



PRESIDENT BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2023

Hello ALA Family,

I had the honor of attending ALA National President Lisa Williamson's Homecoming in Fairbanks, Alaska. Several Kentucky ALA family members were in attendance where we had a wonderful time, Alaska is such a beautiful state! I was so excited and honored that National President Lisa was able to visit us for Fall Conference. ALA Dept of KY sure knows how to show hospitality and National President Lisa said she had a wonderful time with us, meeting everyone and seeing the true beauty KY has to offer, she is a true inspiration to us all.

Fall Conference was fun and informative. On top of having National President Lisa visiting us, Phyllis Abbott from Lady Veterans Connect also stopped by and spoke with us. I hope everyone listened as she spoke about all the wonderful ways Lady Vets Connect helps all our Veterans and the community. To remind everyone, we will be having a food drive at our Spring Conference for Lady Veterans Connect, please start collecting non-perishable items now so that we will have a huge donation to send back with Phyllis.

We also had our coat drive at Fall Conference, this was a great success! In case you didn't notice, we had a rather large amount of donation bags in the corner of the room with coats, hats, scarfs & gloves. I want to thank every person and unit that supported and donated, we couldn't do this without you. Next up, we will be collecting toiletry items for Winter Conference where we will be putting together hygiene bags for our Veterans after the meeting. We will also have another special visitor at Winter Conference, our Southern Division National Vice President, Christine Trahan! I hope all are there to help welcome her to KY.

Just a reminder to share these bulletins with your unit and please feel free to share any important information with our chairman for us to post as well. Also, if you would like me or any of our chairman to attend a meeting or event, please let us know, we would be happy to attend or help in any way we can. I hope everyone has a wonderful November. Prayers for a Happy & Blessed Thanksgiving!

For God and Country,
April Ward
Dept. President 2023-2024
859.743.8673
ala.april.ward@gmail.com



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF KENTUCKY

DISTRICT AND UNIT PRESIDENTS: **PLEASE** read the following **CALL TO WINTER CONFERENCE** at your next regular meeting. Also notify all members that are not present at your meeting regarding the events.

CALL TO WINTER CONFERENCE 2024

The annual Winter Conference of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Kentucky is hereby called in conformity with the American Legion and will be held January 19 and 20, 2024, Crowne Plaza, 830 Phillips Lane, Louisville, KY 40209.

Tentative Schedule of Events

Friday, January 19, 2024

3:00 – 7:00 PM	Registration (\$5.00)
4:00 – 5:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
5:00 – 6:00 PM	Girl State Meeting
6:30 – 8:00 PM	Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday, January 20, 2024

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Registration (\$5.00)
9:30 AM – 4:00 PM	Junior Business Meeting
9:00 AM	Winter Conference convenes: Opening Session District Presidents Mid-Year Reports Department Chairmen Reports
11:30 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch recess
1:00 PM	Reconvene Department Chairmen Reports continue Adjournment

Winter Conference – General Information:

Executive Committee Meeting: who will attend

Elected Department Officers, District Presidents and Past Department Presidents
(Department Chairmen, not included in the above, are invited to attend this one Meeting, with no vote but with voice if called upon by Department President)

Reminder: **Awards**

To be eligible to receive awards, **all assessments** must be paid and received by Department Headquarters **by December 31.**

Note: All Senior members in attendance must register at the Conference and pay the fee of \$5.00 when registering. This fee is payable to the Auxiliary AT Conference and NOT in advance with Hotel Reservations.

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS: You will give your brief three-minute progress report during the morning session.

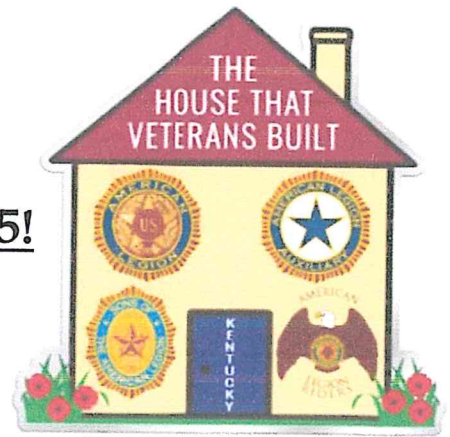
DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN: You are expected to give a report and will have up to three minutes, except for the Membership Chairman, who will be allotted additional time. Please make your reports interactive. Everyone wants to see what you are talking about.

NOTE: If any Department Chairman has made plans for any activity other than her report, please notify me before the Conference convenes.

April Ward
Department President

2024 Trophies & Awards

This form must be received no later than MAY 15!
The trophies must be ordered by May 20 to get them back in time for convention.



Form MUST BE EMAILED to:
sherrynorman511@gmail.com

Please keep in mind that each program is allotted ONE senior and ONE junior trophy

SENIOR TROPHY - 2022

Line 1:

Line 2:

JUNIOR TROPHY - 2022

Line 1:

Line 2:

Please Print Legibly or Type!!

If you have any questions, please contact Sherry Norman



Historian Report November 2023
Hello Auxiliary Family

I hope we are all working hard to help your Unit Historian compile items for your History Book. Remember to keep good records and take pictures.

Resources to help you and I

<https://www.legion-aux.org/Member/Resources/History>

National Historian Donna Thurman donnathurman113@yahoo.com

Follow American Legion Auxiliary Historians on Facebook

Keep each other and our Country in Prayer 🙏

Hope to see you soon!

Rhonda G Churchill
Department Historian
Rhonda.Churchill75@yahoo.com
140 Slate Run
Bardstown, KY 40004
502 807 0339



November 2023 Bulletins

President Special Project

Hello Auxiliary Members,

We would like to thank Phyllis Abbott, the executive director for Lady Veterans Connect for coming out and speaking to us at Fall Conference, it was wonderful hearing about all the inspiring work they are doing. Just a reminder, we will be holding a raffle that will be drawn at Convention, tickets will be \$1 each. We will also have a 50/50 and other raffle items at each conference to raise money for this amazing organization. We will be accepting donations all year for this very important cause at all meetings and by mail. Also, we will be holding a food drive for Lady Vets Connect at our Spring Conference, please start gathering all non-perishable items to donate. I hope everyone has a blessed Thanksgiving.

