



## JILL LAYTON

American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Illinois President  
2025-2026

**BELIEVE**



## Table of Contents

Presidents Message	pg. 2-4
TAL Message	pg. 2-4
SAL Message	pg. 3
Membership Message	pg. 3
Unit Data Form	pg. 5
IGS Info & Application	pg. 6-8
Service to Veterans Pin Order Form	pg. 9
Donation Dates / Important Info	pg. 10
Department Convention/Pictures	pg. 11
Chaplain/Patriotic/National Security	pg. 12
Poppy Order Form	pg. 13-14
Leadership/Children & Youth	pg. 15
Special Olympics/America 250	pg. 16
Education/PPP Nurses	pg. 17
Special Olympics Sign Up Sheet	pg. 18
Sweepstakes Winners	pg. 19
Armed Forces Day Dinner	pg. 20
Snip Sheet	pg. 21-22
Membership Report	pg. 23

## Scenes from Caravan



(Top Left) Leadership at the Norris City Stop during the Legion Family Caravan.

(Top Right) Our Illinois Legion Family Leadership!!

(Bottom Left) 1st Vice President Linda Iberg with 23rd District President Diana Owens showing off a Patriotic bear during a Caravan stop.

(Bottom Right) Leadership addressing the attendees during Caravan.



*Jill  
Layton*



*Roy  
Smith*

What a whirlwind the January Membership Caravan was. It was such a great experience to meet so many Legion Family members. There are some beautiful Post homes in Illinois. The smiles and hugs were welcoming, the food was always fantastic, and the enthusiasm was appreciated.

As you know, we are on a strong push to achieve 85% in membership by March 15<sup>th</sup>. With our own Pam Ray serving as National President, we truly want Illinois to qualify for the Department Merit Medallion. You just need one or two? The easiest way is to look for daughters and granddaughters! When you have your list of unpaid members, please call – yes, a **phone call**—to check on them. See if they need anything or if you can help them in any way. Offer to pick up their unpaid dues. And when you do, please see that Department receives them as soon as possible. If you have access to ALA MIS, they can be processed with a few clicks on the keyboard! The Department would need to receive the dues by March 10<sup>th</sup> to make sure they are processed and counted by the March 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. **I BELIEVE** we can do this because we are all **MISSION DRIVEN, FAMILY FOCUSED**.

Lincoln Pilgrimage was wonderful. It was fantastic to spend time with National Commander Wiley and his lovely wife Sonia, our own National President Pam Ray, SAL National Commander Bill Clancy, Department leadership, and Legion Family members from over 10 states.

Have you made your hotel and luncheon reservations for Patriotic Conference? Tina Abdelnour and Rosemary Mulligan have some great speakers lined up to join us that day. Do not forget that there will be an Initiation Ceremony for all members, new and long-time members, who have not gone through the formal Initiation Ceremony. Please let the

Department office know if you intend

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

*(Continued on page 4)*

We just completed the Lincoln Pilgrimage in Springfield and what a great event. We had the Pleasure of our own National President Pam Ray attending, along with National Commander Dan Wiley and SAL National Detachment Commander Bill Clancy. A truly wonderful experience.

The Pilgrimage and membership awards program was a success also. Neighboring states such as Indiana and Missouri to name a few also participated in the membership awards. The winners were each presented with a Pilgrimage Jacket and a photo of the leadership team. We had a lot of laughs and enjoyed one another's company. It is always a pleasure to get together with Madam President Jill and Detachment Commander Wayne and Celebrate the Legion Families Achievements.

Along with the Pilgrimage the Legion Family Leadership was given a walking tour of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) newest Veterans Home at Quincy Illinois by IDVA Director Terry Prince and his staff. If you haven't heard it's a new home not a refurbished old building. It is the standard for veteran's care.

