

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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

November 2025

Issue #2

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

**Community Service
Quarter 2 Meeting
Zoom Call
Wednesday
January 7, 2026
7:30pm EST**

**Martin Luther King Jr.
Day of Service
January 19, 2026**



Community Service National Chair John R. Tester

Greetings ALA Community Service,

Our year is under way and we held our very first quarterly zoom meeting. Although attendance at the meeting was a little lighter than

I had anticipated, we had a very lively and insightful meeting with a lot of great ideas and program content that was shared with everyone. I am amazed at all of the great Community Service work our Units and Departments do every day. Thank you!

One of the things we highlighted at our meeting was although Community Service has three major events each year; 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance, Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service, and the American Legion Family Day, it is important to remember Community Service is a year-round program. As we enter the Holiday Season, there are plenty of opportunities for your Units to hold engaging and meaningful events that benefit our communities, such as clothing and toy drives, serving Thanksgiving or Christmas meals to members of the community, donating to local food pantries, and much more.

Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service is just over two months away. Hosting or participating in a community event or program is a great way to honor Dr. Kings legacy. Work with other community agencies to participate in events that are community service based.

American Legion Family Day takes place the last Saturday in April, which is April 25, 2026. Although this is only November, it is not too early to start planning. Get your organizational committee together, be sure to include the Legion family as part of your committee and start putting your ideas down and the process for implementing them.

Remember, your Divisional Chairs are always there to assist you in any way they can. Thank you all for everything you do!

John R. Tester
National Chair



Samuel Mares Unit 8 in Wyoming collaborated with the Legion and the Son's with this float in the Wyoming State Fair parade.

Pictured are Eli Lane, SAL, Linda York, Unit President, Caleb York, SAL, Emma Lane, ALA, Kaylee Lane, ALA, Liam Lane, SAL, Kandy Gorsuch, TAL



NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Mission Training

Would you like to learn more about advancing the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary? Would you like to connect with national leaders and other members of the Legion Family who share your passion for serving veterans, military, and their families?

If so, **Mission Training** is for you! These one-day sessions are interactive, fun, and practical—helping you bring fresh ideas, tools, and energy back to your community.

AND..... Community Service is one of the programs highlighted at this years Mission Training!!!

Mission Training dates are:

| | |
|-------------|------------------|
| November 15 | Albany, NY |
| November 15 | Minneapolis, MN |
| January 31 | Indianapolis, IN |
| January 31 | Las Vegas, NV |
| February 7 | Atlanta, GA |

To register, go the ALA website and type in “Mission Training” in the search bar, and just follow the directions.

Your registration includes:

- Training materials
- One continental breakfast
- One lunch

For more information or if you have questions, contact the ALA Events Team at Meetings@ALAforVeterans.org



**Community Service
National Vice-Chair
Amy Luft**

Amy's Angle....

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the ways in which we are fortunate, but it's also the perfect time to show your appreciation for your community as a volunteer. One way to say “thanks” is to think back on all the people and organizations who have helped shape who you are today, then plan to give back by sharing your time and talents. Here are a few ideas to get you started.

Return to your starting point

Most local hospitals have volunteer opportunities and would welcome you in numerous capacities, including holding newborn babies. If you had a family member who utilized hospice care, you can honor their memory by volunteering for a local hospice facility and bring comfort to another patient and their family.

Give so that others may live

You may have never required a blood transfusion, but you likely know someone who has. You can show your gratitude and selflessness this Thanksgiving by signing up to donate blood, registering to become an organ donor, or joining the life-saving list of bone marrow registry volunteers.

Help neighbors get back on their feet

Every road bump and hurdle you've overcome in your life is a chance to show empathy for someone sharing similar struggles. You can help people in your community find shelter from the cold, share your skills to help them land a new job, or help someone in a difficult domestic situation get the care, counseling, and support they need. Simply sending a thinking of you card can brighten someone's day.

Reflecting on blessings can inspire you to give back, creating a cycle of gratitude and generosity that benefits both the giver and receiver. Wishing you many blessings this Thanksgiving season!

Amy Luft
National Vice-Chair



NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Southern Division Community Service

The Southern Division has a lot to cheer about! Across the Southern Division, ALA units are reaching out to nursing homes, preparing heartfelt gifts, warm meals, and sweet treats for those in need. These efforts reflect the Auxiliary's deep commitment to compassion and community.

