

ALA TODAY

LATEST ALANHQ NEWS AND UPDATES

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ALA MISSION TRAINING**

NATIONAL CHAIR MEETINGS

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**

APPLY TODAY!

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MAY - JUNE - JULY

DED DESK

ADMIN ARCHIVAL PROJECT

**DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP
NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

Focus Briefings

Every spring, Senior Program Manager Chrystal Daulton leads ALANHQ staff and volunteer leadership in a series of meetings with high-level military personnel, elite veterans and military family advocacy groups, and TAL division directors. This educational experience serves to align our efforts for the upcoming administrative year with the top priorities of the Legion and our veteran/military communities.



Blue Star Families
Vicky Perkins



TAPS
Candace Wheeler



**National League of
POW/MIA Families**
Ann Mills-Griffiths



VA&R Division — Tiffany Ellett
VE&E Division — Kevin O'Neill
Legislative Division — Julia Mathis
National Security Division — Mario Marquez



Military and Veteran Caregiver Network
Melissa Comeau



Logan Ireland
Advocate for LGBTQ+
in the Military



Defense-State Liaison Office
Shane Preston



ASYMCA
Dorene Ocamb and
Vice Adm. (Ret.) William
French

Mission Training 2024-2025

Nov. 16: Nashville, Tenn.

Nov. 16: Denver, Colo.

Jan. 25: Des Moines, Iowa

Feb. 1: Las Vegas, Nev.

Feb. 1: Boston, Mass.



Would you like to network with national leaders and other members in your district who share your passion and enthusiasm for helping our veterans?

[Click Here](#)

National Chair Meetings

April showers bring committee chair appointee super-powers. Held annually, this meeting offers an opportunity for national chair appointees to share best practices, learn from ALANHQ staff experts, understand their new roles and responsibilities, and ultimately have a blast getting to know each other and the staff liaisons.

Meeting Objectives:

- To facilitate informal mentoring and share “best practice” information among attendees
- To build camaraderie among the national chair and between the chairs and staff members at ALA National Headquarters.
- To provide information and professional development for the national chairs.
- To establish clear expectations for the national chairs about their roles.



2024-2025 ALANHQ Committee Liaisons*

- Americanism Committee - Kristin Hinshaw
- ALA Girls Nation Committee - Laura Arand
- AEF Committee - Dean Sanders
- Children & Youth Committee - Kristin Hinshaw
- Community Service Committee - Clay Wright
- Constitution & Bylaws Committee - Colleen Bartel
- Education Committee - Laura Arand
- Finance Committee - Gary Ward
- Junior Activities Committee - Kristin Hinshaw
- Leadership Committee - Katie Vigil
- Legislative Committee - Clay Wright
- Membership Committee - Kelly Harrier
- National Security Committee - Chrystal Daulton
- Poppy Committee - Kristin Hinshaw
- Public Relations Committee - Jennifer Donovan
- Risk & Compliance Committee - Sara Riegel
- Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee - Chrystal Daulton



*As of May 17, 2024

eNews

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

NEXT EDITION: JUNE 12

SUBSCRIBE



2024 NPAE



Every year, the ALA honors the best of the best during the National President's Award for Excellence presentation on the National Convention stage! We know your units and departments are doing great work, and we want an opportunity to celebrate you in New Orleans!

This year, there will be up to 5 unit winners and 1 department winner — all will have demonstrated exceptional work in at least three ALA mission outreach programs. One winner will also receive the Legion Family Unity Award for demonstrating efforts to increase awareness about the military veteran suicide epidemic.

DON'T DELAY: APPLY TODAY!



Legislation

STAY INFORMED



Clay Wright
ALA Legislative
Committee Liaison



GRASSROOTS ACTION CENTER

The American Legion's Grassroots Action Center Legislation Tracker provides information on current legislation the Legion is tracking. You can search keywords and filter for specific types of legislation; however, this page only has legislation being tracked by The American Legion.

On this page, you will also see a key on the right side showing the Legion's position on that specific legislation. A checkmark means the Legion supports the legislation, a dash means the Legion holds no stance on the legislation, and an X means the Legion opposes the legislation.

CLICK HERE

The American Legion is currently tracking 280 veteran legislation, and 90% of legislation proposed to Congress are "signaling bills." This means the House member who submitted it just wants to "signal" to their constituents that they "care," but they never intended to do the work to get it passed.

Staying informed on current legislation making its way through Congress is a vital aspect of advocating on behalf of veterans.

GovTrack provides a wide range of information on all current legislation moving through Congress. This webpage allows you to search for legislation using bill or resolution numbers or keywords. You can also find a complete history of the legislation, including previous versions of the bill that were introduced but not passed during previous Congressional sessions. GovTrack will also allow you to sign up for alerts on legislation informing you when new legislation is introduced, going to be heard in session, and enacted into law.

