



American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Texas

P.O. Box 140407, Austin, TX 78714-0407



Bi-Monthly Bulletin
Volume 27, Issue 4
Feb/Mar, 2022

www.alatexas.org

512-476-7278

secretary@alatexas.org

Information from Headquarters

February

2nd Groundhog Day
13th Super Bowl LVI
14th Valentine's Day
21st Presidents Day

March

1st Mardi Gras
3rd National Anthem Day
17th St. Patrick's Day
20th Spring Begins
23rd National Tamale Day
29th National Vietnam War Veterans Day



Hola Texas and Happy New Year!!

Wow, it's 2022! Where does the time go?

We've had an interesting, fun and crazy six months. Since our last bulletin we've celebrated Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years and I hope your holidays were full of many blessings with family and friends.

We also celebrated our 101st birthday for Texas and hosted a visit from our National President, Kathy Daudistel.

I really want to thank everyone that was able to meet and greet President Kathy while she was here. We had a very busy schedule for her and she was actually able to visit both the San Antonio and Kerrville VA facilities. We had a great visit and were able to show her a Texas sized good time including a trip to the Alamo!

Next up is Midwinter, January 21-23, 2022 and we will have lots going on. Over the weekend, we'll have a speaker from K9s for Warriors and I hear through the grapevine that we may have some four-legged guests there also, paws crossed. Leadership has something very special planned, and I hear it's pretty fun. There will be raffles and fundraisers from our Committees, a couple of Membership drawings, a quick presentation from the SAL concerning their National Commander's Flag Challenge, 2022-2023 candidate announcements, a Four Chaplains service, a presentation from our Membership chair and a few more reports. Keep in mind that it is in Austin and things could change quickly so we suggest everyone have masks. It is not mandatory, merely a suggestion, you do you, and we hope to see you there. I almost forgot, Saturday after lunch we'll have a best dressed Texan contest to celebrate our 101 years. Texan can mean anything from boots and buckles to big hair. Maybe you're a Winter Texan, Football fan, Oil Rig worker, cattle rancher or whatever your version of a Texan is. It will be fun so I hope you participate. Yeehaw!

Good news!! I finally have a date for my Homecoming, and it will be February 26th in McAllen. I've had to move the date several times but this is it. All I can tell you for sure is that we will have a great time with great food! I'll send out more info after Midwinter but please save the date and let me know as soon as possible, if you will be joining us.

Crazy News! With everything going on, I don't know if anyone saw the flyer I received from the dog-nappers! Apparently Blue met a girl and I'm going to have grand-pups!! What? That's crazy. (See pic below) Ay Dios Mio!

Now, let's get serious for a moment, as you all start gearing up for conventions, I want to remind you of a few things. If you or any of your members haven't paid your 2022 dues by now, you can't run for an office or vote until your 2022 dues are paid. If your Unit hasn't paid their Christmas Assessment or Bond fee, you can not be seated at your District conventions. These things are non negotiable and according to ALAMIS, we have over 3800 "2021 members" that have not paid their 2022 dues. As of January 1, their membership expired, as of January 31, they are considered delinquent, either way, your privileges are suspended. With the exception of members passing, every single Department, especially the Great State of Texas, should be at or near 100% by this time every year, so please pay your dues. We can do this Texas!!

Lastly, 2021 and this first month of 2022 has been full of challenges and changes for all of us. Many of you have lost friends and loved ones and to all of you, I wish you healing prayers. Our Department was no exception, and we have lost many cherished members, all of whom were passionate about our Mission. It is in their honor, that we carry on and finish the work they started.

I'm looking forward to seeing some of you at Midwinter and hope to see more of you at your District conventions. Till then, much love and stay safe!

Honoring Their Service and Spreading Seeds of Goodwill.

Teresa Simmons Copeland, President 2021-2022

*Hell's mess,
I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas. I am doing good my kidnappers are treating
me great. On my way back to our galaxy I meet the love of my life Daisy. I can't wait
till you meet her she was kidnapped just like me. My kidnappers wanted me to let you
know the ransom just went up. Mom I want to come home, I love you and miss you.*

Always Blue 🐾

P.S. Mom I am going to a Father...



MYRA COOPER

VICE PRESIDENT

Hello auxiliary members, I am hoping that each of you are having as much fun and success this year as I am. I have learned a lot about the upper portion of the Auxiliary. You can believe that everything I have learned you will have access to as well.

I visited with the National President, Department President, newly appointed Secretary, and distinguished guest chair in San Antonio this past week. We had a great three days together. Learned a lot about San Antonio's veteran hospital, the K-9 for veterans, and the best part was the Army retirement center. This is a great facility, we had lunch and a tour of the facility that 5 former Veteran's vision approximately 35 years ago. The vision of these five individuals were well before their years. The vision they had was so advance was remarkable and should be spread throughout the Veteran committee.

The visit with our National President was an experience that I feel everyone should have. Kathy is such a remarkable person. I have not been this close to a National President, and if they are all as remarkable as she is the auxiliary is in good hands.

I have been following the membership reports and we all need to thank Teresa for picking such a great membership team. This membership committee keep us well informed as to our standing in Texas as well as National. The challenges they put out is something to think about.

I want to really give all the committee a great big "Thank You" for the great job each of you are doing this year. I see on Facebook what each of you are accomplishing and each of you make me so proud that I have become a leader and mentor in this great organization.

The finance committee is doing a great job. They are keeping us informed and question everything that seem out of place. The finance committee also ensure that each member is aware of everything that is happening with our finances. What could be more transparent than the way they keep us informed.

Lastly, I would like to remind each of you of that I am here for you. If you need assistance with any problem in your unit, district, or division that your chain of command does not give a satisfactory response or would just like a different take on a matter, feel free to contact me.

I am here for you and always will be, no matter what position I hold in the auxiliary. My motto is to always mentor and support.

Myra Cooper, vice President Department of TX

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS
MIDWINTER CONFERENCE, JANUARY 21-23, 2022
AGENDA**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2022

REGISTRATION: 2:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2022

REGISTRATION: 8:00 A.M.x

9:00 A.M. SESSION BEGINS

- WELCOME- Teresa Simmons Copeland, Department President
- INVOCATION- Department Chaplain, Mary Tatman
- POSTING OF COLORS - Department Sgt at Arms & Chairman of Pages, Vikki Tabor
- POW MIA Chair Cover- Vikki Tabor
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- in Unison
- PREAMBLE- in Unison
- GREETINGS - Brett Watson, American Legion Department Commander
- GREETINGS - Paul Dillard, American Legion National Commander

10:00 A.M.

