



ARLENE HOLTGRAVE

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Illinois President



Building a Brighter
Future for
Our Veterans

2024 ILLINOIS 2025

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR OUR VETERANS

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Travels of President Arlene



(Top Left) Group photo at the January Family Membership Caravan.

(Top Right) National President Trish Ward and Department President Arlene Holtgrave hoping for good luck from President Lincoln.

(Bottom Left) National Leadership and President Arlene Holtgrave presenting membership awards to 4th Division President Nora Hanaver and Vice President Diane Shapland.

(Bottom Right) Department Leadership with National SAL Commander Joseph Navarrete at the Family Membership Caravan.



**Arlene
Holtgrave**



**Joe
Lampert**

Hello everyone! It's still winter in Illinois! I'm ready for spring! In January and February, we have had more snow, ice and cold weather than I care to remember.

It did not stop us, it may have hindered us some, but we accomplished the Family Membership Caravan all around the state, Mission Training in Nevada, back to Illinois for Lincoln Pilgrimage. March continues with the Oratorical Contest March 1. Bring the junior auxiliary members to Junior Conference March 15-16 and don't forget the young SONs, they are invited too. Patriotic Conference/Spring Board meeting is March 21-22 at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield and SAL Detachment Commander Rick Allen's Homecoming is March 29th in Cullom. April is busy also but most importantly right now is Easter and the Haven Run. May brings the National Creative Arts Festival and POPPY DAYS. June is Illini Girls State and Boys State. These applicants do not need to be Legion Family members. July is the Department Convention. WOW! And there are Unit, District and Division meetings not mentioned. I hope to see you at all of them!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: ALA National Headquarters is implementing a three-month deadline instead of six months for Auxiliary Emergency Fund disaster applications effective **March 1, 2025**. This approach balances the need for urgency with accessibility, ensuring more efficient resource allocation and quicker recovery for ALA members. This change was discussed at the ALA ACADEMY zoom "How to apply for an Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) Grant" Feb. 19, 2025. The AEF is my special project this year and with all the natural disasters happening, all donations are greatly appreciated!

Remember scholarships! Some of them need to be working on the application process now, they all take time to obtain the information needed to apply accurately. Units, are your Education/Scholarship donations into Department?

Please take a moment and donate to my special project - The Auxiliary Emergency Fund!

(Continued on page 4)

Greetings,

I want to thank everyone who showed up and participated in our Legion Family Caravan. It was once again a successful and productive event. February was action packed with the 91st annual Lincoln Pilgrimage, Washington Conference and the High School Oratorical. I am looking forward to attending the Junior Conference, especially story time with Commander Joe! I also can't wait to participate in, one of my new favorite activities, Patriotic Conference! We will round out March with Commander Rick's homecoming in Cullom on the 29th.

This month's pillar is Americanism:

As we approach the 250th celebration of Independence in the United States in 2026, we must triple our efforts in community participation. The Americanism Commission encourages all departments to form relationships with their state America 250 Commissions and get a seat at the table for 2026 planning so that The American Legion is, again, leading by example. Also consider post participation in The Greatest American Cleanup on July 4th, 2026. Most states have a nationwide call to action called "Two Lights For Tomorrow" to commemorate the famous ride of Paul Revere on April 18th and 19th of this year that all posts could participate in! There is so much more, and The American Legion must lead the charge. The President of the United States signed an executive order on January 29th titled "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday" that employs a whole-government approach to the celebration in coordination with the non-profit America250 and many civil society leaders, like The American Legion. Americanism month this year is the opening salvo to celebrate 250 years of America in 2026 - so let's get fired up!



**Rick
Allen**



**Membership
Chairman**

Joyce Huelsmann

Greetings Legion Family

My trips have picked up. I attended the 4 Chaplains program in Arlington Heights at Post 208. It was very well done. If you have not been to the program, please attend. On Sunday, I attended Post 79 for the 100th Birthday for WWII Veteran Harlan "Pop" Bottles. These Veterans are the power and support that keeps us standing strong. February 11-12, it was time for the 91st Lincoln Pilgrimage. It was such a great event held in Springfield, Illinois, with 8 states that showed up. To help us celebrate, National Commander LaCoursiere, National President Trish Ward, National SAL Commander Joseph Navarrete were in attendance.

On Feb 21st, I got in the car and headed to the Washington DC Conference. I laid the Illinois' wreath at the Vietnam Memorial and visited the WWII Memorial, Korean Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, and the Tomb of the Unknown for the changing of the Guard. What a place to visit, it is quite moving. On Feb 28th, it was Oratorical time. We had 4 great contestants. This is a program built to teach our students to learn and speak more about the Constitution. Detachment held its Annual Dart tournament for Children and Youth, this turned out well. As March comes, it's time to attend the ALA Juniors and Young Sons Conference on March 15 and 16; ALA Patriotic Conference on March 21 and 22; and the Detachment Commander's Homecoming on March 29th.

Wow, what a great re-start in January and February on membership.

Department President Arlene Holtgrave and I have been busy with Legion family caravan in mid-January where we did manage to increase our percentage by a little over 2%. We also just attended the wonderful Lincoln Pilgrimage with our National Officers present along with national membership teams. I had the privilege of recognizing our top division & top 2 districts during this two-day affair. Congratulations to Division 4 President Nora Hanaver and Vice President Diane Shapland with 84.04% as of January 24 deadline. We recognized District 7 with 88.97%, but President Donna Hedrick was unable to attend. District 17 President Crystal Black was in second place at 86.03% and was in attendance but her Vice-President Mary Taylor was unable to attend.