Tina Geckler
President Special Project Chairman
Tgec65@gmail.com



Juniors Activities

Hi Everyone,

I apologize that I was unable to attend Fall Conference, but I heard everyone had a great time. I want to thank everyone for stopping by the Juniors Snack Shack and donating, the girls had fun setting the table up. We will be doing this at all our upcoming meetings. I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving!

Kim Hallau
Juniors Chairman
Kimhoff0002@gmail.com

Constitution & By-Laws

Happy Fall Everyone,

It was great seeing everyone at Fall Conference. If any unit has questions or would like us to review your by-laws you can reach out to anyone on our team, which is Bonita, Eula and myself. We will be working on updating the by-laws with a final draft by convention. Thank you.

Lisa Reed
Constitution & By-Laws Chairman
Lireed2011@gmail.com



LEXINGTON, KY VETERANS MEDICAL CENTER

November 2023

The Lexington area Units & Posts held a snack drive and contributed over \$500 worth of goods to Fisher House. We also donated coffee supplies to the Lexington VA.

Due to the generosity of all Auxiliary members and family, a donation of \$1,600 was presented to the Lexington VA to be used for Fisher House. Thanks for all the support. It is truly appreciated.

November 5, 2023 is the 5K run to take place at the Leestown Road location beginning at 1:00pm. They will land a Blackhawk in the rear parking lot for all to see. The day promises to be full of fun. Even if you don't participate in the run, come out and cheer the runners on and join us in supporting the major fund raiser for our Veterans and families.

The VA is asking for donations of travel size razors, shaving cream, body wash and other personal care items for both men and women. Water, coffee and snacks are always great items to donate. These items are in need year round so keep your list close by.

Many areas are in need of volunteers for both Lexington VA locations. Please consider helping our Veterans and Families.

Helena Carpenter

Lexington VA Representative



NOVEMBER POPPY BULLETIN

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



Let us be thankful for our freedom our veterans that gave to us.

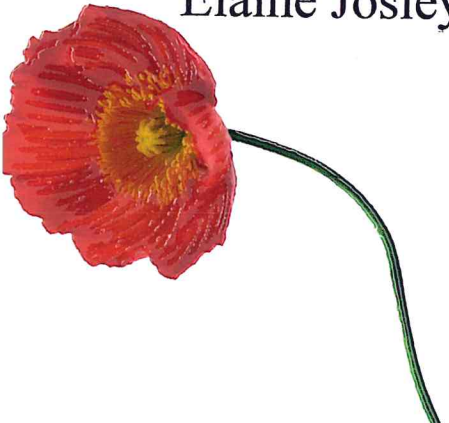
Now Poppy Plan of Action this year is to increase the Poppy money of our auxiliary program.

Contact local business for permission to distribute poppies on their premises. Please make sure you have their permission for liability purpose; some places you will have to get permits.

Also please send thank you cards to the business that allow distribution. The thank you cards can be purchases from the Emblem Sales (Poppy Poster Cards).

Talk to local schools organize a Poppy drive. Make the drive a competitive. Give a citation to the class raising the most money. Take coloring books into the schools.

God Bless our Troops,
Elaine Josleyn, Poppy Chairman 2023-2024



Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA & R)

November Bulletin

Members,

Let me start off by wishing everyone a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving. Don't forget to keep track of the food baskets and dinners you have prepared for our veterans or military and their families. Christmas is just around the corner. Have you reached out to your nearest VA or Veteran Home and asked for their Wish List? If you are close to a military base have you reached out to see if you can assist our military families during the holidays? If you are close to a military base check with the BOSS Program (Better Opportunities Single Soldier) and see if any single service men or women need a place to go for the holidays and invite them to your home to share your meal. I know when I was a military wife and we could not go home to our family for the holidays we invited single soldiers over to our house because NO ONE should be alone for the holidays. During the holidays the suicide rate is at it's peak. BE THE ONE to make a difference in our single military men and women's lives.

I want to thank everyone who donated the 41 coats, 75 hats, 50 gloves, 12 scarves, 1 pair of boots. I delivered all items to the Hope Center in Lexington on the Monday following conference. Your donation was very appreciated.

Start gathering your travel size hygiene items for Winter Conference, we as a department will be putting together VA Hygiene bags. The hygiene bags will be going to the Lexington and Louisville VA.

Items needed: (TRAVEL SIZE) **No mouthwash**

Toothpaste

Toothbrush

Razor

Shaving cream

Shampoo

Conditioner

Lotion

Deodorant

Body Wash

Bar of Soap

Wet Ones

Our women veteran's will also need sanitary products for her special friend who visits. panty liners, tampons and pads

For in house veterans who do their own laundry will also need laundry detergent, fabric softener or dryer sheets.

You can visit your local Dollar Tree, Dollar General and Walmart for these items.

Can you **BE THE ONE**

PROGRAM SPECIFIC INFORMATION:

- **ALA Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program's** purpose is to promote programs and services that assist and enhance the lives of veterans and their families, ensuring restoration and/or transition to normally functioning lives.

Key Program Statements:

- Support the therapeutic rehabilitation and healing of veterans through arts, crafts, and hobbies.
- Support veteran caregivers, family members, and survivors.
- Volunteer at local VA facilities, including state VA facilities in your area.
- Collaborate with organizations that support veterans and their families, such as Wreaths Across America, Honor Flight Inc., and the Military and Veteran Caregiver Network.
- Look in your community for opportunities to support veterans, their caregivers, their families, and their survivors.

- **Get Involved Pages (Program Engagement Plan): NEW this Year!**

New this year, we are introducing the Get Involved Pages on the Website (also known as Program Engagement Plans). These pages include implementation information on each Key Program Statement. They connect the information already available all in one place and become the go-to for our program (much like the Action Plan used to). These pages are aimed at the unit members, but units and departments can easily integrate the information in their plans.

