



BULK MAILING FOR December 2024

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Louise Smerk Department President December 2024



Hello, my fellow Auxiliary members. I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and you are looking forward to spending time with your families over the Christmas season. We have so many things to be thankful for, our Veterans, our families, and our Savior.

If you have not heard the wonderful news yet, let me share with you that we have hired a Department Secretary. Lori Wickham will be joining us full-time on January 6, 2025, as the Department Secretary. Initially, Lori applied for the part-time Bookkeeper position. After working along side Desi updating our records, Desi had the wise intuition to mention we are hiring a full-time secretary and asked Lori if that is something that she would be interested in. Long story, short, the HR committee interviewed Lori and we agreed to offer her the position.

DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN – please watch your email for the 2nd quarterly zoom calls are being scheduled. Please make sure to attend these meetings. The central division chairman work extremely hard to provide you with information about your perspective programs.

Mid-Winter Conference is right around the corner. Check out the flyer that is in this bulk mailing. We will have 2 special guests attending this conference and speaking on Saturday. First, Rosemarie Hauk, our Central Division Vice President and secondly, The American Legion has asked if we would hear from a gentleman regarding the Be the One initiative. You will hear from all the Department chairman on each program. The district presidents will have their chosen theme basket to raffle to raise funds for my special project. Bring your juniors with you, Connie, Michelle, and Brandy will have fun things for the juniors to do.

Do you have a special event planned, would you like me to attend a meeting, please reach out via a call, text or email with dates and details, I am happy to join you.

Remember, we received from the Double Tree Hotel, (home to School of Instructions, next year) 3 one-night stays for utilizing their hotel for this event. We will be raffling another at our Mid-Winter conference in January and the final at Convention in Independence in July. These certificates are good until December 31, 2025. This would get you a free room at next years School of Instruction. Keep an eye out for Kristen McLaughlin for tickets at Mid-Winter conference.

I have been in contact with Leora Porter, the supervisor, at The Judge Sara J Harper Village. She is extremely excited to be working with The American Legion Auxiliary this year. Leora continues to build her wish list but a few things that we have found that need:

Storage Shed to house patio furniture and gardening tools
Patio furniture
Raised garden beds
Gardening tools
Dog clean-up Stations – Currently 3 dogs live in the Village
All weather American and POW flags
Vacuum sealed storage bags to help them maximize storage

On a personal note, I became a grandma on November 20th. My daughter gifted me with a beautiful little girl named Ariya Lynn. As soon as we get her grandfather to join The American Legion, she will become a junior member. My daughter is looking forward to her becoming a Miss Poppy when she is older.

Remember, I am here representing you. I am a phone call away if needed, but I ask that you respect that I do work fulltime from 8:00 – 5:00 M-F and can be reached via my cell (216) 337-4037. You may text me at that number as well, but when you do, please put your name, district and unit number at the beginning of your message. I do not have all of you in my phone. You may also email me at LAigner109@yahoo.com.





The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio
2025 Mid-Winter Conference

Friday, January 17, 2025-Saturday, January 18, 2025

Marriott Columbus Northwest
5605 Blazer Pkwy
Dublin, Ohio 43017

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

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1708550451350&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

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.

Please join Department President Louise Smerk and the 2024-25 Department Chairman
for an innovative and educational conference with the opportunity to hear from our
Central Division National Vice President,

Rosemarie W. Hauck.

The American Legion Department of Ohio will also be hosting a formal awards banquet. Registration for the Awards Banquet can be downloaded and mailed to TAL 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 27th** For more information on the ALA event contact OHDEPTSEC@alaohio.org or call (740) 452-8245.



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Ohio

**Mid Winter
Conference**

2025

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Friday 1/17/25		
10am-12pm	Auxiliary Finance Meeting	Worthington
12pm-6pm	Auxiliary HQ Office	Union
12pm- 3pm	Auxiliary DEC Meeting	Franklin
2pm- 4pm	Auxiliary Buckeye Girls State Workshop	Dublin I & II
4pm-6:30pm	Auxiliary Exhibit/Registration	Lobby/ Atrium
6:30pm-9pm	Auxiliary Conference	Dublin IV
6:30pm-9pm	Auxiliary Juniors Meeting	Worthington
Sat. 1/18/25		
7:30am- 8:30am	Auxiliary Leadership Breakfast	Marysville
8am-9am	Auxiliary HQ Office	Union
8am-8:30am	Auxiliary Exhibit/Registration	Lobby/ Atrium
9am-1pm	Auxiliary Conference	Dublin III
9am-1pm	Auxiliary Juniors Meeting	Worthington

Friday 1/17/25	The American Legion	
12pm-5pm	Blood Drive	Dublin III
Sat. 1/18/25		
6pm-8pm	Awards Banquet *ticket required*	Grand Ballroom

“Would you like to be a Department Chairman for the 2025-2026 year?”

**Come and join the team to assist our veterans and make our
organization all it can be!**

I am beginning to make some decisions about who will be leading our programming for the coming year. If you are currently holding a position and would like to remain in that position or if you are a 2nd member, according to our Policy 2nd members move up to Chairman, please confirm your commitment as soon possible. I would love to keep each of you or move you up in your position, or if you prefer, a new one!

If you have never been a Department Chairman and would like to be, we would love to have some new ideas that new people bring to the table. We invite you to apply. Training will be provided along with resources you will be able to use.

There will be some open positions in the programs, VA Hospitals, and/or Outpatient Clinics. Let me know which one you are interested in. Why not pick your favorite program and consider becoming the Chairman or the Vice Chairman?

Come and talk with me at Mid-Winter Conference, send me an email, or mail me this form indicating your choice(s). Better yet, call me! See my contact information below. I will be finalizing the list very soon and want you to be a part of the team!

**Please complete the information below and send it to me by January 31, 2025,
so we can create our 2025-2026 team together!**

Name _____

Address _____

City & Zip _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Chairman position(s) desired _____

List in order of preference

Mail to:

Renee Kohl
Department of Ohio First Vice President
13 W. Prospect St.
Hudson, OH 44236

Direct contact:

rckohl@aol.com
330-802-2845



AMERICANISM

Cyndi Underwood, Chairman

Email: cyn2273@gmail.com

Peggy Park, Vice Chairman

Email: peggyprk@yahoo.com

Welcome to the winter months in **OHIO**! They are surprisingly brisk, usually long and filled with love of our veterans and volunteerism. The **leaves** have changed their colors on us, but not their expected meaning to our Department President and us.

These next few months your units and members should be working on **Wreaths of America** at the various locations that are set up, especially our **National Cemetery's Veterans Wreath** is a symbol of Honor, Respect, and Victory. Info at <https://learn.wreathsaacrossamerica.org/teach>

We have included flyers for you to peruse and use as guidelines. Please make copies for your members that are interested. **Promote the Star Spangled Kids.** Do as little as you can or as much as you can.

Midwinter Conference is always a big deal for our volunteers. However, this January it is a big deal for Americanism Chairmen and volunteers. Saturday we recognize **Americanism in OHIO** by celebrating with you **and** asking you to show your colors of **red-white- and blue!** In addition **wear the patriotic scarf, hanky, bandanna, etc.** We will be taking several pictures throughout the weekend so be prepared to be on candid-camera for Americanism.

Next, bring a picture of your flags or flag in a **5x7 frame** and we will let everyone vote on the most inspirational photo. Tag your photo frame on the back with your name unit and Dist number please. We cannot wait to see all the ole glories.

Please keep working on your reports, essays and projects now, during our down months and you will be ready for March and April.

Hugs to all of you, **Happy Holidays** and Best Wishes for a **wonderful New Year!**





Americanism
ETIQUETTE
The Flag & Sporting Events
2024 - 2025
Americanism Committee
Flag Etiquette Article 2
November 14, 2024

Why the Flag is Displayed

We have all been to a sporting event that began with the national anthem and recognition of the United States Flag. Whether it be at a local high school, community park, or professional stadium, sporting games often start with anything from a solo of the national anthem to a full-fledge performance with massive American Flags.

According to the History Channel, the tradition of playing the Star-Spangled Banner during sports events began during the 1918 World Series game between the Boston Red Sox and Chicago Cubs. The baseball game took place a day after a bomb had gone off in Chicago, only adding to the national heartache caused by the continuing Great War. The World Series continued to play the anthem at each of its games that year and the practice was soon adapted by other sports leagues around the nation.

Although the tradition started as part of the war effort, sports fans continue to sing the anthem and recognize the American Flag before competition. The American Flag represents enduring principles of this country and the sacrifices that men and women have undertaken to make these principles a reality. The moment taken before a game to recognize the Flag and sing the anthem helps fans to remember the history and values that can unite people of various states, races, ethnicities, and backgrounds.

How the Flag is Displayed

In a sports arena, there may be several Flags: championship flags, Flags from other countries, or conference flags. It is important that the American Flag is flown in the highest, most prominent position among the other Flags.

The American Flag is often highlighted—with lights, fanfare, or other method—when the national anthem is sung before a sports competition. Regardless of the style of performance, the American Flag should be treated with respect and care throughout it. The American Flag is not a prop for an entertaining act but an important representation of this country's history, values, and people.

How You Should Respond

The national anthem is a time where we come together to honor our country in a unified manner. During sporting events, it is expected that you be attentive when the anthem is playing. Stand, place your right hand over your heart, and sing along or listen in respectful silence. If you are wearing a hat, remove the hat with your right hand and place it over your heart.

Ohio Unit Plan of Action



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

PROGRAMS ACTION PLAN HOW TO GUIDES

HOW TO PROMOTE "STAR SPANGLED KIDS"

Committee: Americanism

Contact Information for Questions: Americanism@ALAforVeterans.org

Star Spangled Kids: Educate youth on the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism, and the U.S. Constitution.

- In conjunction with local schools, create a Unit Citizenship Award for children and youth who have demonstrated the ideals of the U.S. Constitution.
- Team with the Education chairman to bring veterans or servicemembers into the classroom to talk about what their service means to defending the ideals of the Constitution.
- Share "Fascinating Facts about the U.S. Constitution" each month in the department or unit bulletin, in tweets, or in a newspaper editorial.
- List important constitutional dates by chronological order or by month.
- Encourage students to test their knowledge of the Constitution.
- Distribute patriotic coloring book pages for children in primary grades.
- Celebrate Constitution Day (also known as Citizenship Day) on September 17, the day set aside each year to commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution.
 - Celebrate at September's Junior meeting with a cake or cupcakes.
 - Let Juniors report on different sections of the Bill of Rights
- Print and distribute pocket copies of the U.S. Constitution for school children and/or Juniors.
- Put on a skit or musical about the Constitution and the signers.
- Hold a scavenger hunt in the post where children find information relating to the Constitution.
- Have members dress up as signers of the Constitution and describe the role of their character in the writing and signing of the Constitution.
- Encourage high school-aged students to use their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution by participating in The American Legion Oratorical Contest.

Resources:

- www.constitutionfacts.com
- Constitution Day Resources: <http://ca3rsproject.org/pages/ConstitutionDayResources.html>

Ohio Unit Plan of Action



AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

2025 Cover Sheet

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into six classes. One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund.

Essay Title: *"What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?"*

Essay Classes:

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level.

