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MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

MAY

NATIONAL MILITARY
APPRECIATION MONTH
MONTH OF THE CAREGIVER

STAY IN THE KNOW

MID-YEAR NEC

Behind the Scenes

On Friday, Feb. 23, in preparation for the Mid-Year NEC Meeting, we welcomed National President Lisa Williamson, National Vice President Trish Ward, and our Professional Parliamentarian Chris Dickey to Indianapolis to participate in a script read-through and dress rehearsal. During this meeting, we made sure all of our technology was working properly — our Events Team is AMAZING — and made finishing touches to the script so that Saturday's virtual board meeting would run smoothly and look professional. We succeeded!



The Feb. 24 virtual Mid-Year NEC Meeting chaired by the national president was filled with important business, including the adoption of updated policies, charter cancellations, and appointment changes. The board also heard a presentation from ALANHQ's professional auditing firm, Blue & Co., and adopted the Fiscal Year 2023 Combined Audit of the ALA and The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

The board received reports from the national Finance and Risk & Compliance chairs as well as the executive director, national secretary, and national treasurer. Running a large board meeting virtually is no easy task. It takes months of preparation and members from every division of ALANHQ working together as a team. As you can see from these pics, we work very hard, but we also play hard ... and eat cake with sparklers when a staff member's 1-year anniversary coincides with the Mid-Year NEC Meeting! Happy anniversary, Co!



COMMANDER'S TESTIMONY

FEB.
25-28

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

Immediately following our Mid-Year NEC meeting, ALANHQ staff members traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in The American Legion's Washington Conference.



On March 13, ALANHQ Executive Director Sara Riegel traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the testimony of American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer before a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs. Sara attended the testimony with National President Lisa, National Vice President Trish, and National Secretary Kathy Daudistel. The national committee chairs of VA&R, C&Y, Legislative, and National Security were also in attendance.

Commander Seehafer testified that veteran suicide continues to be the top priority for The American Legion, asserting that it is the most serious issue facing America's veteran population. If you were unable to attend or listen to it live, please take some time to review the testimony points [HERE](#).



Held annually in our nation's capital, this conference provides an opportunity for Legion Family members to meet with their respective lawmakers to discuss legislative initiatives and hear from members of Congress and VA leadership at the Commander's Call. ALANHQ staff members were able to attend commission meetings and discuss upcoming projects with the Legion's judge advocate and the Legion's directors of National Security and Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation. Stay on top of the latest updates for the 2025 Washington Conference [HERE](#).



FROM THE DED DESK



Tamara Shumate
Deputy Executive Director

The last few months at the ALA have been all about family. We recently welcomed Tony Cross, manager of the Be the One training sessions, to discuss the Legion Family's suicide prevention efforts. Tony visited ALANHQ to share details about the Be the One training developed with Columbia University (yes, that Columbia University!). These sessions provide training to help participants recognize a veteran in crisis. Tony invited NHQ staff members to attend an in-person training this fall — so exciting! You can find out more and sign up for virtual training here: [Saving Lives of Veterans - Virtual Training Link](#).

In late February, ALA staff members traveled to D.C. to participate as a family in the Washington Conference. Auxiliary volunteers and staff members attended commission meetings and rallied at the Commander's Call to receive information on the Legion Family's legislative priorities concerning our military and veterans. Finally, our NHQ family welcomed several new staff members, making our headquarters home full again — just the way we like it!

On a quick personal note, you'll see a little piece of my family on page one. He popped in to NHQ while we were prepping for the Mid-Year NEC Meeting to "help" us set up for the big event.

From our family to yours, happy spring! We made it through winter!

