



The Buckeye Messenger



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY OF OHIO

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November, December 2023 & January 2024

Issue 1

President's Message

Jane Ridenour, Department President

I am so proud to be a member of the Department of Ohio American Legion Auxiliary!! What the members have been doing since my installation has been nothing less than amazing!! We had great attendance at our Fall School of Instructions. Kudos to all of the chairmen who facilitated these sessions! And a special thank you to Maria, Vicky, and Angie for their help in helping things run smoothly. It wouldn't have happened without you! Then came the District Fall Conferences. Again, attendance was great, the programs informational and fun was had by all. I thank those districts that I had the pleasure of visiting for their hospitality and enthusiasm! I've visited several of our VA facilities recently and have been duly impressed with the work that they do for our veterans! The Facebook posts that show what our units did/are doing to honor our veterans for Veterans Day shows the dedication to our mission. JOB WELL DONE, EVERYONE!!

While membership is up overall, we have fallen behind that state up north!! Remember, Louise does NOT look good in Maze and Blue!! Please, please, please...get that membership



turned in! WE CAN DO THIS!!

Next, we turn our thoughts and actions to getting those Poppy orders in and starting the process for ordering applications and contacting the schools for Buckeye Girls State. And before you know it, it will be time for our Mid-Winter Conference!! A superhero's work is never done!! But this is what we do best! I know that all of the programs/activities that the Auxiliary covers can be overwhelming to some. But there is a niche for every member in what we do. We just have to help those who are unsure of the "when, how and why" of the Auxiliary and help them find that spot where they can help and participate. I saw this quote and thought it appropriate.

"You're going to make a difference. A lot of times it won't be huge, it won't be visible even. But it will matter just the same." – James Gordon

Enjoy the holidays. May you all have a very blessed and Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas!!



Central Division National Vice President Carol T Robinson with Del Prater who was the Grand Marshall of the 2nd Annual Veterans Day Parade 2023 at the Dayton VA.



November 4, 2023, two Ohio Juniors attended the Central Division Junior Meeting during the Mission Training in Cincinnati, Ohio. Junior's attending were Callie Smith and Tay Smith. Pictured here are the ALA Juniors from Central Division.

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Deadlines for Announced Candidates Articles



Announcements for
DISTRICT Presidents (odd district numbers):
February, March, April Issue
Deadline: January 15, 2024

Announcements for
DEPARTMENT Officers
May, June, July Issue
Deadline: April 15, 2024

Send to
American Legion Auxiliary
PO Box 2760
Zanesville OH 43702

Or Email
maria@alaohio.org
Subject:
Candidate Article for (Dist #)

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- DEPARTMENT SECOND VICE PRESIDENT **Renee Kohl**
District 14 Unit 464 - (330) 650-1967 – rckohl@aol.com
- NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEWOMAN **Cindy Masowick**
District 14 Unit 685 - (330) 714-3873 – cjdgy@gmail.com

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- 5th District President (Unit 447) **Jane Yeager**
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(614) 314-3746 – rebecca.j.long254@gmail.com
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(216) 401-8842 – kimmieb219@sbcglobal.net
- 14th District President (Unit 566) **Kathy Burkhammer**
(234) 738-8552 – lovemyangelsof2@yahoo.com

2023-2024 FINANCE COMMITTEE

- DEPARTMENT FINANCE CHAIRMAN **Patricia Taylor**
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- DEPARTMENT FINANCE 2nd MEMBER **Diann Long**
District 13, Unit 610 - ken17402@yahoo.com
- DEPARTMENT FINANCE 3rd MEMBER **Alice Teynor**
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Fax # (740) 362-1429
e-mail: legion@ohiolegion.com

We have Facebook, Come Check us Out!!



<https://www.facebook.com/OhioAmericanLegionAuxiliary>

Department Secretary's Corner

by Maria Frame

Department Secretary/



Happy 2nd quarter of the 2023-2024 year. How are things going? Most of you should have participated or at least known about your District Fall Conferences. I hope you all came away from them with a newfound fire and energy to work on the mission of the auxiliary. The same American Legion Auxiliary we have all grown to love. Being a part of the American Legion Auxiliary is not about the title, or the position or the chairmanship you may hold, it's about serving our Veterans and their families. I believe sometimes it is very easy to forget about why we joined this amazing group in the first place. We must find that place of "service before self" again. If we find our way back to that, some of the "little bothers" or nuisances will disappear. You didn't join the Auxiliary for a title. You didn't join the auxiliary to get pats on the back. You joined the auxiliary or have maintained the membership all these years because you want to make a difference. You want to show your community just how important our veterans are to all of us. Let's not forget that!

So, what's happening at Department headquarters? Ladies and gentlemen, a lot!! There are days when you call and don't get an answer and you may have to leave a voicemail. There are days when your voicemail might not get answered until the next day. Why? We are busy! It is a good busy! Angie is busting her butt on membership every single day. If you only knew how much comes in here every day you would be astonished and not surprised why she can't always get to your phone calls. Angie doesn't get enough accolades for what she does, but I am here to tell you she is very appreciated by me and should be by the 35,000+ members of the ALA Dept. of Ohio. Vicky is always, and I mean always, working and organizing program information. For instance, Buckeye Girl State may not be until June of 2024, but she is busy getting things together NOW. Bulk mailing every month is something else she takes charge of. That is no easy task either. Not a day that goes by that Vicky isn't working ALA MIS, helping enter membership into QuickBooks, helping me pay bills and get checks cut for reimbursements, depositing checks into our accounts,

and monitoring so much. She is a huge asset to me and this entire department. I would be floundering if it weren't for those girls! Angie and Vicky are both the glue that binds this department together. As for me, I am as busy as they are with a lot of behind-the-scenes items from finances to learning how to get the Buckeye together. I am working hand in hand with National on multiple items and re-evaluating all our processes and procedures for just about everything that goes on in this office. I have been meeting with our financial advisors to get a better knowledge of our bottom line and investments. Let's not forget managing our 14 districts and over 360 units and my team. Managing my team is the easy part for me, because the team I have is Superhero material!

How excited are you about our Mid-Winter conference? I know I am! It is hard to believe that it will be upon us before we know it. Registration is open now at the Marriot Northwest Dublin. You can use this link in your web browser. <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1687345669634&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Reservations are being accepted under the group rate until Friday December 22, 2023. We kick off our meetings on Friday January 19, 2024, and finish the conference on Saturday January 20, 2024. The schedule will be released later.

I will close my portion of the Buckeye Messenger with this, because of all of you, the Auxiliary is where it is today. We are better together. We are Stronger together. We succeed together when we work together. It is time to sit back and think about your "WHY" for being a part of the Department of Ohio, American Legion Auxiliary. "Why am I here?" "Why do I pay my dues each year?" "Why do I want to share the mission with others and bring in new members?" "Why is it important that we work together and be better together?" Think about those why's. This group is way bigger than just you and me. We are a team! We all have a purpose together! Don't forget that!

I want to wish all of you a very Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving; and a truly remarkable Holiday season, no matter what you celebrate: Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, or simply a winter-season surrounded by family and friends.

I will see you in January, in Columbus, Ohio.

Signed,
Maria K. Frame
Department Secretary

In Memoriam...



The Department of Ohio is saddened to share that Past Department President Kathy Heichel of District 5, Bellville Unit 535 passed away on September 13th. Kathy shared her patriotism and support to area veterans with those around her. Kathy was Department President for 2018-2019 with the theme of LOVE, Leaders of Volunteering Everyday. Kathy traveled to veteran's hospitals and care facilities, participating in programs and presenting flag folding ceremonies

with her grandchildren, honoring Veterans on Memorial Day, and Veteran's Day. She made many friends at American Legion Family events throughout the years. Kathy dearly loved spending time in service to veterans alongside her husband Dan, a desire they proudly instilled in their daughters and their families. Kathy was a steadfast and an enthusiastic servant to the veterans of America, Ohio, and Bellville. Contributors like Kathy are one of a kind.

In addition to her ALA family, Kathy will be missed by her daughters Michelle and Deborah, her five grandchildren and her three great-grandchildren. May she live forever in our memories and may we continue her legacy of leadership, strength, and compassion.

Department of Ohio National Appointments

- National Central Division Vice President: Carol T. Robinson
- National Executive Committeewoman: Cindy Masowick
- National Public Relations Chairman: Pamela Bates
- National Children & Youth Vice Chairman: Mindi Rue
- National Education Committee Vice Chairman: Kristen McLaughlin
- National Poppy Vice Chairman: Gwen Schroeder Zulch
- National VA&R Vice Chairman: Donna Ray
- National Central Division Junior Activities Chairman: Colleen Phillips
- Distinguished Guest Member: Desi Stoy

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS



Department President Jane's Special Project Raffle



H.O.O.V.E.S.

