

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS

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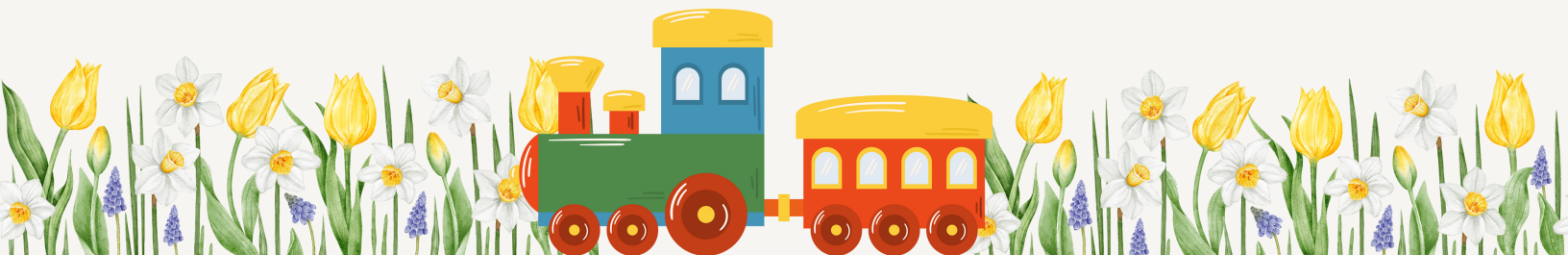
## INFORMATION FROM HEADQUARTERS

### MARCH

|          |                                   |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| 1ST-31ST | NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH    |
| 2ND      | TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY            |
| 3RD      | NATIONAL ANTHEM DAY               |
| 10TH     | DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS           |
| 13TH     | NATIONAL K9 VETERANS DAY          |
| 14TH     | NATIONAL PI DAY                   |
| 15TH     | AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY          |
| 17TH     | ST. PATRICKS DAY                  |
| 20TH     | SPRING BEGINS                     |
| 29TH     | NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY |
| 31ST     | EASTER                            |

### APRIL

|          |                             |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| 1ST-30TH | MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD |
|          | NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH    |
| 1ST      | APRIL FOOLS DAY             |
| 5TH      | GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY       |
| 9TH      | FORMER POW RECOGNITION DAY  |
| 15TH     | TAX DAY                     |
| 15TH     | PURPLE UP DAY               |





**AMERICAN  
LEGION**  
**AUXILIARY**  
Department of Texas  
2023-2024

Hello ALATX! Wow! Here we are in March already! This term goes by fast, we just had Midwinter yesterday. Speaking of Midwinter, we did have a great turn out and I hope all who attended enjoyed the conference. During that time, we were able to hear from Matt Marin from the Birdwell Foundation about his journey with PTS and his continued advocacy for this program. I think everyone in the room felt his words. We also heard from our friend John Ring from Walk for Vets who also shared his experiences with PTS and his support of many of his fellow veterans. From Austin, John Ring continued his travel across the US with Jeff Perkins joining him on his bicycle. They rode 970 miles from Orange, TX to Anthony, TX bringing awareness to PTS and supporting the Birdwell Foundation. Thank you so much to all the legion family members who greeted them, fed them, housed them, and supported this worthy and worthwhile cause.

My homecoming was in February and wow! I was overwhelmed by all of the members who took time out of their lives to come celebrate and to the ones who weren't able to attend but took the time to send well wishes; I am so grateful and humbled.

The homecoming weekend also included our Department Oratorical Competition. I strongly recommend if you have never attended one, you really should. I am always completely amazed and awestruck by the level of knowledge, the discipline and time these contestants put into this competition. They were all so prepared and represented their divisions well. There can only be one victor and this year congratulations go to the candidate from 4<sup>th</sup> division post 575, Evelyn Fisher. She will represent the Department of Texas well. Good Luck Evelyn!

Several of us just returned from the American Legion Washington Conference. We sat in on many sessions discussing the Legislative Agenda of the American Legion. After an inspiring rally by our National Commander, we teamed up with the Texas Delegation and stormed the hill. We visited our Congressional representative's office and spoke to them about our direction. A few of the Legislative agendas focus on Paying the Coast Guard, Quality of Life for our Military and their families, better Transitioning for our soldiers, and Protecting Veterans from Predatory Actors, (companies and individuals seeking to target veterans and impose a fee for legal services provided in associations with the Camp LeJune Act). For more

information on the American Legion Legislative Agenda please visit, [www.legion.org/legislative](http://www.legion.org/legislative).

Our National President will have her official visit to Texas on March 14-17, and it will be in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. The agenda for her visit was sent to your District and Division Presidents. If they have not shared this information with you, please reach out to them. We are trying to give as many members as possible the opportunity to attend one of the events.

We have reached the time for Spring Conventions. I have received invitations from several of the District and some Division Presidents. I enjoy visiting you all and hearing your projects and your passion...and your reports. Yes, I said reports; it is that time of year as well. Your committees and their chairs will be looking for your reports. Please share all your hard work with them. It can be elaborate or just a few sentences but please report. Your district presidents will also be asking for your impact numbers. These numbers are so important; please fill them out. They will be added up, sent to the division who will add all those up and send to department which will in turn be sent to the legion. It is these numbers that make the difference. This is our Mission.

Thank you everyone for your hard work and all you do for our Communities, Military their Families, and our Veterans. You matter!!

Yours in service,

Holly Heatly,  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Texas  
President, 2023-2024



Howdy Department of Texas!

Do you have an Emergency Kit ready to go if you need it? Here's some tips from our Southern Division AEF Chair:

#### Basic Emergency Kit

1. Water and non-perishable food to last up to a week. Keep dry goods in water proof containers and have about a gallon of water a day per person for drinking and personal sanitation.
2. Keep your cell phone charged and if possible have a spare battery and a portable charger so you can stay in touch
3. Have a battery operated or hand crank radio that receives the NOAA weather radio tone alerts and be sure to bring extra batteries.
4. A flashlight with extra batteries.
5. A first aid kit.
6. A whistle to signal for help.
7. Dust masks to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to cover window and doors if needed to shelter in place.
8. Moist toilesettes or baby wipes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
9. Non-sparking wrench or plyers to turn off the utilities
10. A manual can opener.
11. Local Maps

With the wildfires in the Panhandle, please keep our ALA members and all of their families in your thoughts and prayers for safety. If you need any assistance with forms, please reach out. These are available at <https://alateexas.org/forms/miscellaneous-forms/>

We still have raffle tickets for our AEF Wagon for sale! The drawing will be held then.

