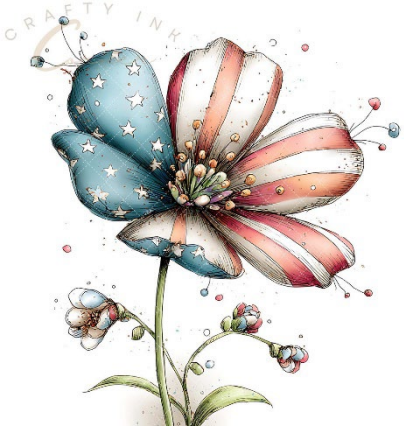
American Legion Auxiliary Department of MD, Inc.
1589 Sulphur Spring Rd., Suite 105
Baltimore, MD 21227
Phone- 410-242-9519 / Fax-410-242-9553



October / November 2026 Bulletin

PRESIDENTS NOTES

To: The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Maryland "Proud Patriots"

Greetings;

Just a short message to say we are off to a good start for the 2026/2027 year. Thank You to those Chairmen that have gotten their programs up and running.

There have been some changes in eligibility into the ALA from National, but I'll let the Membership Chairman enlighten you all on that.

I attended my first ever National Convention in Kentucky. I must say, if you ever have the opportunity to attend a convention, please do so.

For those who may not have heard, my theme " This Is What They Fought For - America The Beautiful" is in honor of America's 250th Anniversary. My Project - Junior Activities. My goal is $5,000.00 plus.

I have to say that I'm a little disappointed about the turn out for our Chairman's meeting on September 12, 2026. This meeting was scheduled in July and a lot of our Chairmen and District Reps called or texted the night before to say they wouldn't be there. Thanks to Alta Glotfelty who chaired this meeting, everything went well. I would also like to thank Tonya Rowe and Kendra Cole for their outstanding hospitality along with members of Unit 10.

Thanks to all the Chairman their displays and project information ready for the Fall Conference.

Members, I have been receiving emails about ugly things going on in some of the Units and about Individuals. I'm not going into this, but I can assure you that they won't be swept under the

rug. Our mission is to help our Veterans, Children, Communities and Active Servicemen not attack each other. Let's concentrate on Recruiting, Reclaiming and Renewing.
Aberdeen, Maryland!!!
Patricia "Pat" Walker
ALA Dept. President
aladpmd1@gmail.com
240-841-9983

CHAPLAIN REPORT

From your Chaplain, Paula Grimes

OCTOBER - Sincere condolences to the families of Marian James, and Mamie Morris on their passing. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen
Healing prayers for Department President Pat Walker's youngest sister who was rushed to the hospital. May she have a full recovery.🙏🙏

NOVEMBER - Heavenly Father, thank you for bringing us into the month of November. We give you praise for the gift of life, health, and your unfailing love. Amen
Keep Suzette Reed and Sharon Holter in your prayers as they mourn the passing of their Mother's. **Matthew 5:4** — *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."*





THE SECRETARY'S CORNER



Secretary's Corner:

DEC Meeting Schedule:

Below is the latest information on the DEC Meetings.

November 14, 2026, DEC meeting will be held at:
POST 285
2324 McElderry Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21205
Starting at 10:30 AM

Any Chairman that has a project to be voted on, please bring it in writing.

Lunch will be provided at $8.00 per person.

FOR DEC Meetings, Committee Chairs, please send all reports electronically to mailto:hq@alamd.org for inclusion in the meeting notes and the BULLETIN after each meeting. Please also bring the required hard copies as well to each meeting (3). Thank you!

Meeting Type	Date	Unit	Location
DEC Meeting	February 13, 2027	Unit 29	Denton MD
DEC Meeting	May 1, 2027	Unit 285	Baltimore MD

UNIT YEAR END REPORTS:

At the Chairmans meeting on Saturday, September 12, 2026, Alta discussed when changes to the Committee Unit Year End Reports for 26-27 need to be sent in. Committee Chairman, please email your changes to Laura, Alta, and Pat or mail to the office for review NO LATER than November 1. 2026. This will allow enough time to have the edits/changes incorporated into the 26-27 forms available by February 2027. (hq@alamd.org; Alta Glotfelty (altamarieglotfelty@gmail.com); Patricia 'Pat' Walker (aladpmd1@gmail.com))

The Military Child's Table setting Ceremony:

Members of the department have been asking about The Military Child's table setting Ceremony, what it means and how it is done. The American Legion Auxiliary has posted on their blog (April 17, 2017) information about this unique ceremony for the Auxiliary Juniors and younger American Legions Sons of the American Legion. https://www.legion-aux.org/Blog/The-Military-Child%E2%80%99s-Table-Setting-Ceremony

Americanism Essay Schedule:

We should get the essay to the schools now and get have them returned by January 15, 2027.

- Then Winning essays need to be to your District President by February 15, 2027
- District Presidents need to have the winning essays to Linda by March 15, 2027
- So, Linda can send them to National by April 15, 2027.

Your contact information:

We finished our lists! **Woo Hoo**, but guess what? We still have email addresses that are ***undeliverable***. And guess what, we pulled the information form ALA MIS!! At this point there are still a bunch of emails that will not be getting communications from the office. The time to look up each email address and make a call and then wait to get a response is not efficient, so we are removing those email addresses from their corresponding list. As a President, Secretary or Membership Liaison keeping your contact information current is key in getting the latest communications for the Department. If you know your email or cell phone has changed, please call or email the office so we can update our lists and then make those changes in ALA MIS, PLEASE!

AMERICANISM BULLETIN

Americanism

The purpose of the Americanism program is to promote patriotism and responsible citizenship. Americanism work of the Auxiliary includes all activities that strengthen American ideals and uphold the principles of democracy. The security of America lies in citizens who have a true understanding, love for all those ideals and principles upon which the nation was founded, and a willingness to perform these duties even at great personal sacrifice. The work of the Americanism program is educationally based and divided into three phases: work with youth, work with adults, and work within the community. All matters about the flag or patriotic education are rightly classified as Americanism activities.

Americanism as an Individual

Be able to answer, "What kind of an American am I?" Take an interest in our country's affairs, Express our belief in our I've for America in our words and deeds. Inspire children and young people in our homes and schools to develop fine characters, high ideals, and a sincere appreciation of our heritage. Be tolerant in thought and deeds toward others. Vote intelligently after careful study of candidates and issues. Proudly fly our nation's flag in front of your home on all patriotic holidays.

Unit

Appoint an active Americanism chair. Support the Americanism activities of your Legion post. Plan a patriotic conference. Observe patriotic holidays. Display the flag, keep it clean, and fold it properly. Sponsor citizenship classes and present small American flags to new citizens. Host Americanism meetings and community forums. Instill in members the responsibility of voting, attend local caucuses, and mentor members to be informed voters.

