

The American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Michigan
2025 - 2026

ANNUAL BOOK OF REPORTS



Dawn Gramza
Department President
2025 – 2026



Department of Michigan 2025 – 2026 Annual Book of Reports

A glimpse at the aims and accomplishments of
the Department of Michigan throughout the year



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SECTION A

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS



DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

Dawn Gramza
2025-2026

MISSION POSSIBLE: As I stand before you at the close of this Auxiliary year, I do so with pride and gratitude. Serving as your Department President for the American Legion Auxiliary has been an incredible honor and a responsibility I have carried with purpose every single day.

This year, I made it a priority to be present, to travel across our state, to listen, and to lead with intention. In every District and every Unit, I visited, I witnessed firsthand the strength of this organization. I saw members who are committed, resilient, and deeply dedicated to our mission. And let me be clear, because of you, this Department is strong.

We did not simply go through the motions this year. We made an impact. We showed up for our Veterans and active-duty service members. We supported our military families. We reached into our communities and made a difference that cannot always be measured in reports but can always be felt.

Our programs include Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, Education, and Girl State, which are not just priorities on paper. They were put into action with purpose and heart. This is what sets this Department apart. We do not just talk about service, we live it.

Membership remains the foundation of our future, and while we recognize the challenges, I have seen determination across the state. We are not standing still; we are moving forward. We are building stronger Units, strengthening connections, and ensuring that every member understands their value in this organization.

What has stood out most to me this year is not just the work we have done but how we have done it. With unity, compassion, and shared commitment to something bigger than us. The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan is more than an organization; it is a force of good, powered by people who care deeply and serve selflessly.

I have been welcomed into your communities not just as your president, but as one of you. That is something I will never take for granted. From the shore of Lake Erie to the Wisconsin border, I have seen what makes Michigan extraordinary, and it is all of you.

As we move forward, I challenge each of you to continue building on this momentum. Stay engaged, step into leadership, and mentor the next generation. Never lose sight of why we do this work.

I want to thank my chairs who stepped up when I asked and continued to show up for our members and me. Because of each of you, the Department of Michigan is not only strong today, but also positioned for an even stronger tomorrow. It has been my honor to serve as Department President, In service-not self.



FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Anita Mennel
2025-2026

Thank you for electing me to serve as 1st Vice President for the Department. I continue to serve personally honoring my grandfather, father, brother, mother, uncles and cousins who have served our Country, as well as all our Veterans and active duty servicemembers.

What an amazing year, and privilege to support our President Dawn. (Big shoes to follow!) Our busy year started with our National Convention in Tampa, which was wet. Thank you TAL for the hotel choice, just a short walk over to convention hall. The trip there took 7 days, but to be fair, they were also amazing days. I was privileged to be a part of the 'Advance Team' supporting the National ALR Legacy Run, with truck and trailer.

Inspired to continue working our mission, on to fall Conference in Battle Creek, where our "Mission Possible" year got underway with a lot of great presentations and ideas. The preparation behind the scenes is an ongoing learning experience.

A few meetings with Madam President at Headquarters for more planning, and then Winter Meeting. It was so nice to spend time with our National President, as we toured the Chesterfield Veterans Home, then dinner and off to the airport for her next adventure.

This spring has included preparation for the next administrative year. The first weekend was spent in Indianapolis at the Department National Leadership Conference. What a great next year is in the works for our National Organization.

These last few months have included trips to Battle Creek and Grand Rapids for site work for upcoming conventions.

Representing our Department President is such a great honor. I was only called upon a few times; the 5th District Four Chaplains Memorial Service, the ALR Chapter 4 fundraiser that same evening. the 5th District Chaplains workshop, and the 5th District Memorial Service.

Indeed, it has been another awemazzzzing year being a member of our great organization. Thank you for your confidence in me, I trust I have served you well.

I send a huge 'Thank you' to our HQ staff. Shannon and Mike continue to work hard for our Department, and they need to hear they are appreciated. I look forward to working with you all in the next administrative year.

In SERVICE not self, for God and Country.



SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

Christine Merlington
2025-2026

The year as 2nd Vice President began with installation in the Upper Peninsula at Sault Ste. Marie. The first DEC met shortly after the convention. We received lots of information for our upcoming year as spies, learning all Missions are Possible.

National Convention was held in Tampa, Florida. It was an experience I won't forget. A landmark vote to expand the qualifications to expand membership was defeated, with a promise to work on a new solution for the coming year.

Finance meetings as well as learning more information at our Schools of Instruction in Battle Creek during our Fall Conference kept our fall agenda busy. The room was a little tight, but we made it work and continued our "Mission Possible" agenda.

At Winter meeting in February, we had the honor of having National President Pam Ray sitting with the officers at lunch. She is a very easy person to speak with, making her a great asset to this organization. We continued an update from our Schools of Instruction with extra information to help with coming reports.

Visiting a handful of places representing the Department for a very busy Madam President was an enriching experience.

I am looking forward to spending time at Girls State just before Convention this year. I know it will be a wonderful visit.

Thank you all for allowing me to be your 2nd Vice President this year for the Department of Michigan.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / SECRETARY / TREASURER

Shannon Werner
2025-2026

This year has literally flown by, I can't believe we will be at Department Convention in a few weeks. Our President, Dawn Gramza, made a big impact at the Unit, District and Department level of our organization this past year. I have appreciated her support, communication and professional manner. I enjoyed providing assistance to Dawn during her year and I look forward to many more years with her on the DEC.

It took me approximately five weeks to complete my list of responsibilities after attending Department Convention. There were checks that had to be voided, checks that had to be issued, bills and invoices to review, money to be deposited, information that had to be gathered, and all of the coordination for attendance at National Convention in Tampa, Florida. Other than the rain most days, it was a great experience. It was the first time I was able to attend from beginning to end and I was very thankful.

We hardly had time to take a breath because Fall Conference was quickly approaching and all of the pre-activities had to be completed. We all enjoyed our time together and learned from each other. At every gathering, I continued to strive toward strengthening relationships and teams. This makes our organization more successful-which is my goal every day. That means we can help more Veterans, their families and their communities.

My first experience handling the entire ALA MIS renewal process from beginning to end was experienced. That process runs from November 1 to January 1 every year. I can't tell you how much I appreciate having Mike Marriott as my right hand man. Mike also took on more responsibilities as we moved through this operating year.

Winter Meeting was a learning experience for me on many levels. I appreciated the speakers who took the time to present and talk to our group. Meeting Kyle Ploehn and hearing about his experience and competitions within the adaptive sports world was a highlight for me. It made President Dawn's special project much more personal.