- K9s for Warriors
- Leadership Committee

11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. - LUNCH

1:00 P.M. CONFERENCE RESUMES

- GREETINGS- Tom Arista, Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander
- SAL FLAG CHALLENGE - George Alva, District 20 SAL Commander
- GREETINGS - Mark Meysembourg, Legion Riders Director
- COSTUME CONTEST - Best Texan Costume Contest
- LEADERSHIP - Candy Zavala, Leadership Chairman
- BENEDICTION - Department Chaplain, Mary Tatman
- RECESS COLORS - Department Sgt at Arms & Chairman of Pages, Vikki Tabor
- RECESS till SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022

8:00 A.M. JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE

8:45 A.M. SESSION BEGINS

- CALL TO ORDER- Teresa Simmons Copeland, Department President
- INVOCATION - Department Chaplain, Mary Tatman
- POSTING OF COLORS - Department Sgt at Arms & Chairman of Pages, Vikki Tabor
- POW MIA CHAIR COVER - Vikki Tabor
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- in Unison
- PREAMBLE - in Unison
- CONVENTION CITY - Department Vice President, Myra Cooper
- MEMBERSHIP REPORT - Turn-in and Revitalization- Membership Chairman, Carlene Ashworth
- PROGRAMS - Updates and Reports
- INTRODUCTIONS - Department Candidates 2022-2023
- DRAWINGS
- ANNOUNCEMENTS - Department Secretary, Tina Hill
- BENEDICTION - Department Chaplain, Mary Tatman
- RETIREMENT OF COLORS – Department Sgt at Arms & Chairman of Pages, Vikki Tabor
- POW MIA Chair Cover- Vikki Tabor
- ADJOURN - Department President, Teresa Simmons Copeland

HONORING THEIR SERVICE and SPREADING SEEDS OF GOODWILL



Americanism Essay Contest

The Americanism Essay Contest was created to teach students the value of patriotism and what it means to be Americans. Thousands of students participate in the program each year and help promote a lifelong respect of our flag and country. Students (grades 3 to 12) explore the fundamental rights and freedoms we enjoy today. Each year's contest has a different theme; one student in each category per division is awarded a prize. There is a category for students with special needs.

Current Essay Theme: "How can we support families who provide care to their Veterans?"

Please mail to :
Maria Delgado Cazares
Americanism Chair
14304 Pacific Point Dr.
El Paso, TX 79938
NO LATER THAN MARCH 1ST



*American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas
Americanism
2021-2022*



1st Division
Kathy Leseman Richeson
kathyala297@gmail.com

2nd Division
Janice McAda
janice_mcada@yahoo.com

3rd Division
Marla Ebner
marlaebner@yahoo.com

4th Division Chairman
Maria Delgado Cazares
cazares4114@yahoo.com



AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST 202& Cover Sheet

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into six classes. One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund. National winners will be posted at www.ALAforVeterans.org after convention.

Essay Title: *"How can we support families who provide care to their Veterans?"*

Essay Classes:

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level.

Essay Checklist:

- ☐ Class competing in _____
- ☐ Sponsoring ALA unit _____
- ☐ Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- ☐ Completed essay coversheet as first page of essay
- ☐ Word count of essay _____
- ☐ Due date for student to return to ALA unit _____

To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:

Student Name: _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____

School Name: _____

School City/State: _____

Teacher Name and Signature: _____

Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.):

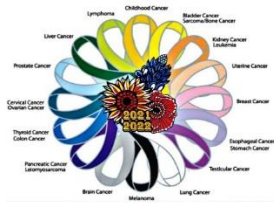
Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: _____

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: _____

Unit winner due to Department on: _____ Department: _____

Signature of Department Chairman: _____

Department winner due to National Americanism Division Chairman by April 15, 2022



Hello all the beautiful members of the ALA Department of Texas....

It is that time again for our bulletin to be sent out and we are still plugging away with donations to this worthwhile fund to do our part at trying to find a cure for this dreadful disease through your generous donations.

Also, we are getting ready for our Midwinter Conference next week in beautiful Austin, Texas starting February 21st – 23rd and I for one along with the CR Team, can't wait to see everyone and catch up on all the stories.

We are excited to bring to you our latest fundraising endeavor hoping it gives some added **surprise** and enjoyment to the conference and you help CR with your donations.

CR has a raffle of three \$100.00 gift cards, the tickets are \$1.00 ea. Or six for \$5.00, this is ongoing until Department Convention when the drawing will be held, but at Midwinter Conference the team will be bringing **"POPPERS"** with all kinds of **surprises** in them and there in holds the **surprise!!!**

We can't hardly contain ourselves with the excitement, so be safe in your travels to the Midwinter Conference and please bring a little money.....



2021 – 2022 Cancer Research Committee

Division 1: Janey Arista: igkbar@gmail.com

Division 2: Sharon Phelps, Chairman: sharonphelps6@gmail.com

Division 3: Michelle Muth: michellemuth74@gmail.com

Division 4: Lori Doctor: vickidocter@yahoo.com

Growing Our Membership by Cultivating Kindness

HOLA EVERYONE AND GREETINGS FROM YOUR CANCER RESEARCH COMMITTEE.

NOW THAT I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, WE WOULD LIKE TO ISSUE YOU A CHALLENGE!!!

BEFORE YOU STOP READING AND SAY "NOT ANOTHER CHALLENGE"

HEAR ME OUT BECAUSE THIS CHALLENGE WON'T COST YOU A DIME, BUT JUST A LITTLE TIME.

READY TO LISTEN NOW.....OKAY HERE IT IS...

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH CANCER AND HOW IT HAS IMPACTED YOUR LIFE OR SOMEONE DEAR TO YOU.

WE NEED YOUR NAME, UNIT NUMBER AND A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE.

EMAIL THE INFORMATION TO ME @ SHARONPHELPS6@GMAIL.COM

WHY YOUR ASK...

THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE WILL BE PUT IN A JOURNAL TO BE PRESENTED TO MADAM PRESIDENT TERESA AT HER CONVENTION IN JULY, "AS A SURPRISE" SO SHE CAN LOOK BACK OVER HER YEAR AND SEE JUST HOW MANY OF US IN THE DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY THIS DISEASE.

