



## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY Department of North Carolina



### AMERICANISM

**CHAIR:** Juli Zajc  
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Greetings American Legion Auxiliary Members!!!!

I am excited to get this year going. We are a whole quarter of the way done with the year. The Americanism Committee has several contests and activities for the upcoming year. The first contest we had was on social media. #NCLegionBall was announced live on Facebook and we have tallied all the entries and I will be awarding the prize to the winner at Fall Conference.

The next contest we have is "Tell me your Why". I am asking ALL members to write a short piece telling us WHY you are in this great organization. Entries can be submitted to me by email ([juli@zajcfamily.com](mailto:juli@zajcfamily.com)) or snail mail (4640 Meadowside Terrace, High Point, NC 27265) by February 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be selecting the best submissions and awarding a prize to each winner. I already have one submission and I also have a special guest assisting in the selections. We all need to get back to the mission of the Auxiliary this year.

I will be talking about all the activities at Fall Conference so stay tuned.

Baseball season is complete, and I want to say that few things compare to hot dogs at the Ball Park. The American Legion World Series was a joy to attend. I watched the spirit of the game come back to the faces of the fans, parents, Legion Family & players. Listening to all the Legion Family that attended was a great internal reboot for me. Congratulations to Idaho Falls for their Championship.

Girls Nation has also completed but I want to send out a huge round of applause to Lisa Stokes on her election to Vice President. We are proud to have been represented for Tar Heel Girls State. I was also able to attend the opening of Boys State this year and enjoyed the spirit of the young men that showed a passion for learning. The next big thing in Americanism is the Oratorical Contest. This is conducted by The American Legion but I know many of the Auxiliary and Sons will take part. I have been a judge and my Unit assists in many of the contests. It is enjoyable to hear the perspective of the next generation interpreting the US Constitution. They have a unique take and I know that many of them will be out future leaders.

Americanism is also joining with VA&R to bring some personal greetings to our Veterans. I am asking that everyone please contribute Thank You Cards and Letters for our VA Hospitals. Katie and I are hoping to touch as many as we can. Please bring cards and notes to Fall Conference, Mid-Winter and Convention. You can also contact me and I will see if I can arrange pick up.

In closing I am including a personal note about the recent events.

The last few weeks have been very difficult for many of us. The nation is going through some international activities that are causing some emotional responses. I am among one of the ones it is touching. One of the first things I learned as an Army wife is that for many of our service members there are many dates that you will always remember but really do not want to. For me personally it was November, then it got September added. September 11<sup>th</sup> will be a day of Remembrance for this country for a very long time. Emotions and raw wounds will be felt this year after the loss of thirteen service members in the evacuation of Afghanistan. There have been many lost during this mission. I was reading some articles about how we, as a country, showed our Patriotism. I learned that Red Lipstick is a sign of Patriotism started and continued by the USMC. It was rumored that Hitler did not like Red Lipstick. So many of our Rosie the Riveters, housewives and active-duty Marines wore it to alienate the Germans. The USMC even issued female Marines Montezuma Red to be worn while in uniform. I listened to National Commander Paul Dillard and join him in the belief that we should never have a service member that feels like there is no way out. I have learned over the years that this organization and the member of The American Legion Family will always "have my six" and are only a shout away. If you or someone you know is struggling, PLEASE reach out.

# Tell me your Why Contest

## Senior Members (18+)

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Carolina I want to know your WHY. This year as the Americanism Chair I am putting a contest in place for all members, regardless of age, to tell me WHY you are a part of this organization, how you got here and what you have done. For years I have heard bits and pieces of stories and descriptions of why you are a part of the American Legion Auxiliary, now I want the whole thing, please.

I invite you to write an essay or letter (at least 2 pages) or create a presentation (10 slides minimum) that tells us your WHY. This should include how you are eligible, who signed you up and what you have done. All entrants will receive a certificate for participation and be eligible for prizes given away during Mid Winter Conference.

Please include your name and unit when making your submissions.

Submissions are due by February 1st

## Junior Members (up to 18)

Junior members I also want to know your WHY. Include how you are eligible, who signed you up and your favorite activities. Please submit the item based on your grade level.

Up to 5th Grade-Drawn picture with 3 or more sentences (Parents can assist)

6th-8th Grade-2 page written essay and a picture, drawn or original photo

9th -12th Grade-3-5 page essay

Please submit entries before February 1st. All entries will win a prize.

## How to enter

Entries can be submitted either by email, to [juli@zajcfamily.com](mailto:juli@zajcfamily.com), snail mail, 4640 Meadowside Terrace, High Point, NC 27265, or hand delivered if you happen to see any of the Americanism Committee Members.

## Questions:

Please ask Juli Zajc ([juli@zajcfamily.com](mailto:juli@zajcfamily.com)) or Lily Hammond for further details.