I know many of you have been putting in a tremendous effort out there by doing your part with membership. We need to keep going! Please DO NOT slack off trying to get those members renewed and inviting new members to join this great organization in helping our veterans who have given so much to keep our country free and safe!

I am sure our juniors are looking forward to the upcoming Junior Conference on March 15 & 16 in Monticello and meeting with other young apprentices.

I am looking forward to seeing many of our journeymen/bricklayers (members) at the Patriotic Conference/Spring Board meeting on March 21 & 22 at the Abraham Lincoln DoubleTree Hotel.

Please remember the March 15 goal of 85% to help our Department of Illinois receive the Merit Medallion during the 2025 National Convention and have Illinois on the BIG Screen.

Units don't forget to complete those reports by April 20th.

PLEASE GET MEMBERSHIP DUES TURNED INTO THE DEPARTMENT ASAP!!

(President's message cont'd from pg. 2)

PLEASE! EVERY MEMBER WORK ON MEMBERSHIP! WE, THE DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS, NEED TO BE 85% BY MARCH 15. WE ARE ASKING FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES TO THE DEPARTMENT BY MARCH 10 TO HAVE SUFFICIENT TIME TO GET IT CALCULATED BY NATIONAL. RENEWALS, REJOINS, JUNIORS AND NEW MEMBERS ALL COUNT. We are counting on every member to help make Illinois proud when we are called to the stage at National Convention to receive this merit award!

Did you know that during the day Sunflowers look up to the sky (heavens) straight, tall and in darkness they look at each other!

Till next time...Stay Safe...Be Healthy and GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Points of Light Honoree—Pat Kowalski

Congratulations to our very own Pat Kowalski for being named a Point of Light Honoree. She is from Franklin Park Unit 974 and she has volunteered at Hines VA for over a decade. The veterans' smiles inspire her to volunteer to help care for these veterans who served out country. She would like to find more willing people to help volunteer to help veterans in their community to show gratitude for their service to our country.

We once again congratulate Pat Kowalski for being named a Point of Light Honoree and thank her for all she's done for Hines VA.



Team Illinois Items for Pam Ray!

Shirts/Cardigan: Small to XL \$55

2XL-4XL \$65

Buttons: \$2 each

We will be wearing them at installation in Tampa on August 27, 2025.

Get your order in now!!

Contact:

Sharon Conatser

Email: sconatser44@live.com Cell: 217-369-6211



2026 UNIT DATA FORM

Unit Dues Amount Information

I understand that the dues amount listed below will be printed on the membership renewal notices that will be mailed to each Senior member of our Unit.

UNITS ARE REQUIRED TO FILL OUT ALL INFORMATION BELOW

****Please note that Unit dues cannot be less than the Department and National per capita of \$29.00 for Seniors and \$3.35 for Juniors****

DATE _____

UNIT NAME _____

UNIT # _____ DISTRICT # _____

2026 SENIOR DUES OF THE UNIT ARE _____

2026 JUNIOR DUES OF THE UNIT ARE _____

Signature

Title

Phone Number

This is the only mailing of this form.

DUE BY APRIL 30

COMPLETE AND RETURN TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, PO BOX 1426, BLOOMINGTON, IL, 61702 or
email to: executivesecretary@ilala.org

American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State

Happy Spring! The ALA IGS Committee is dedicated to “Providing the building blocks and tools to our future voters and leaders for a bright civic and political future.”

The 84th session of ALA IGS will be held on the campus of Eastern Illinois University Sunday June 15th to Saturday June 21st, 2025. This is a life changing once in a lifetime opportunity for young ladies across Illinois. These young ladies will learn about the governmental process from the local to state level by participating in campaigning, voting, elections, what patriotism to our country means and so much more.

The ALA IGS Committee is asking each of you to add extra effort in the recruitment of ALA IGS participants. Our numbers are still down but, each year we have increased a little. If every Unit could find one young lady, we would have an attendance of over 400. Wow, would that be great! To underwrite the cost of our program we need a minimum of 350 girls attending. If your Unit is unable to provide a sponsorship, the ALA IGS Committee would be happy to assist in helping to secure a sponsoring Unit or Post. This year in addition to the application being online we developed an online interest form which has garnered positive results. With this interest form it is possible your Unit may be contacted by an ALA IGS Committee member inquiring about a sponsorship from your Unit. We do not want to deny any young lady the opportunity of attending ALA IGS.

To increase the awareness of the program we continue to reach out to all the high schools across Illinois via email and just recently we set up an account with School Links which is a platform for students informing them of available opportunities. We hope you have viewed our updated website and will utilize it to share with your delegates, their parents, and sponsors. Please know the Committee is always available to help, just ask.

Please let me know if you are hosting an orientation in your Unit or District so they can be shared on the ALA IGS website as well as our social media platforms. LFagan74@gmail.com.

The ALA IGS Committee has a few reminders:

- we will be awarding two Unit registration refund raffles, April 1st and May 1st for a completed application and check received into the office by those dates, we will notify you if you are a winner
- transportation is the delegates responsibility to get to and from Eastern Illinois University
- the delegates must attend the entire week
- the entire application needs to be filled out with their home or personal email, this helps us in their city placement at ALA IGS and allows us to reach out to them if necessary once school is out
- we will always graciously accept monetary donations
- we encourage you to check out our ALA IGS social media pages to shop our Amazon Wishlist.

