



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF OREGON**

NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, JANUARY, SECOND QUARTER FY2019, NEWSLETTER

MISSION STATEMENT

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.



**DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**

The ALA Department of Oregon Vikings have made their presence known!

The excitement is filling the air with Vikings leading the way. Our District Presidents have taken the next step in our journey to success as they take the courage and adventurous spirits of the Vikings and fight for all of our members.

We have an opportunity to make this the best, most successful year we've had in a very long time. Your Department Officers are all in with the Membership Program and whatever we need to do to make sure we keep moving forward into the future.

Revitalizations are occurring all around the state. These Units are vital not just because of membership but because of the difference they make in their communities. We cannot be replaced. If we are not there to serve, veterans,

children and our communities, they will not have what we give, things they have grown to depend on.

We will be working on a plan to gather our officers and make a loop through our Great State of Oregon to include District 5, 6 & 10. We have use of the Department American Legion Van and with this we can show our members we care about them. In some places in Oregon, our members and or Units have never seen a Department Officer before. They need to know us.

Of course, any Units/Districts along the way that want a visit, we will make it happen. This isn't about any one person or Unit, it's about all of us working together to make our Department, Districts and Units stronger.

Your Officers want the ALA to be here for another 100 years and our future depends on our accomplishments this year. What an exciting opportunity to not only see our 100th

Anniversary but also to have input on the next 100 years of the American Legion Auxiliary.

The holidays are upon us and we need to remember those less fortunate than us but more importantly, remember to serve our Mission today, tomorrow, during the holidays and always.

For God and Country,
Krisann M. Owens

MEMBERSHIP

Gea Clauser, Chair
Department Vice President

Membership is full of competitions this year. Together we can show the Legionnaires that the Auxiliary can get more new members and renewals than they can before 01 June 2018. We want the Department Commander to have to eat lutefisk and Department President to have a nice brunch at Broder Soder (not the other way around). There is also \$150 at stake for the Unit with the highest percentage. There are so many opportunities to find new members. Have you asked your family? Have you asked your neighbors? Have you asked your coworkers? Have you asked?? There are eligible potential members just waiting to hear about the programs they can help with and want to join in the fun!



DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN MESSAGE



As Department Chaplain I am humbled by how many dedicated women have served our veteran mission this new year. The Auxiliary members that are physically with us no longer, their hard work and volunteerism will live on through their units and veterans that they served. Many members have sent cards and letters to shut ins and sent flowers as well. I have asked myself the question, "How many of us have been there for the sick or hospitalized Auxiliary member?" I have never thought of it this way before, but we need to take care of our own.

Our youngest member that has passed was as young as 46 years old, with our oldest member reaching a grand 100 years! I have found that many of these ladies were in nursing homes the last few months, if not weeks before they took their last breath, and I ask "Were they alone? Was a member from their unit there to visit? Did the Department Champlain send them a card or flowers? Did anyone say a prayer with them? Did they even have family?" These are common questions that we can see in the VA Hospitals with our veterans, so we strive to fill the gaps and make a difference in their lives BUT what about our Auxiliary members?

Oregon had a dear Unit member, District, Department leader and friend pass away recently. Carol Weber volunteered at the VA hospital for many years and was our lead person for the Transplant Unit support. She took care of many veterans and served members in her Unit, District and Department. I ask myself, "Did we do enough?" Carol will be celebrated on November 3rd at 2:00 pm at Aloha Post #104. Let's not only take care of our veterans but also our members that are everyday giving of themselves to fulfill our mission.

“FOR YOUR FUTURE WE GAVE OUR TODAY”
Dallas Memorial Wall

For God not self,
Lori Sherman

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

Cheryl Park, Chair

It's Gift Shop time again. Hopefully, you have already sent your donations for the various Gift Shops in to Department, but there is still time to make donations. This is a great opportunity to say: “Thank You” to our veterans in a personal way. Some Units send monetary gifts and others purchase items from the Gift Shop idea lists. **Some good ideas are:** bird feeders, bath towel sets, kitchen towel sets, men's and women's watches, board games, small appliances (no irons or mixers) outside thermometers, flannel shirts (especially the larger sizes), Afghans/quilts, jewelry boxes, toys/dolls (no Barbies) and men's toys (flashlights, tools, headlamps, etc.). **Some not so good ideas:** perfume/cologne, books, underwear, knit hats, holiday décor, bed linens, potpourri items, and picture frames.

The Portland VA Hospital will kick off the Gift Shop openings on Saturday, November 24th at 10:00 am. Roseburg will open their Gift Shop the following day on



Sunday, November 25th at 11:00 am. The Veterans Home in The Dalles will have their opening on Saturday, December 1st at 10:00 am and the Lebanon Veterans Home will open on December 15th.

