

EDUCATION DATES

March 1 - National Scholarships due at 11:59PM Eastern

April 7 - Q3 Zoom Meeting

April 15 - **Purple Up** for Military Children

May 3-9 - Teacher Appreciation Week

May 15 - Department chairmen reports are due to Division chairman with cc to National Chairman, Barb Washburn

June 1 - Unit & Department award submissions due



Students at Capps Middle School in Heber, AZ have an Americanism bulletin board on their campus presented and maintained monthly by Overgaard-Heber Unit 86
Julie Vietri, Department of Arizona



Canton ND Unit 53 hosted a New Year, New Supplies bingo party for the elementary students. Any "prizes" left over were taken to the school. They donated 255 items.
Jan Seibel, Department of South Dakota

Military Child Education Coalition - What Is It, and How Can We Engage?

When you navigate the ALA Education Committee page, you may have noticed a link for the Military Child Education Coalition. If you have not clicked on the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) link, you should! The mission of the Military Child Education Coalition is to ensure quality educational experiences for military children. The MCEC is an organization that the American Legion Auxiliary promotes as we share the same mission - to take care of military children.

Let me illuminate what the MCEC is, and how we can share resources. MCEC is a national non-profit organization that is dedicated to supporting the children of our military service members as they navigate the challenges of the military lifestyle, especially the military move. The MCEC helps children with social, emotional, and academic challenges with the goal of connecting schools, organizations, and other resources to make sure these students are college, work, and life-ready.

The three principal areas of MCEC focus are *education*, *advocacy*, and *collaboration*. You can find MCEC collaborating with teachers, school staff, and parents to understand the unique needs of military children. They offer educational programs and resources designed to empower parents and give their children the tools they need to succeed, along with training and resources to give insight into educators' need to serve the children of those who serve. Their advocacy includes help to ensure the child can enroll in the desired school and their credits transfer. They collaborate with education agencies to ensure state-to-state learning paces and curriculum tracks are standardized and that students can transfer and be accepted into special programs. They advocate with schools, military installations, and policy makers to improve the enrollment process. They also collaborate and build partnerships with other non-profits, military commands, and organizations like the ALA to create dedicated support for our military families.

What can you and the ALA do to help the MCEC and our military families? The MCEC aligns with several of our programs, and we can support them through our participation in our education-focused activities. Their resources are available for our use when we Purple up for Military Children in April. When we advocate for our military families during the Washington Conference, the MCEC website contains ample data to support our cause. I recommend that you share information about this organization at your ALA meetings, during community events, and when collaborating with teachers during National Education week.

You may ask why this matters? It matters because two organizations working together to make education stronger and safer for military children will make our military families feel stronger, safer, and valued.

Submitted by Carol Westergren, Southern Division Education Chair





March 1

All applications are due ONLINE by 11:59 p.m. eastern time

NO EXTENSIONS!



March 5

ONE designated contact will receive the applications from ALA National Headquarters (this will come from the education email, so remember to check spam/junk folders)



March 31

Department winners and runner ups must be submitted via Formstack ONLY ONCE.



April 8

Department winner applications are sent to Education Division Chairs for judging.



April 28

Division winners due to Education Committee Chair, Barbara Washburn



May

Scholarship winner letters will be mailed via USPS

Departments and education chairs will be notified of the scholarship winners

Scholarship winner names will be posted on the website

Scholarship Judging Timeline



WREATHS — across — AMERICA

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA TEACH CURRICULUM

The American Legion Auxiliary has a unique relationship with the Wreaths Across America program. Many American Legion Auxiliary members and their families have participated in the December program of laying wreaths at our service men and women's grave sites. BUT... Did you know there is even more to this amazing organization?

The Wreaths Across America organization has a comprehensive K-12 curriculum developed to empower ALA volunteers, educators, and youth leaders to share a legacy of honor and remembrance. The curriculum is free and helps students explore American History through the lens of military service. Lessons emphasize character development, leadership, respect, and the importance of civic responsibility. It provides ready to use lesson plans, discussion guides, activities, and multimedia resources and service-learning opportunities.

This curriculum aligns directly with the ALA mission assuring no veteran is forgotten and offers tools to bring to your local schools, units, and youth groups.

Check out the available information by clicking on the link below. You will be glad you did!

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/Resources/Educational>

Submitted by Nancy Babis, Education Committee Member



Bennington, VT students made several Valentine's Day Cards for Veterans that ALA Unit 13 Members hand-delivered to the Veterans at the Vermont Veterans' Home in Bennington

Donna Stone, Department of Vermont.

According to the Mayo Clinic, volunteering in schools offers three key health benefits:

Improved Physical and Mental Health

Volunteering has been linked to lower stress levels, increased physical activity, and a sense of purpose that contributes to overall well-being. Studies have shown that those who volunteer regularly experience lower rates of depression and anxiety.

A Sense of Purpose and Fulfillment

Helping others fosters a sense of achievement and satisfaction. Volunteers often report feeling more connected to their communities, leading to improved self-esteem and emotional resilience.

Social Connection and Reduced

Isolation – Engaging with students, educators, and fellow volunteers helps build meaningful relationships. This social interaction is vital for mental health and can lead to lasting friendships and mentorship opportunities.

To learn more, click the link below

[Mayo Clinic Health Systems](#)

