



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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Scenes from Patriotic Conference



(Top Left) National President Trish Ward giving her presentation.

(Top Right) A few of our Past Department Presidents at Patriotic Luncheon.

(Bottom Left) Commander Joe Lampert helping stuff bags for the Children and Youth Project.

(Bottom Right) District Presidents attending Patriotic Conference.



Arlene
Holtgrave



Joe
Lampert

Holy Samolies! It's May already! What happen to March and April?? Where did the last months go?

Well, I better keep up cause time is not slowing down!

Before I continue, our condolences to Linda and the family of Philip Mette. He was a mentor to many and friend to all who knew him. He will be missed by all!

March was a busy, exciting month with all the Units, Districts, Division and National zoom meetings during the week. (A BIG THANKS to the inventor of zoom meetings, they made life much easier to attend a meeting across the country!) and all other events mostly on weekends.

March 1 was the Illinois American Legion Oratorical Contest in Springfield. Congratulations to 1st place winner Chaithrika Sripathi and good luck to her as she represents Illinois at the National competition!

March 15-16 was the Junior and Young Sons Conference in Monticello. These young members make us proud now and will continue to in the future! That was an exciting weekend for all attending. I think the pajama party, dancing, story time, and tacos were the best of the weekend! I even learned that there is a difference between the American Flag flying "half-staff" from a flagpole, and "half-mast" from a ship!

March 21-22 was Patriotic Conference. Thank you to all the committee chairmen, they had excellent speakers. Special thanks to Trish Ward, National President for her attendance with us. As National President Trish stated, "All members need to work together to achieve what we do in this great organization serving our Veterans and ourselves." President Trish also stated that National Poppy Day, May 23, is also the National 95%

membership target

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

(Continued on page 4)

Greetings,

My, does time fly! I can't believe we are 2 ½ months away from our Department Convention! We have a lot of activities coming up in the next few months that will keep us busy until the gavel drops. We have the "Be the One" walk from Flora to Louisville, which will kick off Armed Forces week. National Commander LaCoursiere will be here to participate all week. May finishes up with Memorial Day ceremonies. Please honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our way of life. June has us off and running for Illini Boy's State, ALA Illini Girl's State, Special Olympics and Youth Police Academy. Now, in your free time, don't forget to continue working membership. We have done great as a Legion Family. We need to charge hard until the end.

This month's pillar is National Security:

*We are asking Legion Family Members to contact Congress to request support for the GI Bill Parity Act! Currently, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers only earn credit toward their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits when they mobilize and deploy for federal missions. National Guard and Reserve servicemembers activated under state orders do not accrue eligibility for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. This legislation aims to count every day spent on weekend drills, annual training, attending military school, participating in an exercise, or responding to a disaster toward GI Bill eligibility. The American Legion supports this legislation, and we appreciate all the emails you have sent so far. **Go to the Action Center to quickly email a letter of support to your members of Congress.***



**Rick
Allen**



**Membership
Chairman**

Joyce Huelsmann

Greetings from Detachment of Illinois

It has been a busy time with my Homecoming, DC Conference, ALA Juniors Conference and Patriotic Conference. I also attended Commander Joseph Navarrete's homecoming in Albuquerque, NM, and I had a wonderful time. As for the membership, Wayne Madson has done a great job for the Sons' Membership. There has been a lot of good help and I would like to thank everyone as we sit at 95.36% as of April 17th. We are on the short rows and we need one big push to get past 100% thanks to everyone. We are getting close to the One Walk from Flora to Louisville, 8.5 miles. For Veterans Suicide, donate today!

We have many events coming up in May. NEC happens May 2-4, next weekend on the 10th of May we have Be The One Walk, and the following week is Armed Forces Week. The Legion National Commander, James LaCoursiere Jr will be here. He starts in the 5th Division and moves north all week to the 2nd at Yorkville Legion Post 489 May 16th. Poppy Day is May 24th and Memorial Day is May 26th, ending the month with the 4th Division Past Commanders and Presidents at the Railsplitters Meal on May 31st.

June has a lot going on also. Starting June 7th- 13th Premier Boys State at Charleston (EIU), it will be the close of Business for the Sons. The week of the 15th-21st starts ALA Illini Girls State at Charleston (EIU) and the 20th and 21st Special Olympics at Bloomington (ISU). The week of June 22nd -27th is Illinois State Police Youth Cadet Academy in Springfield. The Sons of the American Legion works hard on supporting our Veterans. I challenge the American Legion Family to step up and find one more new Legion Family member for each of us. Help us to grow. Until we meet again.

We are going into the fifth & sixth months of 2025 already— How time flies!

March and April were busy with membership. I am disappointed in the fact that we did not make our 85% goal set by National on March 15th but we are gaining daily. We are striving to reach the 95% goal by May 23rd which is National Poppy Day! Please make efforts to collect dues to help the Department reach that 95%.

