

**2025-2026  
PROGRAMS ENGAGEMENT PLAN**



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## President Kim's Message

Family. No One Forgotten, No One Left Behind.

This year will start with growing our American Legion Family. Membership is more than a goal—it's a promise to every veteran that they are not alone. By welcoming new members, we enhance our ability to provide resources, companionship, and advocacy for those who have served our nation. By working together as a family, we can reach more veterans, offer more assistance, and make a greater impact. Every member's contribution, no matter how small, adds up to significant change.

Following the **BE THE ONE** initiative there will also be focus on suicide awareness and prevention and ending the stigma of seeking help for mental health. With that being said, I have initiated a statewide campaign to distribute pocket hugs. (refer to pocket hug handout for further explanation)

I have 3 projects I have chosen which reflect my theme and will be raising funds for:

The first is to thank a Veteran for their service to our country. Please take the time to do so whenever you can! It is sure to brighten their day!

**The Final Salute**, created by Lanae Strovers, a funeral director at Hamilton's Funeral Home in Des Moines. The Final Salute believes that **every person deserves to be honorably laid to rest**. It is their mission to give each unclaimed veteran the burial and respect that they deserve.

**BE THE ONE – IOWA**. As you all know, Be The One, is a concentrated effort to save the lives of veterans and service members at risk. Iowa is providing training for those who want to help reduce risk. Money raised will help defray costs of training, provide counseling, and resources to our at-risk veterans and will stay in Iowa.

Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Kim Dixon, President

Department of Iowa

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## Spread Love One Pocket Hug at a Time!

Ever had one of those days when a simple gesture of kindness could change everything? Now imagine having a little token of affection ready to share with someone who seems to need it most. The **Pocket Hug**—a small, heartfelt gift that delivers a big dose of warmth and comfort.

### Why Pocket Hugs?

1. **Tiny Token, Huge Impact:** A Pocket Hug is a small, beautifully crafted item designed to be carried with you. Perfect for those unexpected moments when someone could use a little emotional boost.
2. **Spreading Positivity:** A simple act of kindness can brighten someone's day. Pocket Hugs are a tangible way to show you care.
3. **Emotional Connection:** Offering a Pocket Hug creates a moment of genuine human connection.

### How It Works:

1. **Choose Your Pocket Hug:** Lots of colors—each one made to bring a smile.
2. **Carry It With You:** Keep a Pocket Hug in your bag or pocket.
3. **Give It Away:** When you see someone who appears to need a bit of love, offer them a Pocket Hug. It's a small gesture that says, "I see you, and I care."

Join the mission to spread love and kindness. A suggested \$1 donation per pocket hug. Donate \$5 or more and receive a suicide awareness pin. Get ready to share a piece of your heart with someone who truly needs it, because sometimes, the smallest things take up the most room in our hearts.

**Donations will be used to  
further the mission of  
Be The One, Iowa**



# ***The Department of Iowa Junior President***

## *The 2025-2026 Department Junior Projects*

- ❖ **Baby Bags.** Collecting baby items, this is to help women that are having babies and their husbands are overseas.
- ❖ **Pop Tabs.** Collecting pop tabs off of any drink can.
- ❖ **Work Books For Veterans.** Puzzles, Word Searches anything for Veterans to do.
- ❖ **Encourage Juniors To Attend.** Juniors should attend meetings and be involved with their unit.

I am so excited and looking forward to my year as Department Junior President this year. Please contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or comments. I hope everyone has a great year.





## Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)

### Disaster Assistance

An Auxiliary Emergency Fund grant may provide immediate emergency assistance to eligible American Legion Auxiliary members in areas devastated by a natural disaster, such as fire, flood, hurricane, tornado, earthquake, and/or other severe weather. The applicant must have either received damage to their primary residence, been displaced/evacuated from their residence or experienced basic out-of-pocket emergency expenses as a result of the disaster. Grants may be awarded up to \$3,000.

### Hardship Assistance

An Auxiliary Emergency Fund grant may provide temporary assistance to eligible American Legion Auxiliary members during a time of financial crisis to pay for past due expenses related to their primary residence and/or for basic household utilities. Grants may be awarded up to \$3,000 with the intent to help members who have suffered a financial setback and offer a helping hand to help reestablish financial stability. Assistance will not be granted to pay medical expenses, credit card debt or any other expenses not related to shelter or basic household utilities.

For more details on how to apply go to <https://www.legion-aux.org/aef>

End of the year reports due by April 30, 2026.

Over the past several years we've heard stories of our members losing everything to natural disasters. Let's do our part to help them get their lives back on track! One year it could be you needing this grant. Lets start raising some funds!

We all know Family is why we are here. So take your Family Tree and donate \$1 per membership year, per member to fill up your tree.

Units- Donate \$1 per membership year of your longest member or \$10 per member.

We all know money doesn't grow on trees, but we can help our tree fill by donating.

After you've sent your money in, shoot me an email of the Money tree you created for a chance to win a cool prize!

Ways to raise some funds: Auctions, Bake sales, Bazaar, Calendar, Meals, Paint Class, Raffle, just to name a few.

Rosemary Lancaster

[rose.rosemaryd@gmail.com](mailto:rose.rosemaryd@gmail.com)

# BE THE ONE

Department of Iowa - 2025-2026

The **Be The One** Committee is new for the 2025-2026 year. The mission of the Be The One initiative is to reduce the rate of veterans and servicemembers lost to suicide and help destigmatize suicide.

## **DID YOU KNOW:**

- ★ Suicide is the primary cause of death among active-duty US soldiers.
- ★ An estimated 22 Veterans die by suicide each day.
- ★ Veterans are at 58% higher risk of suicide than those who haven't served.
- ★ Remember it's OK to not be OK
- ★ Whether you are a veteran or a friend or family of a veteran- remember: **YOU can Be The One!**

## **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

- ★ REACH OUT to veterans (*or anyone!*) that you feel may be struggling.
- ★ ASK veterans how they are doing.
- ★ LISTEN when veterans need to talk.
- ★ PERSUADE them to talk to you – or anyone!
- ★ RECOMMEND a professional to get any help they may need.

