



JILL LAYTON

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Illinois President
2025-2026

BELIEVE



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Scenes from Christmas



(Top Left) 16th District with Christmas Gift Bags they filled for Veterans.

(Top Right) Members of Thornton Unit 1070 sharing Christmas spirit at their annual Unit Christmas Luncheon.

(Bottom Left) Members of Edward Schultz Unit 697 sharing Christmas spirit after their December meeting.

(Bottom Right) Members of Staunton Unit 362 sponsoring a Patriotic Food Pantry Drive Thru at Jefferson barracks for Veterans, Active Military, and their families.



Jill Layton

The 2025 Christmas season has come to an end so let's start preparing for Christmas in July!!!

I am looking forward to seeing your smiles during the January Membership Caravan! If you cannot bring membership to the Caravan, please see if a neighboring Unit can bring your membership together with their membership. Remind the members who had not paid their dues by December 31st that they are now delinquent in their membership. And we do not want them to lose any of their Auxiliary-member benefits. When you bring your membership to the January Membership Caravan, bring your Sweepstake tickets as well to turn in to Department! Even if you do not have membership to turn in, please come to the nearest January membership Caravan stop. This is a wonderful opportunity to make contact with the Department leadership. This will be an awesome time to see Commander Roy, Commander Wayne and I together as we travel throughout the Department, visit with our friends and make new friends.

Please do not forget to turn in under Community Service, Children & Youth, and VA&R the hours in which you volunteered and the money spent for these programs during the winter and Christmas season.

I am looking forward to the Lincoln Pilgrimage in February. And please join us at the Patriotic Conference in March. Americanism Chairman Rosemary Mulligan and National Security Chairman Tina Abdnour will have wonderful speakers for us to enjoy. And don't forget that there will be an initiation ceremony for any member, a new member or a 50-plus year member, who has not gone through the initiation ceremony.

Do you have a daughter or granddaughter, or niece that is a Junior member? What about a young Sons member? Please join us for the Department Junior and Young Sons Conference. Last year Junior Chairman Angie Mulligan built a flag pole

Please take a moment and donate to my special project - ALA Illini Girls State!

inside the hotel to

(Continued on page 4)



Roy Smith

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas!

It's time to get back out and start thinking about our American Legion Family. The challenge is to get out and work our programs, and of course our membership. I was reminded of this on New Years Day while my wife Tena and I were at the Post and she broke out the check book and paid our children and grand children dues, our children seem to forget or maybe they have their mother trained to keep them caught up, once again we are a 100% family. I also saw a few other folks come in and pay their dues for the year.

We have a couple of events coming up shortly, The American Legion Family Caravan, that time of year when the Caravan comes to a Post near you. A lot of folks have ask why do we do that in January. I asked the same question years ago. I know why now, folks tend get so involved in the Holiday Season that we forget about the Legion Family. This event serves as a winter kick starter. Some Departments have what they call a mid winter conference, they bring everyone into one location for a couple of days and have a type of winter meeting. In Illinois we bring the meeting to each District. I am looking forward to going places I have not been and meeting new people and seeing old friends, and having fun along the way.

After Caravan, it's Lincoln Pilgrimage, this is an event that has grown into a National Legion Family Event.

Springfield Post 32 sponsors the Pilgrimage. The National Leadership attends along with the Leadership of Several Departments to celebrate our 16th Presidents Birthday. As an Illinois resident as well as a member of the American Legion Family, we should all try to attend at least once. I warn you if you come once you will probably come again.

Also, on February 25th, we have Veteran Lobby Day in Springfield. All of the Veterans Service Organization get together and meet with the members of the Illinois Congress.

As you can see our Legion Family gets back to work quickly after the Holiday Season. I look forward to seeing all of you this winter. May God Bless You, This Country and our American Legion Family.



Wayne Madson

Linda Oakley



Hello everyone!

Hope you all enjoyed the holidays with family and friends. Now it's time to get back to work, supporting our Veterans and our communities. This past month the Detachment held our DEC in Morton Grove. We had a young Sons member, Zachary Anderson in attendance wearing a sash proudly showing his patches that he earned so far from the Auxiliary patch program. Zach is a member of Squadron 690 in Palatine. Please help us promote this great program of the Auxiliary with young Sons participation. Well, it's January that means everyone has an opportunity to meet Department leadership at the Caravan stop in your District. If you have membership cards please bring them, if not come out and socialize with leadership or with other Legion family members.