The facility is very impressive; we talked with Members (residents) and with Staff. The members spoke very highly of the new facility, and the staff seemed to really respect and care about the veterans. Mr. Prince asked for help, he asked our organization to get the word out, encourage veterans to sign up. Get on the on the waiting to use the home,

Now is the time of year that we begin celebrating our programs such as the Oratorical Contests, I am so looking forward to the State Oratorical Contest and listening to the Young Men and Women talk about our Constitution. The Department Staff is always looking for help or if you would like to be in the audience that would be great too. Come and encourage these young men and women. Bring a prospective candidate along let them see for

*(Continued on page 4)*



Wayne  
Madson



Membership  
Chairman

Linda Oakley

Greetings from Detachment of Illinois. First the Detachment would like to pass along our condolences to the families of Past Detachment Commander Ray Chelmowski and Past Department Commander Cheri Stanton.

Has your Post, Unit, and Squadron started setting up plans for our country turning 250 years old? Before you know it, July 4th will be here. As of February 13th, Detachment of Illinois' membership was 85.11%, we are 2,084 members shy of 100%. Last year we ended at 101%. Legionnaires if you're eligible please consider joining us. If your sons or grandsons aren't signed up please sign them up. They are our future.

I just got home from Pilgrimage. It was a good time celebrating President Lincoln's birthday and making new friends in the Legion family.

March isn't slowing down, we start off in Bloomington for the Oratorical contest then down to Springfield that night for the 2nd Annual Dart Tournament. The Sons Children and Youth committee puts it on and all the proceeds goes towards the Children Miracle Network. The Sons DEC is in Macomb, and we will do our drawing for \$5,000 that day. Looking forward to the Auxiliary Patriotic Conference in Springfield and for your Membership Chairman Linda Oakley to make a donation to my project, the American Legion Youth Police School.

Highlights in April, I will be going to New York City for SAL National Commander Bill Clancy's homecoming. I'm looking forward to some sightseeing in the Big Apple. Then we have the ALA Jr Conference in Monticello. I hope to see many young sons there. We end April on the 12th Annual Haven Run in the 5th Division.

Let's keep doing our Buddy Checks! Keep building our Legion Family to keep our organization strong for our Veterans. It's my pleasure serving the Sons of the American Legion as your Commander.

Rockin' around the Christmas tree  
Getting member's dues with ease  
Mistletoe hung where you can see  
Ask and the member's say yes, please!

Rockin' around the Christmas tree  
Let the Christmas spirit ring  
The smiles and joy our programs brings  
To our Veterans, their families, and our communities!

Congratulations to the 38 Units who are now Goal! As I write this, our Department percentage is 83.83%!! We need to be 85% by March 15<sup>th</sup> (if you send membership into Department it needs to be there prior to March 10<sup>th</sup>)...That is approximately 222 members, if every District would renew 10 members, we would have it! WE CAN DO THIS!!! But then, let's not stop there! We can make a 100% Department! I "Believe" in all of you, and I know that we can do it.

We were privileged to have the Pilgrimage Membership Awards presented to our winners by our National President Pam Ray, National Legion Commander Dan Wiley and National SAL Commander Bill Clancey. The Pilgrimage jackets were presented to the highest Division - 2<sup>nd</sup> Division President Karen Stetina and Vice President Todd Latham; highest District with a goal of 10-900 presented to Dona Kenney, 14<sup>th</sup> District President; and highest District with goal of 901 + presented to 12<sup>th</sup> District Janet Bacon President and Jean Firlik Vice President. Congratulations to these award winners!

The next date for the awarding of the Traveling bracelets/tie tac is 9:00 AM on March 20<sup>th</sup> – the beginning of Patriotic Conference. Who will get to keep their bracelet? Or will your Division/District President and Vice President "steal" it!

"Nothing is impossible. The word itself says, 'I'm possible!'"  
—Audrey Hepburn

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

to go through the ceremony.

Have you started working on your Year-End Impact Number form? How about your Year-End Unit Report Forms? Do not forget to send me your narrative for the Buddy the Elf award for the most hours and ways you did Buddy Checks on friends, neighbors, and members. If you have questions about any of the reporting, please feel free to contact me!

It will soon be Christmas in July (Department Convention). We will be having a big birthday party for our country's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. Our Friday night Street Party will be one to go down in history!!! Please come celebrate with us.

