



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Texas
VA & R Committee
Program Engagement Plan
2026-2027



Purpose: In the spirit of service, not self, the purpose of the VA & R Committee is to promote programs, events and services that assist and enhance the lives of veterans, their families, their caregivers and their survivors, ensuring the best quality of life possible and the continuing honor of their memory.

2026-2027 Focus Goals

The 2026-2027 ALA administrative year emphasis is on education, with expanding the Spirit of Youth scholarships to two military spouses and celebrating the 20th anniversary of Give 10 to Education.

Key Program Statements:

- Support the therapeutic rehabilitation and healing of veterans through arts, crafts, and hobbies.
- Raise funds to meet the Department of Texas' obligation to the National Veteran's Creative Arts Festival.
- Educate, encourage and enroll ALA members to volunteer at VA health care facilities.
- Recognize, encourage and support the current Texas Deps and Reps.
- Collaborate with organizations that support veterans and their families, such as Wreaths Across America, Honor Flight Inc., and the Military and Veteran Caregiver Network.
- Look in your community for opportunities to support veterans, their caregivers, their families, and their survivors.
- Support The American Legion's Be the One mission.

Remember your mandatory unit Christmas Assessment is due to the Department of Texas by Dec. 1st.

Christmas Assessment Challenge

Units that send in their Christmas Assessment payment to the Department of Texas by Veteran's Day, November 11th, will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card. The drawing will be held at mid-Winter.

Ways to achieve goals

- Donate to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival and support fundraising efforts for this program.
- Enroll in the ALA Academy and educate members about serving as a Dep or Rep to the VA Medical Centers (VAMC) and VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC)
- Provide resources for veteran caregivers, family members and survivors. See the resources below.
- Use the resources below to find ways to promote and participate in the VA&R program.

Resources

- Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation Guide - A Guide for Volunteers
This resource can be downloaded at <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/guides/volunteer-guide> or purchased through Emblem Sales for a nominal fee.
- ALA Academy – Several courses are available. The following are a list of a few of the courses
 - Supporting Military Families in Your Community
 - Understanding the Difference between National Security and VA & R
 - Mission Through Caregiver Support
- Department of Texas Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation Guidelines/Policies
- Be the One training program <https://member.legion-aux.org/Be-the-One>
- How to Support the National Veteran's Creative Arts Festival
- Wreaths Across America <https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/>
- Quilts of Valor Foundation <https://www.qovf.org/>
- Honor Flights <https://www.honorflight.org/>
- Military and Veterans Caregiver Network
- Department of Texas VA&R Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ALAVARTX/>

Reports and Awards

*All Reports are due to the Department Chairman by **May 1, 2027***

Unit Award: Most Outstanding VA&R Program

The criteria for the awards will be based on the submitted narrative and pictures. For more details go to <https://www.legion-aux.org/Member/VAR-Annual-Reporting-Guidelines>



Head Cheerleaders

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