

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

April 2026

Issue #7

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

Q-3 Zoom Call
Tuesday
April 21, 2026
7:30pm EST

American Legion
Family Day
April 25th

Department
Chairs Reports
Due to Division
Chairs by May
15th



Community Service National Chair
John R. Tester

Greetings ALA Community Service,

The Q3 Zoom meeting will be held on April 21 at 7:30 PM. We encourage everyone to attend as we continue to move forward together and share important updates. The registration link will be distributed soon, so please keep an eye out and plan to join us.

A reminder that annual reports from Department Chairs to Division Chairs are due by May 15. Additionally, Annual Awards submissions must be completed by June 1, 2026. Reporting forms are available on the American Legion Auxiliary website for your convenience.

If your Unit is planning an American Legion Family Day event, please be sure to notify your Division Chair. Your efforts help strengthen our organization and community connections.

Thank you for all that you do. Your efforts do make a significant difference in our communities.

John R. Tester
National Chair



NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER



Amy's Angle....

Have you ever heard it said that every report matters? Well, it's true!

Annual reports reflect the cumulative summary of units' mission service in the department. Each department Community Service Committee chair is required to submit via email a narrative report to the division Community Service Committee chair, plus copy the national Community Service Committee chair by May 15. Annual reports don't have to be difficult. Answer the four questions below and you'll be off to a good start.

Community Service National Vice-Chair Amy Luft

- What specific things did units in your department do to make their communities a better place to live?
- How did units participate in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and the 9/11 National Day of Service?
- Did units in your department find new and creative ways to promote the ALA Community Service program? Please give specific examples.
- How did your Post, Unit Squadron, chapter work together to promote and carry

out an American Legion Family Day activity? Don't forget to apply for a national award too! Beginning this year, department chairs may use their awards form as their program report, provided it is submitted by May 15. Forms received by this date will count for both reporting and awards of consideration if indicated on the form. Please note: The awards submission deadline remains June 1, so department submissions received after May 15 will be considered for awards only and will not fulfill reporting requirements. Need help? Reach out to your national chairs for assistance. The goal for our Community Service program is 100% reporting. Your report matters!



Amy Luft
National Vice-Chair

Have you joined the Community Service Facebook page? It is a great place to post your community service events and see what other Units are doing.

Ask to join by going to

www.facebook.com/groups/ALACommunityService



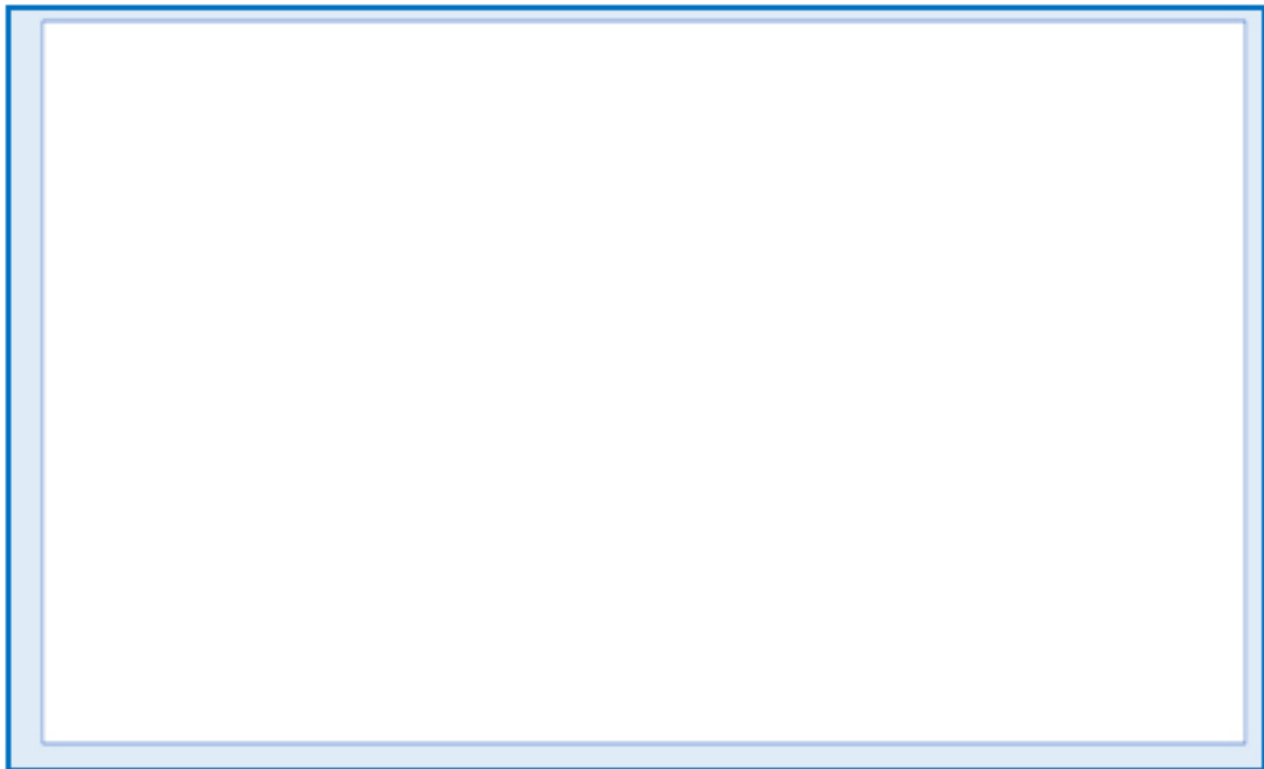
Annual Reports are Due by May 15th!

