4TH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

MARCH/APRIL 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Laura Calteux

Looks like Spring has finally sprung!

Please watch your mail in the next couple of weeks for the raffle tickets and information for our 4th District Raffle of the poppy picture, afghan and floral arrangements. They are looking great!

REPORT TIME!!! Reporting what we do to support our veterans, military, their families and our communities is one of the most important things we can do for them. We need to report all that we do, so that we keep our organization relevant to Congress. They need to know that we are working our mission and how we are supporting our veterans each and every day. Keep track of the hours you volunteer, work with your Legion Family, volunteer in your community, attend training events and more. Unit Presidents were sent the reporting forms, so start working on them now and get them sent to me by April 1st. If you need help with what to report, give me a call and we can work on it together. If your unit doesn't ask you about your volunteer hours, you can call me and report directly to me.

Thank you to all members that filled out the membership survey for National. There were over 12,000 members that participated and here are some of the stats:

Respondents broken down by number of years of membership:

0-5	4.23%
6-10	19.19%
11-15	10.14%
16-20	7.6%
21-25	4.90%
26-30	3.95%
31-35	3.44%
36-40	2.47%
41-45	1.88%
46-50	1.63%
50+	3.15%

Respondents broken down by generation:

Greatest Generation	.20%
Silent Generation	11.86%
Baby Boomers	58.99%
Generation X	14.51%
Millennials	2.68%
Generation Z	.67%
Generation Alpha	.04%

There was a NPS (Net Promotor Score) question in the survey and that question was: How likely are you to recommend an ALA membership to a friend or colleague? The score we received was 43%. That is a favorable score, so we have work to do to make this organization one to be proud of and that you want to recommend to others. To do that, we all need to be kind, inclusive and just all around happy to be working the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Tell us how you think we can to that, be an organization that you want everyone involved in.

We talked about the Auxiliary meeting at Mid-Winter and I have attached the findings from the Round Table discussions that included the Auxiliary, Legion, SAL and Rider members. Take a look at them, they might give you some ideas on how to work together as a Legion Family and increase your membership and volunteers to work our mission.

Spring Conference is just around the corner! Mark your calendars for May 14th and join us at Unit 537, HA Todd for a day of information, honor, recognition and fun. The registration form is at the end of this newsletter, so don't waste any time getting your reservation in!

National Convention is going to be in Milwaukee this year! What an opportunity to attend what is a great convention, where you can meet with old friends and make new ones. We need volunteers during the week to help with the many different tasks that it takes to run this great event. Please let Amy Luft know if you want/can help out, even if it is for one or two days. You can contact her at: amyjluft@gmail.com.

NOTE – OUR NEXT MEETING IS MARCH 30TH AT 6:30PM AT GREENDALE UNIT 416. ADDRESS - 6351 WEST GRANGE AVE, GREENDALE.

God Bless America

AMERICANISM

Bonnie Jakubczyk

Sharing this information from Department Americanism Chairman Becky Mueller

I would like to remind you to send photos and highlights from your Americanism events to me on a regular basis. It is exciting to see and hear about what our units are doing to promote patriotism in our communities. In these uncertain times it is more important than ever to remember and recognize the sacrifices made to keep this country sale and free. Not only do we honor our flag and the principles that make this country great, but we honor our veterans and military by doing so. Let me hear from you and the wonderful things and events you are doing.

Please watch the deadlines for the Americanism Essay contest. I must have them in my hands by April 1st. Please don't wait to get them to me until that date! As you complete your judging send you winning entries to me. Remember to have the cover sheet completely and correctly filled out. I would hate to have to disqualify any of your winning entries because of clerical errors or omissions. I am looking forward to reading the thoughts and ideas from our young people.

Below are the main categories of the Americanism program.

1. 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.

2. Increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest.

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

4. Participate in the promotion of The American Legion Americanism programs.

Thank you for all that you are doing to promote The Legion Family Americanism programs. You are making a difference to so many!

P.S. As we begin to celebrate The American Legion birthday don't forget to promote patriotism at these events, take pictures and send you notes to me.

MEMBERSHIP

Bonnie Jakubczyk

As of the March 1st report 4th District has dropped to 11th place with 86.67% and we need 74 for 100%. Time for those remaining memberships to march in. The winner of 10 personalized mugs for our Valentine Incentive of the unit having the most new members is Unit 434 with 5. Units with one new member were 415, 416, & 537. Please do not give up and keep working on getting those memberships in.