PATRIOTIC EDUCATION

Every citizen should have a through knowledge and understanding of the Constitution of the United States. Therefore, the American Legion Auxiliary has a very definite goal in emphasizing

the teachings of good citizenship. Activities that fall under Americanism: present Americanism awards in schools: sponsor debates and essay contests; work with The American Legion to sponsor local oratorical contests; present flags to schools and encourage the Pledge of Allegiance to be recited daily; promote www.Legion.org/flag and flag advocacy; and encourage formation of student councils in elementary schools.
Visits schools, demonstrate how to fold the American flag. Read to them the meaning of each fold.
This year we are starting a new program. Please ride around your community and make a list of the stores that are flying the American Flag. If the flag is not in good condition, ask the store manager if you can donate to them a new American Flag. If they are not flying an American Flag, offer to donate to them a flag bracket and flag.
If they are flying one, present them with a certificate of Appreciation. This will show them how much we appreciate them!! Please take pictures of you presenting the certificate.
American Legion Auxiliary members can effectively make patriotism a personal matter and select and successfully carry out projects adaptable to the needs of their communities. Work as an American Legion Family to promote these activities at home, in your schools, and throughout your communities.

These paragraphs were taken out of the "Unit Guide Book". We will go over more monthly. Your job is to see what you can do with the items in each paragraph. Send me your thoughts and actions!!

And now , the AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST!!! This years title is: "HOW CAN YOU BE A BEACON OF LIGHT FOR OUR VETERANS"!! The first page are instructions and rules for the contest. The second page is the actual cover sheet. Please make sure that the cover sheet is filled out correctly and neatly.
THE DEADLINE DATES HAVE CHANGED!! You can begin going to the schools now!!
The deadline for picking them up from the schools, etc. is January 15th.
Next, you must have your FIRST-place winners to your District President by February 15th. Then the District President must have FIRST place winner to Department Chairman by March 15th. Then the Department Chairman will send first place winners to the Eastern Division Americanism Chairman by April 15th!!!
I will have copies of the cover sheet and rules at Fall Conference. Please visit the Americanism table. There will be more information.
If you have any questions, please contact me or the Vice Chairman, Nola Willis.
God Bless our Country, our American Flag, our Veterans and their families. And God bless all of you.

Linda Sarkisian Americanism Chairman lindasarkisian@yahoo.com 301/602-5276
Nola Willis Americanism Vice Chairman nolawillis@atlanticbb.net © 410/490-3625

CHILDREN & YOUTH REPORT

Happy Fall ALA Department of Maryland.

As we prepare for autumn and October holidays, please include our Children & Youth in celebrations. We can partner with neighbors, friends, and ALA Units to attend Fall Festivals and Explorations, our local Pumpkin Patch, and Harvest Events at local farms. You can also take our C&Y to free events at local libraries. This October, there are several Teentober Teen Zone events, including Friday, October 2nd from 11am - 2pm at the Bowie – Auditorium (ages 13-17 yrs). At the Teen Zone, C&Y can unwind with video games, crafts, and plenty of other fun activities while you chill or run errands. Register at Events - Prince George's County Memorial Library System. Don't forget to post your C&Y event stories and pics on our Department of Maryland Facebook Page at **American Legion Auxiliary Department of Maryland.**

Our 2026-2027 Children & Youth Program is "OUR MILITARY KIDS" (ourmilitarykids.org) to help Military Kids fund activities. We will also support the American Legion Child Well Being Foundation (CWF). In support of fundraising, we are selling Flag Pins ($5),  Flag Heart Pins ($5),  and Purple Ribbons  in support of the Month of the Military Child (April) and Purple Up Day, April 15th. All proceeds will go towards our donations to Our Military Kids and The American Legion Child Well-being Foundation (CWF). Please reach out via email to AnnetteEmail@yahoo.com to obtain pins. Please contribute individually and please promote our mission at the Unit and District level.

We thank you for your support.

Your 2026-2027 Children & Youth Team
Annette Vaughn, Chair, Unit 259, annetteemail@yahoo.com
Christina Thompson, Vice Chair, Unit 128, thompson21001@yahoo.com
Parnice Green, Unit 259, Junior Chair, greenparnice@hotmail.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Bullying Prevention, Domestic Violence, Down Syndrome, Make a Difference Day which is on October 24th and of course Halloween on October 31st.
Honor members in your unit or post to those who has survive Breast Cancer (remember men can also get breast cancer). Have a Guest speaker. Have/give out brochures on all the above-mentioned. Do a Trunk or Treat in your community for Halloween.
We will have more Infor at the Fall Conference. Remember to check out the National Community Service Facebook page and to the National website alaforveterans.org



November keeps us busy. There is National Men Health Awareness, Military family, National Family Caregiver month. All in the month of November.
Plenty to keep you busy with community work, go to a shelter, help a military family, take a moment and give a family member who is a caregiver a break by letting them go do something for themselves for an hour or two while you stay with their loved ones.

2026-2027 National Community Service Program Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements:

All award submissions must include a narrative (either a PDF or Microsoft Word document) explaining why the department or unit you nominate should receive the award. The narrative can also be the department chair's report. You may also upload other supporting documentation that will give the committee a full picture of the important mission works your department, or unit has accomplished this year. These files can be photos (JPG, JPEG or TIFs — no larger than 14MB) or PDF documents. If you have more than three support files, please email the committee's email address listed in the form.

Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Community Service Program
Presented: One unit in each division
Materials and guidelines:
Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words that includes specific examples of how the unit delivered mission service. Narrative can also include portions from department chair's report

Should include action (high-resolution) photos, scans/links to news articles, etc.
All unit entries must be submitted via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.
Note: You will receive 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
Presented to: One department in each division.
Materials and guidelines:
Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words that includes program-related mission service may include department chair reports.
Should include action (high-resolution) photos, scans/links to news articles, etc.
All department entries must be submitted via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1st.

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

Please note – when applicable, unit and department deadlines differ

.

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

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

Joyce "Jaye Cooper Chairman
Community Service
Jaye0712@gmail.com

Allison Thomas Vice Chairman
Community Service
allisonthomas676@gmail.com

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS REPORT

Rusty Beeg, C&B Chairman
301-602-7214 or rbeeg5908@gmail.com

FALL CONFERENCE

Lynette Dean and I would like to say Thank you to everyone who attended the Fall Conference. Your presence helped make it a great success. We hope you enjoy the conference and were able to get a lot of information that would help your unit.

Thank you to the Department Chairmen who presented a report and put up poster boards, giving out lots of information to use for the year. We hope we were able to make you smile a little, laugh a little and just bring enjoyment to your hearts.

Thank you to our helpers: The Sisters (Eleanor and Cindy) for the brown bags and silent auction, Door prizes: Carol and her daughters Jessica and Julie. Barbara Vaughan for the Patriotic Creations and a big shout out to Christine Willard from Wheaton Unit 268, who made the centerpieces for all our District Presidents and of course to Our fabulous Dept office ladies Laura and Suzzette. And everyone who made a donation, whether it was big or small, it was truly appreciated.

And a Big Spectacular Thank You to Bernard L. Tobin Post 128, Commander Billy, Christine and your Committee for the hosting, catering and just helping wherever we needed help. We have read your suggestions, and we will pass them on to the next Fall Conference Committee for next year.

Again, thank you, thank you, Thank you.