I was privileged to have announced the top Division (Division 4) keeping the traveling pin during Patriotic Conference. The top Districts were: In the 1st Division - District 7 President Donna Hedrick; in the 2nd Division - District 11 President Barbara Howe; in the 3rd Division - District 14 President Donna Kenney; in the 4th Division - District 19 President Sandra Kirby and Vice President Pattie Williamson; and in the 5th Division - District 23 President Diana Owens and Vice Debbie Ferguson. Let's see if they will keep these pins at Department Convention or at the last minute relinquish them to another District. Will they achieve 100% in their District and automatically qualify to keep that pin? Time and membership will determine that factor. I thought the Conference was well attended and had very interesting speakers.

I also had the privilege of attending Detachment Commander Rick Allen's homecoming on March 29. That was a fun evening and well attended by the Department.

April was a bit slower for activities but remember it was the month of the Military Child. I participated in the Fifth Division Haven Run which is a fundraiser for the Haven at Crab Orchard Lake for our

(Continued on page 4)

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

date for all states to be eligible for the Medalion Medal at National Convention. PLEASE everyone, let's ALL work together to achieve this great award!! Let's ALL make Illinois ALA PROUD!

March 29 was the Illinois Sons of the American Legion Commander Rick Allen's Homecoming. It was an interesting event with great speakers, good food, and excellent entertainment! One cannot do it alone; we all need to work together!

April was an interesting month with Fund Raisers, dinners, meetings and the 11th annual Haven Run. It was fun to meet all the riders at the last stop, the Haven. The food was good and THANKS to all for the generous donations!

Easter was April 20th this year. I hope everyone had a joyous and hoppy Easter!

May is going to be every busy starting with the BE THE ONE Walk...I may not be able to walk 8 miles, but I can ride! See you all there! Truman Days, National Creative Arts Week, Armed Forces Week, Poppy Day, Memorial Day all in May.

June will soon be here with Special Olympics on June 20 and 21 at Illinois State University, 211 N Main St, Normal, IL 61761. Volunteers, food and cash donations are desperately needed for both days.

ALA Illini Girls State is June 15-21 at Eastern Illinois University, Charleston. It will be a fun and educational week. Girls between their Junior and Senior year of high or home schooled at junior level are eligible to attend. It's an experience they will never forget! All the information and applications are on the website: www.ilala.org and/or the IGS website www.alaigs.org

Don't forget the Illinois Premier Boys State June 7-13, 2025, and the Youth Police Academy June 22-27, 2025; all experiences that will never be forgotten!

Well, I guess that's it for this edition of the ALA Today and my last issue of the ALA Today as Department President! It is an honor and privilege to communicate with all readers as we "Build A Brighter Future for Our Veterans" now and in the future!

SO...STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY and as always...GOD BLESS AMERICA!

(Membership cont'd from pg 3)

veterans. This was the eleventh year for this run and was well attended. May is Poppy Month. June will be here before we know it and that will lead us to convention right around the corner. Remember to get the new officers list turned into the Department as soon as possible for the upcoming year.

Remember to get those dues collected and submitted to make the Department 95% by **MAY 23rd**. We need to be the ones to make this happen. Every member of the ALA is called to make a difference by Leading the Way to Building a Brighter Future for Our Veterans.

This is my last report for the ALA Today as your membership chairman for the 2024-2025 Auxiliary year. Thank you all so much for your cooperation in helping us reach our goals for the Department of Illinois!

Looking forward to finishing the year with a completed construction site and seeing many at the Department Convention in July.



Remember!

Convention Mailing to Board Members

All Department Officers, Division and District Presidents, Department Chairmen, Reps and Deps and Past Department Presidents who have their email addresses on file with Department will receive their Department Convention information by email. Please check your emails.

National Convention

Woman of the Year Luncheon and States Dinner information is not available from National at the time of this printing. Look for information on the National Convention meeting at Department Convention. Sign up forms will also be available at the Department Office.

Unit Presidents May Mailing

All Unit Presidents on file with the Department will receive a packet with information and credentials for convention. There will also be a 2026 Officers List for their Unit to be sent in. No membership rosters or cards will be sent to the Unit without an Officers list being submitted to Department. **Units that have sent in the Officers List by June 30th will be able to pick up membership packets at Department Convention.**

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2025

The National Scholarship winners for 2025 that will be forwarded to National for further competition are:

Junior Loyalty

Jade Markey

From Cambridge

Spirit of Youth

Jayden Lily

From Cerro Gordo

Children of Warriors

Kathleen Weitzel

From Park Ridge

Non-Traditional

Josh Pahkala

From Chicago



SAVE THE DATE

Fall Board Meeting

September 13 & 14, 2025

2025-2026 Department Officers, Division and District Presidents and Vice Presidents, Department Chairmen, Past Department Presidents, and Hospital Reps are **expected** to attend.

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



2025-2026 Unit Officers List

No membership rosters or cards will be sent to the Unit **WITHOUT** an Officers List being submitted to Department.