Here are some notes from Department Membership Coordinator Andrea Stoltz:
• All member changes and corrections need to be into Department no later than Friday March 25th to be reflected on the 2023 cards and roster.

REMINDER – •Goals have NOTHING to do with the number of members on your roster. 2022 Goals were based off TOTAL PAID 2021 MEMBERSHIP 30 days prior to National Convention + 1 member
.
•Member's whose dues have not been processed by Department or National have now become expired and lost all Auxiliary benefits and privileges currently held including any officer or chairmen positions along with the right to vote on any auxiliary business until their dues are received by Department or paid electronically to National via phone or online.

Once processed, a member will be reinstated with no adverse effect.

• **COMING SOON** - by the end of March every unit will receive a request for 2023 dues INFORMATION (this is not a bill). It is time to decide how much your unit will be charging per senior and junior and whom within your unit will be collecting 2023 dues. These forms are deadline specific and need to be returned by EVERY unit.

Your Feeling Lucky Membership Team is here to help.

Bonnie Jakubczyk (414) 531-7890
Laura Calteux (414) 379-2943
Sue Hembrook (262) 945-9791

VA&R

Sue Hembrook

Thankfully, we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel of the pandemic. Most of our hospitalized veterans, however, are still under a quarantine. This is for their safety as some of them are very vulnerable. Let's rally up our units to send Easter cards to these veterans. Spring is a time of renewal so let us renew our pledge to support our veterans by reaching out to them in any way that we can.

Report time will be upon us soon, National has given us a guideline for reporting hours. The criteria is that you can report 10 hours per week if the veteran lives with you or 5 hours per week if they do not live with you. Please use this criterion when reporting your hours to serving veterans.

It will be wonderful when we can resume our normal activities for our veterans. Many units give our veterans a much-appreciated day out of their facility by inviting them to their posts. It will be wonderful when we can do that again. Please say a prayer that this will happen soon!

Any questions about reporting hours or anything else do not hesitate to contact me.

genesuehem@wi.rr.com

262-843-4791 H
262-945-9791 C

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Diana Richard

As you all know things have gone back to wearing our masks, distancing, virtually learning at home for our children and even some Auxiliary meetings canceled.

What do we do now? You can check on the elderly, call them make sure they are doing ok. Help pick up groceries for those who are quarantined. Drop off a card or a few flowers to brighten up their day.

We can send cards to our Auxiliary members who are in nursing homes, or send cards and prayers to our veterans

Just stay in touch! And make someone smile!

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Pat Griswold

Again, a reminder that April has been designated as “Month of the Military Child.” Military families have made many sacrifices as they serve our country. Currently there are 1.2 million children of active duty military worldwide. Of those, close to 80% of our military children are currently attending public schools across the United States. On an average, military families move 3 times more often than civilian families.

A way to show support and thank our military families is to recognize and honor their children and youth for their resilience and sacrifices. How could our

units recognize military children this April?

Each year on April 15th we set aside a day we call “Purple Up.” Wearing purple that day to honor our Children and Youth is one way of showing appreciation towards our military children and their families. We could encourage others to wear purple too! Might make for an interesting conversation! A big “Thank You’’ for protecting our country goes out to our military and their families, especially their youth for their resilience and sacrifices.

It’s important that our unit members record and report our expenditures and volunteer hours to make sure all our efforts are counted and recognized for our young heroes.

How else can your unit recognize and honor our Children and Youth especially this April? Enjoy your efforts!

POPPY

Donna Jensen

It is always time to Salute, Serve and Celebrate veterans, active-duty military and their families. Remembering the poppy and what is stands for is a way of doing that.

Poppy Facts:

Q - Who popularized the idea to use the poppy as a symbol of the war dead?

A - In 1918, Moina Michael (known as the Poppy Lady), popularized the idea of wearing a poppy flower in memory of the war dead. She was moved by Lt. Col. McCrae’s poem “In Flanders Fields,” when she wrote the following response: (From “We Shall Keep the Faith”)

… the blood of heroes never dies
But lends a luster to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Field

Q - When was the poem “In Flanders Field” written?

