



## **BULK MAILING FOR APRIL 2020**

To: Unit Presidents  
Department Executive Committee  
District Chairmen  
Department Chairmen/Committee  
Past Department Presidents  
Hospital Representatives & Deputies

Reminder: Recently a mailing went out to all Unit Presidents with a Unit Data Form due April 1, 2020. The Certification of Unit Officers form is due June 1, 2020. If this form is not returned, the Unit will not receive important mailings from Department Headquarters. Correct addresses and member ID numbers are essential. Both forms must be completed and returned to Department Headquarters immediately.

- ✓ President's Message-All Members
- ✓ Membership (buff)-Membership Chairman and All Members
- ✓ Certification of Unit Officers (buff)
- ✓ Unit check request form for membership credit (buff)
- ✓ Public Relations (ivory)-All Members
- ✓ Americanism (pink)
- ✓ Buckeye Girls State (ivory)
- ✓ BGS Endowment Fund Donation Form (pumpkin)
- ✓ Chaplain (golden)
- ✓ Community Service (pumpkin)
- ✓ Constitution & Bylaws (lilac)
- ✓ Leadership (green)
- ✓ Legislative (pink)
- ✓ Poppy (cherry)



Kristen Little  
Department President  
17324 Independence Ct.  
Brook Park, OH 44142  
[KLL721@yahoo.com](mailto:KLL721@yahoo.com)  
216-265-9611 (home)  
440-781-1327 (cell)



Greeting Auxiliary Members,

I know that that many of us feel that our RACE this year has been red flagged, but I look at it as if we are under an extended caution. What is the difference many might ask? In NASCAR a red flag means all work must stop on and off the track for the team, a caution means you still work but at a slightly slower pace. So I am taking this time of quarantine and stay at home to mean we are under caution. Members can still be doing projects for our programs just in a different way. Many members I have seen are sewing masks for health care and essential workers, what a great community service project. I have seen comments of others helping at food banks or shopping for some of the Veterans at their Posts since they cannot or should not be going out; again they are still working the programs. The Legion has set up a National Campaign of "Buddy Checks", this is a great time for Auxiliary members to do the same with our members. A quick phone call to check on members and let them know we are still thinking of them during this challenging time can go a long way.

Unfortunately this year we had to cancel Poppy Shop and postpone our Junior Conference. Trust me that these were hard decisions to make and in some cases we did not have a choice. Please watch for updates on the Junior Conference as we are still planning to have one.

Many units have been asking what to do about their elections since they were supposed to happen in April. In this mailing I am including a flow chart that National sent out on how to hold your elections. The first thing units need to do is go back to their Constitution & By-Laws to see if it is covered in their governing documents. If not, please refer to the information provided by National. After we get through this pandemic, this might be something to consider adding to your Constitutions & By-Laws for the future.

