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Raleigh, NC 27610
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*****PLEASE NOTE
MAILING ADDRESS*****

PHONE: 919-832-7506 x 1
ncalahq@nclegion.org
www.alanorthcarolina.com

DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA

2025 March/April Newsletter

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IMPORTANT DATES

April 1, 2025
2026 Unit Data Forms
Completed and sent to Department

April 18, 2025
Good Friday
Department Headquarters closed

April 26, 2025
Junior Activities Meeting
Smithfield Unit 132
100 Pitchi Street
Smithfield, NC 27577

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Reminder: Department Junior
Meeting Registration Deadline
April 18, 2025
No Exceptions

Department President
Toni Reale
516-606-1466
tprealeala@gmail.com

**Vice President &
Membership**
Beth Whitaker
828-808-3170
Beth28742@gmail.com

Division Presidents

Division I
Joan Masters
518-860-2512
jmasters@atmc.net

Division II
Susan Davis
336-324-1862
Sparkysd50695069@gmail.com

Division III
Lynette Christensen
980-745-2508
lynnet248@aol.com

Chaplain
Amelia Carter-Bennett
910-425-1445
ameliabennett68@gmail.com

Historian
Linda Quinlan
317-966-3383
jlquinlan@att.net

Parliamentarian
Betsey Lee Hodges
252-833-9578
hbetseylee@gmail.com

**President Toni's
President's Project:
"Women Veterans
Support Services"**

**Member Concerns or Prayer
Needs?**
Chaplain Amelia Carter-Bennett
would love to hear from you.
910-425-1445
ameliabennett68@gmail.com

****Remember****

RADA FUNDRAISER - Shop at
<https://radafundraising.com> and
search for "American Legion Auxiliary

TERRI LYNN FUNDRAISER -
<https://alanorthcarolina.terrilynn.com>
To help raise money for
General Fund

**"BELIEVE" all things can
be accomplished if we
work as a team.**

March/April Mailing President's Message

We are fast approaching the end of this ALA year 2024-2025. And quite a year it has been.

We have been focusing on Mission and Membership. We have been working in harmony, as a great team should. The Department's response to help alleviate the devastation in the western part of the state has been admirable. We are a Family, and your cooperation and support has been stellar.

ALA National has set March 8, 2025, to Celebrate Women of Service. This correlates with my President's Project, Women Veterans Support Services. With this in mind, I propose that we dedicate this entire month of March to honoring all women who served and who currently serve.

If your units are considering donations to this cause, please keep in mind my President's Project WVSS. This organization was established by our own Past Department Commander and ALA sister, Patricia Harris. Please donate to this project in honor or memory of a female veteran who meant something to you. More on this when the President's Corner resumes.

At this time, we are starting our District meetings, I hope that all division & District Presidents are encouraging your unit members to attend, to mix and mingle with other members, gather ideas, and cooperate, if possible, with carrying out our Mission. Remember, that District Presidents are elected at the district meetings. Nominating committees should be scouting the units for interested candidates.

May is the month for units to hold election of officers. Do not forget to send in the attached unit officer list to the Department Headquarters. This should be done even if there are no changes un unit leadership.

I look forward to seeing everyone at their district meeting.

In the Spirit of Service not Self,

For God and Country

Toni Reale,

Department President

2024-2025

516 606-1466

MEMBERSHIP

Our herd continues to grow, but we have a way to go to make 85% March 15th, 2025.

We currently have 24 units at 100% or more and we thank all these unit Presidents who worked so hard for this achievement.

We are down to 3 zero units, and I know that we have members of the membership team working on making contacts to try and help them.

We are currently at 82.88% and need 130 members to reach our goal of 85% by March 15.

Division 2 is leading the trail in membership with 85.39% and Division 1 and 3 are very close in the race for 2nd place. Division 1 is 80.71% and Division 3 is 80.43%.

District meetings are starting this weekend and that is such a great opportunity for unit members to learn about our programs and our mission.

Please try to attend and bring those who are new and hear ideas from other units on how they work the programs.

PLEASE DO NOT HOLD ON TO MEMBERSHIP – GET IT INTO ALAMIS ASAP.

We want to make President Toni proud in Tampa at the National Convention.

Please feel free to contact me with any membership questions you may have.

Beth28752@gmail.com or 828-808-3170.

Happy trails and let's get that herd rolling in!

Beth Whitaker

Department Vice President/Membership Chairman

**UNIT OFFICER LIST
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA
PO Box 46315, Raleigh, NC 27620**

YEAR _____ DATE COMPLETED _____

UNIT # _____ NAME/LOCATION _____

PRESIDENT -- NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE # _____ EMAIL: _____

VICE PRESIDENT -- NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE # _____ EMAIL: _____

SECRETARY -- NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE # _____ EMAIL: _____

TREASURER -- NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE # _____ EMAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: (Person who prepares the dues transmittals)

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE # _____ EMAIL: _____

DUES REMIT TO: (Address that National Office will use for the renewal notices)

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE # _____ EMAIL: _____

GIRLS STATE CHAIR -- NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE # _____ EMAIL: _____

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA
2026 UNIT DATA FORM – DIRECT BILLING**
(Type or Print Using Blue or Black Ink)

This Form MUST be completed and returned to Department Headquarters.

I understand that the dues amount listed below will be printed on the 2025-2026 Membership Renewal Notices that will be mailed to each Senior member of your Unit. Below is the address to be printed on each Renewal Notice showing where our members are to mail their dues for this Unit.

It is understood that no change in the amounts of dues or the address to which the dues are to be sent can be made after a deadline, which Department Headquarters will establish, based on the requirements of National Headquarters.

