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*The American Legion Auxiliary*  
*Department of Virginia*  
*Our Mission Continues*  
**January 2021 e-Newsletter**

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*President's Message*

Happy New Year everyone!

With the New Year, it's time for us to resolve to continue our work dedicated to our mission and purpose. While we are still living in unusual times, we have over the past 10 months found ways to continue to serve. As you already know, the ALA Department Spring Conference will be held via Zoom on March 7, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. Log-in and dial in information will be sent via Constant Contact closer to that date. Lastly, thank you to everyone who submitted a Mid-year report.

For God and Country,

Dawn Thomas  
ALA Department of Virginia  
President 2020-2021



I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a blessed 2021 so far! Thank you to all units who submitted a mid-year report. Even with the pandemic, the American Legion Auxiliary continues to work hard to fulfill our mission of helping veterans, their families, and the community.

**Upcoming Events:**

The 2021 Washington Conference will be a virtual event. The National Commander's testimony will be live streamed. We will continue to update you as more details are finalized.

**Current Legislation:**

The American Legion Family is urging Congress to pass the "Buddy Check" bill. This bill will promote educational opportunities, materials, and references for veterans on how to conduct personal wellness checks and include a "Buddy Check" week for the VA to promote. Since the pandemic, military suicides have risen by 20%. We are joining bi-partisan efforts for the signing of this legislation. Please contact your Representative and encourage for the support of **Senate Bill S.4675/House Bill H.R.2898**. More information can be found on the American Legion Legislative website at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).

I look forward to hearing and reading about more of your successes as we enter the new year!

For God and Country,

Darla Lisbon  
Legislative Chairperson  
Department of Virginia

## **SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

We understand this is an unusual year but there are a few critical items to remind you about:

**SCHOLARSHIPS** - We have several scholarships that we offer each year, and they are funded by donations only. We have not received any donations so far this year for the following scholarships:

Kate Waller Barrett Scholarship (\$1000 – one awarded annually)

Veterans Scholarship (\$500 – one awarded annually)

Medical Scholarship (\$500 – one awarded annually)

If no donations are forthcoming, no scholarships will be presented after this year and that would be unfortunate. Donations should be earmarked for the intended scholarship.

**CITATIONS** – If your Unit has already paid their required citations, many thanks! If not, please remit your payment; this is critical for various reasons:

Our mission continues, and some of these required citation payments specifically contribute to VA&R, entertainment of veterans, and the Children and Youth Project.

Please keep in mind also that our office expense continues even though the office is open on a limited basis and by appointment only. Our Department Secretary continues to work from home, even when the office is closed. We are responsible to pay rent and our share of all utilities and repairs for the building as it houses our records, furniture, office equipment and artifacts.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our organization's mission through your continued efforts.

Your Department Finance Committee,

Peggy Thomas, Chair

Sallie Rossman

Frances Shelton



# Veteran Recognition Project



## A Joint Poppy/Juniors Project

This year it is especially hard to recognize our veterans for their service.  
While we may not be able to pin a poppy on them,  
we can still recognize them.

Junior ALA members have the opportunity to print and distribute pictures of a poppy to veterans in their community for them to hang in a window or on their door in recognition of their service. You can either print these off in color or in black and white and have your juniors color or paint them to add the bright red (see next page). They can even be printed slightly smaller and made to fit 2 to a page. You can even write a message underneath the picture ("Thank you for your service", "We are proud of this veteran!", "Go Army [or other branch of service]" if known).

Distribute the poppies to veterans in your area. You may want to coordinate with your post of The American Legion to find out who is isolating at home. You can also contact the local VAMC to see if you can drop off the poppy pictures for patients. Local assisted living facilities may be able to tell you if they have veterans who reside there. Keep in mind, you will want to work with any facilities to arrange drop offs and obey the regulations that they have in place for their residents.

Get pictures (socially distanced!) with the recipients if possible or ask if someone inside the facility can take pictures to send to you.