We headed right into tax season and made the best of our never ending list of action items. There are many overlapping, conflicting and complicated items to address during this time of year. The Unit dues and remit to forms start arriving at headquarters and we work on it every day until we reach National's deadline and provide them the information you have documented. This is also report writing time, end of year reports and impact reports start appearing and must be sent on to the correct individuals. Last but not least, if you hold certain positions at Department level-the Book of Reports needs assembling.

I have been working on the 2026 Convention details for months now and I hope everything falls into place. My goals are simple: be proactive versus reactive, continue growing our worth and value as a non-profit, continue to focus on waste, fix the errors and raise/save more money to support our Veterans! Thank you to all the volunteers who show up-I couldn't do it without you.



CHAPLAIN

Dawn Gilbert
2025-2026

Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving as your Chaplain for the 2025–2026 year. I have attended all Department meetings and remained actively engaged in the work of our organization throughout the year.

In addition to regular meetings, I attended both Chaplain 101 workshops in October and April and had the privilege of presenting during the October session. Last June, I was invited to the Chaplain Cookout at Camp Grayling for the Michigan Army National Guard Chaplains. This cookout is a unique and meaningful way of saying “thank you,” as it is the only form of gift that can be given to them for their service. Both the Chaplain 101 Workshop and the Chaplain Cookout were hosted by the 5th District. My sincere thanks to the 5th District—and especially to Deb Weatherbee—for their dedication and hard work in making these events possible.

This year, I received annual reports from seven Districts encompassing 63 Units. Only 1 District achieved 100% reporting. Memorials were held by 23 Units and 5 Districts. Three Units conducted Four Chaplains or other special services, with a total of 34 members attending. Your time and effort in the memorials held is appreciated by your fellow members.

As of this writing, I have received notice of 275 deceased members for inclusion in the Memory Garden. Fifty-six Units contributed memorial donations totaling \$14,590, and 2 Districts contributed an additional \$450. The members we have lost will not be forgotten; they will forever hold a place in our hearts.

I am expecting to receive 3 scrapbooks at Department convention for judging and look forward to seeing the creativity, dedication, and love that go into preserving our shared memories.

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” — Elizabeth Andrew



HISTORIAN

Darlene Jones
2025-2026

I received 7 District reports. Thank you to the Districts that submitted reports. I am hopeful that we will have many history books and scrapbooks to judge at this year's Convention. To those Units and Districts that did not submit a report, I hope you are still preserving your history. The histories of our Units, District, and Department are important because the future can only be understood through the past.

The year began with Dawn Gramza being sworn in as Department President. It was a very special occasion as her granddaughter pinned the Department President's pin over her heart. This brought tears to a lot of members' eyes. What a special moment for President Dawn. President Dawn announced her special project, Adaptive Sports for Veterans, specialized athletic activities modified for individuals with disabilities that aim to improve physical health, mental well-being, and community reintegration. Following the ceremony, she was introduced on the Legion floor as the Department President for 2025–2026.

The first Department Executive Committee meeting soon followed, with the main purpose being the ratification of appointments, and Suzanne Knapp as Department Parliamentarian.

Next, it was off to the National Convention in Florida. The weather was hot, but it was still a lot of fun. The Michigan party cruise was a wonderful event. We watched as Pam Ray was installed as our National President. Her national focus this year emphasized being mission-driven and family-focused. She encouraged us to focus on why we were organized and to focus on family, not only the families we serve, but the entire American Legion Family. Additional focuses included "Happy Birthday, America," recognizing our Junior members, fundraising efforts, and continuing the "Be the One" initiative.

National President Pam Ray attended Winter Conference and was amazed as she shared the story behind her "Why." On Sunday, National President Pam concluded her visit with a tour of the Michigan Veterans Homes at MVH CT. She was joined by Department President Dawn Gramza, MVH Representative Maria Gomez and her family, along with other Department officers. MVH CT Volunteer Coordinators Hillary and Kip, who was the very first resident at MVH CT, conducted the tour.

President Dawn remained busy keeping up with requests for visits and participation while continuing to keep us focused on our mission of "Service-Not Self."

As usual, it has been a very busy year. The testimonial in honor of the three Department leaders was an awesome event. We heard stories of Dawn's UP tour and events throughout her year so far. Thanks to the Detachment Commander Clive Seydel, President Dawn learned about "Detours" and saw a lot of trees.



Membership numbers continue to show strong dedication and commitment. As of May 13, 2026, the membership objective was 10,295 members. We currently have 218 Junior members and 10,093 Senior members, for a total membership of 10,311, reaching 100.16% of our goal. What an outstanding accomplishment and we are still gaining members every day. I know President Dawn is excited, and Carol Burke and her membership team deserve a well-earned round of applause.

Let us continue preserving and celebrating our history. This year we will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the U.S.A. The Department will be reciting the Constitution on the Capitol steps, and we are hoping that a lot of our members will show up and support us. Imagine the reading of the Constitution of the United States 250 years after it was signed. Now that is history.

Let's keep those histories thriving! It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your Department Historian, and I would like to thank you for your confidence and trust in me in electing me to this position.

For Service-Not Self



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Julie Becker, Michigan NEC
2025-2026

Hello Department of Michigan American Legion Auxiliary. I was honored to represent our Department on the National Executive Committee for the term of 2025-2026. I was part of many zoom NEC meetings that were held this past year, some great and some not so great. This was a learning experience nonetheless for me.

Congratulations to President Dawn Gramza on a successful year.

SECTION B

DISTRICT REPORTS



SECOND DISTRICT

Mary Karen Rogers, President
2025-2026

Greetings from 2nd District, "2nd to None." I am very proud to represent the 2nd District and we are so honored to have one of our own as the Department President, Dawn Gramza. She has worked tirelessly to promote our mission and we thank her.

We jumped right into the start of the year by having a District Leadership Training in August hosted by Unit 325-Blissfield. New officers were told what their duties were, and we included what forms and paperwork were needed throughout the year to help them be successful.

The end of August brought the National Convention. I really enjoyed talking to members from all over the country and sharing ideas. September arrived with the Fall Conference. It was such a great learning experience and fun. The conference provided helpful information, resources and instruction to help our Units do the best that they can do. Thank you to all the members who worked so hard to share their knowledge with us.

October was our first District meeting, and Units were asked to donate travel size toiletries for the Ann Arbor VA. I was excited to see how many Units participated and the many boxes of donations.

Next up was the VA Christmas Shop. This is one of my favorite events. I enjoy shopping for my Unit and working at the Christmas Shop. I am proud of my Units for coming together to help our hospitalized Veterans enjoy the holiday. Altogether we donated over \$7,000 and served 93 Veterans and 269 family members. Great job Krystal Hall and Ethel Putala for organizing this event every year!