Thank you for everything you do for the organization, for your District, your Unit, our Veterans and active-duty, and our community. I truly appreciate each and every one of you.

(TAL Message Cont'd from pg. 2)

themselves what the Oratorical contest is all about.

Spring is coming so let's shake off the winter blues, start doing something to celebrate our 250th Anniversary as a Nation. Louisville Post 914 will be hosting a walk again this year for BE THE ONE, to raise awareness concerning Veterans and Active-Duty Suicide. Our Walk will be May 9th at 8:00 AM, leaving Flora, Illinois walking to Louisville, Illinois. With the Mission 250 Challenge in mind, we are hoping to get 250 registered walkers this year, imagine 250 people walking north on US 45! If you plan to attend, invite **Just One More** to come along.

I hope you have a great month!

## **97<sup>th</sup> Annual Patriotic Conference**

**Mark your calendars!!!**

**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.

# 2027 UNIT DATA FORM

## Unit Dues Amount Information

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

### UNITS ARE REQUIRED TO FILL OUT ALL INFORMATION BELOW

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

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT # \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT # \_\_\_\_\_

**2027 SENIOR DUES OF THE UNIT ARE \_\_\_\_\_**

**2027 JUNIOR DUES OF THE UNIT ARE \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

**This is the only mailing of this form.**

**DUE BY APRIL 30**

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

## ALA Illini Girls State Director Sarah Wyckoff

This year the ALA IGS Committee is, **“Teaching our Future Leaders to Believe in Themselves.”** The 85<sup>th</sup> session of ALA IGS Illini Girls State will be held on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston from **Sunday June 21<sup>st</sup> to Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> 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 from the sponsoring Post/Unit. Please utilize and share with citizens, sponsors, and members our website and social media. They are updated regularly and especially as 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.

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.

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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \$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)

**ALA Illini Girls State  
Director Sarah Wyckoff**

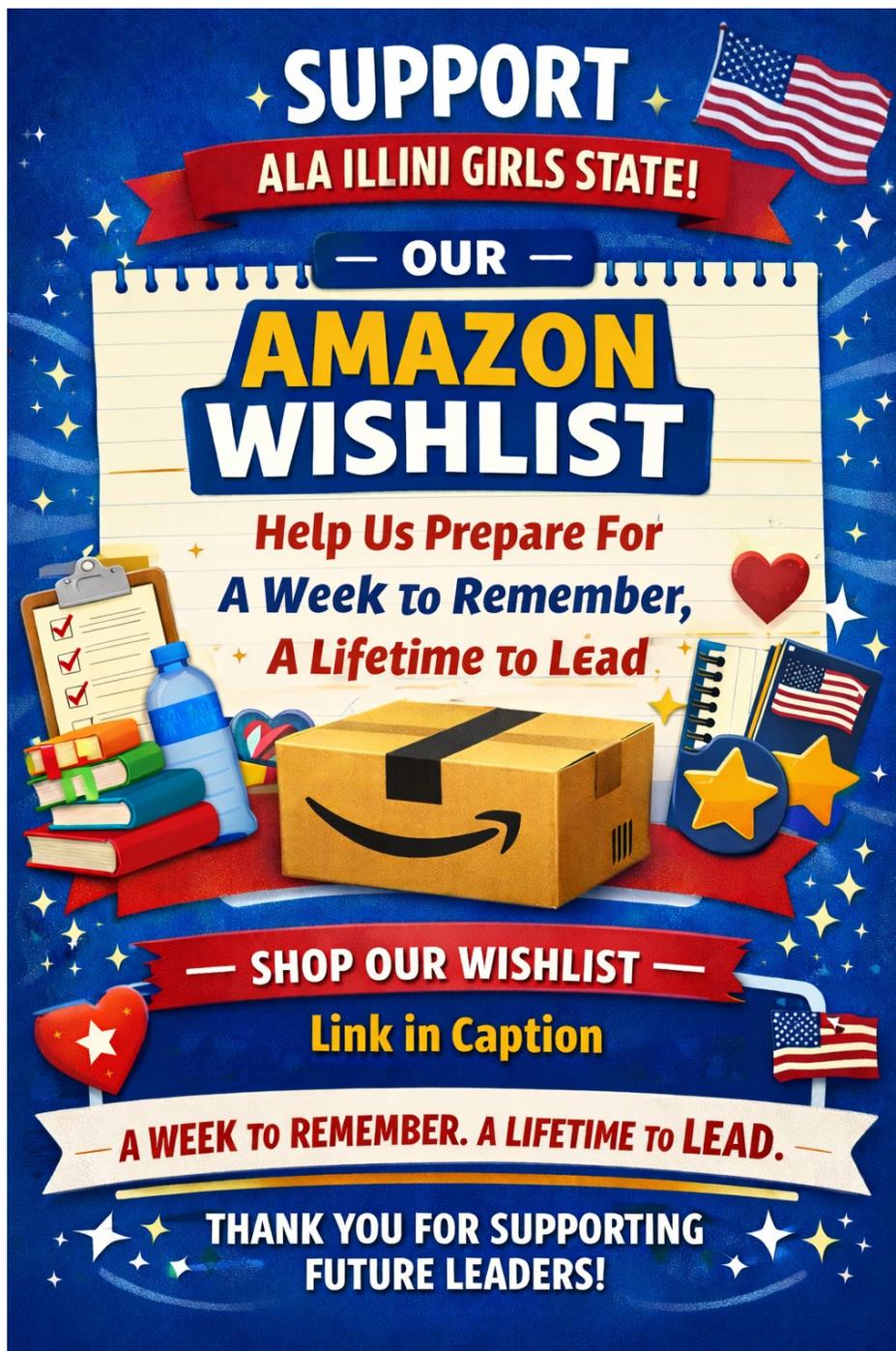
A Little Help Goes a Long Way!!

