you are becoming more familiar with the American Legion Family Mission Be the One. Be the One is not a catchphrase or campaign. Be the One is our mission about suicide prevention and awareness. It's a mission to destigmatize asking for mental health support. Be the One by asking veterans in your life how they are doing. Listen when a veteran needs to talk and reach out when you think a veteran might be struggling. Please spread the word about the Veterans Crisis Line at 988 and press 1.

Indiana was well represented at the American Legion Auxiliary National Mission Training in Cincinnati in November. Attendees learned about Be the One as well as American Legion Auxiliary programs. If you missed this very informative session, there are other Mission Training sessions throughout the states. Visit alaforveterans.org for other locations. Take the information you learn and share with your units as well as the information you receive in the monthly bulletins. Visit our website aladepin.org for resources and updated information.

As we enter the holiday season continue to support and bring joy to our veterans, families and community. Take time to have keep balance in your life and allow time for self-care. Lights, Camera, Action!

"Live a life full of humility, gratitude, intellectual curiosity and never stop learning."

For God & Country,

President Cherril

Welcome to another great year serving our veterans and communities. I hope you were able to attend the fall conference and if you did you will remember me as one of the Pink Ladies from Grease. I mean, you know how it is, rockin' and rollin' and whatnot.

Leo said "The rules are... there ain't no rules." I'm sorry to say, in order to qualify for a winning essay you must follow the rules. Please remember to give the essay cover sheets to the school with dues date on them as soon as possible to the teachers. I have emailed the district chairman an information letter that could also be attached to the cover sheets and sent to the schools. When you get them back please use the checklist to ensure all steps are followed. And always remember the words of Vince Fontaine "It doesn't matter if you win or lose, it's what you do with your dancing shoes."

Star Spangled Kid is a way to use your dancing shoes. Our children need us to educate them on how to be patriotic. Please use the kit project every chance you get. The local libraries and churches could be a good connection in addition to the local schools. I will be awarding the unit who outshines others with their way of making children Star Spangled Kids.

Tell me about it, Stud. Share your stories and pictures. "Like" us on facebook and post them there. Department can be found at American Legion Auxiliary Department of Indiana Americanism and National at American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Program. Please share in both places or email me at vifrog@hotmail.com. While you are online sign up for flag alerts at <https://www.legion.org/flag/246720/sign-american-legion-flag-alerts>.

I'm looking forward to hearing from each and every one of you and how we worked the program with our Legion Family. It's electrifying!

"Is this the end; of course not, it's only the beginning."

Vicky Stainbrook
Pink Lady / Americanism Chairman

American Legion Auxiliary
Children and Youth Newsletter
November 2023

Youth Hero and Good Deed Awards are the big push by our national chairman this year. One of the areas where you can impact the life of a youth (or youths) is through the Youth Hero and Good Deed awards. We are being asked as a Department, to recognize youth under both categories. Youth receiving these awards do not need to be associated with the military. They just need to be kids who are doing something special within their communities. If you see a deserving youth and it is outside your community, check with that local unit to submit a nomination. If there's not a unit in that community, please submit one for the deserving youth. Don't let the opportunity pass to show appreciation. Submission forms and templates to submit to your local media are available for download on both the National and Department websites under Children and Youth. You can also find the nomination form here: https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/youth_hero_good_deed_award_nomination. I would appreciate it if you can let me know that you submitted any so I can keep track for my annual report.

Here are some ideas on how to find these deserving youths:

1. Watch or read the news.
2. Go online and google youth heroes in your area.
3. Send letters to churches, schools, fire departments, police stations, or newspapers.
4. Make up a letter or flyer and give it to your Juniors to give to the teachers or leaders of other programs they might be involved with.
5. When you are distributing poppies, have a poster visible for the public to see that you are looking for youth heroes and you might be surprised about what they might tell you.

Veteran's day is quickly approaching so we want to include youth as much as possible. There will be school visits, youth can make cards, end notes, or make a small craft as a gift for these deserving veterans.

Finally, don't forget we are fundraising as a department to send military dependents to summer camp. You can make a cash donation at Spring Conference or sent directly to Department office with "Camp Carson" in the memo line. You can purchase a t-shirt using the attached form, or online at <https://childrenandyouth-101661.square.site>. Here is a QR code your members can scan to take you directly to the site, which also allows online donations. Please display this at your meetings for those interested.



Children & Youth
Fund Raiser Store

For more information about the two camps offered by YMCA Camp Carson, please visit <https://www.campcarson.org/military-camps>

Please send me pictures and a small note about things going on in your district. I cannot wait to brag on the work you are doing to our national leadership!

Happy Thanksgiving!
Michelle L. Woodburn, Chairman
Department of Indiana American Legion Auxiliary

Children & Youth Shirt Order Form



ST350
\$25.00



LST350
\$25.00



YST350
\$15.00

Lightweight, roomy and highly breathable, these moisture-wicking, value-priced tees feature PosiCharge technology to lock in color and prevent logos from fading.