This is the amazon wishlist link: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2A12JZNP4SZ8?ref=wl_share&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0BMQAABHTileVpG2cmGakB8S7CJKTdnkx13ed8YWfWzgc2yz6L2Y_LTeOwLK3KEFg_aem_ZX6JN-k-S8ov-i5pkcTcTQ

I am confident with all of us putting in that extra recruiting effort we will see our delegate numbers increase. We are looking forward to meeting all your awesome young ladies from across Illinois.

Linda Fagan
ALA IGS 2025 Director

FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICE USE ONLY

\$ _____ REG. FEE

2025 APPLICATION FOR ATTENDANCE AT AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ILLINI GIRLS STATE

Sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois

Please PRINT Legibly and Use a Dark Pen

Applicant's Name _____
(Last) (First) (Preferred name) Age

Address _____ Phone _____
(Street) (Town) (Zip Code)

Applicant's Personal E-mail Address **DO NOT use a school email** : _____

Are you an American Legion Auxiliary Member? (Yes or No) _____ Is your Mother, Father, Brother or Sister currently serving in the Armed Forces? _____ # Volunteer Hours serving veterans? _____ # Volunteer Hours in community? _____

Name and Address of Parents or Guardian _____

(Street) (Town) (Zip Code) (Cell Phone/Work phone)

Parent's email address _____

May we share your email and phone number with applicants that might want to carpool to the session? _____ Yes _____ No

*****TO BE FILLED OUT BY UNIT*****

Sponsoring Auxiliary Unit _____ Name of President of the sponsoring Unit _____

Address _____ City _____ Phone _____
(Zip Code)

Approved by _____ Secretary/ALAIGS Chr. of Unit No. _____ Phone _____

District No. _____ OR approved by ALAIGS Director _____

The alternate is _____
(Name) (Email Address) (Phone Number)

Mail to Department, American Legion Auxiliary, P.O. Box 1426, Bloomington, IL 61702-1426, to be received **PRIOR TO Session**. Check for Registration Fee of \$300.00 must accompany this application **if not forwarded previously**. Applications will be accepted until quota of participants is reached.

***CERTIFICATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, GUIDANCE COUNSELOR OR HOME SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR (APPLICATION WILL NOT BE PROCESSED UNLESS COMPLETED IN ITS ENTIRETY)**

Name of applicant _____ DATE _____

Applicant is a member of the current junior class of _____ High School. School District _____

1. Is student a Junior in the 2024-2025 school year? _____
2. Is student a legal resident of The United States? _____
3. Does student have good character? _____
4. Does student possess outstanding qualities of leadership and good citizenship? _____

Signed _____ Title _____

Counselor's Email Address: _____ (please print)

*****WAIVER*****

The undersigned parent or guardian of _____
(Name of Applicant)

In consideration of the instruction and training to be given said participant at American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State, to be held at Charleston, Illinois June 15-21, 2025 does hereby release and discharge the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois, its officers, agents, instructors and employees, from any and all claims, demands, suits, actions, or courses of action which may, can or shall have by reason of illness, injury, or accident incurred or suffered by said participant while in attendance of said American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State no matter how caused or occasioned.

Signed _____ day of _____ 2024-2025
(Signature of Parent or Guardian)

Reminders!

- There are **still** membership packets in the office. They will be sent out when the office receives the unit's 2024-2025 officer's list.
- Check the Snip sheet (pg. 19-20), there are so many great programs your unit can support. Our veterans and facilities are still in need.

ATTENTION: UNIT PRESIDENTS AND UNIT TREASURERS!!

Bonding fees are due to your District Treasurer.
This year it is \$16.50. Please send to your District Treasurer as soon as possible.
If you need Treasurer information, contact your District President or call the Department Office.

ALAMIS Information

Unit Full \$20.00 - Can pay unit dues electronically as well

Unit Write \$15.00 - Can edit/add members and leader information

Unit View \$10.00 - Can view unit/member and leader information

If you are keeping the same access you had in 2024, no new form is needed.

Members whose authorization forms and payment reached Department Office by December 15th will have access beginning January 1st. Authorizations and payments received after December 15th may experience an interruption and delay in access.

If your unit does not currently have access and would like access, please call or email to request a form. Phone: 309-663-9366. Email: executivesecretary@ilala.org.

ATTENTION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS MEMBERS

It is Illinois' turn to have a National Central Division Vice President. The election will take place at our Department Convention in July. We will announce our candidate at the caucus at National (2025) and they will be elected at the National Convention 2026 to serve for the 2026-2027 administrative year.

The candidate (s) will be in the ALA today May-June issue. They will follow the same deadline of having a picture and information to the office no later than April 1st.

If you have any questions, please notify the Department office.

Sharon Conatser executivesecretary@ilala.org 217-369-6211

Basket Raffle at Patriotic Conference

At the upcoming Patriotic Conference, we will once again be holding the Basket Raffle. We are counting on Department Officers and Chairmen to donate the baskets at this meeting.

It is a fun and easy way to raise funds and is always interesting to see what types of baskets are donated. If you go online and enter "fundraising baskets" or "themed baskets" you can get some unique ideas.