BE THE ONE

VA Suicide Prevention

Suicide Prevention

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)'s top clinical priority is preventing suicide among all Veterans — including those who do not, and may never, seek care within the VA health care system. Life has its challenges for Veterans and those who care for them and as a Veteran or as a caregiver, you don't have to solve them alone. Understanding the issues concerning suicide and mental health is an important way to take part in suicide prevention for the Veteran you provide care for. Use this link for Veteran Resources and services: https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/index.asp

I encourage all of you to take the VA SAVE TRAINING.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to give me a call. Make sure you are taking lots of photos for our reporting. A friendly reminder reports will be due April 15, 2024. The next bulletin will have your report sheet but remember I also want a narrative and photos included.
Once again Happy Thanksgiving!

VA & R Chairman

Patty Martinez

502-600-0226

ttbuddy@aol.com



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



VA S.A.V.E. Training

Supporting Our Veterans

What is VA S.A.V.E. Training?

VA S.A.V.E. Training will help you act with care and compassion if you encounter a Veteran who is in crisis or experiencing suicidal thoughts. The acronym S.A.V.E. helps you remember the important steps involved in suicide prevention:

- S** **Signs** of suicidal thinking should be recognized
- A** **Ask** the most important question of all — *"Are you thinking of killing yourself?"*
- V** **Validate** the Veteran's experience
- E** **Encourage** treatment and **Expedite** getting help

**You can prevent Veteran suicide.
Start by learning the VA S.A.V.E. acronym.**

Supporting Our Veterans

You can support a Veteran through a crisis. Keep these tips in mind when talking with a Veteran who may be at risk for suicide:

- **Remain calm**
- **Listen more than you speak**
- **Maintain eye contact**
- **Act with confidence**
- **Do not argue**
- **Use open body language**
- **Limit questions — Let the Veteran do the talking**
- **Use supportive, encouraging comments**
- **Be honest — There are no quick solutions, but help is available**

Additional Resources

VA Mental Health Services: Get information about inpatient and outpatient services available through VA at www.mentalhealth.va.gov.

Online Resource Locator: Find VA facilities, Vet Centers, suicide prevention coordinators, and other VA resources at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/ResourceLocator.

Don't wait. Reach out.: Use this site to find support and resources designed specifically for Veterans. If you're a family member or a friend, you can also find resources for the Veteran in your life. VA.gov/REACH

Make the Connection: Veterans and their loved ones can find out how to connect with VA resources at www.MakeTheConnection.net.

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Program: Locate the VA PTSD program nearest you at www.ptsd.va.gov.

 **Veterans
Crisis Line**
DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

Confidential chat at
VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat or text 838255

VA S.A.V.E. TRAINING: SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

Signs of Suicidal Thinking

There are behaviors that may be signs a Veteran needs support. Learn to recognize these warning signs:

- Hopelessness, feeling like there is no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug use
- Withdrawing from family and friends

The presence of the following signs in a Veteran requires immediate attention:

- When asked, they express a desire to hurt or kill themselves.
- When prompted, they reveal they are looking for ways to kill themselves.
- They talk about death, dying, or suicide.
- They begin to exhibit self-destructive behavior, such as increased drug or alcohol use, talking about acquiring/using weapons for self-harm, and stockpiling medication.

Ask the Question

There are behaviors that may be signs a Veteran needs support. Know how to ask the most important question of all:

“Are you thinking of killing yourself?”

Other ways to ask the question include:

“Are you thinking of suicide?”

“Have you had thoughts about taking your own life?”

When asking the question, remember:

- **DO** ask the question if you’ve identified warning signs or symptoms
- **DO** ask the question in such a way that is natural and flows with the conversation
- **DO NOT** ask the question as though you are looking for a “no” answer (“You’re not thinking of killing yourself, are you?”)
- **DO NOT** wait to ask the question until he or she is halfway out the door

Validate the Veteran’s Experience

As you listen to the Veteran, ask him or her to do the talking and use supportive, encouraging comments. Use the following steps to let the Veteran know that you are listening and acknowledge his or her experience:

- Talk openly about suicide
 - Be willing to listen and allow the Veteran to express his or her feelings
- Recognize the situation is serious
- Do not pass judgement
- Reassure them that help is available

Encourage Treatment and Expedite Getting Help

If a Veteran is having suicidal thoughts, remain calm and reassure them that help is available:

- **DO NOT** keep the Veteran’s suicidal behavior a secret
- **DO NOT** leave him or her alone
- Try to get the person to seek immediate help from his or her doctor or the nearest hospital or emergency room, OR
- Call 911

You can also call the confidential Veterans Crisis Line: **Dial 988 then Press 1.**

Safety is Important

Never negotiate with someone who has a gun. Get to safety and call 911. If the Veteran has taken pills, cut himself or herself, or has done harm to himself or herself in some way, call 911.





“Revving up Membership”

Cruising to Unite Our Legion Family

Hello Auxiliary Family,

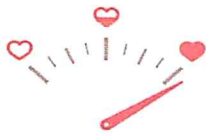
I was so excited to see so many attend, Auxiliary President April Ward’s Department of Kentucky Leadership Workshop and Legion Family Homecoming event. If you didn’t have an opportunity to attend, I hope to see you at the Fall Conference. Membership is rocking and rolling across the state and nationally the Southern Division is in 8th place. That’s awesome, but I know we can do so much better than that! Please keep asking your units to renew their membership as soon as they can. Membership’s goal for Winter Conference is 75% membership, and since National’s Membership theme is the “Great Membership Race” Kentucky’s Membership Team decided to do something similar. Our Theme is “Revving up Enrollment” and we are cruising to unite our Legion Family. To keep track of membership we will be using different types of motorcycles to represent each district and will be giving out awards at different increments to units who met their percentage goal by the deadline. We are also trying to incorporate small yet meaningful trinkets for everyone at each conference meeting. We are hopeful that when the units see those trinkets they are reminded of membership. I am sure that everyone in this room at one point throughout their lifetime has heard someone say to them or someone else that they feel like an outcast when it comes to church groups, fishing clubs, sport teams, etc. Our goal is to bring awareness to the Department of Kentucky that every person, every unit, and each entity matters, and should never feel as though they are an outcast. I want you to think of a simple home which has four corners supported by sturdy posts, a front door, and a window on each of the four walls. The post in the home represents the 4 entities within the Legion, the Legionnaires, the Sons of the American Legion, the Auxiliary, and the American Legion Riders. The front door represents membership as we are the gatekeepers of the home. The windows represent protection for the family from the elements the outside world throws at it. If one of the posts of the home is wounded what happens? The house is structurally weakened. If there is no one to answer the door and welcome people into the home what happens? Membership starts to fall, the family unit becomes smaller, and eventually fades away. If the windows are not

there to provide protection from the elements of the outside world, what happens? Darkness prevails. Abraham Lincoln said it best “A house divided against itself, cannot stand”. Every person, every unit, and every entity that makes up the Legion Family matters and we need to remember that. We are all working towards the same goal, and we cannot achieve that goal divided. United we stand, divided we fall.

