



HOOSIER AUXILIARY NEWS



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President Stoner's Installation Speech

I wasn't sure I would make it up here after that song. As some of you know, my husband Jerry of 53 years, was in the Navy and it was one of his favorite songs. If he was still here, it would've been 62 years of marriage this past June.

It is an honor to be standing here as your 2024-2025 American Legion Auxiliary Department President! Thank you to all who have helped make this journey possible.

First, I would like to introduce my family. It's their support and encouragement that kept me going to achieve this great honor. Please stand and continue to stand as I call your name. My oldest son, Jerry and his wife, Tammy, her daughter and two grandchildren were unable to be here today.

My youngest son, Bob and his wife, Angie. My daughters-in-law are like my own daughters.

And my escort today, my grandson, Thomas, that so many of you already know. We are a very close-knit family! Every member of my family is a part of the American Legion family.

My eligibility is through my dad, Delbert Wray a WWII veteran served in the Army in Okinawa, and my husband, Jerry, a Vietnam



Roxanna "Roxy" Stoner
Department President
2024 - 2025

Era veteran.

I would like to thank my Unit, Post, and SAL 15 and the 5th District for their support through the years. A special thank you to some very special friends in the 5th District, that stood beside me and kept me going.

I can't begin to say enough about my advisors - a very special "Thank You" to Thelma, Vickie and Rose Ann. I would not be here without their encouragement and support. Their knowledge is invaluable. THANK YOU!

To many of our Past Depart-

ment Presidents, your guidance, advice, and words of encouragement have meant so much to me. THANK YOU as well.

Thank you to my officers, chairs, and committee members. You are a special part of the coming year. With all of us working together for our veterans, our communities, and children and youth, we will be a great team, while building memories as we go.

To my 11 Auxiliary District Daughters, it will be exciting to see where we will take the Department of Indiana this year, with the Units, Districts and Department all working together.

My theme this year is "Ringing Bells for Our Veterans." Bells ring for various reasons. We ring a bell to start a meeting, when to stand or sit. Ringing bells bring people together. In the Bible it states that bells and trumpets sounded to bring people together, before going to war, to assemble, and to worship. Churches ring bells to call worshippers to church for service or on special occasions such as a wedding or funeral. In the Navy, bells ring for sounding alarms but also to notify the crew

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President's Message

"In a world where you can do anything ... Be Kind."

Fall Conference was a great success. We were honored to have our Central Division National Vice President Rosemarie Hauck, from Florissant, Missouri with us for the conference. She served as Missouri Department President in 2008-2009 and currently serves as the Missouri Veterans Home Representative. She enjoyed going to the POW-MIA Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Indianapolis War Memorial in Indianapolis, a trip to Emblem Sales, Department Headquarters, and attended our Auxiliary Fall Conference. Her visit to Indiana was her first as the newly elected Central Division National Vice President. We also took a tour of the Indy Vet House. I hope everyone takes the time to tour The Indy Vet House. It really is a home away from home for our veterans and family members of hospitalized veteran patients.

It is such an honor to serve with Commander Rob Burkhart, SAL Detachment Commander Andy Byers, and The American Legion Riders State Director

Jeff Everman this year. We have made a commitment to work together, communicate, and to support each other as often as we can this year. We are off to a great start! So far, a few things we have done as part of the American Legion family have been holding the American Flag at a Sunday Colts game. What an honor that was! We attended the Valparaiso Popcorn Festival. We did have fun even though it rained during the whole parade and as soon as the parade was over, the sun came out and it was warmer and turned into a beautiful day.

Our members are already gearing up to secure membership and are ready to meet our third target goal of 75% by November 26th. So far this year, we have exceeded the number of paid members in comparison to the same time last year. We are busy spreading the message of: Who we are, What we do, and Why we belong to this wonderful organization. Sherri McGee is a super membership chair, getting us motivated and working hard to meet our

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NON-PROFIT
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Public Relations



Glendal Jones
Department Chair

To eventually use public relations successfully, you must first have a basic understanding of what PR is. Public relations is a strategic communication process used by individuals, businesses, and organizations to create a positive relationship with the public. In this case, we're referring to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Indiana!

A public relations specialist aims to maintain a strong relation-

ship and positive image with a target market. This is accomplished using a communication plan encompassing media and other direct and indirect mediums.

Public relations are not the same as advertising. PR is a process where brands are promoted through editorial content on blogs, websites, magazines, news channels, television programs, and newspapers. This is entirely different than advertising, where paid promotions, ads, or stories written for reporters are the main methods of operation.

Types of Public Relations (PR)

- media relations
- community relations
- social media
- public affairs
- crisis management

Media Relations

- This creates positive relationships with publications, journalists, and other news outlets. Doing this correctly helps get your brand exposure and encourages the me-

dia to market your company for free.

Use Social Media

- Your social media activity is exposed to the public at all times. Therefore, ensure each post adheres to a positive, consistent, and accurate strategy.
- Social media is still one of the best ways to connect with your audience and grow your base.

How to Create a Successful Nonprofit Social Media Strategy:

Follow these steps and you'll be on your way to nonprofit social media strategy success.

- Remember to keep it simple and define your goals
- Develop Metrics
- Compose a Social Media Policy
- Choose the Right Channel-Facebook, Instagram or TikTok
- Build a Social Media Calendar

For TikTok videos:

- Feature Unit sponsored events
- Talk about membership and how to join
- Have fun! Do you have a Karaoke Night? Cards or a Dart night? Highlight them on TikTok!

For Facebook:

- Talk about and take pictures of your events! Use "who, what, when, why, and where" to communicate with your audience!
- Tag others within your Unit to gain extra exposure by placing events/news on their individual Facebook pages. It's as easy as "tagging them" as friends you are enjoying the event with!
- Be positive! Talk about the mission of serving our veterans, their families and the community! Show pictures of the kid's Halloween party!

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American Legion Auxiliary
5440 Herbert Lord Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46216

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INSIDE

From the Desk of the Secretary



Anna Conwell
 Department Secretary

Greetings to all!

What a fantastic start to this year! Membership is flowing in, bells are ringing, and the positive vibes are all around us.

Now that the conventions and conferences are completed, we can get down to work!

As the fall and winter holidays approach, keep in mind those that are alone or without. Reach out and check on those that might need a helping hand. "Be the One" that can make a difference in the lives of our veterans, their families and our communities.

On behalf of the entire Department staff, have a very merry and blessed holiday!

Thank you all for all you do!

ANNOUNCEMENT
Headquarter's Department Office has a new phone number 317-630-1303

Historian



Vicky Stainbrook
 Department Historian

We are making history as we ring bells for our veterans. We had many members attend the Fall Conference for the first time and I'm so excited to have everyone taking part in President Roxy's year. I look forward to hearing and seeing the history you are making. I do hope that everyone is helping your District chair record history.

Don't forget the current activities in the world around us that may affect what you and your Unit/Post may be doing. I know in the Units near me, we have been taking up collections and donations for the hurricane victims. I'm sure you are as well. Please share the pictures and details about what you are doing and who you are helping. Remember your Who, What, When, Where and Why.