A - Lt. Col. John Alexander McCrae, while serving as a physician in the Canadian army during World War I, wrote the poem after witnessing the death, and later presiding over the funeral of a friend. McCrae, a surgeon, died of pneumonia in January 1918 while commanding the Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France. Days ahead of his departure for the

Great War, Dr. McCrae wrote to his mother a sentiment likely shared by every soldier going his way: “I am really rather afraid, but more afraid to stay at home with my conscience.”

Q.- What CAN Poppy Funds be used for?

A – Poppy funds can be used for the following:

1. For the rehabilitation of veterans honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces after April 6, 1917.

2. For the welfare of the families of veterans of the above named period.

3. For the rehabilitation of hospitalized military service personnel returning home and awaiting discharge who require treatment in service hospitals.
4. For the welfare of veterans, active military personnel, and the families of veterans and active military personnel of the above named period where financial and medical need is evident.

5. For the purpose of poppy kits and supplies used to make symbolic poppies and poppy items that will be distributed for donations to the poppy fund

National Poppy Day is Friday, May 27, 2022, the Friday before Memorial Day. If your Unit is planning to do a Poppy distribution this year, check the Department (www.amlegionauxwi.org) and National (www.alaforveterans.org) websites for additional information.

POPPY SHOP

Sue Hembrook

There are still poppies available, so please get your orders in as soon as possible. May is soon approaching and is the main focus of many units Poppy Distributions. We also still have a limited supply of large poppies.
Sue Hembrook
Poppy Shop Supervisor
Genesuehem@wi.rr.com
262-945-9791

ALA
BADGER GIRLS STATE

Laura Calteux

Badger Girls have been contacted by Department to let them know that they have been sponsored to attend in June. Please make sure you are talking to your contacts at the schools to see if they, or your delegates have any questions.

The orientations will be in a virtual format, so watch for that information to come in May. Make sure that your delegates register online too.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me, 414-379-2943

CALLING ALL UNITS!

Units, we want to hear from you!!!! In the event you cannot make a district meeting please let us know what you are doing. We will include unit activities in our minutes and also publish activities such as fish fries and the like in our Newsletter. Please send your activities to Laura Calteux, District President lauracalteux@yahoo.com or Sue Hembrook, District Secretary genesuehem@wi.rr.com

Please remember that the activities should be those that were done since the last district meeting unless it is an ongoing project, then please report your progress since the last district meeting.

OFFICERS

President - Laura Calteux – 414-379-2943 lauracalteux@yahoo.com

1st Vice President – Mary Pontzlaff – 414-837-3058

2nd Vice President – Pat Griswold – 414-534-8060 pattyann43@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer – Sue Hembrook – 262-945-9791 genesuehem@wi.rr.com

Chaplain – Sue Middlestead – 414-545-2727 jmiddlsteadt@att,net

Asst. Chaplain – Sandra Kaebisch – 414-455-3454 purpbun@hotmail.com

Historian – Donna Jensen – 414-303-6186 djensen20@gmail.com

Membership/Parliamentarian – Bonnie Jakubczyk – 414-531-7890 bon6862@yahoo.com

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 30th – 4th District meeting at Greendale Unit 416 – 6351 W. Grange Ave – 6:30 pm

April 3rd – Vendor Fair at HA Todd Post, 92nd and Beloit

April 2nd & 3rd and 9th & 10th – Dept. Bowling Tournament – New London

April 15th – Fish Fry - Greendale Post 416 – 5pm – 8pm

April 30th – Spaghetti Dinner, Greendale Unit 416 – 4:30 pm to 7 pm

May 14th – 4th District Spring Conference, Harold A Todd Unit 537

May 21st – Sweat For Vets Post to Post Walk – ALA Unit 288, Cedarburg

June 19th – 24th – American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State – UW Oshkosh

July 14th – 17th – Department Convention – Green Bay, WI

August 26th – Sept. 1st -National Convention – Milwaukee, WI

Fish Fry – every Friday at Post 434 - 4-8pm

4TH DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

SATURDAY MAY 14, 2022
H.A. TODD UNIT 537, 9159 W. BELOIT ROAD, MILWAUKEE, WI

Registration: 9:30 AM to 10:00 AM Call to Order: 10 AM
Coffee and Donuts will be available

