

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS

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BI-MONTHLY BULLETIN

214-733-7945

SECRETARY@ALATEXAS.ORG

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INFORMATION FROM HEADQUARTERS

MARCH

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

2ND TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

3RD NATIONAL ANTHEM DAY

8TH DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS

13TH NATIONAL K9 VETERANS DAY

15TH AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY

17TH ST. PATRICKS DAY

20TH SPRING BEGINS

25TH NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

29TH NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY



APRIL

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

1ST APRIL FOOLS DAY

5TH GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY

EASTER

9TH FORMER POW RECOGNITION DAY

15TH TAX DAY

PURPLE UP DAY



Wow!!! As I am writing this, I am still reeling from my amazing homecoming. First and foremost, I want to thank Unit 95 and my Post family for doing an amazing job putting the event together. Past Department Commanders and Presidents were very impressed. To those who came in from out of town - I thank you so much for attending, and the gifts and fellowship were over the top! And for those who stayed late, you now know I love to dance!!! And we raised a lot of money for Operation Homefront, and hopefully I will get Cleo home soon - she has had such a journey...

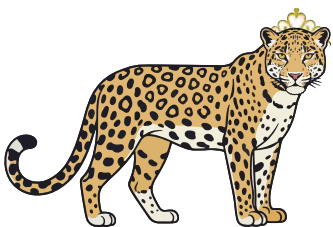
And now down to business... The Spring Convention season is about to start. District/Division Presidents and Secretaries - your convention minutes are due to Department within 10 days of your convention. These minutes should include your financial report, correspondence, and unit and committee reports. You must send in these minutes as the districts are under the Department EIN and are necessary for the Department audit. Please don't make me have to send you a reminder email - because I will.

Next, the American Legion Department of Texas is working to sell the Department Headquarters. The Auxiliary has been asked to remove our belongings from the headquarters for the sale. We will be moving everything out of the office and into a climate-controlled storage unit until a new facility is purchased. This is not up for discussion as we are renting from the Legion and must follow their requests.

Reporting is coming up soon. Committee chairs- we will have the projector at the Department Convention. I am asking that each of you have a PowerPoint presentation sent to Tiffany. If you need assistance, please contact Tiffany, and she will assist in incorporating the photos you were sent to make an amazing presentation similar to what we see at Nationals.

To the Districts and Divisions who have invited me to attend your conventions, I look forward to your awesome hospitality. For the rest, I will be sending you greetings from the Department.

Until I see you again, Happy Trails, and God bless you all until we meet again!



Leigh-Anne



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Texas
Committee Application Form
2026-2027**

Valued members of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas,

In preparation for the coming 2026-2027 administrative year, there is a lot of work that needs to be done, such as making Committee Appointments.

As you may guess, Committee Appointments are not always an easy task because our members are spread across our great state. We have the “best” ALA members, many of which would love to serve on a Department Committee but do not know how to apply. Well, here is how you can. If you are interested in applying for a Committee Appointment, please fill out the information requested and submit a brief bio. Do not fret over the bio, friends. Just make note of your experience or interests.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Unit Name: _____ Unit # _____ District _____ Division _____

How many years have you been a member: _____

List three (3) Committees you would be interested in serving on.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Please email me @ czavala@gvec.net.

Thank you for applying!

Candy Zavala
American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas
Vice President 2025-2026
Phone # 210-559-6786



 AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY
FOUNDATION

Celebrate Women of Service on March 8

To honor the remarkable women in our lives, the ALA Foundation is celebrating its fourth “Celebrating Women of Service” day alongside International Women’s Day on March 8. Join us by donating in honor of a woman who inspires you, just as the ALA community inspires this special day of giving. Show your appreciation for

women dedicated to service and volunteerism by supporting a cause that leaves a lasting impact.

Let’s make March 8 a day to honor the power of women in the ALA community. Give online or by texting **WOMAN** to **1-844-940-3450**.



Scan here
to make
a gift:

AMERICAN LEGION --- AUXILIARY

**A Huge Thank You to
those Units
that have generously
Donated!**



**Please consider
Donating to the
AEF Program
2025-2026
WE NEED YOU!**

**Please remember the AEF Program as we have ALA Families that are
struggling with Disasters and Hardships!**

**The AEF Program is here to support them and through your
Donations, this program will be there for them!**

We have challenges for you to consider:

**Any Unit that sends \$100.00 to Department by June 1st will go into a
drawing for \$50.00 cash prize!**

**Decorate a Jar with Disaster pictures and ask for change at each of
your meetings! If every Member at least donates a \$1.00, that will
add up quickly!**

Go to your Fire Stations and Police Stations with your Jar!

