



Secretary's Note

For God and Country,
Department of Alabama
Carol Tyson, Secretary



Feb 5, 2020

ALA Girls State:

To register a 2020 Delegate for the upcoming 78th Session of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alabama Girls State please visit the website at www.alabamagirlsstate.org and click on "Register a 2020 Delegate" Only Auxiliary Units will be able to register delegates from Feb 1-Mar 15. See dates below:

Important Dates:

Registration form opens for local ALA Units:

February 1, 2020

Registration form opens for high school coordinators: March 15, 2020

Deadline for registration: May 1, 2020

Delegate information forms due: May 15, 2020

Parent packets sent on May 6, 2020

Parent forms due: May 24, 2020

Education Scholarships:

Scholarships, both new and renewed are being accepted in the Department office now. Please visit, or direct any you know eligible to visit our Department website at www.alabamaamericanlegionauxiliary.com and click on Dept Links – on the right side you will find all the scholarships available. Click on each button to find out requirements. Please make sure that all are adhering to posted deadlines as applications will not be accepted late due to meeting times for committee.

Department Convention: Department Convention will be held June 18 – 21, 2020 at the Birmingham Marriott 3590 Grandview Pkwy, Birmingham, AL 35243 phone: (205) 968-3775 marriott.com Room Rates: Current Govt Rate

Please go ahead and make your room reservations now if you are planning on attending, that way you are insured you will have a room. We hope to see all of you there.

The Auxiliary will be celebrating our 100th birthday at the Dept Convention. Units and Districts are encouraged to work together to decorate a table as discussed at Mid-Winter. Please contact Iris Keen for more information at (334) 806-7307.

Membership Cards: Units that did not get their 2020 Membership Cards picked up at Convention, please contact me so that arrangements can be made to get them to you.

Membership Chairs/Secretaries/Treasurers: Please make sure when you send in your transmittal forms that you include only the amount of money on the check for what is on the transmittal. Do not combine years on one transmittal or multiple transmittals on one check.

Do not combine Bonding fees, or any other donation/fee/payment on the same check as your membership dues. This makes for an accounting nightmare. **Please keep things separate.**

Membership Applications: Please make sure that your membership applications are complete AND LEGIBLE. New membership applications are available for download on our Department website; please be sure to download it. **Remember that the POST must verify the Veterans service. The only time an Auxiliary member may verify the eligibility of a Veteran is if it is a female veteran signing herself up as an Auxiliary member.**

New: Direct Descendant can no longer be marked as an acceptable option for member, so if you use an older application remember that no relationship to the veteran beyond granddaughter is eligible. (no great-granddaughters or great-great granddaughters will be accepted based on eligibility through the IRS as a Veteran Service Organization Auxiliary.

All information must be complete on the application, including phone numbers with **AREA codes**; we have several in AL and many people move and keep numbers from other areas so this is important. Getting phone number allows you to keep in contact with the new member and get them involved. Always make sure your UNIT number is on the application when you send it in, so I know which unit the applicant belongs to. The application does not always stay with the transmittal. Again, please make sure information is legible.

Important: If your 2020 dues are not paid, you are not a member-in-good-standing. This means you are not current and your benefits through the ALA are null and void – i.e.: AEF, if you needed to apply for these benefits you would be denied.

District Presidents: Reminder: If you picked up cards for the Units in your District at Convention – please get these cards to the Units ASAP – I still have Units calling asking for cards that District Presidents picked up in June. Make sure to keep your Units updated with the latest information from Department as well. Remind your units about Mid-Winter and encourage all to come.

Free Life Insurance through LIT: All members who are current and maintain their dues are eligible for a free life insurance policy through the LIT for up to \$5000. To sign up, visit www.thelit.com and click on “No Cost LegionCare” to continue.

ALA MIS: For Units looking to gain access to ALA MIS, please send me a letter with the following

information: Your Name, Unit Name/Number, Your Member Number and Current Valid email address. Only Unit Presidents, Membership Chairs Secretaries and/or Treasurers should have access and only 2 people per Unit may access ALA MIS. The cost is \$10/person (2 people max, \$20 total) This gives Units access to view reports, as well as the ability to change names and addresses for members only. Units do not have access to make payments.

Districts are also eligible to sign up as well. Same rules apply as for units.

District/Dept Revitalizations: The American Legion has put out a Department wide District Revitalization schedule. They have been including the Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders in this process. When the Legionnaires sign up, they usually have a family which means expanded growth for our FAMILY. Get involved. The schedule is on our Dept Website under Calendar of Events.

