



How will you and your unit share the love of Valentine's Day with your ALA Family? We will probably make treat bags, cookies, or cards for our veterans and shut-ins, which are things we should do. However, have you or your unit ever considered donating to one of the ALA programs? We have some excellent programs that support our veterans, children, and even auxiliary members in need. These programs need our financial support. The "Be the One" mission is the Department President's project for the year. President Evelyn would love to have a donation for her project.

Maybe our youth is your focus; you can donate to our Department Scholarships, the Warren Reagen, or the Nannie Nor Fleet Scholarship. Maybe you like to help people when disaster strikes—the American Legion Auxiliary Fund. The AEF is an auxiliary member helping members in times of crisis. Please read to AEF Chair JoAnn's article in my newsletter this month.

You can also make donations to National Programs. It is simple: log in to alaforveterans.org. Then select a program of your choice, such as AEF, scroll down to the donate button, and click. Fill out the form (click on the Select a donation gift to choose from AEF, National President's Project, National President's Scholarship fund, or Youth Scholarship. If you don't make a selection, I believe your donation is to the ALA Foundation.) My favorite program to donate to is the AEF. Auxiliary Emergency Fund. The AEF was established in 1969 with a bequest from the estate of Helen Colby Small of Wisconsin. The purpose of this program is to help members when disaster strikes.

AEF Chair JoAnn is asking every unit to donate \$25 for the AEF. Let's support her in this worthy cause. As JoAnn "We Can Do It, With Change-In The Jar. See JoAnn at the Mid-Winter Conference to get your Jar.

Have a Heart Give Today. Happy Valentines,

Julie

Mission Training Nashville, TN February 3, 2024

We had a wonderful time at Mission Training yesterday. North Carolina was well represented. Nineteen Senior members attended. We had two junior members who attended the National Junior Meeting. Mission Training is a one-day conference for Auxiliary members to learn more about the organization's mission and programs. Attendees can interact with the National organization leaders and members from different Departments. Information was provided on the following topics: "Be The One," Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation and Military, The Impact of Membership, Understanding ALA Branding, Community & Members, and Youth Programs. Pam Ray, Diana Sirovina, and Linda Tome presented the programs. Mission Training is when you can ask questions, learn, and have fun. We made friendship bracelets and wrote letters to Honor Flight veterans. I will be sharing more of what we learned in upcoming newsletters. If you have never been to a Mission Training, I encourage you to plan to attend next year's meeting.



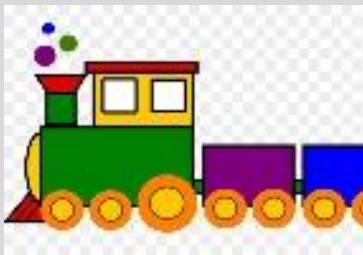
"Be the One" crisis #988 and press 1. Counselors are available 24/7 or text 838255. Remember, the objective of the BE the One Campaign is to prevent suicide.



The national president's focus is to increase awareness about the veteran and military suicide epidemic while embracing The American Legion's "Be The" mission.

There are three 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.



Greetings.

I pray everyone is having a fantastic year. With a strong sense of advocacy, I promote knowledge and fundraising concerning our Auxiliary Emergency Fund. I highlight the word EMERGENCY because there are or may have been times we may have been faced with an emergency. The mission of AEF is to provide grant funding, when possible, to Eligible Members of the American Legion Auxiliary up to \$3000 because of an act of nature or personal crisis. We raise funds to ensure we can assist as many eligible members as possible in their emergency. I consider this an act of love, service, and kindness.

Therefore, we ask that each Unit report a minimum of \$25.00 this year. AEF may be near and dear to your heart, and you may want to donate more to honor a loved one or friend. We thank you in advance for those the AEF will assist. We thank each Unit for participating in our Fill a Jar fundraiser; the interest was amazing. Let us know if your Unit or someone else wants to participate; we have a few jars left to distribute.

I understand the effects of a personal crisis; it was sudden and unexpected. My husband, Willard Ray Stevens, passed from third-degree burns sustained from a spark carried by a gust of wind that caught his pants legs afire (he was tinkering outside). Willard had a spinal cord injury with paraplegia and was wheelchair-bound, so he did not feel the fire immediately but was able to remove himself from the area and call 911. He was a soldier throughout the entire process till his passing. I thank our Fire Chief, who immediately accessed the situation and called for East Care to transport him immediately to the Burn Center, where he succumbed seven days later. For that reason, in my husband's honor, I am donating \$100.00 of personal funds for a drawing to enter each Unit that submits \$25.00 for a chance to win. We would love to see our Units bring home the awards this year. We Can Do It, With Our Change – In The Jar!

National Awards: All awards are based on donations received from June 1- May 31

Unit Award: Unit contributing the largest amount (per capita)

Department Award: Largest Contribution

Department Award: Largest Amount (per capita)

Donations of \$50.00 or more will receive a pin requested by your department from the National Headquarters.

Remember, our National Organization no longer requires Mid-Year Reports. Our End-Of-Year Reports are due on April 30, 2024, and can be emailed to jartisstevens@yahoo.com or mailed to the address on the report form. Stay Safe, Donate, Donate, Donate To AEF. Thanks A Million,

JoAnn Artis Stevens - Chair