Essay Checklist:

- ☐ Class competing in _____
- ☐ Sponsoring ALA Unit _____
- ☐ Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- ☐ Completed essay coversheet as first page of essay
- ☐ Word count of essay _____
- ☐ Due date for student to return to ALA Unit _____

To Be Completed by the Student/Parent

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____

School Name: _____

School City/State: _____

Teacher Name and Signature: _____

Auxiliary Use Only: (Must be completed for entry to be considered)

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: _____

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: _____

Unit winner due to Department on: _____ Department: _____

Signature of Department Americanism Chairman: _____

Unit winner to be sent to Department Americanism Vice Chairman, Peggy Park, PO Box 32, Chillicothe, OH 45601-0032.

Due by April 1, 2025.

Ohio Unit Plan of Action

Visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org to learn about our mission to *Remember, Honor, Teach,* sponsor a wreath for a veteran at any participating cemetery, or sign up to volunteer.

A veteran's wreath is a symbol of
HONOR, RESPECT, and VICTORY.



10 BALSAM BOUQUETS
make up each veteran's wreath, representing the
10 SPECIAL QUALITIES
that our veterans embody.



Evergreens =
**LONGEVITY
& ENDURANCE**



Red Bow =
**GREAT
SACRIFICE**



Forest Scent =
**PURITY &
SIMPLICITY**



Circular Shape =
ETERNITY

1. Their **BELIEF** in a greater good
2. Their **LOVE** for each other
3. Their **STRENGTH**, work ethic, & character
4. Their **HONESTY** & integrity
5. Their **HUMILITY**, selflessness, & modesty
6. Their **AMBITIONS** & aspirations
7. Their **OPTIMISM** for America
8. Their **CONCERN** for the future
9. Their **PRIDE** in their duties
10. Their **HOPES & DREAMS** that didn't always come true, but left them with no regrets



THE BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE

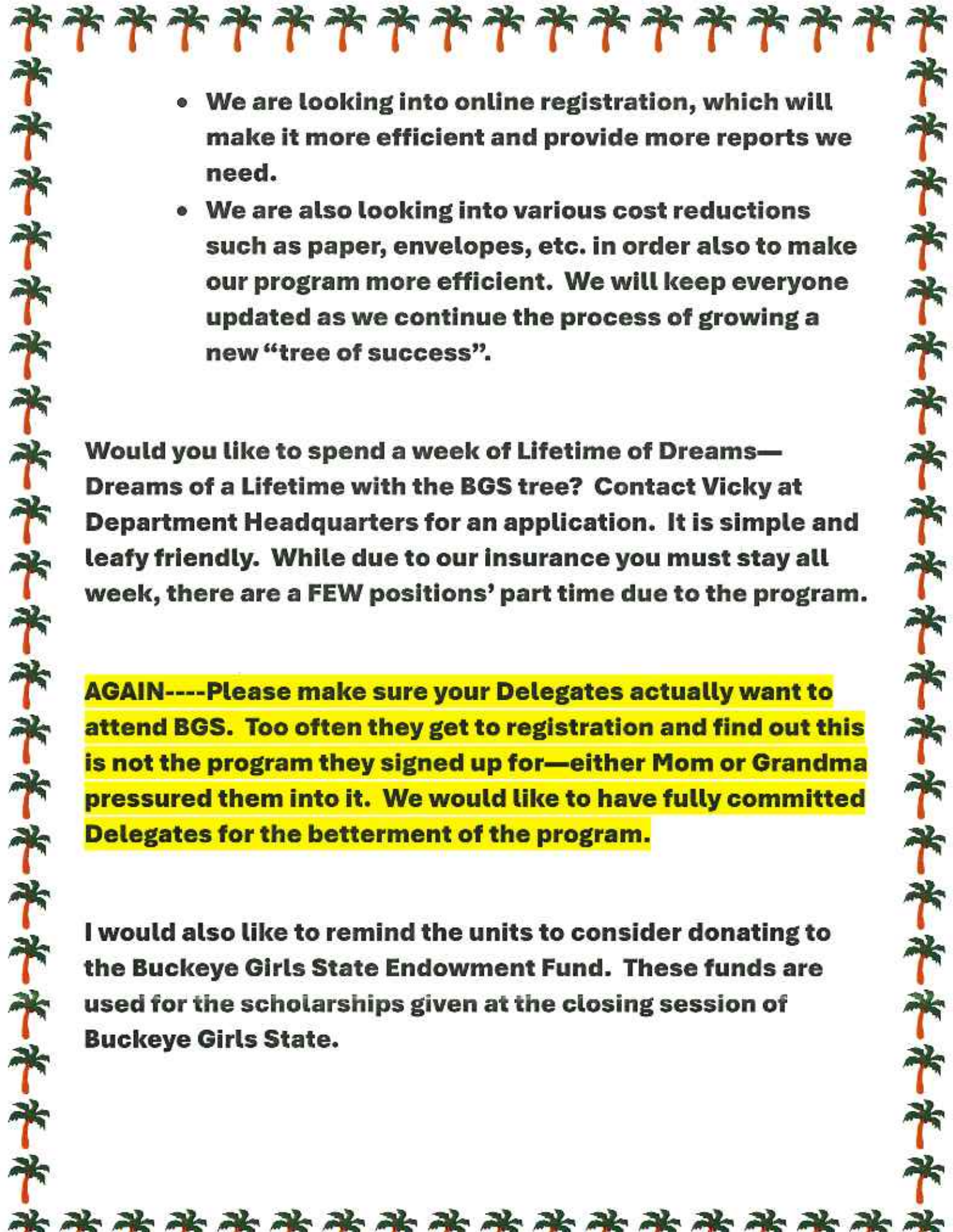
The Buckeye Girls State Tree is continuing to “sprout buds” and “BGS leaves” for the 2025 session. We have applications coming in for the 2025 session of Buckeye Girls State. Have you sent yours in yet? Time is ticking, and the trees are ready to be made into the “Lifetime of Dreams.”

At the Midwinter Conference in January, we will be holding a continuation of the workshop held at the School of Instruction. Please plan to attend and bring all of your “leaf-sprouting” questions.

As the buds continue to grow on the BGS tree—let us review a few minor “leaf factors” so our BGS tree does not fail and “blossoms” into the hundreds of Buckeye Girl Staters:

- **The leaves of the tree will continue to sprout until Feb 15, 2025, when leaf applications requests are due.**
- **Leaves will continue to blossom until Mar 15, 2025, when delegates must have all information into our office.**
- **The BGS tree will blossom June 8-14, 2025, during the 2025 Session.**
- **Let us have a “fully blossomed” tree for 2025.**

We are making some minor changes to the program in order to keep our program growing:

- 
- A decorative border of palm trees surrounds the text. The border consists of a top row of 15 palm trees, a bottom row of 15 palm trees, and two vertical columns of 15 palm trees each on the left and right sides.
- We are looking into online registration, which will make it more efficient and provide more reports we need.
 - We are also looking into various cost reductions such as paper, envelopes, etc. in order also to make our program more efficient. We will keep everyone updated as we continue the process of growing a new “tree of success”.

Would you like to spend a week of Lifetime of Dreams— Dreams of a Lifetime with the BGS tree? Contact Vicky at Department Headquarters for an application. It is simple and leafy friendly. While due to our insurance you must stay all week, there are a FEW positions’ part time due to the program.

AGAIN----Please make sure your Delegates actually want to attend BGS. Too often they get to registration and find out this is not the program they signed up for—either Mom or Grandma pressured them into it. We would like to have fully committed Delegates for the betterment of the program.

I would also like to remind the units to consider donating to the Buckeye Girls State Endowment Fund. These funds are used for the scholarships given at the closing session of Buckeye Girls State.



TRIVIA KNOWLEDGE FOR DECEMBER---WHO WAS THE LONGEST BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE DIRECTOR: HINT SHE SERVED FOR 16 YEARS. ANSWER AT THE MID WINTER CONFERENCE IN JANUARY.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact either Vicky at Department Headquarters or any of the Board Members. We are here to help and assist.

SO, IN A BLOSSOMING TREE FOR BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE:

- 1. GET YOUR APPLICATIONS IN PLEASE. OUR GOAL IS TO HAVE 650 DELEGATES**
- 2. THINK OUTSIDE OF THE BOX FOR SPONSORS—KIWANSIS, FIRE DEPARTMENT, SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS, AMERICAN LEGION, SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, ETC.**
- 3. REACH OUT TO ALL OF THE SCHOOLS IN YOUR AREA:**
 - a. CHARTER SCHOOLS**
 - b. PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
 - c. PAROCHIALS SCHOOLS**
 - d. STEM SCHOOLS**
 - e. HOME SCHOOLS**
 - f. JUNIORS IN YOUR UNIT WHO ARE ELIGIBLE**

See everyone at Mid-Winter and remember you are making a difference in the lives of Juniors in High School by selecting them to attend American Legion Auxiliary Buckeye Girls State.

1100 Brandywine Blvd. Bldg. D
Zanesville, OH 43701
(740) 452-8245 Fax (740) 452-2602



vickv@alaohio.org
www.buckeyegirlsstate.org

BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE District Orientation Schedule – Spring 2025

District	Date	Host Unit Number	Location	Registration Time	Orientation Convenes	Additional Information	BGS Orientation Speaker
1	April 24, 2025	Joseph W. Diehn, Unit 468	5580 Centennial Rd. Sylvania, OH 43560	6:30 p.m.	7:00 p.m.		Gwen Schroeder-Zulch
1	April 27, 2025	Hamler Unit #262	350 Ralldolph St. Hamler, OH 43524	1:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.		Gwen Schroeder-Zulch
2	March 30, 2025	New Bremen American Legion Unit #241	6458 St. Rt. 66 New Bremen, OH 45869	12:30 p.m.	1:00 p.m.		Gwen Schroeder-Zulch
2	April 30, 2025	American Legion Unit #96	711 S Shore Dr. Lima, OH 45804	6:30 p.m.	7:00 p.m.		Gwen Schroeder-Zulch
3	March 29, 2025	American Legion Vandalia Unit #668	8220 N. Dixie Dr. Dayton, OH 45414-2760	2:00 p.m.	2:30 p.m.		Gwen Schroeder-Zulch
4	April 5, 2025	Mason Unit #194	401 Reading Rd. Mason, OH 45040	12:00 p.m.	12:30 p.m.		Vicky Buck
4	April 12, 2025	Middletown Unit #218	116 S. Main Middletown, OH 45044	12:00 p.m.	12:30 p.m.		Vicky Buck
5	March 22, 2025	Plymouth Unit #447	112 Trux Plymouth, OH 44865	12:00 p.m.	12:30 p.m.		Gwen Schroeder-Zulch Louise Smerk
5	April 5, 2025	Bucyrus American Legion Unit 181	123 E. Renessler St. Bucyrus, OH 44820	1:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.		Karen Peel Cindy Masowick
6	March 30, 2025	Newark American Legion Unit #85	85 S. 6 th St. Newark, OH 43055	1:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.		Vicky Buck
6	April 16, 2025	Marysville American Legion Unit #79	500 Park Ave. Marysville, OH 43040	6:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.		Vicky Buck Jeni Kennedy
7	March 22, 2025	Washington Court House Unit #25	1240 US HWY 22 NW Washington Court House, OH 43160	1:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.		Vicky Buck Jeni Kennedy
8	April 27, 2025	Athens American Legion Unit #21	520 W. Union St. Athens, OH 45701	12:30 p.m.	1:00 p.m.		Vicky Buck
9	April 12, 2025	Harry Lees American Legion Unit #506	6336 St. Rt. 87 Kinsman, OH 44428	10:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.		Karen Peel Cindy Masowick
10	March 30, 2025	Lowell D. Oberly Unit #667	224 Wood St. NE East Canton, OH 44730	1:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	Foltz Community Center	Karen Peel Cindy Masowick
10	April 27, 2025	Lowell D. Oberly Unit #667	224 Wood St. NE East Canton, OH 44730	1:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	Foltz Community Center	Cindy Masowick Louise Smerk
11	March 29, 2025	St. Clairsville American Legion Unit 159	100 Legion Rd. St Clairsville, OH 43950-0495	3:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m.		Vicky Buck
12	April 27, 2025	Young Budd American Legion Unit #171	393 E. College Ave. Westerville, OH 43081	1:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.		Karen Peel Renee Kohl
13	March 23, 2025	Brook Park Unit #610	19944 Sheldon Rd. Brook Park, OH 44142	12:30 p.m.	1:00 p.m.		Cindy Masowick Louise Smerk
14	March 23, 2025	Kent American Legion Post #496	1945 Mogadore Rd. Kent, OH	1:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.		Karen Peel Renee Kohl