2026 SENIORS DUES \$ _____ 2026 JUNIORS DUES \$ _____
(Note: \$31.00 for Seniors and \$8.50 for Juniors are owed to Headquarters for Department and National Dues)

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL IN THE UNIT TO RECEIVE 2026 MEMBERSHIP DUES _____ MEMBERSHIP ID # _____

2026 Membership packets will be mailed to this person unless Headquarters is notified by April 1, 2025.

ADDRESS _____ UNIT # _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

DATE

SIGNATURE

TITLE

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BY **April 1, 2025**

PO BOX 46315
RALEIGH, NC 27620
919-832-7506 ext. 1
ncalahq@nclegion.org

District Meeting Challenges

Leadership Committee encourages all members to participate in their District Meeting Challenge. It includes the following items to be done:

- a. Develop and bring to your district meeting, one (1) Leadership idea with an Angel theme and one (1) with a cow or cowgirl theme
- b. Complete at least 2 courses from the ALA Academy and bring proof you did so {Print off a certificate or summarize the two courses}
- c. Mentor at least 1 member about what happens at a district meeting and what the requirements are for the quorum to hold the meeting are and share with the committee a short description of what you told the member(s)
- d. Share in writing with a Department Leadership Committee member the Leadership event or opportunity in your community you took part in.

District Meeting Challenge from Constitution, Bylaws & Standing Rules

The Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee invites every member to participate in their District Meeting Challenge. It includes:

- a. After reviewing and updating your Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules, bring **a** copy of the document with the updates you made and **a finished** copy of your document.
- b. Bring a piece of 8 ½” x 11” paper with your Unit name and number written on it.
- c. Take a picture of the group at/after the district meeting and post the picture on the *National C&B Facebook page*.

AMERICANISM MARCH NEWSLETTER

REMINDER: Americanism Essay Contest submissions must be to me NO Later than March 30, 2025. Each essay must have the cover sheet attached.

FLAG ETIQUETTE MYTHS:

Anyone can order the flag to be displayed at half-staff: The flag is flown at half-staff from sunrise until noon on Memorial Day and by order of the president or a state governor.

There are penalties for the physical desecration of the flag: There are currently no penalties for the physical desecration of the flag. The Flag Code is simply a guideline for proper flag etiquette. The law does not provide penalties for violation of any of its provisions.

You must destroy the flag if it touches the ground: The Flag Code states that the flag should not touch anything beneath it, including the ground. You are not required to destroy the flag when this happens (flag touching the ground).

A flag used to cover a casket cannot be used for any other proper display. There are no provisions in the Flag Code to suggest this. It would be a fitting tribute to the memory of the deceased veteran and his or her service to a grateful nation if the flag is displayed.

You cannot wash or dry clean a flag. The decision to wash or dry clean a flag depends on the type of material. There are no provisions in the Flag Code to prohibit this.

You can't fly the flag at night. The Flag Code states that it is custom to display the flag from sunrise to sunset on buildings and stationary flag staffs in the open. However, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated.

You shouldn't wear an item of clothing that looks like the flag. Unless an article of clothing is made from an actual United States flag, there is NO breach of flag etiquette. There is nothing wrong with wearing or using items that look like the American flag.

SUBMITTED BY: Suzanne Smith, Americanism Chairman

American Legion Auxiliary – Department of NC
Department Executive Committee meeting – Midwinter Conference 2025
Constitution & Bylaws Report

1. The Constitution & Bylaws committee updated the Standing Rules according to a change passed at the 2024 Department Convention at the Friday General Session.

Standing Rules, Part 3: DUTIES OF APPOINTED DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL, Section 2. CHAIRMEN OF DEPARTMENT COMMITTEES, new standing rule was added as follows:

(e) Any current Finance committee member or new appointee to that committee must have at least one (1) year of experience on the Department's Finance Committee immediately prior to being appointed to serve as Finance Committee Chairman.

2. The committee was made aware of amendments passed during the 2021-22 Department MidWinter General Session that were not previously updated. The committee obtained the official General Session minutes from the Department Secretary. The following 2 changes were made:

ALA THGS Standing Rules COMMISSION, number 2 was amended to read:

2. The ALA THGS commission shall be composed of six members with the Department President naming a chairman and appointing one (1) member each year. The chairman should have served on the commission for at least two (2) years.

ALA THGS Standing Rules POWERS AND DUTIES, 1(a) was amended to read:

a) The program Director should be a member of the Commission.

3. All versions of the Constitution & Bylaws have been updated and placed on the Department website.
4. There were two Standing Rule changes passed at the Midwinter Department DEC meeting. The C&B committee will meet after conference to update those changes in the Department documents.

American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)

It was a delight seeing everyone at the Mid-Winter Conference. I wish everyone could have attended in order to meet and greet our National President Trish Ward. We even had a special luncheon in the President's Suite on Saturday afternoon and invited anyone from the western part of our state to tell the National President their stories of what happened to them during and after Hurricane Helene. We also had a group picture done with the National President. Trish Ward was really glad that she could hear from the people themselves that had been affected.

I had my board and all of my handouts at Mid-Winter Conference that everyone could help themselves to them. I had the PEP for AEF for North Carolina, the END OF THE YEAR Report Form for AEF, a brochure about AEF, and the AEF packet, which included information about AEF, frequently asked questions about AEF, and both applications for AEF along with instructions on how to fill them out. I WILL ALSO HAVE THESE ITEMS AT SOME OF THE UPCOMING MEETINGS. However, you can go online to www.alaforveterans.org and go to AEF and get them. They should also be available on the North Carolina ALA website.

PLEASE KNOW THAT THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING THE DISASTER APPLICATIONS IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING IN MARCH (deadline is 6 months after the disaster happens), IF YOU NEED TO SUBMIT ONE. THE NATIONAL OFFICE ALSO ASKS FOR PICTURES TO ACCOMPANY THE APPLICATION. THE APPLICATIONS ARE TO BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE NATIONAL OFFICE AT AEF@ALAforVETERANS.org. They prefer it to be sent by email.