Shelli Creech, Chairman Div 3 AtomicGlitter84@gmail.com

Diane Birdow, Div 1 DianeBirdow@sbcglobal.net

Janice McAda, Div 2 Janice\_McAda@yahoo.com

Lori Docter, Div 4 VickiDokter@yahoo.com



**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Texas  
Americanism Program  
2023-2024**

Spring is right around the corner and you all know what that means! It's time to throw some coal on the fire, build steam and finish out the 2023-2024 year full speed by sending in your Unit's Girls State registrations, your Americanism Essay Contest submissions and start thinking about writing and submitting your Unit Narratives.

***What? Where? When? To Whom?***

**Girls State** reservations are being received as you read this. Make sure to send those checks or paying online through Department. Remember, registrations soon will open to the schools and organizations wishing to sponsor girls. I suggest paying via the link on [alateexas.org](http://alateexas.org). Make sure to follow the directions for getting the forms sent to the **Department Secretary** as well.

Next, the **Americanism Essay Contest**. This is an opportunity for 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> graders to receive monetary awards through both the National and Texas ALA. The Essay Title is: **"What does Freedom mean to me?"** The details on submissions and cover sheets can be found on [alateexas.org](http://alateexas.org).

Make sure your submissions are sent to the Department of Texas Americanism Chairman by **March 25th**. Send to Candy Zavala, [czavala@gvec.net](mailto:czavala@gvec.net), by March 25<sup>th</sup> so that Texas' winners can be submitted to National by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Please copy your Americanism Division Chairman as well. Their emails are listed below.

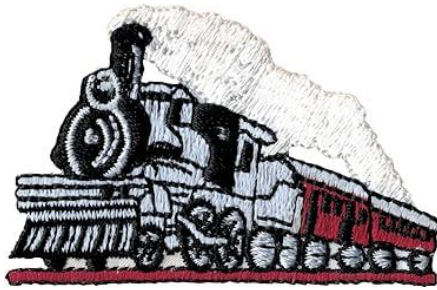
Of course, don't forget, May is Year-End Reporting. Brag on your Unit's work and submit your narratives by **May 15th**. We would love to see your Unit win a Texas or National Award and/or appear on the "big screen" during the National Convention.

**We look forward to seeing your Unit's Essay Submissions and Narratives!**

Division 1  
**Tessie Kau**  
817-521-0371  
[omakau11@gmail.com](mailto:omakau11@gmail.com)  
Division 3 – Chairman  
**Candy Zavala**  
210-559-6786  
[czavala@gvec.net](mailto:czavala@gvec.net)

Division 2  
**Carrie Dailey**  
281-432-9282  
[gbarc@eastex.net](mailto:gbarc@eastex.net)  
Division 4  
**Kathy Morgan**  
432-413-0491  
[kathy79762@gmail.com](mailto:kathy79762@gmail.com)





## **CANCER RESEARCH**

**We are asking all Members, Units, Districts and Divisions to purchase or use one of your own, a hat and decorate that baby as pretty as you want. Or ugly. Or be as outlandish as you want. We want them to be outstanding. Anything to cover a head that needs protection. Bring them to Department convention In July for judging by dollars. One dollar + one vote.**

**By all means, have fun!**

**P. S. How about an Easter Parade? In your Easter bonnet? With all the frills upon it? Or a train ride in that special hat? A Convention Special? See you there.**



## **AND MORE!!**

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas



# Children & Youth



**PURPLE UP!**  
for military kids



## April - month of the Military Child

### PURPLE UP DAY IS APRIL 15

April is the Month of the Military Child. This designation focuses on and honors the sacrifices that military families make across the globe. It emphasizes, in particular, the experiences of children as dependents of military members that serve in the U.S. and overseas, no matter their rank or branch of service.

Many military kids report positive feelings about some of their experiences that are also unique compared to their non-military peers. But **they always need support and reinforcement**. If you have military kids in your community check if the base has special activities for their kids and whether you can help out. If a parent or family member is deployed (and we certainly have a lot of deployed family members in our Auxiliary families) take some time in April to make a deployment wall showing where they are deployed, what time it is for them, photos, messages, drawings etc. It all helps to support our military kids.

### STRESSES ON MILITARY CHILDREN

- They move, on average, 6-9 times during their parent/guardian's military career, sometimes overseas.
- Most will change schools at the K-12 level 3 times more often than non-military students.
- Extended family often live great distances away, limiting support and visits.
- They are more likely to experience grief and loss at an early age.
- Lengthy and frequent deployments result in temporary but enforced family separations, creating single-parent households or temporary guardianships.
- They experience higher anxiety due to the potential for danger in parents' careers.
- They have an altered sense of "home" due to temporary living in base, post, and/or rental housing.

#### ALA DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS C&Y COMMITTEE

1st Division - Lynda Sutton Email: [lyndasutton72@yahoo.com](mailto:lyndasutton72@yahoo.com)

2nd Division - Gillian Woodstrom (Chair) Email: [gwoodstrom@woodborne.com](mailto:gwoodstrom@woodborne.com)

4th Division - Sharlene Maddox Email: [sharlenemadd91@gmail.com](mailto:sharlenemadd91@gmail.com)

Join us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/alatexascy>

Check out our website at <https://alatexas.org/programs/children-youth>



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas

# Children & Youth



## Awards & Donations

**KINDNESS  
MATTERS**

### **MOST OUTSTANDING UNIT C&Y PROGRAM**

Email us your Unit Children & Youth Narrative Report by May 1 and we can submit it for the Most Outstanding Unit C&Y Program. Make sure to attach your report, photos, flyers, anything relevant to your program and send them to : [gwoodstrom@woodborne.com](mailto:gwoodstrom@woodborne.com)

**MAY 1 FOR YOUR  
UNIT REPORT**

### **YOUTH HERO/GOOD DEED AWARDS**

**Youth Hero Award** winners should have demonstrated a physical act of valor (Heimlich, CPR, first aid, rescuing from fire or water peril). **Good Deed Award** winners should have spent time or money assisting a worthy cause (troop support, raising money to help homeless veterans). Any one under 18, including Juniors, may be submitted.

[Click on the link for the submission form](#)

### **CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION**

The Child Welfare Foundation is an American Legion program supported wholeheartedly by The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion. Donations contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth and provide financial assistance to The American Legion in their efforts to award grants to youth-serving non-profit organizations.

Your unit can donate online or send us a check to PO Box 1629, Little Elm, TX 75068 payable to ALA Department of Texas and earmarked Child Welfare Foundation.

