

ALA TODAY

LATEST ALANHQ NEWS AND UPDATES

2023-2024 Red Book

The 2023-2024 Red Book is hot off the presses and coming soon to a neighborhood near you ... well, your exact address to be more accurate. If you've already received your copy, hooray! If not, it should be arriving any day now.

If you plan to use your printed Red Book, please be sure to stay up on the latest updates. To ensure you're always in the loop, we've made it super-easy for you. Just hop on over to the MyAuxiliary member portal at www.ALAforVeterans.org, and you'll find:

- a running list of all updates so you can write them into your printed book
- a searchable PDF version of the Red Book — it looks just like your printed book but is automatically updated for you
- an electronic Red Book. This will look differently from your printed Red Book but is also searchable and automatically updated.

Nov. 1 will be the first update!

DOWNLOAD
DIGITAL RED BOOK

2024 NATIONAL 2025 APPOINTMENTS

National Appointments Applications are **now** open for the 2024-2025 Year!

The deadline to submit your application is Friday, December 15, 2023.

APPLY TODAY!

BE THE ONE WEBINAR RECAP

On October 25, from Lisa Williamson, ALA National President, Chanin Nuntvang, The American Legion Executive Director of Government Policy, Dean Kessel, The American Legion Executive Director Marketing and Communications, and Tiffany Ellet, The American Legion Director of Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation discussed the Be the One Initiative for an audience of over 250 people.

During this engaging conversation, they explored the crucial topics of today's veterans, their mental health, the suicide epidemic, and how The American Legion Family is incorporating this into their collective missions. Attendees gained insights into the challenges faced by veterans and the initiatives being undertaken to address their mental wellbeing. This webinar shed light on the critical issue of veterans' mental health and showcase the valuable work being done by The American Legion and its partners. If you missed it, enrollment will be live in [ALA Academy](#) later this week. **Note users have to be logged into the ALA Member Portal.



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

In August 2023, the American Legion Auxiliary national organization joined forces with Wreaths Across America (WAA) to build a stronger awareness of each group's common missions while supporting fundraising efforts nationwide. Wreaths Across America is an incredible organization whose mission is to remember our fallen U.S. veterans, honor those who serve, and teach our children the value of freedom.

Sponsorship Opportunities

The 2023 Wreaths Across America Day is Dec. 16. On that day, more than 2 million wreaths will be placed on veterans' graves across local, national, and military cemeteries, as well as veterans' memorials and historic sites. We encourage members of The American Legion Family to participate.

ALA units can take part in the Wreaths Across America Sponsorship Group Program. Units that register as a "\$5 back group" will earn \$5 for every \$17 sponsorship earned — allowing the donor to essentially "do good twice" and support both programs and missions.

As a volunteer Sponsorship Group, you will be responsible for networking within your local community to gather wreath sponsorships. You will select at least one cemetery to support as a group, whether it's Arlington National Cemetery or another cemetery in your state or within your local community.

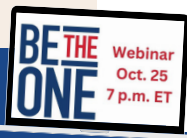
Wreath sponsorships must be placed by Nov. 28 to be guaranteed for delivery.



SIGN UP AS A
SPONSOR GROUP

SUPPORT WITH A
\$ SPONSORSHIP

Please note that ALA Poppy Funds CANNOT be used for Wreaths Across America.



VETERANS DAY

How Staff Are Celebrating

“Our Robert E Kennington Post 34 Legionnaires perform a ceremony at the American Village Senior Community down the street from our post in the afternoon. During the ceremony, they honor each veteran and veteran spouse with roses and flag pins. This has been a Post 34 tradition for the last nine years.

In the evening, the Post 34 Family holds a Veterans Day Steak Night for our Post 34 Legionnaires. The SAL and Riders cook it up in the kitchen, and the ALA decorates and serves. Our members love that they get to sponsor a veteran’s dinner by donating \$20, and they even have the option to pick which Post 34 veteran they want to buy dinner for! Not only do we get to feed and love on our very own Post 34 heroes, but we also have a story telling portion where they get to share their story with our entire Post Family. It is truly a beautiful event and one of the best days of the year for me. Nothing better than serving those who served!”

— Melissa Clawson



“I PLAN TO VISIT MY VETERAN FATHER’S GRAVE IN KENTUCKY AND SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY WHILE IM THERE.”

