

1st District To My Amazing First District!

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Thank you again for all your hard work and heartfelt dedication to taking care of our veterans. I hope to keep helping you all wherever I am capable. Please read some very important updates from the Department, our Poppy Chair Sam, and last but not least a letter from our incoming District President Sherri.

Department Info and Deadlines

It is extremely important to complete your unit leadership roster. Even if it does not change hands it needs to be completed and submitted to the Department on the 2026- 2027 leadership roster. I have received a few so far.

From Andrea at Department

The national organization has planned a substantial upgrade to ALAMIS (the ALA's management information system/membership database).

What does this mean?

- *ALAMIS and the member portal on the national website will be unavailable starting at noon ET on June 22. ALA MIS is expected to be back up and running on July 6.*
- *During this time, membership processing, reports, and payment of dues will not be available.*
- *If members call National Headquarters, they will be unable to take membership payments, make changes to records, or provide information as the system will be down for national staff as well.*
- *Changes to the MyAuxiliary portal for members will be minimal.*
- *Members with ALA MIS access will see a new, more intuitive interface when they log in.*

Preparation Recommendations:

- *Units should submit dues payments, new member applications, address changes, etc., ASAP because the system will be down June 22 to July 6.*

Questions?

Please contact the national help desk at alamishelp@ALAforVeterans.org or 317.569.4536

From Andrea Stoltz, Membership coordinator 608-745-0124

State Convention

State Convention will be held in Appleton this July 15-19th 2026. I hope to see many members of our district present. This is a great resource to meet others around the state and brainstorm ideas or create lasting friendships!

Sergeant at Arms:

Sam Catura

414-418-0289

anitacatura9@gmail.com

Assistant Jr. Sgt of Arms:

Isabella Zenda

Jr member

Assistant Sr. Sgt at Arms:

Sherri Curzi

scurzi01@outlook.com

National Convention

National Convention will be held in Louisville KY August 28th - September 3rd. Department is offering a bus at \$300 per person to depart Portage on August 28th, and return September 3rd. If you wish to take advantage of this opportunity if attending convention, you must be signed up by August 7th. If the bus is not filled it will be canceled.

I once again thank you for an amazing term with our mission of coming together and making the District a home.

POPPIES POPPIES POPPIES

What a beautiful sight! The month of May seemed filled with poppies everywhere as we honored our Veterans and remembered (Freedom is Not Free). Not just on National Poppy Day itself but throughout the month, bringing what we, as members of the American Legion Auxiliary, do to the forefront.

I am so proud of our Units in First District who shared the message through the distribution of poppies, with wonderful displays, wearing the brand, along with smiles and yes, ENTHUSIASM! However; we need to remember **“POPPY DAY IS EVERY DAY”!** I ask you to keep up the good work. Wear your poppy with pride everywhere, just as you carry an application with you always. Offer poppies during events at the Post, at those special days of celebration and remembrance (with permission of host(s), Flag Day, Independence Day, Purple Heart Day, Patriot Day, POW/MIA Remembrance Day, Veterans Day, Military Branch birthdays, and the many other special times in our life that allow us the freedom to celebrate and be thankful for ALL our Veterans and Active Military.

Any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Sam Catura at my email: anitacatura9@gmail.com

A Note From Incoming District President Sherri Curzi

Hello 1st District.

As the Incoming 1st District President, I thought I would share a little bit about myself. I have been a member of the Auxiliary for 50yrs. My grandmother, Past Department President Joyce Bouhl made sure she signed my application the day I was born, along with my mother Renae Allen, Past District President. My eligibility is through my grandfather Keneth Bouhl who served in WWII and Korea and was a Past District Commander and my father Les Allen who served in Vietnam was a Past State Vice Commander. I myself have served various positions within the Auxiliary. I have been Unit President, District Chaplain, District 1 st Vice President, District Sargent at Arms, and Department Sargent at Arms. My husband Tom, a Desert Storm and Somalian Veteran and I have 2 daughters, both Junior members ages 16 and 9, and we have lived in Clinton for over 20 years.

I look forward to working with everyone during my Term and 1 st District President and it is my honor to serve our Veterans.

Yours Truly,

Sherri Curzi

Final words

*I will never stop wanting to help and educate about this amazing organization. I want to remind others it is not about competing with other units, or feeling like your “not as good” just because you didn’t raise as much money as another unit. This is not what it’s about! Did you get a new member, did you help those in your community, and are you honoring your veteran in a beautiful way??? Then you are a success! Some of our strongest units are small but just as mighty as our large ones. **YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!! Don’t let anyone make you feel different!***

If I am not allowed to run the District End of Year Reports Workshop I started 4 years ago, I will be still holding them as a unit, as this benefits my members. If we don’t host as a district, reach out for information.

I am also starting to hold other informational program specific workshops, this is helping my new members understand and get excited. Anyone is welcome to join these as well.

Once again thank you for an amazing term with our mission of coming together and making the District a home. I am so grateful for the lasting friendships I have made with so many of you and excited for the next chapter as an executive board member as Past District President watching our District continue to take care of our veterans!

*Please reach out with questions to President Crystal Shaw
262-672-8205*

crystalspres@gmail.com