THE CANCER RESEARCH TEAM WANTS TO GIVE BACK TO YOU FOR ALL YOU GIVE TO CANCER RESEARCH.

THIS WILL BE YOUR STORIES, AS YOU TELL THEM.....

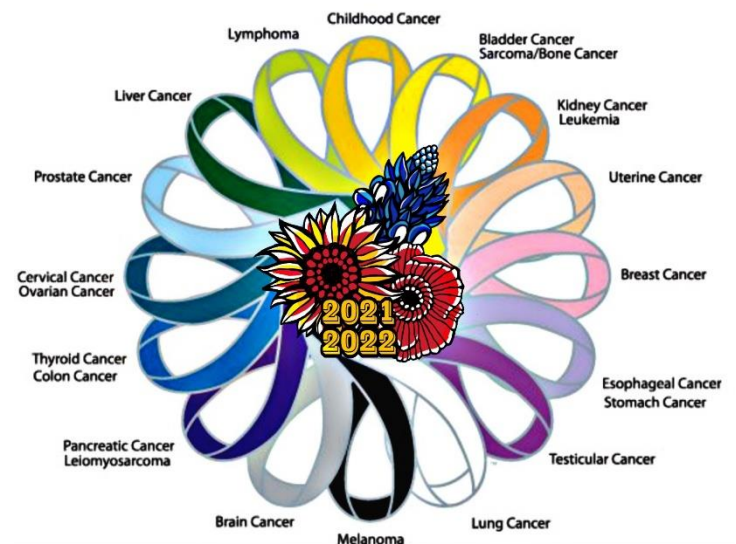
THANK YOU FROM THE CR COMMITTEE

DIVISION I ---JANEY ARISTA

DIVISION II---SHARON PHELPS, CHAIRPERSON

DIVISION III----MICHELLE MUTH

DIVISION IV ----VICKIE DOCTER



What's Up? Looking for Fulfillment and want to put joy in your life and the lives of others?

1. Get your Unit and/or District President to get members' approval to write a check to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation in any amount.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, established in 1954, was developed as a repository of funds from individuals who wished to contribute to the betterment of children in this country. Funds are used as follows: awarding millions of dollars in grants, improving the quality of life for children, and contributing to the needs of children and youth. For more information, go online to www.legion.org/childwelfare.

CHALLENGE: Let's get every unit or district to donate by the beginning of April, Children and Youth Month.

2. Get from members and/or school, church, community agencies the name(s) of youth who deserve the **Good Deed Award** and/or the **Youth Hero Award**. Take pictures and send to chairpersons and District President.
3. Start planning activities for Children and Youth and Military Child Month – **APRIL**. Plan Purple Up events. Solicit help from schools to identify military children to celebrate and acknowledge their service as military children.

Service Time! We can celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day all month long by challenging kids to do Acts of Kindness in small or large ways. Check with local food banks or food pantries to see what needs they have. Inform school and church student groups of these needs; connect them to agencies in need of volunteers. Involve ALA Juniors in community service at care centers. Have them write and send cards to people in care centers and to deployed military.

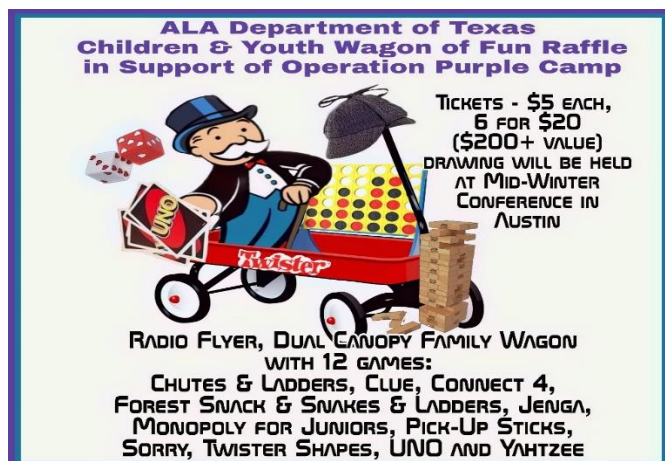
C & Y CHALLENGES – LET'S NOT FORGET, SIMPLE AS A – B – C!

- A. Expand and improve an existing C & Y activity/event. Send information about how activity was expanded and how the results improved or increased. See form A.
- B. Youth Creative Arts Contest - Theme: How Texas Youth View Democracy and Freedom with Rights and Responsibilities. Entry deadline – Give to ALA member who gets entry to Mid-Winter conference on morning of **January 22, 2022**. Notify Div. Chairperson and Carol Chance Fleury of participation. See contest flyer.
- C. Wagon of Fun Raffle – Get Legionnaires, Sons, neighbors, and family members to send money for you to buy them tickets for Wagon of Fun drawing at Mid-Winter. See raffle flyer.

Dept. of Texas Children & Youth Division Chairpersons

Division I – Glenda Barton – g.a.barton976@hotmail.com
 Division II – Carol Chance Fleury – cechance50@gmail.com
 Division III – Raquel Swayze – ms.swayze@gmail.com
 Division IV – Sabrina Melton - Sgmelton78@gmail.com

Wagon of Fun Raffle



Form A. What is happening with Children & Youth at your Unit/District?

While we are not doing mid-year reports/narratives, we need to share activities/events with others and document our accomplishments.

The State of Texas Children & Youth committee wants to recognize units/districts for their Children & Youth activities/events at the mid-Winter conference. Please submit the form below with a summary of your accomplishments to your Division Chairperson (see bottom of form). Please indicate if you expanded an existing event and how it was improved.

Unit _____ City _____ District _____ Division _____

Events with approximate date: _____

Number served _____ Number of ALA/Jr. members involved _____

Community agencies involved _____

How existing program was improved/expanded (if applicable) _____

Submitted by _____ Title _____

Send to your Division C & Y Chairperson or Carol Chance Fleury before Mid-Winter Conference.

Division I – Glenda Barton – g.a.barton976@hotmail.com

Division II – Carol Chance Fleury – cechance50@gmail.com

Division III – Raquel Swayze – ms.swayze@gmail.com

Division IV – Sabrina Melton - Sgmelton78@gmail.com

Children & Youth Creative Arts Contest

For youth under age 18, do one or more of the following:

Write a poem, song lyrics, or narrative/play about how Texas youth view their freedoms, rights and responsibilities or develop/advance democratic practices, especially the values of **freedom, justice, and equality**. Draw a picture or create a collage of what democracy, rights, and responsibilities mean to Texas youth.