[Click on the link to donate online](#)

#### **ALA DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS C&Y COMMITTEE**

1st Division - Lynda Sutton Email: [lyndasutton72@yahoo.com](mailto:lyndasutton72@yahoo.com)

2nd Division - Gillian Woodstrom (Chair) Email: [gwoodstrom@woodbor](mailto:gwoodstrom@woodbor)

4th Division - Sharlene Maddox Email: [sharlenemadd91@gmail.com](mailto:sharlenemadd91@gmail.com)

Join us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/alatexascy>

Check out our website at <https://alatexas.org/programs/children-youth>







# American Legion Auxiliary

## Youth Hero and Good Deed Award Nomination Form

**NAME OF YOUTH** \_\_\_\_\_

Youth's Age \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female Date of deed \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. of \_\_\_\_\_

Description of bravery and/or deed performed by youth (to be completed by unit)

- **Good Deed Award** – Youth should demonstrate leadership role in community service, specific deed should be present
- **Youth Hero Award** - Youth should demonstrate a physical act of valor

Attach extra pages as need. Please attach news clippings or include website to verify the deed being recognized.

### UNIT CERTIFICATION (MUST BE CERTIFIED BY TWO UNIT MEMBERS)

Unit Member \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Member \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Units should send completed applications to their department secretary.**

### DEPARTMENT SECRETARY CERTIFICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Department secretary mail nomination to ALA National Headquarters, 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268, or email to [Children&Youth@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:Children&Youth@ALAforVeterans.org). Awards will be shipped at no cost.

Please ship to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Please use this form for all Youth Hero and Good Deed Award nominations. For more information, contact National Headquarters at [Children&Youth@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:Children&Youth@ALAforVeterans.org) or (317) 569-4500.*

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS USE ONLY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Hero Award <input type="checkbox"/> Good Deed Award |                    |
| Date received _____  | Date shipped _____ |

## 2023-2024 National Community Service Program Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements

Thank you for taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission! Your story may inspire another member into service. It also helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

Here are the national awards for this committee:

### Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Community Service Program (per division)

- All unit entries must be submitted by the department chairman via [electronic form](#) by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.

Note: You will receive a confirmation when your award is submitted. Unit members should follow instructions from their department.

**National Awards Form Link:** <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

### Unit Award: Best Promotion of American Legion Family Day (one per division)

- All unit entries must be submitted by the department chairman via [electronic form](#) by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.

Note: You will receive a confirmation when your award is submitted.

**National Awards Form Link:** <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

### Department Award: Best Department Community Service Program (per division)

- All department entries must be submitted by the department chairman via [electronic form](#) by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.

Note: You will receive a confirmation when your award is submitted.

**National Awards Form Link:** <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

***Please note – when applicable, unit and department deadlines differ.***

Questions? Contact [CommunityService@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:CommunityService@ALAforVeterans.org)

### Fine Print:

Award submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters. Through submission of reports and award entries, the submitter grants nonexclusive reproduction and publication rights to the materials submitted and agrees to have their names and submission published for ALA use or commercial use without additional compensation or permission.

Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible. Award certificates will be completed using the information given on this sheet, so please be sure to complete the [electronic form](#) in its entirety.

Please refer to the webpage for the specific criteria such as photographs, narrative length, submission deadline, and point of contact. All awards will be mailed to the department office after ALA National Convention. Department presidents may wish to recognize award recipients by presenting them with the award at a department function.

**March Flowers for our Veterans and communities!  
"Sharing is caring! Our communities grow strong er  
because of this!**

The winds of March keep us marching forward to assist our communities with excellent community service. Keep planning for the Legion Family Play Day. Let's make this a day to remember for the Legion family. Our Year-end reporting will be due to me by May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Please CC Diana with your report and copies of your JPG pictures. It is coming up soon. Feel free to share your JPG picture on our Community Service website. Let the world see what a difference our Southern Community Service is making!

Just a reminder: All awards have links to be submitted online. This is a great time to get your juniors involved, as technology is growing in our use of reporting.

**Program of focus**

As we progress into March, let's look back over the last few months. Partnering with our Legion family and other organizations has been a joy and pleasure. We have educated our members on the purpose of "Be the One!" as it focuses on mental health issues and Veterans' suicide. We are in this together, and the community comes together as one and makes the world a better place for everyone.

When you review the Program Engagement Plan (PEP), utilize one of these Key Resources.

**How to Mobilize Community Support for Those Who Serve:**  
<https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/community-service/how-to-mobilize-community-support>



**Special Edition Corner**

Dr. Blanch is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Please register as soon as possible. We have awesome Community service items to discuss. If you can't make it, please send a representative to participate in your place. I will be in contact with each of the Southern Division Chairs within the upcoming week.

**Topic: Community Service-Southern Division #2**

Time: Mar 19, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83194071055>

Meeting ID: 831 9407 1055

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Best Wishes

Dr. Deborah Blanch

757-288-9757

[deborahblanchnatauxiliary@yahoo.com](mailto:deborahblanchnatauxiliary@yahoo.com)

**HOW YOU CAN BE THE ONE**

**What:** The American Legion's Be the One initiative encourages American Legion Family members, veterans, servicemembers and others to take action when they believe a veteran is at risk of suicide.

**Why:** To reduce the alarming number of veteran suicides.

**How:** Our goal is to destigmatize asking for mental health support, provide peer-to-peer support and resources, and educate everyone on how they can Be the One.

**Who:**

**Veterans**

- Talk with fellow veterans about how you are feeling.
- Ask for help when you think you need it.
- Know there are millions of people ready to help you.
- Remember your family and friends care.

**Non-veterans**

- Ask veterans in your life how they are doing.
- Listen when a veteran needs to talk.
- Reach out when a veteran is struggling.

**American Legion posts**

- Educate members, other veterans and civilians on the campaign.
- Display resources at your post or in your community.
- Share events or success stories at [legiontown.org](http://legiontown.org).

**RESOURCES**

**American Legion support:** Stories, videos and promotional items related to this initiative are available for posts, members and others. Visit [betheone.org](http://betheone.org).

**For urgent help:** Veterans experiencing a crisis can call 988 and press 1 for mental health assistance. Counselors are available 24/7. They may also text 832255 or visit the VA crisis line website [veteranscrisisline.net](http://veteranscrisisline.net).



**We can all  
Be the One**

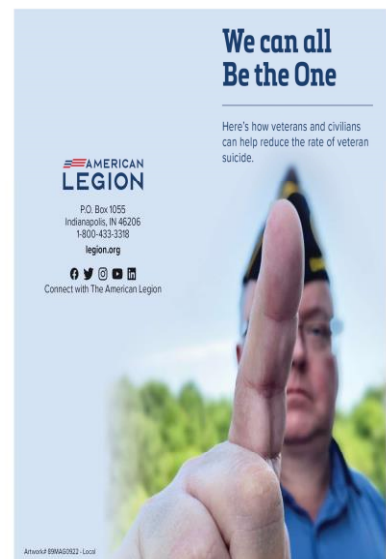
Here's how veterans and civilians can help reduce the rate of veteran suicide.



