



A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

OCTOBER 2022

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Dear Utah ALA,
Gosh, another month has flown by. Happy Fall and Happy Halloween.

I would like to start off with some CONGRATULATIONS to the new District Presidents.

District 2 - President Peggy Robertson from Bountiful Unit 79

District 9 - Teako Monson from Vernal Unit 124

Again, congratulations to you ladies.

Also, I would like to acknowledge and thank Judy Lewis for her commitment as long-time past District 2 President and her on-going support. Without you, we would be lost.

We have Thanksgiving and Christmas. This newsletter will have info on the VA Gift Shop; we have a special guest coming to help.

If there are a any ALA Units or Districts that may need help during the holidays... please let us know!



Hocus Pocus one of my favorites for Halloween

Ohana,
Silvana Watanabe
801-718-6688 text is best

FROM THE FIRST VICE/MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:

Greetings Everyone,

This is Mike Rasmuson, your Department First Vice-President and your Membership Chairperson for this year. I have been active in the American Legion Auxiliary since 2019. I have been willing to learn and work on making the Auxiliary better. I admit that I have many things to learn from our members, both old and new. One thing that I have learned is that it only takes one person to make a difference. I have learned that we need more people to be willing to serve and help our veterans, active military, and their families. The first thing that I need from all of you is to renew your membership as soon as possible. Why do I need your help by doing that? The reason is that without registered and active members, we won't be able to keep our Units strong and thriving. How do you renew your membership? There are three ways to renew your membership. First, you can talk to your Unit President and your unit membership chairperson. They have the paperwork for getting your membership renewed. Renewal notices from National were mailed to all members in September.

Second, you can renew your membership online by going to www.legion-aux.org Lastly, if you have questions, you can email me or call Cary Fisher at the Department Office. (801-539-1015, alautah@yahoo.com).

I want to introduce my theme for this year-- "Move the Needle". In my brief time with the ALA, I have observed over and over again that it only takes a small effort to make a difference. Volunteerism is about making a difference. I want everyone to make a commitment to "move the needle". What I mean is that when you are putting forward your best effort to do something just a little beyond your comfort zone and put service above self. We all have different skill sets. You can make a difference in small ways.

Here are a couple of examples--

Silvana Watanabe is our Department President. Over two years ago, Silvana called me. She knew that I was a member of the Auxiliary, but that I didn't really know much about it, and that I hadn't explored what it was all about. She asked me if I would be willing to serve. I told her that I didn't know, but that I was willing to listen. She was convincing and here I am. It happened only because someone asked.

I asked my mom, who is almost 80, if she would join our local unit. I asked her to do it as a favor to me. She has started going to meetings. She has helped with gift wrapping. I asked her if she would be interested in making poppies for our biggest fundraiser. She didn't know what I was talking about. Once she learned, she was willing. She will be making poppies for us this year.

These are examples of "Moving the Needle". What sort of things can you do?

Because I am the Membership Chair, my challenge is to help us all be more motivated to be active in our units. When I was Leadership Chair last year, I sent out a survey to find out what active members and unit leaders what needs they had personally and as leadership. The most popular answer is that we need new members and more active members. As you read this, I would encourage you to talk to your friends about the things you do with the Auxiliary. Too many people today enjoy talking about what is wrong in the world. I have found that when we are in our communities serving, it makes us feel good.

Move the needle! You can make a difference.

Mike Rasmuson
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Utah
First Vice-President
utahalamike@gmail.com

FROM THE SECOND VICE/LEADERSHIP CHAIR:

Hello Utah! My name is Stacey Hawkinson and I am the 2nd Vice President and Leadership chairman. I hope you are doing well and had a wonderful summer. A couple of things to think about going into this new year with leadership. Leadership is an amazing role and requires patience and commitment. Not only commitment to this amazing organization but commitment to do what's right even when it's hard. Leadership to me is about inspiring people to reach for their potential and to be the shoulder someone needs. If our members feel supported and confident think about the amazing things we could do. Leadership is about leading by example. Remember when doing all the amazing things units and districts do you are being the example for the community and for the members. We

are all a team. Department, District and Units. One team, one dream. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments. My phone number is (435) 820-1614 and email is Stacey.campbell92@gmail.com.