This is What They Fought for: America the Beautiful

Joyce "Jaye" Cooper
Jaye0713@gmail.com

Lynette Brooke-Dean
ncdpresiden2021@yahoo.com

GIRLS STATE BULLETIN REPORT

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

CALLING ALL UNITS—

WE WANT YOU:



to **Sponsor** a Girls State citizen *for* **GIRLS STATE 2027!**

GIRL'S STATE
LEADERSHIP
CITIZENSHIP
SERVICE

EMPOWER young women to become tomorrow's leaders.

INSPIRE leadership, responsibility and pride in citizenship.

BUILD confidence, friendships and lifelong memories.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE in the life of a deserving young woman.

COST TO SPONSOR – $300
COST TO GS APPLICANT – $45

CONTACT US:
alamdgs@gmail.com

UNABLE TO SPONSOR A GIRL CITIZEN?
PLEASE EMAIL US FOR MORE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED.

TOGETHER, LET'S SHAPE STRONG LEADERS AND
Stronger Communities!

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Maryland Girls State

June 20 - 25, 2027
at Salisbury University

Who Can Apply:

- Female 2026 - 2027 HS Junior
- At least 1 semester remaining in senior year

Benefits:

- Leadership
- Americanism & Patriotism
- Hands-on Experience
- Public Speaking
- Scholarship

Contact Us:

- TO APPLY: mdboysgirlsstate.org
- EMAIL: alamdgs@gmail.com
- Facebook - alamdgs
- Instagram - alamdgs

Apply Now

SCAN ME



Application Deadline:
May 1, 2027

ALA MD

Girls State

MANDATORY ORIENTATIONS

Get informed. Be prepared. Make Girls State amazing!

ORIENTATION SCHEDULE – FOUR OPTIONS

1. **Saturday, April 3, 2027,**
   at Dorchester Unit 91 at 2pm - 4pm
   (East)

2. **Saturday, April 10, 2027,**
   at Gold Star Unit 191 at 2pm - 4pm
   (North/West)

3. **Sunday, April 11, 2027,**
   at Laurel Unit 60 at 2pm - 4pm
   (Central/South)

4. **Online Webinar —**
   Saturday, April 24, 2027, at 2pm - 4pm

If you are unable to attend any of the orientations above, you must email alamdgs@gmail.com to request an accommodation by May 1, 2027.

MANDATORY ATTENDANCE

Mandatory attendance at an orientation for citizens and at least one parent/guardian.

OPTIONAL ATTENDANCE

Optional attendance, but highly encouraged for ALA MD Girls State staff, District Reps, Unit Chairs, and our American Legion family and supporters.

BECOME AN ALA MD GIRLS STATE STAFF MEMBER

SAT., JUNE 19TH
THRU
FRI., JUNE 26TH

SALISBURY UNIVERSITY
1101 CAMDEN AVE
SALISBURY, MD 21801



WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- Senior Counselors - Aged 21+
- Assistant Counselors - 2+ years removed from attending
- Junior Counselors - 1 year removed from attending

Requirements to Serve:

- Must be a member of the American Legion Family OR
- a graduate of any ALA Girls State program.
- Attend the full week
- Attend the mandatory pre-session training scheduled for early June via Zoom

mdboysgirlsstate.org

alamdgs@gmail.com

Brianna Jackson (38), Director - **alamdgs@gmail.com**
Robyn Anzulis (191), 1st Vice Director
Kristen Barry (191), 2nd Vice Director
Committee: Rusty Beeg (136), Joyce Cooper (19), Rocky Berry (293), Stephanie Maceiko (136), Kyrese Johnson (170), and Briana Washington-Yotko (293)

Gold Star

Your Hero will not be forgotten...

Respectfully,

Penny Adams

Gold Star Chairman

717-752-2178/boomomo63@gmail.com

Junior Activities Bulletin Report



Junior Project: Soldiers Angels
2026-2027



DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND HISTORIAN 2027

Department of Maryland Historian Report Oct / Nov 2026

Good day ALA Department of Maryland and Unit Historians.

We shared the Guidelines and Scoresheet for our Unit Department Senior History Books in September (see the Rule Book, Pages 95-96). We look forward to receiving your Unit's History no later than May 25, 2027, grading your history, and your Unit receiving recognition and the Best History Award.

Please keep in mind that your Unit's History must be written as a factual narrative beginning May 1st and ending April 30th. The Cover for your history is preferably the blue regulation binder with imprinted seal (may be purchased from Department Headquarters).

Your Unit's History should tell your story in the third person in clear, concise language with correct spelling. Documenting your Unit's History after every event will prevent you from being overwhelmed in May 2027. Finally, please ensure you review the Guidelines before submission. Submit questions @ Annetteemail@yahoo.com

Annette Vaughn
Department of Maryland 2026-2027 Historian

LEADERSHIP REPORT

October / November 2026

What does it take to be a Good Leader?

Effective leadership is the backbone of organizational success. While leadership styles vary, exceptional leaders consistently demonstrate a core set of behaviors that inspire teams and drive meaningful results.

1. High Emotional Intelligence (EQ)

Great leaders understand themselves and those around them. They listen actively and validate their team's experiences. By managing their emotions under pressure, they maintain a stable work environment. This empathy builds psychological safety, allowing employees to innovate without fear of failure.

2. Clear and Transparent Communication

A good leader eliminates ambiguity. They clearly articulate the organization's vision, goals, and performance expectations. Crucially, they practice transparent communication by keeping teams informed during times of change and remaining open to constructive feedback.

3. Accountability and Integrity

True leaders do not shift blame. They take responsibility for their team's setbacks while freely sharing credit for successes. By aligning their actions with their stated values, they build institutional trust and set an ethical standard for the entire organization.

4. Empowerment and Delegation

Micromanagement stifles growth. Effective leaders trust their team members' expertise and delegate authority, not just tasks. They provide the necessary resources and mentorship, empowering individuals to take ownership of their work and develop into leaders themselves.

5. Decisiveness Balanced with Agility

Strong leaders analyze data swiftly to make firm, timely decisions. However, they remain flexible enough to pivot when new information or market conditions demand a shift in strategy.

Conclusion

Ultimately, the truest sign of a good leader is **the success and well-being of their people**. They do not merely command; they serve as catalysts who unlock potential, foster collaboration, and guide their organization toward a shared, successful future.

Kyrese Johnson, Leadership Chair
Dept of Md.

LEGISLATION

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Maryland
Legislative Report – November 2026
Submitted by LaTia Jones, Department Legislative Chair

Good evening, Madam President and members.

During November, our Legislative Program continues to focus on advocating for veterans, servicemembers, and their families. The American Legion Auxiliary supports The American Legion's legislative priorities, including suicide prevention and mental health services, access to quality VA and community care, stronger oversight of VA compensation and pension examinations, military quality of life, and ending veteran homelessness.