H.O.O.V.E.S. is a private, donor-supported charity dedicated to providing fully-funded, 4-day, non-clinical healing intensives for veterans across the nation who are seeking recovery from service-connected stress. Our intensives offer a safe and supportive environment where veterans can find healing, camaraderie, and a renewed sense of purpose.

All Proceeds go to H.O.O.V.E.S

Prizes

1st Prize—Red Leather Rolling Computer Bag

Filled with all kinds of goodies, Gift Cards & Ohio Scratch-offs
Donated by Office Depot and it's contents value over \$500

2nd Prize— "All American Steak Pack"

Donated by House of Meats Value \$125.00

3rd Prize—Iron Bean Coffee Co. "Gift Certificate"

fresh roasted coffee bean, made to order Value \$100

4th Prize—Shop Vac

Donated by Ferguson Plumbing Value \$150

Prizes donated by Veteran owned businesses & Auxiliary Members

Tickets are only \$5.00 each

Drawing will be held at the
Department Convention
in July 2024

Need more Info?

*See any District President **or** the Special Project Committee
or the Display Table at any Department gathering*

*Thank you for assisting in this endeavor for
Department President Jane*

Need more Information?

Call or email:

Chairman: PDP Vi Grzybowski

Questions? : 419-290-3478

Email: vikay@accesstoledo.com

Mail: 2715 Tamarack Dr.

Toledo, Ohio 43614



The American Legion Department of Ohio 2024 Mid-Winter Conference

American Legion Auxiliary

Marriott Columbus Northwest

5605 Blazer Pkwy

Dublin, OH 43017

on

Legion is Friday, January 19, 2024 – Sunday, January 21, 2024

Auxiliary is Friday, January 19, 2024, and Saturday, January 20, 2024

This is an American Legion Family event for The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion Riders.

The conference is focused on
training and education of the American Legion
and its offices/programs through Buckeye American Legion College.
Anyone is welcome to attend the conference and any meetings and classes offered.

To make reservations please call 1-800-228-9290 to receive the discounted group rate of \$ 122.00 plus tax, or make reservations online at Book Your Group/Corporate Rate|Marriott International. Please reference “American Legion Mid-Winter” when making reservations.

Please visit <https://www.ohiolegion.com/department-mid-winter-conference/> and fill out the registration link.

The Department of Ohio will also be hosting a formal awards banquet. Registration for the Department Awards Banquet can be downloaded and mailed to Department or filled out on-line. E-mail confirmations will be sent to verify your banquet ticket purchase. If you do not receive an email after purchasing a ticket, please contact Department Headquarters.

Tickets are \$40.00 per person.

Deadline for hotel reservations is December 22nd
For more information on the ALA event contact Maria Frame at
maria@alaohio.org or call (740) 452-8245.

SEE YOU THERE!

If there are any Covid-19 mandates, we will publish them on ohiolegion.com

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF



DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS: 60 BIG RUN ROAD, DELAWARE, OHIO 43015-8007
PHONE: 740-362-7478 | FAX: 740-362-1429 | EMAIL: LEGION@OHIOLEGION.COM

Of the Year Awards Banquet

Saturday January 20, 2024

The Department of Ohio is hosting a formal banquet to honor outstanding members of our communities and Legionnaires at Mid-Winter Conference. Social hour starts at 5:00PM in the foyer with a cash bar. Dinner will be served at 6:00PM.

Commander Rue will be presenting awards to the members of your communities who have won various "of the year" awards.

Members, Posts, and Districts are encouraged to attend and support those being recognized.

Formal attire is required.

Reservation cutoff is January 12th, 2024.

Cost is \$40.00 per person

Please return this form with payment

All banquet tickets must be reserved in advance

Tickets reserved will be handed out at the event

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ *State* _____ *Zip* _____

of Tickets @ \$40.00 per person _____ *Amount* _____

Beef _____ *Chicken* _____ *Salmon* _____ *Vegetarian* _____

Credit Card # _____ *Exp Date* _____ *CVV* _____

Check # _____

*E-mail address (**Required**)* _____

Return to: Department of Ohio 60 Big Run Rd. Delaware, OH 43015

Americanism

Kathy Linn, Chairman • Marie Schulz Vice Chairman

Nov. 11 — the day we know as Veterans Day — is significant in history. It marks the 11th hour of the 11th day in the 11th month in 1918 that fighting between the Allied nations and Germany ceased. On this day, we pay tribute to all veterans: those who have served and are currently serving, along with those who have passed. How do you honor our Veterans? Passing out Flag pins, line your Post property with Flags, and don't forget to tell them all "Thank You" are just some of the little things you can do.

I hope that most of you have contacted your schools to promote the Americanism Essay Contest. The question this year is "What does Freedom Mean to Me." When

you reach out to your schools, create an information packet, include the award money available, and the deadline that you would like them back. I know that Marie is looking forward to reading all the essays. Please make sure she has them by the deadline of April 1, 2024.

I'm sure many Superhero's (unit members) worked in the election polls during the recent election. Remember to keep track of your hours and mileage to report it! There are so many ways we can promote our Flag and Americanism, please don't forget to send me pictures! I'm so looking forward to seeing them.

Kathy Linn, Chairman



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF OHIO BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE 2023-2024



Fresh new ideas are about to embark on the 2024 session of ALA Buckeye Girls State. After many new years of reviewing the delegate surveys, the 2023-2024 Buckeye Girls State Board of Directors and Buckeye Girls State Coordinator have taken on the task of "listening to the former delegates and their concerns and possible changes." The Buckeye Girls State Board is diligently working on the NEW program and bringing fresh and new ideas to the 2024 BGS session.

New guidelines have been implemented and we encourage all units to thoroughly read the Program Action Plan. 2024 Buckeye Girls State applications are now available and ready to be mailed out the door to the Buckeye Girls State Chairman. The DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FEBURARY 15, 2024.

In addition to the material in the Program Action Plan, the mandatory Buckeye Girls State orientations have been set and will be mailed with each delegate and alternate application. Remember that the delegates and alternates must attend one of the orientations and we have a wide range of dates and areas to be covered. This is very vital to the program as the changes will be addressed in the orientations.

We also encourage the Units to donate to the Buckeye Girls State Endowment Fund for the scholarships that are presented to the chosen delegates during the last session of Buckeye Girls State on Saturday. These scholarships are given to those delegates who fill out the scholarship application and they will be interviewed during the 2024 session of Buckeye Girls State.

American Legion Auxiliary Buckeye Girls State will once again be held on the campus of Bowling Green State University June 9-15, 2024. More information will be made available as the program is enhanced.

At the Midwinter Conference to be held January 19-20, 2024, in Columbus we will once again hold a workshop and the new program will be announced in detail at that time. The Board has worked closely with each of the Directors to bring new ideas and concepts to the program and I encourage every unit to send a representative to this workshop. Please be coherent to the Buckeye Girls State Board of Directors with the changes and remember this is a "LIFETIME OF DREAMS" for the delegates.

BGS WORKSHOP

A workshop will be held at Mid-Winter Conference on Friday, January 19, 2024, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. We will cover a wide range of important topics. If you are a Unit/Post Chairman for Buckeye Girls State, please consider attending this workshop. Below is the registration form that will need to be completed and returned to ALA Department Headquarters. There is no cost to attend this workshop, but **pre-registration** is recommended. You may email your registration form to: Vicky Buck at vicky@alaohio.org

Topics that will be covered are:

- Interview process and selection of BGS delegates
- After Selection, what happens next?
- Delegate Orientation
- Public Relations – promoting BGS at Unit level and community
- Delegate Registration – new process for paperwork
- Volunteering – needs, roles, and expectations
- Registration Day at Bowling Green State University
- Questions and Answers

BGS Workshop Registration Form
Mail to: Department of Ohio
PO Box 2760
Zanesville, OH 43702

Unit _____ District _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Education

MaryBeth Parker, Chairman

Can you believe that the holidays are around the corner? But, we still have work to do with our Education.

Don't forget American Education Week is November 13 -17th.

Give 10 to Education to a local school in your area!

Try to promote quality education to our children, especially our military children. Support our education scholarships for our future children.

With the scholarships being online on the ALA website, please read the guidelines on them I'm getting ones in that are not having all of what I need to send out to the

next level .

With Halloween over, did you pass out our Have a safe Halloween booklet to a classroom at a local school? If so, send in those pictures.

Try to get involved in promoting our Education scholarships.

Happy Thanksgiving to you all.

