

American Legion Auxiliary Glossary of Terms

A

- AEF Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Created in 1969, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund assists eligible members with food, shelter and utilities. Grants are also disbursed for emergency needs due to weather-related catastrophes and educational training. ***See the AEF brochure for further information.***
- ALA American Legion Auxiliary, the largest women's patriotic service organization in the world, with nearly 800,000 members. Founded in 1919 as an Auxiliary to The American Legion.
- ALA Girls Nation A continuation of Girls State is Girls Nation where two "senators" from each state are selected to participate in a simulated National government program in Washington, D.C. ***See Girls State***
- ALA Girls State The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Program has provided High School Juniors all across the country the opportunity to participate in a hands-on citizenship training program for over 60 years. These young women learn about local, state and federal government by actually creating their own policy through the election of public officials on local, county, and state levels and then by carrying out the duties of these respective offices.
- ALAMIS American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System. It is currently in use by ALA Departments and many units.
- Auxiliary* American Legion Auxiliary's quarterly magazine that is distributed to every current senior member.

B

- Blue Book A list of ALA contact information for units and those in leadership positions. This book is produced annually and given to Unit Presidents, District Presidents and Division Presidents.
- Blue Star Families Blue Star Family is a military family with a loved one who is serving in the U.S. military during a time of conflict.

Boys Nation ***See Girls State/Girls Nation***

Boys State American Legion Boys State is a participatory program where each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government. At American Legion Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. This program coincides with the American Legion Auxiliary's Girls State program.

C

C&Y Children and Youth Committee

C&B Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Century Club The Century Club is an annual giving program in which Auxiliary members and friends of the national organization donate \$100 or more to become members of the Century Club. Contributions are used to support the operations and programs of the Auxiliary such as Girls Nation, scholarships, Auxiliary Emergency Fund and much more.

Chairman Members may be selected to serve as a committee chairman on the unit, department or national level. The incoming National President prior to the start of the next administrative year selects national chairmen.

Charter A Charter is, essentially, an application to start a new unit within a department. It also serves as a piece of history. Charters may be cancelled and revoked. *See Unit Handbook for more information.*

Christmas Assessment This is a mandatory fee based on membership and assessed to each unit to be paid to the Department of Texas. The purpose is to provide hospitalized veterans with gifts for Christmas.

Commander Title given to the leader of The American Legion post, district, division, department, or national organization.

Consolidated Report Form Implemented in the 2010-2011 year, this report captures the mission related outcomes from unit activity so that the Auxiliary and Legion family can demonstrate our impact on the veteran community. The information reported is sent to The American Legion National Headquarters to include in their annual report to Congress.

D

DEC	Department Executive Committee. The Board of Directors for the Department.
Department	Within the Auxiliary, each state (as well as Puerto Rico and District of Columbia) is known as a "Department." Each department has their own constitution and is governed by a Department Executive Committee. Department Presidents typically change annually; however, each department has a secretary who typically handles day-to-day business and is usually the first point of contact for the department. There are currently 52 Departments in the ALA.
Detachment	The Sons of the American Legion's equivalent to an Auxiliary Department.

E

Emblem	The Auxiliary's symbol is referred to as an emblem, not a logo. Permission to use it must be given by the National Secretary.
Emblem Sales	The Emblem Sales Division of The American Legion National Headquarters not only sells Legion merchandise; they also stock many Auxiliary items. Some of these items include pins, jewelry and clothing. Additionally, supply items such as the Unit Handbook are available for purchase. Each fall, Emblem Sales produces a new catalog.

G

Gold Star Mothers	This is an organization of mothers whose sons or daughters served and died that this world might be a better place in which to live. The biological mothers of sons or daughters who died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America or its Allies, or died as a result of injuries sustained in such service, are eligible for membership in the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. An adoptive mother or stepmother who parented the child, whose biological mother is deceased, from the age of five years is also eligible under the above conditions.
-------------------	---

J

Junior	Auxiliary members who have not yet reached the age of 18.
--------	---

Junior Handbook A resource for Junior members and Senior members who work with Juniors. It is available for free on the American Legion Auxiliary national website; hard copies may be purchased through Emblem Sales.

L

Legion Family Members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and Legion Riders comprise the Legion family, which has a combined membership of nearly 4 million.

N

NEC The National Executive Committee is the governing body for the national organization. The NEC meets proceeding National Convention, immediately following National Convention and also at mid-year, typically prior to the Washington D.C. Conference.

NPAE National President's Award for Excellence --the Best of the Best. One Department and Five Units are awarded the National President's Award for Excellence each year at National Convention.