- 3.8-ounce, 100% polyester interlock with PosiCharge technology
- Removable tag for comfort and relabeling
- Set-in sleeves



American Legion Auxiliary Children & Youth Fund Raiser
President Cherril has chosen Camp Corral, a kid's
summer program that sends military kids to
summer camp for free. Proceeds from
this fundraiser go to this program.

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip

Cell Phone:

ITEM #	QTY	SIZE	PRICE	TOTAL

Subtotal

TAX (MULTIPLY BY 7%)

SHIPPING

TOTAL

\$8.95



Children & Youth
Fund Raiser Store

Scan to open the
online store

Check here for pickup at next conference
and don't add shipping



Make Checks payable to: **Graphics 55**

Mail to: 434 W State Road 28, Alexandria, IN 46001





Children & Youth
Fund Raiser Store

Hi Everyone!

I hope the first few months of the school year have been successful and that you have found schools in your community that could use your help!

Remember that Give 10 does not just have to be done at the beginning of the year but year-round! Think about donating some warm items to your local schools such as **socks, hats, scarves and gloves**. Teachers could benefit from some **hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, and tissues** as we approach sick season.

Reminders:

Scholarship Deadline is March 1 to Units and March 15 to Department

- This is for national as well as Hoosier Gifts
- National scholarships are slowly making their way to being digital only. I advise you to keep your eye on the national scholarship webpage to see if any scholarships have been digitized.

Educator of the Year Deadlines

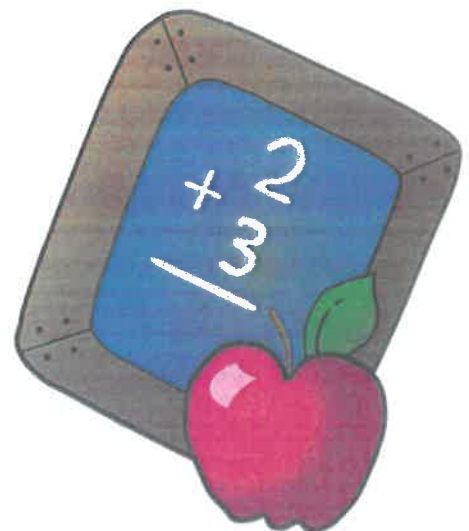
- Unit finalist chosen by **Feb 23**
- Unit sends finalist to District Chairman by **March 1**
- The District Chairman sends the district finalist to the Department Chairman by **March 15**.

Any questions please email me: prpost34@gmail.com

Best

Heather Elson

ALA Dept. of IN Education Chairman



Educator of the Year

At the Fall Conference, we called Lights, Camera, Action in search of the next Educator of the Year. Some of you might be wondering what this award is and hopefully this letter will help explain it.

The Educator of the Year goes to the educator who goes above and beyond for their students. Think about an educator from your past that you still think about often. The teacher that when you were in their room made you feel valued or maybe inspired you to achieve your dream job. These are the educators that are still out there inspiring students everyday. This award is our way of showing our appreciation for their hard work in making the world a better place.

There will be 2 winners. One for educators who work with grades Pre-K- 6 and another for 7-12 graders. The winners will be invited to the July Convention to be awarded. These educators can be homeroom/classroom teachers, special teachers (gym, art, music etc.), or a resource teacher (ESL, Title 1 etc).

Units will submit their winner(1) to the District Education Chair by March 1, 2024. The District Education Chair will submit the district winner (1 winner) to the Department Education Chairman by March 15, 2024. The Education Committee will then meet and decide the overall winners.

Requirements For Entry Packet

- Application
- Picture of nominee
- 1 page biography of the nominee including but not limited to his/her education, family, church affiliation (if any), social organizations and any other information applicant sees fit.
- 1 recommendation from a staff member at his/her school (teachers, principal, assistant principal, secretary etc.)
- 750 word essay, times new roman font, 12pt font, and double space.
 - **Essay Topic:** Explain why this teacher should be considered for this award. Please include any certificates, awards, and any other items related to the nominee's career.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me.

Email: prpost34@gmail.com

Best
Heather Elson
Education Chairman



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Indiana Educator of the Year Award



Name of Nominee: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: (____) _____ - _____ Email: _____
Recommended by _____
Unit # _____ District # _____
Grade that Nominee teaches (Check which applies) Pre-K-5 _____ 6-12 _____
How long has the educator taught _____
What specific grade or subject does the educator teach _____
Where does the educator teach?
School name _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

List of previous education experience (if applicable)

What makes this candidate an outstanding educator?

Requirements For Entry Packet

- Unit submits unit winner packet to district Education Chairman **by March 1, 2024**
- District submits district winner packet to Department Education Chairman **by March 15, 2024.**
- Application
- Picture of nominee
- 1 page biography of the nominee including but not limited to his/her education, family, church affiliation (if any), social organizations and any other information applicant sees fit.
- 1 recommendation from a staff member at his/her school (teachers, principal, assistant principal, secretary etc.)
- 750 word essay, times new roman font, 12pt font, and double space.
 - **Essay Topic:** Explain why this teacher should be considered for this award. Please include any certificates, awards, and any other items related to the nominee's career.

Judging will take place by the Department Education Committee and the winner will be notified after judging to receive an award during the Department Convention.