## **HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE:**

- ★ Host a Be The One training so you can help veterans (or others) in crisis.
- ★ Host awareness events to promote resources in your community.
- ★ Conduct Buddy Checks on local veterans.
- ★ Celebrate the veterans in your community.
- ★ Know the Crisis Line number in case needed: Call 988 or text 838255

The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary will provide free training by a certified trainer for anyone interested. Get your Unit/Post/Squadron involved. For more information, check out [www.BeTheOne.org](http://www.BeTheOne.org)

- **Ready for a training? Scan the QR Code and get started!**

I would encourage and challenge each of you to sign up for a training with your Unit/Post/Squadron over the next year. Let's get everyone the knowledge to help our veterans combat suicide!

For more questions on Be The One, you can email [District6BeTheOne@gmail.com](mailto:District6BeTheOne@gmail.com)

As we enter our year for **Family: No one forgotten, No one left behind**, remember our veterans and those that may be struggling. Reach out and help – all it takes is one person, one conversation, one chance... one more day to make a difference.



ChangingLives Help DeStigmatize Comfort SuicideAwareness  
**BeTheOne**  
Support  
Everyone

**Please send your year-end reports to me by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

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## Family: No one forgotten, No one left behind.

As Iowa has recently deployed over 1800 family members, we, as American Legion Auxiliary members, can really make sure that these deployed family members are not forgotten. We can pray in our own way and on our own time. Let us also remember the spouses, parents and children that are forging a path of their own. Remember, those fighting – providing security – on the home front need our prayers and our whole hearted support.

Let us also remember those American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and community members that can no longer participate in community events. Let us remember them with simple cards, phone calls or even stop in for just 5 minutes. We can all make a difference in a small way, which to them could be the world.

Focus this year on faith, family, and friends. Grow your faith like a tree grows tall. Grow your family with strong roots. Grow your circle of friends like the shadow of the tree – never ending.

Heavenly Father,

As we face the uncertainties and challenges of this new year, we ask for Your strength and courage to sustain us.

Help us to remain steadfast and confident, knowing that You are with us every step of the way.

Empower us to overcome obstacles with faith and boldness, leaning on Your promises for victory.

Thank You, Lord, for being our source of strength and encouragement.

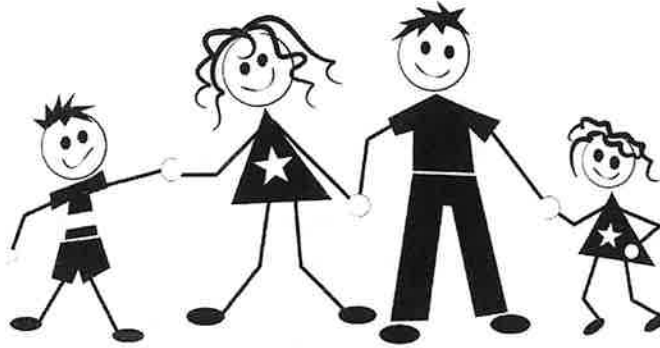
In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Scripture:** "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." — Joshua 1:9

**PRAYER**  
*requests*

**What can we pray for together?**

## Children and Youth



How can we support our children of veterans and military families?

- ★ What can the American Legion Auxiliary do?
  - Junior Camp/Girls State
    - Encourage girls to go or become a counselor.
  - Americanism Essay Contest
    - Inform schools and children about this and help get them involved.
  - Youth Hero and Good Deed Award
    - Remind your unit of this award and encourage them to nominate.
  - Poppy Poster Contest
    - Inform schools and children about this and help get them involved.
  - Scholarships
    - Encourage girls to apply for scholarships or merit awards.
  - Junior Patch Program
    - Help junior members work toward patches through the patch program.
  - Veterans in School
    - Set up times for veterans to visit schools to educate.
  - Flag Education
    - Teach children about flag etiquette and the importance of the flag.

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## Community Service

Cheyenne McDaniel

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"Service Not Self" is more than just a motto—it's a core value that drives everything we do in the American Legion Auxiliary. Across Iowa, our ALA units go above and beyond every day to serve veterans, their families, and their communities. Your dedication is making a difference!

Now is the perfect time to plan what's next. How will you and your unit continue to uplift veterans, their families, and your community in the months ahead? Whether you're building on past successes or trying something brand new, your creativity, compassion, and commitment are what fuel our mission.

Not sure where to begin? Here are just a few ideas to spark inspiration:



### Tray Favors & Kindness Cards for Veterans or Seniors

Create small tray favors or handwritten cards filled with encouragement and gratitude to brighten the day for veterans or seniors in hospitals, care centers, or in the community.



### Blood Drive

You don't have to donate blood to help! Promote participation, volunteer the space of your unit, and/or hand out snacks.



### Give 10 to Education

Help support students and teachers by donating school supplies in sets of 10. Every pack of pencils, folders, or tissues helps build a brighter future.



### Sponsor a Christmas Party for Veterans and their Families

Organize or support a holiday celebration that brings joy to veterans and their loved ones through festive food, music, games, and small gifts or prizes. It's a meaningful way to show appreciation and spread cheer during the Christmas season.



### Donate Items or Time to the Stand Down

Gather and donate essential items to support veterans experiencing homelessness in Iowa. You can also volunteer your time to help sort donations, pack bags, and hand out supplies. Every contribution helps make a difference for veterans experiencing homelessness or hardship.

Need additional inspiration? Check out the ALA Volunteer Toolkit at

<https://www.legion-aux.org/volunteer-toolkit> for fresh ideas on how to serve. Of course, don't feel limited by what's listed—your unique ideas and personal touches are what make our service so meaningful.