Units that have sent in the Officers List by **June 30th** will be able to pick up membership packets at Department Convention.

If you bring your Officers List to Convention, you will also be able to pick up your packet.

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois

Delegates allowed (by membership) for credentials certification

1 – 25.....	1	476 – 525.....	11
26 – 75.....	2	526 – 575.....	12
76 – 125.....	3	576 – 625.....	13
126 – 175.....	4	626 – 675.....	14
176 – 225.....	5	676 – 725.....	15
226 – 275.....	6	726 – 775.....	16
276 – 325.....	7	776 – 825.....	17
326 – 375.....	8	826 – 875.....	18
376 – 425.....	9	876 – 925.....	19
426 – 475.....	10		

Each Unit is entitled to one delegate and one alternate; and for every fifty members or major fraction thereof, one other delegate and alternate shall be allowed, provided the current dues as fixed by the Bylaws have been received by the Department Treasurer thirty days prior to the date of the annual Convention. For instance, a Unit having 24 members is entitled to one delegate and one alternate: a Unit having 26 is entitled to two delegates and two alternates. The President of the Unit and the President-elect shall have preference as nominees.

American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State

The 84th session of ALA Illini Girls State is about five short weeks away. We are still accepting applications. The application can be found on our website at alaigs.org and in this edition of the ALA Today (pg. 8).

The session starts Friday, June 15th and ends on Saturday, June 22nd. The delegates will receive all paperwork communication from us by our email. Please reach out to your delegates to make sure they have received this paperwork. The paperwork includes a read and return which needs to be completed and uploaded into our system prior to their arrival at ALA IGS. All delegates need to attend an orientation either in person or online. The times and dates of these are on our website along with the link to the Zoom orientations. Members are also able to participate in these orientations.

We have a few items still left on our Amazon wishlist. Please check the wishlist and see if you are able to help. These are supplies we use during the session. Donations are always welcome too.

This is the amazon wishlist link: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2A12JZNPF4SZ8?ref=wl_share&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0BMQAABHTileVpG2cmGAkB8S7CJKTdnkx13ed8YWfWzgc2yz6L2Y_LTeOwLK3KEFg_aem_ZX6JN-k-S8ov-i5pkcTcTQ

Be sure to follow us on social media now and during the week. We update our social media pages throughout the week and you can see the activities and fun the delegates are engaging in.

We are looking forward to meeting your delegates and having a wonderful 84th session.

Linda Fagan
2025 ALA IGS Director.



(Left) Commander Joe Lampert helping with story time at Junior Conference.



(Above) 1st Vice President Jill Layton installing the 2026 Department Junior President and Vice President.



**Happy National
Poppy Day—
May 23, 2025**

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 PenApplicant's Name _____
(Last) (First) (Preferred name) AgeAddress _____ 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 partici-
pant 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)

Are you planning on attending National Convention in Tampa Bay, FL?

The dates are **August 22-28, 2025**

Watch for more information on the website and in email!



A Very Big Thank You!!

Thanks to all of you who sent cards and special messages to help celebrate my retirement. I have many memories of my years with the American Legion Auxiliary.

-Brenda Rettke

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

IMPORTANT DONATION DATES

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

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.

Basket Raffle and Purse Auction at Department Convention

Will be held during Department Convention on Thursday, July 10th. Bidding will begin shortly after the recess of the general meeting and will close at 6:30 p.m. Announcements of the winners will be made during the Gold Star/Past Presidents Parley Dinner.

District and Division Presidents will be providing the baskets.

Leadership

Chairman Sue Johnson

Greetings! I hope you all can make it down for the Department Convention, but I understand a good majority of our members work or can not afford the stay. If you would consider coming down July 9th for the workshop from 1 to 2:30 or 1 to 3:30, I believe you would get a lot out of both workshops offered. Speed chairmanships, or Be The One. It is a new concept for the speed chair with information to take back. Be the One is taught by Tony Cross, The National Chairman. I would highly recommend this to new officers in the units and our seasoned with any possible changes added to the program. Let's get involved!

Department Leadership Classes

Department Convention will be here before we know it. Please sign up for leadership classes online at <https://ilala.org/leadership/> via email ilmembership@ilala.org or by returning the snip sheet (found on page 11) to:

Rebecca Sue Johnson, Department Leadership Chairman,
140 E Russell St
Rockton, IL 61072

Constitution and Bylaws Changes

The proposed changes for the Constitution and Bylaws will be sent out in the May Unit President Mailing. Department Chairmen, District and Division Presidents, and Department Officers will receive it by email after the mailing goes out.

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 CLASSES AT DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**Wednesday, July 9, 2025****“Paving the Way to Build a Stronger Foundation and Support for our Veterans, Military, and their Families”**

Members need to register in advance so that we have enough materials for all attendees. Looking for members to come down for the afternoon to participate. I understand that you cannot stay for the whole convention even though we would love to have you, but your Unit/Post/Squadron could take back a wealth of information that day. Return this form to Department Leadership Sue Johnson, 140 E Russell St, Rockton, IL 61072, email it to ilmembership@ilala.org, or sign up on-line at www.ilala.org/leadership.html, by June 5, 2025.

