



A New Year Brings New Opportunities

I am sitting quietly and enjoying the peace and joy that fills my heart from Christmas. I am reflecting on the past and thinking about those New Year's Resolutions that we all make: to lose weight, exercise more, etc. Those resolutions are usually broken by mid-January. This year, I am going to set goals, not resolutions. Goals are achievable and measurable. I have some personal goals but also goals for my unit. To reach a goal, you must start planning. Goals require planning. January is a great time to plan for upcoming activities or events. Here are some ALA activities that are upcoming. Your unit may want to set a goal for the following events.

1. ALA Tar Heel Girls State (How many girls will your unit sponsor to ALA THGS this year?)
2. MLK Day of Service January 15. (Maybe a unit donation to your favorite ALA program or community charity)
3. Americanism Essay Contest (who will present this to your local schools)
4. National Scholarship Applications Due March 1, 2024
5. Department Scholarship Applications
6. Mid-Winter Conference February 15 & 16 (Do you plan to attend?)
7. Military Child Month April (Purple Up Day April 15)
8. National Poppy Day
9. American Legion Baseball and Softball

My hope and prayer for all of us as members of the ALA family in 2024 is that we work our mission of service, not self, with more passion and energy than we ever have. To remember each member is equally important to our mission. To build solid relationships and friendships. To encourage members to find their passion within our organization. May the new year be full of opportunities, adventure, excitement, and joy for each of you. May God bless you this year.

Julie

Scholarship Information National Scholarship Applications Due March 1, 2024

National Scholarship Applications are found on the National website www.alaforveteran.org Under the tab Forms

Children of Warriors National President Scholarship. For direct descendants of veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Fifteen scholarships, for \$5,000 each, will be awarded for 2024. Three scholarships will be awarded in each of the five divisions of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members State/Department: National Headquarters will award each state/department winner a \$1,000 scholarship (47 scholarships total). *New for 2023-2024 National:* From the potential 52 state/department scholarship winners, the National Education Committee will select 5 winners (1 per division) for a \$ 5,000 scholarship.

Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship Ten scholarships, for \$2,500 each, will be awarded for 2024. Two scholarships will be awarded in each of the five divisions of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship. (\$2,000) One scholarship will be awarded in each of the five divisions of the American Legion Auxiliary

Department of North Carolina Scholarships Applications Due March 15, 2024

Department scholarship applications can be found at www.Alanorthcarolia.com Under the tab Forms and Information

Warren-Ragan Scholarship \$1,000 for Junior Members

The Nannie Norfleet Scholarship is Open to any NC resident who needs monetary assistance to continue their education. (the finance committee determines the amount)

“Be the One” crisis #988
and press 1. Counselors are
available 24/7 or text
838255.

Americanism Essay Contest
Mary Thorsten
Americanism Chairman
1 Gate 10
Carolina Shores, NC 28477
mayree1979@gmail.com
760-421-1512

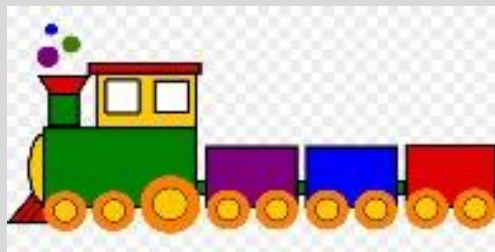
Reminder: Membership Dues are past due as of 12/31/23. That doesn't mean we give up on them. Make calls, emails or send a card through the mail. **Remember, ask about them and how they are doing before you ask about dues.** Remind members Why it is important to renew. Here are a few reasons that are important to me.

1. To honor their loved one who served.
2. Friendships
3. The gratification that comes from helping someone else. Being a part of something that helps many veterans, children, and people in the community.
4. AFE benefits if they should ever need help.

Make it personal when you speak with members. Let them know the reasons you joined.

There are 3 ways to Renew: Online at www.alaforveterans.org By Phone at 317-569-4570 or by mail send your renewal notice.

All Aboard the NC Membership Train.



Each year, thousands of students across the country participate in the American Legion Auxiliary's annual Americanism Essay Contest. It is designed to encourage our youth to promote respect for our flag and country and provide an opportunity for them to learn about the fundamental rights and freedoms we enjoy today. Each year, the contest has a different theme provided by the national president. **This year's theme is "What does freedom mean to me?"**

Students ranging from third grade to 12th are divided into six classes, including students with special needs. The Americanism Essay Contest cover sheet can be found on the Department website and must be attached to the Essay.

Local Auxiliary units sponsor these young students, choosing a winner in each class. Winners will move on to the department level. Departments will then submit their winners to represent their state on a national level. The national winners – one from each class in each division – will receive \$50, and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship Fund. The student will be sent the \$50 check directly, and a certificate will be sent to the winning department at the time of the National Convention to present to the student.

Reach out to local schools, community clubs, and home-schooled students for participants. Make sure to have the Americanism Essay Contest 2024 Cover Sheet Attached.

Feel free to Mail or email me your completed reports by March 15, 2024, as I have National deadlines. Winners will be announced at the North Carolina Department Convention. For more information, go to: [15fcf7_585d1bc3a40f4bb3890eb1c449a4e0fa.pdf](https://www.alanorthcarolina.com/15fcf7_585d1bc3a40f4bb3890eb1c449a4e0fa.pdf) (alanorthcarolina.com)