CHAPLAIN NOTES:

Next month, we have many opportunities to participate in Veteran’s Day activities and/or services. These can be in our Units or at events within our towns, local schools, or faith communities. If you need ideas for ceremonies you could present, I would like to suggest three ceremonies which I have seen presented at Girls State sessions that would be appropriate for commemorating the day.

1. POW/MIA Remembrance Service



This service includes the POW/MIA table and the script for it can be found on page 36 in the Manual of Ceremonies 2020 on the ALA website. Many of the items can be purchased at your local dollar store.

<https://member.legion-aux.org/member/guides/manual-of-ceremonies>

2. The Poppy Story



If you are interested in sharing the inspiring story of Moina Michael, the red poppy, and the poem by Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrea “In Flanders Field”, I can send you the PowerPoint presentation used at Girls State. This is a very engaging presentation for large or small groups.

3. The Four Chaplains



This story could be read or you could watch a YouTube video depicting the story. I have included a link to the story on the US Army website as well as a couple of links to YouTube videos.

https://www.army.mil/article/34090/chaplain_corps_history_the_four_chaplains

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WgYYknOuLQM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3V1v5PVEXtw&t=156s>

For those who would prefer a hard copy of any of these ceremonies/presentations, please email me at byujenn96@gmail.com. Send me your mailing address if you would like me to mail the scripts to you.

The following is a prayer for Veteran's Day found in the Auxiliary Chaplain prayer book for use at your November meetings or other events.

"Our Heavenly Father, we deem this a fitting time to pay our respects to our departed comrades. As we stand with bowed heads in reverence to them, let us remember the good deeds they accomplished. Let us revere them, as good soldiers who fought the good fight in a just cause, let us silently pray for peace, the peace that passes all understanding. And let us in mind and soul consecrate our hearts and lives to the real America, the land of the free and the home of the brave, the America worth fighting for. As we stand in silence to our departed comrades, may we sincerely say, 'May their souls rest in peace.' Let us also remember the POWs and MIAs still unaccounted for from the Wars and Conflicts. Amen."

Lastly, a friendly reminder to send me the names and mailing addresses of Unit members who are unable to attend your meetings and could use a little extra support from the Auxiliary. I have a stack of Halloween cards ready to send out.

May God be with each of you,

Jenn Hinton

ALA Utah Department Chaplain

Byujenn96@gmail.com

166 W Heritage Hill Dr, Tooele, UT 84074

2023 ALA UTAH GIRLS STATE DATES: JUNE 5-9, 2023

It's not too early to start advertising.

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTES:

You'll hear more about this later; a National membership dues increase of \$6.00 was approved at the National Convention. This will take effect for the 2023-2024 membership year. This means that every Unit will transmit \$ \$33.50 to Department to pay the National and Department membership dues. Start thinking now about how your Unit will handle this increase.

PLEASE remember to transmit the Department's portion of dues on a regular basis. Your members may have paid their dues to you at the Unit, but until the payment is processed at Department, it isn't complete. This can be a real problem if you have a member needing assistance from the Emergency Fund or a Junior member filling out a scholarship application.

I have new 2021 Unit Handbooks for purchase - \$10.00. I also have membership applications, brochures and certificates, let me know what you may need. Office hours are still Tuesday and

Thursday from 9:00 -3:00. You can leave me a voice mail or e-mail me. Don't hesitate to call if you have questions.

There is 1 Dell desktop computer, monitors, speakers and keyboards that we no longer need. It has no software on it and is from 2013. Usable, but can't be updated to anything newer than Windows 10. There isn't a camera or microphone. Let me know if you are interested.

Looking forward to a great Auxiliary year – think “What is my Why?”

Cary Fisher
Department Executive Director
alautah@yahoo.com

AMERICANISM:

The program goals for the Americanism program are:

Be knowledgeable on flag history, etiquette, and proper disposal methods, and promote the observation of patriotic holidays so your community will look to the ALA for information.

Increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest.

Participate in the promotion of The American Legion Americanism programs.

This year's essay subject is “What does patriotism mean to you?” Unit winners need to be to the Department by March 31, 2023, with the attached cover sheet.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH:

- The Children and Youth program emphasizes protecting, caring for, and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans' and military families.
- To recognize and reward the positive actions of our children and youth, the American Legion Auxiliary has two special national awards bestowed to youth nominated by units: the Youth Hero Award and the Good Deed Award.
- Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2) is an initiative honoring military children who may be experiencing a separation from one or both parents, whether deployed to a war zone, having a short tour or on an extended temporary duty assignment.
- The American Legion Auxiliary Children & Youth program strives to support and promote the [Children & Youth program](#) of The American Legion.

The Youth Hero/Good Deed award is now an online form. PLEASE look for nominees for this program. https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/youth_hero_good_deed_award_nomination National's goal is to receive at least one nomination in each category from each state. We had a number of both of them last year, so I know it can be done.

Please send me pictures of any of your Children and Youth activities.

Cary Fisher
Children and Youth Chair
Fisher98@yahoo.com

EDUCATION:

The goals of the Education program are:

- To promote quality education for children, especially for military children, and adults
- To encourage schools to invite veterans to speak in their classrooms
- To provide scholarships for students who desire a college education
- To Support legislation that establishes new scholarship opportunities
- To support the Education program and scholarship opportunities of The American Legion

Many of you support your local schools in various ways. The "Give 10 to Education" is a fun way to collect school supplies. There are certificates available to provide to your donors. Now is a great time to have veterans discuss Veterans Day, flag etiquette or service with students. Please send me any pictures you have of your activities and be sure to report the numbers of items and value of donations.

Cary Fisher
Children and Youth Chair
FisherC98@yahoo.com

GIFT SHOP:

Included below is specific information about Gift Shop for this year. Please read it carefully. Information about dates and times volunteers are needed, items needed, etc. are included. Also, a donation form is attached that can be filled out for the items your Unit is donating for Gift Shop at the VA Hospital.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Cary at the office or Judy at Judy.Daybell50@gmail.com or 801-633-7730.

WE WILL BE HAVING GIFT SHOP AT THE CHRISTOFFERSEN VETERANS HOME, IVINS VETERANS HOME AND THE VA HOSPITAL AGAIN THIS YEAR

The following information is specific to each facility

- Christoffersen Veterans Home – the activities will be held at the facility
 - Volunteers are needed Saturday, Oct. 22nd from 8 am to 1 pm to help the residents pre-order gifts for their families. COVID vaccinations are not needed. Each volunteer will be required to be tested upon arrival at the facility prior to volunteering. Masks will be furnished and will need to be worn.
 - Volunteers are needed Saturday, Nov 26th from 9 am-1 pm to wrap the gifts that have been preordered by the residents. More details to follow.
- Ivins – Tentatively the activities will be held at the facility.
 - Volunteers are needed Thursday, Nov. 10th for preorder from 9 am to 5 pm
 - Volunteers are needed to wrap the gifts that have been preordered by the residents either Friday, Dec. 2nd or Saturday, Dec. 3rd. Exact date is not known at this time.
- VA Hospital – The Gift Shop will be held in Bldg. 9 Auditorium (same location as last year).
 - Volunteers are needed Sunday, Nov. 27 at 10 am - 2 pm to help set up
 - Volunteers are needed Monday, Nov. 28th and Tuesday, Nov. 29th from 9 am to 3 pm each day to shop with the veterans. More information will be sent in November.
 - Once again we will **NOT** be wrapping gifts due to space restrictions.

Financial donations are needed to purchase items to be used at all three facilities and can be sent to the ALA office. **Additionally, items can be donated for the VA hospital. Items needed include blankets/throws, games for all ages, womens' gifts, teen gifts (boys & girls), stuffed animals and toys for all ages. We do not need lounging pants or gift cards this year.** Items can be brought to the hospital on Sunday, Nov 27th when we set up, brought on any day of the activity or can be sent or dropped off at the VA Hospital prior to November 27th. The address is 500 Foothill Dr, Salt Lake City, UT 84148. Boxes should be labeled C/O Volunteer Services – ALA GIFT SHOP.