Please, if you see President Roxy out ringing her bells for our veterans, send me pictures. She will enjoy seeing history as it happens. They can be sent to sharinalgahistory@gmail.com. I know President Roxy is very busy and will be getting busier with Department visitations coming up. Don't forget to record your visits and interactions with President Roxy along with all of your Legion family activities.

I'm looking forward to seeing some "Members Remember" videos online along with those from District 7. Perhaps District 7 will even make some new ones. I think it is a wonderful way to get to know our members and learn what is important to them and why. Use their ideas to put a new twist on things they had success with in the past. I know I have a list of members I want to interview. Let's start ringing the bells while we can. We could always write a narrative if we can't get with them to record a video. I know some members can't get out and about or perhaps you can't get to them. Do the best that you can to ensure history is recorded.

I will be reaching out to Districts for a special History Project soon. In March, I would love to see each District highlight one amazing woman for National Women's History Month. Be thinking about who your District should highlight. A past National officer? A past Department officer? Someone who has done something outstanding for veterans, their families, or our community? Maybe it is a dual member. Start reaching out to your fellow members and see who you can highlight for National Women's History Month. We have many awesome members who deserve to have bells rung for them.

As always, it's my honor to serve you as your Department Historian. I am here to help you ring those bells loud and proud. Feel free to reach out to me at any time at vjfrog@hotmail.com.



Chaplain's Corner



Jennifer Pickering
 Department Chaplain

It is an honor to serve as your 2024 - 2025 Department Chaplain. Thank you for all your support and I welcome you to a new Auxiliary year of "Ring-ing Bells for our Veterans."

All American Legion Chaplains are given an extremely important duty to fulfill. They have the distinct honor of being the spiritual leaders of your Units and Districts. During the year, you may be called upon to perform many prayers and ceremonies. Your Unit Guide and the Chaplain's Prayer Books are excellent resources to find the information you need to perform these services when needed. You may be called upon to perform the following duties: Invocations, benedictions, installations, draping of the charter, POW/MIA Remembrance Service, new flag dedications, and Four Chaplains. There is a National Chaplain Facebook page that could be helpful. Your Legion may ask you to participate in Legion family programs or community events. Always keep your Chaplain Prayer Book with you. Remember those in need with get well cards, sympathy cards, and thinking of you cards throughout the American Legion Auxiliary year.

I am continuing to send the Prayer Chain this year. It is a wonderful way to keep in touch with our Auxiliary members and to ask for support and prayers. We all

need prayers and support of comfort and strength sometimes. If you are currently not on the Prayer Chain and would like to be added to the list, just let me know and I will add your email to our list.

All prayers and devotional thoughts must be non-denominational which means "not restricted to or associated with a religious denomination." All our Auxiliary members are composed of women and men of many different religious beliefs and faiths. We need to all work together to serve and offer guidance and understanding to each other.

You should have received your American Legion Auxiliary Department of Indiana Program Engagement Plan (PEP) in your Fall Packet. There you will find a deceased member form and it is also on the Department website. Please forward a copy to your District Chaplain and a copy to me. Also keep a copy for your Unit's permanent records. The information is very important to be sure your deceased members are mentioned in both your District and the Department reports and memorial services.

There are also rules and deadlines for the Book of Prayers and Devotional Thoughts. Make sure you are following the guidelines. Please send me prayers and devotional thoughts for President Roxy's book. I would love to include a prayer from every Unit and District, as well as from the Juniors. Look for the Chaplain's Corner on the Department website for a monthly thought or prayer. Check mailings for instructions, reminders, and due dates. I am looking forward to working with all of you as your Department Chaplain. If you have any questions, or if there is anything I can do to help you, or pray for you, please let me know.

Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning. Proverbs 9:9

Parliamentary Pointers



Lisa Liford
 Department Parliamentarian

Greetings! When conducting your meetings, I hope you find this graphic a useful reference.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions regarding parliamentary procedure.

| YOU WANT TO | YOU SAY |
|---|--|
| End the meeting | I move to adjourn |
| Take a break | I move to recess for |
| Make follow agenda | I call for the orders of the day |
| Suspend further consideration of an issue | I move to table the motion |
| Close debate | I move to previous questions |
| Limit or extend debate | I move that debate be limited to... |
| Postpone discussion to a certain time | I move to postpone the motion to... |
| Give closer look to something | I move to refer the motion (matter) to committee |
| Amend a motion | I move to amend the motion by... |
| Kill main motion | I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely |



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 Roxanna "Roxy" Stoner, Department President
 647 Seminole Lane, Wabash, IN 46992
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 Anna Conwell, Secretary
 5440 Herbert Lord Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216

Membership



Sherri McGee
Department Chair

The Department of Indiana is ringing bells to celebrate our veterans and membership this year. The membership team this year is State Chair: Sherri McGee; Area Chairs: Diann Scott, Northern (Districts: 1, 2, 3 & 4); Tina James, Central (5, 6, 10 & 11); and Donna Mills is the Southern (7, 8 & 9).

We created a membership objective spreadsheet that calculates the number of members every unit needs to reach each objective. This spreadsheet is posted on the "ALA Dept of IN Membership" Facebook page and is also available from your membership

team or the district membership chairs.

One hundred and seven (107) Units made the 25% target goal by September 24th. Those Units went into a drawing, and we had our first two (2) winners for the "Goal Contest."

The winners are both from District 1: ALA Unit 279 Gary and ALA Unit 168 Hammond. Each will receive a check for \$25.

Our first Recruit 5 and Rejoin winner is Donna Mills for a \$25 gift card.

OBJECTIVES:

- 50% - October 22nd
- 75% - November 26th
- 85% - March 4th
- 95% - May 6th
- 100% - June 1st
- 102% - June 30th

As of October 15, 2024, the Department of Indiana's membership numbers are 36.16%. The 2025 membership objective is 40,119 which is 6,681 less than last year.

Current standings in membership:

| | | |
|-----|-------------|--------|
| 1st | District 1 | 52.47% |
| 2nd | District 8 | 46.28% |
| 3rd | District 11 | 39.28% |
| 4th | District 5 | 38.19% |

| | | |
|------|-------------|--------|
| 5th | District 10 | 36.83% |
| 6th | District 9 | 35.91% |
| 7th | District 4 | 34.90% |
| 8th | District 7 | 32.56% |
| 9th | District 6 | 32.12% |
| 10th | District 3 | 31.61% |
| 11th | District 2 | 30.82% |

District 1 is in first place and was the first District to make the 50% target goal. District 8 is right behind them. Don't count out District 11 because they can do it too.

We are ahead of last year and the renewals are finally coming in. We are TEAM INDIANA and we are going to LEAD THE WAY to 100% this year!

DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA AWARDS

Recruit/Rejoin 5: Recruit or rejoin 5 members, fill out form and submit it to the Northern, Central or Southern Area Chair for verification.

No limit on submissions. One drawing every month, (Sept-June) for 10 drawings \$25 gift card each drawing.

Goal Contest: every Unit that makes goal is entered into drawing. There will be 14 Goal Drawings \$25 each. Two (2) drawings on the goal date.