Cost is $18.00 per person, plus $3.00 Registration

For information contact: Sue Hembrook
262-843-4791 H 262-945-9791 C genesuehem@wi.rr.com

Deadline for reservations is May 4, 2022

UNIT NAME & NUMBER_____

NAMES OF DELEGATES, MEMBERS OR GUESTS ATTENDING:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

UNIT CONTACT & PHONE_____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: # OF RESERVATIONS_____ X $21.00 = _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ALA 4TH DISTRICT
SEND TO: Sue Hembrook, 24215 60th St., Salem, WI 53168

Round Table #1

How can TAL Family encourage a **family-based culture** using the American Legion as a Family Gathering Place?

What are the needs of the young veterans and their families?

- Activities/events that bring the entire family into the post
- Time—both need of time and timing of meetings, events
- Child care
- Location of meetings and events
- Understanding of the organization

How can these needs be addressed by TAL Family?

- Plan events for the entire family
- Provide child care with Jrs./Srs. doing the care
- Focus on needs of younger adults/members
- Educate; arrange/facilitate trainings
- Set up a “Calling Tree” for invitations and reminders
- Invite ideas/thoughts from younger members
- Get on **Social Media**

What events bring all (from the youngest to the oldest) working and/or playing together?

- Celebrate patriotic holidays
- Halloween, Easter parties for entire family
- Build on existing events to include children as well as Dads, Moms and Grandparents
- Back-to-School Bash
- Design fundraisers that have jobs for entire family
- Community or Game Day events/activities

Char Kiesling, Recorder

Round Table #2

Think about how the needs of five generations of veterans and their families have changed over the past 100 years. What TAL Family **policies, practices, and/or programs may need to be updated and how?**

In the past Legion events were social events and/or date night for parents.

What can TAL Family do to **encourage a wide range of diversity and ages**, with varying needs, to join TAL Family?

- Work with ROTC, College/HS to inform students about mission; ask them to help fulfill service hours and as a result they will understand more about TAL Family's value in the community.
- Hold different events for different audiences – older veterans – what works for them to younger veterans and what works for them, etc. Grandparents bring grandchildren
- Set up a TAL Family meeting to discuss working together as a Family – what joint efforts could be worked on together. Define together how to help each other!
- Allow parents to bring kids to meetings – hold a short meeting, then have an activity that involves all members i.e., make Poppy Posters, Kindness Rocks/Ornaments, draw pictures/make cards for veterans, card games, etc.
- Hold Family Day(s) at post during winter/spring school breaks or summer
- Could add gaming systems to bring families in to play together and hold competitions
- CHANGE what's done to meet the needs of the age differences and needs of Legionnaires and Veterans – try to find activities and events for the whole family.

How can we **engage members** to keep them an active member of TAL Family?

- Talk to members about their passion – what gets them excited—and what would be meaningful to them and how they can volunteer and serve TAL Family mission.
- Involve younger members in social media – set up Face Book accounts, etc.
- Invite a member to come along when visiting shut-ins
- Encourage members living in a different state or area than the Post or Unit to get active and involved with Post/Unit where they live by volunteering, doing crafts, etc. and make sure they record and report their hours.
- Hold 'Show and Tell' portion at a meeting to add variety and interest. Ask non-members to attend and share their knowledge
- Don't forget distant members! They can do home and field office activities from a distance. Ask them to report what they do and their volunteer hours.
- Touch base with them via phone at least once a year (not just about their membership dues).
- Ask members at meetings what can be done to get them involved and how or what should be covered at meetings.
- Hold a short business meeting then work on a project each or every other meeting night
- Encourage listening to Pod-Casts on Veteran's suicide on Face Book
- Ask someone to help when working in the kitchen or hall. Many times people just need to be asked—get that personal request!

How do we **change the perception** of what the Legion Post appears to the Veteran and our local communities?