Please remember to send in your **Community Service** report by **April 30th**. Every act of service matters, and we want to celebrate all the ways you're putting "Service Not Self" into action!

2025-2026

# EDUCATION

## Shelley Conover

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**Purpose:** The purpose of the Education Committee is to promote quality education for children—especially military children—and adults, in alignment with Standing Rule #6: Mission Outreach Programs.

## Important Dates:

### 2025

- Nov. 17-21: American Education Week

### 2026

- March 1: National scholarship applications due
- April 15: Purple Up! Day for Military Children
- May 4-8: Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 15: Department chairman reports due to division chairmen; cc: national chairman
- June 1: Awards submissions due



## Resources:

- ALA Scholarships:
  - [www.ALAforVeterans.org/scholarships](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/scholarships)
  - <https://iowaala.org/forms/>
- How-to-Instructions: Organize a Veterans in Community Schools Event ([www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org))



## Ideas:

- Support schools by donating supplies through ALA's Give 10 to Education program.
- Recognize educators during Teacher Appreciation Week and American Education Week by presenting certificates, providing treats, and offering Teacher Survival Kits.
- Partner with schools and PTOs to sponsor classroom needs and staff appreciation efforts.
- Honor military children by participating in the Month of the Military Child and Purple Up! Day (April 15), hosting celebrations, and presenting the Military Child Table at events.
- Partner with schools to invite veterans into classrooms and help students prepare.
- Support and promote scholarship opportunities from the American Legion Family.
- Create and share local scholarships through events, displays, and social media.
- Advocate for education by supporting legislation and contacting your representatives.

## **Finance**

It is time to start a new year off strong with great enthusiasm, high hopes, and goals.

Your finance committee is no different. We have high hopes to stop the membership slide, to recruit new members, and control expenses so that the Iowa American Legion Auxiliary will be here to support our veterans, military and youth for another 100 years. It will take the whole FAMILY to reach these goals.

News out of the 2025 Iowa Department Convention. We will no longer be printing the Communique in the Iowa Legionnaire. We will be focusing on the electronic newsletter. This information will be more relevant and up to date. Now before everyone says, not everyone has computers or email.... This is where we must work as a FAMILY, and "No One is Forgotten, No One Left Behind." It is up to each unit and member to make sure that everyone that doesn't have computer access gets a copy. The Auxiliary and Legion will alternate weeks with their newsletters. Everyone is encouraged to sign up for the Legion newsletter also. Start gathering emails from your members and get them signed up to receive this information.

Now with regards to obligations, these are not optional, you must pay them by their due date. You must pay what is on your invoice from the Department, NO exceptions. The Communique charge of \$2 per senior member is being changed to a communication charge. We are saving money by no longer printing, but there are still charges associated with emails, webpages, and computer programs that are used to communicate with members.

Your obligations and membership are used for our programs and department office. With membership dwindling we need to cut costs wherever we can. It is all members responsibility to be fiscally responsible; every expense needs to be reviewed and make sure that we are a viable organization. If you can donate your mileage or per diem, we would accept it graciously, but if you cannot we understand and appreciate your time and energy for our programs. Continue your recruiting efforts as more members means more resources for our programs.

Your 2025-2026 Finance Committee;

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IOWA  
2025-2026



## Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Girls State 2026

A premier program sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary units or American Legion posts throughout the state of Iowa. A program geared entirely for the high school female junior entering her senior year of high school either public or private schooling. Each citizen endures 5 days living in a dorm setting, with her peers and counselors, being encouraged to engage in the democratic 2 party system of government by self-nominating at the city, county and state levels, speaking to her party of peers, voting for self or peers, encouraging others to participate, all the while having grand experiences. The citizens will have an opportunity to expand their horizons, finding out she can achieve all she puts her mind to and more. She will become of a member of the mythical state of Hawkeye and will achieve much more than ever she thought she could.

You are asking yourself, "What will our unit or post get out of this deal? Well, first you will get the warm feeling of helping a young women achieve something she had never imagined before. You will also get a bird eye view of the events at Girls State when your attendee(s) comes back and gives the report (that is mandated by the Bluebook) to the post or unit.

Now you ask – How Much? The cost of a mere \$400.00 is payable after the citizen has completely registered sometime after the first of the year but before April 15th.

Where is this engaging experience for the citizens? On the campus of Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa. Sunday through Friday evening. Check-in for citizens is Sunday- 9 am till 11 am. She meets her counselors- finds her dorm- greets the room mates and begins the adventure of a lifetime. 1:00 PM Official opening. Girl State ends Friday with the final flag lowering, and a formal and fitting inauguration ceremony. The citizens may leave after inauguration. Parents, grandparents, American Legion Family members are encouraged to come to the flag lowering and inauguration.

When does this elite governmental experience begin? During the month in June. The actual date has not been set but when it is official the dates will be posted on the Girls State website, the Department page plus anywhere else I can get the word out in a timely manner.

What else does the unit or post need to do? Before the first of the year, you will need to go on the CampWise website, using your original sign in information and RESERVE a spot or Two- you can add more later if the need arises. After you have reserved a spot at Girls State for your selectee, the department office around the first of the year will send you a special code (unique for your reservation) to be given to the selectee for her registration purposes. Then and only then will the code be sent. If you do not receive one and you have reserved a spot, contact the department office.

Around the first of the year but before the deadline of March 31st - please select your representative, give her the code plus any assistance you can provide and encourage them to register by March 31st.

When do we send the money? After your tentative citizen has filled out all the paperwork on CampWise using the special code to get into the website- her parents have a portion of consent forms that need to be signed, and everything has been submitted- your unit or post will receive an invoice for said amount. Please submit all money to CampWise via e-check or credit card- do not send it to the department office. I do ask you to remind the citizen to put in a non-school email as well as not her parents. Many notes are sent to her concerning the week and many times the school emails will not accept outside sources.