Highest Percentage Unit: (Up to 250 members) Increase Close of Books - \$50.

Highest Percentage Unit: (Over 250 members) Increase Close of Books - \$50.

Highest Percentage District: Increase Close of Books - \$100.

100% Units Drawing: All Units at 100% will be submitted for the drawing. There will be six (6) winners \$100 each. The drawing will be July 5th.

Personal Awards based on narrative:

Theme: How we worked membership this year, what worked, what didn't. Please include photos. Send narrative to Sherri McGee.

\$50 Best Unit Narrative Membership

\$50 Best District Narrative Membership

DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA PAST PRESIDENTS & SPECIAL AWARDS

Lincoln Pilgrimage: Trip to Lincoln Pilgrimage for Unit Membership Chair with the highest percentage in the State. Two Units will attend, one from the Unit with less than 250 mem-

bers and one Unit that's over 250 members.

Lincoln Gavel: To the District in the North, Central, and South first to reach goal in 2024-2025 membership year.

Denise Delaney-Wrolen Monetary Award: To the Unit having the largest numerical gain over last year's membership at Department Close of Books. In the event of a tie, those reaching Department Headquarters first will receive the award.

Pam Shook Monetary Award: To the Unit with the largest percentage over goal as of January 31, 2025.

Shirley Firkins Monetary Award: To the Unit having 250 or more members with the largest percentage of membership over goal by January 31, 2025.

NATIONAL AWARDS

Recruit/Rejoin 10: Receive a gift from the National Membership Chair. Send the completed form to the Department of Indiana to verify.

Unit 100% Award: Units reaching 100% goal by January 31, 2025 will receive a special ribbon from the National Membership Team.

Dozens of Indiana's veterans displaced by fire at HVAF

A massive fire broke out at a housing facility for homeless U.S. military veterans in the 900 block of North Pennsylvania Avenue late Saturday, displacing dozens of people who were being sheltered there.

The fire occurred at Helping Veterans and Families of Indiana Inc.'s Manchester Apartments, the nonprofit said in a statement issued Sunday afternoon. The facility serves as transitional housing for 48 homeless veterans.

"For veterans struggling to return to self-sufficiency, the loss last night is unimaginable," the organization said in a statement. "We appreciate the support of our community as we work to rebuild and recover."

Indianapolis firefighters first responded to a general fire alarm at the location, near 10th Street and the Indianapolis Public Library downtown, around 9:35 p.m., the fire department said in a news release. Firefighters arrived to find a fire blazing on the second

floor of the two-story structure, sending a red glow and smoke into the night sky.

Figures provided by the Indianapolis Fire Department indicated that 46 of the 51 occupants staying in the housing complex near the Col. Donald W. Moreau Sr. Veterans Community Center had been accounted for as of 3:40 a.m. Sunday. But HVAF said the apartments had 51 units and 48 residents, all of whom are now accounted. Three units were vacant.

IFD said in a news release that three people were transported to Eskenazi Hospital with slight injuries.

According to its website, HVAF of Indiana is the largest provider of comprehensive services for veterans experiencing or facing homelessness. It also serves active duty, reserve, and national Guard members.

The HVAF provides housing to more than 150 veterans through 14 properties. The non-

profit also provides temporary housing, employment services and a pantry for veterans at risk or experiencing homelessness.

IFD said multiple units were dispatched to battle the fire. The department said people were inside the building and at least 18 had been removed by 10:06 p.m. It took three and a half hours to get the fire under control, according to the IFD. All of the accounted-for occupants are now in area hotels.

HVAF said the damage at the complex was catastrophic. The cause is unknown at this time.

Credit: IndyStar



Statement from HVAF (Homeless Veterans And Families)

On October 26, at around 9:30 P.M., there was a significant fire at HVAF of Indiana's Manchester Apartments — located at 960 Pennsylvania Street in downtown Indianapolis. This facility serves as a transitional housing property for 48 homeless veterans. The damage was catastrophic, and we are unsure of the cause at this time. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD) are currently investigating the fire, please direct all fire-related questions to them. We are thankful for IFD promptly arriving on the scene to work to put out the fire, and for IndyGo providing busses for providing transportation for displaced veterans.

All veterans have been relocated to local hotel rooms and we are coordinating with partners to provide appropriate support.

If you would like to support HVAF during this time, please donate here: <https://www.hvafofindiana.org/donate-hvaf.../>

You can also purchase items on our Amazon Wish List that we will provide to the displaced veterans, which can be accessed here: [Donate Items | HVAF](#)

For veterans struggling to return to self-sufficiency, the loss last night is unimaginable.

We appreciate the support of our community as we work to rebuild and recover.

Indiana's Outstanding Youth



Samsung Scholarship Winner

Brynn Burton was named a Samsung American Legion Scholarship recipient for 2024. Brynn attended ALA HGS this past June. She was selected as the Department's winner for the scholarship and went on to be selected to receive a \$10,000 scholarship. Brynn is an outstanding student and has demonstrated exceptional leadership, academic excellence, and a commitment to her community. Brynn is a senior at Brownstown High School in Seymour, Indiana and hails from the 9 District.



Junior Member of the Year

Addi Pruitt was named Junior Member of the Year, Central Division Department of Indiana. She received a \$1,000 scholarship. Congratulations Addi!



Elberfeld Juniors Earn Best Overall

Juniors from Elberfeld Unit 351 were named Best Overall Float in the Elberfeld Kids Day Parade. (photo courtesy of Darcy Pfeiffer)



Constitution & Bylaws



Rose Ann Dziegłowicz
Department Chair

Constitution & Bylaws can be confusing when trying to understand where a rule should reside. Should it be in the Constitution, the Bylaws, or the Standing Rules? Structuring your governing documents in a way every member can grasp and understand will help ensure success for your Unit.

The Constitution should contain articles that are rarely changed. They are the backbone of your organization. Bylaws are the governing regulations of your Unit. In your Unit, this should include how you govern your Unit and any fundamental rules voted on by your organization. Bylaws should be amended at least every five (5) years as needed and supported by your Standing Rules. Standing Rules include details of how you administer your Unit. They can be adopted or changed in the same way as any other act of your Unit. They should be more specific and provide details about provisions in the Bylaws. They can be amended as often as needed to keep your Unit up to date.

It is a good policy to have a Constitution & Bylaws committee review your document yearly. This is not the time to have any individual do it themselves. If changes are necessary, they will need to be presented to your Unit at a meeting for full disclosure and discussion. Next, they will need to be voted on by the members at the next Unit meeting. In some Units, they may need to be read two times before voting. Check your Constitution & Bylaws to see what the rule is for your Unit.

Remember to keep good records of when changes are made and update the Unit's official document. This is a corporate record, and all members are entitled to see it, so it's a good idea to make it easily available to your membership.

I look forward to reading your reports at the end of the year. Remember, there is the Sally Wilhelm Monetary Award to the Unit and/or District Chair who sends in the best year-round narrative. Have a great ALA year!

Leadership



Peggy Eagen
Department Chair

The purpose of the Leadership Committee is to better equip members to serve in leadership positions with confidence and the skills needed to succeed.