There are two kinds of applications. The first one is the Disaster Grant and the second is the Hardship Grant. They both are \$3,000.00 grants. You cannot submit another grant if you have received either grant within a year. You also have to have been an auxiliary member for the last three consecutive years with the third year being the current year.

My statewide project this year is "Walking in their shoes across North Carolina from the beaches to the mountains." I am asking each unit in the state to collect \$142.50 which is 470 miles across North Carolina from the farthest point in the east, Rodanthe, to the farthest point in the west, which is Murphy, at \$.25/mile. Therefore, the total would be \$142.50. You can raise the money any way you wish. Some examples are to have a jar at your unit meetings and have members put their loose change in it each month, ask people for donations, raffle items off, sell dinners, etc.

We need to help our fellow members get through their terrible ordeals!

Don't forget to send me your End of the Year Report Form and hopefully a narrative with it. I would love to have pictures of how you collected your \$142.50. Check to see if you can put in for a unit award from National and me. Find it on my PEP and the National website.

Please contact me if I can be of help to anyone. My cell # is 252-340-1058, home phone is 252-482-2386 (if I am not home please leave a message), and my email is susan.campbell@chowan.nc.gov.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS!!!

Department of North Carolina members, you all are aware of the horrible flooding that destroyed towns, homes and infrastructure in our Northwestern part of our state. We have members that are in need of our help. The flooding hurt South Carolina, Georgia and Florida and now the wild fires in California.

Serving on the National AEF has been an eye opener! The needs over this nation are great and help is available through AEF. Our committee has been working to educate ALA members. In all of our zoom meetings, we have been able to listen to Dean Sanders who administers the National Auxiliary Emergency Fund. He has taught us so much! Grants are up to \$3,000. You must have 3 years of consecutive members paid. The grants can be for hardship or disaster, one or the other and only 1 per year. The grant program runs from October 1 till September 30th and to date National has processed more requests since October 2024 till December 31st then all of last year. A total awarded of \$219,000. The needs are great!

Dean has challenged us to “Double down with Dean” – Units to donate \$100 to AEF. Units all over the United States are getting creative in raising money for AEF. Units across the nation are doing: filling piggy banks with loose change, basket raffles, silent auctions and fill the calendar by asking people to help, example is day 1 is \$1, day 2 is \$2, day 3 is \$3 and when filled is a total of \$496. NC has Units that have met the \$100 per Unit challenge, many that with a little more donation will do it. Please share you’re fund raising with your District Presidents, then to the Divisions and me. Take pictures and send me or post them on the National AEF Facebook page, they could be seen at National Convention! Be sure to write a great end of year report too.

Thank you, Jill P. Puett, National AEF Vice Chairman
jpuett@carolina.rr.com – 704-842-4804

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA JUNIOR MEETING PERMISSION/HEALTH FORM - 2025

All attendees MUST complete this form entirely. Duplicate form as needed. Incomplete forms will be returned. Forms must be returned with Unit Registration form.

Attendee Name: _____

_____ First Last Preferred Name for Nametag

StreetAddress: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Date Of Birth: _____ Membership Identification Number: _____

Unit and Number: _____ Advisor: _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number:

On a separate paper list food allergies/dietary restriction/or medical conditions. The facility DOES NOT provide any gluten free foods. If you require special foods, arrangements will be made for you to bring your own.

Consent to Medical Treatment and Hospital Services

This certifies that we (I), the undersigned parent or guardian(s) of _____ do, in the event that our (my) child participates in the ALA Department of NC Junior Meeting to be held at _____, hereby consent and grant permission, should the necessity of medical care arise, to the furnishing of medical treatment and hospital services as ordered or recommended by a qualified attending physician, including the administration of an anesthetic, laboratory procedures, medical or surgical treatment, X-ray examination or other hospital services.

We understand the department named above has sole responsibility for registration, housing, food, and emergencies of any nature at the Department of NC Junior Meeting. We further understand that each junior member attending the meeting must be chaperoned by someone 18 years or older. We also understand that the chaperone should accompany the junior to registration at said facility and attend all activities prepared for the juniors.

Waiver of Claim

This further certifies that we (I), the undersigned, in consideration of the benefits to be derived by our child/myself. In the event that she/I is/am a participant of ALA Department of NC Junior Meeting to be held at _____, (inclusive), do hereby release and discharge the ALA, its officers, agents, instructors and employees from any and all claims, demands, damages, suits, actions or causes of action which we (I) may, can or shall have by reason of any illness, injury or accident incurred or suffered by said child/myself while traveling to, attendance at or participation in the ALA Department of NC Junior Meeting at said location and dates above, from the time of her/my departure from home until her/my return thereto.

INSURANCE INFORMATION

Name of parent(s) group medical insurance carrier _____

Policy/Certificate No. _____

Parent to whom
policy was issued: _____

Employer to whom
policy was issued: _____

Printed Name of
Mother or Guardian _____

Signature of
Mother or Guardian _____

Printed Name of
Father or Guardian _____

Signature of
Father or Guardian _____

Dated this ____ day of _____, 20__

SIGNATURE NOTARIZED BY:

SEAL/STAMP

Printed Name of
Notary: _____

Signature of
Notary: _____

My commission Expires: _____

PARTICIPANT MEDIA/COMMUNICATION RELEASE FORM

I, _____, am a participant in the ALA Department of NC Junior Meeting to be held at _____ (inclusive).

I hereby grant to the ALA my absolute and irrevocable consent for any photograph(s), video, film and audio tape taken of me during my participation at said meeting during said dates listed in this document, (inclusive), to be used, published and copied by the ALA and its assignees in any medium.