Does the Girls State have a need for donations? Yes, we do. What do we need to help keep our expenses down? Gift Cards- to Walmart (Sams), Hy-Vee, Walgreens, Cash is always good (send it to the department office, please), assistance for the speaker costs (namely self-defense presenter), field trip-chartered bus to the state capital, cash so we can purchase gavels that will be presented to each city mayor as a keepsake, or donation to the program in general, just because. Reminder that all monetary money goes directly to the department office earmarked its purpose - however, I do ask for gift cards or acknowledgement of them to come to me before they are sent to the office. I truly would like an accounting of all donations, if you can see fit to provide it.

In keeping with President Kim's theme – "Family- No one Forgotten No one left behind" the Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Girls State is a family- a family of volunteers who believe in the young women of today as the citizens continue to Learn Today so they can Lead Tomorrow.

Celebrating 80 years of Girls State in 2026- imagine how many have come, gone on and are still remembering their time spent at Hawkeye Girls State.

I do ask you to direct any questions concerning the program to me- Bev Copple, Director and if I can not answer them, I will contact someone who can. However, if it is a website dilemma, contact the department office.



Working together for the common cause.

A premier program of the American Legion Auxiliary

Girls State Board: Bev Copple (Director), Michele Long, Ann Rehbein, Danielle Propst

\*Please check Blue Book for contact information\*



## **Governing Documents** **(Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Rules, Policies)**

Units, Counties, Districts and our Department organization all need documents to govern how we do things, when we do things, and what is expected of officers and members. These documents should be reviewed annually. Governing documents may not be in conflict with the National or Department Governing Documents.

The **Constitution and Bylaws** are the foundation of the organization. They contain the most essential provisions relating to the organization including the name of the Unit, purpose, membership, officers, meetings, governing (executive) board, committees and parliamentary authority. Amending these documents requires a 2/3 majority vote and prior notice of pending changes. Do not include information that often requires changes.

**Standing Rules** contain the details of administration. They can be adopted or amended at a Unit Meeting with prior notification, by a majority vote (unless the bylaws stipulate otherwise) or without prior notification by a two-thirds vote. They should contain:

1. Time (day and hour) of meeting, place of meeting.
2. Dues – Senior, Junior, Honorary Life Members, and information on dues that the Unit will pay for specific members (example: Gold Star Mothers, Active Duty Military, those in Nursing Homes, etc.)
3. Election of Officers. When is it held? Which officers are elected or appointed.
4. Installation of Officers – when, where, who is in charge.
5. Election of Delegates to County, District and Department meetings – when and how selected.
6. Audit – when and by whom.
7. Finance
  - a. Working funds for officers, chairmen, poppy purchases, ALA Girls State, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, etc.
  - b. Benevolence - gifts for illness, death, etc. Funeral dinner?
  - c. Expenses for delegates to attend County, District and Department meetings (registration fee, mileage, per diem).
  - d. Courtesies for visitors (Department, District, and County Presidents)
  - e. How bills are paid and who signs the checks.
8. Any other rules specific to your Unit.
9. Date the Standing Rules were amended and signature of President and Committee Chairman.
10. Send approved/signed copy to the Department Office to be placed in your Unit file.

Sandy Deacon, Governing Documents Chairman  
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# History/Historian

Alida Kolthoff

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319-213-4125

The recording of The American Legion Auxiliary's History at all levels is important so that everyone will know who we are, what we do, and why we matter. ([member.Legion-aux.org/member/resources/history](http://member.Legion-aux.org/member/resources/history))

History is our timeline, the marking of events and people who got us to where we are today. History can be recorded in various ways and each has its own unique qualities and uses. In a world of instant access and DNA testing we must remember that we are responsible for recording the current day events for future generations.

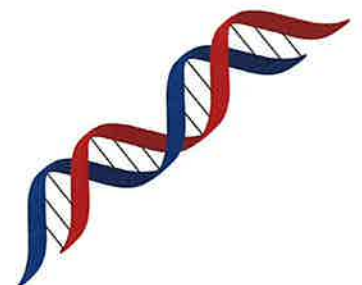
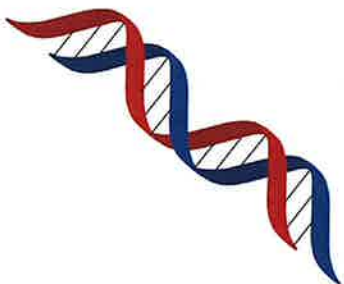
**Written History:** a written third person account of the activities of your Unit, County, or District. A photo of an event or person could be included but the focus is on the narrative. Written history generally showcases more events and project but with less detail and more statistics.

**Oral History:** a Video or sound byte recording of an event or personal history. Each interview should be about one event or special project. Oral History is typically a lot of details about one event and can be more emotional or personally connected less statistical.

**Photographic History:** a scrapbook of news articles, newsletters, and photos of events marked with WHO WHAT WHEN WHERE AND WHY. A photographic history is mostly photos with a short narrative about the overall event that may include statistics and a caption for each photograph,

What ever kind of history you choose it should showcase the who we are, what we do, and why we matter as The American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion

Family. Any historical documents should be preserved to the best of your ability in a manner that will last and be accessible to future generations.