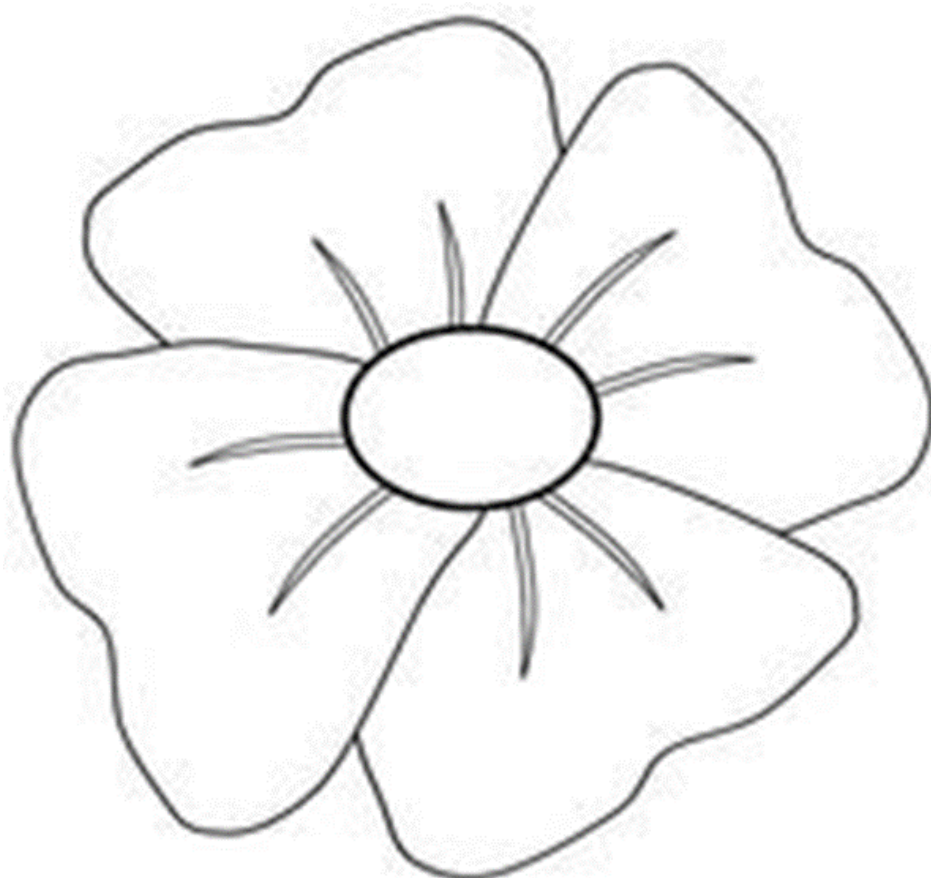
Be sure to keep track of your service hours. These can be reported on the Junior Year-end report. If adult members of your Unit wish to participate, their hours should be counted on the Poppy Year-end report.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact us!

In the spirit of "Service, not Self",  
Erika & Kathleen

Erika Evans  
Poppy Chair

Kathleen Keller  
Junior Activities Chair





## *Around the Department in December*



Unit 25 donates white boards to a local Elementary School for use during virtual learning.



Unit 284 members wrapped gifts at Fort Lee.



Manassas 10 Legion Family was among many Posts, Units and Squadrons participating in Wreaths Across America.



PNP Peggy Thomas delivers Holiday Cards from Legion Family and a check from the Department ALA to McGuire VAMC.

## ***Have you renewed your Membership for 2021?***

If you already have, thank you! If not, oops...you're expired!

If you haven't yet renewed, you can easily do that  
through one of these options:

- Renew on-line using the National Headquarters website
  - Go to [alaforveterans.org](http://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. Simply follow the prompts and you'll receive a membership confirmation email with a printable card.
- You can also call the National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 and renew by phone.

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

**The ALA Department of Virginia Office is open on a limited basis  
and by appointment only.**

**The Department Secretary is working remotely and can be reached via email  
at [auxva1805@gmail.com](mailto:auxva1805@gmail.com) or you can leave a voice message at the  
Department office phone number below.**

**The American Legion Auxiliary  
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