Since July I've been looking forward to the caravan to meet and visit with everyone. After the caravan it doesn't slow down. End of January I'm off to Indianapolis for some training with the Legion family. Then comes February - why slow down now. First Sunday, there are 4 Chaplain's services being held. Then off to Springfield for Lincoln's Pilgrimage to recognize our top District and Division Commanders for their hard work. I end the month in Washington D.C. where I have the privilege as Detachment Commander to lay a wreath at the WW2 memorial in honor of my grandfather. Please keep up the great work you all do for this great organization. Don't ever forget the reason we do this, for the veteran that gave us our eligibility to serve.

Ding dong, ding dong
Hear the Membership bells go ding dong

Some folks like to hear a Christmas song
But I like Membership bells that go ding dong
Jingle-jangle, ding-a-ling or just bing-bong
I love to hear 'em ring

Oh, ring those Membership bells
Ring those Membership bells
While they chime, we'll have a happy time
So ring those Membership bells

Congratulations to the 16 Units that are goal in the Department. To those Units that are close, please keep working!! As I write this on January 2nd, the Department membership percentage is 72.52% We are down from the same time last year, so please keep working!

December 24th was the cut-off for the next membership challenge for the traveling bracelet/tie tac award....and the winners are.....

- ⇒ in the Division race...the Division with the highest percentage is....2nd Division - Karen Stetina and Todd Latham with a percentage of 71.41%
- ⇒ In the 1st Division - the District with the highest percentage is....District 5 - Bo Ranney and Juanita LoGiudice with 71.99%;
- ⇒ in the 2nd Division - the District with the highest percentage is....District 13 - Kathy Pignato and Jerri Akins with 74.50%;
- ⇒ in the 3rd Division - the District with the highest percentage is...District 14 - Dona Kenney and Patricia Peck with 74.44%;
- ⇒ in the 4th Division - the District with the highest percentage is...District 17 - Crystal Black and Marsha Haag with 72.94%; and
- ⇒ in the 5th Division - the District with the highest percentage is...District 25 - Diana Steele and Patricia Edwards with 75.07%.

Congratulations to each of these....Was your Division or your District one of the winners? If not, work that membership so that your President/Membership Chairman can be the winner in March! Plus, if they are a Goal Division or District, they get to keep the award.

(Continued on page 4)

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

teach the Juniors and young Sons about the flag. I am sure this year will be filled with wonderful and fun learning activities.

As I decorated my home for Christmas, I smiled at all the wonderful Christmas-themed gifts that I have received. I will treasure them always. Thank you for your kind hospitality, your friendship, your prayers, and your constant kindness. I hope you are as proud to be an American Legion Auxiliary member as I am.

(Membership Message Cont'd from pg. 2)

I do hope that we see many of you during the Family Membership Caravan. We want to meet many of our members...plus, the Unit that brings in the most membership at each stop will receive an award...so please attend and bring in your membership!!!

Speaking of awards...coming up is the Lincoln Pilgrimage Award - to the Division and the 2 Districts (goal of 1-900 members and goal of 901 + members) with the highest percentage in membership on January 30, 2026. To include the President and Membership Chairman. Winners will receive a jacket and a breakfast ticket **if they are present** for the program on February 11th and the breakfast on February 12th!

How great would it be for your President and Membership Chairman were awarded these jackets! BUT WAIT.....I need those Membership Bells ringing hard in March!! 9:00 AM March 20th is the cut-off for awards at Patriotic Conference. As per National, we are 141 members behind last year at this time....I need your help in getting those members! How can you reach those members who haven't renewed? Call them, send them letters, let them know what your Unit has been doing and that their membership is valuable.

Looking forward to seeing many of you as we travel this beautiful State in January.

Always remember – you are BRAVER than you believe; STRONGER than you seem, SMARTER than you think & twice as BEAUTIFUL as you'd ever imagined.

97th Annual Patriotic Conference

Mark your calendars!!!

Hotel information and meal snip sheets are on page 16.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO ATTEND??? YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT! There are many exciting things planned for the day – the boost we all need to get us through the remainder of the year!

Mark your calendars for **Friday, March 20, 2026 beginning at 9:00 a.m.** Invite The American Legion Family and your friends to attend with you. ALL members of The American Legion Family and guests are welcome!

Every effort is being made by our Department Chairmen to secure interesting speakers. Throughout the day, you can enjoy taking part in activities and various fundraisers.