Name _____ Phone _____
 Unit _____ District _____ Email _____

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

_____ Room 1 Be The One Workshop

National "Be The One" Chairman Tony Cross

Veteran/active-duty and Children and Youth Suicide and how we can be of help.

_____ Room 2 Mission: ALA Build a Pyramid

All of our Department Chairmanships including Historian and Chaplain.

It covers basic information from Department Chairmanships. This is a timed meet and greet where you can ask questions to that chairman within about 10 minutes. Chairmen give basic informative information, and you get five minutes to ask questions about that program before the ding and you move to the next chair. As you leave that chair, they will give you a paper about their information and any successful stories that they have got from successful projects. There will be time at the end of the mission to answer the question at the top of pyramid from National question to receive a ticket in your division for a small prize to be drawn at Leadership presentation at Convention if you answer the question. You get communication, handouts to take back and possible one of the 5 prizes. **Please send a few from your unit it will be worth it.**

2:35 pm – 3:30 pm

_____ Room 1 Be The One Workshop

National "Be The One" Chairman Tony Cross

Condensed for those who attended the Pyramid Class.

VA & R Needs

Jefferson Barracks:

New Clothing Only

- Lightweight Jackets (All sizes)
- Men's Polo Shirts (all sizes)
- Men's Jeans (W 30-38/L 30/34)
- Gym Shorts (M: S-XL, W: S-2XL)
- Hats and Gloves
- Swimming trunks (L & up)
- Men's shoes (Size 9.5 & up)
- Men's Sweatpants (M-XL)
- Men's Sweatshirts (M & L)
- Belts (one size fits all)
- Body Lotion
- Laundry Soap
- Backpacks and Duffle Bags
- Shower Shoes (all sizes)
- LEGO Kits
- REVELL Model Kits

Barb Rose, Rep.

John Cochran VAMC:

New Clothing Only

- Winter Coats (M-2XL)
- Shoes (Sizes Men's: 9 & up. Women's: 6-10.)
- Men's Sweatpants (M-XL)
- Women's Sweatpants (M-2XL)
- Men's Jeans (W 30-38/L 30/34)
- Men's T-Shirts (M-2XL)
- Men's Polo Shirts (M-2XL)
- Women's Sports Bras (M-2XL)
- Gloves, Hats, Scarves
- Baseball Hats
- Backpacks and Duffle Bags
- Belts (one size fits all)
- Towels
- Kits/Word Searches for craft cards
- Shower Shoes/Flip Flops

Marcia Ziska, Rep.

Danville VA:

- Body Lotion
- Shaving Cream
- Travel size Toiletries (Kleenex, bodywash, shampoo & conditioner)
- Crafting kits
- Models and Model glue
- Puzzle books
- Denture cream
- Emory boards

Patti Williamson, Rep.

Please remember that all monetary donations are appreciated!



(Left) American Legion Family Leadership at the Haven Run.

(Top) Attendees of May Fest at Quincy.

American Legion Auxiliary Department Convention July 2025

Department Convention at a Glance

Wed. July 9

Leadership breakouts - Beginning at 1:00 pm, Abraham Lincoln Hotel, 2nd Floor, Freeport Room

Credential Registration - 2:00-6:00 pm

Flag Registration – 4:30-6:00

Basket & Purse drop off at the 11 B&C, BOS Convention Center– 2:30-5:00 pm

Department Board of Directors Meeting – 7:00 at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Ottawa Room

(Attendees: Dept. Officers, Division and District Presidents, Chairmen, Past Department Presidents only)

Thursday, July 10

Registration – 7:00 am-8:30 am

Display Room – 7:00 am-8:15 am

Convention Opening – 8:30 am

Gold Star/Past Presidents Parley Dinner – 6:30 pm, 11 B&C , BOS Convention Center

Basket Raffle and Purse Auction– 4:00-6:30 pm – TBA

Friday, July 11

Convention begins at 8:30 am

Quarter Auction – Doors open 1:30 pm, North Terrace Room, BOS Convention Center

American Legion Freedom Fest – 6:00-10:00 pm

Saturday, July 12

Joint Memorial Service at 8:00 am at the Convention Center

Joint Poppy Poster Presentation immediately following the Memorial Service

ALA Convention resumes 15 minutes after Poppy Presentation

Installation of 2025-2026 officers – 1:30 pm

American Legion Family Reception for 2025 and 2026 officers – Immediately following ALA installation, Rooms 11 B&C, BoS Convention Center

Cocktail Hour—Pre Function Room, Abraham Lincoln Hotel

Commanders and President Dinner, Abraham Lincoln Hotel Ballroom

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 is on pg. 17 of this issue.