It is important that you let Judy Daybell know if you will be volunteering so that any changes can be communicated to you. Her contact information is Judy.Daybell50@gmail.com . Phone number 801-633-7730.

JUNIORS:

Calling all Junior members to attend the 2023 Western Division Junior Meeting in Las Vegas, NV, on February 4, 2023. We have been challenged to have at least 30 Junior Members in attendance from our division and we know we can do this. In order for this to happen I need you all to reach out to the Junior members in your units now so that they can plan and register for the meeting. The early registration fee is \$65 and that goes until January 20, 2023. After that the fee will be \$70. This is a wonderful opportunity for Juniors to meet other Juniors in our division. There will be games, activities and lots of fun as they learn about the American Legion Auxiliary and the role they play in it. Please let me know if you have any questions. Register here: <https://www.legion-aux.org/meetings/national-junior-meetings/>

As Veteran's day approaches in November, I want to encourage units to plan an activity with the Juniors. This could be going into a school and teaching about the flag (which is a patch requirement). It could be writing letters to your local military people and families and attaching a small gift. You could get youth groups or school classes to participate in the letter writing. One I plan on doing is having my step-daughter teach her class about the flag and ask them to participate in RED Friday's for the rest of the school year.

Jacci Christensen
Junior Activities Chair
Jacci.yei@gmail.com

NATIONAL SECURITY:

National President Vickie Koutz asked the National Security program to put special focus on raising awareness of POW/MIA's during her term in office. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) mission is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel from past conflicts to their families and the nation. Within this mission, the DPAA searches for missing personnel from World War II (WWII), the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Gulf Wars, and other recent conflicts. Their research and operational missions include coordination with hundreds of countries and municipalities around the world. The American Legion Family can provide valuable help to the DPAA in its search by raising awareness of the data available on its website, <https://www.dpaa.mil>. Of special importance is the location and identification of over 70,000 missing from WWII. As the veterans' families from that conflict become further removed in generations from the veteran, it becomes more difficult to find viable DNA. DPAA's motto states, "Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise". You may wonder how we can help fulfill DPAA's mission. We can share this information within the American Legion family and our communities. DPAA's database of missing personnel contains information stored by name, conflict, state, branch of service, and accounting status, which

can be searched by any of these parameters. Results can be downloaded to your computer in either PDF or CSV format. Servicemember profiles exist for many of the personnel, telling unique stories about their time in the service. For those missing whose remains have been recovered, the stories tell of the recovery effort and how the personnel were memorialized. Contact information is available on DPAA's website if a family has an inquiry or information about a missing loved one. Casualty Services offices are maintained within each military department, and they work directly with families during the identification and repatriation of MIA remains. The American Legion Auxiliary has a tremendous opportunity during 2022-2023 to raise awareness of the DPAA and its important mission. Please join us in becoming more familiar with its mission and sharing this information so we can continue to bring our MIAs back home. Let us remember and never forget their sacrifices. If you know of someone who is a POW/MIA, take the time to look them up. This is a pretty amazing site!

R.E.D. Friday - R.E.D. (Remember Everyone Deployed) Friday was created to remind people of our Heroes overseas and show that we are thinking of them. People across the country wear red every Friday to serve as a reminder and spread the message of how important it is that we keep our troops in our thoughts throughout the year. Being a part of R.E.D. Friday is easy: Just Wear Red on Friday and tell your friends why! Take pictures, post on social accounts, flood Facebook on Fridays to Remember Everyone Deployed. Let's get the word out and lead by example; wear RED on Fridays.

POPPY PROGRAM:



Greetings from your Utah American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Chairwoman

Poppy Poster Contest

ALA Units sponsor poppy poster contests in local schools. When schools do not conduct activities, other youth groups, including ALA Junior members, may participate under direct supervision of the local ALA Unit. Contest Classes:

- Class I: Grades 2 and 3
- Class II: Grades 4 and 5
- Class III: Grades 6 and 7
- Class IV: Grades 8 and 9
- Class V: Grades 10 and 11
- Class VI: Grade 12
- Class VII: Students with special needs

Poppy poster contest rules are available on the web site. Winning Unit entries must be to Department by May 10, 2023.