Much effort goes into planning to make this a very informative and motivational day. Everyone is encouraged to attend!

The Spring Board meeting will be held Friday night, March 20, 2026, and concludes Saturday morning, March 21, 2026. All Department Officers, Division and District Presidents and Department Chairmen are **required** to attend.

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.

CANDIDATES FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICES

ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL OFFICE

If a member of your Unit is planning to become a candidate for a Department Office or is seeking endorsement as a candidate for National Office, please furnish the requested information **NO LATER THAN APRIL 1, 2026**. This information will be used for publication.

ARTICLE: Please keep between 100/150 words in length due to limited space. The article should cover member's record of accomplishments in the American Legion Auxiliary first and other interesting information as space allows. Article must be typewritten and mailed or emailed to executivesecretary@ilala.org

PHOTOGRAPH: Email a photograph to Department Headquarters at executivesecretary@ilala.org to be published in the ALA Today newsletter.

It is the Unit's responsibility to supply the above information or to see that your candidate responds to the request. The article will be printed in the **May/June issue of The ALA Today**. This will be the only way many delegates will learn of the qualifications of those seeking Department Offices prior to Department Convention. We wish to give each candidate an equal opportunity to share her record of activities.

DEADLINE: This material must reach Department Headquarters NO LATER THAN APRIL 1, 2026.

Jill Layton
Department President

CALL FOR REVISIONS TO DEPARTMENT CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, AND STANDING RULES, AND DISTRICT AND UNIT BYLAWS

In accordance with **ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS, Section 1**, of the Department Constitution and **ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS** of Department Bylaws, call is hereby issued for such proposed revisions to reach Department Headquarters **NO LATER THAN APRIL 1, 2026**.

As stated in **ARTICLE VII** and **X**, all suggested amendments proposed will be sent to each Unit and District, as required, sixty days before the Department Convention, JULY 9, 10, 11, 2026. Final action will be taken at the Department Convention in Springfield, Illinois.

Each proposed revision must be submitted in triplicate. Each must also be sponsored by a Unit or signed by two members in good standing in the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois.

Jill Layton
Department President

Initiation Ceremony at Patriotic Conference

The American Legion Auxiliary has a lovely initiation ceremony. Many Units do not perform the initiation ceremony, and many are not even aware there is such a ceremony. ALL MEMBERS, whether you are a new member, or have been a member for 50 years or more, and if you have not been through the initiation ceremony, please take the opportunity at the Patriotic Conference to participate in the American Legion Auxiliary Initiation Ceremony! Please mark yes or no on the Patriotic Snip Sheet on page 16.

ALA Illini Girls State Director Sarah Wyckoff

This year the ALA IGS Committee is, “**Teaching our Future Leaders to Believe in Themselves.**” The 85th session of ALA IGS Illini Girls State will be held on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston from Sunday June 21st to Saturday June 27th 2026.

During the week, the citizens will learn about the voting process, campaigning, elections, flag etiquette, patriotism and more. The committee has voted that the fee for 2026 is \$400. The fall packet included the citizen application, program brochure and other pertinent information. The application is also available online. Please make as many copies as needed. All citizens need to fill out the application and then submit it to Department office in Bloomington with the fee. Please utilize and share with citizens, sponsors, and members our website and social media. They are updated regularly and especially was we get closer to session. Website : <https://alaigs.org/>



Social Media:

Recruiting and promoting this life-changing program is vital. We are asking all units to send at least one citizen to the 85th session. We also welcome donations to be sent to the Department Office for the program if the unit is unable to find or send a citizen. The ALA IGS committee works to match interested citizens with sponsorships; we do not want to turn anyone away.

New for 2026 the ALA Illini Girls State committee is hosting two Virtual Open Houses via Zoom. One date in January and one date in February. Share the dates with interested students, teachers, guidance counselors or even unit members. Jump on the call and learn more about the ALA Illini Girls State program. To join the virtual open house, follow the link on our Facebook or Instagram pages. You can also reach out me if needed for assistance. Email at sarahrichards@hotmail.com. See the flyer on the following pages.

Again, this year the committee will be doing a unit raffle, awarding two units a refund when the registration fee and completed application is in to the Department office by April 1, 2026 (first deadline) and May 1, 2026 (second deadline). We appreciate early applications to help the committee to better prepare for the session with knowledge of citizen numbers. Now is the time to reach out to your schools and home schoolers or home school groups. We want to be the first program on these student’s minds as they are making their summer plans. Once you have your citizen, please make sure the application is fully completed with all sections answered.