Keep RACE(ing),

*Kristen*



**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department Of Ohio**

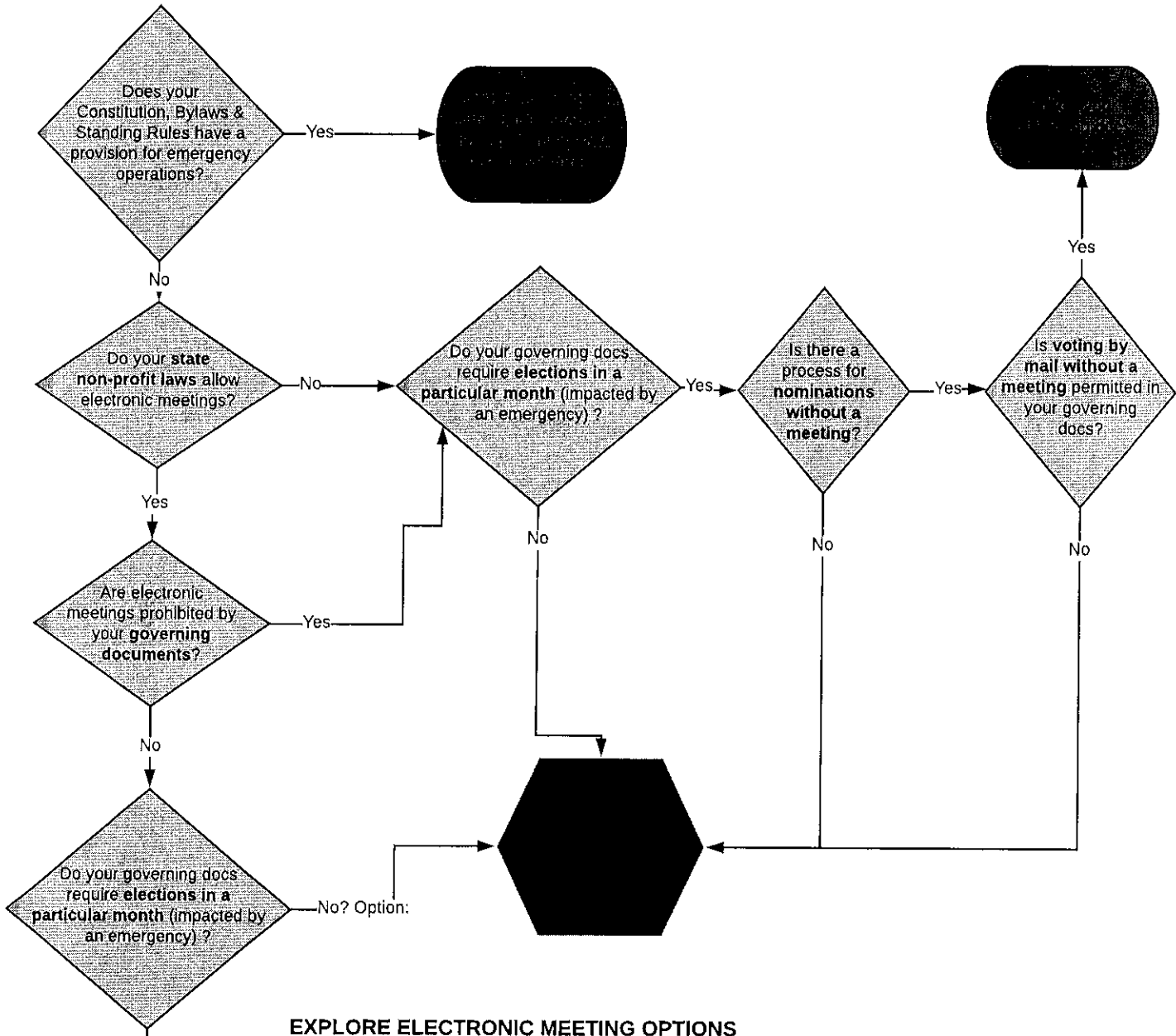
Auxiliary Members,

As many of you are aware The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary National Organizations have cancelled the 2020 National Convention and will keep current officers in place until the 2021 National Convention. In the Resolution that was sent they were strongly urging Departments to do the same. The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio had a vote of the DEC and has accepted Nationals recommendation to cancel our 2020 Department Convention. All current Department officers will stay in place until the 2021 Department Convention.

Department is asking Districts and Units to do what is best for their members in deciding if they should hold District or Unit meetings and elections. Whether elections are either held or not please send to Department office the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of your 2020-2021 leadership.

For God and Country,  
Kristen Little  
Department President  
440-781-1327  
216-265-9611  
[kll721@yahoo.com](mailto:kll721@yahoo.com)

# MEETINGS, ELECTIONS, AND EMERGENCIES



## EXPLORE ELECTRONIC MEETING OPTIONS

- Give notice in accordance with constitution/bylaws
- Set up a couple of practice sessions
- Prepared an agenda: limit meeting to the most pressing business
- Distribute agenda & officer/committee reports in advance
- Do a roll call/check for quorum at start of meeting
- Pass standing rules first thing
- Be patient and courteous
- Record the meeting
- Send out the minutes as soon as possible after the meeting.