MaryBeth Parker

Dept of Education of Ohio

Historian

Dayna Beyer, Chairman



During Pickerington Unit 283's Annual Euchre Tournament to present History Program 2022-2023 Incentive Emblem Sales Jewelry Set to Linda Sauter. (l to r) Past District 8 President, Tammy Derosiers; Department Historian, Dayna Beyer; Unit Historian, Linda Sauter; Carol Deakins; Unit President, Wendy Robinson; and Annabelle Marion



Fairfield Park Post 738 at 19311 Lorain Road Fairview Park, Ohio 44126 in District 13 Unit 738 President Cindi Johnson (left) and 2nd Vice President Barb Whelan (right) during their American Legion Family Membership Drive, with member Ann Beman, and her sister Tracy (center) who joined as their newest auxiliary member that day.



Fox8 Cleveland WJW Producer of New Day Cleveland show, Kristen Wunderle (center), an auxiliary Unit 572 member with her parents, US Army Veteran Legionnaire, Tim Wunderle and wife Auxiliary member, Gail (left), and US Army veteran Legionnaire, Chris Miller, with US Army Veteran Legionnaire, Ron Wojtkiewicz and wife Auxiliary member, Mary (right). A special "Salute to Veterans" program was recorded at Joseph J. Jacubic Post 572 in Parma, with New

Day Cleveland Host, Natalie Herbick, Fox8 News WJW and special guest host US Army Veteran, Travis Mills of Maine, who spoke about his foundation that serves veterans, 1st responders and their families. The day was extra special as USMC Veteran, Chris Miller, who has attended Travis' PTSD program broke down in tears as he was surprised when Cleveland Businessman Dave Mortach and his wife Sophie, announced that they were paying off Chris' mortgage. A very special Veterans Day for all.



A free Veterans Day Breakfast was offered at Lodi Post 523, in District 5, with Boy and Cub Scouts, and 4Her's taking breakfast orders and serving veterans and guests. The Auxiliary members prepared and dished out the

orders with Holly Helmick Sprowl (at the counter) and Auxiliary President, Barbara Potts (in the background) directing the servers and guests. Letters written by students to veterans were distributed as they walked in, and their spouses were presented with a red carnation. Donations were also accepted and appreciated.



US Army Veteran, Bill Grimsley (left) of Polk Post 219, 5th District, is joined for a Veterans Day breakfast at Lodi Post 523, with sister-in-law Barbara Mansfield (right), Poppy Chairman of Hudson Unit 464 and her husband, US Army Veteran Bill Mansfield (center, sitting) of Streetsboro Post 685 both of the 14th District. Their breakfast orders were taken by 4H Medina members, brothers Trent (left) and Drew Firebaugh (center).



At the farewell party hosted by Streetsboro Unit 685, for American Legion Auxiliary Past Department of Ohio President, Marilyn Warner, with Past Department Presidents (l to r) Denise Conrad, Karen Peel, Beth Toalston, PNP Desi Stoy, Marilyn Warner,

Gloria Verbeke, Colleen Kay Phillips, and Cindy Masowick.



Before her homecoming party begins, Department of Ohio President, Jane Ridenour; Past Department of Ohio Commander, Richard "Dick" Zulch; and 2nd Vice President, Renee Kohl takes a privileged moment for a photo opp, by themselves, at the Perrysville Hilton Garden Inn.



At the Hilton Garden Inn, in Perrysburg, Department President Jane Ridenour, visits with homecoming guests (l t r), 13th District President, Kimm Bunch and SAL Commander, Adam Budner; Keith and his wife Past Department President, Kristen McLaughlin; President Jane Ridenour; Adjutant, Department of Ohio, American Legion, John "JD" Robinson; Bruce Bittner and his significant other, 1st Vice President, Louise Smerk; and Department of Ohio American Legion Auxiliary, Department Secretary, and USAF Veteran, Maria Frame.

Cincinnati VA Medical Center

Donna Ray, Representative • Sue Whitham Deputy

Update on what is going on at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center. We have had a busy couple of months. We have been taking care of all the floors with toiletry items, snacks, puzzle book, and crochet blankets from our units. They are very generous with their donations.

On November 4, 2023, we went to the Mission Training in Kentucky. It was so full of knowledge of what we can do. The Juniors made socks of Love for the Cincinnati, VA. These were filled with socks, ChapStick, and small deodorant. We gave out on Veterans Day. Gift bags filled with socks, cookies, crackers, mugs saying Proud Veterans, puzzle book, American Flag, Veterans Day Cards for each Veteran. They were so appreciative. There was one Veteran who expressed how proud he was to be an American and how everyone showed their caring for them. He was alone and it was so surprising that so many people cared about him. Our volunteers laughed and talked to him and the Veterans we were able to see. Our District Sons of the American Legion brought in Pizza for lunch.

We just found out that bingo will be starting up in the Community Living Center. We are so excited.

Those who helped giving and putting the gift bags together were from Auxiliary was Sue, Marsha, Liz, Sons of the American Legion: Chuck, Ron, Bill and Denny, American Legion: Past Commander Jean. Thank you, Legion Family.

We have started working on Christmas and we are getting ready to make gift bags. Many thanks to The American Legion Auxiliary, The American Legion, The Sons of the American Legion, and The American Legion Riders. The Units who have helped on donations for the floors: Unit 179, 484, 450, 194, 199, 49, 755, Post 484, 69, 199, Squadron 484, 49, Legion Riders 484, 49, 194. This is a true Legion Family.

Cleveland Wade Park

Pat Miazga, Hospital Representative

Wade Park is finally opening up some and letting us come in and do more. We have been coming in on Mondays serving coffee and cookies in the Atrium. The patients really like it when they are served donuts or other types of food items. Seeing them smile and talk with them is something that never gets old.

I have been able to provide patients with items that they are always in need of, especially toiletries. Not only do the hospital patients need them, but the women's clinic and the DOM can also use them. They are also in constant need of sweat tops and bottoms especially the larger sizes.

We are able to have our patients come to our posts again. You can call Desmond and he will help you with how many you would like to have.

The patients have been asking about when we will be coming back to play bingo. For the first time since covid we are able to do that again. Desmond has been working with groups to have them schedule the days your unit wants to come in. You are still able to serve refreshments, but everything has to be prepackaged either by you or where you are getting your refreshments from. Be aware that the rec center is much smaller than it used to be. If you are doing payouts with canteen books you have to order them. They will have them ready in a day or so.

With Christmas around the corner, they are letting different organizations bring gifts to the floors. They still want you to call and talk to Desmond to make sure the floors are open with no outbreaks on them. They are asking everyone not to put candy and sweets in the bags and only to give baked chips. For Christmas this year they are asking for Amazon gift cards so patients can order what they want. Last year many patients bought cup holders and different things to use on their wheelchair and scooters.

As always we are always asking for volunteers. If you have the time and would like to come to help, please feel free to contact me.

As always remember our Veterans in your prayers.

Pat Miazga
216-526-6250

Ohio Veterans Home - Sandusky, Ohio

Denise Bossetti, Chief Rep. • Nanette Peters, Deputy Rep.

As The American Legion Auxiliary starts another year under the new regime, we must not forget our mission to help assist all our beloved Veterans.

Bingo is running like clockwork with positive responses from the Veterans. Great to hear, right? Want to join us? Our scheduled Bingos are on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays starting at 1:30 PM each month through the end of May.

First, we want to THANK EVERYONE who found a way to include this facility in the donations this year. Still, the O.V.H. is extremely short this year when it comes to the Veterans Christmas gift funds. If you could part with a little extra cash sitting in your Poppy funds account, it could help make the Veteran's Christmas and New Year happy and bright.

The difference between the Ohio Veterans Home and V.A. Hospitals is that V.A. Hospitals send the patients home after treatment. The O.V.H. Veterans remain here until they go home to be with our Lord. This is the final journey for many living here. So, you see the importance of this request.

Small units could help by sending Dove Sensitive Skin body wash. We have some Veterans with a need for a milder body wash.

Another project that helps the Veterans is sending assorted greeting cards with postage already on the envelopes so they can keep in touch with family and friends, especially during the holidays.

We truly appreciate all that you do to help us provide for our Veterans. Continue doing all you can, including keeping them in your prayers.

Toledo CBOC

Pam Brenneman, VAVS Representative

With November here I will be starting up our "Soup to Go" lunches for the patients (no employees) that come to the VA along with their caregiver and/or driver. We did several last year and all of the veterans really enjoyed them. It was nice because they could either eat it there at the clinic or take it home. I had one on Thursday, November 9th for Veterans Day, but this time it was a "Soup and Slider" to go lunch. Along with the soup they will be getting a slider sandwich. They also get a cookie or brownie (depending on which one I order), a piece of fruit, and a small bag of candy. On special days (like Veterans Day, Valentine's Day and Memorial Day) I will also be putting a gift card in their bag. But the gift cards are only for the veterans, not the caregiver or driver.