Please make a list of the contents of the basket and attach to the outside.

Please bring your baskets to the office when you arrive.

These baskets will be on display Friday morning and the winners will be announced after the luncheon.

This is always a fun event to see who will spend how much for one or more baskets.

Thank you to our Members!

The Finance Committee

IMPORTANT DONATION DATES

Your donations may be sent in any time of the year. Here are some dates to keep in mind:

March 15: A donation in any amount to the Education Fund must be received for a unit to submit a candidate for an Education scholarship.

April 10: A donation in any amount to the Nurse's Scholarship **AND** Past President's Parley dues must be received for a unit to submit a candidate for the Nurse's scholarship.

May 31: Any donations received after May 31 will not appear in the Department Convention Book of Reports.

Many units send all their donations at once for the year using the snip sheet. Others spread their donations out over the year. It is the unit's choice when they want to donate.

If you would like to receive the ALA Today, General Department Communications and/or the Membership report, via email please go to the department website: www.ilala.org, scroll down and select "Subscribe". You then can choose the information you would like to receive by clicking the box next to the item. If you do not receive the ALA Today or the Membership report via email, you can always find them on the website listed above as well. Please check your SPAM box in case you do not receive emails from us.

Leadership Committee Award Entry Form
UNIT MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Department Unit Member of the Year will be seated at the head table at the Gold Star/Past Presidents Parley Dinner at Department Convention, July 10, 2025.

Each Department's Unit Member of the Year will be recognized at the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention in August.

Requirements:

1. Open to Senior members who are not now, nor ever have been, in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than Unit President.
2. **Units must submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less describing the nominee's accomplishments that significantly impact the program work in their units and details of activities as well as the nominee's name and address. Include pictures in action.**
3. Each Department can only submit one entry to National Headquarters.

Nominating Unit: _____

Unit Leadership Chairman Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Nominee Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Nominee's Unit Name and Number: _____

Form must be completed and submitted to Department Chairman, Sue Johnson by May 1, 2025.

Department Leadership Chairman:

Sue Johnson, 140 E. Russell St Rockton, IL 61072

americandancer13@gmail.com

Leadership

Chairman Sue Johnson

Paving the Way to Build a Stronger Foundation and Support for our Veterans, Military and their families!!!

Two things never change, time and age every year! We all are born not about self, but how we evolve and relate in society. As we move through different points in our life that inhabit us, the generations of life change according to life's need to survive.

Set your goals, aim, and take action. Those are the personalities that enjoy how they can improve the program from the ground up and take the rest of the group with them as they help the organization succeed in many ways. When you take on one of the officers positions or chairmanships at Unit level, learn the basic requirements and procedures, including the rules of the road (Constitution & By-Laws). Cover the 4 pillars of our Organization -Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth.

- Select your unit member of the year. Write great reviews of her actions with pictures that shows her best moments. Send those shining stars to me no later than May 1st.
- When the leadership team comes to your area, we want you to get on the rocket. **We suggest those members that have belonged between 20 years and brand new at the unit level to join us.** We will be aiding to answer questions, showing possibilities of growth in leadership and having fun. We then suggest that if you want more, then come to the 3 meetings that the District and Division have. The Department Convention puts together to show and display all of the accomplishments of units for that year. If you would like to volunteer your building for leadership call. One should take place in each Division.
- Keep being human with heart and help in the communities, our military and their families, and all of our Veterans with your programs. Keep watching the ALA academy.
- Lastly, Impact reports are coming up, it is not just the Presidents job, and it belongs to the whole membership on how your unit was involved. Be there to help and turn in your contribution and donations. It all matters. Look for your impact members report.
- Your final destination is determined; it is how you live your life in between that makes the difference. Some live with a safety net and some zip line along the adventure. It is okay and how you choose to help others is your own way. You will make your own personal history. It started with a why, and now it how and when. Be a leader where you feel comfortable and others will help you shine like that star.

Salute to Servicemembers Award

Now is a great time to find a service member to nominate for the American Legion Auxiliary National award "Salute to Servicemembers".

This award was established in 2003 for honoring women veterans then to honor active duty women, and now to honoring all enlisted personnel who are currently serving our country in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force and the National Guard/Reserve.

One enlisted servicemember from each branch of service as well as the National Guard/Reserve will be recognized at the National Convention.

The rules of eligibility and nomination requirements can be found at <https://www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicewoman-Award> or <https://member-legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers>. Just click on "nomination form" !

The deadline is June 1, 2025 but nominations are being accepted NOW!!! Don't wait ... Illinois has many servicemembers that deserve this recognition!

Linda Iberg, Department of Illinois Second Vice-President/National Security Chair 2024-2025

Service to Veterans/Hospital Service

Chairman Cinda Held

Thank you to all our volunteers who have been able to get back to volunteering in the hospitals and those who are caring for veterans in other ways. All are important to our ongoing mission to veterans.

Thank you to all our new volunteers. Your service is so important to our veterans and to the Representatives at the VA's.

The 2024-2025 volunteer reporting window will end on March 31. All hours volunteered should be sent to me or department by the end of April. Hours not submitted by then will go on 2025-2026 totals.