Want an easy way to support ALA Illini Girls State? Our Amazon Wishlist is open!

Every donated item helps us create an engaging, meaningful, and unforgettable leadership experience for our delegates  
Wishlist link:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2G90NXKISOAL7?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2G90NXKISOAL7?ref_=wl_share)

We're so grateful for our supporters that help make ALA Illini Girls State possible!



## **Service to Veterans/Hospital Service Chairman Cinda Held**

The end of the service year is getting close. Hours that can be counted for the 2025–2026 year end March 31. I would like all hours submitted for 2025-2026 by May 1, so I have a good count for Department convention.

We appreciate all the time and work of our volunteers, and we need your cooperation so that they may be counted. Hours you spend helping a veteran directly through visits, cards, meals, doctor appointments, sending care packages or Christmas gifts, and caregiving can all be counted for Service to veterans. Volunteering at V.A, and CBOCs count as Hospital service. Attending your regular meetings does not count for this program. Sometimes there is a thin line between Service to Vets and Community Service. If it is a community activity for vets, it is Community Service.

If you have not sent any hours in, you can still send them. Please send soon so I have enough time to work on them. If you are unsure how or if they count, just contact me.

### AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of Illinois

#### SERVICE TO VETERANS/HOSPITAL SERVICE PIN ORDER FORM

UNIT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NO. \_\_\_\_\_ LOCATED \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

VA&R CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT PRESIDENT \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Service to Veterans Pins Requested \_\_\_\_\_ Price: \$30.00 each Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: This is a ONE TIME ONLY PIN PRESENTED AFTER THE "FIRST 50 HOURS" ARE SERVED.

**Forms must reach the Department Office by April 20th to ensure delivery by Convention.**

DEPARTMENT TREASURER and attach to this report form. PLEASE PRINT NAME OF VOLUNTEER AND CHECK WHETHER VOLUNTEER IS SR., JR., OR NON-AFFILIATE.

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

USE ANOTHER SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL NAMES IF NECESSARY

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

## **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!**

- Report time! Impact numbers due from Unit to District President by April 20th. The mailing was sent to Unit Presidents the first week of March.
- Program report forms received in Fall Packet are due to the District Chairmen by April 20th.

