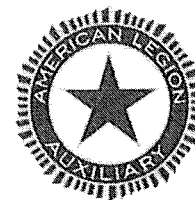


History Program

2017-2018



Department of Virginia

DON'T LET HISTORY BE YOUR MYSTERY

The history of the American Legion Auxiliary begins back in November 1919, and continues with you. The unit's history, like any other history, is more than names and dates. It is about its members and how they developed the ALA's programs and projects to fulfill our mission of serving the veterans, servicemembers, and their families who sacrifice much for this country of ours.

This year, I am challenging Historians at all levels in the Department of Virginia: **Don't Let History Be Your Mystery.**

Here are reasons **WHY...**

- Pride in the organization has a direct correlation to motivating the current membership to bring in new members, achieve more goals, create a sense of strength and conviction while developing leaders.
- Maintaining and preserving our records are invaluable to society by making them available for use by everyone inside and outside the organization.

And a few ways **HOW...**

Historians should **develop a system** to archive important communications such as newsletters, handbooks, guidebooks, brochures, and program information. **Take advantage of online resources** as well as local libraries and historical societies. Participate in and **promote the "Members Remember"** history project and the History Patch available to Junior members in 9th – 12th grades. Stress the importance of collecting the ALA's history and the ease of participating in the projects through all communications. Encourage senior and Junior historians to participate in **the Veterans History Project.** (<http://www.loc.gov/vets/kit.html>).

It is critical that we always remember who we are (the world's largest women's patriotic service organization) and that what we do (serve veterans, the military, and their families) can be enhanced greatly by recording our achievements and sharing why we matter.

The heart of an organization's history is in its records – items that officers, members, directors, staff, and volunteers have produced and compiled over the years. They provide unique testimony to the organization's achievements.



Remember – these activities can be shared with the Junior members. Honoring our members provides them with a role model. Sharing our history with our Junior members allows them to know that they, too, are valuable members of this great organization. Hopefully, they will begin to own this history and remain members throughout their lifetimes.

KEY DATES

Mid-Year Reports Due 12/15/17
March is Women's History Month
Year-End Reports Due 4/15/18
History Contest Entries Due 4/15

STACI KING – Department Historian
1526 Hiddenbrook Drive, Herndon, VA 20170
Contact – (571) 528-1122 – historian@VAauxiliary.org



History Mid-Year Report 2017-2018

Please mail this report by December 15, 2017 to **Staci King, Department Historian at 1526 Hiddenbrook Drive, Herndon, VA 20170** or by email to historian@VAauxiliary.org
Please do not mail to Department Headquarters.

Unit Name: _____

Unit Number: _____ District: _____ Zone: _____

Historian Name: _____

Historian Address: _____ City: _____ Zipcode: _____

Does your Unit have a written procedure for capturing your annual History? ___Y ___N

Describe the method used to archive your events, brochures, newspaper articles, social media posts, etc.

Have you shared the criteria for earning the ALA Junior History Patch with eligible members? ___Y ___N

If yes, are any Juniors currently working towards earning this patch? ___Y ___N



List a few events that have taken place in your Unit or District so far. _____

Are you planning to submit a competitive History for judging by April 15, 2018? ___Y ___N

If not, please share a few reasons why not? _____

Feel free to call me to discuss any questions you may have about the History Program – (571) 528-1122

Please mail or email this report directly to Staci King no later than December 15, 2017.
Staci King, 1526 Hiddenbrook Drive, Herndon, VA 20170
historian@VAauxilliary.org



History Year-End Report 2017-2018

Please mail this report by April 15, 2018 to **Staci King, 1526 Hiddenbrook DR, Herndon, VA 20170** or by email to historian@VAauxiliary.org . Please do not mail to Department Headquarters.