I release the ALA, and its assignees, designees and agents of the organization from any and all claims and demands arising out of or in connection with the use of recordings, documents, film and other accounts of my participation at the ALA Department of NC Junior Meeting held at place and dates listed in this document, (inclusive), including but not limited to , any claims for defamation, invasion of privacy, or right of publicity.

ACCEPTED AND AGREED

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Attendees Name

Printed name: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian/Self: _____

Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

ALL SIGNATURES MUST BE ON THIS FORM AND ALL MUST FILL OUT THE FORM!

This Permission Form must be completed for every Junior/Senior member attending the Department of North Carolina Junior Meeting. It should be brought to the Junior Meeting. No Juniors/Seniors will be allowed to attend without this form.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Department of North Carolina
Junior Activities Year End Report

Number of Juniors in your unit _____ Number of new members for 2024-25 _____

Do you have an organized Junior Auxiliary that meets regularly? _____ If yes- Indicate day, time, and location of meeting
_____ Did your Junior unit elect officers? _____

Does your Unit utilize Junior Volunteers? _____ Number of Jr volunteers for all events __ Number of total Jr volunteer hours____

Did your Juniors have their own fund raisers or special events?

Have any of your juniors that completed the Junior E Learning Course of the ALA Academy?
If so how many _____

Did your Juniors participate in the Patch Program? If so what were the achievements? _____

Number of Juniors that attended department or national meetings or workshops this year. Specify meeting and location.

Email your report to Pam Schall at alasmithfield132@gmail.com or texts to 919-622-0627.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



Poppy Program Awards

Most Outstanding Unit Poppy Program Award

- The Division President reporting their Best Poppy Program will receive an award at Department Convention.
- Each entry should cover all phases of the Poppy Programs.
- Each entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words and include all information required for the National Cover Sheet. Please include word count.
- Best Overall Poppy Program entry to be judged at department level and must be sent to National for further judging.
- Entry is due to the Department Poppy Chairman by **April 15, 2025**.

Little Miss Poppy Contest

- Participant must be between 6 and 12 years of age as of June 1 and be a Junior member in good standing of the American Legion Auxiliary.
- Promotional activity of the poppy story must occur through The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the community during the timespan of May 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025.
- For National Little Miss Poppy consideration, participant must submit a <https://member.legion-aux.org/Little-Miss-Poppy-Award-Form> with supporting documentation.
- All entries are due to the Department Poppy Chairman by **April 15, 2025**.
- In addition to the information on the award application, please include documentation on the criteria below. Accepted formats are Word document, Google Slides, or .pdf. PowerPoint presentations may also be uploaded via Google Slides. For more information on Google Slides, please visit <https://www.google.com/slides/about/>.

Criteria for judging Little Miss Poppy entries:

- The memorial poppy must be visible in all promotion and publicity submitted.
- There is no specific dress code or dress color for Little Miss Poppy.
- Promotion of the Poppy Program: What did you share and do?
- Publicity of poppy activities (newspapers, radio/TV, etc.).
- Submitted file must include the following information (both pictures and descriptions)
 - What I learned during my time as Little Miss Poppy?
 - How I shared the story of the poppy with my community?
 - What does the poppy mean to me?
 - What activities did I attend to promote the poppy and its meaning?
- Age-appropriate originality with considerations for neatness and creativity.
- Contest submissions are due to the Department Poppy Chairman by **April 15, 2025**.

Poppy Poster Contest Rules

Units shall sponsor contests in local schools. When schools do not conduct activities, other youth groups — including Junior members — may participate under direct supervision of the unit. The Unit chooses their winning entry and must be sent to the Department Poppy Chairman by **April 15, 2025**.

Contest Classes

- Class I: Grades 2 and 3
- Class II: Grades 4 and 5
- Class III: Grades 6 and 7
- Class IV: Grades 8 and 9
- Class V: Grades 10 and 11
- Class VI: Grade 12
- Class VII: Students with special needs defined as:
 - Those in special education classes.
 - A student recommended for special education classes but who has not been admitted due to a waiting list or various other factors.
 - A child identified as having a disability, but not in a special education class due to lack of facilities; identification contingent upon discretion of school officials.

Poppy Poster Requirements

1. Each poster shall have a fitting slogan not to exceed 10 words. Articles “a”, “and,” “an”, “the” are not to be counted as words. The words “buddy” and “buy” cannot be used.
2. The words “American Legion Auxiliary” must be used in the design of the poster and will not be counted in the 10-word count.
3. Each poster must include a red poppy.
4. The department shall determine the closing date of the unit contest. The poster shall be on 11x14” poster board. (Drawing paper will not be accepted).
5. The United States flag may be used as long as there are no infractions of the flag code.
6. Posters will be judged using the following criteria:
 - 50% - poster appeal (layout, message, originality)
 - 40% - artistic ability (design and color)
 - 10% - neatness
7. Media used shall be watercolors, crayons, powder or oil paint, handmade paper cutouts, ink or textures, acrylics, pencils, and markers.
8. Written in ink on the back of the poster (not attached) shall be the class in which the entry is submitted, the name, address, age, and grade of the contestant and the name of the department.
9. Submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary. Through submission of artwork, contestants and their legal guardians grant non-exclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted and agree to have their names and artwork published for commercial use without additional compensation or permission.
10. The poster shall be the work of only one individual.
11. The label “In Memoriam” from the veteran-made poppy may not be used.

Junior Poppy Usage Contest

The Junior Poppy Usage Contest will be held at the Junior Meeting on Saturday, April 26, 2025. The entries are designs of your own choosing using official ALA poppies and it may be any of the following nature: wreaths, centerpieces, tray favors, etc. This is an opportunity for you to share your creative ideas with other Junior Units. Name and unit number must not be prominently displayed but must be included.