Entry Levels and Prizes for Winners: Elementary (K - 5th) - \$25

Middle/Intermediate School (6th-8th) - \$50

High School (9th-12th) - \$75

Entry deadline – Give to ALA member (before 1/21/22) who gets entry to Mid-Winter conference on morning of **January 22, 2022**. Notify Div. Chairperson and Carol Chance Fleury of participation.

Div. I Chairperson – Glenda Barton [email – g.a.barton976@hotmail.com](mailto:g.a.barton976@hotmail.com)

Div. II Chairperson – Carol Chance Fleury email – cechance50@gmail.com

Div. III Chairperson – Raquel Swayze email – ms.swayze@gmail.com

Div. IV Chairperson – Sabrina Melton email - Sgmelton78@gmail.com



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Boxes for Troops: Unit 490 in Post send boxes to grateful Troops, as did Unit 19 Midland. Let's keep showing our support throughout the year!

Winter came late this year; it's cold outside! Support your local Food Banks and Salvation Army Shelters with sleeping bags, coats, hats and gloves that can be distributed. Unit 19 in Midland donated \$150 of white towels and wash cloths to Salvation Army when approached with the need. Units 283 and 490 had successful Coat Drives for their Communities.

Super Bowl is February 13th! What a great time to do a Fundraising Football Pool that pays out half, while your Auxiliary uses the other half for local community needs! A 50/50 Raffle is fun and helps replenish your Community Service Funds.

Valentine's Day weekend can be an opportunity to organize a "Share the Love" Food Drive for local Food Banks. Set up a table and boxes at your Post dance and ask for canned goods and non-perishables at the door.


Mardi Gras is Tuesday March 1. Unit 19 in Midland plans a Cajun Dinner for \$10/plate to benefit their Veteran's Wish List Fund. Try out those spicy recipes, and donate any leftovers to the Soup Kitchen.

The Community Service Committee will Raffle off a "Sweet Treat Box" as Fundraiser at Mid-Winter! All proceeds will go to replenish Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Department of Texas.

Here's to Sowing Seeds of Goodwill in our Communities!

Your Community Service Team Members:

Division 1 Susan (Susie) Frizzell 903-647-3016 Susiefrizzell@yahoo.com	Division 2 Christal Bryan (Duhon) 409-466-6677 Shonneekeduhon@yahoo.com
Division 3 Denise Yanus, Chair 210-771-0768 dbyanusalatx@gmail.com	Division 4 Jean Bennett 432-254-3668 Jeaniebgood@yahoo.com



Constitution & Bylaws

New Year ! New Ideas !

Remember the American Legion Auxiliary documents that govern our operations are transparent to all members. Share them with all willingly. Provide copies to new members and officers (especially the Parliamentarian). Keep a copy on file in the meeting room for all members.

Demonstrating good governance, fairness and transparency is important to assuring members that the American Legion Auxiliary is true to its founding principles as stated in the Preamble.

Standing Rules are items that refer to individual Unit operations that do not counter any National or Department directives. These could include such items as date, place and time of meetings; Unit funds for cards and memorials for members; and special joint programs with Legion, Sons, or Rider functions

Units can download an updated version of both the Department and Unit constitution as needed from the department web site. The language of both has been modified to be gender neutral and includes procedures for emergency situations and remote meetings.

Education Challenge

What is the 100th Day of School celebration?

The actual date varies but most classes reach their 100th day sometime between the end of January and mid-February. The day is a symbolic celebration of students' academic and personal achievements.

HOW CAN YOU HELP US CELEBRATE?



We challenge each Unit
in the Department of
Texas to donate \$100

for Educaation
ScholarShips by
February 14th

Each Unit that donates
will go into a drawing
for \$100

Show your love and
Support to our Children
by donating today



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS **Finance Committee News**

I HAVE SAID IT BEFORE AND I WILL SAY IT AGAIN, THE FINANCE COMMITTEE STILL NEEDS OUR MEMBERS AND UNITS HELP TO BUILD OUR GENERAL FUND. YES WE ARE ASKING AGAIN FOR YOUR HELP! WE ARE WORKING TO DO AND ACCOMPLISH THE SUCCESSES OF OUR PROGRAMS TO HELP OUR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT IN HELPING ALL OF US TO GET THIS DONE!

We have a Great Hotel Raffle!

For Just a purchase of \$10.00 a ticket, you will have the following!!!!

A 3- Night Stay at the Renaissance Austin Hotel (Convention Hotel)

Paid Registration to the 2022 Convention (Legionnaire or Auxiliary)

* Luncheon Ticket *

* VA& R Breakfast Ticket*

Drawing will be on National Poppy Day, May 27, 2022

Contact your Finance Committee or District Presidents President's for Tickets

Here's your chance to show your ALA pride & support of the ones we love so dear, by getting your charms on!!! **Get your Italian Charm Bracelets!**

Did I forget!! We have an AWARD!!

The member that sells the most tickets for our Hotel Raffle will receive a Paid Registration for the 2022 Department Convention, a Ticket to the Membership Luncheon, and a Ticket for the VA&R Breakfast!!! What a Deal!!!



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS
TEXAS BLUEBONNET GIRLS STATE 2022**

The 2022 session of Texas Bluebonnet Girls State will be held at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, Texas.

Dates: Sunday, June 19, 2022 through Saturday, June 26, 2022

Fee: \$425.00 per reservation

GS information will be distributed to ALA Units and Schools before the end of January, 2022. Please contact the GS Registrar (registrar@alatexas.org or 512-476-7278) in the event that you do not receive GS information.

Reservations/fees must be postmarked March 1, 2022, or after. Please read the information carefully as some of the rules and dates have changed. Please be sure that the information gets to the GS Contact as quickly as possible. Another great session is being planned for the 2022 Girls State Citizens.

2021-2022 LEADERSHIP

What is this program and why do we have it?

The Leadership program raises awareness of ALA Leadership and various Leadership development opportunities.

What is the 2021-2022 Texas Leadership Committee's Goal?