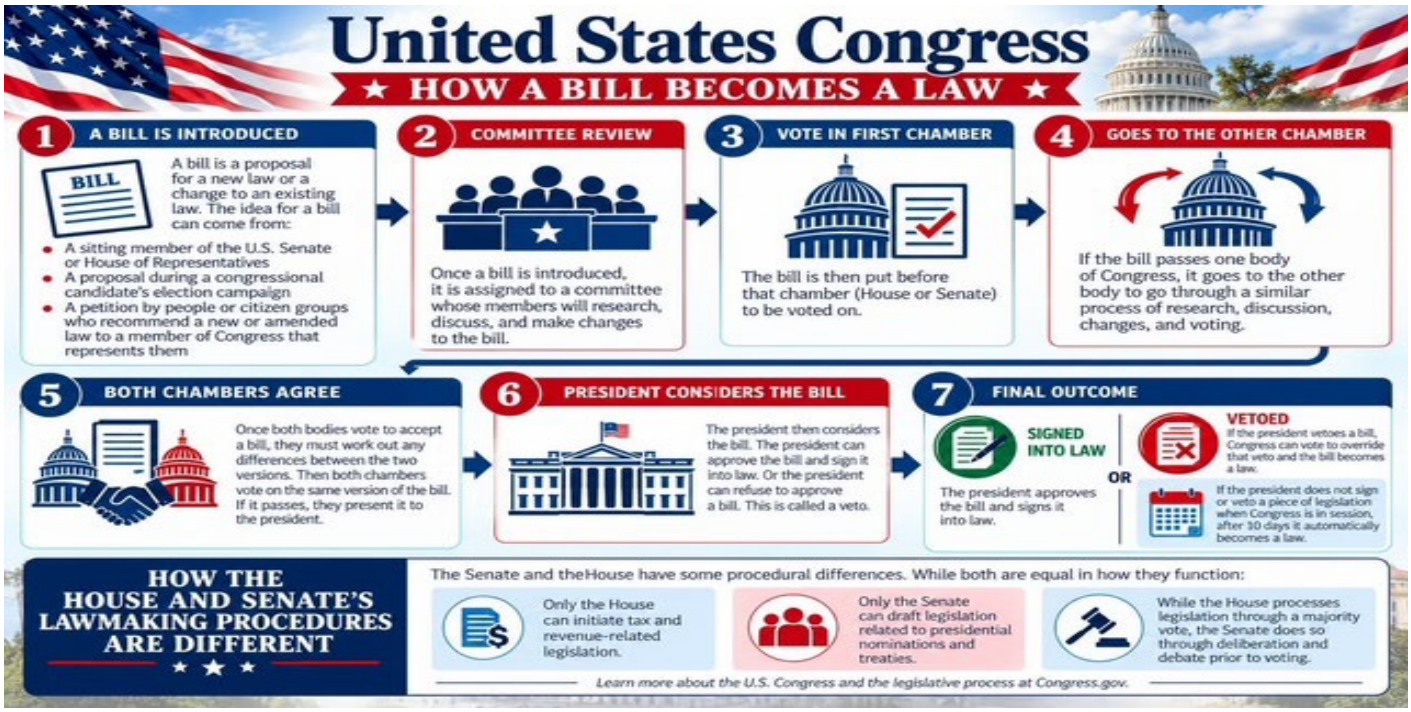
One current issue for members to monitor is the Take Care of America's Veterans Act (TCAVA), a package of veteran-related legislation addressing areas such as health care, benefits, caregiver support, survivor programs, education, and transition assistance. The American Legion is urging members to stay informed and contact their members of Congress through its Grassroots Action Center. Because the bill's status may change, please review the latest action alert before contacting legislators.

As we observe Veterans Day, let us remember that advocacy is one way we continue to honor those who served. November is also a meaningful time to recognize military and veteran caregivers and support policies that address their needs.

Members can participate by reviewing legislative alerts, learning who represents them, and sending respectful, nonpartisan messages about issues affecting veterans and military families. Please use the talking points and sample messages provided through official American Legion and Auxiliary resources and focus on policy rather than political parties or candidates.

Legislative advocacy is service. Every informed conversation and constituent message helps keep the needs of veterans, servicemembers, and their families before our elected officials.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.




NO WRITING! NO STAMPS!
SIGN UP FOR ACTION ALERTS!
Go to: https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home
Then select the method to receive!



Respectfully submitted,
LaTia Jones
Department of Maryland Legislative Chair

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Let's Be a Beacon for Those Who Served

Membership is the heart of the American Legion Auxiliary. As we work toward our membership goals, let's challenge ourselves to do more than meet them—let's beat them! Units, keep reaching out to current members, welcoming new members, and sharing the value of being part of our Auxiliary family. Every conversation and invitation can make a difference. Recruit, Renew and Reach Out to Your member and challenge them to sign up a new member.

Membership District Representatives, please connect with your Units' Membership Chairmen to share the goals and encourage them along the way. I also invite each District Membership Rep. to send in a brief update about how you are promoting membership in your District. Let's share our ideas, celebrate our progress, and inspire one another. Together, we can strengthen our Units, grow our membership, and make Maryland shine. Let's work with purpose and pride to make the Department of Maryland #1 in the Eastern Division! We are currently in 2nd place in the Eastern Division but with your recruiting we can reach that #1 spot.

Membership Goals: Stronger Together - Growing the ALA Mission

Every member we renew, every new member we welcome, and every former member we encourage to return strengthens our ability to serve our veterans, military families, children & youth and our communities. **National** has set membership goals and incentives this year. Let's work together to make sure MARYLAND is represented among the achievers. The 1st milestone of 50% was extended by National to be reached by December 15, 2026. If Maryland reaches the deadline date, we will receive $50.00 to advance the ALA mission from National. **We can do this.** The **1st Unit in each District** who reaches 50% by the December 15, 2026 deadline will receive a gift from this Membership Chairman and a $25.00 donation (to the Unit) from the Department.

Please reach out to this Membership Chairman with any Questions or concerns.

Starr Purnell
Dept. 1st Vice President
Membership Dept. Chairman



DISTRICT 2 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Matters

Members of our Units are just as important as our mission.
Communication plays a vital role not only in recruiting new members, but also in retaining the members we already have. Members are more likely to become involved and remain active when they feel valued, connected, and informed.
Promote your Unit and let everyone see the great things you are doing! There are so many ways to keep members engaged and connected, including:

- Volunteer opportunities
- Committee involvement
- Meet-and-greets and social gatherings
- Unit newsletters
- Email blasts promoting upcoming events
- Facebook groups and other social media
- Incentives within your Unit for recruiting new members
- Welcome packets for new members

The possibilities are endless! Units, please share your successful ideas and best practices with other Units so we can all learn from one another.
For past-due memberships, a gentle phone call, reminder card, or email from your Membership Chair or Unit may do the trick. Sometimes, all it takes is a personal reminder. And don't forget about the members we haven't seen in a while. Choose one member, reach out, and invite them to your next meeting or activity. A simple phone call or personal invitation can make someone feel remembered and welcomed—and may be just what they need to reconnect.
The **Recruit/Rejoin 10 and Family 3 incentive** is back again this year! Prizes are awarded nationally, and it's a fun challenge to take on within your Unit. Let's make membership growth and member engagement a team effort!
Thank you for all you do to strengthen our Units and our organization. Together, we can recruit, reconnect, and retain our members while building stronger Units for the future.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lee Everett District 2 Membership Representative

UNIT 196 REPORT

On October 12, 2026, several American Legion Family from Post No. 196, along with a guest, took the AARP Smart Driver Course led by Maryland's Driver Safety Coordinator, Roselyn Hobson. The nation's first and largest course specifically for older drivers. This interactive program helped us refresh our driving knowledge and skills so we can drive safely for as long as possible. We also received an AARP Smart Driver Course Completion Certificate.