- INFORM community/schools with articles in newspaper about TAL Family mission, programs and the impact and successes made on the community, youth, veterans/military/families
- Define our VALUE as an ALA and as an AL Family, numbers, dollars, hours. Send the stats to the mayor's office, schools, school board, libraries, newspaper, etc.
- Inform all about what we do and where public is welcome: chicken/fish fries, events, fundraisers
- Ask kids to bring their activities to the Legion Post.
- SAL, Juniors, members walk together in parades and participate together for family activities, i.e., picnic, baseball, games and other activities
- Involve schools and students – give graduating students going into military red, white & blue cord to wear at graduation.
- Work with other service organizations to discuss how to help each other. All have membership issues due to changing culture. Hold joint events/meetings to inform, learn, engage, build together
- Inform the public, veterans and members about veteran resources
- Go to different schools to talk about what the ALA (TAL Family) can do with the kids to inform them about veterans, poppy posters, Americanism, patriotism, etc.
- Work with other service organizations or business to co-sponsor an event or fund raiser. Raise awareness across the community about what we do and how we make a difference
- Host community/family activities – chicken fry, baseball, bingo, Boy and Girl Scouts, 4-H
- Participate in community festivals, parades, holiday and patriotic programs and celebrations

Challenges:

Families **over-scheduled** (work, school sports/music/activities) and caring for other family members
Family **dynamics** have changed – divorce, split families, grandparents raising kids, both parents work
Kids are very busy with **many activities** – many travel with teams and tournaments – over-scheduled
Unit/Post Meeting **times conflict** with work/family schedules/kids' activities
Relationships between Legion and Auxiliary – some tensions, bad mouthing, not working well together.
Diversity in Legion Family – some have no diversity in their community and nothing to attract diversity.
Big city vs small towns and rural communities. When family picnics and events held, few parents and children come.
Getting past **COVID** has kept people from gathering and attending functions.
Many children **spend time with parents separately** and whether they attend functions depends on which parent they are with on day of event.
Allowing children at meetings
Less free time – people working longer hours and/or have longer commute.
Determining what in Post **attracts new generation**.
Some states have both smoking and non-smoking posts and kids can't go into Posts that allow smoking.

To-Do List:

New member **"Welcome Kits"** – (on website) to inform them of what we do and to get involved.

Bring back **incentives and rewards** for paying dues – (free steak fry), involve volunteers and get to know each other.

Make new (and all) members **feel needed**, wanted and useful.

Build relationships between Legion and ALA – if tensions arise, take aside and talk to the parties involved. Let know this is not allowed and will not be tolerated.

Become more **family-oriented**

Establish **Co-Positions** – Co-chairmen, Co-offices – a way to keep people from being overwhelmed, burned-out, plus way to learn a new position.

Involve young veterans **before they start families**

Mentor – find more people – show them what you do – get them ready to take on more. Encourage others to take on a "job" and move up the ladder. Have two teams – take turns mentoring each other.

Involve new members in activities to prevent them from belonging one year and then dropping. (This is more common post 9-11.)

Put newer members **on a committee** so they see what needs to be done and they will become familiar with and more comfortable taking on additional activities.

Take people to King or other veterans' facility to see what activities are there and find what they can help with.

Communicate – electronic, Zoom, phone, conference call.

Legion and Auxiliary – **invite to each other's meetings** – can't vote but see what each other does and work together.

When members **sign in** at meetings and events, have them **report their hours** for the past month, etc. Do not wait until the end of the year.

Just **allow members to be dues-paying and not active members** if they choose, i.e., SAL involves wide range of ages but many want to be members only and not active.

Share how Posts/Units reach 100%.

Prioritize POSTS WITHOUT UNITS. It is a proven fact, posts with auxiliaries are more successful

Donna Jensen, Recorder

Round Table #3

Describe successes and how **various generations** of veteran families were or can be **involved in activities** in Post, Unit, Squadron, Rider Association or community activities?

Gave examples of younger and newer members becoming president and running fundraisers

Are **younger/newer members** appointed to advisory boards or committees?
Generally, no. **"**50 yr. members just do everything…"

Is **training** provided at the Post level? If yes, what type? If no, why not?
In most cases, no. Many times, it's a matter of the leaders not realizing what training is available, not going online for information. Lack of knowledge can be a killer to growth.

What can be done to **promote active involvement** of members in meetings and/or committees?

- Make everyone feel welcome and needed
- Provide shadowing and mentoring opportunities
- Change culture to one of needing training from top leadership down
- Educate and train: Take WI American Legion courses or ALA Academy courses
- Arrange/appoint liaisons to Post/Auxiliary's meetings
- Invite TAL Family members to each other's meetings/events
- Be open to new ideas and include younger and newer members
- Allow new members to do what they can and with time to be part of the group
- Communicate with newsletters, mailings, emails, phone calls
- Have in-person and Zoom meetings—teleconferences
- Touch base with members to avoid disgruntled comments, usually due to misunderstandings

What are ways to **involve new members**?