Chaplain Chats
Melissa Boyers
ohioalachaplain@gmail.com
419.250.6971

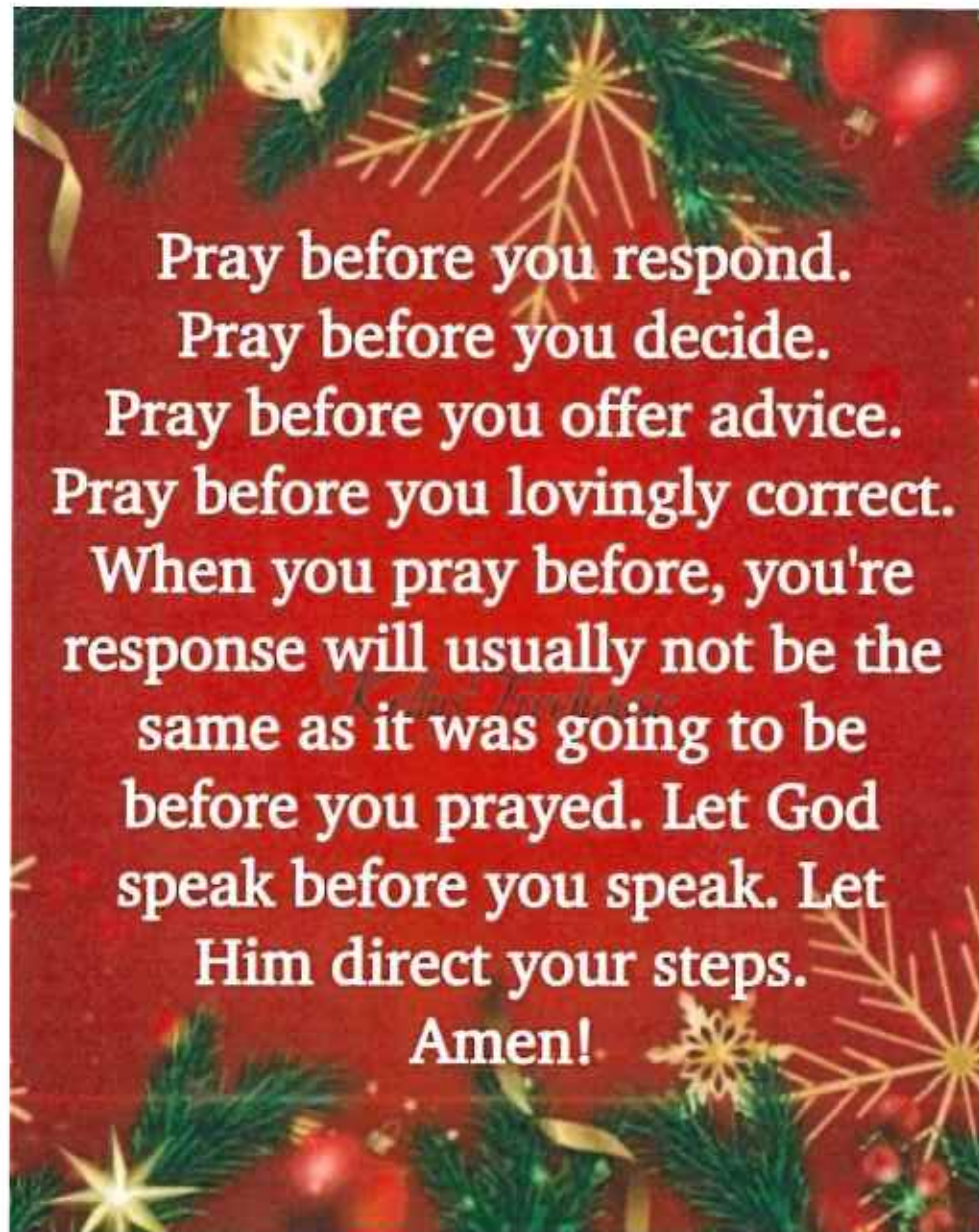
And just like that, it's December! While it's easier said than done, be sure to take time this month to reflect on the reason we celebrate this Season. It's not about the presents, it's about your presence! Be present during this holiday season, don't get so caught up in trying to make everything perfect that you miss out on all the joy happening around you!



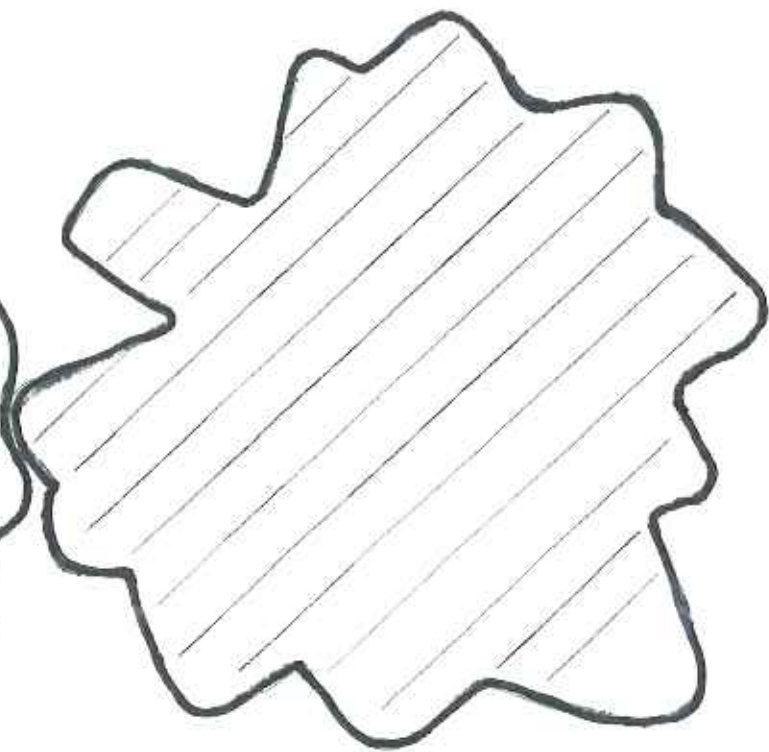
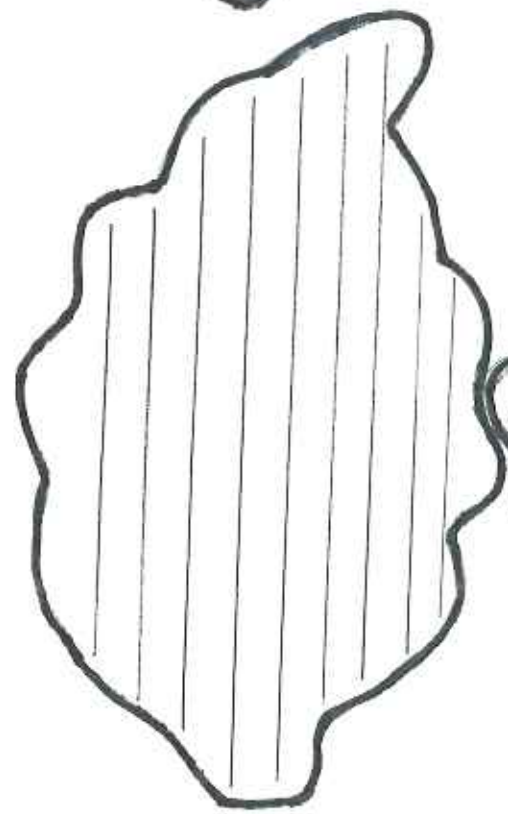
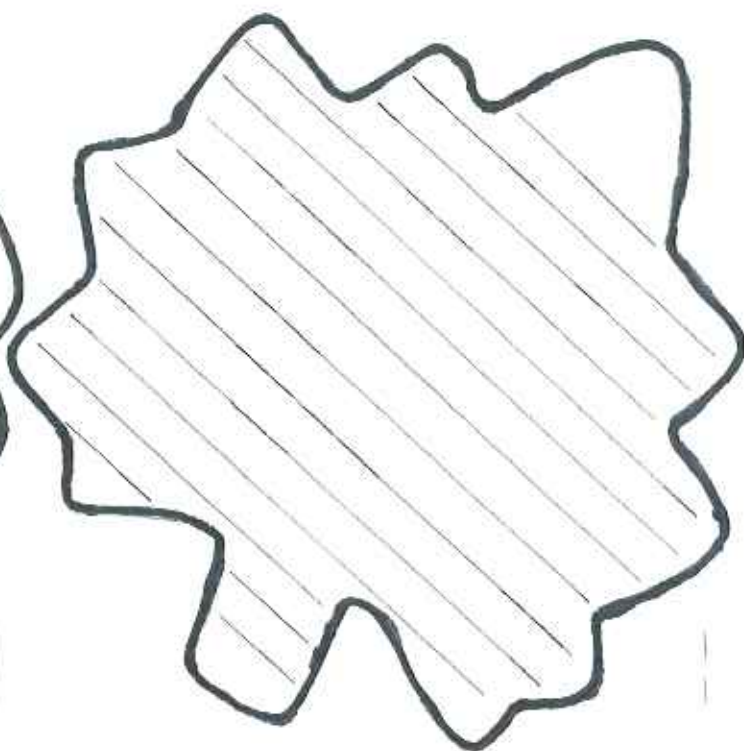
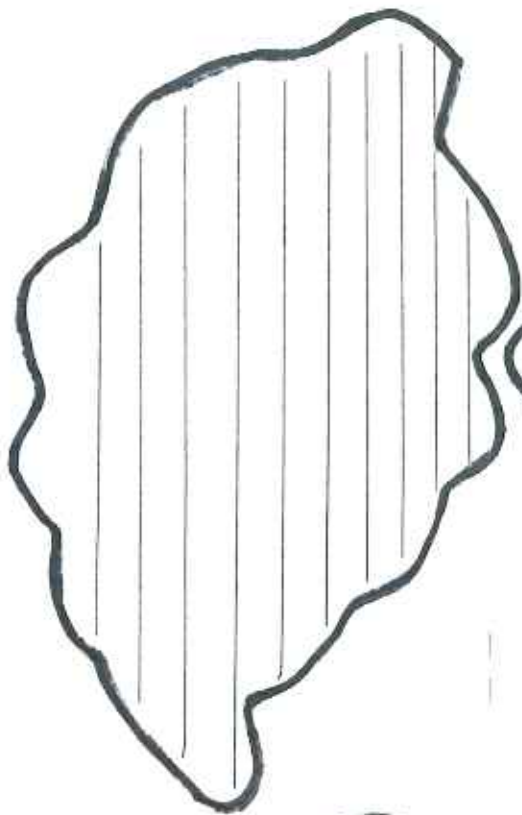
When someone says "Happy Holidays" to you, try to remember that they're probably not doing it because of political correctness, but out of respect. From November 20th to January 24th, there are at least 14

different religious holidays. So, when someone says Happy Holidays to you, thank them!