P.O. Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206  
1-800-433-3318  
[legion.org](http://legion.org)



Connect with The American Legion



Award# B9460522 - Local

  
**AMERICAN  
LEGION**  
**AUXILIARY**  
**2023-2024**

**Program Engagement Plan**

**Community Service Committee**

Member Site: <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/community-service>

Public Side: [www.legion-aux.org](http://www.legion-aux.org)

**Key Resources:**

- How to Mobilize Community Support for Those Who Serve:
  - <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/community-service/how-to-mobilize-community-support>
- How to Participate in the 9/11 National Day Of Service:
  - <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/community-service/how-to-participate-in-the-national-day-of-service>
- How to Participate in the MLK Jr National Day of Service:
  - <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/community-service/how-to-participate-in-a-Martin-luther-king-jr-day>
- How to Partner with Other Organizations for Community Outreach:
  - <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/community-service/partner-with-organizations-for-community-outreach>
- How to Organize and Promote American Legion Family Day:
  - tbd

**Get Involved (PEP):**

- Promote American Legion Family Day-April 27, 2024
  - The National Executive Committee of The American Legion Passed Resolution No. 7 in October 2022, establishing American Legion Family Day to be observed annually on the last Saturday of April.
    - Posts are encouraged to open their doors to members of their community for the day to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion members, Legion Riders, and American Legion Auxiliary.
    - Bring awareness to The American Legion's "[Be the One](#)" initiative to improve access and reduce the stigma around mental health services.
  - Use the "How To" sheet to assist ALA members in promoting American Legion Family Day.
  - Plan activities for various age groups.
  - Highlight our 100+ years of service to veterans and the community.
- Encourage units to partner with other community groups.
  - Look at others outside our membership to help us.
    - More volunteers equals more mission delivery opportunities.
    - Volunteers could be potential members.
    - Some may not be eligible but just want to help veterans.
  - Look to other groups that support veterans.

- Groups like VFW, DAV, USO, etc.
    - Reach out to them first-don't wait for them to come to you.
    - Emphasize the "You help us, and we will help you."
  - Be sure all our members are branded.
- Find new and creative ways to promote the program.
  - Continue to use what works but think outside the box for fresh ideas.
    - Promote participation in blood drives, CPR training, emergency preparedness (National Security).
    - Suggest participation in child safety programs (Children & Youth).
    - Participation in patriotic holidays (Americanism).
  - Develop new ways to reach different age groups.
  - Encourage units to create visible events in the community that support veterans (VA&R).
    - Use community events to raise awareness of The American Legion's ["Be the One"](#) initiative to reduce the rate of veteran suicide.
- Participate in a Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service
  - Promote patriotic community service activities to build community partnerships.
  - Use this holiday as an opportunity to serve veterans as our mission statement states.
    - Help veterans in their home with projects like building an accessible ramp, yard work, home repairs.
    - Organize or participate in a stand down.
    - Host a job fair for veterans at a Post, community center or library.
  - Encourage members to check with their employers for MLK Day service opportunities.
  - Keep good records of hours and activities for year-end reporting.
- Participate in the 9/11 National Day of Service
  - Encourage members to make an official pledge of service on the 9/11 Day of Service website.
  - Service pledge can be as broad or as specific as the member would like, so long as it is in the spirit of service and remembrance.
  - Invite members to "pass It on!" and share their pledge with others through Twitter, Facebook, or other means.
  - Participate in a volunteer activity or project of which they are already a part and encourage others to join.
  - Organize a service activity specifically for 9/11 Day.
  - Record hours and activities for year-end reporting.

**Deadlines/Important Dates:**

Department Chairman Report due to National Committee: May 15

Department and Unit Award Nomination Forms Completed and Submitted: June 1



# AMERICAN LEGION **FAMILY PLAY DAYS TOOLKIT**





# YOUR GUIDE TO AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY PLAY DAYS

**WHAT:** Legion Family Play Day is a way to bring younger veterans and their families into posts for a day – or evening – of family entertainment. The concept is supported by Resolution 20 approved by the National Executive Committee at Spring Meetings in 2019.

**WHY:** Younger veterans express interest in family-friendly activities. So while they bond with other veterans and spouses, their kids can interact with other children.

**WHERE:** American Legion posts can host these events regardless of whether they have a physical post home or not. Based on their communities, time of year and resources, posts can host Family Play Days that feature indoor activities, outdoor games or a combination. Post without buildings can work with a local library, community center or other nonprofit to find a location.

**WHEN:** Anytime! Summer is ideal when the weather is warmer and schools are out of session. Post leaders who have conducted pilot tests of this program say they will host these events year-around.

**HOW:** Work with your squadron, unit and Riders chapters to create awareness and encourage volunteers. Reach out to local groups like the Boy Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, local first responders, YMCAs and others to invite participation. Promote in your local media and through your post's social media to raise awareness in the community.

**RESOURCES:** Download a flyer that is customizable [www.legion.org/publications](http://www.legion.org/publications)



“They see it now as what The American Legion ought to be – a place that is there for the family, is there for the community, but is also a place for veterans, to be together, spend time together and build that camaraderie.”

– **Derric Grimes**, immediate past commander of Post 116 in Fuquay-Varina, N.C., which held its first Legion Family Play Day in July 2019





# OUR FAMILY, YOUR FAMILY

The American Legion Family welcomes you to a special **Legion Family Play Day**. We will provide games for families with children of all ages, as well as refreshments and drinks.

Time:  
XXXXX

Date:  
XXXXX

Place:  
XXXXX

What to bring:  
XXXXX

Contact:  
XXXXX







## AMERICAN LEGION **FAMILY PLAY DAYS**

For Immediate Release

Date

### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

## **American Legion Post (POST NUMBER) hosts Legion Family Play Day**

- WHO** American Legion (NAMESAKE) Post (POST NUMBER)
- WHAT** The American Legion Family of Post (POST NUMBER) is opening its doors to the community for a special Legion Family Play Day. There will be games available for children of all ages, as well as refreshments. During the event, guests can learn about the post's history of service, how it serves its community and the programs it offers for youths.
- WHEN** XXXXXXXX (DAY AND TIME)
- WHERE** (ADDRESS, CITY)
- WHY** The American Legion is the nation's largest and most influential veterans service organization. It was founded on Four Pillars, including Children & Youth. Post (POST NUMBER) fulfills its commitment to service through programs geared toward youths such as (SHORT LIST OF YOUR MOST HIGH-PROFILE PROGRAMS).
- HOW** Learn more online at (WEBSITE ADDRESS)

**Contact:** (NAME, OFFICE AT POST , PHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL ADDRESS)



## AMERICAN LEGION **FAMILY PLAY DAYS**

### SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

#### SAMPLE FACEBOOK POST

We invite our entire community to join us for a special #LegionFamilyPlayDay at (Post XX in ADDRESS/CITY/STATE) at (TIME) (DATE). There will be games, food and beverages, and fun for the whole family. Hope to see you there!