The Transplant Lodging Unit is scheduled to re-open sometime in December and we are again asking for monetary donations to help provide the food needs for the patients and their care givers. Checks can be sent to Department,

marked for VA&R or specifically for the Transplant Unit. Patients usually have homes and expenses that continue during their stay at the Lodging Unit, so additional expenses for food during their stay can be a strain. We provide basic food needs for the three kitchens at the facility.

Anything, no matter how small, we do for our Veterans, is a way to say, “Thank You” and it is greatly appreciated.

EDUCATION PROGRAM AND WOMEN

VETERANS

Our newly-installed National President Kathy Dungan's focus is on veteran



homelessness, particularly that of our women veterans. What can the American Legion Auxiliary's education program do to concentrate in those efforts?

Encourage your department and units to create and award scholarships at their local level, keeping in mind gaps that could be filled. (These are only suggestions/examples, not all need be created. First, assess the need in your community! Scholarships should be crafted to suit your local potential scholarship recipient's specific needs/wants).

Here are a few examples:

- **Transitioning military/veterans:** much of the training from a military career doesn't translate to the civilian professional licenses or certifications needed. The GI Bill does not always cover these costs, so they must be paid for out-of-pocket.
 - Offer scholarships to transitioning military when GI Bill benefits have been exhausted, are not available, or are not fully funded, enabling receipt of license or certificates to obtain civilian occupations. Perhaps give preference to women veterans.
- **Guardsmen:** to be eligible for GI Bill education benefits, they must have 180

days of active service after initial entry training. Although some grants or tuition assistance may be available in your state, not all fees are covered and not all states offer these grants.

- Offer scholarships to guardsmen that are continuing their education, some online and most to advance their military career, to cover all fees when they do not qualify for GI Bill benefits or where GI Bill benefits are not fully funded. Perhaps give preference to women guardsmen.
- **Military spouses:** Military spouses who are transferred across state lines with their servicemember have a difficult time transferring licenses and certification. Although work has begun in all 50 states to make it easier for military spouses to transfer their licenses when relocating due to do a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) or military orders (licensure reciprocity), only a few states have begun to recognize licensure transfers. Even with that, each state's requirements for transferring licensure may be different. Currently, military spouses are responsible for all costs stemming from professional license regulations, such as getting a state-specific teaching certificate, taking a state's bar exam, or receiving a specific state's nursing license. As a result, applications, tests, and license fees can cost thousands of dollars after every military move. A new measure, included in the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), gives the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and Coast Guard permission to reimburse up to \$500 of those fees. However, that won't cover all costs associated with licensure transfer. Remember to include male spouses too, as it would likely impact women servicemembers.
 - Offer scholarships to military spouses to help offset the costs of licensure transfer.

- **Child care scholarship/grant:** Affordable child care is an unmet need for veterans, particularly those that are single mothers. Partner with local community colleges, universities, and Student Veterans of America (SVA) chapters to determine the need and implementation of child care services for women veterans. Homeless women veterans consistently identify child care as a top unmet need toward education and employment. The high cost of child care is a common barrier for many jobseekers; we must help find a way to increase access to affordable child care.
 - In place of getting into the child care business or opening the door for liability issues, establish a scholarship or grant made payable directly to the child care center for those veteran parents continuing their education, but child care is an
 - ongoing issue. Again, perhaps give preference to women veterans.



Once scholarships are created, collaborate with SVA chapters, National Guard armories, and family readiness groups to promote, as well as vocational/technical schools, community colleges, veteran centers, department service officers, and other veteran service organizations. You can also work with ALA national security and public relations committees to help promote your scholarship. Servicemembers possess unique skill sets that make them great candidates for many in-demand jobs, but the current system makes it difficult for servicemembers to obtain the licensing or credentialing needed for those jobs. Work with your legislative committees, both Legion and ALA, to advocate for GI Bill education funds to meet the needs of our current servicemembers, to include apprenticeships, and credentialing. Also ensure

that existing veteran education benefits aren't eroded or eliminated.

To begin, sign up to receive The American Legion's action alerts, and you will receive an email when a vote is nearing Congress and the Legion Family needs you! The Legion will provide a pre-written message for you to send to your members of Congress with a few clicks. Sign up at capwiz.com/legion/mlm/signup. You'll be on your way to advocating that veterans, servicemembers, and their families continue to receive education benefits. As well, the legislative agenda for the 115th Congress 2nd Session can be downloaded at www.legion.org/publications/226187/legislative-agenda-115th-congress-2nd-session. This brochure and a plethora of information concerning our military's education benefits can be obtained at www.legion.org/legislative. By working both steps to promote or create scholarships and lobby elected officials, you are tackling these gaps with a "1-2 Punch" approach; 1 – by offering the scholarship type(s) outlined, and 2 – by helping affect federal policy change through legislative efforts.



100TH ALA ANNIVERSARY 2019- 2010

Although we will not celebrate our 100th

anniversary until 2019 – 2020, there are 5 steps members can begin now that will aid Departments, Units and members in a successful celebration. These steps are search, research, plan, organize and set a time table. Let's discuss these steps to start our celebration.