"You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights." -Maya Angelou



Have an amazing day and know that I am always praying for you!
Please keep sending me your prayer leaves!



Children & Youth

Krista Carpenter kristacarpenter115@gmail.com
Collen Phillips ckphillips43524@gmail.com

December 2024



Support Military Youth!

Deadline to order a T-shirt is December 14, 2024!

Our Veteran designed T-shirt includes President Louise's theme and honors military children. The T-shirts are \$20 and are pre-ordered only. Auxiliary members from districts 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11 & 13 have offered to pick up T-shirts for those not attending Mid-Winter Convention and bring them back to their district conferences. Please fill out an order form and send payment. Remember \$5 of each goes to the Child Well Being Foundation.

Shout Outs!

- Unit 776 is collecting \$50 gift cards for their annual Adopt an Angel Christmas Program.
- Unit 21 is helping an elementary school with collecting winter items for children in need.
- Unit 61 held a school supplies drive on Make-A-Difference Day so that Chillicothe students can have fresh school supplies after the holidays.



Giving Tuesday December 3, 2024

After all our spending for friends and family on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, consider donating to people, places, and charities in need on Giving Tuesday. Or on any day in December!

Perhaps it could be a donation to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation or American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. Donations for these charities should be sent to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio with directions to donate to that charity.

Local shelters and food banks are also places you could donate. There are so many charities that help children! Pick a worthy cause and donate. Don't forget to report it!



More Shout Outs!

- Unit 613 held a trunk or treat!
- Unit 707 presented a Good Deed Award!
- Unit 85 purchased polo shirts for Heritage Middle School.
- District 11 distributed about 600 Reading is Fundamental books to three different elementaries.
- District 12 held a Bundle of Love Baby shower at the Columbus VA!



Seasonal Narratives



Fall narratives
(Sept. 22 – Dec. 20)
due Jan. 31, 2025

Winter narratives
(Dec. 21 – March
19) due April 15,
2025

Spring narratives
(March – June 20)
due April 15, 2025

Send to Collen Phillips
ckphillips43524@gmail.com

New Year's Resolutions!

Nominate a Youth for the Good Deed Award or the Youth Hero Award

I am aware of only 1 Good Deed Award from the state of Ohio currently. The spirit of giving will be strong throughout the next month! Keep an eye out for youth to nominate for these awards!

www.legion-aux.org/Youth-Hero-Good-Deed-Awards

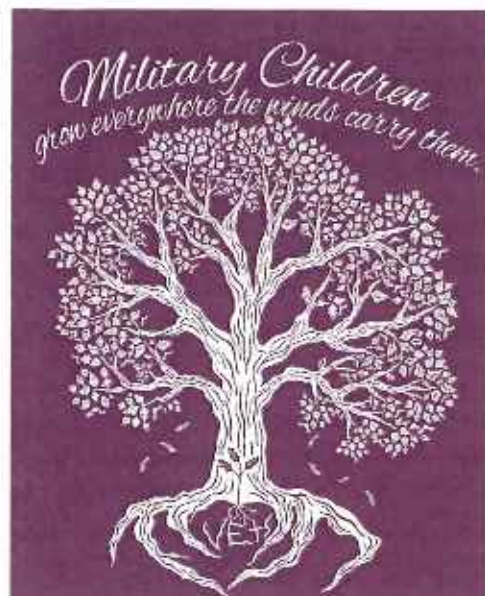
Resolve to donate \$1.00 per member to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

SAL is the top contributor to this fund. Let's make the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio #1 in donations!



2025!

Children & Youth T-shirt order - email kristacarpenter115@gmail.com with questions



\$20.00 per shirt

Pre-orders/pre-paid only

Orders must be received by **Saturday, December 14, 2024**

Shirts will be handed out at Mid-Winter Convention.

Additional cost to have the shirt sent to you -- \$5.00 (Ohio only) or \$8.00 out of state.

\$5.00 of each shirt goes to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

Additional money collected will go to President's Louise's special project – Judge Sara J. Harper Village

Shirts are purple.

They are 100% preshrunk cotton jersey. They are available in sizes small – 3 XL.

	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL
Body Width	16	18	20	22	24	26	28
Body Length	26.5	26.62	27.62	28.62	29.62	30.62	32
Full Body Length	-	26.62	27.62	28.62	29.62	30.62	32
Sleeve Length	15	16.75	17.25	17.75	18.25	18.5	22
Neck Size	-	6.75	6.75	7.63	7.63	7.63	-
Neck Circumference	-	6.75	6.75	7.63	7.63	-	-

Fill out the order form below and mail it in with a check payable to **Krista Carpenter**. **1 order form per shirt please**. Mail order form and check to

Krista Carpenter – 115 Lowry Drive – West Milton, OH 45383

Please Print – Name _____

Circle 1 shirt size – S M L XL 2XL 3XL

Phone number _____

Email – address _____

Unit _____ District _____

☐ Yes, send mine with my District President and I will pick up at the **spring DISTRICT conference** Total - \$20.00 per shirt

If you are unable to pick up your shirt at mid-winter, you may pay \$5.00 additional per shirt (Ohio) or out of state (\$8.00) to have it shipped to you. Total - \$25.00 or \$28.00

Address in which to ship – please print



Education



Makenah Leibert – Chairman

Cindy Masowick – Vice Chairman

1. Please keep participating in the ALA's Give 10 to Education – you will receive a certificate if you donate at least 10 items to schools. Form is below.
2. I hope you all participated in American Education Week and Veterans Day last month – please send pictures to my email if you did!
3. Please keep promoting American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship opportunities!
4. Also don't forget to keep promoting BGS within the Department of Ohio – there is a packet below to pass out in schools
5. Remember all National Scholarships are done online this year – double check to ensure you do not miss deadlines. Links are attached.
6. All ALA scholarships are due to a local American Legion Auxiliary Unit by March 1st, 2025, and all units must forward to me by March 15th, 2025

Keep promoting Education through Ohio and use Plan of Action for any ideas and or information. Do not hesitate to reach Cindy or I with any questions 😊

Makenah Leibert

330 283-9415

Makenah25@yahoo.com

Cindy Masowick

330 714-3873

cjidgy@gmail.com

Ohio Unit Plan of Action

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



CHILDREN *of* WARRIORS

NATIONAL PRESIDENTS' SCHOLARSHIP



Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship
2025 Application

DUE MARCH 1, 2025

Application closes at 11:59 PM Eastern

**Fifteen scholarships, in the amount of \$5,000 each, will be awarded for 2025.
Three scholarships will be awarded in each of the five divisions of the
American Legion Auxiliary.**

- CENTRAL - Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- EASTERN - Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont
- NORTHWESTERN - Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming
- SOUTHERN - Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia
- WESTERN - Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington

All are gift scholarships, not loans.

Ohio Unit Plan of Action

Children of Warriors – National Presidents' Scholarship – Page 2

Please contact Education@ALAforVeterans.org with questions. Due to the high number of scholarship applications received, the ALA National Headquarters staff and National Education Committee is unable to respond to application inquiries to confirm receipt of materials.

RULES

1. Candidates for this award shall be direct descendants of veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941. Membership in The American Legion Family is not required for this scholarship.
2. Applicants must be in their senior year of high school.
3. This is a scholarship to attend an accredited institution of higher education.
4. Applicants must complete 50 hours of volunteer service within the community during their high school years. Hours must be verified in writing by the recipient organization(s).
5. Completed applications are DUE ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2025, 11:59 PM Eastern.
6. Judging, at all levels, shall be on the following basis:
 - 30% - Character/Leadership
 - 30% - Essay/Application
 - 40% - Academic Achievement

THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.

The award will be paid directly to the school for the first semester upon notification from the school that the student has registered. American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters must receive certification of enrollment within 12 months of the winning recipient's notification, or the scholarship will be forfeited. The scholarship must be used within 24 months of the date the winner receives notification from National Headquarters, or the scholarship will be forfeited. Thus, if the winning student does not wish to use monies for FIRST-YEAR expenses, they then must be used for SECOND-YEAR expenses or be forfeited.

Application can be access through:

https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/2025childrenofwarriors_nationalpresidentsscholarship

Ohio Unit Plan of Action

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



AUXILIARY

Member Loyalty Scholarship

2025 Application

DUE MARCH 1, 2025

Application closes at 11:59 PM Eastern

Scholarship details:

The National Education Committee will select 10 winners (2 per division) for a \$2,500 scholarship based on a scoring rubric.

- CENTRAL DIVISION - Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- EASTERN DIVISION - Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont
- NORTHWESTERN DIVISION - Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming
- SOUTHERN DIVISION - Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia
- WESTERN DIVISION - Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington

Application can be access through:

<https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/2025memberloyaltyscholarship>

All are gift scholarships, not loans.

Please contact Education@ALAforVeterans.org with questions. Due to the high number of scholarship applications received, the ALA National Headquarters staff and National Education Committee is unable to respond to application inquires to confirm receipt of materials.

Ohio Unit Plan of Action

RULES

Member Loyalty Scholarship – Page 2

1. Candidates for this award shall be/shall have been Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary, have held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the past three consecutive years (2022, 2023, and 2024), and must be a paid member for the current (2025) membership year. Applicant must continue their membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during the scholarship period.
2. This scholarship is intended for the traditional college student, who has attained their high school diploma, has had no interruption in education, and who is at least in the first semester of college or technical school but not yet attained a bachelor's degree. Applicants must be completing one, two, or three years of college courses. Current high school seniors who are members of the American Legion Auxiliary may be eligible to apply for the Spirit of Youth scholarship.
3. This is a scholarship to attend an accredited institution of higher education. Applicants must have completed at least one semester of college with grades that meet continuation requirements at the institution of their choice. Applicants must have at least a 3.0 GPA using a 4.0 scale.
4. Previous American Legion Auxiliary national scholarship recipients are welcome to apply.
5. Completed applications are **DUE ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2025, 11:59 PM Eastern.**
6. Judging, at all levels, shall be on the following basis:
 - (50%) Character/Leadership and ALA Participation
 - (25%) Essay
 - (25%) Academic Achievement

THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.

Disbursement of Funds

The first half of the scholarship (\$1,250) will be paid directly to the school for the first semester upon notification from the school that the student has registered. ***American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters must receive enrollment certification within 12 months of the winning recipient's notification, or the scholarship will be forfeited.*** There shall be no money paid to the school for the ensuing semesters until re-enrollment notification has been received at National Headquarters from the school. Notification from the school must include verification of a B (3.0) average. If the winner discontinues their education or membership in the American Legion Auxiliary before completing the scholarship period, the balance of the scholarship will be forfeited. The winner will have six years from the date of high school graduation to utilize the scholarship funds.

Ohio Unit Plan of Action

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

AUXILIARY

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

2025 Application

DUE MARCH 1, 2025.

Application closes at 11:59 PM Eastern.

Scholarship details:

Five scholarships, in the amount of \$2,000 each, will be awarded for 2025. One scholarship will be awarded in each of the five divisions of the American Legion Auxiliary based on a scoring rubric.