Remember hospital hours are counted for hours that you volunteer at a veteran's hospital or CBOC. Service to Veterans hours are counted for hours you volunteer at a veteran's home, or hours you volunteer to help a veteran, send cards, make quilts for or take to appointments, etc. There are lots of ways to earn service to veteran hours. Don't forget that caregivers can count 10 hours a week for service to veterans.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of Illinois

SERVICE TO VETERANS/HOSPITAL SERVICE PIN ORDER FORM

UNIT NAME _____ NO. _____ LOCATED _____ DISTRICT NO. _____

VA&R CHAIRMAN _____ ADDRESS _____

UNIT PRESIDENT _____ ADDRESS _____

Number of Service to Veterans Pins Requested _____ Price: \$20.00 each Amount enclosed \$ _____

Number of Hospital Service Pins Requested _____ Price: \$20.00 each Amount enclosed \$ _____

NOTE: This is a ONE TIME ONLY PIN PRESENTED AFTER THE "FIRST 50 HOURS" ARE SERVED. Make checks payable to DEPARTMENT TREASURER and attach to this report form. PLEASE PRINT NAME OF VOLUNTEER AND CHECK WHETHER VOLUNTEER IS SR., JR., OR NON-AFFILIATE.

NAME OF VOLUNTEER	SR	JR	NON-AFFILIATE	HOSPITAL Pin	Service to Veterans Pin
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

USE ANOTHER SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL NAMES IF NECESSARY

Please send order form and check to: American Legion Auxiliary, P.O Box 1426, Bloomington, IL, 61702

Special Olympics

Children & Youth Chairman Sue Johnson

I hope your time off for the winter is coming to an end. We will be back to doing construction outside real soon. I know for a fact all the roads in the State of Illinois are headed to the Summer Games: ISU in Normal, Il. The games this year are pushed back a week due to the World Special Olympics held in Italy. **June 20-21, 2025.** We will be meeting at the Hancock Stadium in the concession area underneath the stadium North side.

Address: 211 N. Main St, Normal, Il 61761, Illinois State University

We need a lot of Volunteers especially on Saturday. Friday we need help too, if you are not working, please help! We need servers and food preps. Please bring a hat or wear a hair net. Where you work will be assigned. Riders will be assigned spots with us underneath the stadium and Olympic Towne. Olympic Towne has required times to get in. Once the Towne is opened with people, bikers will not be allowed in. The Towne opens at 8-8:15. More info to come. Included is a food bank list of what they can have. Please take a look at the food. Trail mix can fluctuate in calories of 180 to 200 but they will allow calories of 220. Watch the sugar and salt content too. Safe to use food bank list.

This year handing out toys and stuff animals that our construction .ex.. Handy Mandy, Bob the builders, pup construction or any other construction toys. The riders will be handing them out. I will have some rooms for Friday reserved. You switch out your name on one of the reserved.

We need your help and food donations. This year, numbers are doubling and without your help we can not run the hospitality that the athletes, coaches and parents need.

If you have any questions, please contact Sue Johnson at americandancer13@gmail.com or 815-222-3983.

Special Olympics Food Bank For All Games

Legion

Veggie Straws Ind Pks
 Popchips Variety Ind Pks
 Raisin Ind Packets
 Bare baked crunch Ind Pks
 Sun Chips Ind Variety Pks
 Olives Grn/Blk
 Dry Roasted peanuts w/sea salt
 Fruit: strawberries, blue berries,
 Pineapples, grapes, bananas
 Sugar free cookies
 GoGo Squeeze Applesauce
 And variety Ink Pks

SAL

Veggie Chips Ind Pks
 Quaker Rice Crisp Multi Pks
 Humus single 16 pks
 Pirate Bootie cheddar puffs Ind Pks
 Baked Lays Regular & Barbecue Ind Pks
 Archer Mini Sticks Turkey & Beef
 GFS Peanut Butter Ind Pks
 Trail Mix 240 calories or less Ind Pks
 Holy Nuts Sunflower Seeds Kernels
 Ink Pks

Auxiliary

Veggie Puffs Ink Pks
 Nature Valley Crunchy Granola
 Snack Mix Ind Pks
 Kind Minis Bars Variety Ind Pks
 Snyder Pretzel Ind Pks 100 cal
 Terra Veggie Chips "We Bag"
 Beef/Turkey Jerky <240 Cal
 Mount Olive Dill Pickles Sliced
 Veggies: Broccoli, Cauliflower,
 Bell Peppers Variety, Cherry
 Tomatoes, Radish, Baby
 Carrots, Celery
 Robert Irvine Fitness Crunch
 Bars Variety Ink Pks

Education

Chairman Kathy Cisna

Our year of Building a Brighter Future for our Veterans is really flying by! I hope you have all been participating in the Education Program activities. I look forward to hearing your reports on Give 10 to Education and National Education Week.

As we head into March it becomes all about scholarships. **Don't forget to donate to the Education Fund by March 15, 2025!** This is a requirement for Units to submit an applicant for the Department Scholarships.

All National scholarships applications are done online and March 1, 2025 was the deadline. The Committee is looking forward to receiving and reviewing all our scholarship applications.

The three Department of Illinois scholarships are due to the Units by March 15, 2025, and to the Department Committee member by April 1, 2025. Please refer to your matrix for the requirements. Each scholarship awarded will be in the amount of \$1000.

Don't forget Teacher Appreciation week, May 5-9, 2025. Let's show our teachers that the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Illinois appreciates them!