## **VA&R Needs**

### **Bloomington VA:**

- Men's Sweatshirts (Sizes L & XL)
- Men's Sweatpants (Sizes L & XL)
- Women's Sweatpants (Sizes L & XL)
- Hygiene Items (toothbrushes, hand lotion, gold bond foot powder, hand/foot warmers, hand sanitizer)
- Water (8 oz bottles)

Sue Winger, Rep

## **Initiation Ceremony at Patriotic Conference**

The American Legion Auxiliary will have 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!

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](http://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.

## Department Convention Housing Information

“Believe” is calling all delegates, alternates and guests to attend the Department of Illinois ALA Convention, July 9-11, 2026 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, clicking the link below, 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 23, 2026.

Room rates are:

Standard Room - \$127.00 plus tax

**Make your reservations early and plan on attending!**

Housing: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/americanlegionauxiliary/>

## Scenes from Lincoln Pilgrimage



## **Chaplain Carollee Junge**

Be patient when it seems things are not going right and may never be right again. Accept that what is yours will come to you in the right way at just the right moment. God has big plans for you.

Always take the time to dream. Dream happy thoughts and about happy places. Dream about your future, your wants, and your love. Be content in your dreams. Remember dreams do come true! They are called miracles.

## **Chaplain Request Carollee Junge**

To all members.

I have received few prayers for Jill's prayer book. In order to present her with a full and inspirational prayer book at Department Convention, I need your help.

Please send prayers to Carollee Junge, Department Chaplain, 3750 215<sup>th</sup> Street, Matteson, Illinois 60443-2710. Thank you for your help.

## **Basket Raffle at Patriotic Conference**

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

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

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

Please bring your baskets to the office when you arrive.

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

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

Thank you to our Members!

The Finance Committee

## **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".

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://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!

Tina Abdelnour, Department of Illinois Second Vice-President/National Security Chair 2025-2026

# POPPY ORDER FORM

THE AMERICAN LEGION—DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS—POPPY COMMITTEE

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

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>DIVISION</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>DISTRICT</b>
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
POPIES— \$150.00 Per Thousand		\$
POPIES— \$160.00 Per Thousand <b>*** 5th DIVISION ONLY ***</b>		\$
POSTER—\$1.50 EACH		\$
CLUB CARDS—N/C		
CAN LABELS—N/C		
RECOGNITION CITATION—N/C		
BOOK MARKERS—N/C UP TO 500 <b>*** ADDITIONAL .03 EACH ***</b>		



*Add shipping costs if order is to be mailed* **SHIPPING** \$ **14.00**  
**TOTAL** \$

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

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		

## Leadership

### Chairman Cindy Hall

I hope everyone stayed safe and warm this winter. Now we look forward to spring and of course our Auxiliary year is starting to wrap up. Deadlines are fast approaching to finish and send in submissions for the Department and Personal Awards. Details are on the website under Leadership. Please submit applications by May 1, 2026.

What is an ALA Leadership Class and How do we know what to teach? My biggest suggestion is to look at the many and varied topics available on the National Auxiliary website, Meetings/Trainings/ALA Academy. There are several self-paced courses plus previous and upcoming webinars. One example that is easy to use is the ALA 101 Course. This covers several topics you can use all together or just choose 1 topic. Each one has slides you can use and/or share with your members. Classes can be separate events or broken into smaller sections that can be shared at meetings or with smaller groups. Any member can lead a class, but they should be comfortable speaking in front of others. You can choose someone that is experienced in a certain subject or even bring in a team of instructors. I hope to hear what you are trying and how it is helping members.

Leadership is not just for Officers and Chairs, members can learn more about our organization, our mission and programs. An example that I am trying as a Unit Chair is incorporating a short lesson into my Meeting Report. I am covering an explanation of the Auxiliary's Preamble to the Constitution by covering 3 stanzas at each meeting. This is just one idea of sharing our Auxiliary traditions and values with members.

At the Department Convention in July, we will again be offering Leadership courses the day before the convention starts. Please let me know of any topics you would like covered or if you would be willing to help get set up. Any questions please feel free to contact me.