- CENTRAL - Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- EASTERN - Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont
- NORTHWESTERN - Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming
- SOUTHERN - Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia
- WESTERN - Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington

Application can be access through:

<https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/2025nontraditionalstudentscholarship>

All are gift scholarships, not loans.

Please contact Education@ALAforVeterans.org with questions. The sheer volume of scholarship applications received makes it impractical for national headquarters to respond to each application or to confirm receipt of materials.

Ohio Unit Plan of Action

RULES

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship – Page 2

1. Applicants must be:
 - a. A current member in good standing of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion, must have held membership for the two preceding years (2023 and 2024), and be a paid member for the current (2025) membership year, OR
 - b. A veteran who served in the United States Armed Forces and was honorably discharged, OR
 - c. The spouse of an active duty servicemember or a veteran who was honorably discharged.
2. Applicants must be:
 - a. a non-traditional student returning to the classroom after some period in which their formal education was interrupted, OR
 - b. a non-traditional student beginning their education at a later point in life.
3. Completed applications are **DUE ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 11:59 PM Eastern.**
4. Judging, at all levels, shall be on the following basis:
 - o Academic Achievement 25%
 - o Financial Need 25%
 - o Character/Leadership 25%
 - o Initiative/Goals 25%

THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.

Disbursement of funds:

The award will be paid directly to the school for the first semester upon notification from the school that the student has registered. ***American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters must receive certification of enrollment within 12 months of the winning recipient's notification, or the scholarship will be forfeited.*** The scholarship must be used within 24 months of the date the winner receives notification from National Headquarters, or the scholarship will be forfeited. Thus, if the winning recipient does not wish to use monies for FIRST-YEAR expenses, they then must then be used for SECOND-YEAR expenses or be forfeited.

Ohio Unit Plan of Action

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



AUXILIARY

Spirit of Youth Scholarship

2025 Application

DUE MARCH 1, 2025

Application closes at 11:59 PM Eastern

Scholarship details:

State/Department: National Headquarters will award each state/department winner a \$1,000 scholarship. This is relatively new and started in 2023-2024.

National: From the potential 52 state/department scholarship winners, the National Education Committee will select 5 winners (1 per division) based on a scoring rubric. These 5 winners will receive a \$5,000 scholarship in lieu of the \$1000 state/department scholarship.

- CENTRAL DIVISION - Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- EASTERN DIVISION - Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont
- NORTHWESTERN DIVISION - Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming
- SOUTHERN DIVISION - Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia
- WESTERN DIVISION - Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington

Application can be access through:

<https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/2025spiritofyouthscholarship>

All are gift scholarships, not loans.

Please contact Education@ALAforVeterans.org with questions. Due to the high number of scholarship applications received, the ALA National Headquarters staff and National Education Committee is unable to respond to application inquires to confirm receipt of materials.

Ohio Unit Plan of Action

RULES

Spirit of Youth Scholarship – Page 2

1. Candidates for this award shall be/shall have been Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary, have held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the past three consecutive years (2022, 2023, and 2024), and must be a paid member for the current (2025) membership year. Applicant must continue their membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during the scholarship period. Participation in an ALA Girls State program does not make you a member of the ALA or eligible for SOY.
2. Applicants must be in their senior year of high school or be a senior equivalent.
3. This is a scholarship to attend an accredited institution of higher education. Applicants must be of good character and have grades that meet entrance requirements at the institution of their choice. Applicants must have at least a 3.0 GPA using a 4.0 scale.
4. Completed applications are **DUE ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2025, 11:59 PM Eastern.**
5. Judging, at all levels, shall be on the following basis:
 - Character/Leadership 30%
 - Essay/Application 30%
 - Academic Achievement 40%

THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.

Disbursement of funds

- a. Department (state) winners - the award (\$1,000) will be paid directly to the school for the first semester upon notification from the school that the student has registered. ***American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters must receive certification of enrollment within 12 months of the winning recipient's notification, or the scholarship will be forfeited.*** If the winner discontinues their education or membership in the American Legion Auxiliary before requesting the funds, the scholarship will be forfeited. The winner will have 24 months from the date of high school graduation to utilize the scholarship funds.
- b. National Winners - the first half of the award (\$2,500) will be paid directly to the school for the first semester upon notification from the school that the student has registered. ***American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters must receive enrollment certification within 12 months of the winning recipient's notification, or the scholarship will be forfeited.*** There shall be no money paid to the school for the ensuing semesters until re-enrollment notification has been received at National Headquarters from the school. Notification from the school must include verification of a B (3.0) average. If the winner discontinues their education or membership in the American Legion Auxiliary before completing the scholarship period, the balance of the scholarship will be forfeited. The winner will have six years from the date of high school graduation to utilize the scholarship funds.

Ohio Unit Plan of Action



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of Ohio

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP **INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR**

The American Legion Auxiliary of Ohio awards one scholarship of \$1,500 annually. This is a gift scholarship—not a loan. The amount is sent in payments directly to the college of the winner's choice. One scholarship of \$1,000 is awarded to the second-place scholarship applicant. The amount to be paid as requested by the school. Order additional applications from: American Legion Auxiliary, Scholarship Coordinator, PO Box 2760, Zanesville, Ohio 43702-2760, or by downloading from the alaohio.org website under the Scholarships tab.

8. The applicant must be an honorably discharged veteran or a son or daughter (adopted, step, grand, or great-grand) of a living, deceased, or disabled honorably discharged veteran who served during these active war dates:

- ◆ Due to the July 30, 2019, signing of the Let Everyone Get Involved with Opportunities for National Service – The LEGION ACT – eligibility for membership in The American Legion has been changed from the former seven war eras to two:

1. April 6, 1917 – Nov. 11, 1918

2. Dec. 7, 1941 – current.

9. Attach to this application a **photocopy** of the veteran's Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (i.e.: Form DD-214) or other government document showing time served on active military duty during the eligibility period(s) indicated above.

10. The applicant must be a resident of Ohio or a member of an Ohio American Legion Auxiliary Unit.

11. The applicant must be sponsored by an Ohio American Legion Auxiliary Unit.

12. The applicant must be preparing to enter his/her freshman year of college.

13. The completed application must be returned to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit by March 1, 2025.

14. The winner shall be selected based on the following criteria: 1—Americanism, 2—Character, 3—Financial Need, 4—Leadership, and 5—Academics.

15. The following items must accompany this application:

- A) Three letters of recommendation from:

- 1) A member of the clergy or a representative to attest to devotional beliefs.
- 2) A faculty member from the High School attended by the applicant.
- 3) A representative of the community.

- B) An original essay of not more than 500 words entitled "*Education and the American Dream*". All words and symbols count.

- C) A transcript of High School grades.

- D) An acceptance letter from the college or university and/or financial letter. Be sure to include student id number and address for the receipt of scholarship funds that may be given.

9. The applicant must sign and date the application.

10. An officer of the sponsoring Unit must sign this application. A Unit may sponsor only one candidate per scholarship.

Forward the application by the **March 15, 2025**, deadline with all supporting documents to the Department Education Chairman:

Makenah Leibert

1121 Nine Iron Dr., Apt. 1815, Akron, OH 44312-5826

makenah25@yahoo.com

(Over for Application)

Ohio Unit Plan of Action

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Name of Applicant _____
Address _____, Ohio _____ Birth Date ____/____/____
City _____ Zip Code _____ Phone Number _____

		Name of Veteran		
Veteran Affiliation:	Wife	<input type="checkbox"/>	Husband	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Indicate with (√))	Daughter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Son	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Adopted Daughter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted Son	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self	Step-Daughter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Step-Son	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Granddaughter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grandson	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Great Granddaughter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Grandson	<input type="checkbox"/>

Brief statement and date of Military Service _____

Financial Information	Family	Applicant
Family Income	\$ _____	\$ _____
Social Security Income	\$ _____	\$ _____
VA Benefits	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____	\$ _____

Number in Household _____ Number currently attending College _____

College Name and Address _____

Full-time student _____ Part-time student _____ What year in school? _____

Major(s) / Minor(s) of Study _____
Brief statement of individual need _____

High School Attended _____ Graduation Date ____/____/____ College You Plan to Attend _____

Signature of Applicant _____ Date ____/____/____ Phone Number _____

SIGNATURE OF AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT OFFICER _____ DISTRICT/UNIT NUMBER _____ UNIT REPRESENTATIVE'S PHONE # _____

Submit to: Makenah Leibert, 1121 Nine Iron Dr., Apt. 1815, Akron, OH 44312-5826

Ohio Unit Plan of Action



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of Ohio

WOMEN VETERAN'S SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio recognizes the importance of education and the role it plays in personal, professional, and economic fulfillment. The Women Veterans Scholarship Program provides grants to women who serve, past and present, to help them attain their educational goals. The Women Veterans Scholarship Program offers financial support in Undergraduate Degrees, and Graduate Degrees. Scholarships are awarded only for coursework from accredited institutions. Scholarships are based on merit, academic potential, community service, letters of recommendation, and need.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicant must be a woman who has served or is serving honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces; Active, Reserve, or National who served honorably and is a resident of Ohio.
2. **Undergraduate Program:** Applicant must be currently enrolled at an accredited college or university and have completed 30 credit hours of course work with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better.
3. **Graduate Program:** Applicant must have achieved an undergraduate degree with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and must be enrolled in or accepted into a Graduate level program — Masters or Doctoral.

AWARDS

Selection of the Scholarship recipient(s) are made by the Education Committee appointed by the Board of Directors of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Ohio. The Committee will determine the two (2) scholarship winners to be awarded \$500.00 for each scholarship. The scholarship funds may be used to assist with tuition, fees, books, and school documented room and board. Scholarships are awarded only to students attending accredited institutions. The funds will be sent directly to the recipient. If selected, Scholarship recipients are to provide a) a photograph and a statement for use in American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio publications, newsletter, website, social media, and marketing materials, etc. and b) follow-up information and feedback as to how the scholarship assisted in their education for research and marketing.

CRITERIA

All application materials, including application form, essay, official transcript(s), two recommendations, proof of enrollment at designated accredited academic institution, as well as commander's verification of active duty or qualified documentation of service (e.g., Dept. of Defense Form DD-214, Discharge Documents, Active Service Documents, etc.) must be submitted and postmarked by May 1, 2025.