As always, if you have any questions about membership, please reach out to one of the Membership Committee Members listed below. God Bless you all!

Our Membership Committee is here for You!

Michelle Marshall, Chair	mmarshall0016@gmail.com	859.509.6017
Edna Shupe, Co-Chair	ala.ednashupe@gmail.com	606.765.3669
Jennifer Mullins, Co-Chair	aladeptaux@yahoo.com	502.395.3275
Whittney Dallaire, Co-Chair	whitneydallaire@yahoo.com	606.315.0408
Marie Shouse, Co-Chair	mariebardstown@aol.com	502.460.0050



REVING UP MEMBERSHIP CRUISING TO UNITE OUR LEGION FAMILY

DISTRICT 1					
Unit	RenPd	New	Tot Goal	Tot Pd	Tot %
3	0	0	21	0	0.0
26	17	2	27	19	70.4
68	22	3	46	25	54.3
72	1	0	12	1	8.3
74	14	0	20	14	70.0
217	27	0	70	27	38.6
236	16	0	38	16	42.1
Tot	97	5	234	102	43.6

DISTRICT 2					
Unit	RenPd	New	Tot Goal	Tot Pd	Tot %
2	7	0	17	7	41.2
6	15	4	140	19	13.6
9	9	1	65	10	15.4
40	3	0	76	3	3.9
233	47	4	104	51	49.0
243	1	1	10	2	20.0
289	1	0	10	1	10.0
Tot	83	10	422	93	22.0

DISTRICT 3					
Unit	RenPd	New	Tot Goal	Tot Pd	Tot %
23	29	4	60	33	55.0
29	0	0	40	0	0.0
61	4	3	37	7	18.9
62	47	0	80	47	58.8
119	5	1	24	6	25.0
202	10	0	19	10	52.6
Tot	95	8	260	103	39.6

DISTRICT 4					
Unit	RenPd	New	Tot Goal	Tot Pd	Tot %
42	1	0	40	1	2.5
49	1	0	15	1	6.7
81	94	4	187	98	52.4
82	23	0	47	23	48.9
87	0	0	30	0	0.0
113	233	14	405	247	61.0
121	16	0	35	16	45.7
124	45	2	106	47	44.3
148	23	0	60	23	38.3
157	31	0	85	31	36.5
167	1	0	35	1	2.9
247	3	0	10	3	30.0
288	2	0	25	2	8.0
Tot	473	20	1080	493	45.6

DISTRICT 5					
Unit	RenPd	New	Tot Goal	Tot Pd	Tot %
45	1	0	23	1	4.3
180	56	2	152	58	38.2
193	31	2	88	33	37.5
220	20	0	50	20	40.0
229	29	0	52	29	55.8
244	57	5	95	62	65.3
278	0	0	10	0	0.0
Tot	194	9	470	203	43.2

DISTRICT 6					
Unit	RenPd	New	Tot Goal	Tot Pd	Tot %
4	24	1	73	25	34.2
11	21	0	38	21	55.3
20	15	1	57	16	28.1
41	4	0	55	4	7.3
203	101	0	235	101	43.0
219	2	0	62	2	3.2
Tot	167	2	520	169	32.5

DISTRICT 7					
Unit	RenPd	New	Tot Goal	Tot Pd	Tot %
7	22	0	66	22	33.3
8	17	0	80	17	21.3
24	35	6	100	41	41.0
67	18	12	83	30	36.1
79	13	0	33	13	39.4
132	29	2	42	31	73.8
165	22	0	34	22	64.7
176	0	0	12	0	0.0
257	17	0	40	17	42.5
313	29	0	90	29	32.2
341	14	3	40	17	42.5
Tot	216	23	620	239	38.5

DISTRICT 8					
Unit	RenPd	New	Tot Goal	Tot Pd	Tot %
12	5	0	35	5	14.3
34	69	0	135	69	51.1
46	14	2	39	16	41.0
Tot	88	2	209	90	43.1

DISTRICT 9					
Unit	RenPd	New	Tot Goal	Tot Pd	Tot %
22	3	0	31	3	9.7
43	1	0	60	1	1.7
76	9	0	45	9	20.0
126	15	0	50	15	30.0
138	16	4	75	20	26.7
325	25	0	80	25	31.3
342	9	2	85	11	12.9
Tot	77	6	426	84	19.7

DISTRICT 10					
Unit	RenPd	New	Tot Goal	Tot Pd	Tot %
66	5	2	10	7	70.0
104	10	1	15	11	73.3
152	1	0	20	1	5.0
283	0	0	10	0	0.0
Tot	16	3	55	19	34.5

DISTRICT 11					
Unit	RenPd	New	Tot Goal	Tot Pd	Tot %
16	0	0	30	0	0.0
38	31	0	86	31	36.0
88	49	6	75	55	73.3
115	15	1	76	16	21.1
Tot	95	7	267	102	38.2

HEADQUARTERS					
Unit	RenPd	New	Tot Goal	Tot Pd	Tot %
200	63	0	90	63	70.0

DEPARTMENT OF KENTUCKY					
	RenPd	New	Tot Goal	Tot Pd	Tot %
	1664	95	4653	1759	37.8

Charter Cancelled
Assessments Paid VAR
Assessments Paid OP
Assessments Paid BOTH

Removed at National convention upon approval





Americanism
Helena Carpenter, Chairperson

How to promote Americanism: Distribute US Flags and/or present a certificate of recognition to a local business, private citizen and/or youth group for flying the US Flag. Distribute flags to businesses, community organizations and schools that do not have a flag flying or provide a new flag to those whose flag is tattered. Document your actions with reports and photos. Include local media when possible. All of this helps us show support of our Veterans.

