

Mark your calendars for the upcoming patriotic celebration dates, June 14 (Flag Day), and July 4 (Independence Day). Fly your U.S. flag and be thankful that living free is a gift and an honor! Plan a program for the public at your local community center, American Legion hall, or another facility in your community. Help people in the community remember the reason for these dates and why we as Americans enjoy them.

With summer months upon us, I encourage you to continue to record your volunteer hours and donated funds in support of our veterans, active-duty military, and their families. Volunteering at the VA system counts for all members for your reporting.

Beginning in August, gear up for membership by making phone calls or texting your members, sponsoring potluck luncheons or suppers, and planning unit fundraising projects. Include all of your unit members and enlist their assistance to help recruit and rejoin members who may have dropped out previously. Make this a venture with your Legion Post members.

When volunteering in your community, be sure to wear your Auxiliary brand and be ready to answer questions about our organization. Wear "RED" on Fridays to show support for deployed military and veterans, past and present. We will never forget what they have sacrificed to keep our country free.

The 2024 American Legion Auxiliary National Convention will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 23-29. If you cannot be there in person, I encourage you to watch the proceedings online at www.ALAforVeterans.org/meetings/national-convention.

Have a wonderful summer and enjoy time with family and friends.

Tammy Ryberg