The Texas Leadership Committee believes that, along with leadership development opportunities offered by the National Leadership Committee, leadership in Texas should be developed starting with the members at the unit level. Our goal is to help grow and cultivate the seeds planted in all unit members' hearts when they joined the ALA by familiarizing the unit members with the ALA's procedures, its programs, the officer positions, traditions and the "why" of much we do.

DON'T MISS MIDWINTER!

There will be an ALA Family Division Face Off so brush up on your ALA knowledge. You better get moo'ving and register!



ALA

Family Face Off

Thank You for Inviting us into your Districts & Units!

Your Leadership Committee has been fortunate to spend time sharing the basics of the ALA and its programs with members across this great State of ours but the year isn't over. There is still time to set up a training. Gather a couple of units together for a half-day training and then Reach out to your Division Team Member to schedule..

As an incentive to schedule trainings, each unit attending a training will be entered into a \$100 drawing per Division. Each Division's winner will be drawn at the 2022 Department Convention.

Division 1

Holly Heatly

214-263-9442

heatly453@gmail.com

Division 2

Leigh Anne Stewart

936-662-0735

LA@bdrushlaw.com

Division 3

Candy Zavala, Chairman

210-559-6786

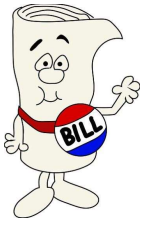
czavala@gvec.net

Division 4

Joan Crider

830-796-5474

j_crider720@hotmail.com



Legislative Committee

Units, now is the time to decide to encourage and empower members to be more knowledgeable, to take action on The American Legion's legislative priorities. For the upcoming elections create a "meet the candidate or discuss the issue" event. Move quickly to make it happen for the Spring elections or establish your timeline now for Fall sessions. Please remind all Legion Family Members that we, as a group, must be "non-partisan". If you host an event you must invite all involved candidates and treat all equally.

A "meet the candidate" night is a question-and-answer session where all candidates for a specific election are invited to answer questions. It is not intended to be a debate.

Suggested Date of Event: 2-3 weeks before elections

3 Months Prior to the Event

1. In an effort to make this a Legion Family event, work with your Legion Post and SAL Squadron (if applicable) to form a planning committee. If this isn't a Legion Family event, the unit Legislative chairman and unit president should appoint a planning committee. Identify a place, date and time for the event. Map out a plan to get the word out to the general community. Think about if you'll serve refreshments; will they be donated or do you need to buy them? Set guidelines for candidates before the event about literature, political signs and handouts.
 - o If the place is the post home, ensure you have approval for the space and it's on the calendar. Determine if your post allows political material (like signs) to be displayed on post property
2. After the candidate filling deadline has passed, pull a list of candidates from your state 'selection board or Supervisor of Elections' website. Prepare a spreadsheet of all ballot-ready candidates (local, state and/or federal) who will be invited. List their name, address, phone, email, party and office. Allow ample time to contact them and receive their response.
3. Mail and email invitation letters with Legion Family Point of Contact name and the deadline date to reply. Remember: The Legion Family is nonpartisan, so you need to invite **ALL** candidates. Follow up periodically with candidates who have not replied. Suggest to the candidate they send another representative if there is a conflict in their scheduling.

2 Months Prior

1. The planning committee arranges for volunteers for the following roles:
 - o Moderator (1) – Someone impartial and ideally not a part of the Legion Family, such as local news reporter or radio host or someone known and respected by the community. Using someone on TV or radio also ensures that it will be announced on TV/radio.
 - o Timekeeper (1) –To keep everyone on track. Each candidate should get an equal amount of time each round.

- Legion Family Ambassadors (Several)–To man a table on programs and services your Legion Family offers. They should also have membership applications on hand.
 - Servers (Several) – Have a small team of volunteers serve refreshments.
 - Crowd Control (Several) –Volunteers to ensure that no attendee gets out of control. (Legion Family Sergeants at Arms might be great for this role).
 - Screeners (Several) - Volunteers to collect and review questions from attendees. Selected questions will be given to the moderator for a Q&A period. **Note: Candidates can stay after to talk with people and address their issues.*
 - *Public Relations Coordinator (1)–Someone who will ensure that event is advertised in local newspapers, social media, websites and any other media outlet. They might invite a radio station or local TV station to stream the event live. (They might form a team to help promote the event on social media, create a hashtag, etc.).*
2. *The planning committee sets an agenda and how the event will proceed. Depending on the number of candidates in attendance, allow time for opening and closing speeches for each (this could be 2 to 3 minutes). After opening speeches and introductions, the moderator will ask for questions (that have been screened).*
- *If question is to a particular candidate, allow 1-2 minutes for the answer and allow opposing candidate the same amount of time. There should be no rebuttals!*
 - *If it is a general question, the moderator can ask any candidate to address it, but again only 1-2 minutes per candidate.*

Day of Event

1. Set up the room with the candidates in front of the audience.
2. Prepare tent cards for all candidates with their name, party and the office they're seeking. You may wish to seat candidates alphabetically in an effort to not show favoritism.
3. Set up a table to talk about the programs and services your Legion Family offers. They should also have membership applications on hand and other Legion Family branded information.
4. Setup a table for voter registration¹. Members of your Americanism committee might be good to man this table, or you can invite an outside organization, like the League of Women Voters to help with the voter registration.

After the Event

1. Follow up with thank you notes to all the candidates who participated.
2. If media did not attend, work with your Public Relations chairman to send pictures to be published and posted on social media.

Your 2021-2022 Committee Are:

Brenda Towers – bjingranbury@aol.com (817)578-0270

Lucy Barrington – Lkbarrington11@gmail.com (806) 786-8011

We also have a Facebook page - **ALA Department of Texas Legislative**



Membership



Are you ready for The Rumble..... The Time Is Now



Cheer: Who You Challenging



Answer: TEXAS ALA Membership

If EVERY member takes the challenge to recruit or renew one member, Texas will make our goal of 100%. Our membership makes a difference in our Veterans' lives. Our organization and our veterans are depending on us. So, take another look at "WHO DO YOU KNOW", and take advantage of all the membership challenges and incentives being offered this year. Together we can achieve a WIN/WIN for Texas.