Remember we no longer offer transportation to or from the program. Options for transportation include carpooling or Units offering a gas card. On the application this year we have a line asking if they would like to share their information about carpooling. Although we discourage citizens from driving themselves, permission can be given by the Director.

In January, to increase awareness of our program, the ALA IGS committee will be sending out an email to all the schools in Illinois. However, we still need and want all Auxiliary members to reach out to their schools. But as a committee, we are also working to get the word out to help increase our attendance. Be on the lookout again for the ALA IGS Wishlist on Facebook and Instagram. It is an opportunity for members or units to donate supplies for the sessions.

The planning of the ALA IGS 85th session began at the beginning of August and continues to be a work in progress. We are looking forward to meeting our future leaders and giving them an awesome ALA IGS lifechanging experience!

Please know the ALA IGS committee is always here to help you, just ask.

FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICE USE ONLY

\$ _____ REG. FEE

2026 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 _____

(Street)

(Town)

(Zip Code)

Phone _____

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 \$400.00 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 2025-2026 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 21st-27th, 2026 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 _____ 2025-2026 _____

(Signature of Parent or Guardian)



**American Legion Dept. of Illinois
2026 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP CARAVAN**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15				
DIV	DIST	POST	MEAL	TIME
3	15	Fairview Post 644	Dinner	6:00 PM
FRIDAY, JANUARY 16				
3	16	Wyoming Post 91	Breakfast	8:30 AM
3	14	Milan Post 569	Lunch	11:30 AM
2	13	Sterling Post 296	Dinner	6:00 PM
SATURDAY, JANUARY 17				
2	10	Lake Zurich Post 964	Brunch	10:30 AM
1	2	Tattler 973	Snack	2:00 PM
2	11	Wood Dale 1205	Dinner	6:00 PM
SUNDAY, JANUARY 18				
1	4	William McKinley 231	Brunch	10:30 AM
1	8	Marrs-Meyer Post 991	Snack	2:00 PM
2	12	Morris 294	Dinner	6:00 PM
MONDAY, JANUARY 19				
4	17	Towanda 931	Dinner	6:00 PM
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20—CARAVAN DAY OFF				
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21				
4	19	Bement Post 620	Brunch	10:30 AM
4	18	Marshall 90	Dinner	5:00 PM
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22				
5	24	Norris City Post 109	Lunch	12:30 PM
5	25	Orient Post 1961	Dinner	6:00 PM
FRIDAY, JANUARY 23				
5	23	Diesen-Winkler Post 325	Lunch	12:30 AM
5	22	Mascoutah 292	Dinner	6:00 pm
SATURDAY, JANUARY 24				
3	20	Brussels Post 685	Brunch	10:30 AM
4	21	Springfield Post 809	Dinner	5:00 PM

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.

Reminders!

- There are still membership packets in the office. They will be sent out when the office receives the unit's 2025-2026 officer's list.
- Check out the Snip Sheet (pgs. 21-22), there are so many great programs your unit can support. Our veterans and facilities are still in need.

National Security

Chairman Tina Abdelnour

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

Established in 2003, this award has evolved from honoring women veterans to honoring active duty women, to honoring all enlisted personnel who are currently serving our country in the 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, 2026, but nominations are being accepted NOW!!! Don't wait Illinois has many service members that deserve this recognition!

There will be a Department of Illinois National Security Zoom Meeting on Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 7pm. Any member may attend. This will be a chance for us to discuss the National Security program, get new ideas and ask any questions you may have on this program. You do not need to be your Unit, District or Division Chairman to attend. I DO encourage ALL Chairman at all levels to attend this meeting, so all Unit, District and Division Presidents, please encourage your chairman to attend. Link is listed below:

Topic: Department of IL National Security Program

Time: Feb 26, 2026 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84485988310?pwd=5xm3WrpWGcA1Si84bS3nxfOwaYOti.1>

Meeting ID: 844 8598 8310

Passcode: 343321

One tap mobile

+13092053325,,84485988310#,,,*343321# US

+13126266799,,84485988310#,,,*343321# US (Chicago)

Join instructions

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meetings/84485988310/invitations?signature=JrMb2eNZjLPVdVB0AnAFvTYFr0yYX9Ucu4QKIqlj-E>

Easter Gift Shop

Chairman Laurinda Kidd

EASTER GIFT PROGRAM

Easter gifts in the amount of \$5.00 will be provided for the Veterans who are hospitalized, in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, or are homebound due to health issues. This program is made possible through Unit contributions to the 6 Point Program. An Easter card will also be provided by the Department to accompany the \$5.00 Easter gift. **Please note: You do not need names of veterans, just how many.** Veterans in VA Medical Centers and State facilities will be counted by their representatives.