Ohio Unit Plan of Action

List of Required materials:

- Application – This form is required. You may apply for only one scholarship.
- Verification of active duty or qualified documentation of service (e.g., Dept. of Defense Form DD-214, Discharge Documents, Active Service Documents, etc.)
- An official transcript from their college or university is required. For new applicants to a community college, high school transcripts or GED documentation must accompany the application along with their acceptance letter from the college/university.
- Two letters of recommendation (on letterhead for reference letters) with titles and contact information are also required. One letter of recommendation MUST be from a school advisor, counselor, dean of students, professor, etc. Letters of recommendation should demonstrate why a Scholarship should be awarded to the specific student.
- The application requires a short essay (2 pages or less, typed, double-spaced) highlighting why the recipient should be considered for this scholarship. The essay must address future plans as related to the applicant's selected program of study and must include pertinent information in assessing an applicant's other areas to include community service, activities, and work experience. The applicant must also address specifically how the Military has impacted their life and/or goals.
- All materials must be labeled with the applicant's name and postmarked by the deadline for consideration and selection.
- All materials should be sent by **May 1, 2025**, directly to:

Department of Ohio Education Chairman
Makenah Leibert
1121 Nine Iron Dr., Apt. 1815
Akron, OH 44312-5826
makenah25@yahoo.com

Ohio Unit Plan of Action

WOMEN VETERAN'S SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION APPLICATION FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Full Name of Applicant _____
Address _____ Birth Date ____/____/____
City _____, Ohio _____ Zip Code _____ Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Service Information:

Entrance Date of Military Service ____/____/____ Date Left Military Service ____/____/____ ☐ Check if you are currently serving. _____ Branch of Military _____

Check all that apply: Active Duty _____ Reserve _____ National Guard _____
Current Rank or Rank when you Separated from the Military _____

Do you qualify for the GI Bill, if yes, please explain why you need additional assistance? _____

Financial Information	Family	Applicant
Family Income	\$ _____	\$ _____
Social Security Income	\$ _____	\$ _____
VA Benefits	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____	\$ _____
Number in Household	_____	Number currently attending College _____

Brief statement of individual need _____

High School Attended _____ Graduation Date ____/____/____ College You Plan to Attend _____
Undergraduate College/University _____ Graduation Date ____/____/____ Degree Level You are Seeking _____

Post Graduate University You Plan to Attend _____

Signature of Applicant _____ Date ____/____/____ Phone Number _____

UNIT PORTION

SIGNATURE OF AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT OFFICER _____ DISTRICT/UNIT NUMBER _____ UNIT REPRESENTATIVE'S PHONE # _____

Unit to complete and submit with all documentation to Department Education Chairman:

Makenah Leibert

1121 Nine Iron Dr., Apt. 1815, Akron, OH 44312-5826

makenah25@yahoo.com

Ohio Unit Plan of Action



American Legion Auxiliary Give 10 to Education Suggested Donation Items and Tracking Sheet

Suggested Item	Quantity	Monetary Value
Books		
Backpack/Book bag		
Loose Paper		
Notebooks		
Folders		
3-Ring Binders		
Pencils		
Pens		
Erasers		
Highlighters		
Crayons		
Colored Pencils		
Markers		
Pencil Box/Pencil Case		
Scissors		
Glue/Glue Sticks		
Ruler		
Calculator		
Craft Supplies		
Kleenex/Paper Towels		
Hand Sanitizer		
Disinfecting Wipes/Baby Wipes		
Mentoring/Reading		
Donation to School		
Donation to Library		
Donation to Scholarship		
Clothing		
Patriotic Item		
Sports Equipment/Games		
Box Tops 4 Education		
Totals:		

For more information contact:

American Legion Auxiliary

Buckeye Girls State

PO Box 2760

Zanesville, Ohio 43702-2760

Or visit our Website at:

www.buckeyegirlsstate.org



The longevity of the program lies in the fact that it has given a unique opportunity for our nation's young women to experience government, to assume leadership roles, and to interact with their peers in a positive learning environment.



American Legion Auxiliary
Buckeye

Girls State

Information Brochure

Program Sponsored

By

American Legion Auxiliary

Buckeye Girls State

PO Box 2760

Zanesville, Ohio 43702-2760

E-mail : vicky@alaohio.org

Website: www.buckeyegirlsstate.org

"To instill a sense of individual responsibility to the Community, State and Nation"

What is Buckeye Girls State?

Ever wanted to see what it's like to be a governor, a mayor, or a coroner? Well, for the approximately 25,000 girls participating in the Girls State program nationwide these are only a few of the opportunities they'll be offered. As a vital part of the American Legion Auxiliary's Americanism program, Girls State touches the lives of thousands of high school girls each summer and has earned us many accolades for molding young women into America's leaders of tomorrow.

Buckeye Girls State is designed to educate Ohio's young women in the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of good citizenship.

By getting involved in the process, Delegates learn more about City, County and State Government in one week than they will learn in an entire semester of high school.

The girls selected for this honor are called Delegates and are assigned to one of two political parties - Federalist or Nationalist. As an active member of their party, they learn political party structure and have a definite function in the government system. The Ohio American Legion Auxiliary has been a proud sponsor of Buckeye Girls State for the past seventy years. The program has been honored by such organizations as Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Benefits of Attending

Through hands-on experience Delegates have the opportunity to not only learn the mechanics of local and state government, they learn citizenship, patriotism and the love of God and Country; they gain self-confidence, poise and character.

Girls State is a nationally recognized program. Past participants have included Former Texas Governor Ann Richards, newscaster

Jane Pauley, U.S. Congress woman Jennifer Dunn, Former Miss USA Terri Utley, Country music performer Janie Fricke, and Brigadier General Sharla Cook. Past speakers include Ohio's Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and State Treasurer, Judges and representatives from their offices and those of city and county government.

Attendance provides many Delegates with the opportunity to apply and be recommended for awards, honors and scholarships.

When and Where

Buckeye Girls State is currently held on the campus of Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio. The 2025 session begins at 10:30 AM on June 8, 2025 and ends after 12:15 PM on June 14, 2025.

Who Should Attend

Auxiliary Units/Posts are required to interview all candidates. They are looking for young women who are interested in government. Since this is an intense week of accelerated learning only young women who are interested in government truly appreciate the opportunity Girls State provides for them to actively participate in mock government activities. They can run for city, county and state office, work with officials from each area of government and gain first-hand knowledge of the political process.

Cost

The sponsoring or co-contributing organization helps to provide the cost of the session. The fee is \$350 per delegate, plus a non-refundable \$50 fee from the delegate.

"Promoting service to God and Country"

Sponsorship

Girls State Delegates are sponsored through local American Legion Auxiliary Units. Other interested organizations in the community may also contribute to send a Delegate selected by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit. If interested, please contact the American Legion Auxiliary.

Mandatory Orientation

Orientation is an important part of Buckeye Girls State because it explains what attendees can expect, outlines the rules and regulations and provides a forum to answer questions. That's why it is mandatory that all Delegates and Alternates (replacing the original Delegate) attend the In-Person Orientation located through the State of Ohio.

EDUCATION / NURSES SCHOLARSHIP

Cindy Masowick, Chairman

cjidgy@gmail.com

While your Units are in the schools promoting the Americanism Program, don't forget to promote the Auxiliary Scholarships, especially the **"Nurses' Scholarship"**.

Units don't forget to send in your donations for Nurses' Scholarship program. I would love to give out more than the allotted \$300 per applicant. These nursing students will become 1st Responders. They are in need and need our help to fund their schooling.

Applications are due to me by April 15, 2025. Let's get them in early to ensure the paperwork is correct and they are placed on the list for the scholarship.



Ohio Unit Plan of Action



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of Ohio

NURSES' SCHOLARSHIP

2024-25 INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio has a program to assist students pursuing a degree in the nursing field. The scholarships are available from Department Headquarters: American Legion Auxiliary, Scholarship Coordinator PO Box 2760, Zanesville, Ohio 43702-2760 or can be downloaded from the www.alaohio.org web site found under the Scholarship tab. Local Auxiliary Units should contact their local high schools on the availability of this scholarship.

1. The applicant must be an honorably discharged veteran or a spouse, son, or daughter (adopted, step, grand, or great-grand) of a living, deceased, or disabled honorably discharged veteran who served during these active war dates:
 - ♦ Due to the July 30, 2019, signing of the Let Everyone Get Involved with Opportunities for National Service – The LEGION ACT – eligibility for membership in The American Legion has been changed from the former seven war eras to two:
 1. April 6, 1917 – Nov. 11, 1918
 2. Dec. 7, 1941 – current.
2. Attach to this application a **photocopy** of the veteran's Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (Form DD-214) or other government document showing time served on active military duty during the eligibility period(s) indicated above.
3. The applicant must be a resident of Ohio.
4. The applicant must be sponsored by an Ohio American Legion Auxiliary Unit.
5. The scholarship may be used at the nursing school of the student's choice. Proof of acceptance must be attached to application along with a current class schedule or current financial aid letter.
6. Accompanying the application must be three letters of recommendation from:
 - 1) A member of the clergy or a representative to attest to devotional beliefs.
 - 2) A representative of the community.
 - 3) The applicant stating his/her financial need and why he/she feels they are deserving of this scholarship.
7. The applicant must sign and date the application.
8. The completed application must be returned to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit by **April 15, 2025**.
9. The Unit President must sign the application and forward it by **May 1, 2025**, with all supporting documents, to the Department Education Vice Chairman:

Cindy Masowick
Education Vice Chairman
9320 Root Dr., Streetsboro, OH 44241-5540
cjidgy@gmail.com
(Over for Application)

Ohio Unit Plan of Action

NURSES' SCHOLARSHIP

2024 – 2025 APPLICATION FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Name of Applicant _____
Address _____, Ohio _____ Birth Date ____/____/____
City _____ Zip Code _____ Phone Number _____

		Name of Veteran		
Veteran Affiliation:	Wife	<input type="checkbox"/>	Husband	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Indicate with (✓))	Daughter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Son	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Adopted Daughter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted Son	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self	<input type="checkbox"/> Step-Daughter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Step-Son	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Granddaughter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grandson	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Great Granddaughter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Grandson	<input type="checkbox"/>

Brief statement and date of Military Service _____

Financial Information	Family	Applicant
Family Income	\$ _____	\$ _____
Social Security Income	\$ _____	\$ _____
VA Benefits	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____	\$ _____
Number in Household _____	Number currently attending College _____	

College Name and Address _____

Full-time student _____ Part-time student _____ What year in school? _____

College Expenses (Please list and explain) _____
Major(s) / Minor(s) of Study _____

Brief statement of individual need _____

Have you previously received a Nurses' Scholarship from the American Legion Auxiliary? ____ yes ____ no

Signature of Applicant _____ Date ____/____/____ (____) _____

SIGNATURE OF AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT OFFICER _____ DISTRICT/UNIT NUMBER _____ UNIT REPRESENTATIVE'S PHONE # _____

Submit to:
Cindy Masowick, Education Vice Chairman
9320 Root Dr.
Streetsboro, OH 44241-5540
cjidgy@gmail.com

Finance



Diann Long, Chairman
ken17402@yahoo.com
Alice Teynor, 2nd Member
ateynor@gmail.com
Leeann Stan, 3rd Member
leeannstan@gmail.com



We are at the halfway point of our Auxiliary year, and it is time to review your income and spending during the last six months. Check to see how your figures align with your current unit budget. Make note of any major changes that will need to be considered when planning for next year. Below is a guideline that you may want to use as your unit begins preparation for the 2025-2026.

HOW TO SET GOALS THROUGH ANNUAL BUDGETING

Objective: Provide for financial stability by setting goals through the annual budget process.

Step-By-Step Instructions:

- Appoint a three-member Finance Committee for your Unit or some Units use their officers & committee chairs
- Conduct a budget planning meeting of the Finance Committee prior to the start of your fiscal year; make sure to invite Unit officers at which time the agenda should include, but not limited to the following:
 - o Review your current financials in comparison to the IRS and nonprofit watchdog organizations' benchmarks (as mentioned in the "What Units Should Do" section of this POA).
 - o Review your progress status of your long-range goals.
 - o Review your annual ALA obligations (use attached Donations Form as a guide, etc.)
 - o Review your annual operating expenses (bank fees, rent, utilities, conventions, etc.)
 - o Review your membership numbers and related dues income.
 - o Review other sources of revenue (donations, events, bequests)
 - o On a 12-month calendar, plot out when you anticipate your revenue and expenditures.
 - o Compare your total estimated revenue vs. your estimated expenses.
 - o Determine which areas need further consideration to accomplish your long-range goals and meet the IRS and non-profit watchdog organizations' expense benchmarks.
- Try to create a positive bottom line. Remember, budgets are guidelines.
- The Finance Committee approves the budget and submits to the Unit for adoption.