Mid-Winter has come and gone, hope you enjoyed all the membership awards and incentives. Now, it is time to set our goals to finishing our challenges and meeting our membership goals. There is still time and the membership team is counting on each of you to take Texas to 100%. TEXAS we can do this, let's do this with our Southern style, charm and grace

Honor their Service by spreading seeds of Goodwill by asking everyone you know to join the American Legion Auxiliary. 'WHO DO YOU KNOW'

Texas Membership Team

Carlene Ashworth Chairman

Paula Rainey, Division 1

Mary Waddell, Division 3

Gayle Simpson, Division 4



Donna Dillard, Chairman
threedtexas@gmail.com
903-870-8770

Debbie Fiero, Committee Member
debfiirro@elp.rr.com
915-276-2163



National Security

Partnering with and Utilizing Other Organizations to enhance National Security

FEMA Community Emergency Response Teams

The American Legion Auxiliary, through its National Security Program, calls upon ALA members to maintain strong communities at home. Part of that includes being prepared for natural and man-made emergencies that might occur.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed a program to prepare citizens for emergency response. FEMA's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates community members on disaster preparedness in their local communities. Training is offered on four topics: fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Once trained, CERT members can assist their communities in preparing for and responding to emergencies.

Training in community emergency response is a great way for an individual ALA member to fulfill her service obligation independent of others. It's also a great opportunity for an ALA unit to organize a group of ALA members to train together.

How to Register for a CERT Training:

1. Go to www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams. Click on "Find Nearby CERT Programs".
2. You will be redirected to a page where you can input your ZIP Code. This page will produce a list of CERT programs near you.
3. Once you select a local program, you will be provided contact information.
 - a. The number, type, duration, and frequency of trainings vary by your local program.
4. Contact the designated individual to register and begin training!

The ALA encourages members to serve as CERT members to identify themselves as such, as doing so brings visibility of ALA to community members who may not know us. Please also be sure to report your volunteer activities and hours to your unit's National Security chairman, the committee with oversight of ALA's homeland security activities.

FEMA's CERT webpage:

www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams

Providing food for our military and their families

The following is from an article through National News:

For the first time, the Department of Defense commissioned a 90-day battle plan: Identify hungry military families and connect them with help.

“The issue is more than just a humanitarian problem. It directly impacts national security”, said Josh Protas, vice president of public policy for MAZON, an organization that has done extensive research on military hunger.

Armed forces members enduring food insecurity are more likely to be distracted in the field and less likely to re-enlist”, he said. That talent loss may be generational because military service tends to run in families.

“We’re doing a disservice to future recruitment efforts,” Protas said. “We could be losing good people because they can’t support their families.”

It’s a hidden crisis that’s existed for years inside one of the most well-funded institutions on the planet and has only worsened during the coronavirus pandemic.

As many as 160,000 active-duty military members are having trouble feeding their families.

That word comes from Feeding America, which coordinates the work of more than 200 food banks around the United States.

The group estimates that 29% of troops in the most junior enlisted ranks faced food insecurity during the previous year.

In response, a robust network of military-adjacent charitable organizations such as the Armed Services YMCA and Blue Star Families has developed an infrastructure of food banks near major domestic bases.

Contact your local food bank source or go to the National ALA website for ways you and your Unit can help this cause.

Remember that the National Security website offers a world of resources to members and their Units on “how to” use the program. All you have to do is go to the National ALA website at:
<https://www.legion-aux.org/>

There you will find numerous National Security key resources.

You can find even more detailed information about the National Security program if you sign in to the member portal on the National website and go to the National Security program link.

LET'S PLAY NATIONAL SECURITY TRIVIA!!!!

Each issue of the Department Bulletin the National Security program will pose a trivia question. If you respond with a correct answer on the Department National Security Facebook page you will receive a token gift at the Department Convention in July. Simply go to the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ALANSinTX> and find the post with this bulletins trivia question. Respond with your answer in the comments of that post.

THIS ISSUES NATIONAL SECURITY TRIVIA QUESTION:

What is the difference between a Food Bank and a Food Pantry?

Bonus if you can name a local food pantry that provides food for military families in your community?

Past Presidents Parley

Let's give 'em something to Taco 'bout!!!

MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Have you promoted the scholarships and found recipients to sponsor?

Has your unit had a fund raiser to benefit the Medical Scholarship fund?

Has your unit sent in donations to the Medical Scholarship fund?

I know all of you are struggling to get our units back into the “swing of things” and some are struggling with new COVID issues but supporting our programs

UNIT MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Look around.

Which member is ALWAYS there to do what needs to be done?

Which member is the one you can COUNT ON to 'get 'er dun' ?

Nominate HER/HIM!! (remember never served in a capacity above that of unit president)

SERVICE WOMAN OF THE YEAR

She doesn't have to be in Texas.

She doesn't have to be a member.

Read the rules (on the Texas ALA website: www.alatexas.org. under programs)

There are 5 opportunities for each and every unit!! [Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Space]

AND We are working on our skit plans for Department Convention – plan to be there...you won't want to miss this one!

LET'S GIVE 'EM SOMETHING TO TACO 'BOUT!!

~marty peters, chair; Mickie Prendergast; Betty Rohan; Lynda Horton-Turk



POPPY PROGRAM

Poppy Contest: Promoting to Schools and Students

The American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Contest is an excellent means of sharing our mission with students and the community. Auxiliary members working with students to instill the meaning of the poppy program will not only increase awareness of our organization but also promote patriotism with youth and within communities.

There are seven classes for the poster contest. The level of the learner will often dictate the best method for approaching the contest. The involvement of schools will often depend on the school size and the amount of connectedness to the community. As the local connection, you will have the best awareness of how to approach your own school. Call the person that you know the best. That may be the Principal, the Head of Guidance, an individual Teacher, or someone else that you know. You will need to get permission from the school leaders to enter the school. Once you have a contact point, follow their suggestions. They will have the best plans to make your project a success. As a general approach, you will work with the teachers to make it a class project.