PLEASE NOTE: Make sure your unit officers' lists are up to date and filed with the department. We need to know who the treasurer is and the correct contact information, or else items will be withheld until that is corrected.

Report your numbers on the survey sheet below by March 6th, 2026. Don't be late.

Laurinda Kidd

PO Box 276, Leland, IL 60531

Lk8thilcav@hotmail.com

UNIT NAME: _____ UNIT NUMBER _____ DISTRICT _____

FACILITY NAME: _____ HOW MANY VETERANS: _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMEBOUND VETERANS _____

*TOTAL NUMBER OF VETERANS _____

Checks and cards will be sent to the Unit Treasurer

UNIT TREASURER _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

AREA CODE AND PHONE NUMBER _____

UNIT PRESIDENT _____

ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND EMAIL _____

Parliamentarian

Chairman Pat Kranzow

Member Rights:

We believe that our members are important and should be treated with respect as we carry out our mission. They have rights. Weldon L. Merritt, PRP, CPP, lists the rights of ordinary members of an organization as follows (All citations are from Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 12th edition [RONR].)

A member of a deliberative assembly (Unit, County, District, Division, Department, and National) has the right

1. to attend meetings. [1:4]
2. to make motions. [1:4]
3. to speak in debate. [1:4]
4. to vote. [1:4]
5. to abstain from voting. [45:3]
6. to be given copies of the assembly's governing documents, including bylaws, special rules of order (if any), and standing rules. [2:13]
7. to unilaterally modify or withdraw a motion the member has made before it has been stated by the chair. [4:19]
8. to speak first in debate on a motion the member has made. [3:33(1)]
9. to insist on the enforcement of the rules of order, through the raising of a Point of Order. [23:1]
10. to require the assembly to adhere to its agenda, program, or order of business, by a Call for the Orders of the Day. [18:1]
11. to require a Division of the Assembly if the member doubts the result of a voice vote or a show of hands. [6:17(7)]
12. to change his or her vote up to the time the results are announced (except when the vote has been taken by ballot or another method providing secrecy). [45:8]
13. to demand a ballot vote on the question of guilt and on the imposition of a penalty in a disciplinary proceeding. [61:17]
14. to not have allegations against the member's good name made except by charges brought on reasonable ground. [63:5]
15. to have due process in any disciplinary proceedings. [63:5]
16. to require separate consideration of two or more unrelated questions offered in a single motion. [27:10-11]
17. to make a Parliamentary Inquiry or a Request for Information (also called Point of Information). [33:1]

Expect your rights to be regarded.

Pat Kranzow,
Parliamentary Advisor

Chaplain

Carollee Junge

I have a gift you can give to someone that does not cost a penny. It is called a big hug. A hug gives you a warm, comfortable and peaceful feeling. Hugs are wonderful, they make a person and the person receiving the hug feel good. Do not underestimate this free gift and the power it has.

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	

DIVISION	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 ***	
Add shipping costs if order is to be mailed		SHIPPING
		\$ 14.00
Make All Checks Payable To: <u>The American Legion, Dept. of Illinois</u>		TOTAL
		\$

CREDIT CARD # _____

Do NOT send Cash!

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.

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		

Patriotic Conference & Snip Sheet

97th Annual Patriotic Conference

President Abraham Lincoln Hotel a Double Tree by Hilton
701 East Adams Street
Springfield, IL 62701

Mark your calendars for Friday, March 20th, 2026 if you haven't already! The exhibits and basket raffle will open at 8:00 a.m. The conference session begins at 9 a.m.

Come enjoy fascinating speakers, displays, raffles and the luncheon.

Hotel: Room rate for the Conference is \$117.00 plus tax. DEADLINE DATE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS IS MARCH 4th, 2026.

Please use the link below to make your room reservation. If you are unable to use the link, please call the hotel at (217) 544-8800. Be sure to mention you are with the ALA Patriotic Conference to receive the discounted rate.