\$\$\$ FINANCIAL NEWS \$\$\$

**To: District Presidents
For: District Treasurers**

**To: Unit Presidents
For: Unit Treasurers**

Lights and Cameras are on so now is the time for Action!!

**** Deadline for filing your IRS tax form 990 is November 15th!
I hope you have already filed yours!! ****

**** Deadline for payment of your Department Mandatory Fees
is November 30, 2023 ****

**** There have been several Units sending Membership Transmittal Forms
to Department using Personal Checks!!**

**This is not acceptable for many reasons. Membership dues MUST be
deposited in your Unit Checking account and then sent to Department
using your UNIT CHECK. That is the only safe way for you to have an
official accounting of the monies received for you Unit.**

**If this continues to happen, your Transmittal forms could be returned
and you would miss important Membership Award dates.**

**Florence Briggs
Department Finance Chairman**

INDIANA VETERANS HOME

A Cup of Coffee with Department Chairman JANET BARNABY

November 2023

The HOLIDAYS are fast approaching (just in case you hadn't noticed), and I am trying to get you some gift ideas....as soon as I have them, I will pass them to you....

You do not need to be calling the IVH every 10 minutes for this info, it takes time, because I am not there every day, however between now and Christmas I will try to add more days to my weekly routine.

Some things I need right now are : new , unused BIRTHDAY CARDS
(I use 10-15 each month for the residents birthdays)

“ball” caps with the military services on them
(ARMY, NAVY, COAST GUARD, VIET NAM, etc)

POSTAGE STAMPS
(residents can send cards to family)

CHOCOLATE CANDY , regular & sugar-free

The IVH gift wrap is on December 16th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The IVH Christmas Party is on December 20th at 2:00 in the auditorium .

REMEMBER ...

ALL MONEY GOES TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
(ear-marked for your sponsored residents & holiday)

ALL OTHER ITEMS, CARDS, GIFTS, ETC. CAN COME TO JANET

JANET BARNABY

1824 N. Meridian road
Flora, IN. 46929

JSBMONTI@GMAIL.COM

765-543-8722



Indiana Veterans Home
Donations

Date: _____

Organization Making Donation: _____

American Legion Auxiliary Unit/District: _____

C/O: _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Items Donate: _____

For: _____



Indiana Veterans Home
Donations

Date: _____

Organization Making Donation: _____

American Legion Auxiliary Unit/District: _____

C/O: _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Items Donate: _____

For: _____



Oct/Nov 2023 ALA Department of IN Membership Report

Presented by: Diana VanHooks, Membership Chair

It looks like everyone has adopted our Department President Cherril Threte's theme - "Lights! Camera! Action! Starring: Veterans," as well as my underlining membership theme to "Acknowledge, Appreciate, & Award. It's exciting to see how each District is applying the theme during Department Visitation. The 11th District handed out popcorn during their recent Department Visitation and has even designed a raffle in which all the units who make goal go into a drawing to win a \$25 prize. The 9th District had a fun movie themed contest with movie treat-filled prizes given out to the 1st and 2nd place winners.

We're off to a very good start and I believe it's only going to get better from here. Our Department is part of the Central Division, and nationally we're in 2nd place as of this writing. At the close of the 1st membership goal of 50% we had 124 out of 278 units at 50% or better (45% of Department), four of our eleven districts are at 50% or better, and four units are at 100% or better. November 28th is the deadline for the 75% goal. So many are so close, that I know it's going to be a great turn-in.

In September, I was excited to host our annual Fall Conference and Membership Rally, and have our National President, Lisa Williamson in attendance. As the membership chair, I presented her with a personal award and I'm proud to say, I saw it hanging visibly within her office during her recent "Be The One" webinar. Lisa was a wonderful guest and played our Hollywood Veterans Game, which was played similarly like the old Hollywood Squares game, with all the questions being about Hollywood stars who were/are veterans. Lisa and Cherril tied up the tic-tac-toe board, making them both winners!

This year, we have membership activities planned every month to keep membership fresh and exciting all year long. In August, 29 Units received the Aux-Core Awards for having renewals in to Department by the end of Convention this past July. In September we had the District new members contest, resulting in 254 new members and 8th District Membership Chair, Arvina Bozarth, was the overall winner. In November, we have a Dual Member Contest and in December we have the "Think Outside the Box" contest, with prizes being awarded. A poster/flyer about each is enclosed. If you need more information, ask your unit, district or area membership chair for details.

Don't forget the exciting "Lights! Camera! Action! Starring: Veterans" movie poster contest. Each District Chair determines the genres and the winners from each district. All the district winners will be judged during Spring Conference next spring. There will be a winner awarded from each movie genre, so get creative show us how you make our veterans the star. On a final note, join us on Facebook on the Dept of IN Membership page. Here's the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552523998504&sk=about>



SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERSHIP!!

Sign up those Dual Members in November!

