



Finances in your Unit and District

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Purchasing materials and being reimbursed in a timely manner is an issue in some units and districts. Credit cards provide a line of debt offered by the bank, allowing you to borrow money that must be repaid. Credit cards are like a month-long loan. Debit cards, on the other hand, deduct money directly from your bank account. The minute you go through the store's check-out line, money leaves your bank account and payment is made to the vendor. If debit card information is intercepted by cybercriminals, they have immediate access to your bank account and can empty the account.

Though both credit cards and debit cards have been widely embraced as quick and easy methods of paying for purchases, it is not recommended that units or districts provide a credit card or debit card for officers or members to use for American Legion Auxiliary purchases. Both cards allow the holder of the card to make purchases that have not been approved. At times, unit/district credit cards are used to make personal purchases, whether by accident or on purpose.

The correct procedure to use for purchases is: (1) the purchase must be pre-approved by the voting body or be in the budget, (2) the buyer uses her/his own cash or card to make the purchase, and also asks for the receipt, (3) the receipt is turned in at the next meeting for reimbursement. This process provides a paper trail for ALA funds, necessary for the yearly audit of the ALA treasurer's books and verifying a legitimate purchase.