Attached you will find forms for the Americanism Essay. Please have Department reports in by February 1, 2024 so we can get them to National. We look forward to reading the reports on "What Does Freedom Means To Me".

Remember to report your activities so they can be shared with others. It helps us show others what the American Legion Auxiliary is about.

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Girls State

This is time of year that we to start check in again with our school contacts about delegates for the American Legion Kentucky Girls State program. So, let's start earlier. At our Fall Conference we had several Units, Districts and members take the raffle tickets to sell back to their Post, Unit and friends that would like to support this wonderful program. The tickets again on the raffle are \$1 a ticket to win 1st prize \$300, 2nd prize \$ 200, and 3rd prize \$100. The prizes will be given away at our Winter Conference on Saturday, January 20, 2024, between 2:30 pm-3:00pm. We are looking for staff and JCs to help if we have as many delegates as possible to attend ALA KY Girls State Program in June which will be held June 10th-14th at Western KY University in Bowling Green, KY. Please make sure to fill out the application to participate in the program. You will have to go through a background check as well. Let us know as soon possible we must have the Executive Board members to approval of the 2024 staff and JCs for Kentucky Girls State. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email myself or Virginia Hobbs.

Diane Spencer, ALA KY Girls State Chairman – dianes758@yahoo.com

Virginia Hobbs, ALA KY Girls State Chairman – virginiahobbs@yahoo.com



**AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST
2024 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. 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.

Essay Title: *“What does Freedom mean to me?”*

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 grade level.

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: _____ Department: _____

Signature of Department Chairman: _____

Department winner due to National Americanism Division Chairman by April 15, 2024

American Legion Auxiliary, Unit XXXX
AMERICANISM ESSAY JUDGES SHEET
CLASS I Grades 3 and 4 150-250 Words
“ESSAY QUESTION FOR THE YEAR HERE”

Please judge each category 1 to 10 – the highest being 10, then total score

Student's Name _____ Grade level _____ Class _____

School's Name _____

Essays must be handwritten or typed with 1" Margin. Please check anything missing.

Cover sheet _____ with Student's name _____ & mailing address _____ Phone _____

Class Competing in _____ Sponsoring ALA Unit _____

School's name _____ School's City & State _____

Teacher' Printed name and signature _____

Word Count of Essay _____

Grammar _____

Spelling _____

Content _____

Followed directions _____

TOTAL SCORE _____

Judges Name _____

Comments/Notes

American Legion Auxiliary Unit XXXX
AMERICANISM ESSAY JUDGES SHEET
CLASS II Grades 5 and 6 250-300 Words
“ESSAY QUESTION FOR THE YEAR HERE”

Please judge each category 1 to 10 – the highest being 10, then total score

Student's Name _____ Grade level _____ Class _____

School's Name _____

Essays must be handwritten or typed with 1” Margin. Please check anything missing.

Cover sheet _____ with Student's name _____ & mailing address _____ Phone _____

Class Competing in _____ Sponsoring ALA Unit _____

School's name _____ School's City & State _____

Teacher' Printed name and signature _____

Word Count of Essay _____

Grammar _____

Spelling _____

Content _____

Followed directions _____

TOTAL SCORE _____

Judges Name _____

Comments/Notes

American Legion Auxiliary, Unit XXXX
AMERICANISM ESSAY JUDGES SHEET
CLASS III Grades 7 and 8 350-400 Words
“ESSAY QUESTION FOR THE YEAR HERE”

Please judge each category 1 to 10 – the highest being 10, then total score

Student's Name _____ Grade level _____ Class _____

School's Name _____

Essays must be handwritten or typed with 1" Margin. Please check anything missing.

Cover sheet _____ with Student's name _____ & mailing address _____ Phone _____

Class Competing in _____ Sponsoring ALA Unit _____

School's name _____ School's City & State _____

Teacher' Printed name and signature _____

Word Count of Essay _____

Grammar _____

Spelling _____

Content _____

Followed directions _____

TOTAL SCORE _____

Judges Name _____

Comments/Notes

American Legion Auxiliary, Unit XXXX
AMERICANISM ESSAY JUDGES SHEET
CLASS IV Grades 9 and 10 450-500 Words
“ESSAY QUESTION FOR THE YEAR HERE”

Please judge each category 1 to 10 – the highest being 10, then total score

Student's Name _____ Grade level _____ Class _____

School's Name _____

Essays must be handwritten or typed with 1" Margin. Please check anything missing.

Cover sheet _____ with Student's name _____ & mailing address _____ Phone _____

Class Competing in _____ Sponsoring ALA Unit _____

School's name _____ School's City & State _____

Teacher' Printed name and signature _____

Word Count of Essay _____

Grammar _____

Spelling _____

Content _____

Followed directions _____

TOTAL SCORE _____

Judges Name _____

Comments/Notes

American Legion Auxiliary, Unit XXXX
AMERICANISM ESSAY JUDGES SHEET
CLASS V Grades 11 and 12 450-500 Words
“ESSAY QUESTION FOR THE YEAR HERE”

Please judge each category 1 to 10 – the highest being 10, then total score

Student's Name _____ Grade level _____ Class _____

School's Name _____

Essays must be handwritten or typed with 1" Margin. Please check anything missing.

Cover sheet _____ with Student's name _____ & mailing address _____ Phone _____

Class Competing in _____ Sponsoring ALA Unit _____

School's name _____ School's City & State _____

Teacher' Printed name and signature _____

Word Count of Essay _____

Grammar _____

Spelling _____

Content _____

Followed directions _____

TOTAL SCORE _____

Judges Name _____

Comments/Notes

American Legion Auxiliary, Unit XXXX
AMERICANISM ESSAY JUDGES SHEET
CLASS VI Students with special needs
Word count should correspond with student's grade level.
"ESSAY QUESTION FOR THE YEAR HERE"

Please judge each category 1 to 10 – the highest being 10, then total score

Student's Name _____ Grade level _____ Class _____

School's Name _____

Essays must be handwritten or typed with 1" Margin. Please check anything missing.

