

## 2025-2026 APPROVED DEPARTMENT PLAQUES AND AWARDS

**NO UNIT WITH LESS THAN 10 MEMBERS AS A GOAL WILL NOT ELIGIBLE FOR DEPARTMENT AWARDS**

### **PRESIDENT'S BEST - Recognition Citation/Blue Folder**

**"BUDDY THE ELF" Buddy Check Award** – A personal award will be given to the Unit member in each Division with the best narrative (pictures encouraged) describing the daily/weekly buddy checks to Auxiliary members who live alone. The Buddy Checks may be phone calls, cards, visits, flowers sent, food delivered, etc.

**"SECRET MRS. SANTA" Membership Pin Award**- to the District and Division Presidents who sell their allocated membership pins (and have turned the money in to Department) and ask for more pins (which do not need to be turned in until Department Convention), they will receive a special Mrs. Clause award! It will be a Secret Mrs. Santa gift!

### **AMERICANISM**

**RICKY'S COUNTRY GIRLS AMERICANSIM PLAQUE** – to the Unit submitting the most outstanding participation on promoting the Americanism Program to the schools.

**THE DORIS SCHULTZ 'GOD BLESS AMERICA' PLAQUE** – to the Unit for the best overall participation in the Americanism program.

**SERVE AND PROTECT CADET OF THE YEAR PLAQUE** – to the outstanding cadet at American Legion Police School. The plaque and a picture of the cadet will be presented at the Youth Police School and reported during the Americanism report at Department Convention.

#### **Personal Awards:**

*\$10 to the Runner-up of the Ricky's Country Girls Americanism Plaque.*

*\$10 the Runner-Up of the Doris Schultz "God Bless America" Plaque.*

*\$10 to the most Americanism essays turned into a Unit as reported to the Chairman*

*\$10 to the Best Star Spangled Banner Kids promotion.*

*Certificates to any Unit promoting Star Spangled Kids.*

### **AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ILLINI GIRLS STATE**

**Unit raffle drawing** for one Unit/Post to receive a \$400 registration refund if the completed application and check for the attending citizen arrive in the Department Office no later than April 1, 2026.

**Unit raffle drawing** for one Unit/Post to receive a \$400 registration refund if the completed application and check for the attending citizen arrive in the Department Office no later than May 1, 2026.

Units will be notified by letter following the raffle drawings.

#### **Personal Awards:**

*\$10 to the Unit sponsoring the most citizens in 2026. All citizens must attend the full ALA IGS session to qualify for this award. If more than one unit qualifies, a drawing will be held.*

*\$10 to the Unit who sponsors a citizen for the 2026 ALA IGS session in which they have NOT sponsored a citizen in the last three (3) years. If more than one unit qualifies, a drawing will be held.*

## AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

**ARLENE'S REBUILDERS PLAQUE** – to the District with the highest contribution to the fund by June 1<sup>st</sup>. This total does NOT include Unit donations.

### **Personal Awards:**

*\$10 To the Unit with the highest contribution by June 1.*

*\$10 To the Division with the highest contribution by June 1.*

## CHAPLAIN

**PATTI'S CRAFTERS PLAQUE** – for the best Unit Book of Prayers.

### **Personal Awards:**

*\$10 for the First Prayer received for President Jill's Prayer Book.*

*\$10 to the Best Division Book of Prayers*

*\$10 to the Best District Book of Prayers*

## CHILDREN and YOUTH

**BEULAH M. UNFER PLAQUE** – The unit that spreads Christmas Cheer/Spirit to all Boys and Girls in the most ways throughout the year to help all children to Believe in kindness, confidence, and the best version of themselves. Please submit 200 to 500 words by May 1<sup>st</sup> on what you did to make this happen and capture the moments with pictures not attached to the report, but separate.

**Santa's Graphic Design Maker** – Certificate in Blue Folder – The member who can design a new purple up shirt design for the military child to be printed on purple shirts for the year 2026-2027. Due to Department Chairman January 13, 2026.