# History/Historian

**Alida Kolthoff**

**[jakolthoff@hotmail.com](mailto:jakolthoff@hotmail.com)**

**319-213-4125**

## **Members Remember Project**

**OBJECTIVE:** To record the American Legion Auxiliary's History through the eyes of its members.

**BACKGROUND:** The organization's history , like any other history, is more than names and dates. IT is about its membership and how it developed the American Legion Auxiliary's programs and projects to fulfill our mission of serving the veterans, servicemembers, and their families who sacrifice much for this country of ours. When an organization's history is told through the eyes of its membership, everyone learns a great deal more about who we are, what we do, and why we matter. (<https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Resources/History/How-to-Record-Oral-Histories>)

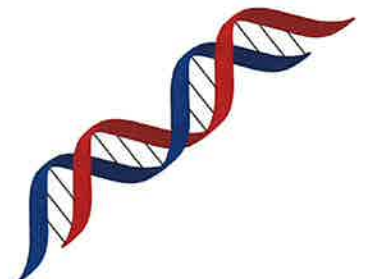
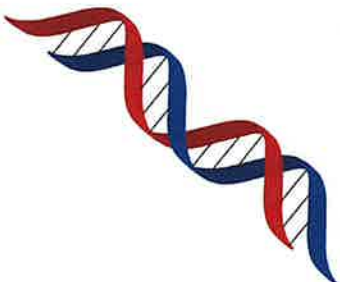
## **Veterans History Project**

The Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress collects, preserves, and makes accessible the firsthand recollections of U.S. Military veterans who served from World War I through more recent conflicts and peacekeeping missions, so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand what they saw, did and felt during their service. (<https://www.loc.gov/programs/veterans-history-project/about-this-program/>)

## **Junior History Patch**

Junior members grade 9-12 are able to participate in activities to earn their Junior History Patch.

Please see the National Website to learn more about these projects or reach out with questions to the contact information listed above.



## Junior Activities

Alyssa Sparrgrove, 2025-2026 Junior Activities Chairman  
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President Kim's theme is "Family: No One Forgotten, No One Left Behind" so let's make sure we are including our Junior members in every way we can this year! As many of you know, our Juniors are our future and we need them to keep our organization alive. Stay connected with your local unit and district Juniors. Introduce them to the patch program! You can include them in your volunteer work, they are great helpers and always have new ideas! You can also let them know when the unit, district and department meetings are so they can try and join you!

**What is the purpose of Junior Activities?** To inspire active participation in members age 17 and under so they can become productive, engaging members who will want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership into adulthood.

**Mid Winter:** Mid Winter will be held February 13-16, 2026 at the Airport Holiday inn in Des Moines. We will be having activities again, more details coming soon!

**Department Junior Convention:** Junior Convention will be held on June 12th, 2026 at the Newton Christian Conference Center.

**Patch Program:** The Patch Program is a great way for Juniors to increase their knowledge of patriotism, citizenship, and leadership! Submit your patch forms to me to send in or if you wish to have patches directly sent to you, please let me know what you turn in. The requirements for each level can be found at <https://www.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Junior-Member-Activities/Patch-Program>

**Junior Member of the Year:** <https://www.legion-aux.org/Junior-Member-of-the-Year>

**Scholarships:** There is the Spirit of Youth scholarship, Junior Member loyalty scholarship, and so many other great scholarships for you to apply for! Go to <https://iowaala.org/forms/> under the "Resources for Today's Youth" tab to check out all the scholarships.

**Reports:** Reports are due by April 30th, 2026. Please make sure you are sending me everything your awesome Juniors are doing before then!

## Junior Camp 2026

Doris Jackson  
Camp Director  
1032 Warbler Ave.  
Lorimor, IA 50149  
515-468-1274  
[danni.jackson408r@gmail.com](mailto:danni.jackson408r@gmail.com)

Lily Gobart  
Asst. Director/Program Chr.  
2474 Johnson Street Rd.  
Keokuk, IA 52632  
319-501-6520  
[lilygobart@gmail.com](mailto:lilygobart@gmail.com)

**Who Can Attend:** American Legion Auxiliary Junior member age 8 – 18

**What:** The American Legion Auxiliary Junior Camp

**When:** June 7 – 12, 2026

**Where:** Christian Conference Center, Newton, Iowa

**Why:** To learn about the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary, to build self-esteem, learn leadership skills and have FUN!

**Registration Cost:** \$300.00 per junior – mail to American Legion Auxiliary, 720 Lyon Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309 or pay online

**Registration Deadline:** Will be posted on ALA website and in the E newsletter.

**Register at:** [www.iowaala.org](http://www.iowaala.org)

During the week, some activities include: flag raising and lowering, arts and crafts, food, recreation, s'mores, singing, talent show, friends, pool, flag disposal, guest speakers, candlelight ceremony, junior patches, karaoke, cookout, movie night plus more!

Our hope is that camp continues to grow as our family tree grows. Do you know a junior, who could attend camp? If so, please sign her up or get the information to Lily or myself, or Crystal at Department. Donations for snacks or crafts are always welcome. Please make donations to the American Legion Auxiliary, using the donation form and check Junior Camp, also put Junior Camp in the memo line of your check. A fundraiser will be held during the 2025-2026 year. Details to be announced at a later date.

“FAMILY: NO ONE FORGOTTEN, NO ONE LEFT BEHIND”



IOWA  
2025-2026

Junior Camp Board Members:

Doris Jackson - Junior Camp Director; Kim Dixon – Department President;  
Crystal Wright – Executive Director; Vickie Klinkhammer, Michelle Cople, Elaine Brookins

## **Junior Camp - Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Where is the Christian Conference Center located?**

Follow I-80 E to Iowa Speedway Dr in Jasper County. Take exit 168 from I-80 E  
Take Iowa Speedway Drive south to Lincoln Street, Take Lincoln St to your destination  
Christian Conference Center, 5064 Lincoln St, Newton, IA 50208

### **What if an emergency arises?**

In the event of an emergency, you can reach your camper by calling Christian Conference Center (641) 792-1266 (Camp office) and leave a message. Or call Doris Jackson, Camp Director, 515-468-1274. Please keep in mind our phones are on silence so please leave a message if I do not respond.

### **What if severe weather “strikes”?**

We are fortunate that the Conference Center has two cabins that were built as tornado shelters plus the basement of the Main Lodge.

### **Do I need to send money?**

There is no registration fee for juniors for Department Junior Convention on Friday. \$2.00 for senior members. No money is needed this year, unless noted in the Welcome letter which is sent to each camper three weeks before camp.

### **What to leave at home?**

All electronic devices, open toed shoes (crocs included), glass bottles, food & drink.