Please Consider this Program as we can make a Difference!

From: Auxiliary Emergency Fund Program Committee

Janice Calhoun-Winters- Committee Chair

Penny Honaker--2nd Division ALA

Elsa Quintana—4th Division

CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM



In 2026, it is estimated that there will be over 2 million new Cancer diagnoses and approximately 620,000 deaths. As of 2022, there were 18.1 million cancer survivors in the United States.

THEY ALL MATTER - LET'S FIND A CURE!!!!

The American Legion Auxiliary Cancer Research Program is the only program of its kind in the ALA, providing \$5,000 scholarships each year to fellows at the University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston. These scholarships are awarded by the Department President at a special luncheon in Houston where we witness first-hand the dedication and research involved in working to find a cure.

We've all been touched by cancer - whether it is you or someone you know, the fight is hard and turns your life upside down. The survival rate is improving with new technology, research, and awareness but there is still a long way to go. Your donations to this program help us support the research efforts right here in Texas. We encourage each Unit to consider contributing to this vital cause.

AWARDS:

- Each Unit donating to the Cancer Research Program will receive a Certificate of Appreciation
- The Unit with the highest donations received at Department by June 1, 2026 will receive a plaque and certificate.
- The Units with the 2nd and 3rd highest donations received by June 1, 2026 will receive a ribbon and certificate.

REPORTING:

- Cancer Research activities are reported under the Education program; be sure and include any donations, hours, and activities with your narrative to the Education Committee. Send a copy to us as well so we can recognize your efforts in our reports- email to Shay1956@sbcglobal.net by June 1st.

REMEMBER - Supporting those who fight this fight is vital. BE THERE - You can make a difference!!

Cancer Research Committee -

Donna Patterson, Division 1 - Chair	808-393-3919
Courtney Hayes, Division 2	682-251-4883
Karla Dickey, Division 1	972-741-8923
Pam Burkett, Division 3	573-228-0445

ALA Community Service

We would like to hear of all the wonderful Community Service Events the units have had this year and working on the details for the next one. The Committee is giving six \$25 Card to help with your next event but you need to submit a report on what your units has done and plans to do next.

The Committee has to report to the National Southern Division Community Service president on the awesome events Dept. of Texas has done throughout the state.

Sent a report with pictures to the committee so we can let National know how great we are in promoting the ALA's commitment to making a better place to live by supporting local projects and creating our own.

Div. 1 open= sent to chairman

Div. 2 Tone Mahone= mahont0065@gmail.com

Div.3 Linda Correa-Garcia= linda_correagarcia@yahoo.com

956-357-1406 (Chair)

Div. Velois Vaughns = jinx_vv@yahoo.com

**FYI--: Unit Reports due to Department Committee Chairman by
May 1, 2026**


**AMERICAN
LEGION**
AUXILIARY
Education Committee



THIS YEAR OUR COMMITTEE'S GOAL IS TO PROVIDE
40 X \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS
TO OUR TEXAS STUDENTS!
CAN YOUR UNIT HELP?

- Our March Madness Challenge starts on March 1 and ends on March 31, 2026
- **Each \$100 donated by a Unit is worth one ticket in the pot**
- The draw will be on April 1, 2026 (no joke!) The winning Unit will receive a \$100 Gift Card and the grateful thanks of a Texas student!



You can send in your donation by mail, or you can pay online

Send check by mail:

Make payable to ALA Dept. of Texas and send it to Department Secretary, PO Box 1629, Little Elm, TX 75068 and specify it's for the Education Committee Scholarship Fund. Make sure you include your Unit name and number

Pay online:

Click here to donate by check and specify it's for the Education Committee Scholarship Fund. Make sure you include your Unit name and number

Click here to donate by credit card The password is CCpayment. Specify it's for the Education Committee Scholarship Fund and make sure you include your Unit name and number



DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS LEADERSHIP NEWS

What Type of a Mentor Are You?



At the Mid-Winter Training, the Leadership Committee presented:

'Creating a Supporting Culture: How to Become an Effective Mentor'

This interactive workshop helps identify strategies for effective mentoring and addresses unintentional bullying.

If you missed it and/or would like to share this presentation with your Unit or District the notes are on the Department website under "Training." Also, consider contacting the Leadership Committee to present the information.

Don't forget to send your completed course certificate to txalaleadership@gmail.com

An award will be given to the unit with the most members participating in the ALA Academy.