### **Personal Awards:**

*\$10 to the runner up to the Beulah M. Unfer plaque*

*The Kringle "Purple Up" April Ball - \$10 for the Unit/District who raises the most money to be divided between CWF and designated Children and Youth new missions. \$5 for second place.*

*The Bell Ringer "Stuff the Money" Kettle - \$10 for the Unit /District that collects the most money distributed between 8 listed nonprofit organizations that take care of children at their discretion. \$5 for second place.*

*The Night Before Christmas Story - \$10 for the Unit/District that purchases and distributes the most books to military children. \$5 for second place.*

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS

### **Personal Awards:**

*Secret Santa/reindeer/moose "Special Olympics Summer Games" - \$10 for the Unit/District who provides the most wrapped children's gifts to be handed out by our elf riders riding reindeer Summer Olympic Games. \$5 for second place.*

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

**PAT'S SOLE SISTERS' PLAQUE** – to the Unit for the best overall participation in the Community Service Program. (Judged from all award application forms received).

**SR. VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD** - \$25.00 and a certificate to the senior member who volunteers the most in service to their community.

**JR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD** - \$25.00 and a certificate to the junior member who volunteers the most in service to their community

### **Personal Awards:**

*\$10 to the runner up to the Pat's Sole Sisters Plaque.*

*\$10 to the Division with the most Units submitting Community Service Project involving Seniors and Juniors.*

*\$10 to the District Chairman organizing a community service event for your area like a food drive, clothing drive, blood drive...and sent a narrative with pictures.*

*\$5.00 to the Division Chairman whose Units have submitted the most narratives*

## **EDUCATION**

**RUBY'S CANTEEN DANCERS PLAQUE** – to the Unit with best overall participation in the Education Program.

**JANET'S HUGGIE BEARS PLAQUE** – Recognition for the largest donation from a single source to the Education Fund by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Personal Awards:***

*\$10 to the runner up of the Ruby's Canteen Dancers Plaque.*

*\$10 to the runner up of the Janet's Huggie Bears Plaque*

*\$10 to the Unit with the most creative fundraiser for the Education Fund.*

***Certificate of Appreciation*** to all Units contributing a full scholarship of \$1000 or more including memorials.

## **GOLD STAR**

**STARR'S HEARTWARMERS GOLD STAR MEMBER OF THE YEAR** – to the selected Gold Star Member of the Year.

### ***Personal Awards:***

*\$10 to be given to the Unit chairman submitting the best report*

*\$5 to be given to the Unit chairman submitting the 2<sup>nd</sup> place report*

*\$10 Award to be given to the person submitting the best Gold Star Poem to Department Chairman by May 1, 2026*

*\$5 Award to be given to the person submitting the 2<sup>nd</sup> place Gold Star Poem to Department Chairman by May 1, 2026*

## **HISTORIAN**

**PRO-BOWLERS PLAQUE** – for the best Unit History.

**RAMONA'S INDIANS PLAQUE** – for the best District History.

**BASKETBALL SHOOTERS PLAQUE** - for the best Division History.

### **Awarded at Junior Conference**

**IRENE LOFTON'S EAGLETES PLAQUE** – for the best Unit Junior History

**DOT'S APPLE DUMPLING GANG PLAQUE**--for the best District Junior History.

### ***Personal awards:***

*\$10 and a Certificate to the runner up of the Pro Bowlers Plaque.*

*\$10 and a Certificate to the runner up of the Ramona's Indians Plaque.*

*\$10 and a Certificate to the runner up of the Basketball Shooters Plaque.*

## **JUNIOR ACTIVITIES**

**DEB'S WILD ONES PLAQUE** – to the Unit for the best overall participation in the Junior Activities Program.

### ***Personal Awards:***

*\$5 to the Unit bringing the most participants to JR/SONS Conference.*

*\$5 to the Unit describing the most creative ideas for assisting Juniors with the Patch Program.*

*\$5 Runner up to the Deb's Wild Ones Plaque*

## LEADERSHIP

**DIANA'S HATS OFF TO YOU PLAQUE** – to the Unit Member of the Year.

Use the Unit Member of the Year Award form. Must be an active member of her Unit.

To a senior member who is not currently, nor have been, in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than Unit President. Look for accomplishments and activities they involve themselves in that helps impact the American Legion Family, and the community through-out the year. Due to the Department Chairman May 1, 2026

**Personal Awards:**

*\$10 to the Unit with the most completed ALA Academy Courses ([www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org) under Meetings-Trainings Tab)*

*\$10 to the Unit having the most Senior members at a Unit Leadership class*

*\$10 to the District having the most Senior members at a District Leadership class*

*\$10 to the Division having the most Senior members at a Division Leadership class*

*Due July 1, 2026.*

*Classes cannot be from the sessions at Department Convention. Pictures should be submitted email.*