ATTENTION ALL DEPARTMENT CHAIRS!

Your annual reports are due to your Division Chair no later than May 15th. Division Chairs will be sending out reminders several times over the next month and a half to help keep everyone on track. If you have any questions regarding what your reports should contain, please reach out to your Division Chair for guidance.

We are expecting 100% reporting for Community Service, so now is the time to begin reminding your Units to submit their reports promptly. This will ensure you have everything needed to complete your Department Report accurately and on time.

Please also note that annual reports from Division Chairs are due to the National Chair no later than June 1st. Thank you for your continued dedication and all that you do!



Eastern Division Community Service

The members of the Eastern Division Community Service Team certainly were present in their communities during the month of March!

The Eastern Division Community Service Chairmen are also busy preparing for our upcoming American Legion Family Day in late April.

ALA Department of New Hampshire, Dupont-Holmes Unit 82, Gorham, NH presented Girl Scout Troop #64636 a Campership Check for \$1000 to help the girls attend camp this summer. During the presentation, the girls spoke about their activities at summer camp and what they brought home from camp. The Unit, with fewer than 100 members, has also been able to help their local schools with snacks and school supplies.

Unit 82 – ALA Dept of New Hampshire



Delaware American Legion Auxiliary Unit 28 **Junior member Alyssa** recently hosted a **Super Bowl**

food collection to benefit a local church food bank. Thanks to the generosity of our community, a wonderful supply of food was collected and delivered to the church,



where it was gratefully received and will help families in need. We are so proud of Alyssa for stepping up and showing what **Junior Auxiliary members can accomplish through leadership and service.** Department of Pennsylvania Auxiliary members continued to work

their mission in their communities this past month. They have all been very busy despite their cold and snowy weather.

Pennsylvania ALA Unit 360 worked hard to make the donuts for our Persian donut sale. They made between 1100–1150 donuts -- plain, jelly and coconut. Members of ALA Unit 360 also presented “Certificates of Community Service Awards” to 4 members of the Jr. National Honor Society at the Weatherly Area School District. They were awarded for their help in counting the socks collected during the “Warm Tootsies Contest” in the district. The socks are distributed to veterans in VA hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living centers and Valor Clinic Foundation for Homeless Veterans. Please continue to post articles and pictures on the ALA National Community Service Facebook page. Everyone wants to see what your units, districts, and departments are doing. Everyone who visits this page can get great ideas from just scrolling.

Keep being mission-driven!
Yours in Service,

Paulette Caron
Eastern Division Chairman



NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Central Division Community Service

Spring is in the air. Hard to believe reporting is just a month away or so.

Central Division has been busy this past month.

Wisconsin's Department Chairman Linda Tryczak had reports from 3 units. Bagley Unit 482 in District 3 had 5 volunteers working on various community service projects, with 134 hours. Ridgeland Unit 511 in District 10 reported they had volunteers for the National Day of Remembrance (Sept 11) and Veterans Day. They had 6 volunteers with 170 hours. Bangor Unit 40 in District 7 had 20 volunteers and 650 community service hours on their projects. Great job Wisconsin.

Illinois's Department Chairman Catherine Zito had lots of community service to report on. Illinois has been busy playing Bingo in Nursing Homes and supplying treats, leading Fall Festivals, appearances on local radio to spread the news about Auxiliary, singing at local baseball games. Donations of clothing, honoring our First Responders, transportation of neighbors to appointments and grocery shopping for seniors. Thank you Illinois.



Ohio's Department Chairman Darlene Leiter and Vice Chairman Becky Dippman have been busy. Continental Unit 541 raised over \$2000 for their local softball program during their Fish Fry. Each week during their Fish Fry moneys are raise for their community. Great Job Unit 541!



The members of Amherst Post 118 donated \$10,000 to the Murray Ridge School's senior prom. 50 kids will attend this year's prom along side of guests and families. Murray Ridge School serves students with developmental disabilities. Thank you Amherst for a wonderful donation to our special children!

domestic violence shelters, Ronald McDonald house. This list goes on and on.

Reporting is around the corner. Which Department will come out on top!!