Past President's Parley Nurse's Scholarship Fund

Chairman Angie Golightly

Active service by all Past Presidents, at all levels, is encouraged. Auxiliary Past Presidents continue their support of the organization by accepting responsibility that the knowledge and wisdom of a past leader can make a difference. As past leaders, they support the Auxiliary as ambassadors for the organization. Past Presidents strive to strengthen each level of the organization and promote growth through positive actions.

The purpose of the Nurses Scholarship is to assist deserving students who are pursuing an education in the nursing field. Fundraising efforts are to provide scholarship benefits to individuals entering or attending nursing training. The fund also develops resources about financial aid information for nursing students.

DATE _____

UNIT NAME AND NUMBER _____

Enclosed is a check for: Past Presidents Parley Nurses Scholarship Fund \$ _____

***Please make checks payable to: Department Treasurer and mail to:

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois
P.O. Box 1426
Bloomington, IL 61702

Reminders

Past Presidents Parley Nurses Scholarship: Units who wish to submit a candidate must contribute to PPP Nurses Scholarship AND pay Parley Dues for your Unit Past Presidents by **April 10, 2025**.

POPPY ORDER FORM

THE AMERICAN LEGION—DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS—POPPY COMMITTEE

*****Please Submit a Phone Number***
*****IMPORTANT—Please Print*******

ORDER SUBMITTED BY	
NAME OF POST or UNIT	POST/UNIT #
STREET ADDRESS	
CITY	ZIP CODE
PHONE NUMBER	

<input type="checkbox"/>	DIVISION	<input type="checkbox"/>	DISTRICT
ORDER TO BE SHIPPED TO ADDRESS BELOW			
POST or UNIT NAME:			
POST or UNIT #:			
C/O:			
ADDRESS:			
CITY:			
STATE:		ZIP:	
PHONE #:			
ORDER TO BE PICKED UP AT SEMINAR or MEETING			

ITEM	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
POPPIES— \$150.00 Per Thousand		\$
POPPIES— \$160.00 Per Thousand *** 5th DIVISION ONLY ***		\$
POSTER—\$1.50 EACH		\$
CLUB CARDS—N/C		
CAN LABELS—N/C		
RECOGNITION CITATION—N/C		
BOOK MARKERS—N/C UP TO 500 *** ADDITIONAL .03 EACH ***		
<i>Add shipping costs if order is to be mailed</i>		SHIPPING \$ 14.00
TOTAL		\$



Make All Checks Payable To: The American Legion, Dept. of Illinois

Do NOT send Cash!

CREDIT CARD # _____

CHECK ONLY ONE: VISA MC AMEX DISCVR CHECK CHECK # _____

Credit Card Exp. Date _____ Credit Card Holder Signature _____ Security Code # _____

Please bring this order form when picking up your Poppies at the DIVISION POPPY SEMINARS	OR	Mail this order form to: The American Legion Department of Illinois P.O. Box 2910 Bloomington, IL 61702	OR	All orders will be filled by the Dept. of IL. Specify in the yellow box above if you want your order mailed -OR- that you will be picking them up at a Poppy Seminar/Meeting.
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SIGNATURE OF PERSON REQUESTING THIS ORDER

DATE

DEPT. OFFICE USE ONLY	Date received	Finance received	Shipping Dept. received	Date Shipped

Revised OCT 2023

Poppies (Division 1-4)

<u># Of Poppies</u>	<u>Cost</u>
25	\$ 3.75
50	\$ 7.50
75	\$ 11.25
100	\$ 15.00
150	\$ 22.50
200	\$ 30.00
250	\$ 37.50
300	\$ 45.00
350	\$ 52.50
400	\$ 60.00
450	\$ 67.50
500	\$ 75.00
550	\$ 82.50
600	\$ 90.00
650	\$ 97.50
700	\$ 105.00
750	\$ 112.50
800	\$ 120.00
850	\$ 127.50
900	\$ 135.00
950	\$ 142.50
1,000	\$ 150.00
2,000	\$ 300.00
3,000	\$ 450.00
4,000	\$ 600.00
5,000	\$ 750.00
6,000	\$ 900.00
7,000	\$ 1,050.00
8,000	\$ 1,200.00
9,000	\$ 1,350.00
10,000	\$ 1,500.00

Poppies (Division 5)

<u># Of Poppies</u>	<u>Cost</u>
25	\$ 4.00
50	\$ 8.00
75	\$ 12.00
100	\$ 16.00
150	\$ 24.00
200	\$ 32.00
250	\$ 40.00
300	\$ 48.00
350	\$ 56.00
400	\$ 64.00
450	\$ 72.00
500	\$ 80.00
550	\$ 88.00
600	\$ 96.00
650	\$ 104.00
700	\$ 112.00
750	\$ 120.00
800	\$ 128.00
850	\$ 136.00
900	\$ 144.00
950	\$ 152.00
1,000	\$ 160.00
2,000	\$ 320.00
3,000	\$ 480.00
4,000	\$ 640.00
5,000	\$ 800.00
6,000	\$ 960.00
7,000	\$ 1,120.00
8,000	\$ 1,280.00
9,000	\$ 1,440.00
10,000	\$ 1,600.00

Posters

1	1.50	10	15.00
2	3.00	20	30.00
3	4.50	25	37.50
4	6.00	30	45.00
5	7.50	35	52.50
6	9.00	40	60.00
7	10.50	45	67.50
8	12.00	50	75.00
9	13.50		