The true meaning of leadership is what people do together. Said another way, everyone in an organization contributes to leadership.

No matter the experience, education, or technical skills, anyone can be trained to be a leader if they are willing to make a commitment, devote their time, learn, and communicate. That describes all the Auxiliary members that attended Fall Conference.

Please take all the information in your Fall Packets back to your Units and Districts. Highlight the deadlines and then adhere to them. Deadlines are very important.

Publications that are useful and can be purchased from Emblem Sales:

- The new Unit Guidebook
- National Constitution & Bylaws

- Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised
- Robert's Rules of Order in Brief
- Parliamentary Procedure Booklet
- Prayer Book
- Poppy Program Guide Junior Activities Handbook
- V&R Volunteer Guidebook
- Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette

We all need to nurture a "Culture of Goodwill." Do not gossip about a person whose opinion is different than yours; be open, not critical of the ideas of others; practice kindness, generosity and gratitude; just to name a few qualities of strong leaders. We need to get along for the betterment of the American Legion Auxiliary. Think about how much better our meeting would be if we followed these principles.

I am hoping to receive a lot of nominations for The American Legion Auxiliary Unit Member of the Year award. This is open to senior members who are not currently - nor have ever been - in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than Unit President. Your Unit must submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less to me by May 15, 2025. Peggy Eagen, 2137 Dickenson Road, Apartment 202, Chesterton, IN 46304.

Describe the nominee's accomplishments and activities and include their name and address. There are awards to be won for leadership. The Rosie Newman Department Award should be submitted directly to Rosie. Addition-

al awards include: Department Chair Award, National Leadership Award, and Unit Award. They are listed in the Leadership PEP found in your packets.

Many resources can be found at www.ALAFORVeterans.org.

Tidbits from me:

If you fail, never give up because F.A.I.L. means *First Attempt In Learning*.

End is not the end. E.N.D means *Effort Never Dies*.

If you get no for an answer, remember that N.O. means *Next Opportunity*.

And last but not least, we are more powerful when we empower others.

Now, let's get out and "Ring Bells for Veterans" and make President Roxy proud.

Public Relations

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Everyone likes cute kids and a positive story!

- Inform us about your fundraisers to assist our veterans and tell us why it's important! Drum up some excitement about what you're doing and take pictures! Remember, less text will do as pictures paint 1000 words!

Good luck, and as always, send me a text or email to get more specifics and know-how about Public Relations!

Installation Speech

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that a very important person enters or leaves the ship, and for keeping time. Bells ring on the hour and the half hour. Thus, the "Ringing of the Bells for Our Veterans" for many of the same reasons. To let them know we are here for them, no matter the circumstances or the need.

One of my projects this year is the Otis R. Center for Human Services, also known as "The Vets House" located on Cold Spring Road in Indianapolis. It offers a safe, comfortable, home-like environment for veterans receiving extended outpatient medical care and for family members of hospitalized veteran patients. It has 28 fully furnished guest rooms with private bathrooms, a double kitchen, with two large refrigerators, stoves, and sinks. It is set up where two families can prepare food at the same time. Equipped with about everything needed to prepare meals, except the food. Many condiments are furnished, coffee and coffee pots, mixers, dishes, pots and pans, baking dishes and pans. Many residents will fix meals and share with others in the house, as well as sharing extra food such as

milk, extra eggs, snacks. Often, someone will fix something like a pot of soup or a meatloaf and put a sign up that it's available for everyone.

All laundry and cleaning supplies are furnished as well as two washers and dryers. Shuttle service to and from Roudebush hospital run several times during the week.

One time when my husband, Jerry, was there and a security guard helped take him to the hospital during the night rather than call the ambulance. The employees are very helpful and like family members.

Downstairs there is a very nice "work out" area and a very large room for games, watching TV, several books to read, a children's area with a doll house, many toys, and a very popular table for many uses but there is usually a puzzle started, and people stop to add puzzle pieces to it. When it's finished another one is usually started.

The house is available for veterans that are hospitalized or need extended outpatient care and for their families, that live 50 miles or more from the hospital. It doesn't cost anything to stay there. It is made possible by a very generous grant from the

Lilly Endowment and from donations.

My other project is the Indiana Veterans Home in West Lafayette. As you know the Home is available for honorably discharged Indiana veterans, their spouses and for Gold Star parents.

I will be meeting with them soon to discuss their needs and will announce what my project will be for the year.

Now is the time to announce our special guests (American Legion leaders were introduced and brought greetings).

I would now like to introduce the 2024-2025 Honorary Junior President Grace Otey.

The Juniors are very important to our organization and our future leaders. It's going to be exciting to work with them this year!

I would like to introduce a longtime friend Ed Trice.

I would like to introduce another longtime friend Russ Bauer, the Director of the Patriot Guards and an 18-year American Legion Riders. He recently was awarded the "American Legion Riders Of Honor."

At this time, I would like for the Department Membership Chair Sherri McGee along with her membership team: Northern Chair, Diann Scott; Central Chair

President's Message

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goals. Keep the bells ringing Sherri!

As you look over the Program Engagement Plan (PEP), study it and share it with your members. Discuss them and help explain the object of the plan so your chairs will know how to move forward with their chairmanships. Our Department Chairs are ready to present the plan and answer any questions you might have. Most have listed websites that might clarify more about the chairmanships as well as some ideas on how to present it. Work it and have fun with it. Look over the merit report and the year-end reports so you will know what needs to be reported and when. Please pay close attention to the due dates for reports, poppy orders, scholarships, mandatory fees, etc.

We will soon observe Veterans Day on November 11. A time to thank and to honor all who served honorably in the military - in wartime or peacetime. A celebration to honor American's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and the willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

We are here to help our veterans, their families and our communities. We are proud to be a part of the American Legion family. Be sure to Ring the Bells for our Veterans.

Tina James; and Southern Chair, Donna Mills.

Membership is our key to success, and we have a great team this year. We already have a challenge with the rest of the Central Division. We must work together and work membership and show Central Division how Indiana works hard for our veterans and why Indiana rings bells for success!

Again, I would like to say a special thank you to my wonderful family and friends for your love and support. To the American Legion family for having faith in me and supporting me.

I am the 2nd person to become Department President from Wabash Unit 15, the first was Lucille Downey in 1920. The Auxiliary was founded in 1919 and their mission is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military and their family.

It is truly an honor to belong to the American Legion family and to serve as your 2024-2025 Department of Indiana President. I promise to do my best.

Legislative



Connie Banks
Department Chair

Greetings Auxiliary members. The purpose of the Legislative committee is to provide information and assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion. The Department of Indiana ALA Legislative program is a great opportunity for members to get out and start "Ringing Bells for our veterans and all matters concerning their well-being.

Keys to a successful and effective legislative program are: 1. Learn and understand issues our veterans are experienc-

ing; 2. Identify your legislators (Federal: www.senate.gov; www.house.gov; State: www.congress.gov; and Local); 3. Build relationships with legislators. The best method is through frequent, professional, polite contact. RE-MEMBER, we are representing the Auxiliary, and it is imperative that we conduct ourselves accordingly, and last; 4. Communicate with your legislators and their staff.

