



American Legion Auxiliary Historian 2021–2022

What is history? History is a record of things, events, happenings, etc that have taken place in the past and we need to make a record of them for future use. Even things like a checkbook register is a history – a history of bills paid, money spent, etc. How many times have you had to go back to see if you really did pay that bill? You went back in history.

The American Legion Auxiliary Units do lots of amazing things and it is so easy to forget some of them. But if we have a yearly history of what the Unit accomplished we can go back and see when we did it, how we did it and why we did it. There is usually a purpose behind what we do.

This year we are stressing 3 different areas: “Members Remember”, Women’s History Month, Involving our Junior Members.

MEMBERS REMEMBER – Record the Unit’s history through the eyes of its members. Most of the Units have members who have years and years of experience in the ALA. Contact these members and get their views on how things were done some years ago when they first became members. Maybe they had a special project the Unit did that the newer members have never heard about. Record these and, if possible, get your Junior members to help with this project. You would be surprised at how these Junior members can get answers to questions that an adult can’t. There is just something about a senior member talking to a junior member that is different and the outcome can be amazing.

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH – Women’s History Month is March and it corresponds with International Women’s Day on March 8. Celebrate the women in your life – mom, grandma or even your sister. Put together a folder of the Members Remember interviews and circulate to the current members to let them see exactly how far the Auxiliary has come in the past years. It will boggle your mind, I’m sure. Share any information you gather to celebrate with the Junior members. After all, they are a part of your Unit and a lot of them have no idea how things have changed throughout the years.

INVOLVE YOUR JUNIOR MEMBERS – I realize that most Units probably do not have an active Junior Unit which means it is up to the senior members to include them in any projects that you may undertake throughout the year. Take your Junior members when you go to distribute poppies; if you are making a basket to raffle, let them help you put it together or maybe even help with items for the basket. A lot of the Juniors would be delighted to be asked to help on the Unit’s projects. If you do have an active Junior Unit, make sure they write a Junior History.

The Mid-Year Report Forms have been discontinued. There is no award for the best History submitted. However, it is important that you submit your Unit History by April 15, 2022 to Edna L. Eagle, 7414 Marc Drive, Falls Church, VA 22042 or via email at historian@vaauxiliary.org. as I need to prepare a history for the Department to submit to National.

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