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

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

Quarter Auction

The Finance Committee will once again host the Quarter Auction. What is a quarter auction? If the value of the item is under \$15, you will bid one quarter if you want the item. If the value is \$16 - \$30, your bid will be two quarters. If the item's value is over \$31, the bid is three quarters. You purchase paddles which have numbers on them. If your paddle number is drawn and you placed a bid, you win! You could win an incredible prize for 75 cents or less. There will be tokens available if you don't have quarters!

Date: Friday, July 11th Time: 1:30 p.m.

Where: 11 B&C, BOS Convention Center

Come enjoy an afternoon of fun winning nice prizes!

American Legion Family Sweepstakes

You will soon be receiving tickets in the mail for the American Legion Family Sweepstakes summer drawing. The drawing will be held at Department Convention in Springfield. There are many cash prizes, with the grand prize being \$10,000! You do not need to be present to win.

This is a unique opportunity to help and support the important programs offered by the Department of Illinois. Please return the tickets along with your donation in the envelope provided in your mailing. Every single gift is vital and each gift is appreciated by all of us and by those we serve.

Good Luck to all who participate and a very sincere

Thank You

Department Convention Housing Information

"Building a Brighter Future for Our Veterans" is calling all delegates, alternates and guests to attend the Department of Illinois ALA Convention, July 10-13, 2025 in Springfield, IL. Housing and Convention meetings will be in the President Abraham Lincoln a Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, 701 E Adams St, Springfield.

Reservations can be made over the phone by calling 217-544-8800 or by going to the ALA website (ilala.org) and clicking on the Department Convention Hotel Reservations Link in the "Important Links" box. Please mention you are with the American Legion Auxiliary if you call to book your reservation.

Deadline for reservations is June 24, 2025.

Room rates are:

Standard Room - \$122.00 plus tax

Make your reservations early and plan on attending!



Jill Layton—Candidate for Department President

Liberty Unit 289 of Strasburg is proud to place before you their candidate for the office of 2025-2026 Department President – Jill Layton. Jill is a 64-year PUFL member. Her eligibility is through her father, a Korean Army Veteran, her brother Larry who was a Vietnam Army Veteran, and her son Josh who is a Marine Veteran and currently in the Marine Reserves. Jill has been endorsed by her Unit the 19th District, and the Fourth Division.

She retired after 42 years as a court reporter, serving the last several years as the Court Reporting Supervisor for the Fifth Judicial Circuit. She combined her love for court reporting and her love for the Veterans as she, for many years, participated in the Veterans' History Project. Jill served as the Illinois Court Reporters Association (State) President for 2010-2012.

With the Auxiliary, Jill served as 19th District President, Fourth Division President, and several Department Chairmanships. Jill has won many Department awards for her Unit as well as several National awards. Through Jill's submissions, their Unit has won the National President's Unit Award of Excellence four times.

She and her husband of 40 years, Steve, have three children and seven grandchildren. You will hear Jill often say, "I love life" and "Hugs and kisses." Jill loves floating in her pool, spending time with her grandchildren, Christmas, baking, and being involved with The American Legion Family. Jill loves to be in the front car of a roller coaster, and has even sky dived (but she is deathly afraid of snakes!!). Jill loves a challenge and is very excited to have her name placed before you for this honored position.

Deb Lewis—Candidate for Department NEC

Deb Lewis is a 48-year member of the Craig-Reed Unit 1181 in Cisco. She has eligibility through her Grandfather, Michael Vannote, who served in the Navy and Air Force. Her passion for the American Legion Auxiliary started through her participation in the Junior program under the loving encouragement and mentorship of her grandmother, JoAnn Shafer.

Deb is active in her Unit where she continues to serve as President. She served as District President in 2011-2012 and continues to serve as Children and Youth Chair. Deb has held multiple district chairmanships and served as Chaplain, Historian and Vice President. At Department, she served as National Executive Committeeperson in 2019-2021, Department President in 2018-2019, and all other elected leadership positions. She has served in the following Department chairmanships, Illini Girls State Dean of Education, Director of Illini Girls State, Americanism Chairman, National Security Chairman, and Legislative Chairman. Deb has also served on the National Level as Central Division Children and Youth Chairman.

Deb's personal interests include animals and social work. Deb has worked in social services for twenty-five years, working with youth, families, and Veterans in times of need. She currently works as a HUD-VASH Social Worker at Jesse Brown VAMC in Chicago. Deb is alumni of the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign with Masters Degrees in both Animal Sciences and Social Work. In her leisure, Deb enjoys spending time with her husband Brian and their fur children: Hannibal, Whitly, and Ty, doting on her family including five nieces and two nephews, traveling, and watching movies.





Linda Iberg—Candidate for Department First Vice President

Linda Iberg has been endorsed for the Department of Illinois American Legion Auxiliary as First Vice President for the 2025-2026 term by her Unit #439 Highland, District 22, and Division 5. Linda is eligible for this position through the service of her late father, Robert Rochell (Army WWII), and her late husband, Richard Iberg (Air Force Vietnam era).