Cindy Masowick
Central Division Chairman



Ohio has amazing members. They have been busy with crocheting, donating to the First Responders,



Southern Division Community Service

Spring is in the air, and community service projects are in full bloom throughout the Southern Division. From volunteering at food banks to organizing clothing drives, our members continue to demonstrate the heart of the American Legion Auxiliary. The Southern Division remains focused on meeting the needs of veterans, military families, and our communities with compassion, creativity, and unwavering dedication.

As Departments embrace the new season, service initiatives are blossoming in every corner of the Division—reminding us that when we work together, even the smallest acts of kindness can grow into something extraordinary.

Department of Florida

The magnificent “points of light” angels across the Department of Florida have been busy illuminating their communities with generosity, compassion, and unwavering service.

St. Petersburg Unit 14 spent a meaningful day at the local Ronald McDonald House, preparing and serving dinner for 25 families staying there. Their kindness offered exactly what those families needed—nourishment, compassion, and a reminder that they are not alone. Safety Harbor Unit 238 celebrated the culmination of a heartfelt Breast Cancer Awareness project. Their

donation of \$1,451 to A Place for Her, will provide post-surgical essentials such as mastectomy bras, breast prostheses, wigs, and recovery wear for uninsured or underinsured women. Their efforts will restore dignity, confidence, and hope to women in their community when they need it most. Small but mighty, Tice/Ft. Myers Unit 351 has been hard at work collecting new and gently used toys



supporting children transitioning from abusive homes. After cleaning, repairing, and organizing donations, they delivered two truck beds full of toys—including 15 bicycles, skateboards, jump ropes, hula hoops, basketball sets, scooters, and countless games. Their dedication will bring joy and healing to children facing challenges far beyond their control. Old Town Unit 383 has continued to shine brightly through multiple projects this month. Their long-standing partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank and United Christian Services keeps them busy assembling food boxes distributed across a three-county area.

When tragedy struck a local family who lost their home—and loved ones—in a devastating fire, Unit 383

and the entire Post family sprang into action. After one powerful day of fundraising, they raised over \$6,000 to help the family begin rebuilding their lives. Truly outstanding service.



Department of Mississippi

In the Department of Mississippi, Unit 69 has once again shown what true service looks like. The unit made it clear that no community member should ever feel forgotten or unappreciated.

The Unit hosted a food drive, handing out food boxes to community families and friends. Each box was packed full of essentials like peanut butter, rice, canned ravioli, canned fruits, and plenty more.

The turnout was incredible. The community came out in droves, and their gratitude was felt in every handshake, smile, and “thank you.” Here’s to Unit 69 for continuing to show out, step up, and serve with heart.

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NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Dept. of South Carolina

The Department of South Carolina is hard at work organizing community breakfasts and dinners to help the community learn more about the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. Alongside these gatherings, clothing drives, school supply drives, and ongoing community support efforts remain essential parts of the mission.

We are proud to stand with our Veterans, their families, and our communities. Service isn't just something we do—it's who we are, and we're committed to showing up wherever we're needed.

Northwestern Division Community Service

The chairman from North Dakota let me know that when she attended a district meeting recently, she found out that there was one unit that has been cooking dinner every month for the local fire department. I applaud the unit for keeping the American Legion Auxiliary visible in your community. North Dakota also reported that they are working on an American Legion Family Day (ALFD) event. They are looking forward to letting us know how it went.

The rest of the division is busy working on plans for ALFD, so

Department of Virginia

The Department of Virginia has been hard at work supporting its communities with dedication and compassion. Units across the state report ongoing food distribution efforts, clothing drives, and clothing giveaways to ensure families have what they need. Their commitment to service reflects the true spirit of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Pamela Elam-Lipscombe
Southern Division Chair

they did not have any new events to report. Keep your eyes out for ways to be present in your community. Even in my small town in Kansas there are ways to be visible in the community that do not take a lot of effort. Keep looking at your communities to find ways to let them know that we are here.

Ann Ritacco
Northwestern Division Chair

Western Division Community Service

The Western Division remains very busy. Adjusting to the time change we are still serving our communities.

Again, we have had many fundraisers in our division. Bake sales filled with yummy treats in front of a grocery store or outside member's house of worship. With so many members inside in the cold winter months, they are now emerging with their goods for craft fairs or to give to the more needy in the community.

The common themes in the west were serving our seniors and planning our family days. Many have taken seniors to appointments or have helped with their neighbor's yards.

The Department of AZ had a great report of how they are serving the seniors and continual planning in their Dept for other community service events. The community service chair stated her frustration from getting units to report all their good deeds.

AGAIN, Western Division, no report received, means the rest of the Departments don't get to hear of your great work. Not to mention, we are coming up to important deadlines for statistical reports and those very important supplementals. Deadlines for the unit, the District and into your department are crucial. Please adhere to deadlines for judging and reporting to our National organization.

Teresa Lugo Nunez
Western Division Chair