Cover sheet _____ with Student's name _____ & mailing address _____ Phone _____

Class Competing in _____ Sponsoring ALA Unit _____

School's name _____ School's City & State _____

Teacher' Printed name and signature _____

Word Count of Essay _____

Grammar _____

Spelling _____

Content _____

Followed directions _____

TOTAL SCORE _____

Judges Name _____

Comments/Notes

Star Spangled Kids: Educate youth on the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism, and the U.S. Constitution.

- In conjunction with local schools, create a Unit Citizenship Award for children and youth who have demonstrated the ideals of the U.S. Constitution.
- Team with the Education chairman to bring veterans or servicemembers into the classroom to talk about what their service means to defend the ideals of the Constitution.
- Share "Fascinating Facts about the U.S. Constitution" monthly in the department or unit bulletin, in tweets, or a newspaper editorial.
- List important constitutional dates in chronological order or by month.
- Encourage students to test their knowledge of the Constitution.
- Distribute patriotic coloring book pages for children in primary grades.
- Celebrate Constitution Day (also known as Citizenship Day) **on September 17**, the day set aside each year to commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution.
- Celebrate during September's Junior meeting with a cake or cupcakes.
- Let Juniors report on different sections of the Bill of Rights.
- Print and distribute pocket copies of the U.S. Constitution for school children and/or Juniors.
- Put on a skit or musical about the Constitution and the signers.
- Hold a scavenger hunt at the post where children find information relating to the Constitution.
- Have members dress up as signers of the Constitution and describe their character's role in the Constitution's writing and signing.
- Encourage high school-aged students to use their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution by participating in The American Legion Oratorical Contest.

Resources:

- www.constitutionfacts.com
- Constitution Day Resources:
<http://ca3rsproject.org/pages/ConstitutionDayResources.html>



November 2023
Children & Youth
Karen Goodlett, Chairman

Hello everyone, good day to you all I wanted to reach out to all the units about getting your reports into me about any children and youth programs that you've got going on. If you've done some type of activity or anything related to children and youth, please put that in your report then send it over to me. You can get your report over to me by either calling me at 219-433-1377, sending me an email at KarenDenise29@yahoo.com Please have your report over to me no later than December 15 for winter conference.

Things to look forward too in the future with children and youth: I will, of course, have the back table with 50-50 chances as well as chances for some beautiful items. I am also accepting donations of items for a silent auction, all proceeds will go towards the children and youth program. Please let me know if you have any items you would like to donate towards the silent auction.

Winter conference will be here before you know it and I wanted to remind you of the helping hands basket crafty basket challenge. There are so many children out there that would benefit from a basket with much needed items. The basket should contain items that would benefit a child. This could be clothing, personal hygiene items, school supplies, sensory items, art items, anything in general that a child would need in their school or home life. These baskets will be judged at winter conference and donated to schools in Kentucky that have children in need. The baskets will be judged for creativity, originality.

There will be 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners and the winning unit gets bragging rights, an award to display at their unit and a small gift for each person that participated in the making of the basket that is at the conference. I challenge you to not only show off your team working ability, but you're outside the box thinking and let's get some awesome helping hands baskets for the children in need in Kentucky. Which district will get bragging rights? We will have to see at winter conference.

I look forward to seeing what kind of baskets each unit brings in and if you want to bring extra baskets to donate please feel free to do so and thank you in advance for helping children in need this winter.

AEF

The National Executive Committee (NEC) approved an increase for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) grants in February. The new grant amount took effect at the beginning of the 2024 fiscal year, Oct. 1. The updated grant award is \$3,000 for ALA members who have been affected by a natural disaster or other crisis and need urgent financial assistance.

The increase from \$2,400 to \$3,000 is a result of the rising cost of living and inflation. These rising costs impact millions of Americans, making it increasingly difficult for them to attain economic security. In July 2023, consumer prices were 3.2% higher than the year before. This has increased the cost of goods and services, making it more difficult for families to afford their basic needs.

The updated applications are attached and can be found on the ALA website [here](#). Please distribute them to your units so we can help as many members in need as possible. We will no longer accept outdated applications.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I'm happy to jump on a call if anyone should need further clarification.

Have a wonderful day!

Special Olympics

Greetings Aux. Members, I hope everyone has had a great day. Well have you been working on your Special Olympics program? I hope to get some great reports from the units. I have been in touch with Special Olympics here in Louisville. We are getting together so I can get information on the Polar Bear Plunge and a lot of other things going on. On the 5th district level, I told the Unit that does a overall best report for our district I will have something for them that will given at the May meeting. That is something your district could do. I will need pictures and a narrative and how much you made for the overall program by May 1 so I can get my report in. I have a goal of \$2,000 and with your help we can do this.

Patsy Klein

Special Olympics Chirman



Community Service
November 2023

This year for community service the main focus is American Legion Day. The National Executive Committee of the American Legion Passed Resolution NO. 7 in October 2022 to be observed Annually on the last Saturday in April. Posts are encouraged to open their doors to members of their community for the day to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion members, Legion Riders, and American Legion Auxiliary.

Bring awareness to The American Legion's "Be the One" initiative to improve access and reduce the stigma around mental health services.

Participate in a Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service, January 15th 2024
Promote patriotic community service activities to build community partnerships.

Use this holiday as an opportunity to serve veterans as our mission statement states.

*Help veterans in their home with projects like building an accessible ramp, yard work, home repairs.

*Organize or participate in a stand down.

*Host a job fair for veterans at a Post, community center or library.

*Encourage members to check with their employers for MLK Day service opportunities.

*Keep good records of hours and activities for year-end reporting.

Marjorie Moore
Dustychain@gmail.com

District 7 Activity Report (Fall 2003)

Units have been busily transitioning from outdoor summer events to the events for cooler months as well as the Holidays. Spaghetti dinners inside are replacing outdoor picnics. Units are donating money they earn from sponsoring events to various veteran needs and also to their community.