NVCAF National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Held annually, the Auxiliary is a national co-sponsor of this event (along with the Department of veterans Affairs). This program is specifically for veterans in the VA healthcare system who use art as a form of rehabilitative therapy. Departments and Units raise funds to support this annual program at the local and national levels.

P

Page There are three different types of pages: Local Page, Department Page and President's Page. All three play a role in the national convention. A local page serves in conjunction with the local convention committee and assists with directions, locations, etc. A department page assists their delegation and may present department's colors. A president's page accompanies the President and serves as an aide (i.e. running errands, delivering messages, etc.) When serving at events, they generally wear white and blue.

PDP	Past Department President. Once a department president completes her annual term, she becomes a past department president. Most continue serving, particularly as mentors to future leaders at the unit, district/county and department levels. Many go on to serve on national committees and other national leadership positions.
PNP	Past National President. Once a national president's annual term ends, she is referred to as a past national president. A PNP will typically continue to remain active in the Auxiliary, serving on committees and as a mentor to future leaders at all levels.
Poppy	The poppy became a symbol of the sacrifice of lives in war and represented the hope that none had died in vain. The American Legion Auxiliary poppy has continued to bloom for the casualties of four wars, its petals of paper bound together for veterans, reminding America each year that the men and women who have served and died for their country deserves to be remembered.
Poppy Poster Contest	Units in their local schools sponsor the Poppy Poster Contest. Specific requirements and rules guide winner selection. Local winners are judged by national division chairmen and divisional winners are featured in the national <i>Auxiliary</i> magazine.
Post	The American Legion's equivalent to an Auxiliary Unit. Legionnaires belong to a Post. Auxiliary members belong to a Unit.
PPP	Past Presidents Parley. While no longer on the national level, it remains a committee for the Department of Texas. The purpose of the committee is to recognize and honor female veterans through the "Outstanding Female Veteran" award and the "Unit Member of the Year" award. This committee also raises funds for the PPP Medical Scholarships.
President	Title given to the leader of an auxiliary unit, district/county, division, department, or national organization.
PUFL	Paid Up For Life membership. Members who are current on dues may complete a PUFL application and pay a one-time fee, based upon the member's age and total dues at the time of application, to become a member for life. The one-time payment is placed in a trust to pay the member's dues each year.

Public Spirit Award Established in 1983, this award recognizes outstanding individuals or organizations for contributions that positively impact our communities, particularly efforts that benefit our military, veterans and their families. It is awarded at the annual Auxiliary Washington, D.C. Conference. The recipient is selected by the American Legion Auxiliary national president and must be present to accept the award.

R

Reps/Depts Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Representatives and Deputy Representatives.

Roster A list of members in a specific department or unit, available via ALAMIS.

S

SAL Sons of The American Legion. Founded in 1932, SAL members include males of all ages who are dependents of those who served in the U.S. military and eligible for American Legion membership.

Senior A member age 18 or older.

SOY Spirit of Youth. Established in 1983, the Spirit of Youth Fund provides scholarships to Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary; said member to have held Junior membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the past three years and must hold a membership card for the current year.

Squadron The Sons of The American Legion's equivalent to an auxiliary unit.

Stand Down In times of war, exhausted combat warriors are removed from the battlefields to a place of relative security and safety to take care of personal hygiene, get clean uniforms, enjoy a warm meal, receive medical care, and receive and send letters. Now refers to grassroots, community-based intervention program to help the nation's homeless veterans "combat" life on the streets. Homeless veterans are brought to one location for one to three days and are provided access to community resources to begin addressing individual problems. Homeless veterans are provided with necessities including food, clothing, medical, legal and mental health assistance, and job counseling.

T

TAL	The American Legion, also call The Legion. Members referred to as Legionnaires.
TX Bluebonnet Girls State:	This is the name of the Girls State Program for the Department of Texas. <i>See ALA Girls State</i>

U

Unit	A unit is the grass roots level of membership. Each unit has their own constitution, bylaws and officers. The ALA has more than 8,000 units. The State of Texas currently (2026) has 248 units.
Unit Handbook	A resource for Senior members in the American Legion Auxiliary. It is available for free on the American Legion Auxiliary national website; hard copies may be purchased through Emblem Sales.

V

VA&R	Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee
VAMC	Veterans Administrative Medical Center
VAVS	VA Voluntary Services

W

Washington D.C. Conference	Formerly known as Awareness Assembly. Annual meeting conducted in February/March in Washington D.C., in conjunction with The American Legion, focusing primarily on legislative issues.
----------------------------	---