For more information, call (XXX-XXXX).

#### SAMPLE TWITTER POSTS

Join us for a special #LegionFamilyPlayDay at (Post XX in ADDRESS/CITY/STATE) at (TIME) (DATE). There will be games, food and beverages, and fun for the whole family. Hope to see you there! #veterans @AmericanLegion

Today is the day! Bring your family to a special #LegionFamilyPlayDay at (Post XX in ADDRESS/CITY/STATE) at (TIME). There will be games, food and beverages, and fun for the whole family. Hope to see you there! #veterans @AmericanLegion

### SOCIAL MEDIA GRAPHICS





## AMERICAN LEGION **FAMILY PLAY DAYS**

### **MESSAGE POINTS**

- Our 2 million members make The American Legion the nation's largest and most influential veterans service organization.
- The American Legion Family is made up of wartime veterans (American Legion members), their spouses, mothers, sisters, grandmothers, and direct and adopted female descendants (American Legion Auxiliary) and their sons, grandsons, adopted sons and stepsons (Sons of The American Legion). The combined membership of the American Legion Family is approximately 3 million.
- Legion Family Play Day is part of a national effort to welcome Legion Family members, eligible members and community members into the post for a fun day or evening of wholesome family activities.
- Children & Youth was one of The American Legion's four founding pillars and has been at the core of our mission since 1919.
- The American Legion serves its communities in numerous ways with an emphasis on children and youth. For more than 90 years, Legion posts have supported America's pastime by sponsoring American Legion Baseball. Each year, Legionnaires mentor thousands of young men with American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation. An annual oratorical contest not only provides scholarships to the winners, but it teaches young people about the Constitution.



**Education Committee  
LOTS and LOTS  
Of INFORMATION AND DEADLINES!!!!!!**



**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**Teacher Appreciation Week Is May 6-10, 2024**

Have your unit show appreciation to those who are educating our next generation. Take pictures and send to the education committee to have your name in a drawing and recognition at Department Convention in July. Due June 1, 2024

**Scholarships:**

Any unit donating to the Texas Education Program Scholarship Program will receive a certificate of Recognition and Appreciation. Due June 1, 2024

**Year End Reports and Narratives**

Submit your **year end reports and narratives** to your Unit President so they can submit to the District President and Chairman of each committee. **Add hours of time given to children and education. Include Pictures**

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS  
2024 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION FUNDRAISER**

Department of Texas is looking for Sponsors for our 2024 Department Convention.  
Reserve your seat on the ALA Express **by May 15, 2024**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # Business/Cell/Home \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Member/Individual Car**

\$25.00 Name in Train Car Window – Name \_\_\_\_\_

\$50.00 Name & Unit Number Car Window – Name \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_

**Unit/District/Division Special Car**

\$125.00 Unit Name \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ Dist. # \_\_\_\_\_ Div. # \_\_\_\_\_

\$125.00 District Number District # \_\_\_\_\_

\$125.00 Division # \_\_\_\_\_

**Corporation/1<sup>st</sup> Class Car**

\$250.00 Name & Logo \* Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Corporation/Private Car**

\$500.00 & Up Name, Logo, and Message \*Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Madam President Holly enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas  
Earmark 2024 Department Convention Fundraiser

Mail payment and form to Department/Attn: Secretary Tiffany

Email all photo ready artwork to: Finance Chair – [christinet2121@yahoo.com](mailto:christinet2121@yahoo.com)



**Your donations to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas are tax-deductible as allowed by law.**

**All proceeds will help offset the cost of our 2023 Department Convention**

**American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas | P.O. Box 1629 | Little Elm, Texas 75068**

**Thank you for your donation!**



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS  
2023 – 2024  
FINANCE FUNDRAISER**

Hey, Hey, Hey... Are you coming to Department Convention in Austin July 2024?  
Do we have a deal for you?

**50/50 RAFFLE - FUNDRAISER**

**YOU ARE “GUARANTEED” \$250  
THE MORE TICKETS SOLD THE HIGHER YOUR PERCENTAGE.**



**“TICKETS \$5 EACH “WHAT A DEAL”**

Drawing will be held at the 2024 Department Convention  
No need to be present to win.

Contact your Finance Committee or Department President, Department Vice President,  
Department Secretary to Purchase Tickets.  
Tickets will be available at DEC, Midwinter and Department Convention

Make checks payable to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas  
Earmark 2023 – 2024 Finance Fundraiser  
Mail payment and ticket stubs to Department  
P.O. Box 1629  
Little Elm, Texas 75068  
Attn: Secretary Tiffany Troxclair  
(Tickets with payment may be turned into a Finance Committee Member)

**2023 – 2024 Finance Committee**

Shay Kuehner – email – [shay1956@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shay1956@sbcglobal.net)  
Vicki Pollard – email – [vickipl@live.com](mailto:vickipl@live.com)  
Christine Trahan – email – [christinet2121@yahoo.com](mailto:christinet2121@yahoo.com)  
Teresa S. Copeland – email – [tscunit37@gmail.com](mailto:tscunit37@gmail.com)  
Robin Alva – email – [robinealva@outlook.com](mailto:robinealva@outlook.com)

Your donation to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas is tax-deductible as allowed by law.  
All proceeds support the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas General Fund.

# ***CALLING ALL JUNIORS!!!!***

Do you have Juniors who have been doing  
AWESOME things?????

We need your applications for Junior Member of  
the Year and Junior Program of the Year!!!!

Don't have an organized Junior Unit?? Doesn't  
Matter!!!! Let us know what your Juniors have  
been doing!!! All applications need to be sent to  
Nicole Ebner by May 1, 2024!!!

Have you checked out the NEW Patch Program  
details yet?? There is a link on the National  
Website under Junior Member Activities. There is  
a NEW Level, so make sure your members are  
filling out the correct patch program sheets.

Don't forget to start planning to bring your  
Juniors to the Department Convention in July in  
Austin!!!!

