

## **NEWS FROM DEPARTMENT OFFICE**

**January 24, 2023 – Membership is important to our mission to support veterans and their families.** On January 24, 2023, the National Office will send email communications to former members of units across the state. This will be a reminder to those who have dropped away to encourage them to reach out to their former units to rejoin. If your unit has not reached out to former members, pull a list from the ALA MIS membership database, and make a few calls.. If you cannot pull a list, reach out to the Department Office for a list at **(701) 253-5992** or via email at [secretary@ndala.org](mailto:secretary@ndala.org)

**Unit Member of the Year** – Do you know someone in your unit who goes beyond the call of duty for your unit but seeks no praise or accolades? Nominate her for the ‘Unit Member of the Year’ award. Forms are available online at [www.ndala.org](http://www.ndala.org) and [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org). Send your nomination to: **Department Leadership Chairman, Colleen Hauf, 1124 13<sup>th</sup> St NW., Minot, ND 58703-2066**

**National Poppy Day – Friday, May 26, 2023** – Make plans now to distribute poppies to veterans residing in nursing homes and members of your community. Ask a local business if you could display poppies in their shop windows. Announce your poppy day plans on social media.

**Scholarships** – Do you know a student who is eligible to apply for Department and/or National scholarships? Encourage them to apply now. Scholarship applications and the instructions can be found on (Department) [www.ndala.org](http://www.ndala.org), and (National) [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org).

**Poppy Poster and Americanism Essay Contests** – Encourage students in your community to participate in the 2023 Poppy Poster Contest and the Americanism Essay Contest. Be sure to check the due dates and get them to the Department Chairmen for judging.

## **NEWS FROM NATIONAL**

**ALA ACADEMY - A new course is coming soon to the ALA Academy.** *ALA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion* was created to: help our members recognize biased language and performance bias and implement strategies to overcome them; identify and properly use interrupters to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all; and demonstrate the ability to coach others on the importance of inclusion and equity within ALA. Watch [our social media](#) for updates on when the course is ready.

**Celebrate Women in Service** - On March 8, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation will *Celebrate Women in Service* in honor of International Women's Day. Be sure to mark your calendar and make a gift to the ALA Foundation in honor of an ALA member who inspires you. This 24-hour nationwide fundraising appeal will bring together our incredible community of volunteers and veterans to sustain the ALA's mission of service. Every gift received on March 8 will go to the ALA Foundation's Mission Endowment Fund. Examples of what will benefit include ALA Girls Nation, National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, and the ALA Foundation's Mission in Action grants.

**National ALA Names New Executive Director** - ALA National Headquarters has named **Sara Riegel** as its executive director. Riegel had been serving in the role of interim executive director for the past several months.

Riegel has been with National Headquarters since 2011 and has served in several positions, including ALA national treasurer, compliance officer, and managerial roles within the Finance Division. Riegel previously held financial and compliance roles with for-profit and non-profit organizations and owned her own business. She attended Marian University in Indianapolis.

The executive director's responsibilities include management of National Headquarters staff and operations, fiscal management of assets, working with the governing board and its chair (national president), and building external relationships.

Riegel is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Indiana eUnit 438 in Indianapolis. Her eligibility is through her grandfather Russell R. Byer, a captain in the U.S. Army serving during World War I and II.

**National Poppy Day Set for May 26, 2023** - It's never too early to start planning! ALA National Headquarters is already making preparations! We'd love to hear from you and make your unit/post home a part of our ALA media coverage. Send us an [email](#) and tell us about any of the following:

- What are your plans for National Poppy Day?
- How have you used poppy funds to help veterans, military, and their families?
- Share a success story about how poppy funds helped someone in your community.