American Legion Sweepstakes Drawing February 12, 2025

	AMOUNT WON	WINNER	City / State	ID #	Group
1st Place	\$ 10,000.00	Fredric Alwardt	Paril, IL	101271823	Legion
2nd Place	\$ 3,000.00	Vincent Hock	Mahomet, IL	202729075	Legion
3rd Place	\$ 2,000.00	Gary Jessup	Palatine, IL	352156127	Legion
4th Place	\$ 1,000.00	Jim E. Eshleman	Rock Falls, IL	205640744	Legion
5th Place	\$ 500.00	John Fitzgerald	Louisville, IL	353597473	Legion
6th Place	\$ 300.00	Linda M. Regalado	Pompano Beach, FL	300263310	Auxiliary
7th Place	\$ 200.00	Tina M. Funchion	Lansing, IL	301973866	Auxiliary
8th Place	\$ 100.00	William Johnson	Chicago, IL	204216679	Legion
9th Place	\$ 100.00	James E. Haley	Downers Grove, IL	202304111	Legion
10th Place	\$ 100.00	Thomas Zito	Franklin Park, IL	261266046	SAL
11th Place	\$ 100.00	Bill Gooch	Trenton, IL	261091268	SAL
12th Place	\$ 100.00	Francisco Nunez	Chicago, IL	205091721	Legion
13th Place	\$ 100.00	Ronald D. Pessman	Fulton, IL	205161503	Legion
14th Place	\$ 100.00	Godorn R. Andrews	Mokena, IL	201128128	Legion
15th Place	\$ 100.00	Sharon West	Jacksonville, IL	122070510	Auxiliary

Total \$ 17,800.00



Congratulations to all winners!
Please watch for the next sweepstakes mailing coming out in May!

THE AMERICAN LEGION **FAMILY**



CHILDREN & YOUTH

Legion Convention Action Requested It
Now it is your turn...VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS SUMMER GAMES 2025 ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY, NORMAL, IL JUNE 20 & 21, 2025

The Illinois American Legion and Auxiliary will sponsor a Hospitality Center for athletes, coaches and families. We plan to provide items such as: See page #13. This will provide athletes, coaches and families a place in the shade to rest, relax and fellowship among themselves and us. **We must be assured of adequate help for loading and unloading supplies, cleaning tables and money to put this operation together for both days.**

PLACE

Hancock Center
Illinois State University
Normal, IL 61761

HOURS OF OPERATION

Friday, June 12th, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday June 21st, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

(Please indicate below the times you will be there to help)

** Must work a full day for lunch to be provided—morning through afternoon **

I will be there: From _____ To _____ on Friday

I will be there: From _____ To _____ on Saturday

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Post/Unit # _____ District # _____ Division # _____

Here is my donation of \$ _____ to help with supplies for Special Olympics.

RETURN TO:

The American Legion
Dept. of Illinois
P.O. Box 2910
Bloomington, IL 61702-2910

-or-

The American Legion Auxiliary
Dept. of Illinois
P.O. Box 1426
Bloomington, IL 61702-1426

ALA - Department of Illinois 2024-2025 Master Snip Sheet

Mail to: American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois, P O Box 1426, Bloomington, IL 61702-1426

Dept. President's Special Project	Auxiliary Emergency Fund	\$
Americanism	Americanism Fund	\$
	Spirit of Youth Fund	\$
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	AEF Fund	\$
Children & Youth		
	Children's Miracle Network	\$
	Chicago/	
Christmas Gift Program	Rockford	\$
Children & Youth	Peoria	\$
Scholarship		
	Springfield/	
Special Olympics	Champaign	\$
	St. Louis	\$
Education	Education Scholarships	\$
Junior Activities	Dept. Junior Conference	\$
	Junior Group Donations	\$
Illini Girls State	IGS Program Donation	\$
	IGS Registration	\$
National Security	National Security Fund	\$
	USO Centers ***	
	Great Lakes Center	\$
	Midway	\$
	O'Hare	\$
	Marseilles Training	
	Center	\$
	St. Louis	\$
Past Presidents		
Parley	Nurses Scholarship	\$
	Parley Dues - \$1 per Past President (include Parley Dues Form)	\$

Total \$ _____

Date _____ **Unit Name** _____ **Unit #** _____

Submitted by _____ **Phone** _____ **email** _____

ALA - Department of Illinois 2024-2025 Master Snip Sheet

Mail to: American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois, P O Box 1426, Bloomington, IL 61702-1426

Veterans Affairs & Rehab	\$ _____
	Six Point Program ***
Treasure Chest/Hospitality \$ _____	Christmas Gift Shop \$ _____
Canteen Books \$ _____	Easter Gift \$ _____
Fresh Fruit \$ _____	VA Nursing Homes \$ _____
	\$ _____
Vets Medical Transport***	\$ _____
Fisher House***	\$ _____
Hospitals and Facilities ***	General Donation \$
Anna Veterans Home \$ _____	Jesse Brown VA \$ _____
Bloomington Outpatient Clinic \$ _____	LaSalle Veterans Home \$ _____
Bob Michel Outpatient Clinic \$ _____	Capt. James Lovell FHCC \$ _____
Decatur Outpatient Clinic \$ _____	Manteno Veterans Home \$ _____
Hines VA \$ _____	Marion VA \$ _____
Illiana VA \$ _____	Mattoon Outpatient Clinic \$ _____
Jefferson Barracks St. Louis VA \$ _____	Quincy Veterans Home \$ _____
John Cochran St. Louis VA \$ _____	Springfield Outpatient Clinic \$ _____

