

The 'Unit Member of the Year' award recognizes members of our units who exemplify the value and ideals of the American Legion Auxiliary. Those members work hard to support their units, improve the unit's programs, and have a positive impact on our communities.

Look for that special member in your unit that exemplifies those ideals and has not held an office higher than Unit President. Then, nominate them for the 'Unit Member of the Year' award.

The nomination forms can be found at www.ndala.org/leadership/ . Wouldn't it be great if we received a nomination from every District in our state?

'Unit Member of the Year' nominations are due to me no later than **May 1, 2024**.

Have you heard about the ALA Academy? This is an incredible educational opportunity for you to learn about the Auxiliary and what we do. There are 8 main courses and many other live courses available to help mentor our newest members. I personally have completed 4 of them and I was amazed at the history of our program and the amazing individuals that made it all happen. This is a great opportunity for our Junior members to learn about the Auxiliary as well. They are the future of our program. There are even some E-courses designed specifically with our juniors in mind. You can enroll in any of the self-paced courses at www.ALAforVeterans.org/ALA-Academy . I encourage everyone to try them. You will not be disappointed!

Lastly, how can you get our Junior members involved in your units? In a recent Zoom leadership meeting, we discussed the importance of mentoring our Junior members and involving them in our monthly meetings, fundraising events, preparing meals, and assisting in planning events and activities. Your juniors will amaze you with their use of technology and social media. Ask them to help with public relations and advertising your events. Juniors are our future, get them involved now. Get a few juniors excited to join our organization and they will reach out to others to help grow our membership.

Visit www.ALAforVeterans.org to learn what others are doing to involve their juniors and to familiarize yourself about programs designed for them.

Heidi Wakefield

Leadership Chairman