Throughout her years as an Auxiliary member, Linda has held several chairmanships and officer positions in her local Unit through Division, including President at every level. Linda has been dedicated to the field of supply chain/purchasing for the past 53 years, working with the same employer, Eaton B-Line in Highland, IL. Outside of her 8 to 5 job, Linda enjoys volunteering and lending a hand wherever needed.

Linda's pride and joy are her children, Robert and Laura, and of course, her son-in-law Larry. In her free time, Linda loves engaging in arts and crafts and playing in her church's handbell choir.

Tina Abdelnour – Candidate for Second Vice President

Tina Abdelnour is a Paid-Up-For-Life member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Her Eligibility is through her husband, Terry Abdelnour, who is also very active in the American Legion. She is a daughter, wife and mother of a Navy Veteran. She has spent her whole life attached to the military and has a special place in her heart for them.

She has held the positions of Unit President for (8) years, 12th District President, 2nd Division President and is currently serving as the Department Historian. She has held many committee chairmanships at all levels including (2) positions at the National Level which were the National Central Division Junior Activities Chairman and the National Central Division Children & Youth Chairman. She has always been willing to help out wherever she has been needed.

Her endorsement is from her Unit 635, 17th District and the 4th Division.



Marybeth Revoir—Candidate for Department Treasurer

The Ervin A. Borlick Unit 1109 is proud to again support the candidacy of Marybeth Revoir for the office of Department Treasurer 2025-2026. Marybeth wishes to continue serving the Department of Illinois as its Treasurer. She is a proven leader in our great organization and continues to devote her time and efforts on all phases of the American Legion Auxiliary. After serving as 4th District President in 1979, Marybeth has continually served in various capacities on the Department level. Her accomplishments on behalf of the Department, her Division, District, and Unit highlight her dedication to our Organization and its principles. Marybeth's leadership has been recognized by the National Organization where she has served as the Secretary/Treasurer of the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation and 4 terms as National Treasurer.

The Ervin A. Borlick Unit #1109, the 4th District and the 1st Division are most proud to support Marybeth Revoir for the Office of Department Treasurer 2025-2026 and request your favorable consideration of her candidacy.

Pam Ray—Candidate for National President

Pam Ray is a 69-year member of the Illinois American Legion Auxiliary and served as Department President in 2010-2011. Pam has served the National Organization in the following chairmanships: Girl State/Nation, Junior Activities (2), National Security, Membership (2 COVID years), Constitution and Bylaws, Children and Youth, Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation, and is currently serving as National Vice President. She has also served as National Executive Committeewoman, a member of the National ALA Girls State Committee, Vice Chairman Public Relations, National Vice Chairman Junior Activities Committee, and National Vice Chairman Americanism Committee.

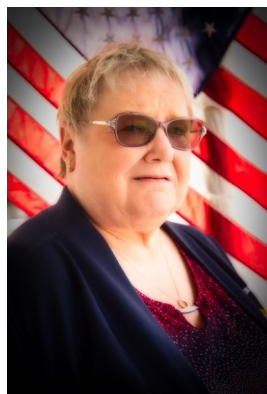


Pam is the Leading Candidate for National President for the 2025-2026 year.

Pam is asking for the Department endorsement for the high office of National President. Her eligibility is through her father, WWII and Korean veteran, Past Department Commander, Clay Lofton.

Pam has received the endorsement of Urbana Unit #71, 19th District and 4th Division, and we ask that you endorse our candidate for National President.

Teri Miller—Candidate for National Central Division Vice President 2026-2027



Teri Miller is a 59 year Paid Up For Life member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois.

On the Department level, Teri served as Department President 2004-2005, including First & Second Vice and Historian. She has held numerous Department Chairmanships including Education, Community Service, Constitution & By-laws, Junior Activities and others. Teri has served her Unit as President multiple years, 16th District President 5 times, as well as District Parliament Advisor and multiple chairmanships. Teri has also served the 3rd Division through various chairmanships.

In Teri's spare time she volunteers for Goodwill of Central Illinois Stand down and heading up the Holiday gift bags for Veterans through the Bob Michel Outpatient Clinic. When she is not volunteering, she loves to travel with her husband George of 24 years and machine embroidery. Teri has worked for Peoria Public Library for 40 years.

Teri is eligible through the service of her late father, Leonard R. Krapp, Sr who served in the Army Air Corp during WWII.

Peoria Unit #2, Sixteenth District and Third Division have endorsed Teri and ask for your favorable consideration for this candidacy for the for Central Division National Vice President for the year 2026-2027.



Angela Walker—Candidate for National Historian

Angela Walker is a member of the Highland Park American Legion Auxiliary Unit 145 as well as Post 145. She actively works with Community Service and VA&R, selflessly supporting our hospitalized veterans with singing programs that greatly enhances their ongoing care. Angela currently volunteers with our District Music Chair to form a choir to perform for our veterans and families throughout the year. She is a leader who works tirelessly to make the lives of those we serve better. She is a United States Navy veteran. She is a motivational speaker, community navigator, and advocate for veterans.