Listed above in the picture is our guest, Ms. Darlene Whitaker, American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Parliamentarian/ Executive Committee Member Theresa Johnson, ALA President, Sheila Ball, Maryland's AARP Driver Safety Coordinator Roselyn Hobson, ALA Chaplain Alice Holmes, Commander of American Legion Suitland Post No. 196 Chadrenna Edmonds.

On October 25, 2026, ALA of Suitland Post No. 196 hosted the Pretty in Pink and Pearls Breast Cancer Awareness Tea. Guest speaker Senita M. Hill, CEO and founder of Peace on Patuxent, delivered a powerful presentation as we enjoyed tea and light refreshments. The event closed with a parade of fabulous hats and fascinators.









MUSIC REPORT

Red, & White, & Blue

an arrangement parody of “America the Beautiful” by Katherine Lee Bates and Samuel A. Ward and “Total Praise” by Richard Smallwood

“O beautiful for spacious skies
For amber waves of grain
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!

America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining seal"

This is what they fought for
A land of hope and grace
Where freedom's light shines
brightly still
Upon each heart and place.

From mountains high to Chesapeake,
Their legacy remains
With grateful hearts we pledge ourselves
To red, and white, and blue.

America, America
America, America
America, America
America, America

America, America

Author Unknown

America, America
Shall we tell you how we feel
You have given us your riches
We love you so

If You Love the ALA

To the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It"

If you love the ALA, clap your hands! (clap clap)
If you love the ALA, clap your hands! (clap clap)
If you honor those who served, and preserve the freedoms earned,
If you love the ALA, clap your hands! (clap clap)

If you want new members too, wave hello! (wave wave)
If you want new members too, wave hello! (wave wave)
Bring a friend and share the fun, that's how membership gets done!
If you want new members too, wave hello! (wave wave)

If you're proud of all eight districts, stomp your feet! (stomp stomp)
If you're proud of all eight districts, stomp your feet! (stomp stomp)
Working together hand in hand, We're the best across the land,
If you're proud of all eight districts, stomp your feet! (stomp stomp)

If you're one of our Juniors, shout "That's me!" (That's me!)
If you're one of our Juniors, shout "That's me!" (That's me!)
You're the future, strong and bright, Carrying the torch and the
light, If you're one of our Juniors, shout "That's me!" (That's me!)

If you love the A-L-A, shout it loud! (A-L-A!)
If you love the A-L-A, shout it loud! (A-L-A!)
America the Beautiful, we'll proudly say today, "That's what they
fought for!" and we'll grow the A-L-A!
A-L-A! A-L-A! Hooray!

The Proud ALA

To the tune of "Do Your Ears Hang Low"

We're the proud A-L-A, growing stronger every day,
Bringing members, old and new,
Red and white and red and blue!

America the Beautiful, that's what they fought for too,
so we'll share our mission far and wide,
And welcome all of you!

NEC REPORT

What Happened at the 2026 National Convention?

At the 2026 American Legion National Convention, delegates approved new, gender-neutral eligibility requirements for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary. The change expands eligibility to include grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and qualifying direct or adopted descendants of eligible veterans and American Legion members.

What This Means for the ALA

- More family members of eligible veterans and servicemembers may now join the American Legion Auxiliary.
- Eligible individuals may belong to both the Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.
- The Legion's national judge advocate confirmed that this dual membership does not create a conflict of interest.
- The changes took effect immediately.
- Expanded membership will help strengthen the ALA's ability to serve veterans, military families, and communities.

The ALA National Executive Committee

- Approved the national president's appointments.
- Approved the 2026–2027 national budget.
- Approved new mission and vision statements.

Mission Statement

The American Legion Auxiliary honors the sacrifice of those who serve by uniting members to make a meaningful impact for veterans, military and their families, and communities.

Vision Statement

To be a connected, compassionate force — a community where veterans, servicemembers, and their families belong and thrive through service that supports veterans, military and their families, and the next generation.

In short, these actions open the doors of the American Legion Auxiliary to more eligible family members while giving the organization a clearer, more inclusive direction for service, connection, and growth.

NATIONAL SECURITY FOCUS



PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT

These are the motions from the August 15, 2026 DEC meeting at Glenn Burnie:

Motions that do not require Resolutions or changes to the Standing Rules:

1. Minutes were accepted without having to be read.
2. Treasurer - For PNC, requested to change the account to a non-profit account to reduce the fees.
3. Treasurer - For Truist, requested to close the Conventions (main account) because the account can't be changed or upgraded. Donna to find another bank to move the funds to start reducing the unnecessary fees.
4. AEF Chairman - To fundraise at all levels of the department for a goal up to $20k for this year. Motion carried.
5. Secretary - Get approval to write a grant request to Southern Baltimore Partnership and women non-profit organizations to request a total of $10k for infrastructure work that is needed (lights, office setup, emergency lighting, computers). Motion carried.
6. C & Y Chairman - To raise funds for The Well Being Project for the year. And wants to sell Pins at events: $5 – Flag Pin, $3 Purple Up Pin. Motion carried.
7. Juniors Chairman- To raise funds for Soldiers Angels and raise up to $3k for the year. Motion carried.
8. Membership Chairman - To use the funds from last year National Membership awards for Department meeting membership goals to be added to the current year Membership allotment to support Department Membership initiatives. Motion was carried.
9. Poppy Chairman - Due to the rise in cost and postage for the Poppy's to be made and mailed out to our members, we are taking a loss on each 100 poppy's that are shipped out of approx. $10.00. A motion was started to raise the costs on the Poppy Form for the cost of the Poppies and the freight for shipping. Motion was carried.
10. Finance Chairman - To approve the purchase of new laptops for the office at the onetime estimated cost of $4k. Motion was carried.
11. Finance Chairman - To accept the budget as presented, article VII section 3, reducing the monthly operating expenses by ¼ and all District President allotments by ¼ until the Nov 14 DEC meeting allowing further review of the budget and the possibility of identifying a fundraiser.
Motion was carried.
12. Finance Chairman - To allow the finance committee to revisit and review the potential of combining certain accounts, purchase of short-term CDs and/or other cost initiating savings while consulting with our accountant Dawn, as well as past members of the finance committee and former financial chairman to identify best

allocation/distribution of funds. Motion was carried.
13. The floor - to rename the documentation as "The Department Reference Manual" was started. The name covers the Department's Constitution & Bylaws and the Standing
Rules. Motion was carried.