Junior Activities

Connie Morton cjasmorton@hotmail.com

Michelle Bolin mizetti1@live.com

Brandy Little unit764ala@gmail.com

Honorary Department Junior President – Adryenne Rush

In honor of our Department President Louise and to help our Honorary Department Junior President's special project the Junior Activities committee has LEAVES for donations.

You could have you're your juniors cut out and decorate leaves then ask your legion family and community to honor someone by giving a donation for OSPF (*Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation*). There will be more leaves at mid-winter for your donation. We want to decorate the walls with leaves!

All funds should be sent to Department Headquarters earmarked Honorary Department Junior President's special project.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!!!!

Task to your juniors and units about suicide and the stigma of counseling. Get the facts and pass them on.

Junior Activities

Adryenne Rush, Honorary Junior Department President

Special Project

Suicide Awareness & Decreasing Mental Health Stigma

Step One: Have your junior Auxiliary members or junior high students create posters with facts about mental health. The posters should be informative and positive- no black, dark pictures. The focus is on respect and knowledge.

Suicide Hotline

CALL 988

TEXT 838255

Step Two: Donate items to a mental health facility or a hospital for mental health patients to help them be more comfortable.

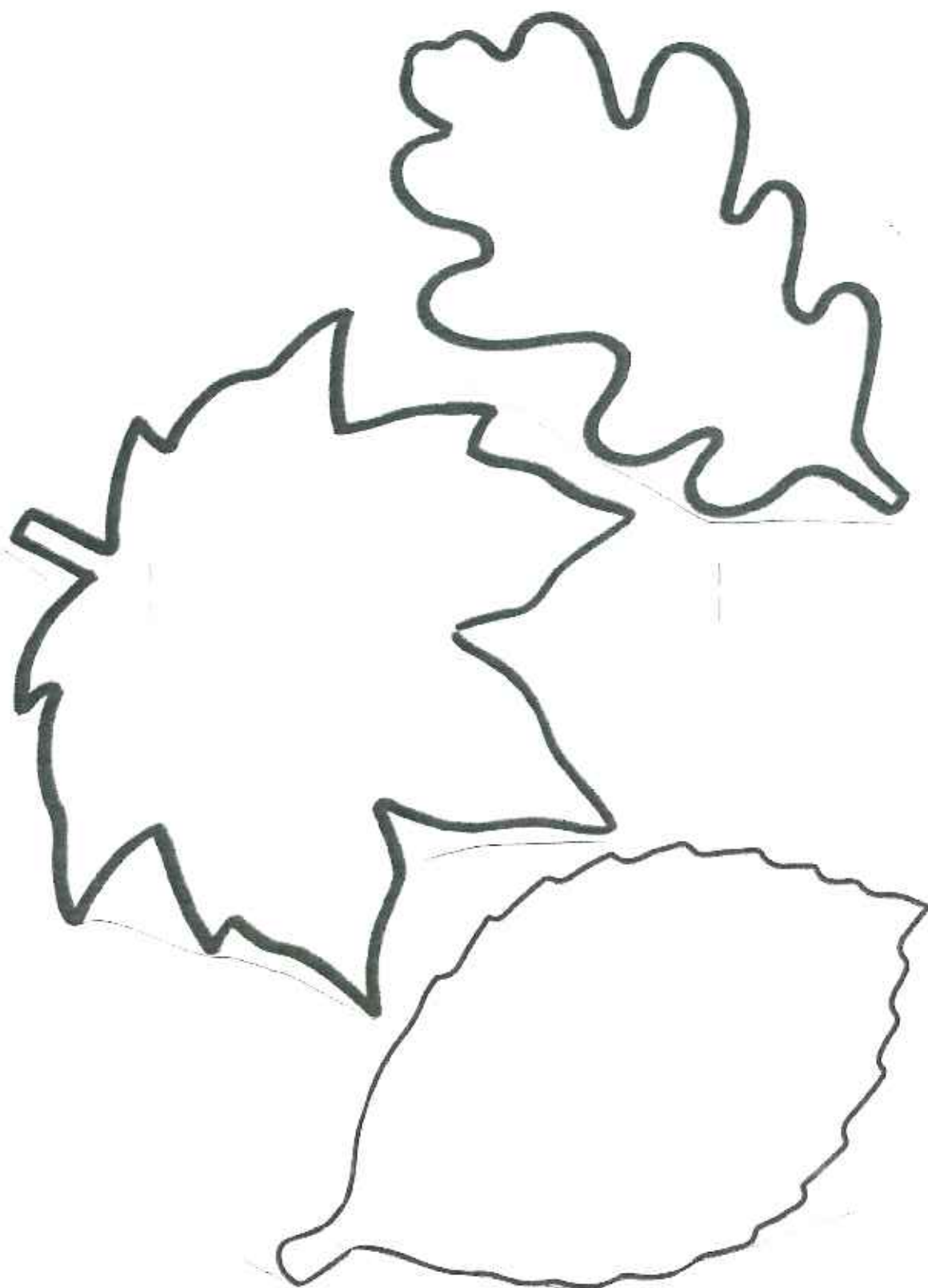
(Ask the facility for a list of items.)

Normalizing challenges with mental health is the key to reducing stigma. Encouraging respectful informed and researched conversations about mental health will help individuals struggling feel better about their own problems and those of others. Far too many young people are dealing with their mental health and unable to get the necessary HELP. We all have a role to play in supporting mental health illness and creating a world where we all thrive.

“If we seize this moment, step up for our children and their families in their moment of need, and lead with inclusion, kindness, and respect, we can lay the foundation for a healthier, more resilient, and more fulfilled nation.”

Dr. Vivek H. Murthy, M.D., M.B.A.

**Vice Admiral, U.S. Public Health Service
Surgeon General of the United States**





Junior Activities

JUNIOR CONFERENCE

Hanover American Legion Post 764

1989 W. High St N.E.

Newark Ohio 43055

Saturday May 3, 2025

Registration 10:00 am

Learning Stations 10:30 am

Lunch 12:30 pm

Meeting 1:30 pm



*Kathy Linn, Legislative Chairman
pebbles0916@yahoo.com*

Can you believe that we just celebrated Thanksgiving and that Christmas is right around the corner?!?!?!?

The 119th Congress will begin January 3, 2025 and run thru January 3, 2027. I will be posting who are Senators and Representatives are!

At Mid-Winter, we will have petitions to sign to send to our Senators advocating for our Veterans.



National has challenged the legislative departments to increase participation in corresponding with our legislators through the Grassroots Action Center. This is our chance to make **OHIO #1** not only in the Central Division, but at the National Level advocating for our veterans and military. The National Legislative Committee Challenge will run from **November 10, 2024**, through **July 2025** will track all the Action Center messages sent by the Auxiliary. I have faith that Ohio will be the best state per paid 2025 membership.

Please scan the QR code to get directly to the Action Center!



Example of Department Data for Quarterly Challenge Using data as of 11-6-2024 Membership Report & 10-23-2024 Legion Quarterly Action Alert Report

Wisconsin 1.32%

Missouri 1.16%

West Virginia 1.05%

Ohio 76%

Illinois 75%

Kansas 54% (President Trish Ward's Home State)

Iowa 25%

Michigan 21% - I will be in contact with Dawn Gramza from that state up north (aka Michigan) for a friendly challenge that will be "awarded" at our National Convention in August!

***Ohio Legislative
Buckeye Boost!
What's Happening in our Statehouse***



Another month and once again not much action in the statehouse to report about. There should be plenty to report on at Mid-Winter. According to the Ohio Legislature Website the first Senate Session will be held Wednesday, November 13 and on Tuesday, November 19 for the House. There will be plenty of committee hearings beginning then too. The General Assembly only has until December 20 when the recess is scheduled to begin thus, ending the 135th General Assembly.

"Young people need to vote. They need to get out there. Every vote counts. Educate yourself too. Don't just vote. Know what you're voting for, and stand by that."

-Nikki Reed

Have a Blessed and Happy Holiday Season. See everyone at Mid-Winter.





Renee Kohl
Membership Chairman
rckohl@aol.com

Within the past 2 bulk mailings, information was shared regarding eligibility and frequently asked questions. I hope that this information was helpful to everyone.

In regards to the November 11th, 2024 incentive deadline, we have a total of 285 Units that achieved the 25% membership goal challenge. This is fantastic!!! All of the eligible Units are now entered into the \$50 Drawing. I cannot express enough how excited I am that we have 285 Units in this drawing! We are well on our way to becoming a goal Department for President Louise. We need to keep up the momentum.

Here is a breakdown by District....and Congratulations to ALL of you for paying your dues and helping your Unit and District reach this first deadline.

District 1 – 39 Units
District 2 – 18 Units
District 3 – 33 Units
District 4 – 22 Units
District 5 – 35 Units
District 6 – 18 Units
District 7 – 9 Units

District 8 – 12 Units
District 9 – 16 Units
District 10 – 30 Units
District 11 – 20 Units
District 12 – 7 Units
District 13 – 12 Units
District 14 – 13 Units

According to the National Report that I received on November 27th, Ohio is in 3rd place in the Central Division with 61.44% of goal. We are currently at 21,331 members and still need 13,388 members to be a goal Department. We got this! We can do it!!

We need to reach out to our members and inquire about their dues. Without all of our members, our LEAVES won't blossom fully for President Louise.

Oh and some good news....we are still ahead of that Department up North, but not by much, only by 0.79%. We would love to have National President Trish wear a Buckeye Jersey at the Central Division Caucus at National Convention in Tampa.

Have you been reading the Membership Plan of Action? There are several National goals that can be achieved for your Unit and our Department.

At the time of this bulk mailing, the December 7th date has not reached us. I will have more updates on that drawing at Mid-Winter. Remember, there are 2 drawings for the December 7th incentive.

Not only do we have an incentive for December 7th, but National has a Department Award for those that reach 75% of goal....we aren't quite there, but we could be if we send in those dues!

Don't forget ... We have some incentive deadlines approaching!

Two (2) \$50 Drawings: All Units reaching 50% by **December 7, 2024**, are entered into the drawing to be held at Mid-Winter.

\$100 Drawing: All Units reaching 90% by **February 3, 2025** are entered into the drawing to be held at Summer Convention.



NATIONAL SECURITY

KIMM BUNCH

alaohnatsec@gmail.com

A great activity that you could do at your Post home, library, nursing facility with veterans, VA hospitals/outpatient facilities, etc. is put up a Christmas tree and invite the community to complete a “dog tag” with the picture and name of their Veteran and hang on the tree. Juniors could help with this! What a great idea to honor our Veterans! This could even be left up all year and keep adding dog tags to it!

DIRECTIONS: Cut out of heavy paper or cardstock, a supply of dog tags. Hole punch the top of each one. Place a ribbon, yarn, or cording through the hole and tie at the top. Place the Veteran picture on one side of the dog tag and their name and branch of service on the other side. Hang on the tree for all to enjoy!



PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE BULK MAIL October QUIZ ANSWERS

Pam Bates, Department Parliamentarian

pamelabates9@gmail.com

937-974-2316

THERE WERE NO WINNERS...two entries but answered one incorrectly.

The first member to text or email me ALL the correct answers win a prize. You will need to do some research and resources to use are...the Parliamentary Procedure—a matter of order; ALA Unit Guide; surf the web; and various sights on <https://www.alaforveterans.org>. I have always felt if I have to research something I learn and retain more. SO...LET'S GET STARTED!