2nd District purchased eight wreaths-two for each county- for Wreaths Across America. Many of our Units and individual members also purchased wreaths and participated in laying the wreaths.

The New Year started off with a District meeting and many of our Units donating to the Department President's project "Adaptive Sports."

At Winter Meeting, I had the opportunity to speak with the National President, Pam Ray. She took the time to clarify a question from one of the ALA Academy webinars!

I enjoyed visiting the Units and hearing about what they've been doing. Unit 550-Onstead celebrated the 100th birthdays of two of their charter members and honored them with a permanent memorial at the post. They also gave teachers coupons for the local coffee shop for Teachers Appreciation Week. Unit 514-Ida does lunch for each branch of the Armed Forces on their birthdays. They also invited neighboring Units to get together to work on the End of Year Reports. Another unit donates a gift card each month to a Veteran at their post as a thank you. Unit 557-Dexter and Unit 322-Saline stepped up and sponsored two girls for Girls State because Ann Arbor doesn't have a Unit. These are just a few of the amazing things our Units are doing.



Every year, the 2nd District has a Golf Outing with the money collected going to scholarships for Veterans. The last few years, the scholarships were open to include the Legion family. The 2nd District Golf Outing has given out over \$20,000 so far. Everyone is invited, so grab a team for next year.

I would like to thank the individuals, the Units and 2nd District for donating to my special project "Tunnel to Towers." The Foundation provides mortgage-free homes to Gold Star and fallen first responders' families with young children and by building specially adapted smart homes for the catastrophically injured Veterans and first responders. They are also committed to eradicating Veteran homelessness.

I would like to especially thank the 2nd District Past Presidents, who mentored me along my journey. They helped with guidance, information and listening. They raised me up with kindness and respect. Turn to your past officers as they hold a wealth of information. Thank you to all the members of 2nd District for allowing me to be our president. Treat each other with kindness and respect and remember why we do this, for our Veterans and honor them by what you do, not yourselves.



THIRD DISTRICT

Penny Wright, President
2025-2026

Congratulations to all Units in 3rd District – the first District to reach the 100% membership goal for the 2025-2026 season!! While our numbers look good it's time to think about retention to keep these members interested and engaged. What are you doing to mentor your new members? Do you make them feel welcome to your Unit and let them be a part of your Unit programs/projects? Make sure you include them to keep them engaged.

Our newest Unit 36-Kalamazoo really busted out their membership with over 500% of their goal. Great job!!!

Sadly, we lost two Units this year. If your Unit is struggling with membership reach out to me – we can make a plan to revive your Unit and keep it strong.

Annual Reports were due in March, we had 11 out of 16 Units turn in reports. These reports are not always fun to do but they are important. The work 3rd District Units did the past year was very nice to read about. The reports are much easier to do if you track your information all year long.

My sincere thanks to every Unit that invited me to your events, unit meetings, called me, emailed me, reached out with questions. I am here to help your Unit all along the way.

I would like to encourage more Units to attend the District meetings. There is much information discussed and shared. Come meet other Unit members, learn something new. It does not have to be your Unit President in attendance. The meeting is open to all Auxiliary members in good standing. We welcome everyone to join us!

Remember to be kind to each other, agree to disagree, and remember your “why”-why you joined the Auxiliary. We all have a different story to tell.

Thank you for putting your trust in me as your District President over the past year. I enjoyed my time with you all. I am always open to suggestions to better our organization.

Have a beautiful summer season!



FOURTH DISTRICT

Kathie Hartman-Gleason, President
2025-2026

This past year has been one of the busiest I have experienced. Along with the day-to-day work of supporting our Units, I have also had to address challenges that pull focus from why we are here.

Despite the many obstacles, I am proud of the progress we made this year. My biggest accomplishment has been opening a new Auxiliary at Walter Hackenberg Post 220-Lawton. Lyle Paterota-Streeter, a Legionnaire from the post, provided tremendous support in getting everything up and running. After months of work, the effort resulted in a wonderful success, with our first Auxiliary meeting held in November 2025. Thank you, Lyle, for your enormous help with the induction at Post 220. Congratulations to our newly chartered Auxiliary at Post 220, we look forward to all the good work ahead.

Some of the most discouraging situations involved Units where long-standing habits have drifted away from our bylaws and standard operating procedures. Some Units have not kept approved meeting minutes or treasurer reports, so there is no clear record of what spending was authorized. That lack of documentation and oversight can contribute to missing funds. Many new processes and procedures have now been put in place to rectify these issues.

I have met with many Units this year because of personal issues, especially concerns related to finances. We must remember that Auxiliary funds are meant to support Veterans, not to be spent without Unit approval. The Unit body is responsible for voting on where funds go and identifying what needs are most urgent. When units have completed audits and there is proof of wrongdoing, disciplinary actions must be supported so we can restore trust and refocus on the work the Auxiliary exists to do.

Our purpose is clear. We are here for one mission: to support Veterans, service members, and their military families. If we stay grounded in that purpose, following our bylaws, keeping accurate minutes, treasurer reports, and treating one another with respect, we can strengthen the Legion family and ensure our work truly serves those who have served.



FIFTH DISTRICT

Nancy Stroosnyder, President
2025-2026

I was honored and humbled to be installed as 5th District President on August 19, 2025. It was especially meaningful to be installed by Past District President Dee Fuller, a member of my own Unit 528-Alto and a wonderful mentor.

My Special Project for this year is J.O.H.N. (Just One Hero Needed), a nonprofit organization in downtown Grand Rapids operating as part of Sanford Behavioral Health. Their mission is to support Veterans and First Responders dealing with trauma, PTSD, addiction, and other challenges through both inpatient and outpatient services. I recently learned that, under the Compact Act, they were able to assist 10–15 Veterans who had been contemplating suicide. As of May 11, 2026, I have raised \$4,600 for this worthy cause. I was also able to arrange for J.O.H.N. to have a booth at Convention 2026 to help raise awareness of their many programs.

I attended Fall Conference the weekend of September 26, 2025, one of my favorite meetings each year. The program presentations always highlight new ways our Units and Districts can better support Veterans and our communities.

On October 2, 2025, Unit 305-Caledonia hosted our annual Past Presidents Dinner, honoring the many women who have selflessly served as District President.

My first meeting as District President was held on October 21, with Unit 179-Neal Fonger hosting. I admit I was a bit anxious beforehand, worried I might ring the bell at the wrong time—or not enough times! Thankfully, the ladies immediately put me at ease, and I am grateful for their support.

On October 4, 2025, I attended Red Flannel Days at Post 287-Glen Hill in Cedar Springs. Although I had often heard about this festival, it was my first time experiencing it. The Post hosted BINGO that day, and with the kitchen bustling, I could not resist jumping in to help. It was wonderful to see such a large turnout from the community.