Click [here](#) to make your reservation! [American Legion Auxiliary Patriotic Conference \(hilton.com\)](http://American Legion Auxiliary Patriotic Conference (hilton.com))

Checks to be received by March 1, 2026 to: American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois

PO Box 1426, Bloomington, IL 61702-1426

UNIT NAME _____ UNIT # _____

Name of person picking up tickets _____

How many people will be attending the ALA Initiation Ceremony? Total: _____

List below ALL those attending the Luncheon & Unit # (if different)

Name	Unit #	Beef: Roast Beef with rosemary au jus	Chicken Francesca: Chicken Breast with garlic lemon butter and caprese relish

***Salad, potatoes, and dessert served with all entrees

***Special dietary request on individual basis

TOTAL tickets for Patriotic Conference Luncheon _____ @ \$45.00 each Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to ALA Department of Illinois. Tickets must be picked up at the Ticket Table prior to the opening of the Conference. If you wish to charge tickets to a credit card, please call the Department office at 309-663-9366.

Pouring a Strong Foundation to Build a Brighter Future for Our Veterans

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Illinois Department Junior and Young Sons Conference

April 18 & 19, 2026

Best Western Monticello Gateway Inn

805 Iron Horse Place, Monticello, IL 61856

We are very excited to present this year's Juniors and Young Sons Conference. Honorary Department Junior President Abby Brown is hoping to see many familiar faces and make many new friends. This year registration is free for the Juniors! Senior members will pay a \$10 registration fee.

Saturday, April 18th: 11:00- 12:00 noon will be registration of Juniors & Seniors, contest entries, and flags. The Conference will start at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. On Saturday evening, we will again be hosting our pajama party with a few surprises to allow the participants more time to socialize. This year's pajama party will have a Christmas theme. The evening meal will be at the recess on Saturday for all attending Juniors, Seniors, and guests. The cost per dinner ticket is \$10.00 and the dinner registration form must be sent in to secure your reservation.

The Conference resumes on Sunday morning with a brief worship service and a memorial service. The annual graduation ceremony will take place as well as the Installation of Honorary Department Junior Officers and District Junior Presidents.

Start planning now to enjoy these special activities of learning, friendship, and laughter. Juniors and Young Sons do NOT need to be part of an organized group to be a part of this Conference. They can participate in all contests, run for offices, and join the social activities. A variety of activities are being planned to make sure that participants are engaged and learning.

ALL SENIOR MEMBERS! It would be impossible to have a successful Conference without volunteers. Please let me know if you can help at some of the different events throughout the weekend.

Housing reservations are to be made directly with the hotel at [\(217\) 762-9436](tel:(217)762-9436). The room rate is \$139.99 per night. Room cut off is April 4, 2026. Reservations can be made on link using this link. [Junior Conference Reservations.](#)



Conferences such as this can be costly, and our junior units do not have the level of funds that our Units, Posts, and Squadrons have without fundraising. To off-set the cost of this event, we have set up an Amazon wish list to assist in gathering supplies for this event. Items on this list include craft supplies for service projects and patriotic story books to be raffled off for participants. A number of these books will also assist participants with completing requirements for the ALA Patch program.

Items purchased from this list will be shipped directly to the Department Chairman so they can be taken to the conference even if you are unable to attend. Scan the QR code to view our wish list.

Angie Mulligan, Junior Activities Chairman

Junior Conference Registration

Please Note: Registration must be sent to ensure seating for Juniors! Please list names of ALL Participants registering as well as ALL Adults. Pre-registration for Adult members is highly encouraged.

PLEASE MAIL BY April 1 TO:

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Illinois
PO Box 1426, Bloomington, IL 61702

Please type or print all information.

Date: _____

Unit/Squadron Name & Number _____ District Number _____

Advisor's Name _____

Address: _____

Advisor Phone Number _____ Email: _____

(Advisor: I need your contact information so I can contact you with your Juniors' responsibilities and times/places to appear.)

Registration: Junior and Young Sons members are **FREE**

Senior (Adult) members _____ x \$10 each Senior (Adult) member \$ _____ Total

Youth MEMBER(S) attending Conference, including the age for each Youth member. Please use a * to indicate any Youth interested in helping during Conference. Please use ** if Youth member would be able to volunteer for a speaking part.

SENIOR (Adult) MEMBER(S) attending Conference

Questions? Contact Angie Mulligan, Department Junior Activities Chairman 815-546-6486 mickeym@ameritech.net

JUNIOR GRADUATION CEREMONY

Juniors MUST be 18 years of age by July 31, 2026 to participate!