# Membership

What a challenging last few month's we have lived in! Many of you are still stepping up and calling your members. As of this writing Ohio has 81 goal Units. Proud of you! We have another 38 Units that only need 1 or 2 members! YOU CAN DO IT! Let's continue to call and to ask. You do so much good in your communities; remind those eligible that we need them to continue to do this great work.

Facebook has been a way we have kept in touch these last few months. I have made it my mission to share positive thoughts and sayings on our Ohio AmLegion Aux Membership page. YOU members are so wonderful and you do so many good things for our Active Duty Military, Veterans and our Communities, I was hoping to give back a little to you. Thank you for being such good friends!

I appreciate all the membership reports I have received and hope you continue to send them to me for the next few weeks.

Remember we have more folks eligible to join this year. Please do not give up! Let's do all we can to keep our American Legion Auxiliary on a forward motion. Send cards to those members in the nursing home and try to make a call each day to other members; have each officer do this. Let each member know that no matter the age they are an important member!

Know that everything you do to help others comes back many times, to bless you.

God has given each of us this day. Let us not waist this time feeling sorry for what we have missed but instead; let's continue to come up with ways to Bless others.

A friend of mine shared this with me and said I could share this with you:

**Today** I am grateful for many things .....

We are so fortunate to live in a country where we care for each other, whether we know you or not!

We feel your pain, your suffering, your frustration, your joy and your sadness.

**Pain**...for the graduations, weddings, funerals etc. that will not be held

**Suffering** .... For the loss of a loved ones, a life, and worry about what will happen tomorrow

**Frustration**....for the unknown, the loss of job or income, the not knowing when we will be back to 'normal'

**Joy**...spending time together, with family, we spend all our time taking care of our homes, now your HOME can take care of you!

Your sadness...for the things you miss, the time you can never regain.

**For** the youth, this is but a grain of sand in your life, but a very important time, shared with friends, team mates, and just living your life.

**For** the parents and middle age who are busy finally getting their 'act' together and seeing their future and all that it holds.

**For** grandparents, for some this time is the very LIFE they have waited for, and in the grand scheme of things it's ALL the time they have left.

I thank each of you for all you have done and continue to do each day for our American Legion Auxiliary.

It is so great to see families spending more time together and yet the families of our military and all first responders and medical personnel who must continue to work long hours.

When we begin to return to *normal* let us remember these days. I am sure things will always be a little different. That being said we can be more motivated to work hard for OUR American Legion Auxiliary and the wonderful programs. Let each of us recommit to do as much as we can for our Veterans, Active Duty Military, Communities, and Children.

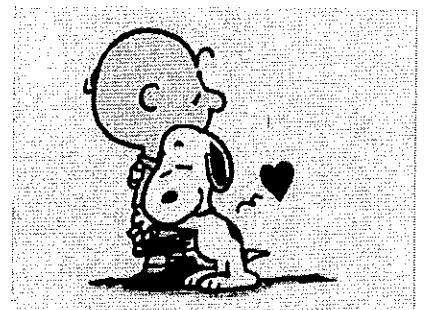
If you have been contacted with a lead from National PLEASE follow through with a call and or note to these folks. The leads are from people who contacted National and WANT to join. So do what you can to get them signed up as a member.

Today make a phone call and contact an eligible person to join us in this very important mission.

Service not Self.

Membership Chairman,

Colleen K Phillips





AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
 DEPARTMENT OF OHIO, INC.  
 PO BOX 2760  
 ZANESVILLE OH 43702-2760  
 (740) 452-8245 CERTIFICATION OF UNIT OFFICERS FOR 2020-2021

UNIT # \_\_\_\_\_

**MANDATORY!!! MUST BE COMPLETED WITH OR WITHOUT CHANGES**

This form must be completed by a Unit Officer immediately following election of Unit Officers and returned to Department Headquarters on or before June 1, 2020. If you're Unit fails to return this form to Department Headquarters YOUR UNIT WILL NOT RECEIVE MAIL FROM DEPARTMENT. This includes Presidents, Secretaries, Unit Membership and Buckeye Girls State information. **PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY. MEMBER ID #'s ARE REQUIRED.**

DISTRICT # \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT # \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT PRESIDENT \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBER ID # \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip + 4

PHONE NO. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip + 4

UNIT SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBER ID # \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip + 4

PHONE NO. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip + 4

UNIT TREASURER \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBER ID # \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip + 4

PHONE NO. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip + 4

UNIT MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBER ID # \_\_\_\_\_

This person is to receive ALL Membership mail, including receipts.