On October 24, 2025, I assisted my own Unit with our annual Dictionary Project. Through a partnership with Magna Mirrors, a local manufacturer, we provided dictionaries to every third grader at our local elementary school. The students also participated in games that encouraged them to use their new dictionaries.

The following day, I attended my first Chaplain Workshop. It was extremely well organized, with informative speakers and meaningful presentations. Our District Chaplain and her team did an exceptional job coordinating the event.

I also had the pleasure of marching with Unit 459-Northeastern in the annual Veterans Day Parade in downtown Grand Rapids. Seeing so many people lining up in the streets was heartwarming and a reminder that the true meaning of Veterans Day has not been forgotten.



Afterward, I was invited back to their Post for dinner, where there seemed to be endless crockpots filled with delicious soups and stews.

On November 16, 2025, my own Unit celebrated its 50-year members, including several original charter members. As District President, I had the privilege of presenting them with their 50-year pins and certificates. It was humbling to honor the women who helped build the foundation and history of our Unit.

I also attended the annual Christmas party hosted by Unit 258-Gerald R Ford. The games, food, and camaraderie made for a fun and relaxing evening together.

On December 19, 2025, I joined several Units at Mel Trotter Ministries in downtown Grand Rapids for their annual coat and pillow drive. While I do not know the exact totals, at least three vehicles arrived filled with donations.

I was honored to participate in Operation Handshake at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport on December 23, 2025. Sponsored annually by the Legion Riders, this event also takes place just before Thanksgiving. It provides an opportunity for the Legion Family to welcome Veterans and active-duty military personnel home for the holidays while increasing our visibility within the community.

On Saturday January 10, 2026, I attended my first ever DEC meeting. It was very informative, especially the need to have and follow proper procedures.

On January 31, 2026, I attended our District's Four Chaplains Memorial—my first time participating in this meaningful event. While solemn, it served as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices our Veterans and active-duty military make in service to God and Country. Department First Vice President Anita Mennel was also in attendance.

Winter Conference was held in Port Huron from February 6–8, 2026. Although travel conditions were snowy and icy, the conference once again provided valuable ideas and information to bring back to our District.

On April 25, 2026, I attended another Chaplains Workshop, which included presentations on Veterans' benefits and available resources. I found the information especially valuable because I recently "adopted" a 96-year-old Veteran from our Post and was able to learn more about in-home care resources available to him.

On May 5, 2026, I attended the Mid-Michigan Honor Flight welcome-home celebration at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport. My adopted Veteran was among those returning on the flight. The ceremony held in the concourse provided another opportunity to recognize our Veterans while increasing awareness of the Legion Family and the work we do.



It was in January of 2026 I learned about the ALA Academy online training. As of May 15, 2026, I've received the following certificates: Discover ALA Benefits, Exploring Leadership Styles, Mastering Media Presence, Update on Department and Unit Bylaws and Planning a Successful Legion Family Day. I am continuing to take these different courses, packed with useful information for every Unit! I highly recommend these courses not only for those in leadership, but for any ALA member!

In closing, I have had the opportunity to visit 7 Units so far during my term. At each visit, I was able to share information about my special project and was touched not only by donations, but also by thoughtful gifts representing each community—including a real red flannel nightgown and cap, a windmill picture, and more. I hope to visit additional Units before my term concludes. Overall, this year has been a time of learning, sharing, and doing my very best to support the women of the 5th District.

For God and Country



SIXTH DISTRICT

Pat Lozano, President
2025-2026

Our District believes the only reason to have a District is for that District to be support for each Unit. I have been available through the year whenever a Unit contacted me. I attended Fall Conference and Winter Meeting and will be at Department Convention representing you. I attended multiple DEC meetings to help build a better Auxiliary.

This year we implemented training sessions before our regular meetings. We were honored to have our Department Constitution and Bylaws Chair Sharon Shulte join us during one of these training sessions. She informed our members about our governing documents. We also had Department Finance Chair Deanna Cortright join us at another session to inform us of details of responsible financial management of our Units. We also had District Chairs speak at one of the training sessions, to teach them how to submit award-winning year-end reports. During our final District Meeting of this year, we held a Memorial Service the morning before our May District Convention meeting.

I spent time this year working with Units that are struggling with various issues. Some have resolved these issues; some have not yet. The important thing is to learn what can and cannot be done as it relates to problems and finding the best solutions. All the while treating all members with respect and kindness, even when they express frustration.

We welcomed a new Unit and are proud of the great asset Brighton has become to our 6th District family.

Special thanks to the 6th District team of Officers and Chairs. Our 6th District team members are seasoned and performed well. We formally invite any Unit member who wants to really learn about the American Legion Auxiliary, come join us as a District Chair or Officer. No better way to learn than to have a mission to teach. You too will be surrounded by a great group of supporters.

Five Units within Genesee County worked on the team which found the new location in Port Huron and hosted the Department Winter Meeting this year. They have now recruited additional Units from the 7th and 8th Districts to join the Winter Meeting team.

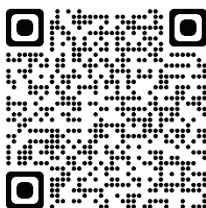
A big recognition to the hard work of our 6th District Membership Chair, Linda Wallace. Through direct phone calls, texts, and emails she was able to improve our year-to-date tally substantially. Thank you to all Units and to Linda for helping achieve.

Our 6th District Chairs have reported fabulous work performed for our Veterans, their families and their communities this year. Special shout out to Clio 158, Swartz Creek 294, Leslie 491, Grand Blanc 413, Linden 119, Pinckney 419, Davison 267, Brighton 235, Haslett 269 and Stockbridge 510. These Units all turned in Year End Reports which recorded the many hours invested and dollars spent supporting what our American Legion Auxiliary is all about.



Having now been appropriately term limited, I am looking forward to a great new administration taking the helm this coming year. Incoming Officers know that I am only a call, text or email away.

Don't forget to invite our 6th District to your meetings. Be sure to reference our website for information at 6thdistrictassociationamerican.godaddysites.com.





SEVENTH DISTRICT

Pam Wagner, President
2025-2026

It's been another great year for the 7th District and what an honor it has been! I am so proud of all we have accomplished-the hours of volunteering, the support to our Veterans and our Post families, the programs, and the funds raised. Your dedication and hard work is amazing!

Congratulations to the eight Units that are over 100% in membership! Unit 4-Mt. Clemens, Unit 16-Lapeer, Unit 135-Imley City, Unit 293-Sebewaing; Unit 351-Utica, Unit 382-St. Clair; Unit 457-North Branch and Unit 499-Port Austin! We also have six Units at 90% to 98%. Great work!