Department of Arkansas

The Department of Arkansas is gearing up for its Yearly Community Service Contest, and the stakes are soaring! The unit



with the most reported community service hours will earn the honor of hosting their cherished mascot, Elvis the Traveling Community Service Eagle, for a full year.

Arkansas' goal is to encourage every member to report their community service hours for the year.

Department of Florida

The Department of Florida continues to champion innovative approaches to community health. During a recent monthly brunch and Blood Donor Mobile event, American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit 138 in Port Tampa City took their commitment a step further by coordinating with the Florida Mobile Mammogram

Bus to offer on-site screening mammograms.

Department of Mississippi

The Department of Mississippi has been actively engaging with school systems to promote family safety and emergency awareness. Recent visits have included thrilling demonstrations featuring fire trucks, ambulances, and even helicopters.

Department of South Carolina

The Department of South Carolina is embracing the holiday spirit with a flurry of festive activities! Greenville Unit 3 is excited to host its Annual Breakfast with the Grinch. This is a beloved event that delighted children and families last year and promises even more fun this season.



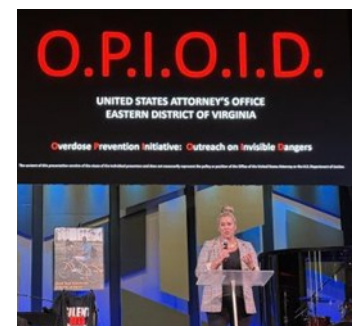
Department of Virginia

The Department of Virginia is stepping up in the fight against the opioid crisis. Unit 247 in Remington, partnered with the Post, local sheriff's department, area churches, and community agencies, to host a *War on Fentanyl* Community Awareness event. This initiative brought the community



together to learn about the dangers of fentanyl, available resources, and life-saving interventions.

Pamela Elam Lipscomb



Unit 247 President, Speaker and community partners



NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Northwestern Division

What a great first quarter zoom meeting, we had five out of seven states at the meeting. Many of the chairman in this division are first time chairman and I look forward to sharing with them about the committee and what Community Service is.

Please send along what is happening in your department. Here are a few units information.

Colorado Unit 15 in Loveland made and handed out baskets of goodies to eight locally manned fire stations and police stations on 9/11.

In Wyoming at the State Fair, Samuel Mares Unit, Post and Squadron 8 had a float in the parade. They had the entire Legion family on the

float and handed out poppies, candy bubbles and other random trinkets.

Keep up the splendid work!!

Ann Ritacco
Northwestern Division Chairman



Colorado Unit 15 in
Loveland, CO.

Samuel Mares Unit 8's float in the Wyoming State Fair parade.

Johnna Shepard, ALA (in front), Kandy Gorsuch, TAL, Eli Lane, SAL, Kaylee Lane, ALA, Caleb Lane, SAL, Liam Lane, SAL, Emma Lane, ALA, Linda York, ALA Unit President



Mission Driven—Family Focused What a great theme for American Legion Family Day

National President Pam's theme for this year, "Mission Driven, Family Focused," is a wonderful fit for American Legion Family Day. The American Legion Auxiliary is all about mission — honoring our veterans, supporting our military and their families, empowering our youth, and strengthening our communities. This theme reminds us while our purpose drives us, our sense of family unites us in service and compassion.

American Legion Family Day is a celebration of service, community,

and commitment. It's our chance to showcase what we do, why we do it, and how we work together to complete our mission of supporting veterans, their families, and our communities.

It's not too early to start planning your American Legion Family Day event! The designated date for this celebration is **April 25, 2026**, but you're encouraged to hold it any time around that date.

Now is the perfect time to:

- Reserve your post hall or event location

- Send invitations to dignitaries, first responders, and community partners
- Start brainstorming what types of activities, programs, and displays you'd like to feature that day

American Legion Family Day is a wonderful opportunity to showcase what our Legion Family does for veterans, their families, and the community. Begin your planning today to make it a memorable event!



NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Eastern Division Community Service

The 12 Departments of the Eastern Division have been busy promoting the ALA mission within their respective communities. They continue to promote the Be The One campaign each month. Departments/Units are ensuring they are wearing ALA-branded gear while out and about volunteering in their communities. Departments continue to support the work of The American Legion posts and other organizations by assisting with blood drives, first aid and CPR training, child safety programs, food pantries, support for women in shelters, and disaster and emergency preparedness programs.