Angela has been awarded over ten gold medals in the Veterans National Creative Arts Festival. She is a member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America Wisconsin Chapter serving as an Executive Board member and is involved in Membership Recruitment. Additionally, she is a national leader and spokesperson on the PVA Anita Bloom Women Veteran's Committee.



(Top Left) President Arlene Holtgrave receiving a donation check for her Special Project (AEF) from Wauconda Unit 911.



(Top Right) President Arlene Holtgrave and Angie Zahn present a donation check to Carl Huels for the Standin' Proud Veterans Tribute Museum in Bartelso, IL.



OFFICIAL CALL FOR THE 104th DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

July 10-13, 2025

President Abraham Lincoln Hotel a Doubletree by Hilton Springfield, Illinois

The 103rd Department Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary is hereby called, and, in conformity with Article VI, Section 2, of the Department Constitution, which provides that the annual Department Convention, if feasible, shall be held at the same time and place as that of The American Legion, or otherwise, as determined by the Department Board of Directors. The American Legion, Department of Illinois is meeting in Springfield, Illinois.

PURPOSE

The Convention is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year and delegates and alternates for National Convention, amending the Department Bylaws, receiving reports of Department Officers and Committees, and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it.

REPRESENTATION

Representation at the Convention shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Department Constitution, Article VI, Section 3. Delegates to the Department Convention shall be as follows: Each Unit shall be entitled to one delegate and one alternate; and for every fifty members or major fraction thereof, one other delegate and alternate shall be allowed, provided the current dues as fixed by the Bylaws have been received by the Department Treasurer thirty days prior to the date of the annual Convention. Units organized within this thirty-day period shall be entitled to representation in the Convention. Other voting members shall be the Department Officers, the Past Department Presidents, the Division Presidents, the Division Presidents-elect, the District Presidents, the District Presidents-elect, the Presidents and Presidents-elect of County Organizations, the two Department Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, the Chairmen of Standing and Convention committees, Holiday Gifts Chairman, Hospital Service & Service to Veterans Chairman, and Department Hospital Representatives and Service to Veterans Representatives at the Illinois Veterans Homes.

Presidents, the Division Presidents-elect, the District Presidents, the District Presidents-elect, the Presidents and Presidents-elect of County Organizations, the two Department Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, the Chairmen of Standing and Convention committees, Holiday Gifts Chairman, Hospital Service & Service to Veterans Chairman, and Department Hospital Representatives and Service to Veterans Representatives at the Illinois Veterans Homes.

ALTERNATES

Each Unit is entitled to elect a number of alternates equal to the number of delegates to which such Unit is entitled.

Alternates will have the power to vote only in the absence of the regular delegates. The selection of alternates to represent absent delegates is a matter of decision within the respective Unit.

Alternates must be listed on the Credentials Certificate.

CREDENTIAL DISTRIBUTION

The number of delegates to which each Unit is entitled shall be determined by the membership records of June 12, 2025, as shown on the books of the Department. Credentials of properly certified delegates and alternates will be distributed as follows: Wednesday, July 9, 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Thursday, July 10, 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. If arriving after 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, credentials may be picked up in the Department Convention Office.

Credentials MUST BE PICKED UP by 10:00 a.m. on Friday, July 10 to vote.

Registration will be conducted in the Pre-Function Foyer of the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel a Doubletree by Hilton, 701 E. Adams St, Springfield, IL until 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 10th.

DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) per delegate must accompany the Credential Certificate before delegates can be registered and credentials given out. **COMPLETED AND CERTIFIED CREDENTIAL CERTIFICATE MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OFFICE BY 8:00 AM ON THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2025. Any member whose Credential Certificate is received after 8:00 am on Thursday, July 10, 2025, will attend the Convention as a Guest.** A registration fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) per alternate must be paid for all alternates attending Convention meetings. **Alternates must be listed on the Credential Certificate, whether attending or not. All registered Delegates and Alternates will receive a Book of Reports when picking up their badges.**

GUESTS

All guests attending Convention meetings must pay a \$10.00 registration fee to receive a badge and Book of Reports. Book of Reports will be available at a cost of \$10.00 at the registration table for those wishing to purchase extra books.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions to be presented at the Department Convention must be typewritten in triplicate, signed by two delegates and filed with the Department Managing Director before they will be considered by the Convention Resolution Committee. They should be sent in advance to Department Headquarters – if late, they must be filed no later than **10:00 a.m., Friday, July 11th** in the Department Convention Office.

DIVISION CAUCUSES

Caucus time and locations, if deemed necessary, will be announced on Thursday, July 10th .