I am requesting Leadership Chairs to let me know (email, phone, text) about what their members have done or are planning to do for Leadership. Please reply by May 1.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing all about your programs and ideas for Leadership.

## Special Olympics

### Children & Youth Chairman Sue Johnson

May the bells keep ringing for those that "Believe" no matter what age you may be!

Wow! We are close to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of our Christmas year being over, and yet the spirits of magic keep ringing for our children.

Each unit has done at least 1 or 2 things if not more for our youth. I really need you to send me those great events. At my Leadership class in Vegas, the ladies asked what is Illinois doing? I was able to report a couple, but I need your story with a couple of attached pictures to report.

Mission- **Secret Santa**: "Special Olympic Summer Games" The Summer games will be held **June 12-13<sup>th</sup>** the second weekend of month. Santa is allowing a little time off for our elves to come and spread joy to our athletes. Please come to help in a light weight Christmas Attire because generally it is very hot. Including bringing wrapped gifts for our athletes to receive by our elf riders coming in on reindeers and moose. A great celebration in June. We will be meeting at Hancock Stadium in concession area underneath the stadium North side.

- Address 211 N. Main St., Normal, Il. 61761 Illinois State University
- We need a lot of Volunteers especially on Saturday. Friday is needed too, if you're not working please help! We need servers, and food preps. Please bring a hat or wear a hair net. Assigned spots will be assigned. The volunteer sign up sheet is on **page 18**.
- Riders will be assigned spots with us underneath the stadium and Olympic Towne. Olympic Towne has required times to get in. Once the Towne is opened with people bikers will not be allowed in. The town opens at 8-8:15. We will also have some stationary areas that more athletes can reach out to you. More info to come.
- There is an included food bank list of what they can have on **page 16**. Please take a look at the food. Trail mix can fluctuate in calories of 180 to 200 but they will allow calories of 220. Watch the sugar and salt content too. Safe to use food bank list.

This year handing out toys and stuff animals that are wrapped individually in Christmas paper for our athletes. The riders will be handing them out.

## Special Olympics Food List Children & Youth Chairman Sue Johnson

### Special Olympics Food Bank For All Games

#### Legion

Veggie Straws Ind Pks  
 Pop Chips Variety Ind Pks  
 Raisin Ind Packets  
 Bare baked crunch Ind Pks  
 Sun Chips Ind Variety Pks  
 Olives Grm/Blk  
 Dry Roasted peanuts w/sea salt  
 Fruit: strawberries, blueberries,  
 Pineapples, grapes, bananas  
  
 Sugar free cookies  
  
 GoGo Squeezed Applesauce  
 And variety Ind Pks

#### SAL

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

#### Auxiliary

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

## What are you doing for American 250?

### Submit Your America 250 Activities

We want to highlight your efforts! Posts, Units, Squadrons, and Chapters (Counties, Districts, and Divisions) can submit their events, projects, and stories through our **America 250 Submission Form**.

Please complete the form below with information on your event. Once the form is received, it will be reviewed by the Department's America 250 Committee and then published on the Department's website under "What's Happening?"

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScrZsecAXsaphMa0kUXu6CHleNI05sNze4evH7hP4fjY0NjYg/viewform>

or

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScrZsecAXsaphMa0kUXu6CHleNI05sNze4evH7hP4fjY0NjYg/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=114853315181864307350>

## Education

### Chairman Kathy Cisna

Our year of playing Santa for our students is really flying by! I hope you have all been participating in the Education Program activities. What has your Unit been doing in the Education Program? Please send me updates throughout the year. We have quarterly zoom meetings, and it would be nice to brag about your activities! Please send pictures also. Don't forget to include ways you raised money for the Education fund.

As we head into March it becomes all about scholarships. **Don't forget to donate to the Education Fund by March 15, 2026!** This is a requirement for Units to submit an applicant for the Department Scholarships.

All National scholarships applications are done online and March 1, 2026 was the deadline. The Committee is looking forward to receiving and reviewing all our scholarship applications.