FRIENDLY REMINDER:
SUBMIT YOUR
WASHINGTON
CONFERENCE
ATTENDEE REPORT

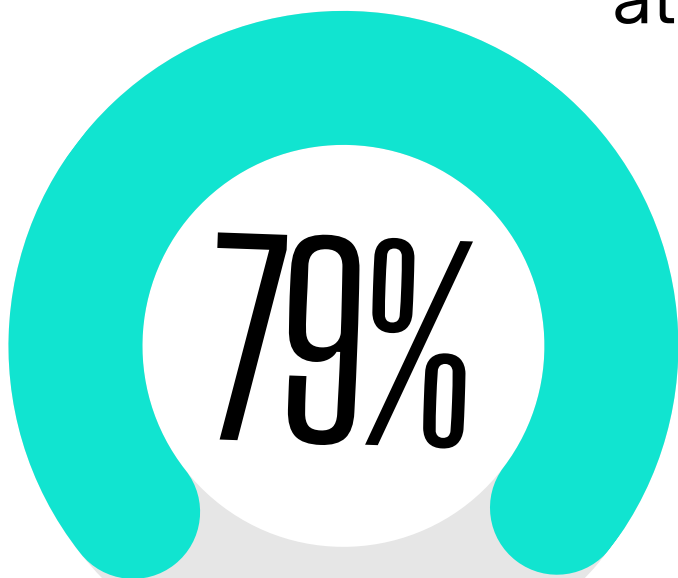


[2024 DC Conference Report Link](#)



A RECAP OF 2023-2024 MISSION TRAINING AND NATIONAL JUNIOR MEETINGS

Mission Training concluded with a registered **441** attendees.



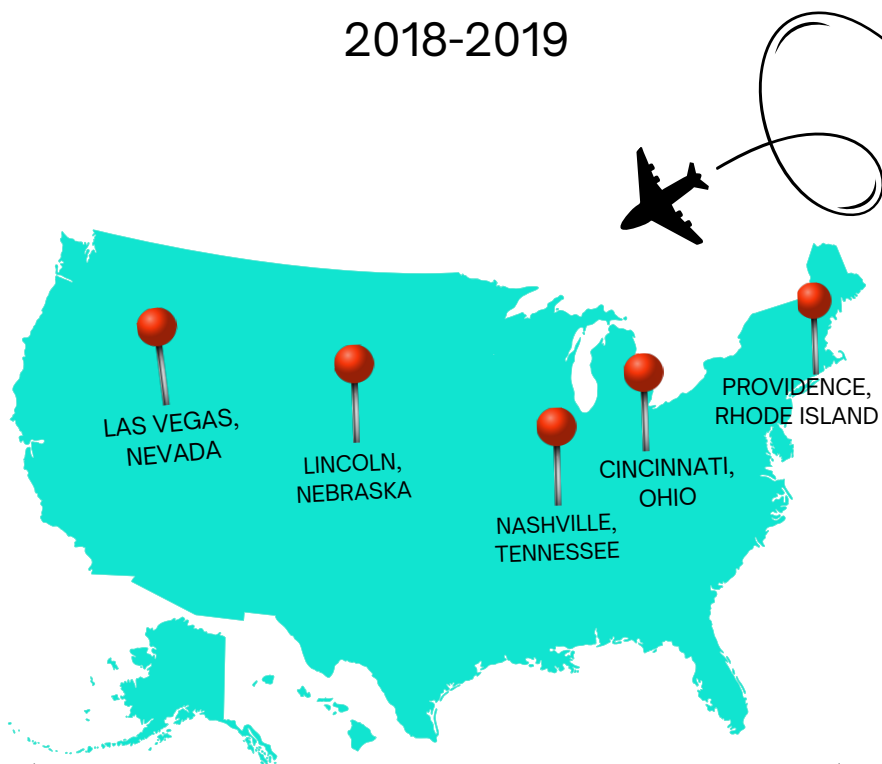
PERCENTAGE OF ATTENDEES WHO WOULD RECOMMEND MISSION TRAINING TO A FRIEND

- **83%** participated in the Mission Training evaluation at the conclusion of the training.
- **33%** indicated that this was their first time attending.
- **77%** attended at their own expense.