For God & Country, In Service-Not-Self
Linda L. Green
Parliamentarian

PUBLIC RELATIONS



How to improve your unit's newsletter

Don't undervalue regular communications with your fellow members

An internal unit newsletter, whether it's a digital or print format, is a great way to inform members on what's happening in your local American Legion Auxiliary. This regular source of communication can act as a central document that includes important information, upcoming events, and access to your unit's social media platforms. Messaging all these resources in one place can cut down on a member's time spent looking for these materials. Having a strong unit newsletter connects your members to the overall mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.Below are pointers in providing a successful newsletter for your unit members:

STUCK ON LAYOUT/DESIGN? USE A TEMPLATE National Headquarters provides an extensive cache of marketing and public relations resources for members at www.ALAforVeterans.org. Included in that mix is an ALA-branded newsletter template available in Microsoft Word. This easy-to-use format allows you to plug in photos, event/activity details, and other miscellaneous content. The template's design is flexible, meaning you can arrange it however you'd like.

CONTENT: WHAT GOES INTO OUR NEWSLETTER? Think of this unique-to-your-unit publication as an opportunity to keep everyone in sync and show an example of ALA's brand. The message you want your unit members to receive should be the focus.

Start by explaining the most important information and events you want members to know. Think of the newsletter as a large news medium — the big story should always be first, followed by the secondary story, and so on. Include all upcoming volunteer opportunities and future events to give members the chance to participate in any ALA mission-oriented activities. Adding that information to a monthly community calendar in your newsletter is a great way to keep everyone informed, organized, and involved.

Be sure to include all essential details from any previously conducted meetings to ensure your members are up to date. As an added visual element, consider incorporating photos of your unit serving the mission. Think about the fun, non-business stuff too — celebrate your members by listing birthdays and ALA anniversaries.

These days, everyone is strapped for time. To retain members' engagement, keep the newsletter to two to three pages. And if you have the space, consider publishing educational pieces, such as a monthly how-to, on topics like inviting potential volunteers to unit activities that serve the ALA's mission.

DISTRIBUTION: WHAT WORKS FOR YOUR UNIT? A digital — or email — newsletter is the simplest and most cost-effective method to reach unit members. Start by creating an email list of everyone in your unit for distribution, and don't forget to save the list for future mailings. If sending the newsletter via a personal email account presents limitations (e.g., spam blockers, full mailboxes, etc.), with your unit, invest in an affordable email service like MailChimp or Constant Contact. Some services even offer a nonprofit rate. If you must snail-mail a hard copy newsletter, ask your postmaster about a bulk mailing rate, which might be an option on cutting costs. But consider postage and printer fees in the long run, as well as members' news delivery preferences and the modern means of communicating – how can your unit migrate toward a fully digital version of its regular newsletter with members?

ZOOM ETIQUETTE as recommended by Zoom

#1: Be on time. Take all Zoom meetings just as seriously as you would with an in-person meeting. If possible, arrive five to 15 minutes before the meeting starts. If you have trouble accessing the site, this still gives you an opportunity to be on time.
#2: Pay attention to mute. This is essential for keeping the meetings running smoothly and saving yourself embarrassment. Being on mute can prevent others from hearing your barking dogs, your cellphone ringing and you speaking on it, the front doorbell, children playing, and other distractions. If you're not talking, it's a good idea to stay on mute. Know that you can use the chat and the record buttons as well.

#3: Test your device before the meeting to get a better experience. That means doing the microphone check as well as the camera check. Be sure you can see yourself clearly. If you can't, then no one else can see you either.
#4: Check your background and environment. Consider what others will see behind you as they are looking at you on screen. A cluttered background looks unprofessional and can be distracting. Be sure the area is well-lit. Watch out for pets, especially cats, running across your computer screen. A great idea is to blur your Zoom background, which you can easily do while you are preparing for the meeting. The ALA also has a great screen that you can put onto the Zoom as your background.
#5: Plan ahead. Always come prepared for your meeting. Before the meeting, review your notes and double-check that you have everything you need for the call. This includes notepads, pens/pencils, relevant agendas, and presentation information.
#6: Dress properly. Be sure you look professional — neat clothing, makeup as if you were in person, jewelry, and/or a watch but not overdone, and just look tidy. If you are wearing sweatpants and get up to get something, the viewers will quickly see what you are wearing. So it's best to go business casual from top to bottom.
#7: Minimize distractions. Before the call, clear out as many distractions as possible. For example, put away your phone/cellphone (taking calls during a Zoom is inappropriate); do your meeting in a quiet area which means no pets and no kids; clear the clutter behind you (see #4 above); close out all emails and irrelevant web pages; don't check social media during the meeting; and do not try multitasking while the meeting is happening. The meeting calls for your full attention!
#8: Don't eat, smoke, or drink. That means no sandwiches, smoothies, or other foods. This is rude, since you are not sharing with anyone. It's also loud, noisy, and unpleasant to watch. Yes, water and coffee/tea are OK to drink, according to etiquette recommendations.

Here is the link to view some of the newsletter & flyer templates to make things easier.
https://www.legion-aux.org/member/resources/flyer-templates

National would love to see what's going on in your local Auxiliary! Add National Headquarters to your unit's mailing list by emailing them at ALAMagazine@ALAforVeterans.org. Content produced for national ALA media is often developed from activities published at the unit level.

Sharon Holter, Public Relations Chairman Donna Howeth, Public Relations Co-Chairman

POPPY REPORT





Our Second Poppy to talk about – the Blue Poppy
The Role of Blue Poppy in War and Remembrance

The blue poppy flower has a deep-rooted history with one of the most significant wars in human history. World War I changed the course of our world forever, and since then, the blue poppy flower has come to symbolize peace, remembrance, and hope for generations.

First World War

During the First World War, the battlefields of Belgium and France were left devastated, and nothing could grow in the barren soil except for poppies. Canadian physician Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae was inspired by this sight to write the famous poem "In Flanders Fields," which describes the poppies that grew on the graves of fallen soldiers. The blue poppy, in particular, was a symbol of the soldiers who died in the war.

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is an annual event that commemorates the sacrifices of members of the armed forces and civilians in times of war. The day is observed on November 11th, the anniversary of the end of World War I. The blue poppy is a symbol of remembrance for all those who have died in war, including civilians and members of the armed forces.

Armed Forces

The blue poppy is also a symbol of hope and support for members of the armed forces and their families. It represents the sacrifices made by soldiers and their families and the hope for a peaceful future. The blue poppy is often used in fundraising efforts for organizations that support veterans and their families.

Suzzette Reid
Dept. Poppy Chairman
301-219-4480

Chris McKay
Vice President Chairman
443-994-940

Unit Development & Revitalization

October / November 2026

Strong Officers Build Strong Units: Leadership Is a Team Effort

Learn. Lead. Serve

A strong American Legion Auxiliary Unit does not depend on one person. It takes a team of officers and members who understand their responsibilities, communicate with one another, and remain focused on our mission of Service Not Self.

Serving as an officer is more than holding a title. It is accepting a responsibility to the members who elected you and to the veterans, military members, families, children, and communities we serve.

