

## American Legion Auxiliary Membership: *The Basics*

### ***Why should I join?***

Freedom was earned through the service and sacrifice of brave men and women willing to fight for their country, gifting us with privileges still eluding other countries. The American Legion Auxiliary was born from the desire to meet the needs of those serving. What better way to honor and thank the Veteran(s) in your life than to join the largest patriotic service organization in the world?

### ***What is a “service” organization?***

This can best be explained by the ALA Mission Statement: *In the spirit of Service Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.*

### ***How is that accomplished?***

The American Legion Auxiliary offers a variety of programs: Americanism, Badger Girls, Children & Youth, Community Service, Education & Scholarship, Junior Activities, Leadership, Legislative, Music, National Security, Poppy, Public Relations, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R), allowing members to work together to carry them out.

### ***What’s in it for me?***

That can be answered in one word: ***Opportunity!*** Membership offers the opportunity to...

- ...serve those who have served – a great way to say thank you for your service!
- ...craft for veterans’ hospitals and facilities – items are always needed and appreciated!
- ...chair a program - offers a taste of leadership and program insight!
- ...step into an officer position – provides experience and feeling of accomplishment!
- ...make friends – probably one of the most overlooked benefits!

And then there’s satisfaction...the satisfaction of extending a helping hand to our Veterans dealing with homelessness, an addiction, or PTSD; satisfaction in a thank you note for a Buddy Basket from a female Vet getting back on her feet with a new job and apartment; satisfaction in brightening the day for a military child through something as inexpensive as an Easter basket or a book; satisfaction in aiding a scholarship recipient on the journey to a successful future; satisfaction in knowing the hours of volunteering are making a difference,

### ***I couldn’t possibly be a chairman or an officer!***

Maybe, maybe not, but the *opportunity* awaits. ALA resources are at hand; you’re not on your own. You don’t always know what you’ve got until you try! Consider the challenge. You might surprise yourself. Some of the best ALA leaders joined saying they weren’t getting involved! On the other hand, that is your decision and card-carrying members are also very important! There is strength in numbers.

### ***What does that mean?***

Membership numbers, as well as Unit Community Service, National Security, and VA&R hours and monetary donations are recorded. These stats are sent to Headquarters, where they’re tallied. Each state does the same; then they’re totaled at National Headquarters and presented to Congress, where Veteran funding is decided.

This is just the tip of the iceberg, but the American Legion Auxiliary is making a difference, day in; day out; year after year. We’re waiting for you! Are you ready?



**SERVICE  
NOT SELF**

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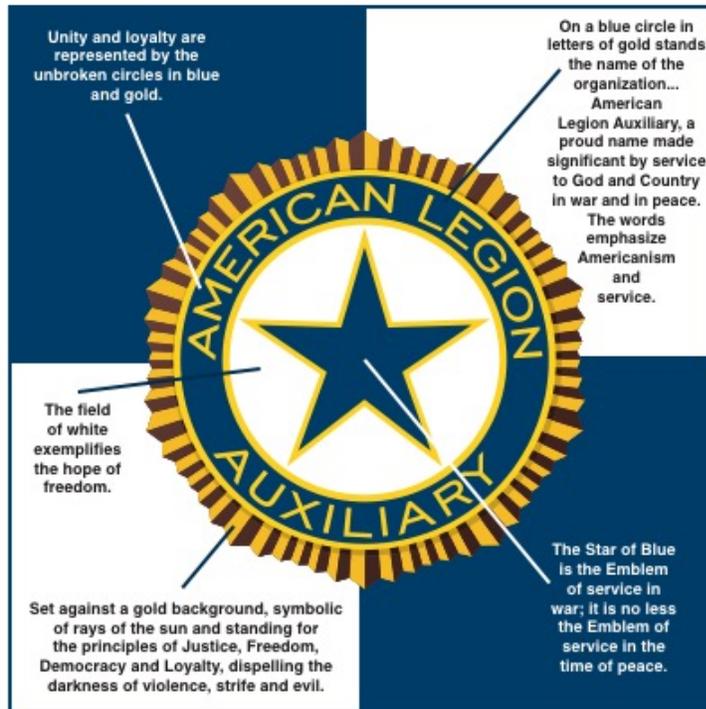
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**MISSION STATEMENT:**  
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For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY EMBLEM



When the American Legion Auxiliary was formed to support the work of The American Legion, one of its first acts was to adopt an emblem similar to that of the Legion, yet distinctive and true to the work of the Auxiliary. Under this emblem, the Auxiliary has worked for more than nine decades with the Legion in constructive service to country, America's veterans, active-duty servicemembers and their families.

For more information about the American Legion Auxiliary, visit us online at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).

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