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip + 4

PHONE NO. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip + 4

PLACE AND ADDRESS WHERE UNIT MEETINGS ARE HELD \_\_\_\_\_

DAY OF MONTH OF UNIT MEETING \_\_\_\_\_ TIME OF UNIT MEETING \_\_\_\_\_

**CHANGES MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING BY THE UNIT PRESIDENT. CHANGES BY PHONE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

COMPLETED BY \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of Ohio, Inc.  
PO Box 2760  
Zanesville, Ohio 43702-2760  
(740) 452-8245

Phone – (740) 452-8245

Fax – (740) 452-2620

Website - [www.alaohio.org](http://www.alaohio.org)

E-Mail – [heather@alaoho.org](mailto:heather@alaoho.org)

**ALL MEMBERSHIP FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE!!**

To: Unit Membership Chairmen

From: Department Headquarters and Heather Wilson, Membership Clerk

**SUBJECT: ONLINE DUES PAYMENT PROCESS**

**IMPORTANT!!! IF YOU ARE NOT THE PERSON WHO WILL BE HANDLING THE 2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR YOUR UNIT, PLEASE PASS THIS LETTER ON TO THE PROPER PERSON.**

The purpose of this letter is to inform you and your Unit of the NEW Online Dues Payments process, beginning November 2020. All Online Dues Payments we receive from National via your members will be processed, a receipt will be issued where the Unit will be credited the amount of the Unit's portion. Because of the positive response and the increase of members paying their dues online, the Department finds itself issuing a much larger amount of checks. Some checks are in the amount of \$3.00 or less. This has increased the cost of processing at the Department. Therefore, the Unit will now see a credit on their receipt with the name and the amount that was credited their account. Very similar to how it has been conducted previously, the only difference is that the Unit will not receive a check, instead they will receive a credit.

Credits can be used at any time for membership payment. If the Unit wishes to have a credit check issued, we will do so during the month of July/August. We must have received your credit request by June 30<sup>th</sup>. (See the Attached Form).

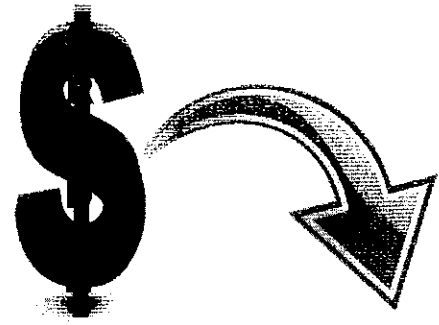
If you have any questions please feel free to call myself or any member of the Department Staff.

**Kind Regards**

**Heather Wilson, Membership Clerk**



# Unit Check Request Form FOR UNIT MEMBERSHIP CREDIT



UNIT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Your Unit		2015
Pay to the Order of		Date
	\$ _____	Dollars
Memo	Dept. HQs	
43587113 1186358875910 14818		

UNIT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS WHERE CHECK IS TO BE SENT  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ requests a check be issued for the full amount of our Unit's Membership Credit and be sent to the address listed above.

Please issue the check in the total amount of   \$   \_\_\_\_\_.

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 SIGNATURE OF UNIT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Credits can be used at any time for membership payment. If the Unit wishes to have a credit check issued, we will do so during the month of **July/August**. We must have received your credit request by **June 30<sup>th</sup>**. **If we do not receive your request for a check by the deadline, then your credits will be carried over into the next fiscal year.**

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

DATE CHECK ISSUED: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT CHECK: \_\_\_\_\_ CERTIFIED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



**“THE CENTENNIAL ADVOCATE”**

**While**

**“Celebrating a Century of Service”**

Hopefully not everyone is making a pit stop with this virus. We must keep the race going. With convention around the corner, it soon will be the last lap.