You also have access to over 11 pre-recorded webinars that you can watch alone or in a group (perfect for those Unit or District training opportunities). Recordings of all previous webinars are now available in the ALA Academy. <https://alaacademy.alaforveterans.org/topclass/searchCatalog.do?catId=353372>

Reports

What has your unit done to develop leadership skills? Have you shared little tidbits of training during your meetings? Have you discussed Robert's Rules of Order? Educated new members on Flag Etiquette? Held training at a District convention? That is Leadership Training.

Record this information for your unit's reports and send them to your Division Leadership Committee. Reports are due May 1, 2026.

LEADERSHIP COURSES ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL MEMBERS

Did you know there are 8 Self-paced ALA Academy courses you can take from any device at any time? These are designed for you to take at your convenience, with no need to pre-register, and include the following topics:

[ALA 101: Member Orientation](#)

[ALA Branding](#)

[ALA Communication Methods](#)

[Unit Fundraising and American](#)

[Legion Auxiliary Foundation](#)

[Grants](#)

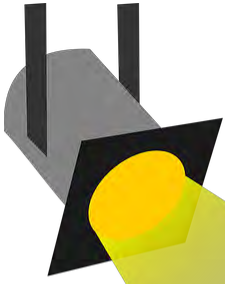
[Introduction to Conflict Resolution](#)

[ALA Leadership: Living Our Motto of Service Not Self](#)

[ALA Juniors E-Learning Course](#)

Link to online training:

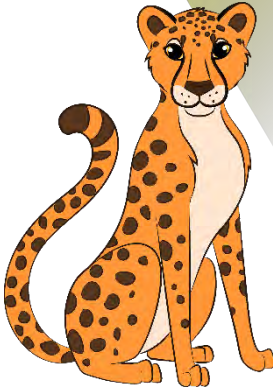
<https://member.legion-aux.org/member/online-training>



Leadership Spotlight on Learning

Stepping Up When Leadership Feels Uncomfortable

Many of us hesitate to step into leadership roles —not because we don't care, but because we do. We worry about getting it wrong, about letting others down, or about taking on more than we can handle.



I've learned that leadership isn't about having all the answers. It's about showing up, listening, and being willing to serve when the mission needs you. The most effective leaders don't seek the spotlight—they answer a call.

Yes, leadership brings responsibility and visibility, but it also brings purpose. When we step forward, even with uncertainty, we honor the values we stand for: service, teamwork, and a commitment to one another.

If you've ever thought, "*Someone else is better suited for this,*" consider this your reminder: leadership doesn't require perfection—only participation.

Call to Action:

If you care about this organization, this mission, and the veterans we serve, consider stepping up in a small way. Raise your hand. Join a committee. Say yes when asked. Your willingness may be exactly what this organization needs right now.

2025-2026 Leadership Team

1st Division Barbara Stykes



Barbarastykes1stdivpresident@gmail.com

2nd Division Licia Kim - Chair



liciakim.alatexas@gmail.com



3rd Division Valerie Coldwell

Valcoldwell.aladivision3@gmail.com



4th Division Linda Dorsett

lm.dorsett@yahoo.com



Liason Donna Dillard – National Leadership Chair

threedtexas@gmail.com

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS
PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2025-2026

LEGISLATIVE

Purpose: The purpose of the Legislative Committee is to provide information and assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion. Standing Rule #5, National Committees – Mission Outreach

Key Program Statements:

The Legislative program provides information and assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion.

REPORTING

YEAR END REPORTS: Annual reports should reflect the program work of the units and may result in a national award for participants if requirements are met. Each unit is asked to submit a narrative report to the Department Legislative Chairman following the protocol and deadlines. Due to this Department Chairman no later than May 1, 2026. Email: carlene@flash.net

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM!

Thank you for choosing to take the time to share a story about the positive impact you or someone in your unit has had on our mission through working the Legislative program. Your story may inspire another member into service, and it helps tell the world who we are, what we do and why we matter.

As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions:

- * How did you educate members in the legislative issues promoted by The American Legion and how did your members employ those methods?
- * What legislative activities (town hall meetings, legislative receptions, etc.) did members attend in their communities and departments? What suggestions did members have to improve those activities? Please describe.
- * How did members develop relationships with their elected officials? Please describe.
- * Please describe how members were able to connect with their local and state officials and what their successes were.

Face to Face Communication Opportunities with Legislatures?

Members Reporting sending personal letters, e-mails & phone calls?

