



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

**JANUARY 2023**

**SAVE THE DATE – DEPARTMENT CONVENTION, PROVO UTAH**

[Book your group rate for American Legion Department Convention](#)

The convention will be held June 23-25. See flyer attached. You can call the phone number on the flyer or reserve your room by clicking on the above link. More information will be coming.

**2023 ALA UTAH GIRLS STATE DATES: JUNE 5-10, 2023**

Information has been provided to all schools that provided a contact person to the office. Unit packets were mailed on Saturday, January 16, to all Units who have turned in membership and are current in their Department assessments. Cost is still \$450.00. Completed registrations will be due by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Please contact the office if you have questions.

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER:**

Dear Utah ALA members,

Happy New Years 2023! I hope the start of this new year finds you and yours well.

I sincerely Thank You for all your work, your support, or just being there this holiday season to make a difference in someone's life.

It will be good to see some of you on Jan 21st at the DEC (all are welcome) Until then this is what is coming down the pipeline from National – see attached flier.

"On International Women's Day, March 8, the ALA Foundation will be Celebrating Women of Service. This year, pay tribute to someone who inspires you and support the ALA Foundation by donating in her honor. A tribute donation offers you a thoughtful way to celebrate a special person while contributing to our mission to positively impact the lives of our veterans, military, and their families by funding programs of the ALA today and in the future. International Women's Day is a great opportunity to recognize the successes of your peers and make a charitable gift in honor of an influential woman in your life"

Hope this quote will inspire you to acknowledge someone you know.

"No one who achieves success does so without acknowledging the help of others. The wise and confident acknowledge this help with gratitude."

~ Alfred North Whitehead

Please, please be safe. Covid is on the rise again and other creepy viruses out there.

Ohana,  
Silvana Watanabe  
Utah ALA Dept President  
(801) 718-6688 (text is best)

**FROM THE FIRST VICE/MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:**

Greetings Auxiliary Members!

The other day, I had a potential recruit ask what we do in the American Legion Auxiliary. I thought for a moment and told her a few things.



First, I said that we support the American Legion. One of the great services that the American Legion offers in our area is a graveside flag ceremony and gun salute for veterans that pass away. We support those services whenever we can with refreshment or transportation.

One of the other great programs offered is ALA Utah Girls State for young women and AL Utah Boys State for young men. These programs teach youth about the American government and civics. The processes and laws that protect our democracy and rights are not fully understood by most young people. Scholarships are offered and priceless mentoring occurs as these young women and men learn about Leadership.

The American Legion Auxiliary Gift Shop provides for Veterans in need. Not only are items provided for the veterans themselves, but gift items are provided so that gifts can be given to their families. This is a rewarding and worthy cause that anyone can get behind.

Funding for many of our causes is distribution of Poppies. The Poppy Program has been raising money for our charitable causes for over 100 years. Poppies are made by hand and are distributed throughout the country to support things like the Gift Shop.

The other thing that you get from being part of the Legion Family is a community of like-minded people. Veterans often reflect on great friendships spent over a period of years. Being a part of the something greater than self is always worthwhile.

Auxiliary members, remember our motto: Service Before Self! Invite your friends and family to join and be part of something greater. Let's get up off the couch!

Happy New Year!

Mike  
[utahalamike@gmail.com](mailto:utahalamike@gmail.com)

#### **FROM THE SECOND VICE/LEADERSHIP CHAIR:**

Hello Utah!! I was reading an article in AARP titled Try Greatness, Not Meanness. In this article it was talking about famous leaders like our founding fathers George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Alexander Hamilton. Did you know that these men did not get along at all. That actually it was documented that they were bitter rivals. There is a quote from the article that really spoke to me " Look at what they accomplished when they set aside their vanity, ideology, and shortsightedness: a federation of distinct regional and economic interests bound by core principles and liberties upon which a carefully balanced national government could function and thrive."

I thought of my own journey with the auxiliary and realized I would love to do more of this myself and see more of this in our great organization. I wonder what all of us could achieve if we set aside vanity, ideology, and shortsightedness. So, my challenge is that we all see if we can take steps to set these things aside and work more together. I know with passion comes these things, but I know we can work together.

My phone number is (435) 820-1614 and email is [Stacey.campbell92@gmail.com](mailto:Stacey.campbell92@gmail.com).

Stacey Hawkinson

#### **CHAPLAIN NOTES:**

The new year gives us the opportunity to reflect on the past and look towards the future. In December, I had days of celebration and joy, but also too many days of sadness and despair. The hard challenges left me wondering how to find hope in the year that lay ahead of me. I would like to share with you a few bible verses that I am relying on to help me have hope in 2023. I pray they will be helpful to you as you face hard situations and circumstances in your lives.

*"Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in thee." Psalm 33:22 (KJV)*

*"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." Romans 12:12 (ESV)*



Former ALA National Chaplain, Bird Derrick, in her 2016 annual report wrote "With the chaos and confusion rampant in our day, we need encouragement that carries us through." Her conclusion to finding that encouragement would be to believe that God is the hope. I concur with her sentiments and believe that God is the hope for us as individuals, as communities, and as a nation.