88.2 AVERAGE ATTENDEES PER LOCATION

ALMOST A 35% GROWTH FROM 2022-2023

THE LAST TIME MISSION TRAINING HAD OVER **400** ATTENDEES WAS IN 2018-2019



EVERY ALA DIVISION HAD A MISSION

Junior Meetings

Each table created its own mascot to start the day.



An online contest was held to design this year's NJM T-shirt. The winner was **Rylee** from **Wisconsin!**

Kindness rocks!



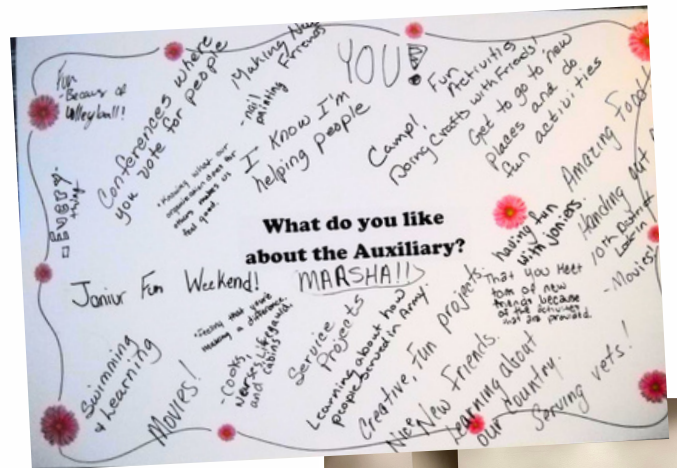
Juniors painted kindness rocks, then took them home to place throughout their communities to bring smiles to other's faces.



Service dog trainers and dogs were the guest speakers at each NJM. They talked about how service dogs can help a veteran, how the dogs are trained, etc.



Service project was Socks of Love. In a relay race format, teams of Juniors stuffed socks with personal hygiene items. Socks were distributed in each ALA division to veterans.



Juniors answered questions regarding their ALA membership. Many thoughtful answers were provided.



STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



ANOTHER YEAR OLDER...



Gary Ward
Director of Finance
February



Clay Wright
Program Coordinator
February



Mark Conyers
IT
March



Travis Perkins
Webmaster
April



Cathi Taylor
Archivist
April



Carley Schutz
Directory of Development
April



Cindy Radcliff
Staff Accountant
April



Laura Arand
Program Manager
May



Samantha Caudill
Senior Events Coordinator
May



Katie Vigil
Training & Programs
Coordinator
June



Tamara Shumate
Deputy Executive Director
June



Tomee Sue Bunner
Membership Coordinator
June

AND CELEBRATING ANOTHER YEAR AT NHQ...



Melissa Clawson
Membership Coordinator
April 11 (2 Years)



Jessica Symmes
Events & Manager
April 11 (2 Years)



Sara Riegel
Executive Director
May 16 (13 Years)



Kelly Harrier
Director of Membership
May 28 (13 Years)

NHQ IS GROWING

The Events and Programs Division is now fully staffed. We are so happy to welcome Raushanna and Laura to the ALANHQ Family!



APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5 GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY	6
7	8	9 FORMER POW RECOGNITION DAY	10 2024-2025 NATIONAL APPOINTMENT ACCEPTANCE PAPERWORK DEADLINE	11 ALA 24-25 NATIONAL CHAIRMEN FOCUS BRIEFINGS IN INDIANAPOLIS	12	13 ALA 24-25 NATIONAL CHAIRMEN MEETINGS IN INDIANAPOLIS
14 Air Force Reserve Birthday	15 PURPLE UP DAY!	16	17	18	19 2024-2025 NATIONAL PRESIDENT VISIT REQUEST PRIORITY DEADLINE	20
ALA 24-25 NATIONAL CHAIRMEN MEETINGS IN INDIANAPOLIS		23 US ARMY RESERVE 116TH BIRTHDAY	24	25	26	27 AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY DAY
21	22 		1	2	3	4
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

PURPLE UP! DAY

For Military Children

Held annually April 15, "Purple Up! For Military Kids" is a special day to come together, wearing purple to express support and extend heartfelt thanks to military children for their resilience and sacrifices.