Participation in Legislative issues can be very exciting because this is where the American Legion Auxiliary can truly have an impact and make a difference in the lives and in the futures of our military and for our veterans as laws are passed or changed that provide benefits and improve care for our veterans, our military and their families along with all the other programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. Historically it can be proven that letter writing campaigns by Auxiliary members has truly persuaded our government leaders to tackle issues and change laws that affected change – and each member of the American Legion Auxiliary can take pride in that history and can make that same impact on the future by working this Legislative program.

MEMBER AWARD: “BEST TEXAS MEMBER-LEGISLATOR” Deadline: May 1, 2026

Submit a narrative to nominate an inspiring member that has embraced the concepts of the Legislative program and has put forth the effort to:

- * Learn and implement the ideas in the Legislative Advocacy Guide
- * Has subscribed to the suggested websites, alerts and updates
- * Has worked with The American Legion on Legislative efforts at local or state levels
- * Has created or been instrumental in receiving proclamations from local governments

This award will be presented at Department Convention.

UNIT AWARD: “MOST OUTSTANDING UNIT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM”

Deadline: May 1, 2026

Submit a narrative to this chairman, not exceeding 1000 words and include specific examples of how the unit delivered mission service. The winning Unit narrative will be submitted to the national Division Chairman. Units may also submit their own narratives via electronic form by 5 pm EST on June 1, 2026, via the National Awards Form link on the national website.

[https://www.legion-aux.org/National -Awards-Form.](https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form)

Photos of “Legislation in Action” are encouraged and should be emailed separately as jpg or pdf to this chairman with your narrative report. Email: carlene@flash.net

If the Unit is submitting their narrative to the National organization via the above website, please make sure to send photos via separate email. It should include action photos, scans/links to news articles., etc.

REMINDER-ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE

*www.ALAforVeterans.org on the Legislative program page

*ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide

*How to Fill Out the Congressional Contact Form

*How to Contact Legislators to Advocate for Veterans, Servicemembers & their families

www.Legion.org/legislative [The American Legion’s Legislative Center]

*Legislative Testimony Information Point Papers, Priority Sheets, Letters of Support

* Congressional Contact Report Form

* Facebook:

ALA National Headquarters: www.facebook.com/ALAforVeterans

The National Legislative Committee Facebook group: “ALA National Legislative”

Title: “ALA Department of Texas Legislative”

(please keep all posts pertinent to Texas Legislative information only)

Suggestions: The below are just a few examples of important dates remaining in our 2026 year.

Election Day, Tuesday, March 3, 2026

American Legion Birthday, March 15-17, 2026

Vietnam Veterans Day, Sunday, March 29, 2026

Gold Star Wives Day, Sunday, April 5, 2026

Law Day, Thursday, May 1, 2026

National Poppy Day, Friday, May 22, 2026

Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2026

D-Day, Saturday, June 6, 2026

Juneteenth Day, Friday, June 19, 2026

National PTSD Awareness Day, Saturday, June 27, 2026 (June is PTSD Awareness Month)

Fourth of July- America’s 250th Birthday Celebration, Saturday, July 4, 2026

Mark these dates on your calendar and be sure to get any proclamations to your local government offices 3-4 weeks in advance. You can find many sample proclamations online and modify them for your local event or ceremony or recognition. Many are on the American Legion Auxiliary website (www.alaforveterans.org)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CONTACT DETAILS

2ND DIVISION: CARLENE ASHWORTH, CHAIRMAN

EMAIL: carlene@flash.net Ph: 713-419-9518

1ST DIVISION: CANDACE WEEKS, MEMBER

EMAIL: cwdst1913@yahoo.com Ph: 214-694-5767

AMERICAN LEGION

AUXILIARY

Membership Committee

This year we want to recover all our current members and add a few more for good luck – every member counts! We have ideas, we have programs, we have incentives and we have faith that our mission is worthy. So how do we bring Texas back as the powerhouse of our country? Recognizing and rewarding our members for their work; actively keeping in touch and encouraging our quieter members; regularly contacting our membership with updates and event reminders; and keeping our eye on our mission.

WE CAN DO THIS!

Every Friday we send out a weekly report that keeps our membership up to date with their unit, district and division standings plus various challenges we offer to encourage you to increase your numbers. If you would like to receive our weekly report, please go to <https://alatexas.org/membership/membership-reports/> and send in the form. Numbers are so important. They're what keep us able to represent our veterans, our families, our youth and our community. Our numbers allow us to assist the Legion influence Congress with regard to our veterans and their needs. Numbers give us power to affect our mission and our programs.

DUAL MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD NEW!