By the time this bulk mailing gets distributed all Unit and District reports, press books should have been sent to me. No reason why we shouldn't have 100 percent recording. Thank you to everyone who has sent reports to me. District 4 has sent me the most reports as this article.

Units have been communicating by sending emails, snail mail, using Post newsletters and Facebook pages. It saddens me to read that some Units have no communication with their members.

It's been tough to communicate these past couple of months with “stay home” policy set by our State Government. With posts being closed, no meetings are being held. Some of our older members do not text, email, or don't even have a computer can only communicate by mail. Not everyone is set up to online conference calling capability. Elections of new officers may be hard this year, but that's just a caution flag. I do hope that Unit and District Presidents are helping those Units with paperwork and getting what's needed by the deadlines.

I look forward to reading all the press books and narratives that are being sent to me. Looking to see who will win that checkered flag in Public Relations.

Marie Moore Plaque: Presented to the Unit with membership over 200 submitting the best press book with most all around Unit activity in publicity.

Doris Wainwright Plaque: Presented to the Unit with membership under 200 submitting the best press book with the most all around Unit activity in publicity.

Nancy Sallot Plaque: Presented to the Unit submitting the best press book covering all communications media – Press, radio and television.

Anne Eshelman Plaque: Presented to the District President with the best bulletins sent to Units.

Much more awards to be given out. Who will the winners be?

Stay home. Stay safe. Stay healthy.

# Americanism

I hope that you and your family have been safe and healthy during our Nation's difficult crisis.

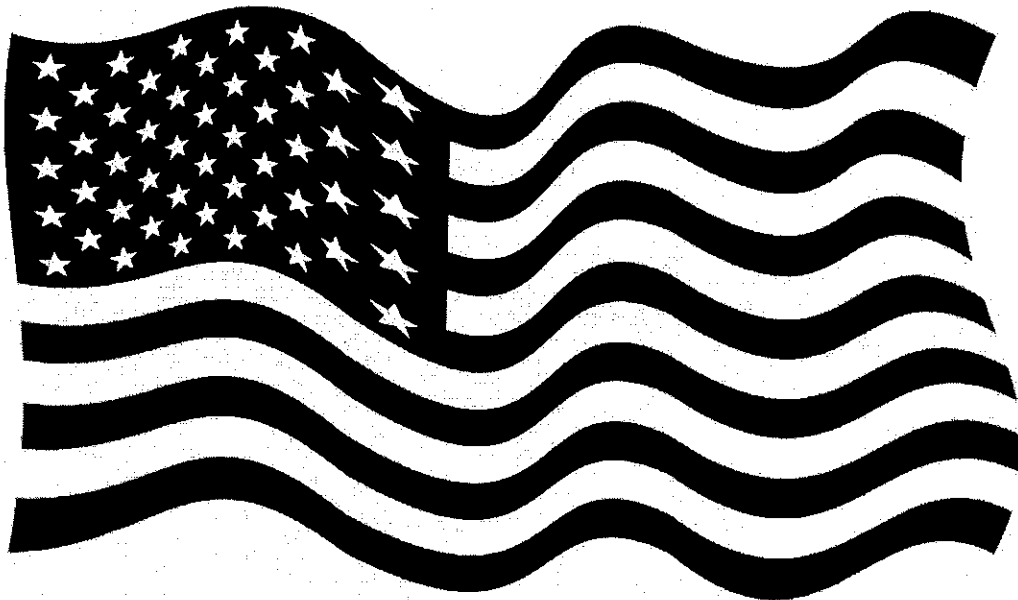
As I am beginning to put together our report for Department, if by chance, you have any photos of you or Unit members putting together any of the tooth picked poppies or placing them into the Wreath at Mid-Winter, please email them to me as I would like to include them in my report.