KNOW YOUR ROLE

Every officer should understand the duties of their position as outlined in the Unit's Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Rules, and other applicable governing documents.

The President provides leadership and presides over meetings, but the President should not be expected to do everything.

The Vice President should be prepared to assist the President, assume leadership when necessary, and help strengthen the Unit.

The Secretary maintains accurate records and minutes so that the Unit has a clear history of its decisions and actions.

The Treasurer is entrusted with the Unit's financial records and should provide accurate, timely reports while following established financial procedures.

Other officers, committee chairs, and members are equally important. When everyone understands their role, responsibilities can be shared instead of falling on the same few people.

LEADERSHIP IS NOT OWNERSHIP

An elected position does not make the Unit "ours." The Unit belongs to its membership, and officers have been entrusted to lead it for a specific period of time.

Effective leaders listen.

Effective leaders communicate.

Effective leaders follow the governing documents.

Effective leaders encourage participation.

And effective leaders prepare someone else to lead after them.

One of the greatest signs of successful leadership is leaving the Unit stronger than you found it.

DISAGREEMENT DOESN'T HAVE TO BECOME DIVISION

Members will not always agree—and that is okay.

Parliamentary procedure provides an orderly way for members to discuss issues, make motions, debate proposals, vote, and respect the decision of the membership.

We can disagree with an idea without disrespecting the person presenting it.

Strong Units create an environment where members feel comfortable asking questions, expressing

different opinions, and participating in decisions while maintaining courtesy and respect.

ARE WE DEVELOPING OUR NEXT LEADERS?

Unit revitalization requires succession planning.
Look around your Unit. Who has never chaired a committee? Who hasn't been asked to lead a project? Is there a newer member who could benefit from having an experienced member as a mentor?
Don't wait until election season to begin developing leaders.
Invite members to participate throughout the year. Teach them how meetings work. Explain the governing documents. Encourage them to attend District and Department meetings and training opportunities.
Most importantly, give them opportunities to lead.

OCTOBER UNIT CHALLENGE

At your next meeting, take five minutes for leadership development.
Select one officer position and briefly review its responsibilities with the membership. Then ask: "If you were asked to serve in this position tomorrow, would you know what to do?"
If the answer is no, you've just identified an opportunity for Unit Development & Revitalization.

LEADERSHIP TAKEAWAY

A Title identifies your position. Your service, integrity, and willingness to develop others define your leadership.
Strong officers help build strong Units. Strong Units strengthen our Districts and Department. And together, we strengthen the American Legion Auxiliary and our ability to fulfill our mission for generations to come.

Learn. Lead. Serve.

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Maryland
Unit Development & Revitalization Committee

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

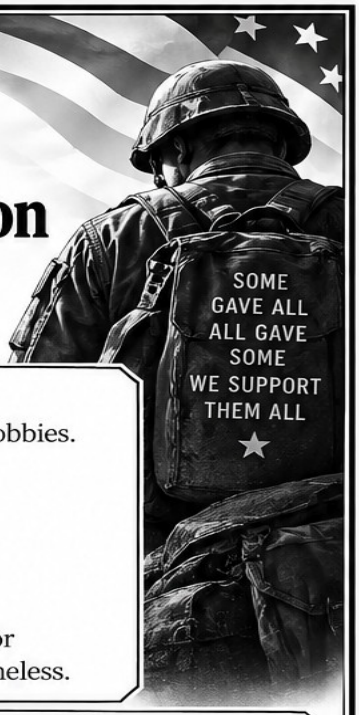


Veterans
Affairs and Rehabilitation

Supporting Those Who Served

SERVICE NOT SELF

HONOR ★ CARE ★ ADVOCATE ★ SERVE



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.
- ★ There 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.

ABBREVIATION TERMS:

VA = Dept. of Veterans Affairs
VHA = Veterans Health Administration
VACO = Veterans Affairs Central Office (Washington, D.C.)
PIV = Personal Identification Verification
VAMC = VA Medical Centers
CBOC = Community Based Outpatient Clinics and Mobile Clinics
MMU = Mobile Medical Units
CDCE = Center for Development and Civic Engagement
VAVS = Voluntary Service coordinates all volunteer services

Veterans Strengthen Our Communities ★

AS A UNIT THINK OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ★ How do we support rehabilitation and healing of veterans through arts, crafts, and hobbies?
- ★ How do we support veteran caregivers, family members, and survivors?
- ★ How did our members assist local veterans in ways that are outside the VA facilities?
- ★ How have we supported our local VA facility?
- ★ How have we supported veterans and their families in the community by collaborating with external like-minded organizations such as Honor Flight, Quilts of Valor, Wreaths Across America, etc.?
- ★ What other opportunities have we taken to support our local veterans and their families in your community?



Chairman: Christina Thompson Unit 128
Vice Chairman: Loretta Nixon Unit 259
Jr Chairman: Joyce Baki Unit 274

VETERANS ARE NOT FORGOTTEN ★ *Together We Make a Difference* ★

VETERANS ★ FAMILIES ★ CAREGIVERS ★ SURVIVORS ★ COMMUNITY

Committee Chairman
Christina Thompson
410-688-3601
Thompson21001@yahoo.com

Baltimore VAVS (Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services) and Baltimore VA
is located 10 N. Greene Street, Baltimore, Md. 21201 (downtown Baltimore)
Volunteer Service Department would like help for Veterans Day. Just contact Rosalind Gray Voluntary Service Specialist at 410-605-7102 if you or your unit/post would schedule some visits for the week of November 9th to the 13th. You can help give out gifts to the veterans who are in patients.
They are also looking for a unit/post to help with donating coffee supplies. Maybe a unit can donate once a month or every other month. They would need coffee cups, creamers, sugar and of course coffee. You can get them all off amazon; the total price would be around $230. You can get more information from Ms. Gray.
And they are still asking for donations of adult puzzle books, readers(glasses)and pens and pencils.

Joyce "Jaye" Cooper
VAVS Representative Baltimore
Jaye0713@gmail.com

LaSharon Wallace
VAVS Deputy Representative Balto
lasharanwallace@yahoo.com

Martinsburg VA Hospital

Volunteers continue to support the hospital with their time and needed donations.

Bingo continues monthly with a Unit sponsoring from District 8 bringing snacks each month.

Volunteers help at the Women's Boutique twice monthly helping veteran women get much needed toiletries and clothes they might need. Items are donated from the District.

The VA Rep keeps in contact regularly with the hospital for current veteran needs.

District 8 will hold the Xmas Bingo on December 17. Each veteran bingo player will get a Christmas gift and snack bag.

Cards were given for fall and Halloween. Homemade cards will be given to veterans for Veterans Day.

Needs at this time:

Hospital Needs:
Men's T-Shirts (M-3XL)
Boxer Shorts (M-3XL)
5 Blade Razors
Body Wash
Body Lotion
Composition Books

Women's Boutique
Q-Tips (travel Size)
Hair Brushes
Tampons (Small boxes)
Nail clipper sets
Makeup Remover Pads
Underwear (Size 4-7)
Sports Bra (S–XL)

I will be glad to shop for you if you don't have time and mail you the receipts.