I am grateful for the strong bond that we share in this organization, an organization that is all about bringing hope through love, kindness, and service. May we be blessed to find hope and to bring hope to others in the new year.

May God's peace bless each of you,

Jenn Hinton

ALA Utah Department Chaplain

[Byujenn96@gmail.com](mailto:Byujenn96@gmail.com)

166 W Heritage Hill Dr, Tooele, UT 84074

#### DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTES:

A National membership dues increase of \$6.00 was approved at the National Convention last August. **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. Units need to start thinking now about how you will handle this increase. Your Unit By-Laws will also require a change if the dues amount is listed there. The \$6.00 amount goes directly to National. The Department keeps \$15.50 of the dues transmitted.

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.

National mailed dues renewal notices to all members who were not current in their dues by December 31, 2022. If you mailed memberships to me during the Christmas break, you may have some members still receive a renewal notice. I have paid all the memberships that have been submitted.

**As of Jan 1, 2023, members who have not paid their 2022-2023 dues are delinquent.**

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.

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

Cary Fisher

Department Executive Director

[alautah@yahoo.com](mailto:alautah@yahoo.com)

#### AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND:

Give the gift of financial relief More than 6,500 Auxiliary members have benefited from the Auxiliary Emergency Fund since it was established in 1969. Those grant recipients have endured significant financial hardship, a disaster that left them with little to nothing, or both. The Auxiliary Emergency Fund exists to help these men and women get back on their feet after experiencing a crisis. The Auxiliary Emergency Fund is a way for you to give a gift to directly support your ALA acquaintances and friends. Your gift to AEF helps keep someone's lights on, food on their table, and clothing on their backs. Your gift offers a helping hand until financial stability is reestablished. Please consider helping your fellow ALA members by making a gift to AEF today.



## **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.

**APRIL** - I know that we have just started the new year and it is only January but April will sneak up on us fast. April is the month of the Military Child so let's get excited and started on something special in April for our children. Carnivals, parties and games are always a big hit with children. Use your imagination and get started with your plans now. **PURPLE** everything. Let's **PURPLE UP** for our Military Children.

**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](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](mailto: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. Please send me any pictures you have of your activities and be sure to report the numbers of items and value of donations.

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIPS IS MARCH 1, 2023.** The applications are at the National website <https://www.legion-aux.org/scholarships>

Cary Fisher  
Children and Youth Chair  
[Fisher98@yahoo.com](mailto:Fisher98@yahoo.com)



### **GIFT SHOP:**

Gift Shop at the Ivins and Christofferson Veterans Homes along with the VA medical Center once again were all huge successes. At the two Veterans' homes, 114 residents were able to select 363 gifts for themselves and their families.

At the VA Hospital, 128 veterans selected 600 gifts for themselves and their families. The number of veterans participating at the VA last year was about the same amount as this year. The weather was bad Monday night and Tuesday so many veterans did not attend the activity on Tuesday. This year at the VA hospital we had 30 bags of food that were donated by an Auxiliary unit. These were given to Veterans who needed them in addition to the gifts they selected. The Veteran attendees who came this year seemed to have a greater need and were very appreciative of the gifts and food they received.

56 Auxiliary members from 11 Auxiliary Units along with members of the community and Legion Family also helped at the three facility events. The Gift Shop program is made possible because of the members in your Unit. Please be sure to say thanks at your next Unit meeting.

### **JUNIORS:**

Our ALA National Juniors Meeting is coming up in Las Vegas on February 4th. There are only 12 juniors registered and they would love to have a bigger number in attendance. This is a great opportunity for the juniors to learn about the Auxiliary and make new friendships. Please pass the word along to your juniors. Registration can be found at [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org).

Also, please send me any pictures or information about any activities your juniors are participating in so that I can forward it along to our Western Division chairwoman. I also enjoy seeing what everyone one is doing.

My email address is [jacci.yei@gmail.com](mailto:jacci.yei@gmail.com) or post to our Facebook page American Legion Auxiliary Utah Juniors.

There are two National scholarships available for Junior members. The Spirit of Youth scholarship and Junior Member Loyalty scholarship. **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIPS IS MARCH 1, 2023.**

Jacci Christensen  
Junior Activities Chair  
[Jacci.yei@gmail.com](mailto:jacci.yei@gmail.com)

### **LEGISLATIVE:**

Happy 2023 New Year to all of you! Over the past several months, I have shared via social media the National Legislative Division Weekly. This newsletter has a wealth of information to ensure you have the most current news about what is happening legislatively to support veterans and their families. I encourage you to continue reading this information and supporting efforts locally and nationally.

You can make a difference by taking action and learning more at <https://www.legion.org/legislative> and <https://www.legion-aux.org/advocacy>.

We are looking forward to visiting the Utah State Capitol between January 29 - February 3, 2023 to be introduced on the Senate floor as leadership representatives for the American Legion Family and to learn more about legislation supporting veterans.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy year as we go about doing Legion business. Thank you for all that you do for the American Legion Family.