**The Unit that signs up the most Dual members
will go into a drawing to win the following:**

**The Dual Member drawn will have their 2025
Auxiliary membership paid for next year (\$26)**

AND

**the membership chairman will receive a
\$25 Emblem Sales gift certificate.**



**THINK
OUTSIDE
THE
BOX**



**Do you have the best idea to boost
membership?**

**Please share it with us and be
entered into a drawing.**

**EVERY DISTRICT will have a
Unit winner!**

December 22, 2023 deadline.

Member Benefits

As an American Legion Auxiliary member, you bring untold value to the organization and America's veterans through your service to our mission. To show our appreciation for your membership, the ALA has partnered with businesses that share our values to bring you exclusive discounts and savings!

DISASTER AND HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is a national grant assistance program that provides disaster and hardship assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have endured a significant financial setback as the result of a disaster or other qualifying incident.

RETAIL DISCOUNTS

BENEFITHUB

Enjoy discounts, rewards, and perks on 1,000s of brands including Hertz, Sam's Club, Walt Disney World, Toyota, Skechers, and more! Enter the exclusive ALA member referral code HZE7XG when creating your account.

R. RIVETER

R. Riveter is an American company that offers everything from handbags and satchels to sweatshirts and accessories. Every R. Riveter bag is assembled in the USA by a workforce completely made up of military spouses. Shop using the exclusive ALA link to receive your 20% discount.

AMWINS™

GROUP BENEFITS

**AMERICAN
LEGION**

AUXILIARY

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

STARS AND STRIPES.

BenefitHub

R. RIVETER.

AMERICAN ★ HANDMADE



ShipThrifty.com

Save time, money, & hassles!

TruHearing

DentalInsurance.com



ARMED FORCES

vacation club

vsp individual
-vision plans

GTL | GUARANTEE
TRUST
LIFE



**Liberty
Mutual.**
INSURANCE

Ameritas 
fulfilling life

**ScriptSave
WellRx**

LTGR

LONG-TERM CARE RESOURCES

**LANDS'
END**
BUSINESS 

**THE
HARTFORD** 

WYNDHAM

HOTELS & RESORTS

RETAIL DISCOUNTS

SCRIPTSAVE® WELLRX PREMIER PRESCRIPTIONS SAVINGS PROGRAM

Use your Prescription Savings Card for any prescriptions not covered by insurance or you may even find a lower price than your insurance copay.

LANDS' END BUSINESS

Lands' End Business is your one-stop shop for high quality clothing and merchandise that can be customized with the ALA logo. You can also get apparel and accessories with the ALA Foundation logo. Everything in the custom ALA/ALAF storefront is made to last and designed to keep you comfortable and looking your best all day long.

SHIPTHRIFTY

ShipThrifty is the easiest way to compare shipping prices and print shipping labels from home. Whether you ship to family members or friends, ship for your business, or want to host a military care package event, use ShipThrifty to save time, money, and hassles. Use the exclusive member code, "ALA" at sign-up.

STARS AND STRIPES

Stars and Stripes provides independent news and information to the U.S. military community, including active-duty servicemembers, DoD civilians, veterans, contractors, and their families. As a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, you get 50% off your annual digital subscription with discount code ALA50.



TRAVEL

ARMED FORCES VACATION CLUB

Armed Forces Vacation Club (AFVC) is built around the idea that the military deserves the best, and that's why they offer weeklong resort stays from just \$409. AFVC offers over 200,000 resort accommodations in over 100 countries in a wide range of sizes from studio to two or even three-bedroom units.

WYNDHAM HOTEL GROUP

American Legion Auxiliary members receive up to 20% off at over 9,000 participating hotels worldwide. Call 877-670-7088 to connect with a dedicated travel expert – be sure to mention you are an ALA member or tell them our organization code: 1000002807.

INSURANCE

LIBERTY MUTUAL

Liberty Mutual has partnered with the American Legion Auxiliary to offer members special savings on quality auto and home insurance. Liberty Mutual offers customized auto insurance so you only pay for what you need.

ALLEGIANCE ACCIDENT PROTECTION PLAN OFFERED BY THE HARTFORD

Alliance Accident Protection Plan is a guaranteed issue plan that pays a policy holder when they have an accident. It will pay an amount per day spent in the hospital up to 365 days. Choose from three different plans to fit your budget.

LONG TERM CARE RESOURCES (LTCR)

Did you know the average cost of a nursing home is over \$87,000 per year? Protect yourself with Long Term Care insurance. Members are able to obtain plans at discounted rates not available to the general public for a variety of services to meet health or personal care needs over an extended period of time.

DENTAL INSURANCE

DentalInsurance.com is the easiest way to compare and purchase individual dental insurance and discount dental plans.

VISION INSURANCE

Affordable vision plans from VSP and Ameritas for members of the American Legion Auxiliary are offered through top-rated carriers and provide regular exams and many other important benefits.



INSURANCE

GUARANTEED ACCEPTANCE SENIOR TERM LIFE INSURANCE

The American Legion Auxiliary Guaranteed Acceptance Senior Term Life Insurance Plan, underwritten by the Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company, covers you for up to \$10,000 in benefits - without having to take a medical exam or answer questions about your health.

LIFE SELECT

Life Select can protect your loved ones and your hard-earned assets. Life Select can be up to 30% less expensive than traditional final expense policies and includes valuable advocacy and non-insurance services.