Get to know your legislative representatives for your respective areas. Request their support to pass legislation that will enhance our veterans' lives and those in their families. Submitting letters, emails, and phone calls in support of veteran-related issues does have influence! I know this can seem like a daunting task, or maybe even a little intimidating to contact our legislators, but there are many resources to assist us in becoming successful advocates for our veterans. One resource that I highly recommend is the ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide. It can be found on the ALA National website at www.legion-aux.org. Sign in to access the member portal and locate "Guides."

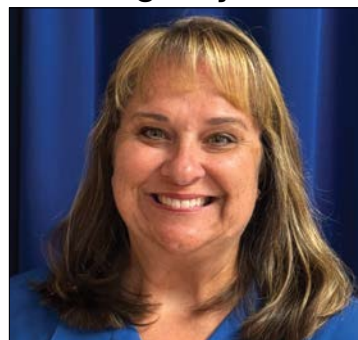
I would strongly encourage you to review and utilize this guide for your Units and Districts. The guide can be downloaded or ordered from the website. Other legislative resources are: www.legion.org/legislative - This is the American Legion national website for legislative information; www.votervoices.net/AmericanLegion/Register - this is The American Legion Grass Roots Center website that allows you to sign up for alerts, find officials, and legislation; www.govtrack.us/congress - This website is for Indiana congressional legislators/map and bills information.

Please remember to document all emails, phone calls, letters, and visits throughout the year. It will make your year-end reporting much easier and more accurate.

I am looking forward to a great legislative year advocating for our veterans and assisting you with this especially important program.



Auxiliary Emergency Fund



Jenny Tracy
Department Chair

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) provides crucial financial assistance to those affected by natural disasters like hurricanes and floods. In times of crisis, the AEF helps cover essential needs such as temporary housing, food, and medical supplies, enabling individuals and families to begin recovery. The importance of the AEF is especially evident after recent catastrophic events.

Our community's strength shines when we support one another. The AEF embodies this spirit of solidarity, providing aid to those in need. We urge every member to act. Your contributions, whether big or small, can make a significant difference. By donating, volunteering, or spreading the word, you can help ensure no

one faces these challenges alone. Together, we can rebuild lives and restore hope.

As of early October, we have received \$2,731.01 for the AEF. To increase our donation by 10%, the Department of Indiana needs to contribute \$41,306.87. Each District and its Units need to raise \$3,300 over the next six months. This may seem like a lofty goal, but I encourage you to dig deep and push through this challenge. By donating to the AEF, you are helping veterans and their families. That's right - our members are veterans or family members of veterans. We need to support those in crisis and keep our community strong.

Helping our own doesn't mean ignoring others; it means recognizing the importance of our immediate community as a foundation for broader support. By caring for our members in need today, we build a stronger community that can extend greater support to our veterans in the future. Be proactive and work to raise funds to ensure our members can apply for relief in times of need.

Here are some fundraising ideas for the AEF:

- Virtual Cooking Classes: Partner with local chefs to host online or live cooking classes.

continued on page 8

Americanism



Michelle Woodburn
Department Chair

Hello and welcome to the Americanism team! I am honored to serve as your Americanism chair for the 2024-2025 Auxiliary year. The Americanism Essay Contest topic for the year is, "What Does America the Beautiful Mean to Me?" All entries are due to me by April 10, 2025, the cover sheet must be included with all entries. You can find information on the department and national websites. There are coloring sheets available on the national website under the Americanism program when you log in. If you have problems logging in, please let me know. I can walk you through it.

Encourage all your Units to start contacting your schools NOW! Tell them about all the great programs, contests, and activities we can assist with inside the schools, and try to get teachers to work on the essays in Janu-

ary as part of a classroom project or assignment. This gives them and you time to review them, select a winner, and meet the deadlines. Work with your local posts and do things as a family. Remember the Oratorical competition, Junior Shooting Sports, Baseball, and more programs. This is a great way to support each other as an American Legion family. Teach flag history, etiquette, when and how to display the flag, how to fold a flag properly showing what each fold represents, and proper disposal of the flag; this can be done at local schools, with girl scouts, boy scouts, and other organizations. Participate in the Wreaths Across America program to honor our deceased heroes with a wreath. Please send me photos and a small paragraph for each of your events as you go throughout the year. This way I can brag on you to our national organization and show the great work that Indiana is doing. I cannot wait to see all the great things your Units are doing!

National news:
Mission Training sessions upcoming (Des Moines, IA is Central Division location):
Would you like to learn more about working the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary? Would you like to network with national leaders and other members in your district who share your passion and enthusiasm for helping our veterans? During this 1-day conference, you'll be in-

spired while learning more about working the ALA's core programs in an interactive and fun environment. Many of the American Legion Auxiliary Mission Outreach programs will be covered during this conference.

Is Mission Training Right for you?

- Yes - if you are interested in meeting members and national leaders outside of your local area who share your passion for helping veterans!
- Yes - if you want to share great ideas with other members across the country or renew your enthusiasm for our mission!
- Yes - if you find yourself growing more involved and you don't know where to turn for the information you need, or you have been doing the same activities for years and you want a fresh approach!

**2024-2025
ALA Mission Training &
National Junior Meetings**
Nashville - November 16
Denver - November 16
Des Moines - January 25
Las Vegas - February 1
Boston - February 1

[Click Here to Register](#)

Community Service



Heather Elson
Department Chair

Greetings Auxiliary Members! I hope you are finding a variety of ways to make those bells ring! We want to show our communities just how important they are, and you never know when a new member might join from a day of service.

As this year goes by, I know a lot of Units and Districts will be serving their communities. Did you do something for 9/11 Remembrance Day? Maybe your Unit or District participated in a Make a Difference Day or donated supplies to those affected by the hurricanes. Other ideas are participating in awareness walks for causes such as Alzheimer's, breast cancer, suicide prevention, etc. Community breakfast days or a coat drive are also great ways to serve our communities. These all count toward community service.

I hope every Unit works closely with their Post in creating an American Legion Family Day on April 26. This day showcases

all the accomplishments that our Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders have done. It's a great time to bring awareness to our "Be The One" initiative. Think of it as an open house to show our communities why we have been around for over 100 years serving our veterans, military, and their families. Our communities have seen our buildings and have visited for a variety of events, but do they truly know what we are about and how we are there to support not only our veterans but them as well? This is our time to shine!

Some ideas are holding blood drives, cookouts, scavenger hunts, and cornhole tournaments. I am excited to see photos and narratives about how your Post family celebrates.

When creating community service projects, make sure there are opportunities for your Juniors to help. Ask for their advice and get those creative juices flowing because when young and more mature minds come together, the unthinkable can occur.

Please send me any pictures taken at any community service project with a brief description of what is happening in the picture along with the event details. The more that you send throughout the year, the easier it will be during reporting time. My email is: heather-4veterans@gmail.com.

CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER

The Department of Indiana is selling "Port Authority Dress Navy Blue Jackets" with the Creative Arts Festival logo and Team Indiana beautifully featured on the jacket. All proceeds will go towards the National Creative Arts Hospitality Room Fund May 2025.