It's still slow there but on certain days there do seem to be more veterans showing up. But then again, I also heard that the doctors are only there every other day, so that could be the reason why some days are busier. We usually do 3-4 pots of regular coffee a day and only 1 pot of decaf. If you would like to volunteer, I do have a few days open. The first Monday of the month is open along with the 5th Monday and 5th Wednesday. The person who was doing those days also works the 1st and 3rd Friday and decided she only wants to continue with the Fridays. So if you are interested please let me know. Ladies, it's not a hard job at all. And, I can tell you the Veterans really enjoy visiting with us!



**SPECIAL PROJECT
BROOKLYN TAYLOR**

HONORARY DEPARTMENT JUNIOR PRESIDENT

The Juniors will be focusing on a special group of women this year – our women veterans. We want to make sure that they feel good about themselves and receive items that will make that happen.

Suggested items:

- Full size hair products (shampoo, conditioner, hairspray, etc.)
- Full size bath products (body wash, body spray, etc.)
- Hair ties, headbands
- Bath robes
- Gift cards (Bath & body Works, restaurants, movie ticket, etc.)
- Makeup
- Feminine Products

Anything "girlie"! These items can be brought to Mid-Winter or donations can be sent to Department headquarters, earmarked for the Junior President's Special Project.

Help make our women veterans feel wonderful!

Leadership

Mindi Rue, Department Leadership Chairman

"The delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image but giving them the opportunity to create themselves." -Steven Spielberg

Mentoring is a "process of equipping people with the tools, knowledge, and opportunities they need to develop them and become more effective".

Mentoring allows organizations to create an environment that fosters personal and professional growth through the sharing of organizational information, skills, attitudes, and behaviors. It **increases role modeling of leaders and accelerates processes for the identification, development, and retention of talent.**

10 WAYS TO BE AN AMAZING MENTOR from [How to Be an Amazing Mentor in 10 Ways, according to HubSpot Managers](#)

1. Understand what you want out of the relationship.
2. Set expectations together in the very beginning.
3. Take a genuine interest in your mentee as a person.
4. Build trust.
5. Know when to give advice.
6. Don't assume anything about your mentee – ask.
7. Share your journey.
8. Celebrate their achievements.
9. Seek out resources to help your mentee grow.
10. Be sure you have the bandwidth.

The value of mentoring in the American Legion Auxiliary will be to preserve the traditions of our organization, all while fostering new ideas, growth, and change. This is the most effective way to serve our veterans, active-duty military and their families, our children and youth, and our communities. Remember: Just because that is the way we've always done it; doesn't mean that's the way it always has to be done!

Legislative Cindy Boehnlein, Chairman

By the time you have received this Buckeye Messenger we will have a new Speaker of the House. Hopefully the National Defense Authorization Act will have been passed too. But if this hasn't happened, we are called to contact our congressmen to pass H.R. 5641 Pay our Troops Act and H.R. 2639 Pay the Coast Guard Act. If these are not passed and the government goes into shutdown, they will not have continued pay.

Another concern of the American Legion is the supporting of H.R. 1139 Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act. This is to protect our sick veterans from the ambulance chasers, to control the fees that lawyers can charge. Currently the H.R. 1822 PLUS for Veterans Act is gaining ground. This one will allow the unaccredited lawyers to charge up to a \$12,500 upfront fee. We do not want this. Call, email and write to your reps!

Yes on H.R. 1139

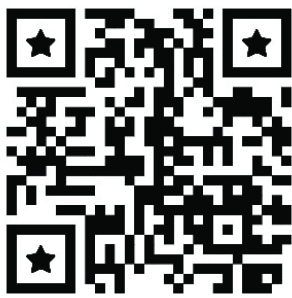
No on H.R. 1822

Make sure your unit presidents have shared the Bulk Mailing with you. There is a list of all the veteran bills introduced in Ohio. These too need our attention.

The current addresses and phone numbers of our US representatives are posted on the ALA Legislative Ohio Facebook group. You can download and print this from there. Please join our group.

I would like to thank our SAL Commander David Dilts for having me as a guest speaker at the October 21st DEC meeting. I shared a shortened version of the PowerPoint and instructed them in the legislative participation process.

The National Commander Daniel Seehafer has asked the American Legion Family to use the www.legion.org/action site to send as many messages as you can on the topics they have listed. If you have not done so yet, here is the QR code you can scan to sign up and send messages.



Remember Captain Invisible stands for all those behind the scenes that are not seen! Whether you are washing the dishes at the pancake breakfast or pounding the pavement on Capitol Hill, everything you do makes the Dept. of Ohio's programs great. See you at Mid-Winter. We have petitions to sign for our senators! Any questions on the POA? Call me - (440) 212-5150



A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

National Executive Committee

Cindy Masowick, NEC

Lisa Williamson, National President

Hello, department leaders! Please take three minutes to read this message from National President Lisa Williamson.

Be the One: It's not a catchphrase. It's not a campaign. It's a mission — one to destigmatize asking for mental health support, provide peer-to-peer support and resources, and educate everyone on how they can Be the One to save a veteran's life. Unfortunately, we have seen the mission "Be the One" taken out of context. This phrase should not be used as part of a theme, to invite someone to a meeting, or to ask someone to be a member, etc. It is to be used to Be the One to save a veteran's life.

We know ALA members are playing a big role in supporting the Be the One mission of helping a veteran in crisis; however, tying the phrase into a clever theme is diminishing the power of the words Be the One. We understand the ALA tradition of having themes, and we are not pointing fingers, punishing anyone, or assigning blame. But please note that this is a time our members may want to step back from using Be the One as a theme. Remember: This serious topic is not just an ALA focus, but an American Legion Family mission. We would love for people to use Be the One, but only as a stand-alone to really drive the importance of its mission.

ALA National Headquarters has several awareness plans incoming for members, including social media posts, a blog post, magazine story, and discussions at upcoming trainings, so that all levels of the organization are hearing the same message. You can also go to www.ALAforVeterans.org to watch the Be the One webinar in the ALA Academy.

Let's keep our momentum going in supporting the Be the One mission, and thank you for all of your hard work in doing so. If you have questions about anything, feel free to reply to this email, or contact our Communications and Marketing Division at pr@alaforveterans.org.

Again, thank you for all that you do.

Lisa Williamson



A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

Talking points on how to use the phrase "Be the One"

We know ALA members are playing a big role in supporting the Be the One mission. However, tying the phrase into a theme is diminishing the power of the words *Be the One*. We understand the tradition of having themes and we are not pointing fingers, punishing anyone, or assigning blame. However, our members may want to step back from using Be the One as a theme. Remember: This serious topic is not just an ALA focus, but an American Legion Family mission.

- Be the One is about suicide prevention and awareness.
- It originated as be the one to save one. It's estimated that between 17 and 22 veterans or servicemembers take their own lives each day.
- It's not a catchphrase. It's not a campaign. The American Legion is now calling it a mission.
- It's a mission to destigmatize asking for mental health support, provide peer-to-peer support and resources, and educate everyone on how they can Be the One.
- The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion joined The American Legion to promote the Be the One mission. So, ALA members should follow the guidelines from The American Legion. Go to BetheOne.org to learn more.
- The words "Be the One" should not be use as part of a lighthearted theme, to invite someone to a meeting, or to pay their dues. Uses other than suicide prevention/awareness diminish its power.
- Use of "Be the One" should be reserved for topics related to suicide prevention and awareness.
- The No. 1 issue facing the veteran community is suicide.
- The approved logos for Be the One are subject to the same usage rules as The American Legion brandmark.
- Think of Be the One as a standalone phrase such as "Just Do It" and "Got Milk".

How can you Be the One?

- Ask veterans in your life how they are doing.
- Listen when a veteran needs to talk.
- Reach out when you think a veteran might be struggling.
- Increase awareness about the veteran and military suicide epidemic.
- Have a list of resources in your area for veterans who may be struggling.
- Spread the word about the Veterans Crisis Line at 988.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Becky Dippman, Chairman

3186 S. River Road, Pemberville, OH 43450

(419) 409-6032 • bdippamn@gmail.com

What superpowers are you using to enhance the security of our great nation? This Red Power Ranger has a few suggestions. Contact the American Red Cross and hold a bloodmobile in your community. There is currently a national shortage of blood. Please check with your area and see if there is a blood drive scheduled, especially if you have O negative blood. What a powerful feeling it is to know you have given blood and saved someone's life!

Look into any activities planned for veterans and the children in your communities. Call or visit a local USO Service center. Check to see if they have any need. The holidays are truly a very busy time for them. They need supplies, gift cards, and other items for the service members who travel through their doors for the holidays.