Please list if Hospital/Facility donation is for a special purpose or program

The American Legion	Gifts to the Yanks ***	\$ _____
	American Legion Child Welfare Foundation	\$ _____
TAL Commanders Special Project	Vet & Children Relief Fund/Illinois Disaster Fund	\$ _____
SAL Commanders Special Project	Operation Comfort Warriors ***	\$ _____
National Organization	American Legion Auxiliary Foundation	\$ _____
	National President's Special Project	\$ _____
	National Creative Arts Program ***	\$ _____
Memorial Donation to (program) _____		\$ _____
In honor of _____		
Acknowledgement Sent to _____		
		Total \$ _____

*** Poppy funds may be used for these programs ***

Date _____ Unit Name _____ Unit # _____
 Submitted by _____ Phone _____ email _____



The Illinois American Legion Second Division is Proud to Host

Armed Forces Day Dinner

Friday, May 16, 2025

*To be held at the Yorkville American Legion Post 489
9054 East Veterans Parkway Yorkville, IL 60560*

Key Note Speaker:

National Commander

James LaCoursiere Jr.

*Social Hour Starts at 6:00 pm, Dinner at 7:00 pm \$35.00 per person
Dinner will be a buffet with multiple entree choices, and multiple sides.*

Reservation

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Post #: _____ District #: _____

Amount enclosed: \$_____ Table of 8: Yes or NO

Please provide names on reverse side if a table of 8

Make checks payable to: American Legion 2nd Division

Mail to: Waldon L Gibbs 200 W 8th Street Milledgeville, IL 61051

Questions, call or email Waldon L Gibbs 815-499-5903 or lmgibbs64@gmail.com

RSVP by: May 2, 2025



UPCOMING YOUTH PROGRAMS



ILLINOIS PREMIER BOYS STATE
 June 7-13, 2025



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ILLINI
Girls STATE
 June 15-21, 2025



ILLINOIS STATE POLICE
 DIVISION OF THE AUXILIARY
Youth Police Academy
 June 22-27, 2025



Special Olympics Illinois
 2025 Summer Games:
 June 20-22, 2025
 2025 State Tennis:



Scenes from Family Caravan



American Legion Auxiliary Membership Report - 3/5/25

District	Division	President	Units	Goal	Total Members	Goal %
7	1	Donna Hedrick	3	145	131	90.34%
23	5	Diana Owens	24	1479	1333	90.13%
17	4	Crystal Black	33	1346	1211	89.97%
19	4	Sandra Kirby	33	1790	1590	88.83%
18	4	Debbie Myles	28	1180	1028	87.12%
11	2	Barbara Howe	34	1822	1581	86.77%
4	1	Gailwyn Starr	7	201	172	85.57%
12	2	Janet Bacon	25	1648	1392	84.47%
13	2	Jerri Akins	15	559	471	84.26%
14	3	Dona Kenney	11	539	454	84.23%
20	3	Sophia Reavley	19	646	543	84.06%
10	2	LaVera Davis	13	564	471	83.51%
21	4	Yvonne Caudle	16	633	526	83.10%
22	5	Marge Leezy	26	986	814	82.56%
16	3	Teri Miller	25	1209	991	81.97%
15	3	Michelle Gorsage	27	998	801	80.26%
8	1	Lea Morsovillo	11	635	498	78.43%
25	5	Patty Edwards	14	762	583	76.51%
3	1	Karen Atkins	7	135	103	76.30%
24	5	April Parkhurst	14	607	462	76.11%
9	1	Lois Kurowski	7	551	408	74.05%
5	1	Balvina "Bo" Ranney	11	363	212	58.40%
2	1		4	68	30	44.12%
		Headquarters 2910	1	550	456	82.91%
		TOTALS	408	19416	16261	83.75%
		Department Stretch		667		
		Illinois' National Goal		20083		80.97%
	4	Nora Hanaver		4949	4355	88.00%
	2	Karen Heller		4593	3915	85.24%
	5	Judy Zimmerman		3834	3192	83.26%
	3	Catherine Reavley		3392	2789	82.22%
	1	Cathy Zito		2098	1554	74.07%
		Goal Units	45			

Joyce Huelsmann
 Department Membership
 Chairman

Arlene Holtgrave
 Department President

The American Legion Auxiliary — Department of Illinois
 P.O. BOX 1426
 BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS 61702
 Phone: 309-663-9366 Fax: 309-663-5827
 Web: www.ilala.org Email: executivesecretary@ilala.org
Department President **Interim Managing Director**
Arlene Holtgrave **Sharon Conatser**

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

American Legion Auxiliary

★ *A community of volunteers* ★

Serving veterans, military, and their families

NON-PROFIT ORG
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 Bloomington, IL
 Permit No. 18

Dates to Remember

- March 15-16 Juniors and Young Sons Conference—Monticello, IL
- March 21-22 Patriotic Conference and Spring Board Meeting—Springfield, IL
- March 29 SAL Commander Rick Allen’s Homecoming—Cullom, IL
- June 15-21 ALA Illini Girls State—Charleston, IL
- July 10 100% Membership Target Date—Department Convention
- July 10-13 Department Convention—Springfield, IL
- August 22-28 National Convention—Tampa Bay, FL