For more information and/or to order, please [click](#)





Evansville State Hospital

Cheryl Brady, Associate Representative

Jocelyn Curtis and I have been loving our time spent with the veterans at Evansville State Hospital! We recently had a staff change with the facility's activity director. The new director is still learning the ropes but we look forward to working with her. We all eventually have to retire, so we wish the best to Teresa who retired from the ac-

tivity director position.

At present, we have 14 veterans residing at Evansville State Hospital. This is the highest I have experienced in the 12+ years I have been the



Louisville Robley Rex VA Medical Center

Jennifer Moulden, Hospital Director

I was recently appointed the Department Hospital Director and also remain the Associate Representative for the Louisville Robley Rex VA Medical Center. Initially, I thought this to be very challenging but thanks to the excellent organization skills of my predecessor, Dottie McIntyre, I may have an understanding of my role.

I have reviewed all the reports and submissions in the Hospital Director binder and peeked at the very well-organized records from past years that were presented to me in a cardboard box ... the box is significant because I have cats, Chessie and Peake! Peake took over the box immediately. I moved the files to a tote to accommodate him. It's not as cushiony without the files and he doesn't seem to be as attached but it is still a box for his entertainment. I have a small home office that doubles as a craft/sewing room and have carved out a niche for District/Department ALA business.

At the request of Madam President, Roxy, I sent a brief bio to all the other Reps, Deputies, and Associate Reps. It saddens me that we lost Sandy McCool and I assume there is a protocol in place to find a replacement unless her Deputy wishes to step up. I have also submitted a name for the Associate Deputy position at the Louisville VA; we've not had one for several years. I hope to be meeting soon with Madam President for more detailed expectations from her. Communication with the other hospital reps will most likely be thru email due to the geographics. I am receiving their monthly reports. I am planning to attend some District Meetings with Department Visitation and some of the Holiday Gift Wraps! Speaking of, it's time to wrap up this segment and move on to the Louisville VA.

I still work a part time job and recently had a knee replacement. The

associate hospital representative. We never know why most of them are there, but we pray that they will find their way back to living in the outside world with the help and services they receive while at the hospital.

Each month we spend the monies provided and donated to celebrate and uplift the veterans. Some activities that we host include birthday recognition, bingo, or just spending time eating dessert and talking! I always come away with much more than I feel I gave to them!

We would like to give a special thanks to all the Units who donate to the Veterans Shower held each fall; it goes a long way in taking care of our veterans!

bad knee hampered a lot of physical activity in the past year so not too much visitation was done on an inpatient basis. However, I delivered items monthly to the medical center. Significant activities at the facility are food pantry for those veterans identified with food insecurities, Thanksgiving baskets (food received from several Units in the 8th District as well as monetary donations for perishable items), seventy-five veterans received a blanket/throw at Christmas, Annual Female Veterans Baby Shower (Units donated items and I purchased 30 receiving blankets with Department funds), annual Female Veterans Open House, two bicycles were donated and the ongoing monthly needs were delivered. Due to a work schedule conflict, I attended three of the four quarterly CDCE meetings and the annual Volunteer Awards Banquet. Because of my surgery, I was unable to participate in the annual Run For The Wall event and the annual picnic. The 8th District Units are always happy to support my occasional requests for veterans at the VA. The following is a breakdown of funds and in-kind/personal donations:

Department funds: \$1627.89; hours at VA: 14 = \$419.86; shopping hours: 24 = \$659.68; personal and in-kind donations: \$1225.24; mileage: 390 = \$54.60; bridge tolls: \$34.00; estimated number of veterans served: 477 and a total of eight volunteers provided these services. A snapshot of "Lights, Camera and Action" reveals a total value of \$4021.27 to support our efforts "starring veterans."

Now, we move forward to "Ringling Our Bells for Veterans" with a few exciting 'rings' ... the new Louisville Robley Rex VA Medical Center is expected to open in the Fall of 2025; the most recent value of a volunteer hour is now \$33.49; and the IRS allowance for mileage remains at .14 per mile. Be sure to record and report. "Ringling Our Bells for Veterans" before Congress! Be safe, be joyful, and be blessed, my friends!

Hines Hospital

Barbara J. Sales,
Associate Representative

The 1st District American Legion Family: Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons of the Legion make up our volunteer team. The Legion Co-Chairs are Dan Mills, Post 20, Crown Point and Jim Grauvogl, Post 16, Munster. Jim is also very active in the DAV and has enlisted several volunteers from that organization.

Many of the residents of the Spinal Unit and the nursing home look forward to our visits. These folks have few visitors and have become close to our volunteers because sometimes we are the only outside people they see.

Lowell Unit 101 member, Phyllis DeFrance, has made large patriotic red, white, and blue door wreaths for every veteran in the Spinal Unit. When a veteran is able to go home, they are allowed to take the wreath and Phyllis replaces it. It sure brightens up their area and the nurses always thank us for the visits and joy we bring these veterans.

The Units of the 1st District are very generous in donating items for the "comfort packs." These small token gifts brighten our veteran's day and allow us to thank them for their service.

A big thank you Pat Klaas and Mary Ann Graden for their faithful service in preparing the comfort packs each month. We gather Kleenex, soap, shampoo, combs, pens, puzzle books etc. and we make approximately 320 comfort packs each month.

The Volunteer Service at Hines will be having their annual Creative Arts program in the spring. We will support that along with the Fisher House update project. In August, we participated in the "Baby Shower for Veterans" and provided two "Pizza Parties" for the extended care unit.

In November, the veterans receive a small American flag with their comfort pack that they proudly display in their rooms. The 1st District will be "Ringling Bells For Our Veterans" on the fourth Saturday of the month bringing joy and friendship to our Hines Hospital veterans.



Poppy



Tamra Everhart
Department Chair

I hope you are all "Ringling Bells" for our veterans to promote the poppy program in our communities!

The poppy program is one of our most visible programs, so it is vital that we educate our communities about the poppy's meaning and the ALA. We should be promoting the poppy year-round, not just in May. There are many ways to do this. Simply by wearing a poppy, you may spark a conversation and provide an opportunity to educate others about the poppy and the ALA, and potentially gain a new member. Be sure to involve your Legion family, especially your Juniors and

young SAL members, not only in distributing poppies but in all that you do. I can't wait to hear about the creative ways Units promote the poppy this year!

There are lots of contests and awards, so please refer to the PEP. I'm really hoping for an Indiana Little Miss Poppy! In the meantime, make sure you are taking pictures. On our Zoom call, National poppy chair Diana Sirovina requested that I send her pictures throughout the year. She prefers action shots, so if you have any digital pictures to share, please send them to me along with the 5 W's (who, what, when, where, why) so I can share them with Diana and hopefully get us on the big screen at the National Convention!