Make care packages to ship to active-duty personnel. Homemade cookies and treats are very much appreciated. You can also include pocket flags, poppies, crossword puzzles, word search, adult coloring books, and other items to help fill their idle time.

Organize a fundraiser and donate the profits to the ALA Military Family Assistance Fund. Try to find a local active-duty service member, interview them, and send in their application for Service Member of the Year.

There are so many things you can do to help out and enhance the lives of our active-duty military. The holidays are a great time to get started. So, fire up those superpowers you have been building up. It's time to be a superhero and make sure our service personnel are taken care of!

Past Dept. Presidents

Past Department Presidents visit Fairbanks, Alaska for National President Lisa Williamson's Homecoming. Pictured L to R are: Vicky Buck, Tim and Colleen Phillips, Carol T. Robinson, Greg Peel, Donna Ray, Karen Peel, Steve Masowick, Pam and Pete Bates and Cindy Masowick. They are pictured under the "Antler Arch" located at the Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitors Center. The arch is comprised of over 100 antlers of differing types from moose and caribou. Moose and caribou grow new antlers each spring, dropping them in the fall. Many of these antlers were donated by hunters and farmers across the interior of Alaska.



Parliamentary Procedures

Pam Bates, Department of Ohio Parliamentarian

(in brief from

<https://member.legion-aux.org/member/guides/basic-parliamentary-procedure>)

The Three Ways to Amend

- To insert or to add (a word, consecutive words, or a paragraph).
Phrasing:
"I move to amend the motion by inserting the word 'consecutive' before the word 'terms.'"
"I move to add the words 'at a cost not to exceed \$100.'"
"I move to amend by adding the following paragraph..."
- To strike out (a word, consecutive words, or a paragraph).
Phrasing:
"I move to amend by striking out the word 'every.'"
"I move to amend by striking out the words 'during the second semester.'"
"I move to strike out the third paragraph."
- To strike out and insert (words) or to substitute (paragraph or entire main motion).
Phrasing:
"I move to strike out the word 'monthly' and insert the word 'annually.'"
"I move to substitute for the pending main motion the following..."

The Order of Business

- Reading and approval of minutes – approves the record of actions taken at previous meeting.
 - Reports of officers and standing committees – considers actions as recommended by an officer or committee. Any correspondence received should be read if not distributed prior to the meeting. A financial report is made at every meeting.
 - Reports of special committees – considers actions as recommended by a group formed for a particular purpose.
 - Special orders – considers items that were made special orders for this meeting or items required to be taken up at this meeting by provision in the bylaws.
 - Unfinished business and general orders – consider items not reached when the last meeting adjourned or items postponed to this meeting.
 - New business – considers actions proposed by members.
- "If the Chair is an effective leader—focusing on the members, treating each fairly, earning everyone's trust—then the meeting will be successful".
Hugh Cannon, Cannon's Concise Guide to Rules of Order, P. 13

Poppy

Darlene Hanneman, Chairman

It was wonderful to see everyone at the School of Instructions! I hope everyone was able to take away at least one great idea from all the wonderful presentations.

With Veterans Day around the corner, is there a way to incorporate raising monies for your Poppy fund? If you have a Poppy fundraiser, please share your ideas with me. I would love to share with our members all the great ideas in the state of Ohio.

At this point, there is no date for Poppy Shop. I will keep you all posted regarding any updates.

At Mid-Winter, we will be having the Poppy Usage contest and Poppy corsage contest. Start thinking about your designs. We have a lot of creative members, and I cannot wait to see the ideas you come up with. Please do not forget to include your Junior Members. There is a Poppy Usage contest and Poppy corsage contest for them too.

Continue to have your Unit and your Miss Poppy collect donations for the Poppy Program. Remember to take pictures and take notes on who helped, how many hours, and the amount of money collected for the Reports this Spring. Please check the National rules for the new method of Miss Poppy's reporting. "The Poppy Book" has a new format, rules, and who you are to send Miss Poppy's report to.

Also, please do not forget to order your Poppies. To be considered for the President's Citation of Merit, you must order poppies before December 31.

Please let me know if you have any questions.
Darlene Hanneman
hayman@bright.net
(419) 615-2940

Public Relations

Reneé Kohl, 2023-2024 Chairman



HOW TO PROMOTE THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| Email | Join community events |
| Facebook | Promote your programs |
| Newspapers | Branding – wear the emblem |
| Radio | Use various social media apps |
| Television | Talk to everyone |

Auxiliary News

Currently working on updating the website and Facebook pages – soon you will be able to get all forms and information online or in bulk mailings.

- A special gift will be given to the UNIT PR Chairman and the UNIT President who submits the most PR items to me by **DECEMBER 31, 2023**. Recognition will be given at the Department Mid-Winter. My email address is rckohl@aol.com or you can send them to me at my home address at 13 W. Prospect St., Hudson, OH 44236
- District Presidents, as a reminder, to be eligible for the Anne Eshelman Plaque, you are being asked to create a minimum of 6 newsletters for the year. Appeal to the membership within the District and share as much information as you can with your members. Be creative and use President Jane's Superhero assignment within your newsletters.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ALL THE WAYS YOU ARE PROMOTING OUR GREAT ORGANIZATION.

VA & R - Service to Veteran's

Marsha Giehls, Chairman • aux194@embarqmail.com

With the holidays being here, I know that everyone is do something for a Veteran outside a VA Facility, it counts towards your Service to Veterans Hours.

Some Examples: did you go shopping for a Veteran, give them a ride to an appointment or grocery store. Did you bake items, crochet, or knit items that are being donated to a Veteran. These are a few of the things you should keep track of for your hours and turn the hours in on the Service to Veterans paperwork. If you are not sure if you can count something you do on your Service to Veterans hours, ask and I will let you know.

Also, remember that if you take care of a Veteran who lives with you it counts as 10 hours a week and if the Veteran does not live with you, it is 5 hours a week.

Fill out one sheet per member, and fill out the information on the top of the sheet, keep a copy so that you can include these numbers in your VA&R report that you give to your Unit Chairman and make sure that everything is legible, you can send them by mail or email, and you do not have to wait until April 15th to send them to me. My email and address are on the Plan of Action you received. Also, please be specific about what you are doing for our Veterans. Remember, these hours can only be counted once and not counted again on another program's report, so decide which program you want to report the hours on. **EXAMPLE:** If you send in your hours on a Service to Veteran's report, which are to be included in your VA&R report you should not also count those hours on Community Service or National Security.

If you can send me short note letting me know some of the things your Unit is doing to promote Service to Veteran's, so your members can earn their hours, then we can share ideas with other members as to how they can also earn their hours. All members do things to help our Veterans, outside the VA Facilities, so turn in those hours.

Remember all these hours do matter and keep being those Super Heros for our Veterans.
Marsha



District and Unit News

District 1, Unit 63



Membership Dinner for District 1, Unit 63. Pat Agner, President; Susie Wischmeyer, Chair; Morgan Maag, Buckeye Girls Stater; Roseanne Paquette, 1st District President.



Membership Dinner for District 1, Unit 63. Pag Agner, President; Ruthie Hermlinger, National Miss Poppy 2023; Roseanne Paquette, 1st District President.



Membership Dinner for District 1, Unit 63. Roseanne Paquette, 1st District President; Betty Leap, Outstanding Unit Member of the Year; Pat Agner, President.



Membership Dinner for District 1, Unit 63. Pat Agner, President; Kendall Schroeder, Unit #63 Miss Poppy 2024.