Nicole Ebner - [nicolerebner@yahoo.com](mailto:nicolerebner@yahoo.com) - 600 CR 504 - Flatonia, TX 78941

**MARCH—APRIL  
2024**



**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**1st Division - Candace Wicks  
cwdst1913@yahoo.com 214-694-5767**

**2nd Division - Brenda Towers (Chairman)  
bjingranbury@aol.com 817-578-2070**

The Legislative program provides information and elections happening in 2024.

Join in the fun and Keep on Track for our Veterans!

Units, now is the time to put your Unit Reports together. Refer to your Program Engagement Plans to make certain you are meeting deadlines for Department AND National Awards. These award are not only for your unit but there are member awards as well.

A special **"BEST TEXAS MEMBER-LEGISLATOR"** AWARD will be presented at our Department Convention . Deadline: May 1, 2024

Submit a narrative showing 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 herein 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

**UNIT AWARD: "MOST OUTSTANDING UNIT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM"**

Deadline: May 1, 2021 Must be sent by 5pm CST on deadline.

**Photos** of "Legislation in Action" are encouraged and should be emailed separately as jpg or pdf

All Units Submitting a report will be given a certificate. The best narrative will be forwarded to National for consideration of a National Award. Please make certain to include Fnumbers of Face to Face Communication Opportunities and numbers of Members sending personal letters, e-mails & phone calls.

**NATIONAL PRESIDENTS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE** As a member & unit you can submit for this award directly to National. See [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org) for details.





# Membership

## ALL ABOARD!

"Life's journey is like a train ride – with ups, downs, and unexpected stops. Embrace the challenges as temporary pauses, not the end of the line. Keep your dreams as the fuel, and be the unyielding locomotive. Believe in yourself and take that determined move. You're not alone on this journey and together, we can reach our goals. Stay on track, stay focused, and keep the faith. Your destination is waiting – all aboard the train to success!" 🇺🇸🌟

**Renew One, Retain One, Rejoin One, Recruit One**

**Click here to join**

<https://www.legion-aux.org/joining>

**Click here to renew**

<https://www.legion-aux.org/renew>

**Click here for ALA Application**

[https://member.legion-aux.org/CMSDesk/ALA/media/PDF/Brochures/ALA\\_Membership\\_Application.pdf](https://member.legion-aux.org/CMSDesk/ALA/media/PDF/Brochures/ALA_Membership_Application.pdf)

## Keeping on Track With Our Goals

Recruit 10 award deadline - June 1, 2024  
New unit award - Chartered Sept 1, 2023 - July 31, 2024  
100% unit award deadline - January 31, 2024

85% Dept award deadline - March 15, 2024  
95% Dept award deadline - May 24, 2024  
100% Dept award deadline - July 4, 2024  
102% Dept award deadline - July 24, 2024  
\$100 and certificate to the 1st unit to reach 100% in each of 4 categories  
Certificates to all units who reach 100% or more by June 30, 2024  
Plaque to top unit, based on %, in each of the 4 categories by June 30, 2024  
\$100 to the first district and first division to reach 100%  
\$100 and plaque to top district based on % by June 30, 2024  
\$100 and plaque to top division based on % by June 30, 2024  
Money, medallion, certificate to Recruit 10, 15, 25+ by June 30, 2024  
\*see Program Engagement Plan for more details on all awards and challenges



**Your membership committee will be here for anything you need**

**Div 1 - Kami Kemp - Chair [kami@leasingtexas.com](mailto:kami@leasingtexas.com)  
817-313-0777**

**Div 2 - Courtney Hayes unit 491ala@gmail.com  
682-251-4883**

**Div 3 - Michelle Muth [michellemuth74@gmail.com](mailto:michellemuth74@gmail.com)  
210-889-5651**

**Div 4 - Jean Bennett [jeaniebgood@yahoo.com](mailto:jeaniebgood@yahoo.com)  
432-254-3668**



ALA DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS  
NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAM  
2023-2024

**PURPOSE:** The main focus of the National Security Program is to assist ACTIVE-DUTY military and their families.

**The Month of April is also the Month of the Military Child**

- ❖ Monday, April 15, 2024 is [Purple Up for Military Kids](#) day. The Department of Defense is asking communities to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices by wearing the color purple.
- ❖ Units and Posts near military bases are encouraged to reach out to schools in the area and ask if they can come to the school, acknowledge those children whose parent(s) are currently serving and explain the importance of students supporting their fellow students who are in that situation. In the past, some activities have included handing out purple bead necklaces, stickers, pins, coloring sheets etc.
- ❖ This website has designs and suggestions that may help you [https://www.militarychild.org/MOMC\\_Toolkit](https://www.militarychild.org/MOMC_Toolkit).
- ❖ Check ALA National Security in Texas Facebook Page for a list of ideas that we can do during the month of April to acknowledge and support our military children and their families.

February 25-28<sup>th</sup>, I had the honor of attending the American Legion National DC Conference. I learned so much during those few days and found out about opportunities for our transitioning veterans and their families. We will be posting links to various websites on our Facebook page over the next few weeks so please make sure to visit the page often. Here are 2 of the many programs to help our transitioning military and Spouses.

Veteran and Military Spouse Talent Engagement Program - VMSTEP  
<https://www.vaforvets.va.gov/vaforvets/veso/Pages/default.asp> The Veteran and Military Spouse Talent Engagement Program (VMSTEP) provides employment readiness assistance and outreach to transitioning service members, Veterans, and eligible military spouses while advocating the use of special hiring authorities, employment programs, and Veteran retention strategies to help VA become the employer of choice for Veterans and military spouses.

<https://military.microsoft.com/> - Microsoft Software and Systems Academy (MSSA) provides transitioning service members and veterans with critical technical and career skills required for today's growing technology industry. Since it's inception, there have been over 3,732 graduates, and over 2,500 of the graduates have been hired by Microsoft or one of their hiring partners. MSSA is available to military veterans and retirees, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserve members, and military service members within six months of separation or retirement.

## AWARDS & REPORTS

Units are requested to submit their Year End Narratives by March 25, 2024. Please make sure to send a copy of your National Security Narrative to your Unit President, District President and most importantly to the National Security Department of Texas Chairperson ([Cfountain24@hotmail.com](mailto:Cfountain24@hotmail.com)). For those doing the reports for the first time, don't get overwhelmed. Who, What, When, Where and Why are the things that should be addressed in your reports. Pictures are a great addition as well.