Have you started promoting the Poppy Poster Contest? If not, now is the perfect time. Units should work with local schools, Junior Auxiliary members, and other local youth organizations. When working with your community, think outside the box. Reach out to your local library about collaborating on a Poppy Poster Contest, and don't forget to check with local homeschool organizations. The guidelines must be followed for these posters to move up to the National level; you can

find them in your Fall Packet or on the Department website under the Poppy PEP. Consider using flyers and templates available on the National website when promoting the poppy program. This one is ideal for promoting the Poppy Poster Contest! https://member.legion-aux.org/CMSDesk/ALA/media/PDF/Templates/ALA_Flyer_Temp-05.pdf

At Fall Conference, there was a question about using poppy funds for Creative Arts, and the answer is yes for the festival itself and no for the hospitality room. On page 12 of the Poppy Program Guide, which you can get from Emblem Sales or download from the National website https://member.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Guides/ALA_Poppy_Guide.pdf, it states that we may use poppy funds to support veteran creative arts festivals at any level. The guide advises sending your donation for the national festival straight to national; however, on our Zoom call last month, we were told to send donations through Department. If you want to donate to the national veteran's creative arts festival, send your donation to Department and earmark it for the national festival.

I have been asked about where

the money from the Poppy Can contest at Spring Conference will go. The money will support The Honor Flight Network to facilitate Honor Flights in Indiana. If you don't know about Honor Flights, they take WWII, Korea, and Vietnam veterans to Washington, DC, to see the memorials built in their honor at no cost to the veterans. It's a wonderful program, and I'm glad we can use our poppy funds to support it.

Poppy orders were due October 31. If you haven't ordered your poppies, do it now!

Get out there and Ring those Bells for our veterans and promote the poppy!

American Legion Indiana 2024 Veterans Day Parade

The American Legion Indiana District 11 and Legion Headquarters have taken point for officially getting the Legion entered in the parade. The Legion's participation in the parade for the past two years has been very limited. This year, we want to let good people who live and work in our area know that we are proud veterans!

If your Legion Post, SAL Squadron or Auxiliary signs up for the parade, you will be allowed to carry your flag that says which Post, SAL Squadron, or Auxiliary Unit you represent. We encourage your participation -- show your pride and honor our veterans!

For more information, go to <https://www.aladepin.org/>

Honorary Junior President Project 2024-2025



Junior Activities



Stephanie Cutter
Department Chair

Hello,
My name is Grace Otey, and I am the 2024-25 Honorary Junior Auxiliary President.

This year, my project will be HVAF which stands for Helping Veterans and Families. As young as I am, I understand the importance of giving back to those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom. That's why I feel it is so crucial that I support what HVAF does and why your support is so vital.

Every day, veterans and their families face challenges that many of us can't even begin to imagine. But organizations like HVAF provide a beacon of hope in their lives.

Please help me help them with donations from your Units and Districts. I have made many individual handcrafted bottles to light the way for them. I am offering them for \$35 each. To order these bottles, please contact me at 317-363-7889. You may send checks for my project to Department Headquarters with "Junior President Project" on the memo line.



Juniors across the Department of Indiana are off to a great start this year. The first Junior meeting of the year was held during the Department Fall Conference in September, and there are plenty of activities scheduled for the remainder of the year. Honorary Department Junior President, Grace Otey, has announced her President's Project and has already raised nearly half of her \$10,000 goal for HVAF. We are excited to see what is to come in the following months.

The Junior Meeting at the Department Fall Conference was attended by 14 Junior members. The Junior meeting was kicked off by a special presentation from Department Parliamentarian Lisa Liford on Friday night. The remainder of the Junior conference's was held on Saturday during the normal session. While Senior members were learning about this year's programs, our Junior members were learning about the American Legion Family and programs pertaining to their activities. The day started with Junior President Grace opening the meeting and encouraging the Junior members to share their most recent volunteer activities.

Throughout the day, the Juniors were joined by various Department Chairs who discussed their programs with them. Together the Juniors and Chairs compiled ideas

and ways they can work each of the programs throughout the year. All these ideas are being shared on the ALA Department of Indiana Juniors Facebook group. This group is open to all Department of Indiana members. Each District Junior Activities Chair will receive an email with this information.

Junior President Grace has two goals for this year. The first goal is to raise \$10,000 to support HVAF. If your Juniors raise any funds for this project, please send the donations to the Department headquarters with "Junior President Project" in the memo line. The second goal is to increase Junior engagement across the Department of Indiana. This goal coincides with the new Junior Merit Sheet. Juniors are encouraged to complete activities throughout the year, fill in the appropriate number of points, and submit their sheets at the end of the year. There will be awards for each of the top earners in four age categories.

Juniors are also encouraged to attend National Junior meetings. Registration for these meetings can be found on the National American Legion Auxiliary website. The remaining Department Junior Meetings this year are: March 8th at Lafayette Unit 492 and Indiana Veterans Home; and June 14th at Speedway Post 500. More information can be found in the Junior Activities Program Engagement Plan.

If you have an active Junior Activities program, please join the ALA Department of Indiana Juniors Facebook group and share any and all news about your Juniors. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Junior Activities Chair, Stephanie Cutter at streich23@gmail.com.



AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November – Education

- 2nd 7th District Visitation – Lyons #479
- 6th 11th District Visitation, Wayne Post #64
- 11th Veterans Day
- 11th Veterans Day Parade
- 13th 2nd District Visitation, West Lafayette #492
- 28-29th Thanksgiving Holiday (Office Closed)
- 30th Deadline for all mandatory fees to Dept. Headquarters
- 20th Roudebush Christmas Gift Wrap @ Brownsburg Post 331, 12:30 p.m.

December – Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

- 3rd Marion, IN VAMC
- 6th Dept Auxiliary Christmas Party (11am-2pm)
- 14th Wreaths Across America - IVH
- 14th IVH Gift Wrap 10:00 am
- 18th IVH Christmas Party 2:00 pm
- 20th Richmond Christmas Gift Wrap
- 24th -31st Christmas Holiday (Office Closed)

January – National Security 2025

- 1st Office Closed
- 10-12th TAL Mid-Winter Conference, Marriott East Hotel, Indianapolis
- 16th Martin Luther King Jr. Day observed (Office Closed)

February – Americanism & Legislative

- 11th-12th Lincoln Pilgrimage
- 12th Lincoln's Birthday
- 20th President's Day (Office Closed)
- 20th Washington's Birthday
- 24th-28th Washington DC, NEC Trip

District Meetings

- November 2: District 7, Lyons Post 479 (Department Visitation)
- November 6: District 1, Crown Point 20
- November 6: District 11, KND Indy 64 (Department Visitation)
- November 9: District 3, Michigan 451
- November 9: District 9, Rising Sun 59
- November 12: District 6, Newport 184
- November 13: District 2, West Lafayette 492 (Department Visitation)
- November 16: District 5, Fairmount 313
- November 17: District 8, Evansville 265

- December 4: District 11, Beech Grove 276
- December 6: District 1, Griffin 66
- December 10: District 10, Rushville 150
- December 11: District 4, Fort Wayne 241
- December 14: District 8, Ferdinand 124
- December TBA: District 6

- January 3: District 1, Cedar Lake 61
- January 11: District 3, LaPorte 83
- January 18: District 5, Kokomo 6
- January 18: District 7, Linton 22
- January 19: District 6, Carmel 155
- January 19: District 8, Milltown 332

- February 1: District 7, Spencer Post 285
- February 8: District 3, South Bend 357
- February 8: District 9, French Lick 76
- February 12: District 2, IVH
- February 12: District 4, Auburn 97
- February 13: District 10, Yorktown 321
- February 15: District 5, VanBuren 368
- February 16: District 8, Holland 343
- February 16: District 6, Fishers 470

GIFT WRAP DATES

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Roudebush VAMC | Wed., Nov. 20 @ Post 331 | 12:30 pm |
| Danville, Illinois VAMC | Tues., Dec. 3 | 9:00 am |
| Marion, Indiana VAMC | Tues., Dec. 3 | 9:00 am |
| Danville, Illinois VAMC | Thurs., Dec. 5 | 9:00 am |
| Roudebush VAMC | Wed., Nov. 20 @ Post 331 | 12:30 pm |
| Indiana Veterans Home | Sat., Dec. 14 | 10:00 am |

Note: Please contact the hospital representative or chair if you will be unable to send items by November 1st. She/he needs to know before purchasing additional items. Thank you.