## LEGISLATIVE

**ANGIE'S SUPERHEROES LEGISLATIVE PLAQUE** – to the Unit for the best overall participation in the Legislative Program.

**Personal Awards:**

*\$10 and a certificate to the runner up of Angie's Superheroes Plaque*

*\$10 and a certificate to the Unit with the Most Members receiving replies from their legislators, both National, State, and Local as reported to this chairman.*

## MUSIC

**MARY'S FLEURETTES PLAQUE** – to the District Chairman for the best overall participation in the Music Program.

**Personal Awards:**

*\$5 to the runner up of the Mary's Fleurettes Plaque*

*\$5 award to the Senior member who submitted the best Parody of a patriotic song based on the Dept President's theme, written or video.*

*\$5 award for the Best Unit, District or Division participation in the music program.*

*\$5 to the Best Division, District, and Unit with the best video parody.*

**Music Awards Presented at Junior Conference**

Parody (First Place) ages 1-12.

*\$10.00 to the Junior member for best Patriotic or Department President's Theme written or video. To Department Chairman by March 1, 2026*

Parody (First Place) ages 13-17.

*\$10.00 to the Junior member for the best Patriotic or Department President's Theme written or video. To Department Chairman by March 1, 2026*

Parody (Second Place) ages 1-12.

*\$8.00 to the Junior member for the best Patriotic or Department President's Theme written or video. To Department Chairman by March 1, 2026*

Parody (Second Place) ages 13-17.

*\$8.00 to the Junior member for the best Patriotic or Department President's Theme written or video. To Department Chairman by March 1, 2026*

Parody (Third Place) ages 1-12.

\$5.00 to the Junior member for the best Patriotic or Department President's Theme written or video. To Department Chairman by March 1, 2026

Parody (Third Place) ages 13-17.

\$5.00 to the Junior member for the best Patriotic or Department President's Theme written or video. To Department Chairman by March 1, 2026

## **NATIONAL SECURITY**

**FIREHOUSE CREW NATIONAL SECURITY PLAQUE** – to the Unit for the best overall participation in the National Security program.

A plaque for each winning service member of the year – one per branch of service.

### **Personal Awards:**

*\$10 to the Runner-up of the Firehouse Crew National Security plaque.*

*\$10 to the Unit with the Best CERT program report.*

*\$10 to the Unit that donates the most to the USO*

## **PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY**

**MARION'S BALLOONITICS PLAQUE** – to the Unit for best overall participation in the Past Presidents Parley Program.

**PAM'S TV LANDERS PLAQUE** – to the District with highest contribution to the Nurses Scholarship Fund by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Does not include Unit donations.

### **Personal Awards:**

*\$10 to the runner up of the Marion's Balloonitics Plaque.*

*\$10 or a gift to the Unit raising the most funds for the nurse's scholarship program*

## **PHOTO BOOK - NONE**

## **POPPY**

**MARSHA'S ATHLETES PLAQUE** – to the Unit with the best overall participation in the Poppy program.

**JUDY'S CIRCUS PERFORMERS POPPY AWARD** – for the most new and innovative way or idea of raising funds for the Poppy Program.

**POPPY CONTESTS (Senior and Junior):** Poppy Corsage, Poppy Floral Table/Wall Arrangement, Poppy Tray Favors, Poppy Hat, Poppy Apparel

### **Personal Awards:**

*\$10 to the runner up of the Marsha's Athletes plaque*

*\$10 to the runner up of the Judy's Circus Performers Plaque.*

### **Awarded at Junior Conference:**

**LITTLE MISS POPPY AWARD** - \$50, Sash and Tiara.

**MISS POPPY AWARD** - \$50, Sash and Tiara.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**BURN'S REEL STARS PLAQUE** – for the best Unit Press Book submitted.

**JULIA'S MUSICIANS PLAQUE** – for the best District Press Book submitted.

### ***Personal Awards:***

*\$10 to the runner up of the Burn's Reel Stars Plaque.*

*\$10 to the runner up of the Julia's Musicians Plaque.*

### ***Awarded at Junior Conference.***

\$10.00 First Place for the most outstanding Media Book by Juniors (Class I and II).

\$8.00 Second Place for the most outstanding Media Book by Juniors (Class I and II).

\$5.00 Third Place for the most outstanding Media Book by Juniors (Class I and II).

## **VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION**

**TERI'S FIRECRACKERS PLAQUE** – to the Unit for best overall participation in the VA&R Program submitted in narrative form.