1. Where did parliamentary procedure originate? **PP originated in ancient Greece. Britian was first to use as their parliamentary system.**
2. Who uniformed it in 1876? **Henry Martin Robert**
3. What are the 5 general motion types? **Original; Incidental; Subsiding; Privileged; Reconsider**
4. Do you need a second on a motion? **Yes**
5. When do you not need a second to a motion? **When it comes from a committee**
6. Can a motion be amended? **Yes**
7. Can a motion be reconsidered? **Yes**
8. What are the 5 methods of voting? **There are several-depending on the source: Rollcall (voice); Ballot; Show of hands; Absentee; Rising; Consent**
9. Is it important that ALL members know the basic rules, not just the officers? **Yes**
10. What would be a typical order of business (meeting agenda)? **Call to Order; Prayer; Pledge; Roll call of officers; Reading of the minutes to approve; Treasurer's report which will be filed for audit; Reports from chairmen; Unfinished business; New business; Announcements; Closing Prayer; adjournment.**

AVOID POTHOLE
Wisdom by Chris Dickie,
National Parliamentarian



Poorly written documents

- The difference between shall vs. will vs. may vs. should
- Meaningless or confusing statement
- Redundancy
- Words or phrases that are not defined
- Unnecessary adjectives or modifiers that are not enforceable
- Spreading rules covering a single topic among articles

Assuming more authority than provided in the Constitution and Bylaws at all levels

Not adhering to the governing documents

- Deadlines and proper notice
- Special meetings
- Quorum
- Electronic meetings
- Doing business without a meeting

Ignoring or poor handling of unacceptable behavior

- Be proactive
- Not addressing issues
- Be consistent
- Not following disciplinary procedures in governing documents

2025 RESOLUTION – UPDATE ALL GOVERNING DOCUMENTS



Poppy Program

Donella Kline 216.396.8968

dkline@chnhousingpartners.org

With Mid-Winter around the corner, do not forget about the Senior and Junior Poppy Usage and Corsage Contests. Do not forget to bring your dollar bills, as that will be the cost of each vote. Donations will benefit the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

Senior and Junior Poppy Usage Contest- There is no theme, so get your creative Juices flowing because the entries are designs of your own choosing using official ALA poppies.

Senior and Junior Corsage Contest- Again, the design will be your choice. Please remember that corsages will not be returned, unless noted at the time your entry is received. Any corsages not returned will be used at the Buckeye Girls Session for the City Mayors. The Rules for the Senior Poppy Corsage Contest and Senior Poppy Usage Contest are given in the Poppy Plan of Action. The Junior Poppy Usage Contest and Junior Poppy Corsage Contest are the same as the Senior entries.



POPPY SHOP
Cindy Masowick, Director
cjidgy@gmail.com

HERE WE GO POPPIES

HERE WE GO!

Have you ordered your Poppies yet?



Units must order poppies by December 31, 2024, in order to qualify for a Citation of Merit.

There are plenty of poppies at the American Legion Auxiliary Headquarters. All orders that were received on Tuesday, November 26, were packed and shipped. About 21,000 poppies have been shipped.



Public Relations

Mindi M. Rue

Second Vice President

mindi1036@gmail.com

THE QUESTION IS: "WHERE DO WE START FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS?"



We start by promoting **who we are, what we do, and how we make a difference in our communities, for our veterans, and for their families.** We do this by wearing our **branded apparel.** Show up for community events in shirts, jackets, and hats with emblems and unit names on them. This is how we promote a positive image of our organization in our local communities.



Consider working with the media at the local level to build a good working relationship. Use social media like Facebook, Instagram, or Snapchat. Reach out to local television stations, newspapers, and radio stations. Remember the media is a part of our community and can be an asset to you. These platforms are FREE and are useful tools for communication.



Does your unit, district, or department have a social media page? If so, share your stories with pictures as they say, "A picture is worth a thousand words." We encourage ALL units to be on social media. Remember you are representing the American Legion Auxiliary.

Resources for the National Public Relations Committee can be found at <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/public-relations>.

Help our organization grow by getting involved in your local schools. We sometimes forget we all need to help each other learn about what our organization has to offer. We have many programs that our younger members and potential members could use to help our veterans, the Military, their families, and our local communities. **PR WORKS!!**



VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

December 2024

Marsha Giehls-Chairman
118 S. West St
Mason, Ohio 45040-3688
(513)398-6566
Aux194@embarqmail.com

Deb Sutterlin-Vice Chairman
950 Twp. Rd 2506
Perrysville, OH 44864-9713
(330) 465-9230
debsutterlin270@gmail.com



I hope everyone did something for our Veterans-on-Veterans Day or participated in a Veterans Day Program. December and the Holidays are fast approaching so there is many opportunities coming to do something for our Veterans. Are you going to address cards for Veteran's, and deliver them to a VA facility, or a Nursing Home. If you addressed those cards outside a VA Facility those hours count as Service to Veterans. If you do shopping, cook a meal, or buy a meal for a Veteran that also counts towards your Service to Veterans hours or if you decorated a Veterans home.

Remember when you are sending in your Service to Veteran's report to put exactly what you did to earn your hours. Example: don't just put Community Service, we want to know exactly what everyone is doing.

Also, there is always some confusion as to what counts on which report.

National Security is what you are doing for our military that are currently serving and Service to Veteran's is what you are doing for those who have already served.

Remember, if you have Juniors that do work for our Veteran's those hours can be counted on both your Junior report and your VA&R and they can start earning their Service to Veteran's Hours.

With the holidays fast approaching don't forget those caregivers. If you are a caregiver or if you know someone who is a caregiver maybe they need some help during the holidays.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION **GRANTS**

NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS **FESTIVAL**

I received the following from our Central Division VA&R Chairman Kristen Hensley regarding the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation grant information for VA&R.

It came from National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chair, Coral May Grout

The ALA Foundation supports Unit and Department involvement in the Festival through grants in the amount of \$2500. If three Units want to work together on a project, that means you can apply for \$7500. So, what can you do with the funds? You can purchase art supplies, jewelry supplies, music, and other items to support your local VA Facility and the veterans who are interested in participating. The winners may be chosen to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, which will be held between May 11 through 18 in Indianapolis, IN.

Examples of approved grants over the past few years include: Department of Vermont to support marketing and implementation at the VA White River VCAF; New York Unit 1524 to provide awards and recognition to participants at the Syracuse VA Medical Center; and the Department of Nebraska to purchase art supplies and certificates for the Grand Island VA Medical Center's VCAF.

As VA Facilities are restarting many programs following COVID, these funds can be a real boost to jumpstart something wonderful for veterans!

The application is easy, yet only a total of 10 applications have been submitted over the past several years. If you are concerned about completing the paperwork,

don't be!! The staff at the Foundation in Indianapolis (alafoundation.org/grants) can help so check out the website. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Coral at cmgrout@comcast.net

There are two deadlines for submission of applications --- December 20th and March 20th.

The money is there! Please apply!



We are very close to being halfway through our reporting year so I hope all of you are keeping track of what you are doing for our Veterans so that you can report it in April. Don't forget to make those donations to the Marie Moore Fund. This is where your Past Presidents dues is now going (but you can donate more). These funds are to be given to the VAMCs, OVII, and CBOCs by our Department President based on how many donations are received so let's get those donations in to support our Veterans. It is also a good time to be making your donations on the donation sheet to the VA Hospitals and to the other programs that support our Veterans.

I hope to see many of you at Mid-Winter in January.

Marsha Giehls, Chairman

Deb Sutterlin, Vice Chairman

Debsutterlin270@gmail.com

330-465-9230

As the L.E.A.V.E.S. change to winter, so do the opportunities to serve veterans. With Christmas and the New Year celebrations ahead of us, is there someone who has lost a loved one and this is the first time without them? Why not send them a Christmas card. Inside the card, write a short note such as "I know this is your first Christmas/holiday without _____. Please know that I am thinking about you and wish for you a peaceful day." Or a new year's card, wishing them peace and comfort in the upcoming year as they start a new chapter in their life. **Any words of comfort or support that come to your mind, please take time to express it. It is important to express how you feel or what you think for that surviving veteran or veteran's spouse, or they will not know you care and are thinking of them. I will have a drawing at Mid-Winter conference for the members who report to me who they sent cards to this holiday season. The drawing will be for a \$25 gift card. Please share what you did or how you expressed yourself. PLEASE SHARE!!!! AND REPORT ON THE SERVICE TO VETERANS FORM. Thank you!!!**

Let's have some fun. Why not make some fun treat bags for Veterans? Here's what I am doing. I am making up a Ziplock bag with the following treats: a Hostess Snowball, a candy cane, a Mounds candy bar, a Smarties roll, a mint, and a calendar. Make stickers with the following jokes: 1- What do you call a snowman party? A snowball! 2- What's red, white and blue? A sad candy cane! 3- Wishing you MOUNDS of happiness and fun this holiday season. 4- Why did the M&M go to college? He wanted to be SMARTIE! 5- What kind of candy goes best with Christmas? Ornamints! 6- How does Rudolph know when Christmas is coming? He refers to his calen-deer. Be sure to put a label on the bag with your Auxiliary information so the Veteran knows who gave the treat bag. These bags can be handed out at nursing homes, assisted living, or anywhere you see Veterans.

Do you have extra Christmas cards? Why not put a stamp on the card envelope and give one or more Christmas cards to veterans in a nursing home or in assisted living so they can send Christmas greetings to someone of their choice.

Do you know a veteran who is older and does not drive after dark? How about offering to take them on a drive to look at Christmas light and maybe stop for hot chocolate.

The weather has turned cold. Many older people choose not to go out anymore than necessary. Maybe you can go to the drug store or grocery store for them. Maybe stop in to visit them in January after the busyness of the season. January and February are dreary, cold, snowy months. Please do not forget our shut-ins (veterans and their spouses, and those surviving veterans/spouses).

When the snow collects on the ground, why not shovel the snow for a veteran or a surviving spouse?

January 20, 2025 is Martin Luther King Day of Service. What will you do for veterans to celebrate Martin Luther King?

February 14, 2025 is Valentine's Day. Will you plan something to make a Veteran feel special?

Here is another idea for the spring but it must be planned in advance. In the American Legion digital newsletter, Post 117 in Florida created a Veteran's Healing Garden. The main reason behind the garden's creation is to provide a safe, calming area for veterans dealing with trauma while tying into National's BE THE ONE theme. They had a pond with flower boxes and benches. While most of us don't have ponds, why not set up an area on the post property with a bench or two, flower bed(s) and a fountain. Now is the time to plan, get permission, and organizing the project. Let me know if any of you can something for a healing garden.



Albert Einstein said "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving."

I wonder what that means to you. I know it means to me that we cannot let life get stagnate. We are so blessed to be able to be members of the American Legion Auxiliary and get inspiration and ideas from other members and other units. Our family and home life are important but so is giving and doing for others. I believe that is where we, as members, need to do for veterans and get others to help us to increase the awareness of their needs. The importance of veterans and patriotism increases with disasters, but why do we need them to inspire us? So, while we do for our families, we can also do for others. Thank you for all you have done and will do. YOU are the Very Most Important Person!

Please be sure to log in your hours and costs for your Service To Veterans. Thank You!

May all of you have enjoyable holidays and be safe.

Marsha Giehl, Chairman

Deb Sutterlin, Vice-Chairman

Debsutterlin270@gmail.com

330-465-9230