The Food Pantry is always in need of food. When a veteran comes in for services and a need is seen; they can take as much food as needed. Again, it is donated. **Needs are** SF Fruit cups, canned chicken/tuna, wheat pastas and shelf milk.

The VA Baby Shower was held for 62 moms. The moms went home with a carload of donated items. Volunteers helped with the shower. Pictures posted on FB.

Martinsburg VA Rep
Diane Lowe
VAVS Representative
Martinsburg VA Hospital
Diane Lowe

VAVS – Perry Point Medical Center

Veterans Administration Medical Center Perry Point

Pizza Parties and monthly birthday/bingo parties began in September and will run through May. The bingo was held on Tuesday, September 15th and was enjoyed by all the veterans attending. Pizza is delivered on the last Friday of the month beginning September through May. If any unit would like to donate to the pizza parties or the birthday parties, please let Cyndie know. One monthly cost for the pizza parties is approximately $300. The monthly birthday/bingo parties cost approximately $350. We provide cake, ice cream, and $250-$300 in canteen books for prizes.

Perry Point Donation Needs:

(Full size, please)

Body Wash
Shaving Cream

Hospice Requests: (individually wrapped):

Soft, sweet treats: Powdered Donuts, Cookies, Pound Cake
Cans of coke
Potato chips
Peanut butter crackers/cheese crackers
Pretzels
Individual crackers/premade tuna snacks
Instant soup
Instant oatmeal cups
Coffee k-cups

Perry Point is starting to make plans for their November and December holidays. This November, they will be focusing on the week of Veteran's Day, November 9-13. In December, they would like to schedule as many days as possible throughout the Perry Point campus. Unit 23H is also available on Saturdays. They are looking for Patient Visits, Activities, Sing-Alongs or other activities.

Please let me know if your unit would like to schedule something and I will be happy to assist you in getting something going for our Veterans during the upcoming holiday season.

Cyndie McMullen
VAVS Representative
VAMC Perry Point

VAVS - Washington DC VA Medical Center

Washington, DC VA Medical Center

The Medical Center is getting ready for the annual Homeless Standdown Event, Winterhaven. Winterhaven has helped homeless Veterans in the DC area for many years. This year we aim to support 450 or more Veterans which will take place on November 7, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

You can make a difference by volunteering or donating warm coats, sturdy boots, shoes, and other needed items listed below. Of course, you can give money by visiting the CDCE website and choosing the Winterhaven General Purpose Fund (GPF), or you can write a check to the Washington, DC VA Medical Center for GPF 1186 and mailing to: Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Center of Development and Civic Engagement (formerly Voluntary Services) (135) at 50 Irving Street, NW, Washington, DC 20422. To volunteer your time, please reach out to the CDCE team (202-745-8320) who will guide you on how you can help. Every contribution helps--no matter how small. Together we can show our appreciation to those who have served our country. Some items we are seeking are:

Undergarments
Long Underwear/Thermal Underwear
Winter Hats
Winter Gloves
Socks
Shoes/Boots
Winter Coats (L, XL, 2X, 3X, 4X)
Comfort Kits (toiletries, excluding razors)
Clothing
Sleeping Bags

Questions, feel free to reach out to me at llgreen9320@gmail.com or phone at 202-230-2431 (Cell).

For God and Country,
Linda L. Green
VAVS Representative

VAVS – Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

Below are a list of available Volunteer Service Activities for December:

- **Assisted Living Activity Aide -** Our AL Activities Director is on maternity leave and is looking for any volunteers interested in a consistent volunteer position to help provide coverage on their units and during activities while she is going through her hiring process. They are looking for someone dependable to help during the daytime hours of 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM OR FOR WHATEVER TIME YOU CAN HELP fill in. The closer we are to the end of the year, the more our activities schedules get busier. If you are interested in working for CHVH Activities, please see the Pruitt Health website, maneuver to the Careers section, then search Charlotte Hall Maryland.
- **CHVH Welcoming Committee -** We have new admissions every week and residents have stated they would love to get a tour of the facility. Available volunteers will either walk with or push the residents to key landmarks throughout the facility to help them get more

acquainted. We are working on establishing a resident led committee but until then, we would love your assistance!

- **Friendly Visitors** - **New Names have been added to our friendly visitation list!** Please schedule a walkthrough with me so I can introduce you to some of the residents on this list then you will be free to visit on your own any day of the week. Please keep me updated on who you have been visiting and if there are any significant events I should know about regarding their interests or any breakthroughs you've made
- **Evening Activities Resident Transport -** Our activities team occasionally has evening entertainment, on the Assisted Living side, and our Skilled Nursing residents like to attend. If you see this on the calendar, our activities team could use assistance transporting the residents to and from this entertainment. Please email Brandi.Tanner@pruitthealth.com and myself if you plan to assist.
- Some residents are looking to find an opponent to play **tabletop pool/ billiards, pinnacle,** and **other card games**!
- We would love to have someone come in regularly **to paint nails for our ladies**. Please remember, no cutting the nails, only filing!
- **Host / Hostess** - Our facility is working toward having the option for residents to come down to the cafeteria for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, seven days a week. Currently we are serving breakfast 7:00am - 8:30 am and lunch downstairs in the cafeteria from 11:30am to 1:00pm. I will keep you informed on any updates regarding the breakfast and dinner serving hours. If you are able to commit to a weekly schedule and are willing to take orders and go through the lunch line for our residents, this area will be very helpful to both our residents and staff.
- **Music and Memory** - Looking for someone willing to interact with more passive residents through music! You must be willing to learn how to download music on iPods/MP3 players and well as maneuver these electronics on your own. Until the program gets off the ground, this volunteer area is only available Monday Through Friday during normal business hours (8:00am - 4:00pm).

Save the Date for the following Activities. Volunteers are needed!

- Wednesday, November 11th – Veterans Day Ceremonty, 11 a.m.
- Thursday, November 26th, Serving Thanksgiving lunch, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Saturday, November 28th, Holiday Decorating, 9:30 a.m. till finished
- Friday, December 4th, Christmas Lighting and Caroling, 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- Friday, December 11th, The Winter Bell, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 16th, The Holiday Gift Shop, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Friday, December 18th, Gift Wrapping Station, time to be determined
- Monday-Tuesday, December 21st – 22nd – Adopt a Vet Santa Shop/Gift Sorting (Event Tentative)
- Tuesday, December 24th – Adopt a Vet Gift Delivery (Event Tentative)

Volunteer/ Donation Projects

- Catered Meals for residents at CHVH (run in tandem with Activities)
- Updated resident donation needs are available upon request.

- If you would like to donate to our activities departments, their needs are available upon request as well!

If you are interested in participating in any of the above, please contact:
Sade Herbert
Director of Volunteer Services
PH Veteran Services - Maryland
301-884-8171
Sade.Herbert@pruitthealth.com

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday!
Joyce Baki
410-449-9515
Joyce.Baki@Yahoo.com

Service, Not Self!
Joyce Baki
410-449-9515
Joyce.Baki@Yahoo.com

VAVS – Lock Raven

HOME FIELD SERVICE