I'm very happy to say 18 out of 20 Units reported this year-which is the best the 7th District has had in many years!

So many of you had events at your Post's for Children and Youth, Americanism, where dollars and volunteer hours were nearly 3,000. Participation across the District for programs was at an all-time high!

Hearing about "Fill the Lunchbox", Give 10 to Education, Memorial and Veterans Day, Recognition of veterans in our schools by Units 4, 8, 16, 197 251, 351 and 382. Flags being distributed in Americanism programs-along with the many essays and poppy programs poster contests-which doubled this year!

The holidays, which are busy for all, saw Units serve our Veterans and our communities. Members volunteered for over 4,600 hours in Community Service this past year, donating over \$5,000, hosting dinners, volunteering at food pantries, area churches and community organizations. This year, two additional Units sponsored a Girls State candidate.

Unit 16-Lapeer gave 100 turkeys at Christmas and 100 hams at Easter to Veterans thanks to a local donation. Unit #382-St. Clair had a dinner for the community Veterans. Unit 351-Utica participated in several community events, as well as helping with the weekly fish dinners. Unit 566-Memphis also had several fundraisers throughout the year open to public, to help the Post pay off their building.

Besides support of Children and Youth, Education and Community Service programs, all 18 Units reported participation in Veterans Days parades, and dinners and offering direct support to our Veterans-including filling pantries, helping fill propane tanks in the winter, replacing a stove, sending care packages to active duty members and giving goody bags to Veterans in local nursing homes. These types of outreaches helped keep our mission of serving Veterans in our community at the forefront of the Auxiliary's focus.

The 7th District Units participated in events like Wreaths Across America, cleaning headstones at Great Lakes National Cemetery, supporting Homeless Veterans, Quilts of Valor ceremonies, Mid-Michigan Honor Flight to name a few. Another area we excelled at was to support our District's Chesterfield MVH throughout the year.



Units also purchased over 10,000 poppies and thus far have distributed 9,100 of them. Members across the District were out in full force with donation tables.

You did so much-thank you 7th District for your volunteerism, following the mission of “Service-not self!” Let’s continue to accomplish great things for our Veterans and our Auxiliary,



EIGHTH DISTRICT

Marcy Jorae, President
2025-2026

The 8th District in the middle of Michigan's mitten is alive and doing well. We have 15 Units across the six counties of our District. We range from small Units of just 38 members to the largest of 302 members. We have Units that I hear from on a regular basis and some that I do not hear from at all, despite sending at least monthly emails if not more frequently. I received reports from 13 of the 15 units and had an excellent team of District Committee Chairmen that helped to get our District Reports on to the Department Chairmen. Thank you District Chairmen!

This year, I held three different 5–6-hour workshops in our District—September, October, and February. The first one was an “ALA 101” where we discussed just about everything except the programs, awards, and annual reporting. The second one dealt with all our programs—the highlights of each program, the awards for each at both the Department and the National levels, and the key points in reporting for each program. At the conclusion of the second workshop, the members in attendance asked for a third one. We planned it for the end of February, and members brought their data for reporting, and we worked through the Annual Report forms. Many questions were asked and examples were given by those attending. As we worked through each of the forms, some members were filling out their documents on their laptops while others were taking notes on what to fill out once they got home. This went so well that at the end of the third workshop, attendees asked to put this workshop in the books for next year and so we did. It was gratifying to me to see these members become enthused about not only the programs but sharing their successes in their reports. I believe this year I saw more narratives written in the 8th District than any previous year. We still haven't applied for awards, but there is always next year to improve on that.

Many of the Units did the traditional projects – patriotic celebrations such as Memorial Day, 4th of July and Veteran's Day, Give 10 to Education, Halloween, Christmas and Easter parties for children, celebrating Purple Up Day during April, and honoring our members in annual Memorial Ceremonies. Many Units coordinated events with their local community celebrations such as having pancake breakfasts, holding carnivals, and taking part in community parades promoting the ALA by wearing branded clothing. Unit 412-Bath filled a military truck with items needed for Veterans at the Saginaw VA Hospital. The total estimated value was over \$4,000 and the staff at the hospital were very appreciative. Only one Unit participated in the Americanism essay contest, so that will be promoted more in the coming year. Several Units held or worked at blood drives.

Much of my time this year has been working with Units that have struggled with various issues. Unfortunately, many of those issues deal with how we treat other members in our Units. This is sad because it takes away from our primary focus of serving our Veterans, active military and their families, our children and youth, and our communities. Some have resolved those issues, and some have not. The key is to learn what can and cannot be done as it relates to their problem and find the best solution, while remembering to treat all members with respect and kindness.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the 8th District's contribution to the Poppy program. While not an Auxiliary Unit, the Veterans of Post 722 have worked hard over the last three years to assemble poppies for not only the Department of Michigan but also to other Departments. This



year we were able to not only fill all our Michigan orders, but to supply poppies to Ohio, Alaska, and Texas. These Veterans have well surpassed the half million mark in the time they have been making our poppies. They absolutely love being able to contribute to something so meaningful and appreciate that the ALA sees them as individuals who can contribute to society. Thank you to all Units and members who support this program.

The 8th District has been up and down in membership this year, being in 2nd place at one point to a low of 11th place at another time. As of this writing, we are in 5th place and have surpassed our goal of 2,167 members. We have nine Units who have reached or surpassed their Unit goal for the year. I am proud of how hard our Units have worked to retain their members and attract new ones. As I have said before, it makes me proud of the members of the 8th District to see the ALA as an organization well worth their time and efforts.

As always, I want to thank all members everywhere for everything that they do for the ALA and especially all they do for our Veterans.

In the spirit of Service, not Self,



NINTH DISTRICT

Linda Gamache-Chick, President
2025-20265

The year 2025-2026 was a fantastic learning experience for me. I learned things I didn't know (that I didn't know). One of my Unit President's taught me that expression. I love it.

There are 16 Units in my District who are very active in working the mission "Service not Self." I cannot be more proud to be their District President. Not only for 2024-2025 but 2025-2026. I expect to learn more things that I never knew.

From lap blankets for Veterans to dinners for Veteran's Day, and everything in between; these Units in the 9th District really do know how to live the best life. So far, we have six Units at over 100% membership. That is all the Units doing. But don't be fooled, we in the 9th District have our problems but we have learned from them and will move forward, because of that, I am sure.

I listened to the National Commander Dan K. Wiley speak in Port Huron at Winter Meeting. His speech was about "Being the One."

Walk in front to cheer you on

Walk beside you to support you

Walk behind to have your back

In my heart, the 9th District is doing these very things. I just guide. The Units do the work. For that I am very grateful and proud of my 9th District.