- ❖ Any Unit submitting a Year End Narrative by March 25, 2024 will receive a Certificate of Recognition.
- ❖ Department of Texas Outstanding Unit National Security Program Award - one Unit will be chosen by the committee and presented with an award at the Department of Texas Convention 2024.
- ❖ Department of Texas National Security Committee will submit all applicable reports to Southern Division Chair by May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- ❖ **DON'T FORGET** the Salute To Servicemember Award!!! To see the application and rules, go to:
  - [Legion-aux.org](http://Legion-aux.org)
  - Click on Events
  - Click on Salute to Servicemembers Award
  
- ❖ An Additional Challenge from the Department of Texas National Security Program - Any Unit that donates to President Holly's Special Project - The Birdwell Foundation, by May 1, 2024 will receive a Certificate of Appreciation at the Department Convention. The Unit that makes the largest donation will also receive an award at the Convention. On the [alatexas.org](http://alatexas.org) website, click on Make a Donation. Please make sure where it says "Funds Donating To" you put "President Holly's Project" so that your Unit gets the acknowledgement you deserve.

**If you have any questions, feel free to contact us! And PLEASE share on our Facebook Page - ALA National Security in Texas**

Cheryl Fountain - Dept Chairperson - 281-414-0943 - [Cfountain24@hotmail.com](mailto:Cfountain24@hotmail.com)

Christi Barnacle - Committee Member - [Cb479@hotmail.com](mailto:Cb479@hotmail.com)

Carol Evans - Committee Member - [Cmeaqua58@att.net](mailto:Cmeaqua58@att.net)



# Poppy Program

March - April  
2023 – 2024



## Did You Know?

Poppy Day is celebrated in countries around the world. The American Legion Family brought National Poppy Day to the United States by asking Congress to designate the Friday before Memorial Day, as National Poppy Day.

**On the Friday before Memorial Day, wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nation's uniform.**

On September 27, 1920, the poppy became the official flower of the American Legion Family to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died during the war. In 1924, the distribution of poppies became the national program of the American Legion Family.

***May 24, 2024, is National Poppy Day***

## Poppy Reminders

1. Wear the poppy proudly!
2. Help distribute poppies and tell everyone WHY.
3. Use Social Media to spread the word about your events.
4. You can find ideas, supplies, support, and tools at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).
5. Use Poppy Guidelines found on the National Website
6. [www.facebook.com/groups/alapoppy](https://www.facebook.com/groups/alapoppy).

## Committee Members

Division 1 – Ann Pugliano, Chair,  
Knowlton\_ann@yahoo.com

Division 2 – Kim Palosota, kimpalosota1@gmail.com

Division 3 – Yolanda Garcia, garciaym@yahoo.com

Division 4 – Lucy Barrington, lkbarrington@gmail.com

## Poppy Poster Contest

Junior members are encouraged to participate in the poppy poster contest. A terrific way to share why the poppy is important and include their friends by encouraging them to make posters. Poppy Poster Contest rules are available at: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Poppy-Poster-Contest>

## How Can You Help?

Try reaching people who are not necessarily contacted regarding the Poppy Program.  
Make it easy for them to donate.

Of the funds collected from the distribution of poppies 1/3 needs to be submitted to [Secretary@alateexas.org](mailto:Secretary@alateexas.org) and designated for the Poppy Program.

## For Sale

The Poppy Committee will be selling bracelets, caps, patches and other poppy merchandise, to benefit our Veterans, Military Personnel, and their Families. Attached is an order form for the Poppy Caps. For more information contact [Knowlton\\_ann@yahoo.com](mailto:Knowlton_ann@yahoo.com)

## Awards

Please submit your Poppy Report **BEFORE May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**. The top 3 reports will receive a prize! All entries will receive a certificate.



# Public Relations Insider

## Southern Division

### PUBLIC RELATIONS AND YOUR IMAGE

Your image is as important as branding. What you wear is extremely important, it is the first impression you give when you are wearing branded clothing. There are other impressions that are just as or even more important. Your attitude, how you speak and what you do can mean the most when encountering members and the public.

Let's start with our attitude. A positive attitude is a great image. Having a nice and kind attitude is always best practice. We are members of one of the oldest patriotic membership organizations and our goal with Public Relations is to promote who we are and what we do. The way we present ourselves to others can make or break us, most importantly with membership growth or lack thereof. How many times have you witnessed or heard about losing a potential member due to a poor attitude from a member? By always having a good attitude, we could increase our chances to increase our membership. In life and as members of this organization, we certainly should always promote positivity and a good attitude. People will always remember how you made them feel.

### WATCH WHAT YOU DO, NOT ONLY WHAT YOU SAY!

You know what they say, "you attract more bees with honey than vinegar". This is a proverb that means that it is better to be kind and gentle than to be harsh and aggressive. The saying is often used to encourage people to be more positive and less confrontational in their interactions with others.

#### **Contact information:**

**Misty Jeffcoat**  
Department of Texas PR  
Chairman  
[mjeffcoat03@gmail.com](mailto:mjeffcoat03@gmail.com)

**Charlotte Purdy**  
Southern Division Chairman  
Public Relations Committee  
[cpurdy964@gmail.com](mailto:cpurdy964@gmail.com)  
870-509-1575

**Feel free to contact me for  
more information or any  
questions.**

Our image should not only include wearing branded clothing, but should also include knowing our surroundings and the company we keep while wearing our brand. We want to show a positive environment to encourage potential members and how we are perceived by the public. Our appearance should be appealing and neat. It is not classy holding alcoholic beverages while being photographed or interviewed. We want the public to know that we are serious about our dedication and concern for the nation's veterans, active-duty military, their families and our communities.

It is extremely important to maintain a positive, uplifting and encouraging image on all platforms of social media. We should share information that is pertinent to our programs. We must steer clear of political debates and negative pronouncements on ALA platforms. We are a non-denominational organization, inclusive and open for all religious beliefs to those who are eligible.

What we say, how we say it and our behavior is important when it comes to what we want to express in Public Relations and to the public. We are taught to relate the "Who, What, When, Where, Why and How" Rule to everything we do when it comes to PR. We should also be mindful of the same "rules" as it applies to protecting our brand and our image.

For more information and tips on our branding, positive image, templates, and other resources, please visit our insightful website.

<https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/public-relations>

VA&R  
Bulletin  
March & April  
2024

Greetings:

Our VA&R hospitals and clinics have been very busy serving our Veterans and Homeless Veterans in our communities. Our Veterans are very important to our organization and deserve assistance and recognition for all they have done for our freedom. February 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> was Salute to our Veterans Week, if you participated, please send me photos or post them on the VA&R Facebook page. We need volunteers for our VA hospitals and clinics. I recently drafted a flyer to be sent to District Presidents, District Vice-Presidents and Division Presidents to be presented at their conventions. If you can volunteer at a V/A hospital or clinics, please let myself or your Division Committee Member know, we would love to assist you in any way possible.