[rckohl@aol.com](mailto:rckohl@aol.com)

I have my fingers crossed that all 14 District Americanism Chairman will send me a report. Having 100% reporting would be an awesome goal to reach. That goal cannot be reach without each of you....let's make it happen! Please remember that the District Reports are due to me by May 1<sup>st</sup>.



Renee Kohl, 13 W Prospect St, Hudson OH 44236



Buckeye Girls State  
Rene' Reese, Director

I want to thank all of you for your ongoing efforts working the Buckeye Girls State program. We could never do this without the Units, chairmen and BGS Board doing all the work before we get there, and we can be very proud of what is accomplished each and every year.

Unfortunately, this year we have been stopped by what is happening in the world. I want everyone to know that our decision to cancel was done after much thought and discussion. We realized that the only way to assure everyone's safety (delegates and volunteers) was to cancel the 2020 session. As hard as this is to do, we must stay focused and be positive as we look forward to 2021.

While some communications have been sent out, here are a few reminders.

- All volunteers that were signed up for the 2020 session will be invited to return next year.
- If you ordered a staff shirt, your money will be refunded, and you don't need to do anything.
- Units will receive a refund for paid applications, and you don't need to do anything.
- Units should keep contact with selected delegates:
  - Delegates should complete the online orientation
  - Delegates will receive an official letter from BGS
  - There will be an opportunity for a scholarship and that information will be sent with their letter
  - We are working on a certificate for the delegates that complete the online orientation and some other instructions they will receive from BGS.
- There is much to be done and our Coordinator Vicky Buck, the office and myself are working to get everything completed.
- If you have questions regarding the applications, refunds, etc. you can call Vicky for help.
- If you have other questions, remarks or concerns, please email or call me (Director Rene) at ([rgr21@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rgr21@sbcglobal.net) or 216-362-0609). I will do my best to get back to you as soon as possible.

As American Legion Auxiliary volunteers, we are dedicated in the most positive and caring ways. While this is very disappointing, it won't dim our enthusiasm to come back next year and do what we do best – to provide a safe and supportive venue for young girls to learn about government, citizenship and patriotism! That is who we are and that is what we do.

God Bless and stay safe. Rene'

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## **Buckeye Girls State Endowment Fund**

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### **Unit Support Needed!**

The Buckeye Girls State Endowment Fund was established to provide scholarships to outstanding Buckeye Girls State Delegates. This fund was established through convention action over 20 years ago. Please consider directing some of your Unit monies toward the Buckeye Girls State Endowment Fund.

If your Unit does not wish to make an outright donation, please consider making a donation to the fund in lieu of flowers or a gift. What a nice gesture when a friend, loved one or Unit member celebrates a birthday, anniversary or dies. Also, you might consider a special fund raiser for this purpose.

#### **Special recognition will be given for these contributions:**

<b>\$ 25.00</b>	<b>Acknowledgment</b>
<b>\$ 50.00</b>	<b>Citation</b>
<b>\$ 100.00</b>	<b>Framed Citation</b>
<b>\$ 500.00</b>	<b>Special Framed Citation</b>
<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>Engraved Plaque</b>
<b>\$5,000.00</b>	<b>Personalized Engraved Plaque and name placed on a permanent plaque in Department Headquarters</b>

*See back of page for an Endowment Fund Donation Form.*

*For additional Donation Forms contact:*  
**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE  
PO BOX 2760  
ZANESVILLE, OHIO 43702-2760**



American Legion Auxiliary  
Buckeye  
Girls State

**American Legion Auxiliary**  
Buckeye Girls State  
Post Office Box 2760  
Zanesville, Ohio 43702-2760  
vicky@alaohio.org  
www.buckeyegirlsstate.org  
(740) 452-8245 fax (740)452-2620

**BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE ENDOWMENT FUND**  
**DONATION FORM**

_____	_____	_____
District #	Unit #	Unit Name
_____		
Donor's Name		

Enclosed is a donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the  
Buckeye Girls State Endowment Fund

If donation is in honor of or in memory of, send acknowledgment to:

_____	OR	_____
In Honor Of (Person's Name)		In Memory Of (Person's Name)
_____		
Send acknowledgement to: (Next of Kin's Name)		
_____		
Address		
_____	_____	_____
City	State	Zip Code

Send receipt to:

_____		
Name		
_____		
Address		
_____	_____	_____
City	State	Zip Code

Office Use Only

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Processed \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate: Yes  No

Please make check payable to **Buckeye Girls State** earmarked "Endowment Fund" and send donation to:

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**  
**BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE**  
**PO BOX 2760**  
**ZANESVILLE OH 43702-2760**



Chaplain  
Carol T. Robinson

*Look on the Bright Side*

*Think about the good things in life, like  
sunshine, holidays, feeling loved, special  
friendships, and laughter. Think about  
rainbows, blue skies, and beautiful sunsets  
and feel loved, cared about, and accepted.*

*Remember that in life, although there  
is some bad stuff, good things really do  
happen, too.*

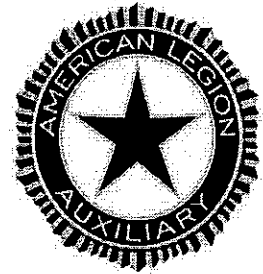
Written by Maria Mullins.

# COMMUNITY SERVICE 2020

STAY SAFE

STAY HOME

CALL YOUR MEMBERS TO  
CHECK ON THEM



I'm a proud member of  
The American Legion  
Auxiliary!

Hold a phone meeting with your  
Executive Board

Thank you for all that you are doing in your  
Communities!

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

**YOUR COMMUNITY SERVICE  
TEAM**

**MONA & ROBYN**



# Constitution & Bylaws

T S B W K U P Y D F A Q Y L R  
N W E X V Y A S D K V S S H C  
E K H L N M R C T Z W Q N O S  
M E A N U O L R Z A J J N A N  
T I N G C R I Y M I N S K A J  
R L D D F O A T T D T D T L I  
A I B B G E M N U I D I I M N  
P F O Z M K E C T L O W P N X  
E T O J E M N U P N O H J W G  
D I K L D F T C A O Y S H X K  
R N M N O I A L F I M Q E Y P  
V U E S O P R S W A L Y B R W  
J M G N V Z Y A O M T Q B W Z  
A S E R U D E C O R P E U Q Y  
D O C U M E N T U H I M O F B

AMENDMENT  
DEPARTMENT  
NATIONAL  
RESOLUTION  
UNIT

BYLAWS  
DOCUMENT  
PARLIAMENTARY  
RULES

CONSTITUTION  
HANDBOOK  
PROCEDURES  
STANDING

Double Puzzle

# Constitution & Bylaw

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12				

Unscramble each of the clue words.  
Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the s



# American Legion Auxiliary

*In the Spirit of Service Not Self for Veterans, God and Country*



RACE FOR LEADERSHIP SUCCESS 2020



## LEADERSHIP

PAM BATES, DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN

[pamelabates9@gmail.com](mailto:pamelabates9@gmail.com)

937-974-2316

'Improvise' because you don't  
know what's coming next,  
'Adapt' to any situation you find  
unsuitable because life isn't  
fair,  
'Overcome' and see how strong  
you've become...!  
— Shubham Chavan

Quote.in

This is one of my ALL TIME FAVORITE QUOTES which I got from the Clint Eastwood moving Heartbreak Ridge.

**THIS HAS BEEN THE OHIO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOR 100 YEARS  
WE IMPROVISE – ADAPT – OVERCOME!**

As we go through this Corona Pandemic, I have heard and seen on facebook the wonderful things our Units are doing in Ohio and still be responsible citizens following the Stay-At-Home/Distancing Order

**YOU MAY NOT REALIZE IT BUT YOU ARE ALL BEING EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP  
YOU ARE**

1. leading by example
2. smiling
3. keeping a positive attitude and encouraging others
4. meeting challenges and finding the best in all people
5. treating people with respect and fairness
6. treating people with respect and fairness
7. looking at "WE" rather than "me"

# 8 WAYS TO REMAIN HEALTHY AND FIT



## Don't Touch

Keep your hands off any possible germ-infected surface



## Wash up

Proper hand washing is important to prevent from any germs



## Stop stressing

Stress not only negatively affects your mental health but physical health too.