Message from TAL Adjutant:

If you have been following Buddy Watch Walk- Pier to Pier you will see they are stopping at American Legion Posts throughout the nation. They credit Alabama for their success. This morning we learned they are saving their plastic bottle caps to donate for cancer research. I'm calling on the Department of Alabama to collect these bottle caps. Everything from soda to water bottles. There will be a follow up with an address to ship them to or you can mail them here to HQ and we will send in bulk. This is an easy project to take on. The link to follow Buddy Watch Walk is below

<https://www.facebook.com/buddywatchwalk/>

Greg Akers

The American Legion,

Department of Alabama Adjutant

334-262-6638

“No Veteran Left Behind!”

ALA Academy: Make sure and log into your ALA National Account and do the courses offered. The Academy has a wealth of information.

War Memorial: Don't forget to purchase a brick in honor/memory of your beloved servicemember. This is a great way to honor their service and help restore the Alabama War Memorial in the process. Applications for the bricks can be found on our Department website under Dept. Links.

Tax Information - 990's: The instructions and a wealth of information for 990 filing has been uploaded to our Department Website and can be accessed at any time. Please check it out and make sure your unit is in compliance.

Something Happening at Your Unit or in Your District: We want to know about it. If you have something going on, share it. Send me an email at ALAux.Sec@legional.org, and I will get the information out. This is a great way to share ideas with one another, as well as gain support for your events. Information needs to be to me by no later than the 3rd of each month.

Department Website: Our Department Website – www.alabamaamericanlegionauxiliary.com – is constantly updating and changing. Make sure you check it out regularly for new information, so that you stay up-to-date with the latest happenings in the Department.

Forms Available: Updated transmittal forms, New and Renewed have been uploaded to our Department website for your immediate use under Dept Links. These forms have the updated amounts, as well as places for you to deduct your credit memos that many units have been receiving from me for members paying online and miscellaneous reasons.

Office Hours: Effective January 6, 2020: The office hours are Monday - Thursday 8a – 2p and Friday 8a- 4p. Please don't hesitate to email anytime at ALAux.Sec@legional.org.



Anas Alrobai was a Boys State Delegate this past summer (2019). I had the distinct pleasure of meeting him while at the Mid-Winter Conference in Huntsville. He saw my Auxiliary sweater and had nothing but accolades for the Legion Family. He works in the Café Market in the Hotel. He is a very bright and encouraging young man. He was a delight. He was a joy all weekend and I know he will go far. As you can tell, he proudly represented Boys State wearing his t-shirt. Branding is important and if a young man who attended one of the programs we support proudly represents our FAMILY, we need to make sure we are doing it as well.



American Legion Auxiliary MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name (First) _____ (M.I.) _____ (Last) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email Address _____

_____ / _____ / _____ Birth - 17 18 and over _____ Unit # _____ Location _____

Date of Birth (Required)

Have you been a member previously? Yes No (If yes, fill in below.)

Previous Unit City/State _____ ALA ID # (if known) _____

_____ / _____ / _____

Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) _____ Date _____

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible Through—Name of Veteran (Female Veterans: List Your Own Name) _____

If Living: _____ American Legion Member ID # _____ Post # _____ City _____ State _____

Deceased—If veteran is deceased, contact ALA unit about the necessary military records.
For Veteran's DD214 Discharge Papers: www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records

Veteran Served:

WWI (4/8/1917-11/11/1918)

Anytime After 12/7/1941 (check all that apply):

Global War on Terror Panama Vietnam WWII

Gulf War Lebanon/Grenada Korea Other Conflicts

Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:

Male Spouse Female Spouse Mother Grandmother Sister Self

Daughter Granddaughter

To Be Completed By The American Legion Post Adjutant/Officer

I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

_____ / _____ / _____

Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification _____ Date _____

HELP US GET YOU CONNECTED!

I am interested in learning more about:

Volunteering for Veterans, Military, and Their Families

Youth Activities, Including ALA Girls State, Junior Member Programs, and Scholarships

Member Discounts and Services

Other

Please contact the following individual about volunteering or joining the American Legion Auxiliary:

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Recruiter's Name _____ Unit/Post # _____ City _____ State _____

Submit this application to the ALA unit you wish to join. If unit is unknown, contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 for assistance. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. *Membership pending approval of application.*