The three Department of Illinois scholarships are due to the Units by March 15, 2026, and to the Department Committee member by April 1, 2026. Please refer to your matrix for the requirements. Each scholarship awarded will be in the amount of \$1,000.

Don't forget Teacher Appreciation week, May 4-8, 2026. Let's show our teachers that the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Illinois appreciates them!

## Past President's Parley Nurse's Scholarship Fund

### Chairman Arlene Holtgrave

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

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

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT NAME AND NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois

PO Box 1426

Bloomington, IL 61702

### Reminders

Past Presidents Parley Nurses Scholarship: Units who wish to submit a candidate must contribute to PPP Nurses Scholarship AND pay Parley Dues for your Unit Past Presidents by **April 10, 2026**.



# CHILDREN & YOUTH

Legion Convention Action Requested It  
Now it is your turn... **Volunteers are needed!**

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS SUMMER GAMES 2026 Illinois State University, Normal, IL JUNE 12-13, 2026

The Illinois American Legion and Auxiliary will sponsor a Hospitality Center for athletes, coaches, volunteers and families. We plan to provide items such as: See page #16. 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 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m. - 500 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	-or-	The American Legion Auxiliary	-or-	Sue & Dave Johnson
Dept. of Illinois		Dept. of Illinois		140 E. Russell St.
PO Box 2910		PO Box 1426		Rockton, Il. 61072
Bloomington, IL 61702-2910		Bloomington, IL 61702-1426		americandancer13@gmail.com

## American Legion Sweepstakes Drawing February 12, 2026

	AMOUNT WON	WINNER	CITY / STATE	ID #	GROUP
1st Place	\$ 10,000.00	Fred Krietemeyer	Alpharetta, GA	101283361	LEG
2nd Place	\$ 3,000.00	Frank Fogell, Jr	Chicago, IL	101215408	LEG
3rd Place	\$ 2,000.00	Robert Smith	Winthrop Harbor, IL	260613866	SAL
4th Place	\$ 1,000.00	George Fichtenmueller	Dixon, IL	353293580	LEG
5th Place	\$ 500.00	Glen Lemmerman	Evansville, IL	101284278	LEG
6th Place	\$ 300.00	Janelle R. Cox	Roseville, IL	121964440	AUX
7th Place	\$ 200.00	Larry Panasky	Chicago, IL	260696140	SAL
8th Place	\$ 100.00	Thomas Harris	Streamwood, IL	200025153	LEG
9th Place	\$ 100.00	Edward Hildebrandt	Morton Grove, IL	101160197	LEG
10th Place	\$ 100.00	Kenneth Deans	Lake in the Hills, IL	205502910	LEG
11th Place	\$ 100.00	Everett Pfile	Queen Creek, AZ	101235367	LEG
12th Place	\$ 100.00	Allison M. Gilley	McHenry, IL	301742060	AUX
13th Place	\$ 100.00	Joan Wicks	Plainfield, IL	301033118	AUX
14th Place	\$ 100.00	Gloria Lewis	Homer, IL	122026694	AUX
15th Place	\$ 100.00	Kathy A. Pignato	Lena, IL	301570963	AUX
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 17,800.00</b>				



# Armed Forces Day Dinner

The Illinois American Legion First Division is Proud to host Armed Forces  
Dinner on Friday May 15, 2026, at the Lone Tree Manor 7730 N Milwaukee  
Ave, Niles IL

Keynote Speaker National Commander Dan K. Wiley

Social hours start @ 5pm. Dinner at 7pm. Dinner will be family style 45\$ per  
person.

Reservation: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Post \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed table of 8 Yes or No. Please provide names on reverse side if  
a table of 8.

Make checks payable to American Legion 1<sup>ST</sup> Division.

Mail to Detrall Dearbone 54 N Wolf Road, IL 60162. Questions, Call or Email  
Detrall Dearbone @ 7083059575 or [Detralldearbone@yahoo.com](mailto:Detralldearbone@yahoo.com). RSVP by  
May 2, 2026.