Some members of our Auxiliary need a special mention for their dedication and service, so this year we are introducing the Dual Member of the Year Award. This is open to all Dual Members and should recognize the nominee's contributions to their Unit and their Post and/or Squadron. Nominations can be made by any member of the Auxiliary for any Dual Member. The Post or Squadron Adjutant should verify that the Dual Member is in good standing with the Post and/or Squadron. To nominate a Dual Member, please use the link provided to download a nomination form. Nominations are due no later than May 1st 2026

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR DUAL MEMBERS!

[Click to download Dual Member Nomination Form](#)

2025 - 2026 DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP GOALS & AWARDS FOR UNITS

Our Department Membership Committee year-end awards will include certificates for all those units that make the Department of Texas Goals plus ribbons for those units who achieve 100% membership:

- **25% by the Sons of the American Legion's Birthday on September 15, 2025**
- **60% by the American Legion Auxiliary's Birthday on November 10, 2025**
- **85% by The American Legion's Birthday on March 15, 2026**
- **100% by the United States' Birthday on July 4, 2026**

Ribbons and certificates will be awarded at the Summer Department Convention along with special awards for those units reaching the highest percentage in their groups.

- Small Group 0 - 25 members (85 Units)
- Medium Group 26 - 100 members (117 Units)
- Large Group 101 - 571 (42 Units)

2025 - 2026 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS FOR MEMBERS & UNITS

Member Award: Recruit/Rejoin 10

- **Award:** Special gift selected by the National Membership Chairman
- **Presented to:** Members who recruit and/or rejoin 10 Senior and/or Junior members.
Rejoined members must not have renewed since 2022 or earlier.
- **Deadline:** Members must be entered and paid in ALAMIS member database by June 1, 2026.
 - **FORM** must be received at National HQ by June 6, 2026.

- **Materials and guidelines:**
 - [Click to download form](#)
 - One entry per recruiter

Member Award: Family 3

- **Award:** Special gift selected by the National President
- **Presented to:** Members who recruit 3 *New* Legion members, 3 *New* Auxiliary members & 3 *New* SAL members
- **Deadline:** Members must be entered and paid in the database by June 1, 2026.
 - FORMS must be received at ALA National HQ by June 6, 2026.
- **Materials and guidelines:**
 - [Click to download form](#)
 - One entry per recruiter.

Unit Award: 100% Unit Award

- **Award:** ALA Key Chain with phone stand and cleaner, 2 per unit for the unit president and unit membership chairman.
- **Presented to:** Units that reach 100% of their 2026 membership goal by January 31, 2026.
- **Deadline:** January 31, 2026
- **Materials and guidelines:**
 - This award will be based on units that reach 100% of their reported goals by January 31, 2026 as verified by ALAMIS.

Department Membership Committee 2025 – 2026

Division 1 Myrtle Johnson 214-724-3432 myrtlej08@yahoo.com

Division 2 Gillian Woodstrom 281-615-5670 gwoodstrom@woodborne.com

Division 3 Shelli Creech 210-237-7399 Atomicglitter84@gmail.com

Division 4 Hilda Lindt 512-230-8801 hildamlindt@gmail.com

Have you had a great mentoring experience with a Past Department President this year in your Unit, District, Division, or personally? Tell us about it! Send a short narrative to Shay1956@sbcglobal.net about your experiences, her leadership, willingness to help, and all the qualities that you appreciate and admire in her. We will share your thoughts and will (independently) pick a favorite for an awesome gift!!

NEW!



UNIT MEMBER OF THE YEAR -- Share your story with us of that special member who goes above and beyond in service to your Unit, Post, community, etc. by nominating him/her for the Department of Texas Unit Member of the Year award. All nominees will receive a certificate and the winner will be announced at Dept Convention in July. Nomination form is on the website; due to Shay1956@sbcglobal.net **no later than Memorial Day, May 26th.**

Thank you everyone for your donations to the **Past President's Parley Medical Scholarships!** Your generosity allows us even greater latitude in selecting eligible candidates pursuing a medical career. All donating Units will receive certificates and will be entered into a special drawing.

This year we are excited to offer two very special \$1,000 scholarships in memory of Past Department President Mickie Prendergast - a strong advocate for the PPP Medical Scholarships. These scholarships are historically limited to students attending a school in the state of Texas - the **MICKIE PRENDERGAST MEMORIAL MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIPS** will be awarded to students attending schools outside Texas. Applications for both scholarships are due Memorial Day, May 26th, and are available on the website alateexas.org or email Shay1956@sbcglobal.net for a copy.



The winner of the Bath & Body Works Basket was Susie Frizell - CONGRATULATIONS!