- Need leadership to take a step back
- Allow new and younger members take leading roles in events and committees
- Provide gradual learning process for members as they go "up the ladder"
- Use the "chair system" to learn about the various committees/programs
- Vary fundraisers and be open to newer ideas to attract younger people
- Provide training
- Communicate through emails and Facebook
- Change up meeting times

Everyone should carry applications for all of TAL Family (In WI Step and Adopted children are eligible to be members)

Problems: Members paying for a number of family members can be a detriment when the payer passes away those paid for don't remain members. (Inform those paid for they are members and membership is important)

When Legionnaire passes, spouse may become disconnected with organization/not understand benefits or who to contact. (Provide information for surviving spouses and assist with County Veterans Service Officer contact)

Due to divorce/re-marriage people can lose their membership or become ineligible.
Post & Auxiliaries can be seen as very gender related.

Dee Wolf, Recorder

Round Table #4

What **AL Family programs encourage support for caregiver members** who care for others (their veteran, a veteran family, deployed veteran family, and/or an aging member)?

How do we **identify** caregiver families in need within our area?

- By word of mouth, awareness, talking to others
- Try to hook up with local organizations to locate people in need.
- Sponsor Family-orientated events at Posts/Units; getting to know the community to find about those in need.

What **resources** are available in the community or local area to aid families in need?

- Work with schools, especially high schools where students need service hours to help with household and yard chores. Often the caregiver has to perform these chores also.
- Arrange for people to come to posts and units to talk about needs of caregivers so we may become more aware and reach out to people in our communities.
- We need to have a "village" mentality in that we need everyone to help where and when needed.

What can TAL Family do to **support** caregivers or **provide** caregivers for veterans/members in need?

- Advertise from post/unit services offered in the community and how to access them.
- Be more sensitive to what people may be needing
- Offer support by calling, sitting with person so caregiver can get a break, repeatedly offer and try not to take no for an answer
- Call our elderly, disabled and home bound to check up on them and offer assistance ie: Buddy and/or Salute Calls
- Check with VA's, etc. to find out some of the material needs of the caregivers within their system and donate them**. (Remember it is good to do things anonymously)**

Most importantly **LISTEN** to members, people in the community and hear what people are not saying, in other words listen between the lines.

Sue Hembrook, Recorder

Round Table #5

How can recruitment, renewals, retention and engagement of members be **increased by using The American Legion Family approach to membership?**

What are **potential activities that TAL Family** can **accomplish together**?

- Make the Round Table activity with TAL, ALA, SAL and ALRA standard for Mid-Winter training
- Share information with all members of TAL Family
- Use "Buddy calls" and system info – Auxiliary caring – help people when needed and to reach people.
- Use social media and other venues to get the word out about activities and work projects
- Ask Veterans, Spouses and their families what we can do to help them and get them involved
- Pick a project that all can work together on, i.e., do something about 400 homeless veterans in WI
- Have a potluck (at a park or community center, if no post hall)
- Sponsor Memorial Day Event with all TAL Family assisting or taking the lead on a part: food, band, raffle
  baskets, beverage/food tent, etc.

How can TAL family work together to **recruit other family members**, when one member joins?

- **Just ask!**
- Check family to determine how family members may be eligible
- Invite spouses, family members to join
- Ask people to come to meetings and other activities.
- Have a Member Appreciation event; ask members to invite a non-member as a guest
- MAKE SURE THE KIDS KNOW they are members and what their membership means to support our mission
- Make it personable: person to person, not officer to person

Why are there many Post/County/District and Department Level **Commanders** whose spouses, mothers, sisters, children, and grandchildren **are not members of the ALA or SAL**?

- Due to eligibility limitations, i.e., SAL can't be female
- Financial reasons
- Active in other organizations
- No time to be involved in another organization
- Ask people to join – even if they are not active their membership dues are still important.
- They aren't well informed of the personal benefits of belonging

Maybe start a "Friend of the American Legion/Auxiliary"

Rose Heinz, Recorder