At the Class I level (grades 2&3), you will want to keep it light and fun. These are not accomplished artists but often produce some very thoughtful posters. Students may feel this is serious business at the Class II level (grades 4 & 5). Ensure students know that they cannot fail; completing the poster is essential as they become self-aware. By Class III level (grades 6&7), you may begin to see some actual artistic ability. They need to remember that creativity and neatness will be considered and the talent of the artist. We want to encourage and promote the poppy symbol - not to make this a source of anxiety and fear. By Class IV (grades 8 & 9), students will be taking their artwork seriously. Make sure they feel supported. By this point, the posters should show some great ideas artistically presented. It should still be fun, though. Class V and Class VI (grades 10 & 11, and 12) are often very serious about their art and should also be aware of subject matter. Praise and recognition are essential to all students regardless of age level. Class VII is the Special Needs group which includes students in Special Education classes, those identified and on the waiting list, or students unable to attend school due to the lack of programs. The teachers working with these students will have the best advice to help them. No single approach works here because each learner has their own abilities and limitations. If the school cannot participate in the Poppy contest program, work with other groups, including your juniors, or individuals as long as they are under the direct supervision of the Unit. The aim is to promote the Poppy and its meaning. Be sure to follow the rules regarding size, etc., so that the posters are not disqualified. The Poppy Contest should be a fun, learning experience for the participants. Keep your interactions upbeat and positive. Be sure to ask if you don't know something, so you do not give the incorrect answer and cost a participant an award. Our students learn on many levels working with the Poppy poster contest, their art skills progress, learn about the Auxiliary Poppy program, and increase their awareness of patriotism. In addition, they gain confidence in themselves along with public recognition as the Poppy posters are often placed in schools and businesses to promote the Poppy Program.

The Poppy posters are due to the Southern Division Poppy Chairman (MaryAnn Paul) by June 1, 2022. Poppy poster contest rules can be found on our Department website (alatexas.org).

Don't forget the **Poppy Challenge: Poppy in the Window of Each Veteran**. Your Unit can make a Poppy postcard which is included in this bulletin. The postcards are formatted so that you can print two (2) cards per page. Your Unit can take these to your local nursing homes and ask if they can be placed on veterans' windows or doors.

Poppy Questions & Answers:

- Is the purple poppy used in the ALA Poppy Program?

The poppy broadens a tradition that dates back to the American Legion Auxiliary's first National Convention in the early 1920s when the red poppy was adopted as The American Legion Family's memorial flower. Today, it remains an iconic symbol of honor for the sacrifice of our veterans, and the only color the Legion Family supports. However, ALA members distribute millions of poppies and poppy items annually across the country in exchange for donations that go directly to assist disabled and hospitalized veterans in our communities. Members are still welcome to distribute a purple poppy, and they can align the activities with our ALA Community Service program regarding hours served, donations given/received, etc.

- What can we post on the ALA National Poppy Facebook page?

This group is about the ALA Poppy program where we can share ideas and events about that program. Our other programs and outside causes are worthwhile, but not the focus of this group.

- Can Poppy Funds be used for AEF (Auxiliary Emergency Fund) donations?

Unfortunately, Poppy Funds may not be used for AEF donations as the criteria for assistance eligibility differs between the two. Poppy funds are for living veterans, servicemembers and their immediate families. AEF is designed to help Auxiliary members who have maintained membership for the current year and two previous. Because someone is eligible for AEF does NOT make them instantly eligible for poppy funds and vice versa.

Please feel free to reach out to the Poppy Committee should you have any questions regarding the Poppy Program.

Make sure to order your Veteran made Poppies through our Department headquarters. We encourage all ALA members to use their Unit Poppy funds within your Post/Unit and Communities to help our Nation's heroes and their families.

Remember every day is Poppy day!

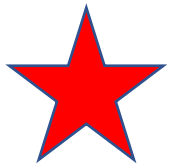
2021-2022 Poppy Committee:

Division 1 – MaryAnn Paul, Chairman, mapminmol@gmail.com

Division 2 – Caroline Taylor, cstala132@gmail.com

Division 4 – Virginia Ondov, virgondov@gmail.com





**Proud home
of a Veteran**



**Proud home
of a Veteran**





**Proud home
of a Veteran
Caregiver**



**Proud home
of a Veteran
Caregiver**





TEXAS PUBLIC RELATIONS 2021-2022



Don't forget Challenge #3 continues through January 31st. Post your Year in Review. Add #PRchallenge3 and be entered into a drawing for \$25 Gift Card

We are quickly approaching the end of our reporting year. Please start thinking about and compiling the information related to your programs. EVERYBODY DOES PR whether you know it or not.

Did Your Unit ?

- Create a poster or flyer for an event you sponsored
- Get mentioned in the newspaper
- Create a Newsletter
- Send Thank-you Notes
- Post on social media
- Do things in the community

THAT IS

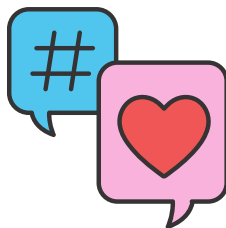


Challenge #4

Submit an end of year Narrative report by April 15th. Don't forget to include information for the following awards.

Department Awards

WANT SOCIAL MEDIA HELP?



We will host some zooms to help you with your social media journey. Register at <https://t.ly/kf34> or scan the QR code below.



Unit

- ◆ New Website or Social Media
- ◆ Most Outstanding PR Program
- ◆ Best Use of Social Media to promote Auxiliary Programs

Members

- ◆ ALA Brand Ambassador
- ◆ Best Promotion via Social Media

CONTACT US



Division 1 - Tiffany Troxclair (chair) txaggiemomof3@gmail.com

Division 2 - Rita Redd Alarr3@consolidated.net

Division 3 - Connie Thomas thomasconnie551@gmail.com

Division 4 - Teresa Wheeler nannyandgrandado4@gmail.com



FEBRUARY & MARCH BULLETIN 2022

WE WILL HAVE ANOTHER LOTTO HAT AT MID WINTER FOR MORE INCENTIVES!!

THANK YOU TO ALL UNITS WHO SENT IN THEIR CHRISTMAS ASSESSMENTS.

Thanks to you we were able to give \$10 to all 1,595 veteran patients in Texas for Christmas. If you have not done so, please get your Christmas Assessment sent in ASAP so that we have 100% of your required Christmas Assessment collected for this term!

THANK YOU TO ALL UNITS MAKING A MINIMUM DONATION OF \$25 TO DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS FOR PRESIDENT TERESA'S K9S FOR WARRIORS SERVICE DOG FUND BY 11/11!

You were entered in our cash drawing for \$100 at Mid-Winter. Please keep fundraising for this awesome project as we will have another challenge shortly. We still need donations.