Unit 32 Nathan Calder held a Sip and Paint Party for guests to enjoy fun and togetherness while they painted pictures and are using that fundraising money they earned to donate to VA Volunteer Services at the Lexington VA Campus. They are also working on getting a Buddy Bench to a school in their community and are waiting for the school authorization to go forward with it. They have also made a donation too a school for school supplies needed by the children.

Donations have been made to the Poppy fund by Auxiliary units.

Boxes have been setup at several posts to collect personal items needed by veterans who are in long-term care facilities and visits are scheduled to make deliveries.

Coat drives are going on with units collecting gently used winter-wear to be distributed to those who will be needing coats, gloves and scarves. Also being collected are blankets.

Several units are preparing food baskets to be given to needy families for Thanksgiving. Some units have food drives going on now to collect food for baskets. Thanksgiving dinners are planned at several units for Veterans and their families to attend.

Christmas planning is already going on, with Christmas parties at the Posts, and the auxiliaries are also doing things to help their community for folks who have needs for dinners and toys for children. Collection of money for toy drives are already on the schedule. Veterans in the nursing home will be given Christmas presents, fruit baskets and treats by Post 79 Irvine's auxiliary.

Submitted by Rennie Bell for District 7



Education Bulletin November 2023

Happy Fall Y'all!

It was great to see everyone who could make the Fall Conference! It was an honor to have National President Lisa Williamson in attendance.

Just a reminder that November 13-17, 2023 is American Education Week. This is one of the two education important dates this year. Let's show our support by thanking our teachers, support staff, custodians, bus drivers, and substitute teachers. It's truly a team effort to educate our children. Your local schools would really appreciate a thank you card or even a nice gift basket to show we care! For those units that have Junior members, this would be a great project for them as well.

Our Give 10 to Education Program is a great way to show love for teachers and students. This is an important focus for our national chairman. Please use the template that can be printed from the www.alaky.org website. Don't forget to send all those wonderful pics of your donations for the ALA KY Education Facebook site! We all love photos!

Please explore the Education Program tab on our alaky.org website. All the scholarship forms have been updated. The links are for the 4 national scholarships and for the 2 department scholarships that are available for our students.

The 4 scholarships offered at the national level are:

- Children of Warriors National President's Scholarship --\$5000
- Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship --\$2500
- Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members--\$5000 for Division / \$1000 for Dept. NEW information this year!
- Non-Traditional Student Scholarship--\$2000

The 2 scholarships offered at the department level are:

- Laura Blackburn Memorial Scholarship (Seniors)--\$1000
- Mary Barrett Marshall Scholarship (Non-Traditional)--\$1000

I'll give more information of each scholarship in future bulletins. As you can see, the ALA offers some great scholarships and we just have to get the information to the schools.

I'm really looking forward to serving this year as your Education Chairman. I will help in any way I can!

Let's do this!

Jeanette Key
Education Chairman 2023-2024
335 W. 17th St.
Covington, KY 41014
jmstewart7733@gmail.com
859-992-1678

Report for conference Fall 2023

Hello everyone,

My name is Brenda Cornelius, I just want to let all of you know that i am very honored to be your chaplain for this year 2023-204

The paper work or forms will be the same as last year
I have added a couple of things.

I would love to see the units or districts to do a four chaplains program to show the love and commitment these young men had for our country. It is a very inspiring story to hear what these young men have done, they gave their lives for the ones on the ship Dorchester, World war II they died rescuing civilian and military personales the American troop ship SS Dorchester sank on February 3, 1943. In what has been referred to as the second worst sea disaster of world war II. The impact of the chaplains was deep with many memorials and extensive coverage each of the four chaplains were awarded the Distinguished service cross and the purple heart. They were nominated for the Medal of Honor but were ineligible as they had not engaged in combat with the enemy, Instead Congress created a medal for them with the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor. Very good story has lots of information on the internet.

Have your districts or Units do a food pantry, to hand out for the ones that are in your post, or for a homeless person looking for a hand out also you can take to your senior centers, homeless veterans

Please District presidents and unit presidents, hand out the Chaplain program to your chaplains. It has all the forms in it. I will need prayer books by May 1st so I can have them judged the winner will be passed on to National.

I will have two trophies this year one for the prayer book and one for the best Chaplain

District Presidents and unit chaplains encourage your chaplains to send prayers For Madam President April Prayer book , Also Angel awards Please don't wait until the week before conference to send because i will have them ready by then.

Let's remember to pray for our veterans, american legion family and each other

Remember ...

Be so happy that, when other people look at you, they become happy too

Brenda Cornelius 859 242 9559
2837 Beaver Road bklay1956@gmail.com
Union , Ky. 41091

American Legion Auxiliary – Department of Kentucky
District 6 Fall Quarterly Report
October 20, 2023

Unit 4

Unit #4 has been busy with taking large amounts of items to the Northern KY Emergency Shelter, doing benefits for Veterans and their families. We also have done events at the post to help our Veterans and also we have donated monies to a local post.

I received a report from one member at Unit 4 for a project she supported. Moms for Liberty partnered with Post/Unit 4 to distribute Pocket Constitutions to ALL 8th grade students in Boone County for Constitution Day. Volunteers distributed 1948 pocket constitutions to the following:

5 hours delivering

School	#Students
WV Middle School	141
Ballyshannon	240
Camp Ernst	276
Conner	288
Gray	337
Ockerman	181
RA Jones	242
St. Paul	26
Immaculate Heart of Mary	54
St. Joseph Academy	20
Heritage	20
Assumption	80
Boone County Sheriff	43
TOTAL	1948



Here are some pictures of the volunteers.

5 hours preparing



Unit 11

I did not receive a report from the unit.

Unit 20

We had appetizers and door prizes for 9/11. Gave away 5 patron day flags, 12 flag key chains and more. It was crazy that some people didn't know what day it was. Donated money to the early learning center in Elsmere. We have had a few functions to raise money. Bringing donations for; the president special project, juniors, girl state, poppies, children and youth, to the conference, for now. We donated to the Florence VA clinic, on Turfway in Florence.

Unit 41

I did not receive a report from the unit.