OTHER HEALTHCARE BENEFITS

TRUHEARING - FAMILY HEARING BENEFITS

TruHearing has been providing hearing care services for over 18 years, helping members get the best value and follow-up care possible. This plan is at no cost to members and includes coverage for all family members. The plan includes a free annual hearing screening, deep discounts on the purchase of hearing aids, and many other value-added services.

MEDICARE CONCIERGE

Boomers are aging into retirement at a rate of more than 10,000 per day and many are not prepared to make the proper retiree health benefits decisions they will face. Amwins' Voluntary Medicare Concierge program offers retirees a valuable resource, helping them understand Medicare and providing guidance to help them secure proper medical and prescription drug insurance. The Medicare Concierge program exclusively offers a private Medicare Exchange platform which provides access to individual Medicare Supplement, Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage plans available throughout the country. Every retiree deserves to secure a plan that meets both their financial goals and health needs.

AMWINS™

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STARS AND STRIPES.

BenefitHub

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vacation club**

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LONG-TERM CARE RESOURCES

**LANDS'
END**
BUSINESS

**THE
HARTFORD**

WYNDHAM

HOTELS & RESORTS

Past Presidents Parley
PDP's
District Presidents
Past District Presidents
Any and All

I had questions thrown at me that made me start asking some thoughts from our District and Department Past and Current Presidents. What are the "un-written rules".

1. How was I supposed to know I should or could attend the NEC meeting at National Convention on Saturday morning? (especially officers and chairman)
2. The incoming Dept. President gets to decide what color she wants her membership forms to be.
3. Dept. Officers should bring in 52 items for their out-going or in-coming fellow dept. officers. (such as your meet the candidate items) designated by year dates.
4. Dept. President, don't forget bag of candy and goodies to pass at convention.
5. The Christmas Party at Department is totally paid for by the Dept. President (unless volunteers want to bring something)
6. There is a Post NEC meeting after Convention? On Thursday morning! Who knew!
7. Did you know that you are supposed to give your Unit Chairman their chairmanship information page/pages ASAP after receiving your Fall Packets. They need to know what to do. That's why you get 2 copies.
8. How many District and Dept. chairmanships are required before running for Dept. Historian?
9. How is it decided who will be next from your District and how many years have to be between candidates from the same district.
10. Do you know what your Legion Commander can ask of your Unit and its affairs?

This is just an example of some of the things that were brought up while we were sitting around. I would like you to send me your "Unwritten rules" from your Units and Districts that you go by. I think it could be quite interesting.

Our new members, officers, and upcoming leaders would like to be included in our past knowledge of information.

Jennie Maune
PDP 2019-2021
jenniemaune@hotmail.com



*A Community
of Volunteers
Serving Veterans,
Military,
and their Families*

November Poppy Announcements



Brittany Schofield
Department Chairman

(812) 243-0458

Brittany.Schofield@duke-energy.com

Veterans Day 11/11/23



Programs & Ceremonies

Use poppies at Veterans Day Programs and Ceremonies in your communities and at your post.

- Pass out poppies to the veterans
- Pass out poppy bookmarks to students
- Have students color poppy coloring pages to give to the veterans and/ or hang up around the schools and in the community
- Read the Poppy Lady or In Flanders Fields

National Education Week 11/13 - 11/17/23

Get in the Schools

Acknowledge educators and educate students on the meaning and history of the poppy.

- Donate the Poppy Lady book to local schools
- Pass out poppy bookmarks and poppy coloring pages
- Bake some poppy cookies to take to the teachers



Thanksgiving 11/23/23

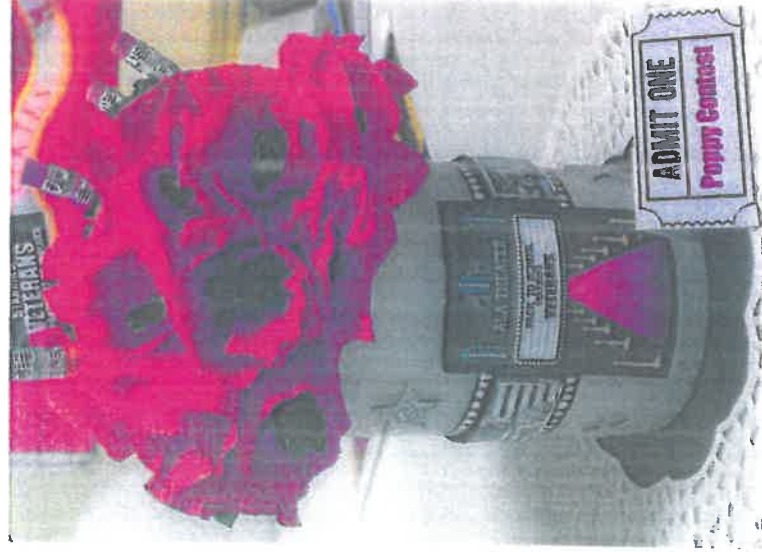
We Are Thankful

Visit those shut in veterans.