— Mark Conyers



“I’M ATTENDING A VETERANS DAY SERVICE AT MY DAUGHTER LAYNIE’S SCHOOL.”

— KATIE VIGIL

“WE ARE SPENDING THE DAY TOGETHER, THEN HOSTING A COOKOUT TO CELEBRATE MY HUSBAND AND SOME OF HIS FRIENDS.”

— AMANDA GINTER



Amanda’s husband (far right) and a couple of his friends.



Looking for activities to honor our heroes on Veterans Day?



MAKE A CARE PACKAGE

Send care packages overseas to active servicemembers or to your local VA to honor those who serve and have served. Get students or members of your church or community involved by donating items and holding a packing party. Then consult member benefit provider Ship Thrifty for your care package mailing needs.



BUY FROM VETERANS

Find small businesses in your area owned by veterans and make it a point to shop or eat there.



VISIT A MUSEUM

Go to a museum with your family to learn about our nation’s history and those who fought for it.



ATTEND A PARADE

Many cities and towns host some sort of Veterans Day parade. Attend with your family and cheer for those in your area who have fought for our country.

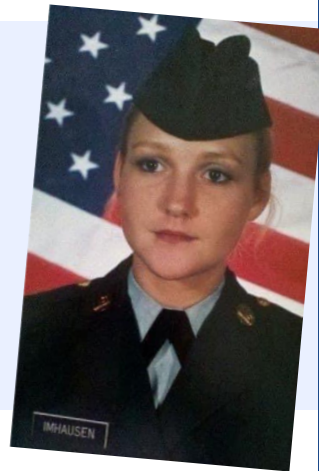
More Staff Members Celebrating
VETERANS DAY



OUR VERY OWN DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES, SHANNON HITCHCOCK, IS A VETERAN.

SHANNON TOOK AN OATH WHEN SHE WAS 19 YEARS OLD AND SERVED FOR 8 YEARS.

PERSONNEL SERGEANT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CAMP ATTERBURY JUNE 1999 - JUNE 2007



- Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
- Army Achievement Medal
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Army Service Ribbon



Shannon's husband, stepson, and father-in-law have all served in the military.

More Activities to Honor Veterans Day...

VISIT A VA HOSPITAL

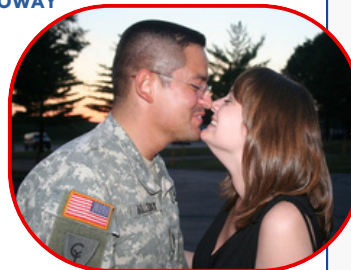
See if your local VAMC needs volunteers, and head over for the day to help with whatever they need. If they're already slammed with requests for Nov. 11, pick an alternate day when you can make a difference.

WATCH A DOCUMENTARY

Watch a documentary about a recent or historic war and discuss the issues veterans face. Gather your family or group to discuss what you can do to help those currently facing these struggles.

"WE USUALLY TAKE MY HUSBAND OUT FOR BREAKFAST OR LUNCH TO HONOR HIS 20 YEARS WITH THE INDIANA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD."

— STEPHANIE HOLLOWAY



MAKE THANK-YOU CARDS

Send personal thank-you notes and cards to your local VA to show your appreciation. This is a great activity to get kids involved at school or at home.

FOR A LIST OF VETERANS DAY REGIONAL SITES, CLICK HERE!

HANG A FLAG

If you've never hung a flag in your house, Veterans Day is a great day to hang one and talk about the meaning and importance of the flag. Talk about the rules of respect for the flag and how to properly retire a worn out one.

ALA Archivist Cathi Taylor is taking a road trip to Illinois for Veterans Day. Check out our ALA History Blog to see what she's up to!



ALA HISTORY BLOG

"My family and I will be in Florida for a wedding. My oldest son is going to be in a wedding for one of our old Army family friend's son. Chris (the groom) and DJ have been friends since they were in elementary school and we've stayed in touch this whole time. Chris was one of DJ's best men two years ago when he got married.

So we will be celebrating them! I think it's a cool story of military kids and how they have kept that bond into adulthood and through several moves."

— Marti Drake



Over The Years

DJ Drake is on the left. He is a sergeant in the National Guard. He's pictured here with his friend Chris Wendt.

First pic on top is at Fort Drum. Bottom pic is the two of them at DJ's wedding two years ago.