“IN MEMORY OF OUR DECEASED MEMBERS”

Nancy Ott, Department Chaplain

For when our life wanes, as we come to the end, It isn't our accomplishments we will have to defend, But who did we serve as we traveled life's way? That is the proof of our faith on that day

Headquarters	Suzi Waldren Unit 120	Mildred Gaul Unit 243	Emily Laporte Unit 007
Annette Atwell Unit 888	Patricia Worthen Unit 120	Susan B. Sprang Unit 257	Teri Axline..... Unit 076
Donna Bever Unit 888	Mary Straszheim..... Unit 245	Barbara Montgomery Unit 295	Pat Fisher Unit 076
Sally Cunningham..... Unit 888	Marie Stewart..... Unit 286	Jean Kreim Unit 405	Dorothy Sparks-Corey..... Unit 103
Betty Forsyth..... Unit 888	April Hansard..... Unit 746	Suzanne Bauer..... Unit 503	Shirley Davidson Unit 214
Britney Jacob..... Unit 888	Rebecca Robinson Unit 746	Zannie Crager Unit 503	Vivian Nagy Unit 214
Sue Lewis Unit 888	Alvena Zimmer Unit 746	Linda Lehman..... Unit 503	Leatrice Horvat Unit 336
Janice Mulch Unit 888	Kimberly Collins..... Unit 762	Velma Carpenter Unit 535	Patricia Simonitis Unit 678
Ruby Saunders Unit 888	Shelby Comer Unit 762	Kathleen Heichel..... Unit 535	Joanne Thomas..... Unit 700
Eunice Wilkinson..... Unit 888	Bertha Nelson Unit 762	Janet Shafer Unit 535	Shirley Spier..... Unit 737
District 1	Donna Matthews Unit 763	Agnes Bischoff..... Unit 547	District 10
Sharon Dailey..... Unit 003	District 4	Betty Deisher Unit 547	Norma Todd Unit 067
Judith Howard Unit 060	Kathryn Shattuck..... Unit 04	Norma Jones Unit 547	Judith Clark Unit 192
Betty Honigfort..... Unit 063	June Clifford Unit 069	Shirley McQuillen..... Unit 547	Ursula Haught Unit 440
Margery Cox Unit 183	Joan Smith Unit 069	Felecia Stang..... Unit 547	Beth Ann Bowman..... Unit 499
Susan Simon Unit 265	Lucy Bachelor Unit 186	District 6	Cynthia Basnett..... Unit 525
Bonnie Rhoda Unit 279	Caryl Bolser Unit 186	Mary Loudermilk Unit 085	Nettie Smith..... Unit 682
Bonnie Dunmire Unit 300	Deborah Bryan..... Unit 186	Unit Barbara Smith Unit 162	Mary Louise Pastre Unit 735
Sandra Groll..... Unit 300	Betty Cloke Unit 186	Dorothy Clunk Unit 368	District 11
Florence Henning..... Unit 300	Faye Eubank..... Unit 186	Flora Gray Unit 401	Maryann Cluse..... Unit 029
Geraldine Gallagher Unit 320	Loretta Howard..... Unit 186	Phyllis Petry Unit 401	Norma Dale Unit 029
Arlene Miller Unit 332	Marjorie Lamb Unit 186	Betty Klingel Unit 605	Janis Maziar Unit 029
Dolores Almester..... Unit 384	Eileen McCoy Unit 186	Carol Schmidt..... Unit 605	Virginia Nagel..... Unit 029
Hildegard Cordes Unit 454	Jessie Shaw Unit 186	Vella Yager..... Unit 605	Vickie Wiggins Unit 029
Maurene Binkowski..... Unit 468	Ruth Westfall Unit 186	District 7	Kathy McMahan Unit 064
Virginia Edwards..... Unit 468	Cheryl Dexter Unit 194	Nancy Edgington Unit 062	Kathryn Baugh..... Unit 366
Louise Fickel Unit 541	Dorothy Elrod..... Unit 199	Josephine Gilmore..... Unit 062	Rosemary Elis..... Unit 389
Janice Brown Unit 553	Elizabeth Neu..... Unit 394	Louise Jones Unit 062	Virginia Schwendeman..... Unit 389
Lila Szparka..... Unit 553	Shirley Wohleber..... Unit 394	Sueanne Knisley Unit 062	Susan B. Cooper..... Unit 399
Sandra Lyell..... Unit 587	Joanne Flannery Unit 406	Joanne Trego Unit 062	Donna Freshwater Unit 399
Marcia Moore Unit 587	Alice Pratt Unit 513	Kimberly Ferguson..... Unit 142	Sue Henderson Unit 495
Irma Zingg..... Unit 587	District 5	Diana Webb Unit 142	Dorothy Otto..... Unit 521
Marlene Hoffman..... Unit 642	Helen Kozlowski Unit 012	Bridgett Wiegand Unit 142	Trina Taylor..... Unit 578
Patricia Watson Unit 646	Jennie Meyer Unit 016	Linda Kusunoki..... Unit 325	Patricia Brassfield Unit 726
Carol Hellman Unit 715	Barbara Reid Unit 016	Dorothy McFarland Unit 325	Teresa Huck Unit 750
Betty Kennedy..... Unit 715	Judy Kuhlman Unit 017	Mary McClellan..... Unit 633	Sue Mantel..... Unit 750
Irma Meyer Unit 715	Anna Conney Unit 041	Alpha Poole..... Unit 633	Sandra Morris Unit 768
Margaret Schimmoeller Unit 715	Sandy Gibson..... Unit 041	Juanita Rhoades..... Unit 633	District 13
District 2	Linda Goosetree Unit 041	Mernita Young Unit 633	Kristen Rock Unit 309
Polly Welker Unit 191	Barabara Hickey Unit 041	District 8	Eleanor Bakos..... Unit 703
District 2	Linda Seitz Unit 041	Joyce Smeck Unit 011	Lydia Brinkman Unit 703
Susan Nossler Unit 210	Janis Smith Unit 041	Sandra Hawk-Klinglesmith Unit 021	Lydia Kutina Unit 703
Ada Griffin Unit 266	Joy Charlesworth..... Unit 083	Ruby Marshall..... Unit 039	Dolores Phillips..... Unit 703
Susan Teman Unit 268	Janet Florletta..... Unit 083	Marjorie Reuter..... Unit 039	District 14
Irene Doenges Unit 387	Janet Keimer Unit 083	Joanne Williams..... Unit 039	Janet Grimsley..... Unit 464
Judy Kemper Unit 387	Linda Roe Unit 083	Kathleen Carpenter..... Unit 058	Norma McFall..... Unit 464
Lois Wimmers..... Unit 387	Ruth Steele..... Unit 083	Carolyn Litchfield Unit 376	Alice Bocko Unit 473
Pat Dresher Unit 571	Linda Wightman..... Unit 083	Ruth Crutcher..... Unit 637	Dale Panovich Unit 473
Anna Huwer..... Unit 648	Sherry Powers..... Unit 181	District 9	Sue Lambert..... Unit 674
District 3	Linda Rhoades Unit 181	Leigh Archibald..... Unit 007	Blanche Loving Unit 674
Jean Evenden..... Unit 043	Carolyn Ball Unit 243	Bessie Chervon..... Unit 007	



District and Unit News (Continued)

District 2, Unit 381

Huntsville American Legion Auxiliary Celebrates 100th Birthday and Huntsville IL Lions Club Celebrates 50th Anniversary.

In conjunction with Huntsville IL Lions Club celebrating their 50th anniversary, Charles Collins American Legion Auxiliary #381 is celebrating their 100th anniversary. On May 1st, 1923, Mrs. Henery Shick served as temporary chairman of the first meeting of this organization. On September 7th, 2023, the organization applied for and was granted a permanent charter.

Second Lt. 11th Inf., A.E.F. Charles Collins, son of Mr. McConnell and Mrs. Ada Collins, was killed in action just three days before the signing of the Armistice. It is for this young soldier that the Charles Collins Post of the American Legion, at Huntsville, is named. He had four sisters residing in Bellefontaine. They were Mrs. R. E. McCleary, Miss Minnie Collins, Stella Collins, and Mrs. Donald Rhoades.

There is extensive history kept of the unit, their members, achievements, activities over the years. They gave money to the Veterans children's home, local school for books, lepers, veterans families. A 1930 report indicates that money was given to families to buy winter clothing for their children. \$5.00 was allocated for each

child. 6 tubes of toothpaste and 6 toothbrushes were sent to Dayton and Sandusky hospitals. These were gracious gifts in 1930.

Currently the organization works with local schools to provide flag etiquette classes and Veterans day programs for elementary classes, annual Poppy day, honor our deceased military by assisting with putting out flags for Memorial Day celebrations, sending over 300 Veterans day cards to veterans, recognize local residents who proudly display the American flag with I Spy Americanism Certificates, and sponsor Indian Lake high school girls to Girls' State. For more information on getting involved with our programs please contact Bev Martz, Roxie Tracey, or Nicki Trout.

The Huntsville Indian Lake Lions club celebrated their 50-year anniversary and hosted both events. They are very active in community service offering numerous scholarships for Indian Lake students, sponsoring Boys State representatives, putting out flags and taking part in the memorial day services, assisting with outreach programs as well as fulfilling ongoing service projects. The two organizations work in conjunction with other service agencies in promoting community events with a focus on children and families.

District 2, Unit 387



This is a picture of Ruth Brookhart with the cake celebrating Minster Unit 387's 100th year anniversary of the signing of their Charter on August 13, 1923.



The second picture is some of the members attending and enjoying Minster Unit 387's annual dinner out celebrating "Christmas in June" (since the weather can be bad at Christmas time).