The Department of Massachusetts reported they are reaching out to their units to participate in assisting at a local food pantry. They suggest that members donate items such as tuna, boxed milk, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, juice boxes, and canned beef stew. These items run out fast and are always needed. Also, health and beauty aids like feminine hygiene products, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste are

hard to come by because of the cost. Laundry detergent is also greatly appreciated.

The Department of Delaware reported they are participating in a soap sack community service project. They love this project because it allows members to participate from their homes. They discovered this organization while looking for something easy to do while watching TV. The sacks can be crocheted or knitted and made of 100% cotton yarn. Each sack contains soap in the cotton washcloth. They use small hotel-size soaps and put two in each sack. Units could also have a soap drive for collecting the soaps. They have donated the soap sacks to local churches, homeless shelters, Stand Downs, Boys & Girls Clubs, schools, food pantries, and to the Wilmington VA Medical Center to hand out to Veterans being treated at the facility. On their Facebook Page, SACK - Supporting A Community with Kindness - there is more information and a lot of suggestions. There is also a Soap Sacks

for Soldiers page. Check them out!

Please continue to post articles and pictures on the ALA National Community Service Facebook page. Everyone wants to see what your unit, district, and department are doing. Everyone who visits this page can get great ideas from just scrolling.

Keep being mission-driven!

Yours in Service,

Paulette Caron
ALA Eastern Division
Community Service Chairman



ALA Department of Delaware

Western Division

The Western Division has been very busy in their work in preparation of the holidays. Community service doesn't rest. While we help with food pantries, getting food to the rural parts of our departments, as well as making sure food is being procured for the holiday season. Many departments are preparing for the winter months with clothing drives, clothing collections and fundraising.

I want to personally thank the departments who participated in the Zoom call. I also want to thank the departments who took the time and reached out afterwards as their schedules didn't allow for participation in the call.

Teresa Lugo-Nunez
Western Division Chair



**Have you joined the
Community Service
Facebook page?**

**It is a great place to post
your community service
events and see what other
Units are doing.**

Ask to join by going to

[www.facebook.com/groups/
ALACommunityService](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ALACommunityService)

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Central Division Community Service Chairman

Thank you to all of the Central Division Department who chimed in on our zoom call. During our break out sessions one of the things brought up was how our programs do cross over. If you are in doubt, please ask. Such as Trunk or Treat should go under the Children and Youth program.

Central Division has lots of community service ideas in the upcoming months. Christmas with their communities and working on the American Legion Family Days. Fall Conferences are now over and many departments are getting ready to start their year.

Department of Ohio had a great event. The City of Sandusky has an annual "Witch Walk". The whole community gets together to make this epic event. This past Saturday, they had the Guinness World Book

of Records there to record the most witches costumes and the Witch Walk (parade) that the participants participated in the "Witch Dance". The Sandusky American Legion Post 83 has been a co-sponsor on this event. Of course, Sandusky broke the records.

Participants pay a \$40.00 fee to join this event. The monies raised goes towards their local baseball/ softball and other youth events.

I have gotten emails on some of your events. Thank you. Don't forget to post them to me and on the Community Service Facebook page. If the article or pictures do not follow the Community Service protocol, I will find out who the Central Division Chairman is and forward them on. I don't want your department to miss out on anything.



I will be sending each of you the power point from the Community Service Quarterly Zoom call. I also will be sending you a copy of Ohio's Plan of Action which you may use as a guide.

If other departments have their plans, please forward to me and I will share with our Division!

Cindy Masowick
Central Division Chair

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NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Check out the updated and improved American Legion Auxiliary Community Service webpage.

Go to www.legion-aux.org

Once you have signed in, type “Community Service” in the search bar, and start exploring.

This new and updated webpage has great ideas and very helpful information about the Community Service Committee.

This is a great place to review information that you can use to create fantastic Community Service events.

THE COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE
PROUDLY JOINS AMERICA IN HONORING THE
BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED
OUR COUNTRY ON VETERANS DAY,
NOVEMBER 11, 2025



This Thanksgiving, our Community Service Team extends heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helps make our community stronger, kinder, and more connected.

As we gather in gratitude, we pause to honor our veterans and their families — the true heroes whose sacrifice and service inspire us to give back every day.

May this season of thanks bring warmth to your homes, joy to your hearts, and renewed purpose to serve those around us. Together, we can continue to make a difference — one act of kindness at a time.

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us on the Community Service Committee!