Junior Name	Unit Name & Number	Division	District	Date of Birth

Unit Junior Advisor Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Address _____

Detach & mail by March 1, 2026, to Angie Mulligan, 605 Bethel Dr. Joliet, IL 60435 (mickeym@ameritech.net)

JUNIOR MEMORIAL SERVICE

Name of deceased Junior since April 1, 2025.

Junior Name	Unit Name & Number	Division	District	Date of Birth

Unit Junior Advisor Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Address _____

Detach & mail by April 1, 2026, to Angie Mulligan, 605 Bethel Dr. Joliet, IL 60435

FOR JUNIORS/SALS INTERESTED IN HOLDING AN OFFICE OR APPOINTMENT

THE FOLLOWING RULES ARE TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN SUBMITTING A NAME FOR THE VAROIJUS POSITIONS.

1. A girl elected as Honorary Department Junior President MUST be of Junior Membership eligibility (under age 18) at the time she presides at her Conference. Candidates for President must be a Junior member. All other offices can be any participant.
 - a. The Honorary Junior President and other officers will represent the juniors at the National level according to the program arranged by National Officers.
 - b. A \$1,000 scholarship called Burns "Reel Stars" will be awarded to the Honorary Junior Department President. She must have presided over the Junior Conference prior to acceptance. It will be awarded at Department Convention. It will be given to the recipient following confirmation of enrollment in college. This scholarship is made available to the Honorary Junior Department President by Past Department President Wanita Burns.
2. For speaking appointments, please choose a Junior who is able to read and speak distinctly and with volume.
3. Participants appointed as Sergeant-at-Arms and Pages should wear the following items: Juniors: dress, skirt and top or slacks. Sons: Collared shirt and slacks. No jeans or shorts for either group.
4. Please indicate on the registration form below the type of appointment each girl would like. **THIS FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED TO DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN ANGIE MULLIGAN BY April 1, 2026.**
5. Additional information regarding appointments will be sent directly to the Unit Junior Advisor after selections are made. Necessary advance material, if needed, will also be sent at that time.

GUIDELINE FOR CAMPAIGNING: Candidates for office may campaign during Saturday evening fun-time. All campaigning must be done outside the Conference Room. Please make campaigning fun for everyone involved. **Use of posters, name tags, or flyers are allowed. DO NOT use gimmicks, favors, edibles, etc.**

VERY IMPORANT: Please be respectful and considerate of other candidates as well as their campaign materials and posters. Do not mark on or tear down anyone's posters. Such action may discontinue all campaigning. Also be respectful of the Hotel when you put up posters. Do not use anything that may mar the walls.

Please provide the information below for participants interested in running for office. **Detach and mail no later than April 1, 2026**, to Angie Mulligan, 605 Bethel Dr., Joliet, IL 60435 with a picture and bio for the Junior running for office. Names submitted by April 1st will appear on the ballot in the order in which they were received. Names submitted after April 8th or nominated from the floor will have their names on the ballot but will not be listed in the program.

Candidate Name: _____ for Honorary Junior President or Honorary Jr. Vice President
 (Please circle one)

Please list any participants who would like to volunteer assist during our conference.

Name	Unit/Squadron Number	Date of Birth/ Age	Volunteer appointment

Unit Junior Advisor's Name _____ Phone # _____

Email Address _____

Junior Dinner Reservations

MAIL TO: American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Illinois
P.O. Box 1426
Bloomington, IL 61702-1426

NOTE: Make checks payable to
"Department Treasurer".

DATE _____

UNIT NAME & NO. _____ DISTRICT NO. _____

NAME OF PERSON PICKING UP TICKETS _____

ENCLOSED FIND \$ _____ FOR _____ TICKETS @ \$10.00 EACH

Kid friendly menu still being determined.

List all names for whom tickets are ordered – use an additional sheet if necessary!



