

Program Action Plan
History Committee
2018-2019

What is this program, and why do we have it? The heart of any organization's history is in its records- items that officers, members, directors, staff and volunteers have produced and compiled over the years. They provide a unique testimony to the achievements of an organization.

What can you do?

- 1. If you have History Committee mirror the efforts of Department/National to promote your history**
 - Share Auxiliary memorabilia with your Unit/Department.
 - Ask members if they would like to donate an item.
 - Post your unit history on the Legion's Centennial Celebration webpage <http://centennial.legion.org>
 - ALA will celebrate our 100th anniversary celebration. A Facebook group has been created and all Legion Family members are encouraged to join the group by searching "ALA Centennial" on Facebook.
 - Involve Juniors in your activities helping them earn the History patch.
 - Participate the Members Remember project,
 - Create Displays that are attractive, interesting and relevant.
 - Include memorabilia of your honorary Junior presidents
 - Make an inventory of your entire collections. This includes your organizational documents, written histories, scrapbooks etc. Include information on who donated the item and when.
 - Attend local workshops to learn preservation and conservation methods

- 2. If you do not currently have a History Committee and or a Cavalcade of Memories Museum initiate the project.**
 - Your history is in more places than artifacts. It is in your meeting minutes, governing documents, newspaper articles, photos. Set up a system on how to keep these.
 - If you don't have room for a case to display your history, consider a scrapbook.
 - Learn the history of your unit and department. Determine if your materials should be displayed in the Unit or Department Cavalcade of Memories.

- 3. Become visible throughout your community and let them know the ALA' history and contributions to the the community, state and nation.**

- Talk about the history of your unit at community functions you attend.
- Invite people to tour your Calvacade of Memories.

Reporting

December 1 Mid year narrative Unit to District Chairman

December 15 Mid year narrative District Chairman to Department Chairman

April 15th Unit Annual reports to District Chairman

April 27 District Annual Report to Department Chairman

Personal Award

Unit Best Annual Narrative Report

District Best Annual Narrative Report

How to Sheets

- How to Record Oral Histories-The Member to Remember Project
- How to Celebrate Women's History Month
- How to Involve a Junior Member

Cherril Threte, Department History Committee Chairman

2714 W 60th St

Indianapolis, IN 46228

Home 317-475-9919 Cell 317-696-1528

cthrete@sbcglobal.net

History

HOW TO RECORD AND POST TO “MEMBERS REMEMBER”

Committee:

History

Contact Information for Questions:

cthrete@sbcglobal.net

Objective:

Record the ALA’s history through the eyes of its members

Background Information

The history of the American Legion Auxiliary begins back in November 1919, and continues with you. The organization’s history, like any other history, is more than names and dates. It is about its membership and how it developed the ALA’s programs and projects to fulfill our mission of serving the veterans, servicemembers, and their families who sacrifice much for this country of ours.

A written history can only tell so much. However, when an organization’s history is told through the eyes of its membership, everyone learns a great deal more about who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

Step-by-Step Instructions

Here are some tips:

- This is a two-person project so find someone to assist. This is a good time to enlist the help of your 9th-12th grade Junior members as it is a required activity in earning the History Patch. If your unit does not have Junior members, enlist the assistance of college students.
- Find longtime members of the Auxiliary and ask them to share their stories in a video. These stories can be about:
 - A special project,
 - A particular highlight during her membership
 - How many generations of her family have been members and why
 - If a chartered member, her experience in starting the unit
- Find a location where it is quiet and where there will be no interruptions.
- Record with iPhones/Smartphones. Please keep in mind that your video file must be either a .mov; .avi; .mpeg; or a .wmv file extension.
- Each recording should be no longer than five (5) minutes long. You may make more than one. Cover one topic in each video.
- Post the video on YouTube. An instructional video on how to upload is located at www.youtube.com/watch?v=_O7iUiftbKU.
- Go to YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com>
- Give the video the following title: ALA Dept. of __ (two letter abbreviation for your state) Unit ____ Members Remember.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY 2017-2022 PROGRAMS ACTION PLAN HOW TO GUIDES

History

- Provide a description and tags that will help people locate the video easily.
- Under Category, click on Nonprofits & Activism.
- Under Privacy, click on Share your video with the world.
- Click Save Changes.