"We are more powerful when we empower each other"

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

2025-2026

Volunteer Recognition/Reporting Service to Veterans Volunteer Hour Recognition by the American Legion Auxiliary. The American Legion Auxiliary has a tradition of recognizing time and service through the use of Service to Veterans pins and hour bars.

Volunteer hours are certified by the department VA&R Chairman then to the department secretaries. Once a volunteer has reached a milestone in their accumulated hours, the department secretary will send certification to ALA National Headquarters. This certification form is located at www.ALAforVeterans.org and requires the member's name, membership ID number, and the hour bar needed. These numbers may be combined for Service to Veterans recognition, thus resulting in higher cumulative hour bars awarded.

Order Fulfillment – Hour Bars Upon receipt of certification, ALA National Headquarters will send the appropriate bars to the department secretary.

Volunteers are recognized when specific hour milestones are reached: 50, 100, 300, 500, and 1,000. After the first 1,000-hour bar is awarded, the next bar will be earned in 1,000-hour increments up to 20,000 hours. The next hour bars are available at 25,000 hours and 30,000 hours. After a volunteer has reached 35,000 hours, they will be awarded a Lifetime Service to Veterans pin.

Hour Bar Pins Department secretaries order pins from American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales. Generally, departments will purchase pins for their members. These items are considered special orders and therefore are not listed online or in the catalog. The secretary must call American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales at 1-888-453-4466 to place an order. Pins will be sent to the person making the order on behalf of the volunteer. Oftentimes, departments honor their volunteers at conferences and annual meetings and present pins or additional hour bars at those times.

ALA National Headquarters provides hour bars that have been earned and certified by departments free of charge to the department representative. VAVS Volunteer Reporting It is important that all hours served by VAVS volunteers are reported to the appropriate party in a timely manner. VAVS volunteer hours should be compiled by a VAMC's representative or deputy representative. Those hours then should be reported to the national VAVS representative or deputy representative. The representative or deputy representative sends these hours to ALA

National Headquarters, where they are passed on to The American Legion to be reported to Congress.

Note: The VA has its own system for tracking volunteer hours within VA facilities. American Legion Auxiliary members who volunteer can use both hours volunteering in a VA facility combined with any volunteer hours in Service to Veterans outside a facility toward hour bars awarded by the ALA national organization. Service to Veterans volunteers are American Legion Auxiliary members who provide service to veterans outside a VAMC. Whether organizing a stand down, assembling care packages/tray favors/greeting cards, assisting with a veteran's burial or gravesite upkeep, sewing, cooking, or shopping for active-duty military/veterans and/or their families, member volunteers are at the heart of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Program structure.

Service to Veterans Training While there is no formal ALA Service to Veterans training program required on a national level, every fall ALA National Headquarters leadership and staff offer the "VAVS (VA Voluntary Service) Department Orientation" webinar for department presidents, secretaries, VA&R chairmen and VA representatives and deputy representatives. This webinar covers the basics of the VA and volunteering within the VA. Service to Veterans Volunteer Opportunities After a member has completed their orientation or has made the decision to volunteer outside of a VAMC, the first step should be to identify a servicemember, veteran, and/or family member's needs within the community. Consider the following when trying to locate where to identify these needs:

- ★Start with your own post home. Some Legionnaires are now aged, infirmed, confined due to illness or inability to drive, and spend most of their time at home or in assisted living facilities.
- ★Utilize leaders in your community. Contact government officials, religious leaders, and social service offices to ask about different programs in the community serving veterans. Once you have obtained contact information, reach out to the various organizations and ask them to identify their needs. Once you have identified the needs in your community, brainstorm different ways to meet these needs with your unit or American Legion Family. Following is a list of ideas to get you started:
- ★Visit with veterans and remember them on special occasions.
- ★Offer to drive veterans to doctor appointments.
- ★Offer to stay with a veteran while his/her primary caregiver goes shopping or out for a break.
- ★Take a veteran for a Sunday drive, picnic, or maybe to see one of his/her friends.
- ★Treat veterans to tickets for sporting events or movies.

★Transitional housing programs have many needs. Secure donations for staple items such as laundry soap, cleaning supplies, kitchen items, new undergarments, etc.

★Donate a membership to The American Legion. Arrange an outing to a Legion meeting for special events such as a Veterans Day dinner, memorial service, etc.

★Furnish a room in transitional housing programs as a special project.