ALA - Department of Illinois 2025-2026 Master Snip Sheet

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

Dept. President's Special Project	ALA Illini Girls State	\$
TAL Commanders Special Project	TAL Premier Boys State	\$
SAL Commanders Special Project	Youth Police School	\$
National President's Special Project	Spirit of Youth Fund	\$
Americanism	Americanism Fund	\$
	Spirit of Youth Fund	\$
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	AEF Fund	\$
Children & Youth	Christmas Gift Program	\$
	Children & Youth Scholarship	\$
	Special Olympics Events	\$
Education	Education Scholarships	\$
Junior Activities	Dept. Junior Conference	\$
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)	\$
The American Legion	Gifts to the Yanks ***	\$
National Organization	American Legion Child Welfare Foundation	\$
	American Legion Auxiliary Foundation	\$
	National Creative Arts Program ***	\$

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

Page 1 total\$ _____

Date _____ Unit Name _____ Unit # _____

Submitted by _____ Phone _____ email _____



ALA - Department of Illinois 2025-2026 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 (General) ***	\$
Christmas Gift Shop	\$
Easter Gifts	\$
VA Nursing Homes	\$
In facility Hospitality	\$
Homeless & Homebound Christmas Bags	\$
VA Toiletries & Art Therapy Supplies	\$
Vets Medical Transport***	\$

Fisher Houses***	\$
Hines VA	\$
Lovell Health Care	\$
St Louis VAMC	\$

Hospitals and Facilities ***

General Donation	\$
Hines VA Hospital	\$
Illiana VA Health Care System	\$
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center	\$
Marion VA Medical Center	\$
Lovell Federal Health Care Center	\$
Jefferson Barracks St. Louis VA	\$
John Cochran St. Louis VA	\$
Anna Veterans Home	\$
LaSalle Veterans Home	\$
Manteno Veterans Home	\$
Quincy Veterans Home	\$
Bloomington Outpatient Clinic	\$
Bob Michel Outpatient Clinic	\$
Decatur Outpatient Clinic	\$
Mattoon Outpatient Clinic	\$
Springfield Outpatient Clinic	\$

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

Memorial Donation to
(program)

In honor of

Acknowledgement Sent to

Page #2 total \$

Total of Pages 1 & 2\$

Date _____

Unit Name _____ Unit # _____

Submitted by _____

Phone _____ email _____

American Legion Auxiliary Membership Report - 1/7/2026

District	Division	President	Units	Goal	Total Members	Goal %
17	4	Crystal Black	33	1334	1057	79.24%
25	5	Diana Steele	14	698	552	79.08%
14	3	Dona Kenney	11	532	420	78.95%
20	3	Jodith Lewis	20	647	509	78.67%
12	2	Janet Bacon	25	1598	1235	77.28%
19	4	Patti Williamson	33	1821	1405	77.16%
11	2	Barbara Howe	33	1858	1425	76.70%
18	4	Debbie Myles	28	1216	930	76.48%
9	1	Kris McIntyre	7	529	404	76.37%
13	2	Kathy Pignato	15	545	411	75.41%
5	1	Balvina "Bo" Ranney	11	307	228	74.27%
16	3	Teri Miller	24	1105	816	73.85%
15	3	Rebecca Marvel	25	905	665	73.48%
23	5	Diana Owens	23	1473	1080	73.32%
22	5	Karen Daesch	25	935	677	72.41%
4	1	Diane Cetera	7	194	140	72.16%
24	5	April Parkhurst	14	566	393	69.43%
8	1	Lea Morsovillo	11	609	421	69.13%
10	2	Angela Walker	13	581	399	68.67%
3	1	Karen Atkins	6	114	75	65.79%
21	4	Barb Turner	17	637	391	61.38%
2	1		4	57	30	52.63%
7	1	Marlene Russell	3	152	68	44.74%
Headquarters 2910			1	478	403	84.31%
TOTALS			403	18891	14134	74.82%
2		Karen Stetina		4582	3470	75.73%
3		Michelle Gorsage		3189	2410	75.57%
4		Diane Shapland		5008	3783	75.54%
5		Ann Flanagan		3672	2702	73.58%
1		Nancy Stevens		1962	1366	69.62%
Goal Units						
18						
Linda Oakley						
Department Membership						
Jill Layton						
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
Jill Layton Sharon Conatser

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

American Legion Auxiliary
★ *A community of volunteers* ★
Serving veterans, military, and their families

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Bloomington, IL
Permit No. 18

Dates to Remember

- January 15-24 American Legion Family Membership Caravan
- January 30 Lincoln Pilgrimage Award Deadline
- February 11-12 Abraham Lincoln Pilgrimage - Springfield, IL
- March 20 Patriotic Conference—Springfield, IL
- March 20-21 Spring Board Meeting—Springfield, IL
- April 18-19 Junior and Young Sons Conference—Monticello, IL
- July 9-11 Department Convention—Springfield, IL