Poppy Hat Parade

We will have a Poppy Hat contest and parade at the Department Convention June 19-21, 2025. This contest will be judged as the most creative and does not have to use the official ALA poppies. Let's get crafty, creative, and have some fun with your design techniques. The winner will be judged by applause from the floor and a cash prize for the winner.

Poppy Resources

- **Poppy Program Guide:** https://member.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Guides%20/ALA_Poppy_Guide.pdf
- **National Poppy Facebook Group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAPoppy>

Mel Stoss, Poppy Chairman 2024-2025

ncsuleo@gmail.com 828-423-2375

1934 Rock Pillar Rd

Clayton, NC 27520

Committee Members: Teresa Meyers 828-316-8292

Judy Stancil 919-608-6110



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



Department of North Carolina

POPPY Program End of Year Report 2024-2025

Report Due: April 15, 2025

Submit to Mel Stoss, 1934 Rock Pillar Road, Clayton, NC 27520

Or email ncsuleo@gmail.com Cell: 828-423-2375

Name and Number of Unit: _____ District: _____ Division: _____

Member completing form: _____ Phone: _____

Number of poppies distributed: _____

Number of poppy items distributed: _____

Types of poppy items distributed:

Dollars raised from poppies: _____

ALA Poppy Coloring Book

ALA Poppy Stickers

Poppy Cookies

Other: _____

As part of your typed narrative report, please include answers to the following questions (limit to 1,000 words). Narrative may include photographs and news articles. Answer the following questions, how have you:

1. Promoted the Poppy Program and increased revenue? _____
2. Educated your community on the meaning and the history of the poppy? _____
3. Celebrated National Poppy Day? _____
4. Increased the number of poppy makers in your community? _____



POPPY POSTER CONTEST COVER SHEET

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors a Poppy Poster Contest for students in grades 2-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into seven classes. One award in each of the seven classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund. National winners will be posted at www.ALAforVeterans.org after national convention.

Poster Classes:

Class	Grade Level
I	2 and 3
II	4 and 5
III	6 and 7
IV	8 and 9
V	10 and 11
VI	12
VII	Students with special needs

Class competing in: _____

Sponsoring ALA unit: _____

Due date for student to return to ALA unit: _____

To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:

Student Name: _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____

School Name: _____

City/State of School: _____

Parent or Teacher Name and Signature: _____

Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.):

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: _____

Signature of Unit Poppy Chairman/President: _____

Unit winner due to Department on: _____ Department: _____

Signature of Department Chairman: _____

Department winner due to National Poppy Division Chairman by June 1

VA&R MARCH/APRIL 2025

We are two thirds of the year in and coming down to the home stretch. Impact Reports are due in by 31 March. The numbers reflect what your unit has done. The final number of totals (all Depts.) volunteer hours, out-of-pocket expenses and milage, determines the VA budget. New facilities to be built, more staffing, and new equipment purchases are the benefits of our Impact Reporting. Let's make this the year of reporting all that we do for our veterans! The VA&R Impact Report is in the attached document

The next two VA&R Zoom Meetings will be held on 3 March and 7 April at 7 p.m. This is our regular monthly meeting for all Representatives and Deputies and is opened to all Unit Presidents and anyone who desires to sit in on the meeting. Drop me your email address so I can add you to my invites.

The second drawing of \$50 to the winning Unit, who donates to their VAMC from 25 October 2024 through 7 April 2025, the drawing will take place on Saturday morning at State Convention. I will need your documentation sent to this committee by 1 May 2025, which will be entered into the drawing.

For God and Country,

Celeste Slater

NC ALA VA&R Chair

919-434-7502

cakewriter@aol.com

Homeless Veterans

Stand downs where Homeless Veterans received free goods and services such as haircuts and medical exams.

- Number of veterans served _____
- Number of volunteers _____
- Monetary amount spent on event \$ _____
- Hours _____

Do you have volunteers in your Unit who crochet hats, scarves or mittens for Homeless Veterans?

- Total of items crocheted _____
- Cost of supplies (yarn) \$ _____
- Number of volunteers crocheting _____
- Hours _____

Does your Unit provide a Tree of Warmth in your community?

Create a "Tree of Warmth" by collecting scarves, mittens, gloves, hats, and socks, and attaching them to a tree in a location the homeless may frequent. Include a sign that reads, "Please take if needed," "Free if needed," or something similar. If you have an old purse you don't use, pack it full of sanitary and hygiene products for homeless women.

Does your Unit collect clothing items for the Homeless Veterans?

- List items collected _____
- Monetary value of clothes \$ _____
- Hours _____

Does your Unit assemble and deliver hygiene kits? (razors, shaving cream, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, bodywash, wipes and etc.

- How many kits assembled _____
 - Number of volunteers _____
 - Hours _____
-

Does your unit assemble Blessing Bags and donate to local Police Department or other organizations that help the Homeless Veteran population?

Use gallon-sized food storage bags to keep everything together in one place for easy access. Some items to include are handwarmers, bandages, baby wipes, tissues, hand sanitizer, granola bars, and travel-sized hygiene items such as deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, lotion, etc. You can also add contact information for your Auxiliary unit and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs crisis line.

- Number of Blessing Bags assembled _____
- Monetary cost of items \$ _____
- Number of volunteers _____
- Hours _____

FAMILY SUPPORT FOR VETERANS

Veterans at risk of losing their housing or Homeless Veterans transitioning to permanent housing.

- Make payments for overdue rent/house payment \$ _____
- Utility payments (electric, water) \$ _____
- Deposits or security deposits \$ _____
- Number of veterans assisted _____
- Total monetary assistance \$ _____
- Hours volunteer spent assisting veterans _____

Do you have volunteers who provide veterans rides to the grocery, pharmacy or doctor's appointments?