**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

<b>Dept. President's Special Project</b>	<b>ALA Illini Girls State</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>TAL Commanders Special Project</b>	<b>TAL Premier Boys State</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>SAL Commanders Special Project</b>	<b>Youth Police School</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>National President's Special Project</b>	<b>Spirit of Youth Fund</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>Americanism</b>	<b>Americanism Fund</b>	<b>\$</b>	
	<b>Spirit of Youth Fund</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>Auxiliary Emergency Fund</b>	<b>AEF Fund</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>Children &amp; Youth</b>	<b>Christmas Gift Program</b>	<b>\$</b>	
	<b>Children &amp; Youth Scholarship</b>	<b>\$</b>	
	<b>Special Olympics Events</b>	<b>\$</b>	
	<b>Education Scholarships</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>Education</b>	<b>Education Scholarships</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>Junior Activities</b>	<b>Dept. Junior Conference</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>Illini Girls State</b>	<b>IGS Program Donation</b>	<b>\$</b>	
	<b>IGS Registration #</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>National Security</b>	<b>National Security Fund</b>	<b>\$</b>	
	<b>USO Centers ***</b>	<b>Great Lakes Center</b>	<b>\$</b>
		<b>Midway</b>	<b>\$</b>
		<b>O'Hare</b>	<b>\$</b>
		<b>Marseilles Training Center</b>	<b>\$</b>
		<b>St. Louis</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Past Presidents Parley</b>	<b>Nurses Scholarship</b>	<b>\$</b>	
	<b>Parley Dues - \$1 per Past President (include Parley Dues Form)</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>The American Legion</b>	<b>Gifts to the Yanks ***</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>National Organization</b>	<b>American Legion Child Welfare Foundation</b>	<b>\$</b>	
	<b>American Legion Auxiliary Foundation</b>	<b>\$</b>	
	<b>National Creative Arts Program ***</b>	<b>\$</b>	

\*\*\* 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 - 2/18/2026**

<b>District</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Total Members</b>	<b>Goal %</b>
25	5	Diana Steele	15	698	631	90.40%
14	3	Dona Kenney	11	532	468	87.97%
12	2	Janet Bacon	25	1598	1402	87.73%
22	5	Karen Daesch	25	935	798	85.35%
19	4	Patti Williamson	33	1821	1534	84.24%
4	1	Diane Cetera	7	194	163	84.02%
15	3	Rebecca Marvel	25	905	760	83.98%
18	4	Debbie Myles	28	1216	1015	83.47%
17	4	Crystal Black	33	1334	1112	83.36%
20	3	Jodith Lewis	20	647	537	83.00%
13	2	Kathy Pignato	15	545	451	82.75%
23	5	Diana Owens	23	1473	1209	82.08%
9	1	Kris McIntyre	7	529	433	81.85%
11	2	Barbara Howe	33	1858	1517	81.65%
24	5	April Parkhurst	14	566	454	80.21%
10	2	Angela Walker	13	581	465	80.03%
8	1	Lea Morsovillo	11	609	480	78.82%
5	1	Balvina "Bo" Ranney	11	307	239	77.85%
16	3	Teri Miller	24	1105	856	77.47%
21	4	Barb Turner	17	637	471	73.94%
3	1	Karen Atkins	6	114	84	73.68%
2	1		4	57	42	73.68%
7	1	Marlene Russell	3	152	70	46.05%
		Headquarters 2910	1	478	421	88.08%
		<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>18891</b>	<b>15612</b>	<b>82.64%</b>
	5	Ann Flanagan		3672	3092	84.20%
	2	Karen Stetina		4582	3835	83.70%
	4	Diane Shapland		5008	4132	82.51%
	3	Michelle Gorsage		3189	2621	82.19%
	1	Nancy Stevens		1962	1511	77.01%
		Goal Units	<b>38</b>			
		Linda Oakley			Jill Layton	
		Department Membership Chairman			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*

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

<b><i>Dates to Remember</i></b>	
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
August 28-Sept 3	National Convention—Louisville, KY