Unit Name: _____

Unit Number: _____ District: _____ Zone: _____

Historian Name: _____

Historian Address: _____ City: _____ Zipcode: _____

1. Did your Unit submit a History for judging? ___ Yes ___ No

2. How many Senior members are in your Unit? _____

3. Do you have an organized Junior Unit? ___ Yes ___ No Number of Juniors _____

If yes, did your Junior Unit submit a History for judging? ___ Yes ___ No

How many Juniors earned the special History Project Patch? _____

4. Did you participate in the Veterans History project? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, how many Veterans histories were recorded by Seniors: _____ Juniors _____

5. Did your Unit participate in the Department President's Project? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, what was the total donation by the Unit and/or members? \$ _____

6. How many total (*all program activities*) volunteer hours were reported by your Unit? _____ hours

7. What was the total (*all program activities*) amount donated by your Unit and/or members in monetary and material items? \$ _____

8. What was the total amount of in-kind donations received by your Unit and/or members? \$ _____

9. Did your Unit promote or participate in Women's History Month (March 2018)? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, what were the total hours and donations? _____ hours and \$ _____

Feel free to call me to discuss any questions you may have about the History Program -- (571) 528-1122

Please take time to attach a brief statement or short narrative about your activities this year.

Please include the total word count at the bottom of the narrative.

Please include photographs.

All History-related reports and photos are to be mailed to the address at the top of this report, please do not to send to Department Headquarters. All reports must be postmarked by April 15, 2018.



HOW TO INVOLVE A JUNIOR MEMBER

Committee:

History

Contact Information for Questions:

History@ALAforVeterans.org

Objective:

Help a Junior member (9th – 12th grades) earn the new History Patch

Background Information



In a joint effort with the National Junior Activities Committee, we have developed a History Patch for our high school (9th – 12th grades) Junior members. These young ladies have an opportunity to work with, learn from, and take ownership of the American Legion Auxiliary history. It is important for them to understand that they are a part of the Auxiliary's history. By earning this patch, they may become interested not only in the history itself, but in preserving it as well, and become a unit's or department's History/Cavalcade chairman.

Step-by-Step Instructions

What can we do?

- Contact the department Junior Activities chairman and ask her to help promote this new patch. Make joint announcements at your fall/winter/spring meetings, division/district meetings, etc.
- Write an article about the patch for the department newsletter.
- Make a poster to promote the patch for meetings. Include the patch and activities list (see below).
- Encourage the unit History/Cavalcade chairmen to promote this patch and work with their unit Junior Activities committee chairman.
- Find a high school aged Junior member and be a mentor to her as she works the activities to earn the patch.

History

**HISTORY PATCH BLUE LEVEL 3****(Grade 9th-12th)***Educate yourself about the history of the ALA and The American Legion Family*

Level 3: Twelve (12) possibilities; **Three* (3) activities are required;** Six (6) are your choice.
A total of Nine (9) activities must be completed from the Twelve (12) choices.

No.:	Activity:	Date:	Adult Signature:
*1	Interview at least two ALA members for the <i>Members Remember</i> project. Post your video interviews on YouTube.com. Information can be found on the National History Committee page of the Members Only section at www.ALAforVeterans.org .		
2	Learn about the Veterans History Project. Interview at least two veterans and preserve their stories. Send your project to the Library of Congress www.loc.gov/vets .		
3	Contribute to your unit's ALA Senior History Book. Focus on who we are, what we do and why it matters.		
*4	Contribute to your unit's ALA Junior History Book.		
5	Contribute to and/or start a unit history museum to capture the impact the ALA has had on your community.		
*6	Research and do a presentation on the history of your unit. Present it to your Junior unit, or at a unit or post meeting.		
7	Research current, former or deceased members of your Legion Family (unit, post or squadron) who made a significant contribution to your community.		
8	Organize a <i>Veterans in Community Schools</i> presentation. Work with a veteran in your post, and find a school or classroom in which to make a presentation.		
9	Organize a library of past issues of <i>Auxiliary</i> magazine for your unit. Make special notation of issues with articles relevant to your unit or		



	department.		
10	Start a Blue Star/Gold Star Mothers and Families database for your unit.		
11	Start an ALA Girls State database for your unit: who your unit sponsored, what offices the girls held, and if anyone went on to ALA Girls Nation.		
12	Start a Poppy Program History: Keep track of your unit's Poppy Poster Contest, Miss Poppy, and Little Miss Poppy winners. Make special notation of those who also went on to win at the department or national level.		