**CAROLLEE'S COOKIES PLAQUE** – to the District with the best overall participation in the VA&R Program submitted in narrative form.

### ***Personal Awards:***

*\$10 to the runner up of the Teri's Firecrackers Plaque*

*\$10 to the runner up of the Carollee's Cookies Plaque*

*\$10 to the Unit with the most donations to the Creative Arts Festival.*

## **SERVICE TO VETERANS/HOSPITAL SERVICES**

\$25.00 to **VA/VS Volunteer** serving the greatest number of hours, **excluding Reps/Deps.**

\$25.00 to **VA/VS Volunteer** serving the greatest number of hours, **for Reps/Deps.**

\$25.00 to the **"Service to Veterans" Junior Volunteer** serving the greatest number of hours.

\$25.00 to the **"Service to Veterans" Senior Volunteer** serving the greatest number of hours.

\$25 to **IL Veterans Home Volunteer** serving the greatest number of hours, **excluding Reps/Deps.**

\$25 to **IL Veterans Home Volunteer** serving the greatest number of hours, **for Reps/Deps.**

### ***Personal Awards:***

*Citation to honor the Volunteer with the most hours. Hospital hours or Service to Veterans*

## **HOLIDAY GIFTS - NONE**

## 2025-2026 Department of Illinois Membership Awards

**NO Unit with less than 10 members as a goal will be eligible for Department Awards**

**KATHY'S KITTENS THE CATS MEOW PLAQUE** –to the Unit with the highest percentage of membership by July 1<sup>st</sup> (10 - 150 members)

**DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP PLAQUE** - to the Unit with the highest percentage of membership by July 1<sup>st</sup> (151 and over members)

**SUE CC'S TWO TIMERS PLAQUE** – to the Unit with the highest numerical gain in membership by July 1<sup>st</sup>. (10-150 members)

**JO'S STARLIGHTERS PLAQUE** – to the Unit with the highest numerical gain in membership by July 1st. (151 and over members)

**DOUBLE D BOOT KICKERS PLAQUE** – to the District for the highest percent of membership by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Vice President gets citation in a blue folder. (Districts up to 900 members)

**DEPARTMENT AWARD PLAQUE**- to the District for the highest percent of membership by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Vice President gets citation in a blue folder. (Districts with more than 901 and above members)

**SHARON'S HALOS PLAQUE** – to the Division for the highest percent of membership by July 1st. Vice President get citation in a blue folder.

**PAT'S KNIGHTS PLAQUE** – to the Unit for the highest numerical gain in Junior membership by July 1st.

**FAMILY CARAVAN (JANUARY 15-24, 2026)** At Family Caravan the Unit that brings the most membership at each stop will receive an award. To be determined.

**LINCOLN PILGRIMAGE AWARDS** – to the Division and the 2 Districts (1-900, 901 +) with the highest percentage in membership on January 30, 2026. To include the President and Vice President. Winners will receive a Jacket and a breakfast ticket **if they are present** for the program on February 11<sup>th</sup> and the breakfast on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

**PATRIOTIC CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS** – for any District President/Vice President and Division President/Vice President that are goal by opening of Patriotic Conference, they will receive 1 free night at hotel or monetary equivalent if not staying in hotel because of location (live in area). **MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN**

### **100% & 101% MEMBERSHIP AWARDS –**

Any 100% Unit by Department Convention gets 2 - 100% pins with a 2025-2026 Bar and a certificate.

The first Division to reach 101%, the President and the Vice President will receive \$150.00 each.

The first District in each category (1-900, 901+) to reach 101%, the President and the Vice President will receive \$75.00 each.

### **Traveling Awards:**

- September 13, 2025 - cutoff at 10:30 AM, the beginning of Fall Board Meeting - Div. President & V. President highest % in membership/Dist. President & V. President highest % in membership in each category (1-900, 901+) in each Division
- December 24, 2025--Div. President & V. President highest % in membership/Dist. President & V. President highest % in membership in each category (1-900, 901+) in each Division
- March 20, 2026--Div. President & V. President highest % in membership/Dist. President & V. President highest % in membership in each category (1-900, 901+) in each Division. If they are 100% they may keep their pins.
- July 9, 2026—Christmas in July – cutoff is 9 AM, the beginning of convention. Div. President & V. President highest % in membership/Dist. President & V. President highest % in membership in each category (1-900, 901+) in each Division.