American Legion Department of Indiana

Website: <http://www.aladeptin.org>

Facebook page: American Legion Department of Indiana



PRESIDENT ROXY'S INSTALLATION



Department Membership Chair Sherri McGee outlines this year's membership plan.



Honorary Junior President Grace Otey, newly-elected Department President, and out-going Department President Cherrill.



PDP Louise Loyd expresses great pride for a job well down as she presents Cherril Threth her NEC ribbon.



PDP Thelma Butler offers a heartfelt congratulatory hug to President Roxy as she assumes the duties of President.



President Roxy steps to center stage as the Department's 2024-25 President!



President Roxy surrounded by her family who attended her installation.



The 2024-25 District Presidents affectionately known as President Roxy's District Daughters.



Newly Elected President Roxy is escorted to the stage by her grandson Thomas.



President Roxy gives her installation address.



Newly-elected Department Commander, Robert "Rob" Burkart addresses the attendees.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund *continued from page 5*

- Pet Photo Contest: Hold a pet photo contest with entry fees and prizes.
- Social Media Challenges: Create a viral challenge – remember the ALS Ice Bucket challenge - perhaps we create a Ring the Bell Challenge.
- Local Restaurant Partnership: Host a fundraising night at a local restaurant (Dine and Donate).
- Spend-Nothing Challenge: Encourage supporters to spend no money for a day and donate what they would have spent.
- DIY Workshops: Host workshops where participants can learn new skills.
- Holiday Gift Wrapping: Offer gift-wrapping services during the holiday season.
- Valentine's Day Grams: Sell and de-

liver Valentine's Day cards and treats.

- Community Mural Project: Create a community mural where people can donate to paint a section or paint your Post's parking lot.
- Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt: Organize a scavenger hunt in your community.
- Digital Detox Challenge: Encourage participants to unplug from their devices for a day and get sponsors.
- Cultural Festival: Celebrate different cultures with food, music, and dance.

With this said, I would like to introduce you to the AEF Cardinal Tree fundraiser.

For a donation of \$3, you can honor or memorialize a special person with a cardinal made out of paper. This tribute can be made for anyone, whether they are affiliated with the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) or not. If the person is connected to a Unit, District, or Department, you can include that information, along with details about the person sending the tribute. Think of it

like the old days when you could donate a few dollars and add a name to a cause at a gas station. These tributes can be collected at posts, during District meetings, or even virtually. We encourage Units and Districts to manage these tributes themselves, being creative on how to display the information for members to see. A communication will be sent to District and Unit leaders by Thanksgiving providing instructions and a starter kit. We have also made arrangements for orders to be placed directly with the Department. For each submission, the cost is \$3 {so if you want to participate at the Unit Level, District level, and Department level; a submission will cost \$9 (\$3 each location)}. As the AEF Chair, I will handle the initial fund collection so all monies will be shared with me and then transferred to the Department (while working closely with the Department Treasurer and Finance Team). There will be an AEF Cardinal Tree display at the Joint Spring Conference, so please provide your submissions by March

30th. Please note: We will accept submissions at this event, but these entries will be displayed at CONVENTION (deadline 7/1/25). This simple act of remembrance not only honors loved ones but also supports a meaningful cause.

We are accepting orders NOW: <https://forms.office.com/r/434LbKtsav>

In conclusion, the AEF is a lifeline for those affected by natural disasters, providing essential support when it's needed most. As a community, our strength lies in our ability to come together and help one another. By contributing to the AEF, whether through donations, volunteering, or spreading the word, we can make a significant impact. When it comes to supporting the AEF, let's make sure we "ring in" success with every effort. Your contributions will "resonate" throughout our community, ensuring we all hear the sound of hope and recovery. Keep up the great work and let's keep those bells ringing!



Ringling Bells Across Indiana

2024-25 President's Projects

Dr. Otis R. Bowen Veterans House, also known as The Indy Vets House on Cold Spring Road in Indianapolis, is operated by Roudebush VA Medical Center. It's a "home away from home" for hospitalized veterans, veterans receiving extended outpatient medical care, and for their family members. It features 28 fully furnished rooms with private wheelchair accessible bathrooms, a modern, fully-equipped kitchen, dining area, laundry, and recreation rooms. The house is available for veterans that are hospitalized or need extended outpatient care and their families that live 50 miles or more from the hospital. It doesn't cost anything to stay there and is made possible by a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment and from donations.

Indiana Veterans Home (IVH) located in West Lafayette, Indiana, offers long-term, skilled nursing care, short-term rehabilitation, independent living, and memory care to honorably discharged Indiana veterans and their spouses. Since 2018, they are accepting Gold Star parents. The Home provides many on-site services in a renovated, homelike settings. It also offers veteran-specific programs and events.



The Fall Conference held at the Marriott Hotel East was standing room only with attendees!



President Roxy has officially begun her Department Visitation! (Photo courtesy of District 5).



The Indiana Delegation at the National Convention held in New Orleans August 23-29, 2024.



Peggy Eagen, Department Leadership Chair, held a leadership workshop in Kokomo (Photo courtesy of Susi Greathouse).



The Legion Family had the honor of presenting the flag at the Indianapolis Colt's game held August 11, 2024.



Department Juniors at this year's Fall Conference.



Our Fall Conference Distinguished Guest Rosemarie Hauck, Central Division National Vice President, is escorted to the stage by Indiana's PDP Karen Lowe.



ALA Unit 18's Edwynna Nolan and her daughter, Carla, represented the Auxiliary at the Heroes 5K Race (photo courtesy of Unit 18).



Congratulations Jenny Tracy, Burton Woolery Unit 18, who earned the VA&R National President's Award of Excellence (photo courtesy of Unit 18).



Auxiliary members across the state participated in community Trunk or Treat events. Pictured Rhonda, Sarah, and Lucy representing Speedway Unit 500 (photo courtesy of District 11).



Thank you to Jasonville Unit 172 of the 7th District for providing school supplies to a Shakamak school (photo courtesy of Brittany Schofield).

Let's hear how you're ringing bells across the Department. If you have a photo or event you would like featured, please reach out to HANeditor@ameritech.net.