★Help furnish new living space for a veteran graduating from a transitional housing program. This might include the veteran and his/her family. School supplies for children or meals might be extra touches. Service to Veterans Leadership Structure and Responsibilities Service to Veterans has been designed to give members a chance to volunteer in their communities without the structure of a VAMC. If a department has a very high number of volunteers, they might have a Service to Veterans director or chairman responsible for collecting VA&R service hours and requesting hour bars from the department secretary for their department. In most cases, this responsibility is most likely handled by a member of the VA&R Committee. Service to Veterans Volunteer Recognition Hour bars for your Service to Veterans pin can be earned through work done on behalf of veterans in state or community-based nursing homes/ soldiers homes, contracted veterans homes, daycare centers, foster homes, halfway houses, hospices, homeless shelters, stand downs, Christmas Gift Shops (not at a VAMC), veteran cemeteries or gravesites for any service tasks including but not limited to transportation, snow removal, landscaping/yard mowing, and assisting with tax preparation. Hours can also be earned through work done in your home for the benefit of homebound, sick or injured servicemembers and veterans. These activities might include sewing, mending, and/or babysitting while the veteran attends medical appointments or rehab sessions, or making quilts or knitting for hospitalized or homeless veterans. Anything done directly for a veteran outside of a VAMC is considered Service to Veterans. Caregivers can now be awarded Service to Veterans hours which may accumulate for hour bars for time spent providing care and assistance to veterans within their families if they do not receive PROFESSIONAL compensation for doing so. If the caregiver lives with the veteran, they may be awarded 10 hours a week. If they do NOT live with the veteran, then they may be awarded 5 hours a week. The onus is placed upon the caregiver to report these hours through the existing structure within their units and departments. These hours can be counted only once and not reported again under another committee such as National Security or Community Service. If you are unsure which committee your hours belong to, just pick the one that makes the most sense. The most important thing is that hours are counted only one time for your department. ALA Junior members may also earn hours through services provided while under supervision of a senior volunteer (examples: reading, playing board games, planning activities around special holidays, and upkeep of veteran gravesites). Volunteers who are not members of the ALA may also receive hour bars as long as their

volunteer hours are included in their local unit's impact numbers for the year. These hours may be cumulative over the years; therefore, resulting in higher increments of hour bars awarded. Service to Veterans Hour Accreditation Process A Service to Veterans volunteer will be responsible for the following if they would like their hours of service recognized under the American Legion Auxiliary's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Program:

★Record service hours and value of any expense donations made in service, and submit them to the unit/department VA&R chairman.

★Provide feedback to unit/department about volunteer assignments as well as other volunteer needs and/or opportunities known or discovered. Remember: It is our obligation to prevent veterans from feeling isolated. It is our responsibility to give them back just a little of the comfort they safeguarded for us.

★Represent the ALA as prescribed in the Code of Ethics. The department should schedule and put into place policies for providing timely information for volunteers interested in keeping proper reporting of hours for receiving pins and bars. Service to Veterans Reporting Hours served both within a VA facility as well as in the community need to be reflected in yearly reporting. Service to Veterans volunteers most likely report their hours to the unit chairman; they report to the department VA&R chairman and/or Service to Veterans chairman (directly or through the district) using whatever method is outlined for your department. Finally, these hours are added to the running total of impact hours that American Legion Auxiliary members donate to servicemembers, veterans, and their families each year. This allows ALA members to have a sense of the huge impact we have on the lives of our veterans, and it gives ALA National Headquarters the tools to tell an impressive story to national media.

Division I Mary Ann Paul, mapminmol@gmail.com

Division II Vacant

Division III Rosie Cherry, Chairman rrosie@aol.com

Division IV Myra Cooper, myra2023alapres@aol.com

American Legion Auxiliary
YEAR-END IMPACT REPORT FORMS

Why report these numbers?

Every hour, every dollar ALA members invest in our mission of helping veterans adds up. It not only gives each member a sense of pride, but it allows us to demonstrate our effectiveness to the world. Each small sum of numbers gets added into the collective numbers that are called Impact Numbers. These numbers proclaim our impact and make membership in the ALA meaningful.

These numbers are also reported to The American Legion, which includes them in its annual report to Congress. To make this process easier for you, it has been simplified and the form has been condensed to essential information. If you aren't sure, even giving an estimate is better than not reporting at all.

How to complete the Impact Report Form

1. **Each ALA member** should fill out the Member Form and give it to the unit president. This probably happens in April, but check with your unit.
2. The unit president (or designee) compiles all of the member data on the Unit Form and adds any additional data not reported individually by unit members. This form then gets forwarded to either the district/county (if applicable) or department, which compiles all the records.
3. It is more important that you report information in one section of the form only rather than worry if you have selected the right category. For example, if you provide a service for children, it should go in either Service for Military Families (for example, camps for military children only) or Service for Children & Youth (Legion Family camps for all children) but not in both places.
4. Please round to whole dollar values (for example, \$149.50 should be \$150).