Congratulations to all Units in 3rd District – the first District to reach the 100% membership goal for the 2025-2026 season!! While our numbers look good it's time to think about retention to keep these members interested and engaged. What are you doing to mentor your new members? Do you make them feel welcome to your Unit and let them be a part of your Unit programs/projects? Make sure you include them to keep them engaged.

Our newest Unit 36-Kalamazoo really busted out their membership with over 500% of their goal. Great job!!!

Sadly, we lost two Units this year. If your Unit is struggling with membership reach out to me – we can make a plan to revive your Unit and keep it strong.

Annual Reports were due in March, we had 11 out of 16 Units turn in reports. These reports are not always fun to do but they are important. The work 9th District Units did the past year was very nice to read about. The reports are much easier to do if you track your information all year long.



My sincere thanks to every Unit that invited me to your events, unit meetings, called me, emailed me, reached out with questions. I am here to help your Unit all along the way.

I would like to encourage more Units to attend the District meetings. There is much information discussed and shared. Come meet other Unit members, learn something new. It does not have to be your Unit President in attendance. The meeting is open to all Auxiliary members in good standing. We welcome everyone to join us!

Remember to be kind to each other, agree to disagree, and remember your “why”-why you joined the Auxiliary. We all have a different story to tell.

Thank you for putting your trust in me as your District President over the past year. I enjoyed my time with you all. I am always open to suggestions to better our organization.

Have a beautiful summer season!



TENTH DISTRICT

Rysta Brown, President
2025-2026

Greetings from the Mighty 10th District. It has been my honor to serve as the President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, 10th District.

Echoing "Service, not Self," members of the 10th District distributed information about the AEF at meetings. They wore the ALA emblem when out in public, so they were recognized by their community. There were donations of books, flags, and personal hygiene products to schools. Several provided scholarships. Flags were given to schools, churches, and to the public at parades. One Unit was able to go into the schools and do a memorial service with flags and comic books. Two Units are proud that they can help sponsor and support a baseball team through their Legions. A lot of Units in the 10th supported Wreaths Across America.

"Mission Possible" was invoked to make sure that any girl who wanted to go to ALA Girls State could. When the Big Rapids area had 20 delegates, and not enough money to sponsor all of them, the Units wrote the checks and saw that all the girls were sponsored and able to go. Only two were sponsored directly by the District.

We are proud to have the Department of Michigan, Little Miss Poppy from District 10. She held her 3rd Annual Warming Hearts Warming Rack and blessing boxes event as her Unit project and selected Michigan Wounded and Returning Warriors as her special project.

Children and Youth played a role for most of the Units in the 10th District. With 2,154 children served and \$1,350 children of Veterans and active-duty military children that benefited. from our members dedication to the mission.

Units wrote their legislators and received replies in person, by email, and snail mail.

They distributed poppies. Made poppy posters and displays. They accepted donations from poppies of almost \$8,000!

I am so proud to have served the wonderful members of the 10th district as President this year. They have taught me that strength can come through humility.



SIXTEENTH DISTRICT

Pamela Globke, President
2025-2026

This year started out with Unit and Post 217-Wyandotte's annual 4th of July Parade. We handed out over 300 American Flags along the parade route to the children.

The Units were very busy this year with various fundraisers such as chili cook offs, soup contest, scavenger hunt and several steak dinners and the proceeds went to the Veterans.

One Unit held a tea luncheon and a brunch to honor the female Veterans at their post and included more from other Posts as well. Various Units sold poinsettia plants for their poppy fund. Several Units and the 16th District supported Girls State either by sending young ladies or financial support.

Poppy money raised over \$10,000. They advertised on social media, Facebook and as well at store fronts and in the parking lot of their post.

A lot of Units visited their local senior centers and had ice cream socials and chatted with them and listened to their stories.

16th district had their annual Americanism Banquet and Department President Dawn Gramza was in attendance. The event featured a keynote speaker, one of the Rosie the Riveters, 101-year-old Delphine Tedeski Klaput. Everyone was so impressed and gave her a standing ovation.

The Units helped and donated to Dingell VA hospital Christmas gift shop and also purchased interactive animals for the handles on their walkers.

There was one Unit that had a member who was in the hospital recovering from a foot amputation and she is their Chaplain. They had a fundraiser going so they put her on the speakerphone so she could hear the music and could give the prayer. Because that is exactly what the Auxiliary is all about.

This is some of the work the Units have done all year, and this is why I am so proud of the members of the 16th district. Thank you for all that you do for our Veterans. It was a pleasure being your District President.



EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT

Kim Lipman, President
2025-2026

Serving as the 18th District President this past year has been both an honor and a deeply rewarding experience. Throughout my term, I had the privilege of visiting several Units, attending their meetings, and witnessing firsthand the dedication and compassion that define our organization.

Each visit offered a unique opportunity to connect with members, share ideas, and strengthen the bonds that unite us in our mission. I was continually inspired by the commitment shown at every level—whether in small gatherings or larger District events. The sense of camaraderie and shared purpose was evident everywhere I went.

In addition to Unit visits, I attended numerous events hosted at the post. These occasions not only brought members together but also highlighted the incredible work being done in support of our Veterans. From fundraising efforts to community outreach, the impact of these activities cannot be overstated.

What stood out most during my year of service is the unwavering dedication of our Units. They are truly the backbone of our District, consistently stepping up to provide assistance, recognition, and care for those who have served our country. Their efforts—often carried out quietly and without expectation of recognition—make a meaningful difference in the lives of many Veterans and their families.

As I reflect on this past year, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve alongside such committed individuals. The work being done across the District is both inspiring and essential, and I am confident that this spirit of service will continue to thrive in the years ahead. Thank you to everyone who made this year so memorable and impactful.



NINETEENTH DISTRICT

Charlotte Ellard, President
2025-2026

This is my first year as District President. I am learning more about the American Legion Auxiliary and the efforts our members make to help Veterans and the community.

I am proud of the impact the Units have had on their communities during the last year. One Unit worked with the community to provide over 900 meals for families and line workers during the 2025 Northern Michigan Ice Storm. Another Unit used their Veteran funding to support the needs of the local Coast Guard families that were affected by the seventy-six-day shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security.

This District is based in small rural communities with limited resources. Our members concentrate their efforts on local Veteran needs. Such as providing food and gas cards for a Veteran after he was assaulted. Many provide for the needs of Veterans in local senior care facilities or the homeless Veterans housed at Patriot Place.

The needs of the community are also served with donations to local food banks, donations of winter clothing for children, improvement of community gardens, improvement of the appearance of the Legion post, and maintaining Veteran resting places at local cemeteries. And of course, all Units provided for local children and youth. Two Units sponsored Easter events, four Units sponsored Christmas events, two Units sponsored Halloween events. One Unit sponsored a Kid's Day event which helps promote our mission to younger parents.