CLICK HERE

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Happy Birthday to You

May



Laura Arand
ALA Girls Nation
Program Manager



Samantha Caudill
Senior Events Coordinator



David Abney
Membership Coordinator

June



Nicole Wilson
Executive Admin Assistant



Tamara Shumate
Deputy Executive Director



Katie Vigil
Training & Program Coordinator



Tomee Sue Bunner
Membership Coordinator



July



Alex Goree
Front Desk Coordinator



Kristin Hinshaw
Senior Program Coordinator



Marti Drake
Membership Specialist

Surprise!



Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, you look like an ED and you celebrate like one too!

On April 4, ALANHQ staff donned tiny party hats and surprised our Executive Director Sara Riegel with a birthday party! The team came together for lunch featuring a favorite meal beloved by everyone, especially Sara: tacos! The cake (chocolate, chocolate, chocolate) was amazing, but the company was even better! Happy birthday to our fearless leader!



STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Sara Riegel
Executive Director
May 16 (13 years)



Kelly Harrier
Director of Membership
May 28 (13 years)



Sommer Prim
Executive Assistant
June 1 (2 years)



Aaron Meyer
Communications Manager
June 15 (14 years)



Stephanie Abisi
Director of Programs, Training & Events
June 19 (24 years)



Chrystal Daulton
Senior Program Manager
July 6 (9 years)



Gary Ward
Director of Finance
July 7 (4 years)



Alexa Freeman
Communications Specialist
July 8 (5 years)



Amanda Ginter
Senior Accounting
Coordinator
July 23 (12 years)



Marti Drake
Membership Specialist
July 28 (6 years)



Shannon Hitchcock
Human Resources
Director
July 29 (5 years)



Ynfinity Taylor
Accounting Coordinator
July 31 (1 year)

NEW FACES

David
Abney

MEMBERSHIP
COORDINATOR



Nicole Wilson

EXECUTIVE
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT TO THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Vani Podila

TEMPORARY
ACCOUNTING
COORDINATOR SUPPORT

RECEIPT

MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30		2	3	4
5		7		9		11
	6		8		10	12
		14		16	17	
19	20	21		23		
		28	29	30	31	

NATIONAL POPPY DAY

Friday
May 24

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



Jennifer Donovan, Kristin Hinshaw, and Chrystal Daulton are your go-to staff members for all things Poppy!



DOWNLOAD YOUR POPPY POSTER!



JUNE 2024

NATIONAL CONVENTION COUNTDOWN



JOIN US IN NEW ORLEANS
AUG. 23-29, 2024

83
DAYS

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

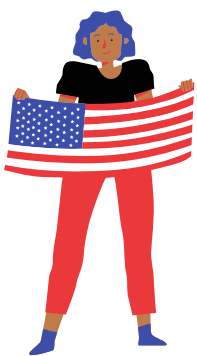
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Department Entries for National Awards Deadline
2	3	4	5	6 D-DAY JUNE 6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 HAPPY U.S. ARMY BIRTHDAY	15
16 HAPPY Father's Day	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 COAST GUARD AUXILIARY BIRTHDAY	24	25	26	27 PTSD AWARENESS DAY	28	29
30	<h1>FLAG DAY TRIVIA</h1> <p>Flag Day is June 14. Test your flag knowledge with these trivia questions. <i>Answers can be found on the last page. Good luck!</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Is it ever appropriate to fly the U.S. flag upside down?2. Why must the flag be folded in such a specific way?3. How many versions of the flag have been designed?4. How many U.S. flags made it to the moon?					



FLAG DAY TRIVIA

Flag Day is **June 14**. Test your flag knowledge with these trivia questions. *Answers can be found on the last page. Good luck!*

1. Is it ever appropriate to fly the U.S. flag upside down?
2. Why must the flag be folded in such a specific way?
3. How many versions of the flag have been designed?
4. How many U.S. flags made it to the moon?