Fall 2023

Significant days and observances for the United States Armed Forces



November 2023

Oct. 30 - Nov. 3: National Veterans Small Business Week



Nov. 10: Happy 104th Birthday, ALA!

Nov. 10: U.S. Marine Corps Birthday

Nov. 11: Veterans Day

Nov. 28: Giving Tuesday

December 2023

Dec. 1: U.S. Civil Air Patrol Birthday

Dec. 7: National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Dec. 13: U.S. National Guard Birthday

Dec. 16: National Wreaths Across America Day



2023-2024 MISSION TRAININGS & NATIONAL JUNIOR MEETINGS

REGISTER

Nov. 4

Central Division
Cincinnati, Ohio

Nov. 4

Eastern Division
Providence, Rhode Island

January 27

Western Division
Las Vegas, Nevada

February 3

Northwestern Division
Lincoln, Nebraska

February 3

Southern Division
Nashville, Tennessee

CELEBRATING

Anniversaries & Birthdays

Staff

Three of our Communications & Marketing Division members are celebrating back-to-back anniversaries!



Jennifer Donovan
November 26
5 years



Travis Perkins
December 6
13 years



Sara Fowler
December 11
6 years

Get in touch

eNews

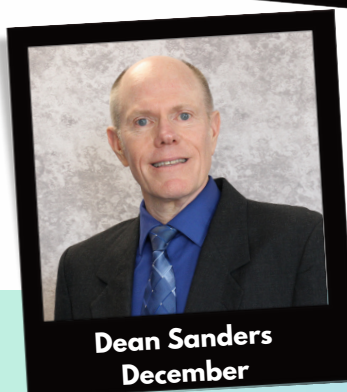
Don't forget to check out the monthly ALA eNews. If you haven't done so already, click the button below to subscribe!

Next Issue: Nov. 15

SUBSCRIBE



November & December Birthdays!





The Development Division as the infamous Schitt's Creek family



Stephanie, a spitting image of Andy Warhol



Happy Halloween

The Wednesday before Halloween, ALANHQ employees got together for an hour of team-building fun! The staff Social Committee put together another amazing event. Year after, this group comes up with creative ways to engage the staff in team-building and fun — our Halloween party was no exception!



Melissa and Shannon are in the Halloween spirit!



Sam, is that you in there?



Alexa as Alexa

Filled with games and delicious eats, this gathering proved to be one of the committee's best yet. It kicked off with a staff pitch-in where we enjoyed scary specialties like eyeballs (delicious meatballs), spider web dip (7-layers), candy bar apple salad, and many other delicious options. Then it was onto some good old-fashioned competition that started with games and ended with intense rounds of trivia.

Hats off to the staff Social Committee for making sure we take time to have a little fun together!



Marti with a festive dues reminder

Jennifer (aka Rosie the Riveter)



The Social Committee:

Maggie

Jennifer

Sam

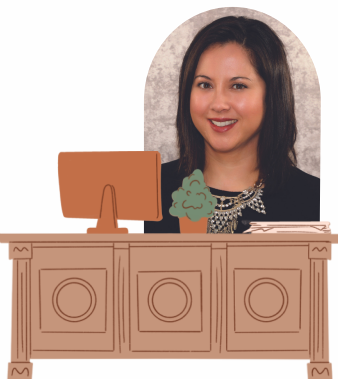
Alexa



FROM THE DED DESK

Tamara Shumate

Deputy Executive Director



While the calendar year might be winding down, ALANHQ staff haven't slowed down a bit! Final work on Mission Training preparations are underway, FY23 End of Year Audit has begun, the beautiful November issue of *Auxiliary* magazine is hitting your mailboxes, and staff recently led volunteers through the annual in-person American Legion Auxiliary Foundation and national Risk & Compliance Committee meetings. And did I mention we just dropped over half a million dues renewal notices?! The work never stops here at NHQ, which is why we are so grateful to have a team filled with dedicated people who believe in the ALA mission and tirelessly devote their careers to veterans, military, and their families. It was amazing to see the same level of appreciation shown to TALHQ/DC staff during the Legion's NEC banquet closing their fall meetings. The evening's entertainment was a Quilts of Valor ceremony presenting Legion staff members with beautiful pieces of art in honor of their service and dedication to the Legion Family mission. It was truly a beautiful presentation, so I snapped a quick picture to share with you. Our entire ALANHQ team wishes you a Veterans Day of remembrance, appreciation, honor, and gratitude.