Many Unit members participate in local parades which promote Americanism and the Auxiliary. Some Units submit floats, others march with the Honor Guard, and some ride with the American Legion Riders. I'm looking forward to celebrating the 250th Anniversary this summer.

As a District, our membership numbers are down. We have two Units with over 100% growth and three Units with 92-93% which is exciting.

I want to thank the Unit Presidents and the Officers of the 19th District that assisted me during this year. Your support was greatly appreciated.



UPAA DISTRICT

Bonnie Taylor, President
2025-2026

Greetings to everyone from the members of the UP of Michigan and “the land of we thought the snow would still be here as you are reading this”. LOL! The winter was brutal however we had a beautiful summer (2025), fabulous fall and well, still waiting for spring. All kidding aside, I am truly blessed to have been entrusted once again this year with this position. I can’t convey enough how proud I am of all our Units in our District.

I have also thoroughly enjoyed being on the Department Membership Committee (Yoooper Goose II) this year as it has given me an opportunity to get to know our members and officers while helping them through this fiscal year.

Hosting our last Department Convention here in the Soo this past July was bittersweet, however we are looking forward to enjoying Battle Creek and the camaraderie of our Legion Family wherever our conferences and conventions take us.

Our 28 Units wasted no time working our mission of service not self and supporting our Veteran’s and their families. We are very active and attentive when it comes to Americanism. Of the Units reporting this year, volunteers accounted for 136 hours and in-kind monies over \$3,550 while promoting patriotism and citizenship in our Units and communities.

Flag awareness efforts included our members encouraging other members and businesses to fly the American Flag properly, with pride and thanking those who do. Most all our Units participated with flag placement in cemeteries, but Unit 74-Newberry gave out free replacement flags to those in need. Memorial Day efforts of our Units reported placing well over 2600 flags on Veteran’s grave sites at multiple cemeteries in the District. Unit 114-Greenwood placed over 1900 flags on their area cemeteries and handed out flags that were flown at 4th of July Parade, and on floats, which were too numerous to count. They also partnered with the local high school welding class to design and fabricate a disposal box for the post. It is absolutely beautiful.

As District President I am extremely proud of each Unit in our District and the many accomplishments they achieved over the year especially with children and youth. The children are the future of this organization and the world. The more we can do to instill patriotism and respect for our Veterans, the better life will be for all. Our Units are so creative with activities in this category such as Christmas Carnival and meet the Easter Bunny luncheon. The ever-popular hat and mitten trees collect those items to help keep children and adults warm during the cold winter months. Unit 44-Marquette is very proud of their new programs for children. In years past, with no one willing to chair the committee, they did not do much in their community for children. They now have two programs at the Children’s Museum where they teach children (and their parents) about Memorial Day, the meaning of the Poppy, and the history and beauty of our country. Donations from our Units were also given to Bay Cliff Health Camp for disabled children. Unit 17-Iron River donated \$700 to the local library, school and kids so they could have a safe place to have fun and enjoy various sports events and holiday parties.



Our Units love to support various sports activities such as Girls Softball, Chaos Fast Pitch for Girls, Grid Iron Football, Superior Fast Pitch (Girls), and Menominee Youth Baseball. Other youth activities supported were Department of Michigan Junior Program, Princess of the Rodeo, Back-pack programs, Christmas Giving Tree/Toy for Tots, Junior Achievement, and purchasing an ad in the Engadine school musical brochure. And last but certainly not least in this category is presenting senior graduates enlisted in the military after graduation with honor cords and certificates of commitment.

We are very proud to say that the UPAA increased our scholarship contributions this year to a total of 21 scholarships and \$19,500. Way to go Units!

We had several Units donate time and money to food banks across the UP. Another Unit prepared meals and donated to a homeless warming shelter, senior center and spent time assisting staff at those nursing homes during mealtimes.

Many of our Units have members who donate numerous hours and dollars to their respective churches, some volunteer with the VFW making and selling pasties, perogies for local hockey team fundraisers, a donation of \$200 to West Side Veterans Council for fireworks and \$250 for their All-Veterans picnic. And a \$200 donation to a VFW for their chair replacement program. Another Unit has a year-round quilting club which this past year made 14 tote bags for preschoolers, 14 placemats donated for meals on wheels, two lap quilts for local cancer patients, nine full size quilts for local cancer patients (4), a patient recovering from surgery (1), highschool graduates (3), and Valor for Veteran (1). In addition, they also made a full-size quilt for the local Dig Pink volleyball game that was raffled off as a fundraiser for a community cancer organization.

Our Units are on it when it comes to our communities. On 9/11 Unit 44-Marquette delivered snack boxes to First Responders in their local community. Eighteen boxes were given to 11 different entities (police, fire, EMT, Central Dispatch). Snacks are grab and go type items such as fruit cups, granola bars, chips etc.

As mentioned earlier, Units, 44-Marquette and Unit 3-Sault Ste. Marie, continued their annual Hat and Mitten Tree Drive for all ages to help keep them warm during the winter months. And this year it certainly was needed. Six Christmas trees were set up at local banks, credit union locations and the home post from Thanksgiving through Christmas for the public to make donations of hats and mittens. This is the 4th year (for the Soo) leading this project, and it is still going strong. The Kinesiology Club at Lake Superior State College has made this one of their main club's donation events. Items are collected, sorted, and delivered to kids closets at pre-schools, elementary schools, homeless shelters, and women/men's shelters. One Unit purchased a battery for a Veteran's power scooter. Another Unit hosted a Veteran's Dinner and a Veterans Christmas Basket program which is detailed in the VA&R section of reports.

Another Unit participated in South Shore Fishing Day for Veteran's which is held in August each year. This year the Unit hosted the Fishing Widows Breakfast on fishing day. Spouses and other



family members were invited to have breakfast and play trivia and other games if they chose to stay after breakfast. Breakfast was free and the food was provided by the Auxiliary and the South Shore Fishing organization. Dollar amount not reported.

An American Legion Family Fund Day was hosted by Unit 114-Greenwood which they invited all Legion Family members to their Post on April 26th for food, camaraderie, and games for the kids. We had a Unit that donated to various community members, \$100 to WIC Library, \$100 to IC Cancer Unit, \$200 to Open Mic Night for all to enjoy local talent and \$100 to Locker Lunch Program.