JULY 2024

NATIONAL CONVENTION COUNTDOWN



JOIN US IN NEW ORLEANS
AUG. 23-29, 2024

53
DAYS

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

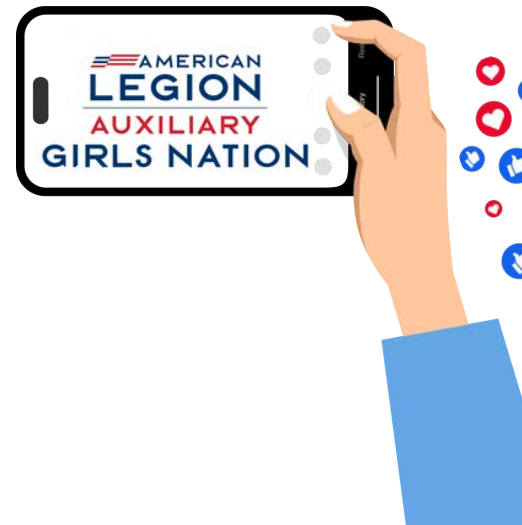
WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

30	1	2	3		5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP - MICHIGAN		20
						ALA GIRLS NATION
21	22	23	24	JULY 25TH ★ NATIONAL HIRE A VETERAN DAY	26	27
ALA GIRLS NATION WASHINGTON, DC			ALA GIRLS NATION			 NATIONAL KOREAN WAR VETERANS ARMISTICE DAY
TAL BOYS NATION WASHINGTON, DC			BOYS NATION			
28	29	30	31			
	ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS ANNIVERSARY 					



FOLLOW ALA GIRLS NATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



 AMERICAN LEGION

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE AMERICAN LEGION EVENTS THIS SUMMER:

Oratorical Contest



Junior Shooting Sports



Boys Nation



FROM THE DED DESK

Tamara Shumate
Deputy Executive Director



Summer, summer, summertime, time to sit back and unwind ... unless you're in the ALA! Summertime at the NHQ house means double duty for the staff as we simultaneously work hard to carry one administrative year to a successful close while laying the groundwork for the upcoming year. Staff are currently hard at work on the FY25 budget which will be presented to the NEC at National Convention.

Your NHQ team has been hosting educational sessions for incoming leadership since early spring and will continue to do so well into July. Preparations for ALA Girls Nation are in full swing as the rest of our staff turns its attention to the upcoming National Convention happening in New Orleans this August.

Last but definitely not least, the NHQ staff began working on a project that has been years in the making. Many of you might not know this, but NHQ is the home of all unit charter applications.

For the most part, they are kept by state, and until recently, in large boxes and stashed in different storage closets around NHQ. This month, led by NHQ Archivist Cathi Taylor, we worked to get these historical documents organized numerically by state and into archival grade storage containers. The next step will be scanning all documents for unit and department access. Like with all things NHQ, it's a ton of work ... but we're trained professionals. We've got this!



INSIDE THE ADMIN TEAM'S ARCHIVAL PROJECT

12,000
Charter
Applications



19,400 Preservation Folders



200
Preservation
Boxes



2024 DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP NATIONAL CONFERENCE

YOUR ALL-ACCESS PASS TO DLNC IN INDIANAPOLIS MAY 3-6



Learning from the Professionals

Every May, NHQ staff host incoming department leadership for a two-and-a-half day conference packed with information to help them succeed in the coming administrative year. During this year's conference, staff presented on the importance of a department audit, compliance best practices, American Legion Auxiliary Foundation basics, and data trends from the department secretary survey.

Institutional Knowledge

Forty-nine departments were represented at the conference with a total of 139 attendees. Throughout the weekend, they learned important information, played games, attended breakout sessions, asked questions, and most importantly, were energized to continue working the mission of the ALA.



Teamwork Makes the Dream Work



The conference was a huge success because of the efforts by the entire staff, but especially our Programs, Events & Training Division:

Director of Programs, Training & Events: Stephanie Abisi
Events Manager: Jessy Symmes
Senior Events Coordinator: Sam Caudill
Training & Program Coordinator: Katie Vigil

FLAG DAY TRIVIA ANSWERS

Is it ever appropriate to fly the U.S. flag upside down?

Answer: Yes, but **only** in an emergency. According to the U.S. Flag Code, flying the flag upside down is a signal of distress and indicates extreme danger to life or property. It means “Help Me! It’s an emergency! I am in dire trouble and need immediate help!”

Why must the flag be folded in such a specific way?

Answer: The U.S. flag is folded into a triangle shape to honor and show respect for the flag, symbolizing the tri-cornered hats worn by colonial soldiers. This method ensures the flag is handled with dignity and preserves its condition.

How many versions of the flag have been designed?

Answer: There have been 27 official versions of the American flag. The current 50-star version, designed by 17-year-old Robert G. Heft in 1958 as a school project, has been in use since July 4, 1960.

How many U.S. flags made it to the moon?

Answer: The U.S. flag has been placed on the moon by an astronaut during six Apollo missions (11, 12, 14, 15, 16, and 17).

CORRECT METHOD FOR FOLDING
THE UNITED STATES FLAG

[DOWNLOAD NOW](#)



IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF

ALA TODAY

LATEST ALANHQ NEWS AND UPDATES

Prepare for National Convention in New Orleans!