Report Simplifications

1. All service for all military whether active duty, retired, or reserve component is now combined in one section.
2. Each section has better defined examples of the service that should be reported.
3. **For Units, Districts/Counties, and Departments:**
“Line numbers” and “Obtain Total From” columns have been added to help in transferring data from form to form. For example, units can find the number of Volunteer Hours for Military Families on Line 5 of the Member Form.

A downloadable fillable monthly tracking worksheet and annual report form is available under the Members Only, Annual Report Forms section on the national website: www.ALAforVeterans.org

Thank you for taking the time to REPORT your VALUABLE SERVICE and helping us TELL OTHERS about our INCREDIBLE IMPACT!

MEMBER Year-End Impact Numbers Report

I am a member of Unit # _____ Unit Name _____

Department _____

My name _____

Here is what I did in the past 12 months since May 1.

1. **My ALA 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.)

Line 1 Hours I volunteered: _____

Line 2 Dollars I personally spent/donated: \$ _____

Line 3 Number of veterans/military I assisted: _____

Line 4 Number of "Veterans in Community Schools" presentations I facilitated: _____

2. **My ALA 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 childcare for military activities, distributing Blue Star Banners, providing G.I. Josh dogs)

Line 5 Hours I volunteered: _____

Line 6 Dollars I personally spent/donated: \$ _____

Line 7 Number of military families I served: _____

3. **My ALA Service for Youth** (Examples: Jr. Activities, classroom and patriotic activities for children, camps open to all children, raising funds for or promoting Legion Family activities like Girls State)

Line 8 Hours I volunteered for ALA Girls State: _____

Line 9 Hours I volunteered for all other Legion Family youth activities: _____

Line 10 Dollars I personally spent on goods for youth activities (parties, backpacks): \$ _____

Line 11 Direct cash aid to help a needy child: \$ _____

Line 12 Number of children/youth served: _____

Line 13 Dollars donated to all other child service charities (ex: Make a Wish, St. Jude's): \$ _____

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

Line 14 Total number of hours for any service not included in Sections 1 through 3: _____

Line 15 Total dollars spent for any service not included in Sections 1 through 3: \$ _____

When completed, send to: _____ by _____ / _____ / _____

(Get name and date from unit)

**CONGRATULATIONS--YOU DID IT! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO
AND FOR REPORTING YOUR SERVICE!**

END OF YEAR

IMPACT REPORTING

FAQs

- Question: Where do I report my service for a National Guard "Welcome Home" activity?
Answer: *Service for ALL members of the military, whether they are retired, active-duty or in the reserve component such as the National Guard is now reported in "Section 1: My Service for Veterans, Active-Duty, and Reserve Military."*
- Question: Do I report my VAVS (Veterans Administration Voluntary Services) on the Impact Form since I already sign in at the VA when I volunteer?
Answer: No, the ALA receives those hours from the VA on a yearly basis.
- Question: Does time shopping for care packages for deployed military count as service?
Answer: *Yes, shopping for care packages counts as service hours under Section 1.*
- Question: So.... does driving my daughter to Junior Meetings count as service?
Answer: *Sorry, that falls within your responsibility as a parent. You get kudos for being a great ALA parent though!*
- Question: My unit volunteered at a summer camp for military kids. Where should I report this service?
Answer: *You may report service for summer camps open only to military kids under "Section 2: My ALA Service for Military Families." If the camp is open to ALL children, then your service would be reported under "Section 3: My ALA Service for Youth." But don't worry if you don't remember. Just report it somewhere.... once!*
- Question: My neighbor is deployed, so I help her husband by babysitting their children once a week. Does this count?
Answer: *Absolutely! Report this under "Section 3: My ALA Service for Military Families."*
- Question: What if I don't know exactly where on the form to report my service?
Answer: *You can always report it under "Section 4: My Service Representing the ALA in My Community."*
- Question: Can I count hours spent taking care of a veteran who lives with me but is not a blood relative?
Answer: *As long as you are not receiving compensation in return for your role as a caregiver (such as when you care for your spouse), you may report it under "Section 1: My ALA Service for Veterans, Active-Duty and Reserve Military."*
- Question: Can I count hours spent preparing meals for Legion meetings and administrative support for TAL commanders as hours spent in Service to Veterans?
Answer: *Those hours count but should be reported under "Section 4: My Service Representing the ALA in My Community." Some of our members aptly describe those activities as family chores.*

THANK YOU FOR SERVING AND REPORTING!