WHY PURPLE?

There's a tradition in the military referring to the color purple and the term "Purple Suit" which represents inclusive support for all military branches, symbolized by the unity of Army green, Marine Corps red, Navy blue, Air Force blue, and Coast Guard blue.

In essence, purple stands as a powerful symbol of collaborative strength and interconnectedness in joint military efforts.

MAY 2024

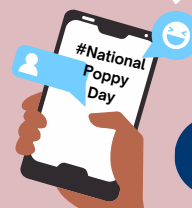
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	 	2	3	4
					ALA DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP NATIONAL CONFERENCE (DLNC) DOWNTOWN INDIANAPOLIS	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	TAL SPRING COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS: TAL NHQ		TAL SPRING NEC MEETINGS: DOWNTOWN INDIANAPOLIS			
ALA DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP NATIONAL CONFERENCE (DLNC) DOWNTOWN INDIANAPOLIS			TAL NEC BANQUET			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
						
26	27	28	29	30		31
						

NATIONAL POPPY DAY PREPAREDNESS: READY TO HONOR & REMEMBER

The red poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Wear a red poppy all day and share your National Poppy Day knowledge with everyone you encounter
2. Hand out poppies to your friends, family, and coworkers
3. Make a donation to your local ALA unit's poppy fund and encourage others to donate.
4. Use **#NationalPoppyDay** on social media



[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD A POPPY POSTER](#)



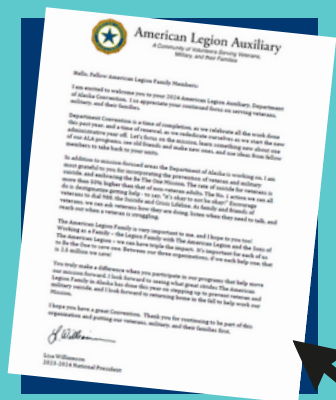
NATIONAL CONVENTION

147 days

from March 29, 2024, to
Aug. 23, 2024

Join us in New Orleans
Aug. 23-29, 2024
for National Convention

STAY IN
THE KNOW



2024 ALA DEPARTMENT
CONVENTION LETTERS
YOU CAN FIND NATIONAL
PRESIDENT LISA WILLIAMSON'S
BIO, PORTAIT, AND 2024
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
LETTER ON THE ALA WEBSITE

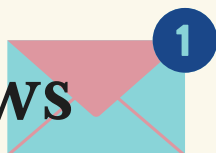
THE 2024-2025 NATIONAL COMMITTEE APPOINTEES HAVE BEEN
SELECTED. APPOINTMENT ACCEPTANCE PAPERWORK WILL BE
EMAILED TO ALL APPOINTEES.

THE EMAIL YOU USED TO APPLY FOR A NATIONAL APPOINTMENT
IS THE EMAIL WE USED TO SEND ACCEPTANCE PAPERWORK.
PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK THAT EMAIL ADDRESS DAILY FOR
FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS.

2024-2025
NATIONAL
APPOINTMENT
ACCEPTANCE
PAPERWORK



eNews



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the monthly ALA eNews.

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the button below to subscribe!

NEXT ISSUE: APRIL 10

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READY FOR A VISIT
FROM THE
2024-2025 ALA NATIONAL
PRESIDENT?

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT
YOUR DEPARTMENT VISIT
REQUEST FORM

PRIORITY
DEADLINE:
APRIL 19

2024-2025 ALA National President Visit Request Form

Welcome Departments!

Thank you for your interest in hosting the National President at your Department function! This electronic form is the only way to submit a visit request. Departments that submit all three options will have a better chance at being scheduled for a visit. **Priority deadline is Friday, April 19, 2024.** Visits submitted by this deadline qualify for priority placement on the National President's Travel calendar. Submissions are always welcomed after the deadline; however, confirmation of dates is subject to availability.