Thundering Third District Judii Thompson, District President

Hi to all the members of the Thundering 3rd District and wishing each of you a Safe and Healthy Holidays! Remember to pay your Dues as soon as possible to be eligible for prizes throughout the year, added cash for your Unit is always helpful. Please be aware of the homeless and needy Veterans in your community over the coming Holidays and make your Posts open to them by having family parties, handing out food baskets or adopting families to spread Cheer and Good Will this Christmas Season!! Remember: Make your favorite Hero a Veteran and Soar to the Skies to Protect Them---HAWK WOMAN!!

District 3, Unit 184



Unit 184 donated \$2000 to the Dayton VA Gift Shop. This is over and above all the donations of money and goods donated during the year. Left to right: Therese Courtney (District & Unit 2nd Vice), Robyn Cooper (Unit President & Dept & District VA & R), Maggie Wiley (Deputy at Dayton Gift Shop, District & Unit Juniors), Annie Thorpe (Unit Chaplain). Seated is Chief Representative Susan Masten with the check and a big smile.

District 4, Unit 179



Four Members from ALA Unit 179 attended the 4th District Conference at Unit 256. Pictured are Darlene Herbert - Unit 179, Donna Braley - Unit 179, Becca Braley - Unit 179, Margie Hominy - 4th District President, Linda Mider - Unit 179, and Louise Smerk - Department 1st Vice.

District 4, Unit 194



Joe Barr Unit 194 had their 2023 Buckeye Girl State Attendees at their September meeting.

District 4, Unit 194 (Continued)



Joe Barr Unit 194 had a 2023 Buckeye Girls State and Girls Nation attendee at their October meeting.



Joe Barr Unit 194 recently had four of our Buckeye Girls Stater's attend our meeting to tell of their experiences.



Members of Joe Barr Unit 194 recently attended the membership dinner put on by the post to honor members and pass out certificates for years of membership.

District 4, Unit 631



Members of Unit 631 held a Salute to Women Veterans. They were joined by other female veterans from around the district.

District 5



District 5 Bingo at Ohio Veterans Home (OVH) on August 18.



District 5 Conference on October 14.

District 5, Unit 169



In February, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #169 from Tiffin met with their 2023 Buckeye Girls State candidates. Pictured are candidate Andrea Orr from Columbian High School, ALA President MaryAnn Boehler, and candidate Lily Luzader from Calvary High School. Any Junior in high school, boy or girl, with a good grade point average is eligible to apply for Buckeye Girls or Boys State. It is a fun one-week program at Bowling Green State University this year, that allows them to learn how a county, city, and state government works hand on. The candidates will run for offices at all levels and conduct their own offices. The program is financed by our local Post and Auxiliary. Buckeye Boys State is held at Miami University.

District 5, Unit 181



American Legion Auxiliary Colonel Crawford Unit 181 delivered the "Stuff the Bus" Give 10 for Education items to Bucyrus Elementary School. 618 items of school supplies were donated by members. Boxes of hand wipes, disinfectant wipes, tissues, and paper towels were also donated. \$318.00 was also raised and donated raised to purchase trappers, headsets, and gift cards for other necessities. The staff was delighted to have these supplies to use throughout the year. Pictured above (l to r) are BES staff Marie Stuckman, Carrie Robertson, Nancy Lipscomb, both Aux members, along with Sue Adams, Penny Tarbert, Sherry Garverick and Brandy Robertson, Education Chairman.

District 8, Unit 677



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 677 donated 40 boxes of diapers to Jo Welsh founder of the Bottoms Up Program. This program was started in 2018 by Jo and her husband. Diapers are distributed to families in need at food pantries, pregnancy centers, domestic violence centers, childcare centers, and a few small churches. President Lisa Friesland presented a \$500 check from the American Legion Unit 677.



5th District Colonel Crawford, Unit 181 VA&R Chairmen, Vicky Topper and Darlene Boudinot, visited the veterans in nursing homes in Bucyrus on Veterans Day. They presented each veteran a patriotic cap and a thank you note from the students at Bucyrus Elementary School.



8th District, Unit 677, Auxiliary Members, Jean Boso and Joan Barrows visited Leola Creiglow our last living Auxiliary Charter Member at the Inn at Winchester Trail on Monday, September 25th. They presented her with a beautiful flower arrangement for her 103rd Birthday which was September 23rd.

American Legion Auxiliary Colonel Crawford Unit 181 recognized their oldest living member Winnie Sand. Winnie is 99 years young and an 84-year member of Unit 181. Winnie held many offices of the unit but only wanted to be a "worker Bee". At the Auxiliary's September meeting the members made Winnie and Honorary President of Unit 181 and presented her with a shadowbox of Auxiliary pins and a poppy t-shirt. Pictured is Honorary President Winnie with her daughter Paula Iler who is a 72-year member of Unit 181.



District 8



Members of the 8th District who attended the School of Instruction.

District 8, Unit 677 (Continued)



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 677 Members participated in Memorial Day Ceremonies at 3 cemeteries on May 29th. Joan Barrows and Jean Boso members for 35 plus years have attended ceremonies for the past 25 years. Joan has always placed a wreath on the grave of a veteran during these ceremonies.

Dynamic 9th District Susan Schofield Fratino, President

Greetings from the 9th District!

The District 9 Fall Conference was held on Saturday, October 14th at North Madison Post 601. Unit 601 President, Carol Johnston and members did a tremendous job in hosting the conference.

Past Department President, Cindy Masowick brought greetings on behalf of department officers. Cleveland VA Rep., Pat Miazga, updated members on happenings and updates on the VA. Becky Carlino, Vice President of Development at Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana discussed the Domiciliary and VRC. Michelle Mezaris, Director of Clinical Operations, Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana discussed suicide prevention.

District 9 Chairmen broke into groups to discuss the plan of actions for the year and any changes. Each chairman and a member shared with everyone the information discussed in the breakout groups.

We had fun, learned some new things, and socialized... what can be better than that? District 9 members donated \$2300.00 in toiletries to Volunteers of America, Veterans Resource Center.

As we begin the busy holiday season, please make sure you send me photos of all the great things you are doing.

There will be another basket raffle at Mid- Winter, and the District 9 basket theme is "Fall Fun and Warm Thoughts". If there is an item you would like to add, please let me know. Do not forget to bring your money as all proceeds will benefit the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

Happy Holidays and see you in January.



District 9, Unit 112



On October 8, Jay Wilson Post 112 hosted an Auxiliary Lunch Social. Among our guests as Susan Schofield District 9 President, Michelle Zayakosky, and Blue Star mother Amy Hutchinson.

District 9, Unit 151



Members of Unit 151, honoring WWII Veterans

District 9, Unit 247



Members of Unit 247 hosting their bake sale.

11th District Leeann Stan, President

District 11 has been really busy. On Aug.17 fifteen Auxiliary, Legionnaires and Sons traveled to the Chillicothe VA Medical Hospital. We played bingo, delivered backpacks full of goodies, and had ice cream and cupcakes. This was truly a District effort. We were the first group to be able to get back in since Covid.

Everyone that went had a great time and we all look forward to going again in April. A huge Thank you to all that made this possible.

Many Units have been doing wonderful things and I appreciate all the invitations to them all.

On October 14 we held our Fall Conference at Unit 064(Marietta). 10 Units were represented: Unit 024(McConnelsville), Unit 038(Martins Ferry), Unit 064(Marietta), Unit 071(Roseville), Unit 087(Woodsfield), Unit 389(Beverly), Unit 495(Belpre), Unit 726(Newton), Unit 750(Lowell), and Unit 768(Beallsville). It was a very educational and fun day. We were honored to have President Jane with us.

Once again, I asked the Auxiliary, Legionnaires, Sons, and Riders of District 11 to contribute to a holiday meal for 150 Veterans at Chillicothe Va. I am happy to say once again, we came through with \$2100.00 to provide these holiday catered meals. I will be sending out the check on Veterans Day with Christmas cards from the Elementary schools. I am so appreciative of the support from the district. None of this would not be possible without the Legion Family support.

Let us all remember our Veterans and Be The One to ask how they are doing or if they need anything. Always remember and never forget what they sacrificed for us all.

District 11 President - Leeann Stan



On November 1, I traveled to the home of Ruth Hoffman (Unit 632) to attend their Unit meeting. At that time, I presented them the American Legion Auxiliary Bell, gavel, and a check. This Unit lost the Post home to a fire in Feb. of this year. They are in the process of trying to raise funds to rebuild the Post. Thank you to the Units in District 11 that donated to this cause and Past Department President Vi Grzybowski for making this possible.

District 11 American Legion Family Project



Cards were collected from Waterford and Fort Frye Elementary Schools to send to the Veterans at Chillicothe Hospital. Enough were collected to decorate at least 4 cards on each Veteran's Door. Along with the box of Christmas cards, a check was enclosed for a catered Holiday Meal for 150 Veterans.