ALL UNITS DONATING A MINIMUM OF \$25 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS FOR THE NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL (NVCAF) BY DECEMBER 1ST were entered in a cash drawing for \$100 at Mid-Winter. Texas sends in \$5,000 every year to support this wonderful, healing event so please continue to help us raise that donation money! Another fundraising challenge incentive will be announced shortly.

VA&R GENERAL FUND CHALLENGE RAISED \$6,875 from 46 Units and 2 individuals. Thank you! This fund pays for the wish list items and necessities our Reps and Deps deliver to our Veteran patients, plus their mileage, etc. year-round. Cash Drawings at Mid-Winter. More fundraising challenges announced soon.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS AND IDEAS!!

Shoot any original photos to janie@vail.net of your Unit VA&R related service activities and any fun ideas you had to support our veterans during another year of limited access. The best ideas will be recognized and sent out to all the Texas Units to inspire and motivate those who may be discouraged with the ongoing challenge of serving our veterans and their families during this pandemic. With a little creativity we can do it!

DON'T FORGET NATIONAL PRESIDENT KATHY DAUDISTEL'S EMPHASIS THIS YEAR IS ON SUPPORTING AND RECOGNIZING OUR CAREGIVERS. Who do you know that cares for an ill or disabled Veteran without pay year-round? We have certificates for both adults and children who go above and beyond as Caregivers. Please send us their names and brief description of their service with photos if you have them to janie@vail.net. We will get them a certificate and post their story on our Facebook page.



KEY PROGRAM STATEMENTS

Support rehabilitation and healing of veterans through arts, crafts, and hobbies.

- **Support veteran caregivers, family members and survivors.**
- **Enroll Auxiliary members as VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) volunteers at VA health care facilities.**
- **Help The American Legion, State Department of Veterans Affairs and Chamber of Commerce promote job fairs for veterans and their families.**
- **You say here isn't a VA hospital close to your community? Find opportunities for Auxiliary members to serve veterans in your area such as serving the homeless, hosting a dinner to honor local veterans or Gold Star families, hold an event to honor caregivers of veterans and award certificates, organize a Veteran Creative Arts Festival or work with your community to organize a Veteran Stand Down.**
- **You can also contact your VA&R Committee Member to get with VA Hospital Reps in your Division who have "Wish List" needs from their veteran hospital patients, then you can donate items on their lists from your Unit. Gardening supplies, musical instruments, games like Bocce Ball and craft supplies are fun ideas that are often overlooked and can be ordered and shipped directly from suppliers.**

REPORTING IS SO IMPORTANT!

Now is the perfect time to start collecting data for your Unit Impact Reports and Year-End Narratives. Don't forget to include up to 6 amazing photos of your Unit VA&R activities. Let's work toward 100% reporting! Include: number of veterans and family members helped, amounts donated, type of aid such as gas, rent, utilities, food, toys, clothing, electronics, craft supplies, musical instruments, dollar amounts raised and donated, "in-kind" donations and estimated values, scholarships awarded to veterans and children of veterans. Unit numbers are combined for our Texas report that goes to National and then to Congress, so get us your information so we can report it! Include original photos. You can also email photos to janievail.net now to Post on Facebook. KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK! "THANK YOU" REPS AND DEPS! GREAT JOB EVERYONE!

1ST Division OPEN

**2ND Division Beverly Sloan
Cell: 936-581-4462**

**3RD Division Mariana Sutherland
Cell: 210-834-4318**

**4TH Division/Chair Janie Bennett
Cell: 970-390-1302
janie@vail.net**

**A. L. A. DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS
WAYS & MEANS**

Cathy Perry, Chairman
7301 Hickory Avenue
Lubbock, TX 79404
806-441-5560
catperry0306@yahoo.com



President Teresa's Pin is in the shape of Texas, in yellow. The main colors of the pin are yellow, red and blue. Our Auxiliary Emblem is located at the top right on the Texas panhandle. Our Nation's flag is at the top left; placed among a sunflower (President Teresa's favorite), a bluebonnet (Texas state flower) and the poppy (in remembrance of our veterans). These are all inside a tea mug with the letters "Hola Texas" (President Teresa's catchphrase). In dark blue lettering inside Texas is President Teresa's Theme **"HONORING THEIR SERVICE – SPREADING SEEDS OF GOODWILL"**. Teresa's name and year of service is located at the bottom right in red lettering. President Teresa will be leading Texas this year with her Membership Theme of **"GROWING OUR MEMBERSHIP BY CULTIVATING KINDNESS"**.

To order any of the pins, complete the order form below (please print) and send a check for the amount of pins you are ordering, along with shipping charges to the above address.

Please Do Not Mail to Department Headquarters.

Teresa's Pin	No. Ordered _____	\$3.00 each
Brenda's Pin	No. Ordered _____	\$3.00 each
Shay's Pin	No. Ordered _____	\$2.00 each
Donna's Pin	No. Ordered _____	\$1.00 each
Texas Cancer Pin	No. Ordered _____	\$4.00 each
Pink Owl Cancer Pin	No. Ordered _____	\$3.00 each
Poppy Pin	No. Ordered _____	\$3.00 each



SHIPPING CHARGES

<u>1 Pin</u>	<u>\$1.51 Postage plus Price of Pin</u>
<u>5 Pins</u>	<u>\$2.87 Postage plus Price of Pin</u>
<u>10 Pins</u>	<u>\$5.40 Postage plus Price of Pins</u>

Name: _____
Address: _____
City & Zip _____
Phone No. _____ Email: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ALA – DEPT OF TEXAS

"THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR PREVIOUS ORDERS AND FUTURE ORDERS"

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS
PRESIDENT'S CLUB 2021 - 2022



Unit # _____ District _____ Division _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY & ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

CHECK NO: _____ CHECK AMOUNT: _____

(Make checks payable to: ALA - DEPT OF TEXAS)

THE PRESIDENT'S CLUB is open to each and every member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Units cannot be members; it is for individual Senior and Junior members only.

New or Renewal Membership \$25.00 / Charter Members \$20.00

The purpose is to support the Department of Texas and to recognize those making this specific annual donation by offering a specially designed charm and/or charm-bracelet.

President Teresa, Department Officers and all Texas A.L.A. members appreciate each member's participation in this effort. It indicates your desire to support the Department of Texas by this tax deduction financial contribution.

Send completed form to:

Cathy Perry

7301 Hickory Avenue

Lubbock, TX 79404

Cell: 806-441-5560

Email: catperry0306@yahoo.com