Ninzel Rasmuson  
Legislative Chairman  
Department of Utah  
American Legion Auxiliary



## **NATIONAL SECURITY:**

The Salute to Servicemember nomination is now made through the National Security committee. Is there someone in your area or that you know who you could nominate for this award?

### **Frequently Asked Questions #1**

1. Who is eligible to apply for or be nominated for the Salute to ServiceMembers Award?  
Enlisted service members in any of the following branches of service: Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard/Reserve, and Space Force. Awards will be given in each of the seven branches if we receive nominations for each branch.
2. Why are only enlisted Service Members eligible?  
Enlisted personnel are rewarded with promotions and higher compensation by their awards, including those from outside organizations such as the ALA. Officers are promoted based on merit in their job performance.
3. Who nominates the service members for the award?  
They can be nominated by the following:
  - a. Nomination by ALA Unit.
  - b. Nomination by an individual. (This could be a service member superior or someone who knows the service member and thinks they are worthy of the award. This could be a person outside of ALA or the individual's immediate command.)
  - c. Self-Nomination by the service member.
4. Where do you find the form to make a nomination?
  - a. Look under the National Security tab on the ALA website to find the fillable form.
  - b. Look under awards on the ALA website to find the fillable form.
  - c. ALA National Security Facebook page will be doing periodic posts reminding you to nominate someone for this award.
  - d. The ALA National Security Divisional Chairmen will be reminding the Department National Security Chairmen in their monthly newsletters.
  - e. Use this link to access the Award form:  
<https://www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers-Award-Form>

Remember, all branches of service can have a Salute to ServiceMembers award winner.

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. 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**

The poppy money goes right back into our communities and helps our veterans and their families.

This is also the time of year to prepare to visit your schools and get them involved in the Poppy Poster Contests.

Millions of American Legion Auxiliary poppies are distributed annually by ALA Units, raising money for veterans, active-duty service members, and their families. Children are involved in spreading the poppy message too. Poppy Poster Contests are held in local schools for students in grades 1 to 12. The Little Miss Poppy Contest is a fun event for Junior Auxiliary members ages 6 – 12 who promote the Auxiliary memorial poppy.

The Auxiliary promotes the Poppy as a symbol of the sacrifices our military have made, a symbol to open people's hearts and inspire them to donate.

Meeting the continuing needs of our veterans should be a concern for every American who values his or her freedom.

If you would like to learn how to make Poppies, I will be at the January meeting and would be glad to share with you how they are made. Maybe next year you will take a kit and make some Poppies.

Please email Cary at [alautah@yahoo.com](mailto:alautah@yahoo.com) and let her know how many Poppies you want sent to your Unit.

### **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.

Best Regards,  
Ellen Nathan

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Utah Poppy Chairman  
435-652-8333  
[arneen@infowest.com](mailto:arneen@infowest.com)



**VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION:**

Can you believe it is a new year where we start our New Year's resolution, new dreams, fresh starts and setting our goals as individuals as well as continuing on with Auxiliary Unit goals for 2023. With the holidays behind us and we can get back into our routines and focus more on our Veterans.

We are now halfway through the Auxiliary year. There continues to be a lot of ways to serve veterans in your family and community. Please keep track of what you are doing so that it can be reported in April. You will receive more information on reports in the upcoming months.

Let me know if I can help you or if you have questions.

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](mailto:Judy.daybell50@gmail.com)





**American Legion Dept. Convention  
June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Location: Provo Marriott Hotel & Conference Center  
Sponsoring American Legion Post: Dean Mendenhall Provo Post 13**

**Hotel Room Information**

**Group Rate - \$129.00/night plus tax (\$17.18) = \$146.18 total/night**

- **Deadline for reservations – Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup> or until block of rooms are all reserved**
  - **Limited amount of rooms are available**
  - **Group rate is available 3 days before and 3 days after the convention**
  - **2 queen beds/room**
  - **Accessible rooms are available – need to request when making reservation**
  - **Misc. hotel information**
    - **Hotel check in time – 3 pm**
    - **Hotel check out time - Noon**
    - **Complimentary parking for all hotel guests and convention attendees**
    - **Cancellation of room can be made up to June 20th**

**Reservations can be made by calling Milli Galeal at the hotel (801-370-3538)  
Monday – Friday 9am-5pm**

**FOOD RESERVATIONS FOR THE LUNCH ON SATURDAY AND THE AUXILIARY/LEGION/SAL/LEGION  
RIDERS BANQUET ON SATURDAY NIGHT WILL BE AVAILABLE AT A LATER DATE**



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](http://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*





# *Celebrating Women Of Service*

MARCH 8, 2023

Support the ALA Foundation by donating in honor of a woman who inspires you. A tribute donation offers you a thoughtful way to celebrate a special person while contributing to our mission to positively impact the lives of our veterans, military, and their families by funding programs of the ALA today and for future generations.

Make your gift today!

<http://bit.ly/3vXINNg>

*Ready to give?  
Simply scan the QR code.*