Search - ask members to look for artifacts, memorabilia, scrapbooks, photos, histories, minutes of meetings, etc. for displays, public relations activities and conversations.

Research – when and where your first Department meeting was held, where your Unit has met over the years, who were your first Unit Presidents and what did they contribute to your community, locate 100 former Girls State citizens to see what they are doing now, and maybe events/activities done in the past that were worthy of mention in the Congressional Record to name a few things that could be explored.

Plan – begin to determine activities your members might enjoy such as parades, contests, and 100th anniversary items for purchase. Consider outstanding accomplishments by your Department, Unit or members in various program such as Legislative, Americanism or Children & Youth that should be made known and how the message should be told. Include Public Relations aspects such as proclamations by your Governor or other city/county officials, TV/radio presentations and use of social media to tell about the past and leading up to the present. Then plan the things you will undertake.

Organize – organization for your celebration can be done chronologically, by decades, by Auxiliary programs, by types of items for display, by district/county or even by having something happening each month/week for the entire year. It's up to you!

Set a time table – to ensure success, make sure enough time is allowed to complete each item needed in these steps. Consider these additional ideas as your make a determination of what your Department or Unit will do:

- Have Unit members bring their Unit charter for display at a Department meeting
- Plan a Day of Service for veterans, our military or your community

- Have members displaying 100 flags on the steps of your state capitol
- Have former American Legion Auxiliary Girls State citizens, successful ALA members, grown up Juniors as speakers at a department meeting
- Have a reception for charter members
- Recognize Past Department or Past National Presidents at a Department meeting
- Showcase the benefits of the Auxiliary organization and accomplishments for the last 100 years

The important thing to remember is that now is the time to begin our celebration, so we can enjoy it when the year is upon us, living our Service not Self motto and our mission for nearly a century.

ALA entities can use the ALA 100th anniversary logo for apparel, etc.

Looking forward to celebrating the ALA’s centennial in 2019? ALA units, districts, and departments can create customized and branded apparel, products, and other items with the ALA’s 100th anniversary logo in preparation for our landmark year. Emblem usage approval is required and is the same as filing to use the ALA emblem and ALA Girls State logos – simply fill out the ALA Emblem Use Approval Request form. Check out the centennial items currently available from Emblem Sales. You can proudly showcase the ALA’s upcoming milestone birthday on shirts, banners, posters, and more! #ALA100

How the ALA education program has helped

The American Legion Auxiliary believes education is vital to democracy and that investing time and money to educate our youth is literally an investment in America’s future. Our education program



fosters learning for children in our own communities, with our focus on the children of our military and veterans. We know the sacrifices of our veterans are the reason we live in freedom; easing the burden of the cost of their children’s education is one way we can express our gratitude to them.

But do we see the efforts of our toil? Each month, we hope to share a story that puts a face to the work our Legion Family does. The following note of thanks was received from Children of Warriors National Presidents’ Scholarship recipient Derek Odgers, whose application was submitted by Department of Idaho John Webster Rhodes Unit 33:

“I would like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to apply for your scholarship – and to thank you even more so for granting it to me. I will be sure that this money is put to good use in my education. Without it, paying for college would have been much more difficult. Again, thank you for enabling my dream to get education so that one day I may help America become a better place.”

ALA scholarship information and applications can be found at www.ALAforVeterans.org/Programs/Education, on the ALA education program Facebook group at www.Facebook.com/groups/1489034401420831, or you can contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 or education@ALAforVeterans.org.

Find new ideas and inspiration at Mission Training!

If you missed the session in Spokane you might consider going to Las Vegas on Jan 26, 2019.



American Legion Auxiliary members in search of

additional ways to help veterans, servicemembers, and their families can find that, and more, at a one-day ALA Mission Training event. You're bound to be inspired as you learn about ALA's core programs in this fun and interactive environment while meeting other members. ALA Juniors can do the same by attending one of our national Junior meetings — held at the same time and location as ALA Mission Training events. This is a great opportunity for Junior members to learn how they can play important roles in carrying out ALA's mission.



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Clatskanie Unit 68-Flag Garden



From front to back - Audrey and Hailey Hepler, Jonah Shelton, Lori Sherman, Destiny Taylor, Lillian Krotzer, Michael Hartley, Iolaus Krotzer, Abraham Girt and David Reeves.

Clatskanie Unit will be honoring and serving the 1,059 local veterans whose names appear on the Clatskanie Memorial Wall, on Veterans' Day weekend. Each veteran will be represented by a flag with their name on it. The flags will be placed in the grass surrounding the wall and removed on Monday following.

**WATCH FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 1
THIRD QUARTER FY2019 EDITION
February-March-April**



Unit Presidents and Unit Secretaries:

Make copies of this newsletter to share with your members.

Encourage members to provide their email address to Department Headquarters to receive their own newsletter and weekly information mailings.