### **What to pack?**

Bedding/sleeping bag/pillow, toiletries, swimsuit, sunscreen, bug spray, short sleeve shirts, shorts, pajamas, undergarments, socks, long sleeve shirts, long pants, jacket or sweatshirt, towels & washcloth, camera, medications (MUST be given to nurse at registration), closed toe shoes, talent show supplies (if performing), nice outfit for convention, refillable water bottle.

### **When is registration?**

Registration will be from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. No one will be allowed to register early. If you know your camper is going to be late, please let Doris know.

### **When is checkout?**

As soon as the Department Junior Convention is over, campers will need to get their belongings and checkout at the main table. A designated adult MUST sign each camper out BEFORE leaving and pick up medication from Nurse. An approximate time would be 12:00 (noon) on Friday, June 12, 2026. All campers should be checked out by 1:00p.m.

### **What if a camper has a Doctor appointment, etc. during the week?**

If a camper has a Doctor appointment, school activity, drivers ed., etc. and is needing to be gone for a period of time during a day. Please call Doris Jackson at 515-468-1274 for approval of leaving camp. Camp registration fee will not change because of absence.

### **Camper’s mailing address?**

Christian Conference Center, 5064 Lincoln St, Newton, IA 50208, c/o ALA-Camper’s name

## ***Leadership***

President Kim's theme this year is "Family No One Forgotten, No One Left Behind"

Let's put this theme into action and remember to forget no one, maybe the older member who no longer attend meetings, those may be the ones that taught you about the American Legion Auxiliary, leave no one behind, make sure your new members are left out, explain our acronyms, why we do thing we do, be good mentors, and good leaders.

What makes a good ALA leader?

Someone who knows the programs, researches the programs, and believes in the programs. A good leader can explain who we are, what we do, and respects each individual's "Why".

A good leader is someone who can encourage others to participate and help.

A good leader is willing to learn. Learn what they don't know, learn to look at things in a new light, and learn to try new ways.

A good leader delegates and asks for help when needed. A good leader recognizes the talents of others, and puts those talents to good use.

So If you know a good leader, and sometimes they are the quiet ones, recognize them, thank them for their hard work, ask them to share their talent.

Don't forget to mentor others, show them the way, make them feel welcome, but most importantly make them feel valued.

I once read something that has stuck with me...Great leaders do not set out to be leaders, they set out to make a difference

Don't forget to nominate a member of your unit for Unit Member of the year. Nominations are due no later than April 30, 2026.

Don't forget to write your Unit leadership report, you may win an award for best UNIT Leadership.

Judy Ring judyring.auxiliary@outlook.com

Leadership

1016 N. Walnut

Glenwood, Iowa 51534

402-670-1082

## Legislative 2025-2026

What is something that we all have but do not always use? OUR VOICE! The Legislative program of the American Legion Auxiliary gives us a voice to advocate for the legislative agenda of the American Legion. While we may think our one voice may not make a difference, when united together, our voices become a collective power of influence that can affect the decisions of our elected officials. American Legion Auxiliary members have many options to work to keep veteran's issues in front of legislators, and to strengthen our mission to serve veterans, service members and their families.

Here's how:

- ❖ At the national level, The American Legion's Legislative website at [www.legion.org/legislative](http://www.legion.org/legislative) has a wealth of information. Register at [Grassroots Action Center](#) (QR code at bottom of this page) to sign up for alerts, register to vote, find pending legislation and easy contacts for your legislators about that legislation.
- ❖ At the state level, check out the Iowa American Legion website at [www.ialegion.org](http://www.ialegion.org). Watch for local events, including the date for the annual Veterans Day on the Hill, held at the Capitol in January. This event allows opportunities to visit with our state legislators and discuss legislative initiatives important to our veterans and service members.
- ❖ Locally, use your voice to vote. Volunteer to assist at voting stations, or offer transportation to get voters to the polls. Host a non-partisan Meet the Candidates night, offering the opportunity for question and answer session for all candidates.
- ❖ Check out social media - ALA Legislative Facebook group that you can join to stay more informed.
- ❖ Remember to use your VOICE! Together we can make a difference for our veterans, service members, and their families.

Becky Teed 521 Chautauqua Ave Colfax, IA 515-681-8708  
[rebeccajteed@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccajteed@gmail.com)





# Marketing

Promoting our Mission and Values in Everything we do!

IOWA  
2025-2026

Jamie Barker, Chm	<a href="mailto:jrehlander15@gmail.com">jrehlander15@gmail.com</a>	515-509-4609
Kim Dixon, President	<a href="mailto:kjdixon1964@gmail.com">kjdixon1964@gmail.com</a>	641-660-8220
Judy Ring, Vice President	<a href="mailto:judyring.auxiliary@outlook.com">judyring.auxiliary@outlook.com</a>	402-670-1082
Crystal Wright, Exec. Dir	<a href="mailto:aladirector@ialegion.org">aladirector@ialegion.org</a>	515-282-7987
Teresa Shaw (2 year)	<a href="mailto:tshawvanvark@gmail.com">tshawvanvark@gmail.com</a>	641-840-1457
Carol Mooney (3 year)	<a href="mailto:smileyface2105@yahoo.com">smileyface2105@yahoo.com</a>	563-590-9299

- This ALA Marketing Team is rolling up their sleeves to ensure that “No One Forgotten; No One Left Behind” as we develop marketing materials/items/ideas to help you with marketing this organization which is proud to support our veterans and their families with the many programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.
- When we are developing marketing materials, we must consider, WHO are we marketing TO? Did we ask for donations and send a thank you?
- Are we using the emblem or brand? As a reminder, the brand mark is to be used in all marketing communications, while the emblem should be reserved for official documents and communications. The Branding Guide can be found here:  
[https://member.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Guides/ALA\\_Branding\\_Guide.pdf](https://member.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Guides/ALA_Branding_Guide.pdf)
- Wearing our brand, carrying an application, and being inclusive while inviting people to join our Legion Family, promotes all our programs. There is a place for everyone.
- Donating to the ALA can be done easily through our [iowaala.org](http://iowaala.org) website by clicking the “donate” button on the top, right hand side of the navigation bar. Tax deductible payments can be made by sending a check to the department, or by credit card right there.
- Coats and Padfolios will remain for sale! If you have other ideas, please share them with us!
- 1, 2, 3, 4 - We are declaring a Penny War! See the flyer to get the rules and help your District Win! Who’s District will be declared the winner? Work together as a Family!
- We need a grant writer. The Department is in need of external funding to continue.