- Number of Veteran's served _____
 - Monetary cost of service (gas) \$ _____
 - Number of volunteers providing service _____
 - Hours _____
-

Does your Unit support the Transitional Housing Project?

- Purchased or securing household items and furniture Y / N
- Monetary value of items \$ _____

Does your Unit assemble and deliver Buddy Baskets?

Suggested items:

Laundry basket/waste basket, paper towels, bathroom tissue, window cleaner, scrubbing cleaner, rubber gloves for cleaning, dustpan with hand broom, light bulbs, shower curtain, bath towels, laundry detergent, eating utensils, dishes.

Bonus Tip: Make the Buddy Basket look like a gift! Use plastic wrap to bundle around the basket and tie a ribbon at the top or add tissue paper and bows/ribbons to the side of the baskets. And don't forget your "welcome home" note!

- Number of Buddy Baskets assembled _____
- Monetary cost of Buddy Baskets \$ _____
- Number of volunteers _____
- Hours _____

Meal preparation and serving Veterans

- Number of Veterans served _____
- Monetary cost of events \$ _____
- Number of volunteers _____
- Hours _____

Does your Unit make donations to the VA for VA sponsored events, coffee bars, gas cards etc.?

- Monetary amount of donations \$ _____

VETERANS JOB FAIR

Does your Unit take part in a Veteran's job fair by organizing or working at an informational table?

- Monetary amount spent on event \$ _____
- Number of volunteers _____
- Hours _____

Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS)

- Number of members who volunteer at the VA _____
- Hours _____

Donation to Fisher House:

- Monetary amount \$ _____

Does your unit make a donation to the VA for the VA Caregiver Appreciation Week?

- Monetary amount \$ _____
- How does your unit participate in the caregivers support program? _____

Donation to State Veteran Homes:

- Monetary amount \$ _____

Sew quilts for the Quilts of Valor:

- Number of quilts made _____
- Number of volunteers _____
- Hours _____
- Monetary cost of supplies \$ _____

Does your Unit supply lap quilts for Veterans:

- Number of lap quilts distributed _____
- Number of volunteers _____
- Monetary cost of supplies \$ _____
- Hours _____

Does your Unit participate in the Buddy Checks?

- Number of contacts _____
- Number of volunteers _____
- Hours _____
- Weekly _____
- Once a month _____

Does your Unit participate in Troop Welcome Home/Send Off events?

- Number of volunteers _____
- Hours _____
- Monetary donations to event \$ _____

Does your Unit participate in Honor Flight Send Offs/Welcome Home events?

- Number of volunteers _____
- Hours _____
- Monetary donations \$ _____

Does your Unit send care packages to our Troops?

- Number of packages sent _____
- Number of volunteers _____
- Hours _____
- Monetary cost of items \$ _____

Does your Unit throw a baby shower for expectant Veterans and deliver items to your local military base or VA?

- Monetary amount of event \$ _____

Does your Unit buy school supplies for military kids and deliver to nearest base for distribution?

- Monetary amount \$ _____

Does your Unit send care packages to military kids that are in college?

- Monetary \$ _____

Does your Unit provide Christmas gifts to Veterans in Assisted Living and Nursing Homes?

- Number of Veterans gifted _____
- Number of volunteers _____
- Monetary amount spent on gifts \$ _____
- Hours _____

Does your Unit provide food baskets for Veterans and their families at Thanksgiving and Christmas?

- Number of Veteran baskets _____
- Number of volunteers _____
- Monetary cost of food \$ _____

Does your unit provide Get Well and Christmas Cards to Veterans?

- Number of cards sent _____

Christmas Cards to Troops?

- Number of cards sent _____
- Monetary cost \$ _____

Does your Unit hold Christmas parties, bingo, picnics, ice cream socials at the VA?

- Monetary amount spent \$ _____
- Number of volunteers _____
- Hours _____

Does your Unit host coffee bars at VA hospitals, service centers and clinics?

- Monetary cost \$ _____
- Number of volunteers _____
- Hours _____

Does your Unit support rehabilitation and healing of veterans through arts, craft and hobbies?

- National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF): NVCAF is the national, annual competition and festival that recognizes the progress and recovery made through recreational therapy and raises the visibility of the creative achievements of our nation's veterans after disease, disability or life crisis. As the national presenting sponsor, the American Legion

Auxiliary should strive to increase monetary support by encouraging departments and units to sponsor fundraisers that will contribute to the increased awareness and support of this program.

Does your Unit make a donation to Veterans Creative Arts Festival (VCAF)?

- Monetary donation \$ _____
- Does your unit have a VCAF donation can? Y / N

Does your Unit donate to the VA for the Crafts Room?

- Monetary donation \$ _____

Does your unit contribute and donate supplies to help supplement visual veteran artist needs for their projects? (writing items, recording devices, visual and performing arts, quilting supplies, yarn, leather, paints, wood and garden to name a few)

Does your Unit visit Veterans in hospital, Assisted Living and Nursing Homes for Valentine's Day?

Does your Unit place Flags on graves for Memorial Day?

What does your Unit do for Veteran's Day?

Does your Unit make a donation to Wreath's Across America?

- Monetary donation amount \$ _____
- Number of volunteers _____
- Hours _____

Unit Submitting Report: _____

Point of contact submitting report: _____

Contact information of submitter (phone and or email): _____

Asheville VA Report

The Asheville VA is 98% back to normal. We have water, power, and all of our veterans are back from their "visit" to the Salisbury VA. We are doing our own laundry and providing meals again!!!

We made it through Christmas due to the generous donations from Cherokee and Cherryville. Thank you, Ladies, you are great!

