Greetings American Legion Auxiliary Members!

What a GREAT FALL CONFERENCE WE HAD! That’s right we made history with our first Virtual Fall Conference, and what a great turn out it was! Thank you to all who were able to attend. I would like to take this time to wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving. I know this is the time we give thanks. I would like to thank all the Veterans and active duty members for their dedication. I would also like to thank my family, my Unit 327, and all of YOU for your support. I am truly blessed to have you all a part of my life. As always stay well and safe!

For God and Country

Dawn Thomas
Department of Virginia
President 2020-2021

President Dawn receives her President’s Pin and Ribbon at the 4th District Meeting in October
Continuing to Celebrate 100 Years Serving Our Veterans Through the End of August 2021

“As second TALA National President Dr. Kate Waller Barrett said when she addressed the third National Convention in October 1923, “Very few people understand just what the Auxiliary is, and therefore the best way to arrive at a conclusion is by comparison. We are already celebrating our second birthday. We are just 2 years old. Yet, in that brief period of time, every state in the Union has been organized and all the foreign outlying districts, so today we have 52 organized divisions, representing a membership of over 200,000 women. When we realize that it has taken most organizations of women 20 or 25 years to organize in the United States, you will understand the stupendous amount of work accomplished.”

As we continue to celebrate the first 100 years of our organization and move into the next century of Service Not Self, may we look back at the example these early leaders set for us. May we not see the COVID-19 pandemic as a hindrance to serving our veterans; rather, we should follow the example of these dedicated women who survived the 1918 pandemic and built this organization to honor and serve veterans.

Many people still do not understand what the American Legion Auxiliary is and what we do — it is our task to inform them as we lead by example and make this century of service even stronger!”

(100th Anniversary: The American Legion Family in the face of pandemics. September 9, 2020 The ALA In the Know e-bulletin)
Get Your Governing Documents • Get Your Mask • Get Involved

November 14, 2020

ALA National Read Your Constitution & Bylaws Day

Why Create a Day to Highlight Reading Governing Documents?

• Greater understanding of governing documents is needed across all levels of the American Legion Auxiliary

• It’s time to encourage activism and energy around reading the organization’s governing documents

• The COVID pandemic has illuminated the need for members to become more knowledgeable about their governing documents

Join Us!

On November 14, 2020, get a copy of the ALA’s governing documents (unit, district, county, department, national) and commit to reading them! Send us your photos!

$50.00 Gift Card Challenge

Two $50.00 gift cards will be given at 2021 ALA National Convention to the department whose submitted photographs are Most Creative and Best location utilizing an American recognizable landmark

Photo submission requirements

• Members in photo must be branded with the ALA emblem and reading the booklet.

• The bright blue ALA National Constitution and Bylaws booklet must be visible in the picture.

• Winners of the gift card must use the money to support the mission of the ALA.

• Teams must be at the actual landmark to qualify.

• No photoshopping allowed!

• Photos can be taken at any time throughout the year.

• Deadline for photo submission: June 1, 2021

Send Photos To Trish Ward
email: tbw_ksaux@yahoo.com
In an effort to preserve the personal accounts of American war veterans, we encourage our local units to support the Veterans History Project. Capturing the stories will ensure that future generations of Americans are afforded a firsthand look at the realities of war. May we always remember the sacrifices made to secure our freedom. The information above may be found at the Library of Congress website:

https://www.loc.gov/vets/vets-home.html

Be sure to watch the VHP Fieldkit

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Military Women’s Oral History Project

We’ve all heard about the National Archives Veterans Oral History Project, but did you know that there is also a Military women’s oral history project as well?

This project is promoted by the Women’s Memorial Foundation, a part of the Women in Military Service For America Memorial.

The Auxiliary raised money to help pay for the memorial back in 1995.

Now we have another opportunity to contribute to this memorial. Their story needs telling, too.

Check out their website at https://www.womensmemorial.org/oral-history for more info!
Message from the Poppy Committee

The year 2020 has been a year of major changes. Over 14,000 poppy orders from 2019-2020 have not been filled because the Hampton VAMC is closed to volunteers. Many Units were not able to hold the usual Poppy distributions last spring. However, our mission to support Veterans, active duty personnel and their families continues. As restrictions loosen, I encourage every member to maintain vigilant about safety and look for new ways to fulfill the mission.

Here are a few ideas:

- If your Post Home has a social club, place some poppies in a basket with a collection can. Cans can be ordered through Emblem sales or you can print a can cover that fits a standard Pringles can. Shout out to Kimberly Marsh for this idea!
- Work with local businesses, offices and doctor reception areas to place poppies and donation cans in those locations. Arrange to empty the donation can regularly.
- If poppies are in short supply, try using the Poppy Decals available from Emblem Sales (1000 decals for $9.95). They’re great for kids!
- Does your local library have a story time? My local library is recording people reading books and making the videos available to the public. Contact them about reading “The Poppy Lady” and maybe explaining about why The American Legion Auxiliary raises funds by distributing the poppies. If you are going to read for them, be sure to practice first!

Please note that there are two new questions on the Mid-Year report (due December 15th) that deal with COVID. You can mail them or send them via email. Remember that your ROAR Poppy Citation (15% of your poppy donations for 2020) is due to the Department Secretary by December 1st.

Please send me all of your great new ideas for poppies and we can share them with the rest of the Department! Emails can be sent to poppy@vaauxiliary.org

Erika Evans, Poppy Chair
Patricia Bracey, Vice-Chair

Fall-Poppy-Contest Winners

The results of the Fall Poppy Contest were announced at the Fall Conference on October 25th. A summary of winners follows. To view each winning poppy arrangement, copy and paste this link in your browser: https://www.vaauxiliary.org/site2/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2020-Fall-Poppy-Contest.pdf. With all of the beautiful creations, it was a difficult job for the judges!
DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA
Summary of Winners
2020 Fall Conference Poppy Contest

**Wreaths**

First Place Unit 186 Christina Smith
Second Place Unit 1
Third Place Unit 1

**Centerpieces**

First Place Unit 1
Second Place Unit 290 Shirley Hardisty

**Table Favors**

First Place Unit 290 Teresa Hardisty

**Corsages**

First Place Unit 194
Second Place Unit 1

**Arrangements -- Fall Themed**

First Place Unit 194
**Arrangements -- Halloween Themed**

First Place Unit 194
Second Place Unit 368 Vesta Lane

**Arrangements -- Christmas Themed**

First Place Unit 327
Second Place Unit 290 Shirley Hardisty

**Arrangements -- Traditional or Department Themed**

First Place Unit 21 Lauretta Lockhart (Post 21) & Christina Snapp
Second Place Unit 146 Patricia Stivers
Third Place Unit 290 Mary Schelin

**Arrangement -- Patriotic Themed**

First Place Unit 368 Vesta Lane

**Junior Category Arrangement -- Traditional or Department Themed**

First Place Unit 1 Peyton Gallagher
### 2019-2020 Awards & Citations

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*Committee Chair reports from July 2020 remain on the Department website for viewing*

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Have you renewed your Membership for 2021?

If you already have, thank you!
Renew on-line using the National Headquarters website

- Go to alaforveterans.org
- Log in to your account. If you don’t already have one, set up an account by selecting “Sign up” on the homepage. Be sure to have your prior membership card available - you will need your membership number. Then you will receive further instructions.
- Once you have your account, the “Pay Dues” button will appear next to your name.

You can also call the National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 and renew by phone.
Renew by mail or through your Unit membership Chair.

There’s always time to renew. Do it today...don’t delay!

The American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Virginia
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