Please remember Units and Districts your narrative yearly reports are due May 1, 2024, to myself and your Division Committee Member, since we do not have a Division 2 committee member, please send to me.

Representatives, remember to please submit your report for your facility, for the Book of Reports, if you do not the page will be empty. We all want to hear about your facility and the great things you have accomplished.

Remember about VA&R awards, there are several, please refer to the VA&R Action Plan. It is available on the Department website.

If I can assist in any way, please let me know. My phone number is 785-213-6609.

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans! It is greatly appreciated by the Veterans and their families.

Tonia Ison

VA&R Department Chairman – [tonia0507@att.net](mailto:tonia0507@att.net)

Pam Burkett – Division 3 Committee Member – [burkettbri@yahoo.com](mailto:burkettbri@yahoo.com)

Rebecca Ochoa – Division 4 – Committee Member – [reb\\_ochoa@yahoo.com](mailto:reb_ochoa@yahoo.com)

*American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas Veterans  
Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R)  
2023-2024  
VA&R Action Plan*

**In the spirit of service, not self, our mission is to enhance the lives of veterans, military, and their families. Our committee is here to assist our Reps and Deps, advocate on behalf of the veterans we serve and be accountable to all the ALA members in the great state of Texas.**

**May 1st, 2024** year-end narrative reports due (**with photos**)! Please email your reports to **BOTH** the Chair and your Division Committee member.

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

**CHRISTMAS ASSESSMENT CHALLENGE:** Units that get their Christmas Assessment payment to Department of Texas by Veteran's Day, **November 11th**, will get a certificate and be entered in a drawing. Division/District Presidents with 80% of their Units paid by November 11th will receive a certificate.

**VA&R GENERAL FUND CHALLENGE:** All Units donating a minimum of \$25 by **June 30th, 2024**, will receive a certificate and be entered in a drawing.

**NVCAF TEXAS CHALLENGE:** By December 1st, each Unit that donates a minimum of \$25 marked for NVCAF to the Department of Texas will get a certificate and be entered in a drawing. Please do your part toward raising our NVCAF obligation of \$5,000 due from Texas to National.

**NVCAF TEXAS SPONSOR:** Starting July of 2023 and ending on Flag Day, June 14th, 2024, set up your Unit as a monthly NVCAF sponsor and receive a certificate. These payments are made for 12 months or in a Lump Sum to the Department of Texas marked NVCAF.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>BRONZE LEVEL: \$5/month (\$60 total)</b>   | <b>GOLD LEVEL: \$20/month (\$240 total)</b>     |
| <b>SILVER LEVEL: \$10/month (\$120 total)</b> | <b>PLATINUM LEVEL: \$50/month (\$600 total)</b> |

**paid by Flag Day June 14th, 2024 special award.**

**NVCAF NATIONAL SPONSOR:** Before the July 31st deadline, make a Unit donation directly to National toward the NVCAF to receive a National Award.

|                                |                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>BRONZE: \$1,000-\$2,499</b> | <b>SILVER: \$2,500-\$4,999</b> | <b>GOLD: \$5,000-\$14,999</b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|

**IDEAS FOR YOUR UNIT:**

Have a "Thank You" event or dinner at your Post on Veteran's Day. (**Send photos**) With your Post, host a Veteran Stand Down or flag retirement/disposal, or attend a Veteran Job Fair event and set up an informational Membership table to encourage all attendees to join our organization. (**Send photos**)

Participate at a VA Hospital/Clinic event such as their Gift Shop, Ice Cream Social, Valentine Day card distribution. Collect and distribute clothing, winter items, food to homeless veterans. Tell us about your participation and send photos. **Those who send us photos and tell us about your event with the Hospital/Clinic by April 1 will be entered in a drawing.** Please reach out to your VA Reps and Deps to see what you can do to help.

**Your Texas VA&R Team Members Are:**

|            |               |                |   |
|------------|---------------|----------------|---|
| Division 1 | Tonia Ison    | (785) 213-6609 | tonia0507@att.net                             |
| Division 2 | Robbie Scott  | (832) 215-1229 | robbie.l.scott@hotmail.com <b>Chairperson</b> |
| Division 3 | Rosa Vasquez  | (210) 464-8885 | federico.j@sbcglobal.net                      |
| Division 4 | Rebecca Ochoa | (915) 433-5394 | reb_ochoa@yahoo.com                           |





**RECRUITMENT  
FOR VA REPRESENTATIVES  
AND DEPUTIES**

**We are reaching out to our Districts and Divisions  
In search of volunteers for our V/A Hospitals  
and Clinics.**

**We have many facilities that only have a Representative  
or Deputy, and some facilities have neither.  
Many are getting older, and we need to recruit additional  
individuals to assist them.**

**The Department of Texas V/A&R Committee  
is asking for your assistance.**

**Please present this flyer at your District and Division  
Conventions.**

**District Presidents please send flyer  
to your Units.**

**If you have any questions, please contact the following  
committee members:**

**Tonia Ison - 785-213-6609 - VA&R Chairman and Division 1**

**Pamela Burkett - 573-228-0445 - Division 3**

**Rebecca Ochoa - 915-433-5394 - Division 4**

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

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

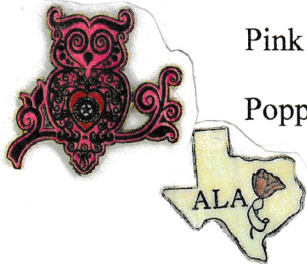


President Holly's Pin is a circular pin in red, white, blue, and gold. The main colors of the pin are red, white and blue. The pin is encircled in a gold border, then a red band with her theme "Keeping On Track For Our Veterans" is written in white. A white band follows the red. The center of the pin is in blue with a train stretching across it. Above the train is the American Legion Auxiliary emblem. Below the train is her name in gold and our wonderful state of Texas. At the bottom of the pin is Holly's term 2023-2024 inside the red band. To go with Holly's theme this year, is her membership theme "All Aboard for Membership".

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.**

|                     |                   |             |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Holly's Pin         | No. Ordered _____ | \$3.00 each |
| Myra's Pin          | No. Ordered _____ | \$2.00 each |
| Teresa's Pin        | No. Ordered _____ | \$1.00 each |
| Brenda's Pin        | No. Ordered _____ | \$1.00 each |
| Texas Cancer Pin    | No. Ordered _____ | \$1.00 each |
| Pink Owl Cancer Pin | No. Ordered _____ | \$1.00 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>\$3.00 Postage plus Price of Pin</u>  |
| <u>10 Pins</u> | <u>\$6.00 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"**