The Salute to Hospitalized veterans was the week of Valentine's. The auxiliary spent a day the week before packing 200 (each had 10 items in it) specialty bags to be handed out during the next week. Jill, Debbie and I were stationed at the front entrance to hand out gift bags and valentines to the veterans as they came in for appointments. Some said they had not had a valentine in years!!

We handed out 350 gift bags and 50 bags of personal care items that day. That day 50 gift bags were sent to each of our Cbocs in our area. We have Hickory, Rutherfordton and Franklin in our group.

Now we are looking at St. Patrick's Day and Easter. If any unit would like to donate a little something for these days, let me or Jill know. During this time, we will be handing out the beautiful cards that Cary 67 makes for us. The veterans love these cards and compare them to see how each is different. They always bring BIG smiles to their faces.

The needs/wants list is included in this report. Also, the list for the hospice unit. As I *have told you before, if you want us to shop for you we will and then deliver the items to the VA. You will be given credit byway of a donation sheet that we will fill out. With district meetings starting, you can also bring items to your meeting and Beth will get them to us if Jill and I are not there.*

Short Version of needs list:

snacks, wrapped

juices

spiced tea

chips- variety pack

colored pencils (always needed)

journal books

reading glasses - all strengths

hot chocolate packets

Special meals (any donation is a good one)

HOSPICE LIST:

small cans soda

Slim Jims original smoked sticks

KIND healthy grain bars

Great Value Arabica French dark roast pods

Great Value Donut Shop Arabic medium pods

Frito Lay flavor mix snack pack 18 count

fingernail/toenail clipper sets

Emory boards

Hanes men's value pack assorted pocket tee shirts (large and up)

Kleenex pop up box

Thank you again for all that you do for us at the Asheville VA. WE truly appreciate you!!!

Anne Morris, Rep

Jill Puett deputy

Martha Whitaker deputy

NC ALA Weekly Membership Report - 2/26/2025

		UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT
		0552	Holly Ridge	0	0	15	15	#DIV/0!
		1981	Raleigh	86	1	87	88	102.33%
		Total		86	1	102	103	119.77%
	Total			86	1	102	103	119.77%
1	01	0040	Edenton	149	7	118	125	83.89%
		0102	Ahoskie	18	0	0	0	0.00%
		0126	Hertford	15	0	12	12	80.00%
		0223	Elizabeth City	19	0	13	13	68.42%
		0288	Coinjock	65	6	54	60	92.31%
		0308	Littleton	24	0	20	20	83.33%
		0362	Hertford	11	0	8	8	72.73%
		0425	Littleton	17	0	11	11	64.71%
		Total		318	13	236	249	78.30%
	02	0015	Washington	22	5	15	20	90.91%
		0024	New Bern	11	0	4	4	36.36%
		0039	Greenville	37	1	29	30	81.08%
		0043	Kinston	22	0	17	17	77.27%
		0046	Morehead City	31	5	21	26	83.87%
		0064	Pollocksville	25	1	21	22	88.00%
		0094	Snow Hill	19	1	10	11	57.89%
		0151	Farmville	11	0	7	7	63.64%
		0154	Trenton	21	0	18	18	85.71%
		0219	Kinston	21	0	18	18	85.71%
		0263	Washington	17	0	15	15	88.24%
		Total		237	13	175	188	79.32%
	03	0010	Wilmington	89	0	77	77	86.52%
		0078	Swansboro	14	1	13	14	100.00%
		0129	Carolina Beach	266	3	206	209	78.57%
		0165	Burgaw	19	1	17	18	94.74%
		0167	Hampstead	56	3	44	47	83.93%
		0213	Southport	15	0	10	10	66.67%
		0265	Jacksonville	62	2	46	48	77.42%
		0294	Burgaw	16	0	14	14	87.50%
		0379	Alberston	18	0	17	17	94.44%
		0454	Oak Island	19	0	14	14	73.68%
		0503	Calabash	256	4	237	241	94.14%
		0550	Shalotte	11	0	10	10	90.91%
		Total		841	14	705	719	85.49%
	04	0005	Saint Pauls	18	0	14	14	77.78%
		0032	Fayetteville	32	5	17	22	68.75%
		0202	Fayetteville	116	8	39	47	40.52%
		0230	Spring Lake	12	0	2	2	16.67%
		0233	Whiteville	21	0	16	16	76.19%
		0271	Rowland	21	5	17	22	104.76%
		0319	Clinton	35	6	23	29	82.86%
		0404	Elizabethtown	24	2	22	24	100.00%
		Total		279	26	150	176	63.08%
	05	0011	Goldsboro	55	1	34	35	63.64%
		0013	Wilson	55	2	44	46	83.64%
		0017	Wilson	26	0	27	27	103.85%