Watch for an exciting new **challenge** to be unveiled during the Mid-Winter Conference!

# GROWING THE FAMILY TREE

Unit Membership Campaign -  
2025/2026 Year



## Let's Grow Together!

Help us grow strong by adding new leaves  
to our family tree - one member at a time.

### Membership Questions?

Start by contacting your District  
President. For further information or  
training, reach to your representative  
from Department of Iowa Member team.

#### Districts 1, 2 & 3

Teresa Kramer  
563-542-4222  
kramer27@iowatelecom.net

#### Districts 4, 5 & 6

Jacki Bolen - Memberhip Chair  
641-295-3259  
jacki\_415@hotmail.com

#### Districts 7, 8 & 9

Rhonda Russell  
712-427-0158  
rondarus21@gmail.com

### Join ALAMIS!

We STRONGLY encourage  
EVERY Unit to sign up for  
ALAMIS.

Contact Department  
Headquarters at  
515-282-7987

and ask about benefits  
and help available to  
get started.

### 2025 Membership Milestones:

75% by Veterans Day  
96% by Pearl Harbor Day  
100% by December 31, 2025

**Fill Our Family Tree... One Leaf at a Time.**



IOWA  
2025-2026

# NATIONAL SECURITY 2025-2026

CHAIRMAN: PAIGE COPPLE

4711 BALBOA DR.  
WICHITA FALLS, TX 76310

PAIGE.COPPLE@AOL.COM  
(712) 420-2986

## WHAT IS NATIONAL SECURITY?

National Security is a program that maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

### Members:

- Recognize service member's service by providing the military families with a Blue Star or Gold Star Banner
- Support families and spouses - ideas can be found in the ALA Military Family Readiness Action Guide
- Complete Community Emergency Response Training (CERT)
- Assemble emergency preparedness kits
- Donate blood

### Units:

- Support active-duty families by collaborating with the Family Readiness Group (FRG)
- Support reserve or transitioning families by collaborating with the National Guard and Reserves
- Coordinate community donations and assemble care packages for service members and their families
- Collaborate with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) to support survivors or caregivers
- Get involved with Citizen Corps Council ([www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)) to plan/prepare for natural disasters
- Host trainings for first aid, CPR, or other emergency skills
- Collaborate with your Legion Post to host a POW/MIA ceremony

## AWARDS:

**Most Outstanding Unit:** One unit from each division will be selected and receive a plaque. Unit reports are due to me by May 15, 2026.

**Salute to Service Members:** Established in 2003, this award honors veteran and active-duty women. One service member from each branch, including the National Guard/Reserves will be honored at the National Convention. Service members may be nominated by anyone. Nominations are due to me by May 15, 2026.



# Parliamentarian

**Parliamentary Authority.** The most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern this organization in all cases that are not in conflict with state statute, the Department and National Constitutions and Bylaws, or any special rules of order adopted by the Department of Iowa American Legion Auxiliary.

**Remember** that you have an entire organization to help you and your unit. Your district and department officers, program chairs and the Department Parliamentarian are available to answer your questions or brainstorm solutions to problems.

## Resources Available:

1. Department of Iowa Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Rules (Blue Book) and Policies are available at [www.iowaala.org](http://www.iowaala.org)
2. National Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules are available at [www.ALForVeterans.org](http://www.ALForVeterans.org)
3. *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* is available from Emblem Sales, at local bookstores, and online at [www.robertsrules.com/](http://www.robertsrules.com/).
4. "Basic Parliamentary Procedure" guide is available in the GUIDES section on the National website: [www.ALForVeterans.org](http://www.ALForVeterans.org)
5. The American Legion Auxiliary Unit Guide provides information, direction to desired information, and guidance to unit members about the history, mission, programs, membership eligibility, customs, and operations of an American Legion Unit. Find this guide at [www.ALForVeterans.org](http://www.ALForVeterans.org)

Sandy Deacon, Department Parliamentarian  
3419 Polaris Dr.  
Ames, IA 50010  
515-450-1027  
[sdeacon818@msn.com](mailto:sdeacon818@msn.com)



## Poppy Program



Linda Lux  
Poppy Chairman  
PO Box 325  
Alton IA 51003  
712-395-0129 (Cell)  
[kellylux@midlands.net](mailto:kellylux@midlands.net)

On Sept.27, 1920, the poppy became the official flower of The American Legion Family to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died during WWI..

Millions of American Legion Auxiliary poppies are distributed annually by ALA units, raising money for veterans, active-duty servicemembers, and their families. Children are involved in spreading the poppy message, too. Poppy Poster Contests are held in local schools for students in grades 2 to 12. The Little Miss Poppy Contest is a fun event for Junior Auxiliary members ages 6-12 who promote the Auxiliary memorial poppy.

Meeting the continuing needs of our veterans should be the concern of every American who values his or her freedom. The Auxiliary promotes the poppy as a symbol of the sacrifices our military have made, a symbol to open people's hearts and inspire them to donate.

### National Poppy Day®

The American Legion Family brought National Poppy Day® to the United States by asking Congress to designate the Friday before Memorial Day, as National Poppy Day. On the Friday before Memorial Day, wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nation's uniform.