Members are urged to follow local public-health guidance and consider new ways to share the meaning of the flower. The American Legion Family's annual poppy distributions – which raise funds for disabled veterans, military personnel and their families to honor of all who fought and died for the nation.

We have ordered 15,000 poppies this year and as every year we are asking for people to help make them. I would be glad to come to your unit and teach how to make poppies.. So even if you have

never made a poppy before you could learn and become a poppy maker for Utah. The poppy money goes right back into our communities and helps our Veterans and their families. So, if you can be a Poppy Maker this year and you do it with the help of a veteran you can earn \$50 for every 1,000 poppies that you make. It could be a good way to earn money for your Unit and Post together.

We received some information that money raised from poppy distribution can be donated to Utah Honor Flight to be used for some items and expenses for the veterans and their family caregiver accompanying them. Please contact the office for more information. Information regarding Utah Honor Flight can be found at <https://www.utahhonorflight.org/>

Please email Cary at alautah@yahoo.com and let her know how many kits you want sent to your Unit.

Best Regards,

Ellen Nathan

American Legion Auxiliary - Utah Poppy Chairwoman

435-652-8333 or 435-862-6087

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION:

This time of year, opportunities to serve veterans are everywhere. Remember Veterans need help year around not just at the holidays. In your Units when you are making plans for the year consider projects that you could include in your community that support veterans & their families. Examples include:

- Encourage Unit members to volunteer at facilities where veterans reside (Skilled Nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, etc).
- Visit a veteran and offer to help them in any way they need help. This could be transportation, house work, yard work or just a visit.
- Help a family who are caring for their family member who is a veteran. If the veteran is still living independently, their family could use your support.
- Participate in projects that serve the homeless in your community.

Again this year National is utilizing Facebook to get information out to the members. Follow the National Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAVAR> for ideas.

DON'T FORGET - When you have an event share the story and photos as they happen within your Unit please send them to me so I can share them with all of the Department Units as well as the National organization.

Judy Daybell

VA&R Chair

Judy.daybell50@gmail.com



American Legion Auxiliary

VA Gift Shop Donation Form



DONOR INFORMATION

(Please PRINT)

Today's Date: / / 2022

Auxiliary Unit # :

Community (individual/business) Donor :

Contact Person :

Address :

City, State, Zip :

Cell or Home # ()

Email :

DESCRIPTION OF DONATIONS

Donated Item(s)	\$ Value
1)	\$
2)	\$
3)	\$
4)	\$
5)	\$
6)	\$
7)	\$
Total \$ dollar value of donation	\$

Donations Received by:

VOLUNTEER HOURS CONNECTED WITH DONATIONS

(Please complete this section with Auxiliary unit totals or individuals if possible)

Name	# of volunteer hours
1)	
2)	
3)	
4)	
5)	
6)	
7)	



2023
Western Division
JUNIOR
Meeting

FEBRUARY 4, 2023

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

FLAMINGO HOTEL

[Click Here to Sign Up](#)



AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST 2023 Cover Sheet

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into six classes. One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. National winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund. National winners will be posted at www.ALAforVeterans.org after convention. **UNIT WINNERS DUE TO DEPARTMENT BY MARCH 31, 2023.**

Essay Title: *"What does patriotism mean to you?"*

Essay Classes:

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's <u>grade level.</u>

Essay Checklist:

- Class competing in _____
- Sponsoring ALA unit _____
- Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- Completed essay coversheet as first page of essay
- Word count of essay _____
- Due date for student to return to ALA unit _____

To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:

Student Name: _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip):

E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____

School Name: _____

School City/State: _____

Teacher Name and Signature:

Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.):

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: _____

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: _____

Unit winner due to Department on March 31, 2023 Department: _____

Signature of Department Chairman: _____

Department winner due to National Americanism Division Chairman by April 15, 2023

Americanism