		0058	Rocky Mount	14	1	10	11	78.57%
		0071	Clayton	39	1	41	42	107.69%
		0103	Mount Olive	27	3	21	24	88.89%
		0109	Benson	160	12	126	138	86.25%
		0110	Nashville	11	0	11	11	100.00%
		0132	Smithfield	20	3	11	14	70.00%
		0346	Four Oaks	117	17	81	98	83.76%
		0405	Pine Level	55	4	36	40	72.73%
		0518	Clayton	11	0	10	10	90.91%
		Total		590	44	452	496	84.07%
	Total			2265	110	1718	1828	80.71%
2	06	0006	Chapel Hill	63	1	54	55	87.30%
		0007	Durham	61	0	56	56	91.80%
		0052	Franklinton	32	1	26	27	84.38%
		0060	Henderson	15	0	10	10	66.67%
		0063	Burlington	28	0	22	22	78.57%
		0166	Oxford	50	5	26	31	62.00%
		0175	Durham	40	9	30	39	97.50%
		0176	Henderson	13	0	3	3	23.08%
		0210	Yanceyville	38	0	34	34	89.47%
		0416	Lowes Grove	18	0	14	14	77.78%
		0427	Haw River	30	2	14	16	53.33%
		0452	Schley	14	0	5	5	35.71%
		0547	Warrenton	14	0	9	9	64.29%
		Total		416	18	303	321	77.16%
	07	0001	Raleigh	17	1	15	16	94.12%
		0049	Hamlet	35	1	25	26	74.29%
		0059	Dunn	40	3	31	34	85.00%
		0067	Cary	67	2	51	53	79.10%
		0072	Aberdeen	14	0	14	14	100.00%
		0116	Fuquay Varina	336	8	349	357	106.25%
		0157	Raleigh	15	0	10	10	66.67%
		0177	Southern Pines	29	0	27	27	93.10%
		0187	Wake Forest	34	0	35	35	102.94%
		0232	Garner	15	0	8	8	53.33%
		0277	Siler City	11	0	1	1	9.09%
		0296	Vass	13	1	8	9	69.23%
		0382	Sanford	45	2	38	40	88.89%
		0436	Angler	16	2	14	16	100.00%
		Total		687	20	626	646	94.03%
	08	0027	Monroe	35	0	29	29	82.86%
		0051	Concord	41	0	31	31	75.61%
		0076	Albemarle	13	0	6	6	46.15%
		0115	Kannapolis	23	1	19	20	86.96%
		0159	Troy	11	0	1	1	9.09%
		0208	Waxhaw	24	0	19	19	79.17%
		0212	Monroe	19	4	16	20	105.26%
		0358	Troy	11	0	0	0	0.00%
		0440	New Salem	32	1	27	28	87.50%
		0523	Harrisburg	27	0	23	23	85.19%
		0535	Unionville	61	0	54	54	88.52%
		Total		297	6	225	231	77.78%
	09	0008	Lexington	59	1	43	44	74.58%
		0014	Salisbury	32	0	28	28	87.50%

		0045	Asheboro	30	0	28	28	93.33%
		0081	Liberty	29	4	25	29	100.00%
		0106	Salisbury	48	2	38	40	83.33%
		0107	Salisbury	18	0	13	13	72.22%
		0146	Landis	71	21	47	68	95.77%
		0162	Reeds	11	0	6	6	54.55%
		0255	Lexington	24	0	22	22	91.67%
		0327	Faith	115	18	89	107	93.04%
		0342	Salisbury	70	2	48	50	71.43%
		Total		507	48	387	435	85.80%
10		0053	Greensboro	37	1	40	41	110.81%
		0055	Winston Salem	81	2	63	65	80.25%
		0087	High Point	32	0	23	23	71.88%
		0123	Mount Airy	35	5	29	34	97.14%
		0128	Winston Salem	13	0	14	14	107.69%
		0290	King	71	1	54	55	77.46%
		0505	Yadkinville	26	3	24	27	103.85%
		0522	Lewisville	18	0	13	13	72.22%
		0534	Mayodan	11	0	0	0	0.00%
		Total		324	12	260	272	83.95%
	Total			2231	104	1801	1905	85.39%
3	11	0029	Lenoir	43	6	33	39	90.70%
		0031	N Wilkesboro	25	6	22	28	112.00%
		0048	Hickory	48	3	24	27	56.25%
		0065	Statesville	32	1	22	23	71.88%
		0209	Granite Falls	13	1	13	14	107.69%
		0217	Statesville	21	0	20	20	95.24%
		0231	Lenoir	23	2	5	7	30.43%
		0240	Maiden	27	0	2	2	7.41%
		0275	Lansing	23	0	19	19	82.61%
		0392	Hudson	25	3	23	26	104.00%
		0401	Troutman	15	0	8	8	53.33%
		0544	Hickory	25	4	21	25	100.00%
		Total		320	26	212	238	74.38%
	12	0030	Lincolnton	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!
		0086	Davidson	61	2	59	61	100.00%
		0144	Belmont	17	0	13	13	76.47%
		0180	Belmont	11	0	1	1	9.09%
		0221	Charlotte	14	0	15	15	107.14%
		0235	Matthews	0	0	3	3	#DIV/0!
		0262	Charlotte	34	0	23	23	67.65%
		0321	Huntersville	61	4	53	57	93.44%
		0353	Charlotte	15	0	15	15	100.00%
		Total		213	6	182	188	88.26%
	13	0074	Forest City	13	0	8	8	61.54%
		0082	Shelby	71	5	52	57	80.28%
		0100	Cherryville	97	5	79	84	86.60%
		0155	Kings Mountain	20	0	13	13	65.00%
		0243	Bessemer City	38	0	16	16	42.11%
		0250	Tryon	28	1	13	14	50.00%
		Total		267	11	181	192	71.91%
	14	0002	Asheville	10	0	1	1	10.00%
		0070	Asheville	18	2	10	12	66.67%
		0234	Valdese	61	0	49	49	80.33%

	0317	Marshall	12	0	13	13	108.33%
	0322	Morganton	55	12	33	45	81.82%
	0506	Morganton	12	0	11	11	91.67%
	Total		168	14	117	131	77.98%
15	0047	Waynesville	71	0	53	53	74.65%
	0077	Hendersonville	226	11	223	234	103.54%
	0088	Brevard	78	0	47	47	60.26%
	0096	Murphy	18	0	16	16	88.89%
	0104	Sylva	37	5	26	31	83.78%
	0108	Franklin	70	1	63	64	91.43%
	0143	Cherokee	54	0	32	32	59.26%
	0532	Hayesville	47	2	34	36	76.60%
	Total		601	19	494	513	85.36%
Total	Total		1569	76	1186	1262	80.43%
Total	Total		6151	291	4807	5098	82.88%