#### **Poppy Funds CAN be used for:**

Items of necessity for homeless veterans  
or hospitalized servicemembers  
Grocery or gas cards for veterans in need  
Poppy kits or supplies for poppy distribution  
Honor Flight guardian fees  
ASYMCA food pantries

Questions? Email: [poppy@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:poppy@ALAforVeterans.org)

#### **Poppy Funds CANNOT be used for:**

Investments, including certificates of deposit  
Deceased veterans or families of deceased veterans  
ALA Girls State or ALA Girls Nation fees  
Commercial property improvements,  
including Legion post homes  
Items or improvements that will be used by non-veteran

#### **Several Resources:**

[www.ALAforveterans.org/National-Poppy-Day](http://www.ALAforveterans.org/National-Poppy-Day)  
[www.Facebook.com/groups/ALAPoppy](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAPoppy)

<https://member.legion-aux.org/poppy>  
[www.iowaala.org/forms](http://www.iowaala.org/forms) Poppy Resource

## PUBLIC RELATIONS 2025-2026

Donna Flewelling, Chairman

[flewellingdj@gmail.com](mailto:flewellingdj@gmail.com)

(712)870-1312

Get involved and spread the word about the American Legion Auxiliary with PR.  
How?

- \*Maintain a social media account for your Legion Family
- \*Build relationships with local media / send press releases / letters to editor.
- \*Encourage ALA members to be visible in their communities.
- \*Wear branded clothing, pins, hats, etc at all events.
- \*Have visible branding with brochures on tables and booth displays.
- \*Share the latest news from ALA National leaderships & Headquarters.
- \*Distribute newsletters at all levels of the organization.
- \*Conduct video Zoom meetings with members.
- \*Inform members of the ALA publications such as the ALA magazine/eNews.

“Branch Out” and visit [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) for Public Relations Guides:

\*Public Relations Toolkit—35 pages of tips for recruitment, media templates, emblem approval request form, flyers, and the Branding Game.

\*ALA Branding Guide—45 pages of information for branding rules.

\*Join the ALA PR Facebook Group or the ALA PR Blog

NATIONAL UNIT AWARDS: \*ALA Mission Focused Social Media Account  
Must have a maintained account focused on the mission of the ALA and must conform to the ALA Branding Guide.

\*Most Outstanding Unit Public Relations Program: Report how your unit uses media placement or coverage highlighting ALA mission delivery.

Use the National electronic form ([www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form](http://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form)) so send your narrative to National and also send me a copy by April 30, 2026.

“No One Forgotten No One Left Behind”

Snail Mail 1241 Hancock Ave. Merville, IA 51039

# Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation

Angie Blazek  
1129 Walnut Ave.  
Creston IA 50801  
641-344-5895  
[angieblazek67@gmail.com](mailto:angieblazek67@gmail.com)

The mission of the Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation Program is to enhance the lives of veterans, military and their families.

Department President Kim Dixon's theme this year is FAMILY.

Volunteer at your local VA.

I would encourage each of you to visit a VA this year and see what they do.

Encourage eligible veterans to use the VA health care system and its services, including hospitals, Community Based Outpatient Clinics and Vet Centers.

Invite the local, county or state Service Officer to be the guest speaker at a Unit meeting.

Encourage eligible veterans to use the VA health care system and its services, including hospitals, Community Based Outpatient Clinics and Vet Centers.

Invite the local, county or state Service Officer to be the guest speaker at a Unit meeting.

Assist in activities that help homeless veterans.

Volunteer at homeless veterans Stand downs.

Collaborate with other organizations.

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

Help promote job fairs for veterans and their families.

Assist and support caregivers of Veterans.

Give of yourself and volunteer it will not only make a difference in the veteran's life but in yours as well.

Please send all narratives to the above listed chairman by April 30,2026

# VA&R - Service to Veterans

Stacy Bane, Chairman

407 1st Ave., N., Box 711

State Center, IA 50247

banestacy@gmail.com

Cell ph. #641-750-3443



This year, Department President Kim Dixon's theme is "Family: No One Forgotten, No One Left Behind". Let's help her accomplish this by helping our veterans secure benefits, take care of their health care needs, provide rides to appointments or just be a listening ear, when needed. We can all do this by volunteering. It's easy to do and so appreciated! You can volunteer through a local VA medical facility or CBOC (Community-based Out-Patient Center) close to you. Volunteering a few hours a week, or each month, can make a big difference in the lives of our veterans. Make it a "family affair" when you volunteer. Have your children/grand-children accompany you to the facilities. Our veterans LOVE it when they see those little smiling faces, and it's a great way to introduce our young junior members to volunteering. It's a win for everyone! You can also assist at Stand Downs close to you, assist with veterans job fairs or become a regular VAVS volunteer.

Other ways you can help: serve veterans in your area by making Quilts of Valor, make a meal for a veteran who has no family, etc. Just be there for them as you would for your own family because that's what we all are, and we're forgetting no one! (See Service to Veterans page for other suggested activities.) You can obtain an ALA Guide for Volunteers through the Emblem Sales catalog.

National Award: VAVS Volunteer of the Year Award/ALA NAC Nominee

Candidates will be submitted by the chiefs of voluntary service to the national VAVS deputy. The award is presented to the nominee who has given extraordinary service to our nation's veterans through the ALA VA&R program and the VAVS program. They must serve in an established VA assignment and be defined as a regularly scheduled volunteer, and should be actively involved in working with veterans in any one of the following areas: outpatient clinic, nursing homes, homeless veteran programs, hosted veteran-related functions outside the VA, or visited veterans confined to their home (as assigned by VAVS). The ALA makes the selection. The name of the volunteer is forwarded for consideration.

Member Award: 10,000 hr. volunteer service award

Member Award: 20,000 hr. volunteer service award

James H. Parker Scholarship: Awarded by Veterans Affairs to a STUDENT Volunteer.

Send me your narratives on how you served our veterans in a VAMC facility, CBOC or another VA sponsored program. Also, year end reports need to be to me by April 30th, 2026.