- Decorate your post home
- Bake some poppy cookies to take to the veterans with a handmade poppy card and paper poppy
- Work on tray favors (by adding some poppies) with your junior members to take to local nursing homes, VA hospitals, and IVH



Poppy Arrangements



Lights, Camera, Action! Staring: Veterans

Consider with the poppy arrangements that you make that do not need to go to Department for a contest/ award, gifting to a local business.

- Share with them the "why" behind the poppy, the meaning and history. Educate and spread throughout our communities
- Take a picture
- Share on social media and/or the newspaper

To: District Presidents
Unit Presidents
District VA&R Chairman
Unit VA&R Chairman
Junior Chairman
Hospital Reps & Deputies

VA&R - Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Thank you to everyone that contributed to the Veterans Shower at Fall Conference. With all your help we collected a lot of funds for our Veterans. Your donations are greatly appreciated and we will make sure the funds are distributed to help our veterans at the VA Hospitals and medical facilities. Our hospitals and clinics need volunteers and donations all year. Reach out to the hospital Reps and find out what their needs are and how you can help.

Things you can do:

- *Go thru your Program Engagement Plan
- *Track you Hours, Dollars Spent, Mileage, Number of Volunteers, And Number of Veterans Served.
- *Send in your Reports Unit Annual Reports in by April 15, 2023
District Annual Reports by April 27, 2023
- *Remember the Homeless Veterans
HVAF - their homepage www.hvafofindiana.org
- *Remember your Residents at IVH send them cards
- * Don't forget to celebrate Veteran's Day on November 11th.
- * Mark your calendars for the Christmas Gift Wraps at the VA Hospitals and volunteer.

Jennifer Pickering
Department VA&R Chairman
PO Box 257
Grabill, IN 46741
INmemberJen@gmail.com



SERVICE TO VETERANS

November -December

Hello Everyone,

I can't believe it is November already, where has the year gone. I hope you enjoyed the beautiful fall weather and have received your fall packets. This is my first year as a Department Chairman so if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. It's now time for our November scenes in our Service to Veterans action packed documentary so let's get started Lights, Camera, Action.

Per our script we are into Act 2 (2nd quarter of our year (October, November, December)).
Scenes 1, 2 & 3 (November)

Starring: Our Veterans

Director and Production Managers: Our District and Unit Service to Veteran Chairmen

Lead Supporting Actors: All Unit members,

Scene 1 kicks off with Veterans Day and the many ways we show our veterans how much we appreciate their service and contributions. This is accomplished by Unit members sending greeting cards with a personalized notes to each of the Post veterans and any veterans that you know outside of your Post, including veterans who are home bound, in nursing homes, state hospitals or rehab facilities. Patriotic cards are available at Emblem Sales or Amazon.

Scene 2 is a coordinated free meal with Post SAL is held on Veterans Day in honor of our veterans. Prepared fruit/baked goods baskets are made and distributed to those veterans who are unable to attend due to poor health.

Next is Scene 3, this scene is known for its support of veterans and their families. Unit members are visiting veterans in their homes, state hospitals, nursing homes. Providing assistance to family members and caregivers who need a break for themselves or to run errand.

Coordination with the Unit Chaplain and the Legion Chaplain on members who need assistance with their Thanksgiving Day meal. Meals are prepared and delivered to their homes, with meat, vegetables and a desert and provided to as many families as possible. The options for this scene are limitless.

Production Manager (Chairman) to track all the hours, donations, mileage, etc. on the many projects they have worked.

Get ready, the Casting Director is looking for a cast for his December scenes.

Scene 4 is a re-write of Act 2 Scene 1 and begins with Unit members sending holiday wishes in greeting cards with personalized to each of the Post veterans and any veterans that you know

outside of your Post, including veterans who are home bound, in nursing homes, state hospitals or rehab facilities.

Scene 5 begins with Unit members joining the “Be The One” campaign, which is the Legion, ALA and Auxiliary joint National program for 2023-2024. This initiative aims to provide education and resources so that anyone-veteran, servicemember or civilian – can take appropriate action to intervene when a veteran’s life may be at risk to suicide.

1. **Donate to a veteran’s organization:** There are many organizations that support veterans and their families. You can donate money, time, or resources to these organizations to help them continue their work.
2. **Advocate for suicide prevention and awareness:** The “Be the One” campaign aims to provide education and resources so that anyone – veteran, servicemember or civilian – can take the appropriate action to intervene when a veteran’s life may be at risk to suicide.
3. **Help with job training:** You can help veterans with job training by connecting them with local resources or providing mentorship...
4. **Donate frequent flier miles.** You can donate frequent flier miles to organizations that help veterans travel for medical treatment or other purposes.