## Fundamental Fluids

Drink up! Downing 8-ounce glasses of water



## Eat Well

Your food choices impact your immune system



## Antioxidants

Keeping you healthy are vitamin A, C and E



## Get Fit

People who exercise regularly are less likely to get sick



## Sound Sleep

Get the eight hours of sleep a night.

## Legislative

I was honored to attend the Washington Conference as the Legislative chair from the Department of Ohio. I attended the Legislative session and found it most informative. The National staff, while all new to their positions, were very organized and well versed on the Legislative agenda.

The meeting was opened with a speaker from the 'Stars and Stripes' publication. The Department of Defense plans to eliminate funding for the paper in their 2021 budget. The paper provides independent coverage of news to service members and their families. While they do receive some funds from advertising, the papers published in areas such as Iraq and Afghanistan get no local advertising money. He asked for support in opposing HB 7920 and requested we consider subscribing to the publication online. Unbiased reporting on the issues that affect our military is much needed.

A discussion on 'Toxic Exposure and Burn Pits' highlighted the need to support S.2950 – Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act of 2019. This bill lays the groundwork for and requires future studies. The American Legion feels it has the best chance of passage of the several bills before congress. Military members would not have to document exposure just proof that they were in the area. Some of the presumptive conditions linked to toxic exposure are hypertension, Parkinson-like diseases, and bladder cancer.

The 'Deborah Sampson Act' has passed the House but a different version is in the Senate. They are the same in name only. As more women serve in the military, the VA needs to better meet their specific needs. While some improvements have been made, many female veterans still need to go outside of a VA facility for care.

The American Legion's support of the VA's Suicide Prevention efforts is ongoing. The suicide rate among veterans, especially female veterans, is well above that of their civilian counterparts. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury are factors in the higher rates. We were urged to ask our representatives to support of S. 785 the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019.

Veterans homelessness continues to be an issue. The problem is even more difficult to address for female veterans with children. Providing higher funding for the HUD-VASH (Housing and Urban Development and VA Supportive Housing) Homeless Program vouchers would offer some help to those in need.

Other issues in the Legislative Point Papers were also discussed.

The National staff gave an excellent presentation on the plan to upgrade the VoterVoice. The Action Alerts can be targeted by state and congressional district. Geocoding would show how many activists and Legion Posts are in a specific region. A 'scorecard' would be available that would show how legislators voted on issues of interest to us.

The staffs upcoming plans would include restructuring the Legislative Committee and Council. It could include adding all new members to the VoterVoice data base, unless they opt-out, when they join. The Veterans Allies Action Coalition (for non-members) would also be added to the data base. The more individuals that receive the action alerts the better. Their studies have shown that 24% of those who get alerts take action!

Together we are and will continue to make a difference for all veterans.

Diann Long – Department of Ohio Legislative Chair

**POPPY**  
**KAREN PEEL – CHAIRPERSON**

*Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!*

I am sure that my mailman is hating me – but I am **very** happy! I have received a lot of reports, Poppy Posters and scrapbooks! I can't wait to read about all the wonderful things that you all have been doing! Who will win the award??? We shall see!

I know that it is hard to think about Poppy Days with everything that is happening with this Corvid-19 virus. However – there are still some options for a successful Poppy Days:

- Poppy letter to all your Auxiliary members and local businesses.
- Dinners (when we can all gather again).
- Poppy Day in November around Veterans Day.

You are all very creative! Think out of the box! I have seen the work that the Units have done. I know that we can still have a successful Poppy Day!

I was very sad that we had to cancel Poppy Shop. But it was something that we had to do to keep our veterans, medical staff and members safe.

Thank you for all that you do for our veterans. They deserve the very best that we can give them. Now more than ever, we need to continue to work the Poppy program. Keep up the great job!

*Love,*



*Karen*