Name of Junior Member: _____

Grade: _____

Unit #: _____

Department: _____



HOW TO CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Committee:

History

Contact Information for Questions:

History@ALAforVeterans.org

Objective:

Celebrate the special women of our organization

Background Information

The month of March is dedicated to the celebration of women's history. It corresponds with International Women's Day on March 8th. What could be better for a women's organization to do than celebrate their own history? Our Auxiliary members have accomplished a great deal all around the world. Now it's time to celebrate what makes them so special!

Step-by-Step Instructions

What can we do?

- Learn more about Auxiliary members who made history within your department or unit. This could include girls sponsored to ALA Girls State who have gone on to do great things or those members who have improved their communities, state or country.
- Celebrate the women in your life – mom, grandma, even your sister.
- Donate money to the ALA Cavalcade of Memories budget at the unit, department, or national level in honor of a special woman.
- Set up a display in honor of those members who have gone above and beyond the ALA's mission.
- Write an article for your unit/department newsletter about Women's History Month or about the woman you are honoring.
- Check out how women's fashion has changed over time in the Auxiliary, as well as women's hair fashion. There has been a great deal of change from 1919 to today!
- Research and write about how the former and present members make a difference in the community and share with others.
- Put up a display at your local library, historical society, or storefront, celebrating the work that the women of the ALA have done and still do every day.

History



Remember – these activities can be shared with the Junior members. Honoring our members provides them with a role model. Sharing our history with our Junior members allows them to know that they, too, are valuable members of this great organization. Hopefully, they will begin to own this history and remain members throughout their lifetimes.



HOW TO RECORD AND POST TO “MEMBERS REMEMBER”

Committee:

History

Contact Information for Questions:

History@ALAforVeterans.org

Objective:

Record the ALA’s history through the eyes of its members

Background Information

The history of the American Legion Auxiliary begins back in November 1919, and continues with you. The organization’s history, like any other history, is more than names and dates. It is about its membership and how it developed the ALA’s programs and projects to fulfill our mission of serving the veterans, servicemembers, and their families who sacrifice much for this country of ours.

A written history can only tell so much. However, when an organization’s history is told through the eyes of its membership, everyone learns a great deal more about who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

Step-by-Step Instructions

Here are some tips:

- This is a two-person project so find someone to assist. This is a good time to enlist the help of your 9th-12th grade Junior members as it is a required activity in earning the History Patch. If your unit does not have Junior members, enlist the assistance of college students.
- Find longtime members of the Auxiliary and ask them to share their stories in a video. These stories can be about:
 - A special project,
 - A particular highlight during her membership
 - How many generations of her family have been members and why
 - If a chartered member, her experience in starting the unit
- Find a location where it is quiet and where there will be no interruptions.
- Record with iPhones/Smartphones. Please keep in mind that your video file must be either a .mov; .avi; .mpeg; or a .wmv file extension.
- Each recording should be no longer than five (5) minutes long. You may make more than one. Cover one topic in each video.
- Post the video on YouTube. An instructional video on how to upload is located at www.youtube.com/watch?v=_O7iUiftbKU.
 - Go to YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com>
 - Give the video the following title: ALA Dept. of __ (two letter abbreviation for your state) Unit ____ Members Remember.

History



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- Provide a description and tags that will help people locate the video easily.
 - Under Category, click on Nonprofits & Activism.
 - Under Privacy, click on Share your video with the world.
 - Click Save Changes.