Additional information on this program can be found at
<https://www.legion.org/betheone/about>

Scene 6 It is the holiday season and what better time to give to veterans and their families that need additional assistance. The scene opens with Unit members collecting gently used or new items (clothing, home furnishing items, food and monetary donations for the Helping Veterans And Families (HVAF). Additional information on this program can be found at:
<https://www.hvafofindiana.org>

Scene 7 opens with members contacting their Post Commander and volunteering to be a part of the American Legion “Buddy Check” program. Buddy Checks are not membership or fundraising calls; they are simple check-ins with veterans in the community to see how they are doing and to learn how the local Post can help. The ALA members help to establish a Buddy Check program with the Post when one is not established. Please look for additional information on this scene at: <https://www.legion.org/buddyheck/about>

Scene 8 the members are planning for the holiday season by purchasing small gifts, gift cards and items for veterans who are homebound, in state hospitals, nursing homes or rehab facilities and the delivery of the items to each veteran. The members make a special effort to keep veterans in their plans throughout the holiday season with special visits, calls, gifts and ways to say thank you for their service and sacrifices.

Coordinate with your Public Relations Chairmen to ensure that your Facebook page and social media platforms capture your support of special events and programs for veterans and both before and after each event by your Unit for this this and other important dates.

In closing, please remember to make sure that each member of the cast and crew remember to record, record and report their efforts on the “What I Did For A Veteran” form that I have provided. This will help provide additional input for our documentary series “Service To Veterans. I hope the information that is provided in our documentary will help each member to see the various potentials in supporting our veterans.

WHAT I DID FOR A VETERAN

Each meeting, please take this form and complete to document what you have done to support our Veterans, return to your Unit Chairman. Remember **You** make an impact, **You** make a Difference!

ALA Member: _____ Member ID _____ Unit # and City _____

Date of Activity _____ (Note: If multiple dates, please fill out a form for each date)

Describe what you did to help a Veteran:

- Club Volunteer Creative Arts Fundraising National Security Service to Veterans VA & R:
- Used Stamps Wounded Warrior National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) VA Project Challenge
- VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) American Legion Family Support Network (FSN) Quilts of Valor
- VA Caregiver Support Program Military and Veteran Caregiver Peer Support Program Elizabeth Dole Foundation
- Habitat for Humanity Roudebush VA Hospital Donations Camp Atterbury Wreaths Across America Helping Veterans and Families (HVAF) Other Activities or support to Veterans or Active Service

Where was the service done? VA Hospital Veteran's Home DoD Military Installation or Military Unit:
_____ American Legion Community

Who did this service help? (Please select all that apply) Currently Serving Veteran(s) Retired / Separated/ Veteran(s)
 Veteran(s) Transitioning to Civilian Life Veteran's Family: Spouse / Significant Other Parents Children
Sibling(s) Other

Service for Veterans/Active-Duty/Reserve Military: (Examples: hours shopping for and preparing care packages for deployed troops, helping wounded warriors and elderly veterans at home, providing transportation, military send-off and welcome-home events, parades, projects for homeless veterans, activities related to distributing poppies, recording veteran histories, raising money for the Veterans Creative Arts Festival, fundraising events that benefit veterans (such as Walk, Run & Roll), assisting with veterans hiring fairs, advocating for The American Legion legislative agenda that supports veterans and the military.)

_____ Mileage _____ Number of Hours (include any travel time) _____ Funds Used/Donation

Service for Military Families: (Examples: programs for military and veterans' children, helping Family Support Groups, supporting adopt-a-military-family projects, military spouse hiring fairs, organizing and delivering hero packs, providing child care for military activities, distributing Blue Star Banners) _____ Mileage _____ Number of Hours (include any travel time) _____ Funds Used/Donation _____

Service Representing the ALA in My Community: (Examples: blood drives, walks/runs, food pantries).

_____ Mileage _____ Number of Hours (include any travel time) _____ Funds Used/Donation

CREATIVE ARTS
November mailing
2023-2024

Fall Greeting to All!

It has been confirmed that used postage stamps are no longer being collected to be used by our Veterans.

I would suggest that if you have them, keep them in case things change, and they are needed in the future.

I hope there is a lot of Fun Fundraising going on or being planned for the future!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Creative Arts Chairman
Mary Edwards

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA
UNIT MERIT SCORE SHEET 2023-2024**

I. MEMBERSHIP (Possible 30 Points)

TARGET DATES:

A.	50% October 24, 2023.....	5	_____
B.	75% November 28, 2023.....	5	_____
C.	85% February 6, 2024.....	5	_____
D.	95% April 9, 2024	5	_____
E.	100% May 28, 2024	5	_____
F.	102% June 25, 2024	5	_____

Group I Total Points Earned _____

II. DEPARTMENT FEES (Possible 34 Points)

A. DEPARTMENT MANDATORY FEES

made payable to Department Secretary
NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 30, 2023

ALA HGS \$.05 per member (based on 2023 Close of Books)

Operational Expense \$1:00 per Senior member (based on
2023 Close of Books)

\$2.00 - Public Relations \$2.00 - Hoosier Auxiliary News

\$.65 per Senior Member, Hospitalized Veteran \$.15 per

Senior Member (based on 2023 Close of Books) 5 _____

B. DEPARTMENT VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

1.	Auxiliary Emergency Fund	4	_____
2.	Department President's Project		
	a. HVAF	5	_____
	b. USO.....	5	_____
	c. IVH Fun and Entertainment.....	5	_____
3.	Creative Arts	3	_____
4.	VAMC Gift Wraps.....	3	_____
5.	Hoosier Academic Gift	2	_____
6.	JR Academic Gift	2	_____