Unit 203

We have been collecting education supplies for Holmes middle school's homeless student program. We also donated to the high school's Veteran's Day program. We partnered with our Post members to donate matching \$ amounts to children's holiday events for Halloween and Christmas. We recently raised \$7000 during quarter auction for Cat Adoption Team which is a local organization that reduces feral cat population by trapping, neutering and releasing. They also help with fostering stray cats and kittens and treating them medically, if necessary. Donated \$500 to Cruising to Combat PTSD.

Upcoming, we will soon be visiting the Cincinnati VAMC's residents. These residents used to be housed in Fort Thomas but were relocated in order to use the Fort Thomas location for PTSD residents. We have not been able to visit our friends since before the pandemic so we are very excited to start that back up soon.

We are also re-starting a relationship with the Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky where we will be providing an evening meal once a month for the next four months. In addition, we will be sending snacks and necessities to them on a regular basis. This is another case where we couldn't get in to visit due to the pandemic so it will be good to, hopefully, see some of our old friends there too.

We will be holding a free breakfast for veterans, veteran caregivers and first responders on Saturday, November 18 from 8 to 11.

Unit 219

September, several members played in TBP (the Barracks Project) golf outing. It's a nonprofit for veterans. They help with housing, bills, and life. It's a local Campbell County group. We also participated in a celebration of life ceremony for an aux members brother. Helped with the reception with making all the desserts. During the Labor Day weekend, most of our Legion 219 aux went to the REDs game. They honored our sister Sue Reid, husband Dale. He is turning 100yo in March. He was in WW11. It was fun to go as a group to honor him as the hometown hero.

October, we have our annual RADA cutlery sale. This is a big fundraiser for us and easy. The products sell themselves. We had our first sister member pass. Sandra Baars, 48, lost her battle with cancer. Leaves behind a 10-year-old son and husband. Sandra was well liked and always was willing to help however needed. It was easy to be her friend. The Legion 219 Auxiliary did a real nice service at her funeral and grave side. We had 16 members present. We also took care of all the food and drinks for the reception held at our vfw3205.

Upcoming events:

LEGION turkey raffle, the Auxiliary will supply the food and desserts for the meal. We will help the men however we need to.

Chili cook-off for our veterans.

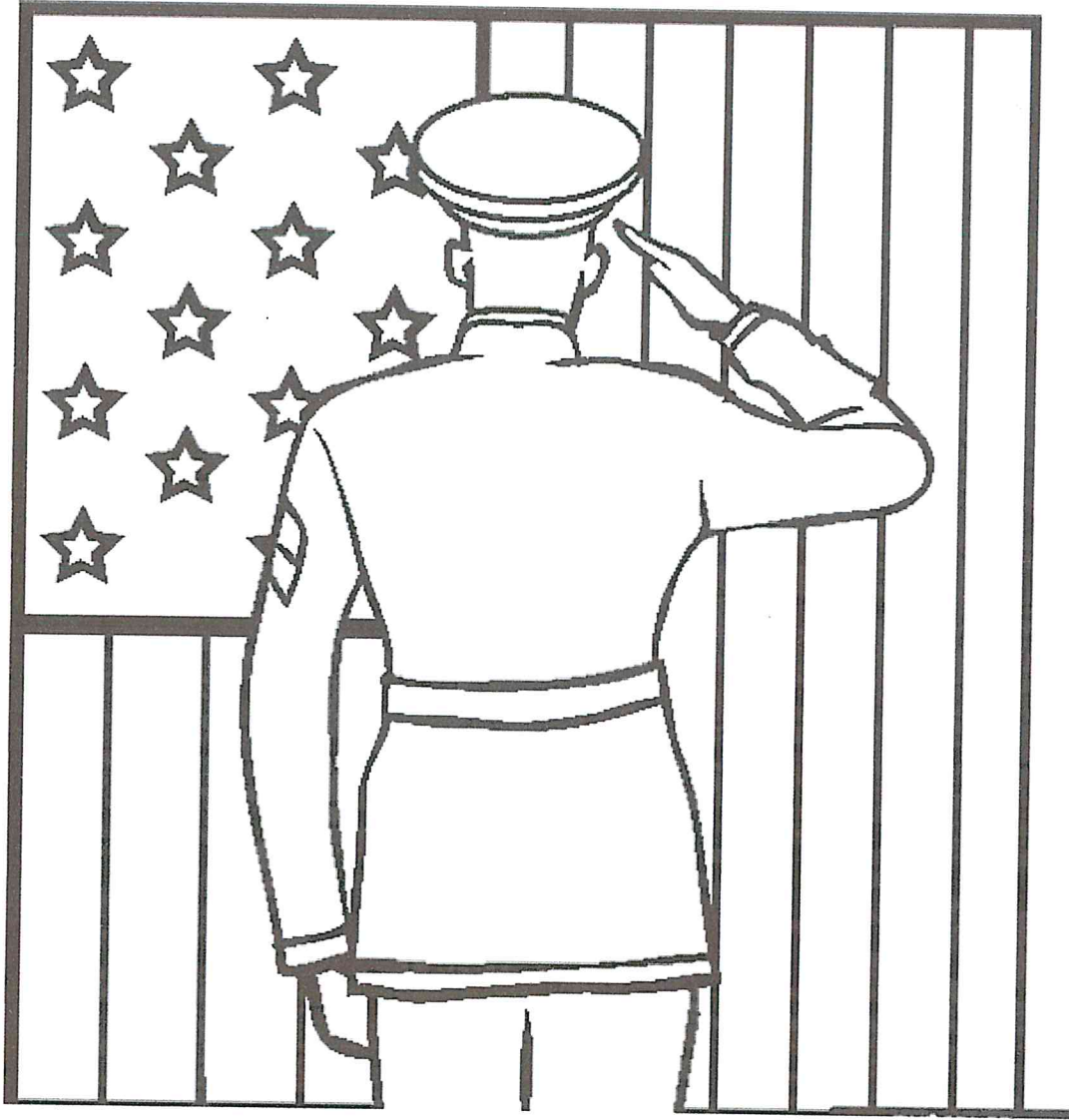
Xmas party for our veterans. Xmas gifts for our veterans in 2 local nursing homes along with caroling.

Respectfully submitted.

Carol Floyd

ALA Department of Kentucky

District 6 President



Veteran's Day
November 11