History

HOW TO CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Committee:

History

Contact Information for Questions:

cthrete@sbcglobal.net

Objective:

Celebrate the special women of our organization

Background Information

The month of March is dedicated to the celebration of women's history. It corresponds with International Women's Day on March 8th. What could be better for a women's organization to do than celebrate their own history? Our Auxiliary members have accomplished a great deal all around the world. Now it's time to celebrate what makes them so special!

Step-by-Step Instructions

What can we do?

- Learn more about Auxiliary members who made history within your department or unit. This could include girls sponsored to ALA Girls State who have gone on to do great things or those members who have improved their communities, state or country.
- Celebrate the women in your life – mom, grandma, even your sister.
- Donate money to the ALA Cavalcade of Memories budget at the unit, department, or national level in honor of a special woman.
- Set up a display in honor of those members who have gone above and beyond the ALA's mission.
- Write an article for your unit/department newsletter about Women's History Month or about the woman you are honoring.
- Check out how women's fashion has changed over time in the Auxiliary, as well as women's hair fashion. There has been a great deal of change from 1919 to today!
- Research and write about how the former and present members make a difference in the community and share with others.
- Put up a display at your local library, historical society, or storefront, celebrating the work that the women of the ALA have done and still do every day.

2017-2022 Programs Action Plan: Page 120

HOW TO INVOLVE A JUNIOR MEMBER

Committee:

History

Contact Information for Questions:

cthrete@sbcglobal.net

Objective:

Help a Junior member (9th – 12th grades) earn the new History Patch

Background Information

In a joint effort with the National Junior Activities Committee, we have developed a History Patch for our high school (9th – 12th grades) Junior members. These young ladies have an opportunity to work with, learn from, and take ownership of the American Legion Auxiliary history. It is important for them to understand that they are a part of the Auxiliary's history. By earning this patch, they may become interested not only in the history itself, but in preserving it as well, and become a unit's or department's History/Cavalcade chairman.

Step-by-Step Instructions

What can we do?

- Contact the department Junior Activities chairman and ask her to help promote this new patch. Make joint announcements at your fall/winter/spring meetings, division/district meetings, etc.
- Write an article about the patch for the department newsletter.
- Make a poster to promote the patch for meetings. Include the patch and activities list (see below).
- Encourage the unit History/Cavalcade chairmen to promote this patch and work with their unit Junior Activities committee chairman.
- Find a high school aged Junior member and be a mentor to her as she works the activities to earn the patch.

2017-2022 Programs Action Plan: Page 122

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY 2017-2022 PROGRAMS ACTION PLAN HOW TO GUIDES

History

HISTORY PATCH BLUE LEVEL 3

(Grade 9th-12th)

Educate yourself about the history of the ALA and The American Legion Family

Level 3: Twelve (12) possibilities; **Three* (3) activities are required;** Six (6) are your choice.

A total of Nine (9) activities must be completed from the Twelve (12) choices.

No.: Activity: Date: Adult Signature:

***1** Interview at least two ALA members for the *Members Remember* project. Post your video interviews on YouTube.com. Information can be found on the National History Committee page of the Members Only section at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

2 Learn about the Veterans History Project. Interview at least two veterans and preserve their stories.

Send your project to the Library of Congress

www.loc.gov/vets.

3 Contribute to your unit's ALA Senior History Book. Focus on who we are, what we do and why it matters.

***4** Contribute to your unit's ALA Junior History Book.

5 Contribute to and/or start a unit history museum to capture the impact the ALA has had on your community.

***6** Research and do a presentation on the history of your unit. Present it to your Junior unit, or at a unit or post meeting.

7 Research current, former or deceased members of your Legion Family (unit, post or squadron) who made a significant contribution to your community.

8 Organize a *Veterans in Community Schools* presentation. Work with a veteran in your post, and find a school or classroom in which to make a presentation.

9 Organize a library of past issues of *Auxiliary* magazine for your unit. Make special notation of issues with articles relevant to your unit or