Group II Total Points Earned _____

III. POPPY PROGRAM (Possible 13 Points)

A.	Poppies Ordered and Paid for by October 31, 2023	..... 5	_____
B.	Poppies ordered over Poppy Quota	..... 3	_____
C.	General Use of Poppies during the year by Unit (Memorial Services, Holidays, and Meeting Decorations)	..... 5	_____

Group III Total Points Earned _____

IV. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS (Possible 23 Points)

A. Unit Representation at Auxiliary Fall Conference	..... 4	_____
B. Unit Representation at Indiana Veterans Home	..... 2	_____
C. Unit sponsoring Indiana Veteran Home Resident	..... 3	_____
D. Contribution to any Veterans Homeless Shelter (money or items)	..... 3	_____
E. Contribution to VA Shower	..... 3	_____
F. Education 10 for 10	..... 3	_____
G. Unit sponsoring Delegate to ALA HGS	..... 2	_____
H. President Award of Excellence Entry	..... 1	_____
I. Unit entry for "Book of Prayers" by Senior or Junior Member	..... 1	_____
J. Unit entry for "Unit History" by Senior or Junior Member	..... 1	_____

Group IV Total Points Earned _____

TOTAL POINTS EARNED FROM SECTIONS I, II, III, IV _____

	UNIT RATING	
Superior Unit	.....	90-100 Points
Excellent Unit	.....	70-89 Points
Good Unit	.....	50-69 Points

**PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING COMPLETELY, WITH THE INFORMATION
ASKED FOR, AND MAIL TO YOUR DISTRICT MERIT CHAIR.**

Unit Name	Unit Number
District Number	Location of Unit (Town)
Name of Unit Chairman	
Address of Chairman	Zip
Phone	Email Address

UNIT REPORTS ARE DUE TO THE DISTRICT MERIT CHAIR BY JUNE 15, 2024
Refer to your District Directories for your Chair information

DISTRICT REPORTS ARE DUE TO THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR BY JUNE 29, 2024

Merit Chairman: **Janice Mort**
3016 E. 1000 N.
Syracuse, IN 46567
574-527-9851
janmort72@gmail.com

Revised 8/4/2023

Legislative



To: District Presidents
District Legislative Chairman
Unit President
Unit Legislative Chairman

Thank you to everyone that attended the Fall Conference Legislative sessions. I hope you have read your Program Engagement Plan and are ready to promote and work the Legislative program for this year.

The Legislative program provides information and assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members to advocate for The American Legion's Legislative Agenda for the 118th Congress. You can download a copy of the American Legion Legislative Agenda by going to www.legion.org/legislative. There you will also find access to a preformatted letter that you can send directly to your Senators, or you can contact our legislators through e-mail, phone calls, or in person. Sign up for Legislative alerts from the legion and subscribe to the e-newsletter the dispatch www.legion.org/dispatch it is also a great source of information. Join The American Legion Action Center go to <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>. There you can sign up for updates. Just create an account and follow their instructions. Votervoice is a way The American Legion messages to congress. Votervoice was founded in 2020. Their vision is to deliver a seamless,

powerful platform that helps people inspire advocates to act, so they can impact policy through accountable insights. If you subscribe to the Legion's action alerts, you will receive a notification when a vote is near and your voice is especially needed. With one click, you will be able to send a message, written by the Legion legislative staff, to your U.S. representative and U.S. senators.

Taking action on legislative issues is one of the best ways to show your support and make a difference in the lives of our Veterans, Military, and their families.

Tanna Shepherd

Department Legislative Chairman 2023 – 2024

15283 W 150 N Dugger, In. 47848

Tshep02@joink.com or Cell: 812-243-5248

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
HOOSIER GIRLS STATE
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

Wow! I can't believe that the 2023 Holidays are here already! The senior staff of ALA Hoosier Girls State have been busy making plans for our 82nd session. Our program will be held the week of June 23-29, 2024, on the beautiful campus of Trine University in Angola, Indiana.

In the September/October 2023 bulletin, I had included a "Wanted Ad" asking for 2 gently used rifles for our color guard at ALA Hoosier Girls State. A huge "THANK YOU" goes out to The American Legion Post 500 for their generous donation of 2 brand new, beautiful rifles! This generous donation is very much appreciated. The rifles will be used by our color guard at our ALA HGS program for years to come.

Have you purchased your Calendar Raffle Ticket for 2024 yet? There are still a few tickets left! The cost is \$30 each for 53 chances to win \$100. Please contact your District Board Member or myself at 520-236-7393 or email me at jbwehr@comcast.net if you wish to purchase a ticket. The proceeds from the sale of the tickets help to fund our outstanding ALA HGS program.

In October a letter and pamphlets were mailed to every high school in Indiana telling them about our amazing program. In early November, the ALA HGS 2024 Application was emailed to the District Board Members who then emailed them to the Units and the high schools in their Districts. We are once again looking forward to another great session in 2024!

Wishing Each of You a Safe and Happy Holiday!

Sue Wehr, Director
ALA Hoosier Girls State