ELECTIONS

An election for Department Officers, Delegates and Alternates to National Convention will be held **Friday at approximately 10:30 a.m. in the Ballroom. ALL DELEGATES MUST BE SEATED IN THEIR DELEGATION PRIOR TO 10:00 A.M. AS DOORS WILL BE CLOSED AND NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER OR LEAVE UNTIL VOTING IS FINISHED.**

PROCESSIONAL OF COLORS

Processional of Colors is limited to District, Division and Department Flags. **Stands must be brought for each set of flags.**

All flags must be registered prior to opening of Convention: **Wednesday, July 9th, 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. or Thursday, July 10th, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. in the Mary Todd Room of the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel.**

GOLD STAR/PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY DINNER

DATE: Thursday, July 10th

TIME: 6:30 p.m. (Doors open at 6:00 p.m.)

PLACE: BOS Center Room B11

Please be sure to check mark your Gold Star Members as special seating and gifts will be provided to them.

Reservations must be received July 1

Mail check to: American Legion Auxiliary, PO Box 1426, Bloomington, IL 61702-1426

Charge a credit card: call 309-663-9366

Date: _____ UNIT NAME: _____ Unit No: _____ District No: _____

Name of person picking up tickets _____

Entree: Roast Beef or Grilled Salmon

Please list below ALL those attending dinner.

Please CHECK MARK the names of GOLD STAR MEMBERS.

	Roast Beef	Grilled Salmon	Unit #
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

TOTAL tickets for Gold Star/Past Presidents Parley Dinner _____ @ \$50.00 each \$ _____

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 March/April ALA Today. 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

The American Legion Department of Illinois Family
cordially invites you to the annual

COMMANDERS & PRESIDENT

Dinner

honoring



Department Commander
Joseph Lampert



Department President
Arlene Holgrave



Detachment Commander
Rick Allen

Saturday, July 12, 2025

Cocktails at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Main Ballroom of the Abraham Lincoln Doubletree

Name: _____ Division# _____

Address: _____ District# _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone# _____

No. of Person(s) _____ or Table(s) _____ (For tables of eight (8), please send a list of names with this form)

(KC Strip w/Bordelaise Sauce @ \$76 x _____) - (Chicken Florentine @ \$65 x _____) - (Atlantic Salmon @ \$65 x _____)

All dinners are served with roasted garlic whipped potatoes, haricot verts and glazed carrots, tossed salad, rolls & butter and dessert.

Check Total \$ _____ Make checks payable to: The American Legion Department of Illinois

To guarantee your reservation, mail check & reservation form **DIRECTLY** to Marybeth Revoir
14953 Crème Rd., Homer Glen, IL 60491-9314 no later than June 20, 2025.

For questions or special dietary needs: Sharon Conatser (C)217/369-6211; or email: sconatser44@live.com

American Legion Auxiliary Membership Report - 4/30/25

District	Division	President	Units	Goal	Total Members	Goal %
7	1	Donna Hedrick	3	145	142	97.93%
23	5	Diana Owens	24	1479	1400	94.66%
10	2	LaVera Davis	13	564	531	94.15%
11	2	Barbara Howe	34	1822	1708	93.74%
17	4	Crystal Black	33	1346	1260	93.61%
19	4	Sandra Kirby	33	1790	1671	93.35%
18	4	Debbie Myles	28	1180	1096	92.88%
13	2	Jerri Akins	15	559	508	90.88%
12	2	Janet Bacon	25	1648	1488	90.29%
22	5	Marge Leezy	26	986	888	90.06%
14	3	Dona Kenney	11	539	483	89.61%
20	3	Sophia Reavley	19	646	573	88.70%
4	1	Gailwyn Starr	7	201	175	87.06%
8	1	Lea Morsovillo	11	635	552	86.93%
21	4	Yvonne Caudle	16	633	547	86.41%
25	5	Patty Edwards	14	762	657	86.22%
16	3	Teri Miller	25	1209	1042	86.19%
15	3	Michelle Gorsage	27	998	847	84.87%
9	1	Lois Kurowski	7	551	459	83.30%
24	5	April Parkhurst	14	607	501	82.54%
3	1	Karen Atkins	7	135	103	76.30%
5	1	Balvina "Bo" Ranney	11	363	265	73.00%
2	1		4	68	43	63.24%
		Headquarters 2910	1	550	464	84.36%
		TOTALS	408	19416	17403	89.63%
		Department Stretch		667		
		Illinois' National Goal		20083		86.66%

4	Nora Hanaver	4949	4574	92.42%
2	Karen Heller	4593	4235	92.21%
5	Judy Zimmerman	3834	3446	89.88%
3	Catherine Reavley	3392	2945	86.82%
1	Cathy Zito	2098	1739	82.89%

Goal Units **74**

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

June 15-21	ALA Illini Girls State—Charleston, IL
July 9	Leadership Classes at Department Convention—Springfield, IL
July 10	100% Membership Target Date—Department Convention
July 10-13	Department Convention—Springfield, IL
August 22-28	National Convention—Tampa Bay, FL
Sept. 13-14	2025-2026 Fall Board Meeting & American Legion Family Homecomings—Effingham, IL