



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY - Department of North Carolina 2021-22 PROGRAM ACTION PLAN - PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

The purpose of the Past Presidents Parley committee is to utilize the experience and knowledge of past Auxiliary leaders for training and encouragement of future Auxiliary leaders. Through the Past Presidents Parley committee, members who have served as unit, department, and national presidents have an opportunity to continue in active service to the Auxiliary, helping ensure strong future leadership for the organization. The Past Presidents Parley also recognizes and honors enlisted (not a commissioned officer), active-duty personnel through the Salute to Servicemembers awards.

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIR

Michelle Potuzak

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EOY Report - Due 4/30/22

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Send in your Past Presidents Parley remittal form (forms can be found on the Department website under the 'Unit Forms & Info' tab - www.alanorthcarolina.com). Collect *at least* \$1.00 in dues from each of your past Unit/Department presidents (a donation from your unit is also fine). Please consider contributing more if your unit is able. If you would like to receive official Past Presidents Parley cards, please complete the remittal form and send in with your donation to ALA - Dept. of NC. All funds received are divided and distributed to our four VA Medical Centers to support female patients at each facility.
2. Promote mentoring opportunities of unit members. As former leaders, past presidents at all levels are encouraged to continue their support to the organization by accepting responsibility to contribute their experience, knowledge, and wisdom. We have a duty to develop and train our membership to be productive members of our units. Some ideas include:
 - a. Form a unit Past Presidents Parley or a mentoring program.
 - b. Encourage past presidents to continue providing support through the process of sharing 'best practices' with members.
3. Promote and submit nominations for the Salute to Servicemember Award. The Past Presidents Parley will continue to recognize the military service of enlisted (not a commissioned officer), active-duty personnel, including the National Guard and Reserve components, representing each branch of service at the national convention. Ideas:
 - a. Seek candidates to nominate for the Salute to Servicemember Award.
 - b. Assist in the application process.
 - c. Honor all nominees at a unit function.

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY REPORTING

An annual summary is suggested as tools to gauge the direction and effectiveness of department activities. Narratives/forms should be forwarded to the PPP Chair no later than April 30, 2022.



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HOW TO MENTOR A NEW MEMBER

- Offer to escort a new member to your meeting.
- Introduce the new member to the president as well as other members in attendance. Ask him/her to share a little about themselves. The information could be helpful in determining in which committee your new member may have the greatest interest. Have each attendee introduce themselves.
- As each program report is given, request that the chairman explain the purpose of the program and how the unit supports it. Explain the duties of the officers, the chairmen and the committee members.
- Help maintain a positive attitude and assist in avoiding controversy during the meeting. Interject some occasional humor to help make the meeting fun.
- A prospective member is more likely to join an organization that is fun and whose activities support the community. All members will be more willing to attend meetings and assist with activities if the meetings are short and interesting. Remind the members to try new ideas without criticism if they fail. Suggest trying something else. Help keep the meeting moving toward a positive conclusion.
- Evaluate your new member's capabilities. If you feel the new member is ready to participate, ask him/her which of the programs holds their greatest interest. Discourage naming a new member as an officer or a chairman, but instead suggest they be given the opportunity of working on a committee with an experienced chairman. Let the new member know you are willing to mentor and assist by answering any questions. Remember to praise the new member's efforts.
- Past presidents should advise when asked, but preferably not serve as a chairman. Chairmanships should be held by other members so they may learn the programs and become good unit leaders who may develop an interest in moving into district, county or department positions.
- As a past president, you may wish to promote the nomination of a Unit Member of the Year. You may take the lead in recommending a servicemember to submit for an award. Develop a fundraising activity for donations to the nursing scholarship program.
- Continue to support through your ongoing leadership!