District 11, Unit 038



Unit 038 held a dinner for the football team prior to the home game.

District 11, Unit 64

Fall Conference held at Unit 64 Marietta



On Nov.1, 2023, Washington County inducted 18 Veterans into the Hall of Fame. This is for the community to recognize certain Veterans within the community that served honorably during their military service and post military service. Unit 064 (Marietta) participated.

Oct,17, Washington County Veterans Service held Trunk or treat. Unit 64 (Marietta) participated in the trunk or treat.



11th District, Unit 389

Happy Halloween to all the members of the American Legion family. Working together as a family group is very important to teamwork. When community and volunteers become involved as well, our auxiliary events become even more special. The events that have taken place at our unit have been all-around group oriented.

During the dates of July 20 through the 23, our community had its annual park festival called the Beverly-Waterford Homecoming. The ladies of our unit walked the parade and gave out 159 flags to the greeting public. With the American Legion, who hosts this regular event, the ladies manned the food booth for the public. There were other members that sat at other booths assisting. Thank you to Shelly Kitts and Marilyn Leach for the setup of this food booth. Many thanks to the other members of our organization and the volunteers that participated.

In August, following the festival, the Waterford Community Fair was held. The ladies walked that parade as well. Those that participated were Heather Mahoney, Rhonda Beebe, and Amber Kerns. Jeanne Ginther and Elizabeth Thompson, at the time a volunteer, put together a fair booth honoring the six branches of service. The introduction of the newest branch space was introduced. Interesting pictures and facts were all around the interior of the booth.

The Poker Run and Chili Cook off was the next event that the auxiliary was involved in. It was September 23 in front of the legion. A section of route 60 was closed for the evening. It started with motorcycle riders signing up for a Poker Run. There were raffles, 50/50, and a gun raffle held. The motorcycles returned in the afternoon and early evening with the Chili cook off kicking in with motion. Football, beverages, food, live music were fun. The Ohio State game and raffling off a golf cart by the American Legion. The ladies of the auxiliary are involved in this event volunteering their time enjoying the togetherness.

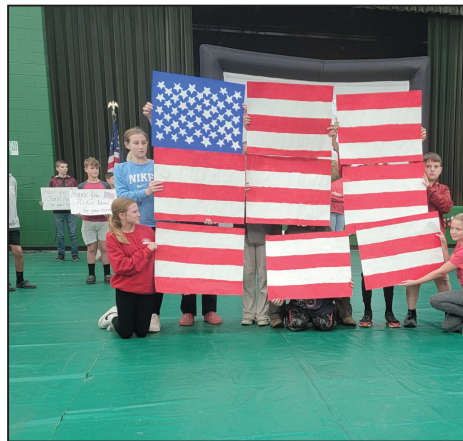
The School of Instruction was held September 23rd through the 24th. It was in Columbus and provided information for the units. Lee Ann Stan attended. The final event for this article is Fall Conference held at Marietta Unit 64. It was very informative and provided many ideas to try in our units. Thank you, Unit 64, for this venue and your wonderful hospitality.

As we go into the next few months of activities in our home units, Unit 389 wish to everyone a great Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year.

One last note needs to be made. A message to Lee Ann Stan. Thank you for all that you have done for this district as District 11 President. Much has come of it and progress has been made.

God Bless you all.

11th District, Unit 389 (Continued)



Russell Chadwick Post and Unit 389 participated in a Veterans Day Program at Wolf Creek Local School. Each class held a part in the program along with the High School band and the grade school Choir. Cards and a carnation were given to each Veteran in attendance after the introduction of each one. Pencils were given out to the students. Apples were given to teachers, bus drivers, and custodians from the Auxiliary. Refreshments were served by the PTO.

District 12, Unit 171



Summer brought great opportunities for our Unit. 4th of July is fireworks, picnic, and parade time. With the help of our ladies, we decorated a float for the Westerville parade, and members got to enjoy waving and riding on our patriotic float (note photos). To raise funds for our projects, we once again sponsored a "Junque-in-the-Trunk" event on a HOT Saturday in August (note photos). We had many groups who rented spaces in our parking lot to sell their treasures, and also Auxiliary 171 also had a table to sell our "junk". We are always looking for ways to improve this event. Perhaps next year we will try to get a food truck there.

Our members have been busy collecting hundreds of Pop Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Twenty-four Welcome Blankets were also made and delivered to the local McDonald House. In October, we will pass out "goodie bags" to female veterans at the Columbus Stand Down event.

Jobs for Veterans

District 13, Unit 2



The new Cleveland Unit 2 held its first meeting on Wednesday October 11th. District President Kimm Bunch installed the new officers and presented President Shirley Kessler with their charter. Post 527's Honor Guard was there to post the colors and Post 2 Commander Richard Wright was there to give encouragement and congratulations to the new unit.

'Storm's Publication Reaching Auxiliary Members' 14th District Kathy Burkhammer, President



On May 13, 2023, I was honored to be elected the 14th District President, along with Kat Richardson as Vice President, Karen Peel as Secretary and Cindy Masowick as Treasurer. My superhero this year is "Storm," and we will be taking the district to new heights.

At Department Convention in Dayton, I was honored to be installed and the District Ribbon passed to me by Renee Kohl, the outgoing District President and newly elected Department 2nd Vice President.

On July 11, 2023, I was invited to the District Legion meeting to see my friend Sharon McClain elected as District Commander. We will have a great American Legion Family this year. Then on July 16, 2023, I was invited to give greeting at the District SAL Conference.

I attended my 1st National Convention in Charlotte NC., a wealth of information was learned by all. Also, I was able to see my Granddaughter Brittany who lives there.

I was invited to Unit 19 to their September meeting to install their officers and make some new friends.

I gave greetings at the District Legion Fall Conference and learned about a K-9 Police Unit that works out of Portage Country.

Also, in September Summit and Portage County Council held a joint meeting in Kent. The 2023 BGS Delegates were invited to come and talk about their week.

I attended the Department SOI in Dublin where the new Saturday Chairman meetings was a huge success, and a lot was learned by everyone.

On Oct 7, 2023, I held my 1st District SOI in Ravenna. We were honored to have as our guest speaker "WONDER WOMEN" AKA as President Jane. "Storm" and "Wonder Women" made a grand entrance to the meeting and everything was "clear skies" for the rest of the day. There were 13 out of 15 units in attendance. The chairman made packets for their chairmanship and handed them out to every unit. It was a very enjoyable and informative day.

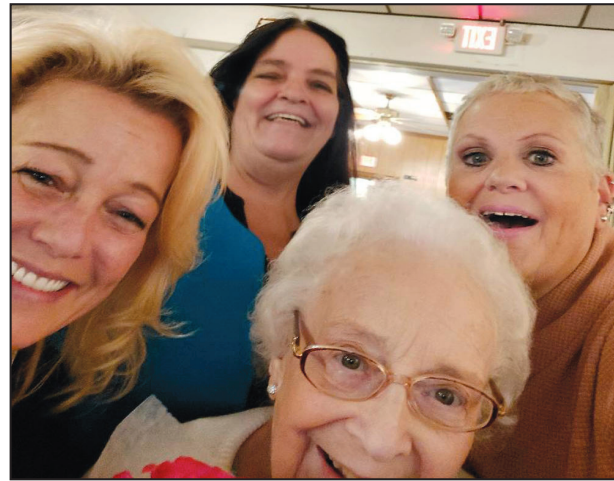
On Oct 15 there was a going away party for Miss Marilyn Warner in Streetsboro. There was over 50 people from all over the state in attendance with 8 Past Department President also there. Marilyn will be 96 in December and will be moving to SC to live with her daughter.

I look forward to attending more unit meeting and functions.

14th District (Continued)



District 14 Past Presidents' Parley acting goofy after their meeting. (L to R - Lori Shields, Cindy Masowick, Patty Miller, Jean Patrick, Michele Sandridge and Cyndi Underwood)



Units 566 and 19 being silly with Past Dept Pres Marilyn Warner before she moves away! We will miss our "Queen Mum."

District 14, Unit 19



Wendell L. Willkie Unit 19 with new District President Kathy Burkhammer. We were proud to be "STORM's" First Unit Visit! Dottie, Shannon, Margaret, "STORM", Michele, Joyce, Danean and Kelly.



New sofa purchased by Unit 19 for Women Veterans' Residence, Liberty House.

District 14, Unit 803



District 14 - AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY CLARE EGGLESTON UNIT 803 On Monday September 11, 2023, Post 803 held their annual 9/11 memorial ceremony. Aurora Mayor Ann Womer Benjamin gave the keynote speech. The mayor is a member of ALA Auxiliary Unit 803.