Unit 114-Greenwood's Auxiliary President and Legionnaire husband, hosted a first ever Dinner Dance Fund Raiser for the Post. They donated over \$10,000 in raffle prizes and an additional \$2,000 in incidentals such as printing of tickets, mailings postage raffle tickets, etc. The grand prize was \$5,000 and there were a host of prizes to bid on from a Blackstone griddle, 65" TV, Icarat diamond earrings, 6-piece DeWalt tool kit and many many more items. Food was served and music and dancing were also the hit of the evening. Over 400 people were served with 300 hours of donated time and \$12,000 raised by the event.

One Unit reported a total of 618 hours, \$5,310 spent and 3218 people served food at either Senior Centers, Beacon Club, Post 114-Greenwood, churches, Moose Lodge, Marine Corp League, Negaunee Rod and Gun Club, pool leagues, cleaning offices (not compensated), Elks Club, and Homebound Elderly. Many of our other Units donate several hours to various organizations, churches, homeless shelters and assisting with the elderly.

Membership this year has been interesting to say the least. Yooper Goose II has been flying around the UP to make sure our nests were full of members! As of this date (May 17th) we have 11 of our 28 Units that have exceeded 100%, 6 above 90%, and 6 above 80%. NO goose eggs in this bunch. And the District is knocking on the door of reaching 100%. All the Units have worked very hard at trying to reach this goal and in my eyes, you all are the best.

There are many ways in which our Units enjoy the Poppy Program. You can send out a mailing to all your members with a poppy sticker or poppy requesting a donation and this is where most of one Unit's donations come from. Another Unit will host bingo night, and the bingo crew will donate 1/2 of their net proceeds back to the program. Unit 3-Sault Ste. Marie continues to do a Poppy Wall at the Post which is up from May through November. Individuals donate to and write the name of a Veteran or themselves on a poppy card and place it on the wall. Poppy pins are also available for purchase at the bar year-round, and the proceeds from sales of wind spinners have been added to this fund as well.

Our Units use their poppy funds for purchasing items/gifts for Veterans at facilities, Adopt a Vet programs, donations to Jacobetti and Oscar Johnson facilities and Christmas Gift Shops, donations to Honor Flight, assist a Veteran with an electric bill, 906 Warrior Relief, support



Alger-Marquette, Chippewa, and Mackinac County Community Action's Veterans programs for food, for the upcoming year. One Unit participates in a Mother's Day Craft Show which is a 3-day craft show held at NMU'S Dome. Tables are set up with poppies, coloring books, crayons, flags, and small toys for children. The tables are patriotically decorated, and the schedules are covered by the Auxiliary, SAL and Legion members. After all, Poppy Days is a Legion Family Project.

Most all of our Units honor our Veterans with dinners, breakfasts or meals throughout the year. Two units distribute gift baskets to Veteran's in assisted living facilities, long term care, home bound, shelters and subsidized housing. Unit 44-Marquette distributes their baskets for Veterans Day in November, this past year the number was 80 baskets. Unit 3-Sault Ste. Marie delivered 82 baskets in December for Christmas, which deliveries include Native American Veterans from 2 Native American Indian Tribes located in the Soo and Bay Mills. This was the eighth year for Unit 3-Sault Ste. Marie and this project. Unit 146-Menominee proudly displayed their Veteran's on "Hometown Hero" banners that decorate the streets of Menominee. Unit 3-Sault Ste. Marie also provided breakfast for the Forgotten Eagles before their RAM ride in August and participated in a Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony at our Coast Guard Base. All our Units participate in parades throughout the year as well. And let's not forget our female Veterans and Blue and Gold Star Mothers which have been honored for 94 years at the George and Martha Washington Tea held every February by Unit 3-Sault Ste. Marie.

Once again, this year Unit 3-Sault Ste. Marie worked with Community Action for the Tri County Area in assisting five documented Veteran's that have transitioned from substance/alcohol abuse programs or incarcerations who are trying to get back on their feet in the real world. These five received gift baskets, same as Vets in the other facilities. We branched out a little further this year assisting 18 more Veteran's that completed the rehabilitation process, reaching the next level and are now employed and are in subsidized housing, but could still use a little help during the holidays. We gifted each of them a \$50 food only Meijer gift card to help with groceries.

We have two Units that host golf scrambles, 906 Warrior Relief which Unit 349-Little Lake has been involved with for several years and is very successful, and Unit 3-Sault Ste. Marie has Honoring Our Veterans Golf Scramble which was started 3 years ago and has been very successful for us as well.

It is really hard to believe that another year has passed so quickly. A year of learning and growing with our Legion Family. Conferences, School of Instruction, District meetings, and of course National Convention. This was my third National Convention, and it was amazing. I really wished I was in Tampa a couple months ago. LOL!

I keep stressing to our Units to report, report, report, and low and behold, I was totally shocked and overwhelmed when our Unit 3-Sault Ste. Marie was mentioned with photos on the big screen during grand sessions. Wow!! I also had the opportunity to participate in my first UP Fall Tour



which was amazing. Visiting Posts that I haven't had the opportunity of seeing and meeting members that I may have spoken with on the phone and can now put the name with the face. I sure hope we can do it again this year.

In closing, I do want to sincerely thank the members of the UPAA District for entrusting me with this position for another term. The Legion Family is amazing and as the time goes by, I've had the honor and pleasure of meeting and working with so many wonderful people. It truly has been a time in my life that I will never forget. Please enjoy your summer and your families and we'll be right here again this coming fall.

Take Care and May God Bless

SECTION C

DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS



ADMINISTRATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Nancy Knox, Chairperson
2025-2026

I would like to thank Madam President for the honor of giving me this position.

It does seem like she had a great year.

Thank you President Dawn for all you did for our organization throughout the year. It showed.



AMERICANISM

Julie Erickson, Chairperson
2025-2026

No report provided.



AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

Ellen Jackson, Chairperson
2025-2026

As the year draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on the remarkable journey we have undertaken together over the past twelve months. This year has been one of innovation, resilience, and collective success—a testament to the dedication and brilliance of everyone involved in our shared mission. Which is service not self-members helping members. It is with immense gratitude that I present this year-end report, highlighting the key milestones and achievements that have defined our story in 2025-2026.

Numbers often tell the most compelling story of progress. Here are a few metrics that capture the essence of our year:

Total Revenue: \$3,308.33 into Department with more that went into the National site. Ten Units donated this year and four Districts with monetary donations totaling\$2,838.84. Districts reporting were 7 of the 14. These figures are the result of collaborative effort and steadfast commitment to our mission.

No year comes without its challenges, and 2025-2026 was no exception. Our members faced unforeseen hurdles, including fires, and medical issues just to name a few, which tested our resilience. However, I am immensely proud of how Michigan's ALA has stepped up and sent in donations to the AEF fund to help our members in the organization.

In conclusion, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each one of you. To our members: your hard work and dedication are the very foundation of our success.

Madam President thank you for this appointment as the Chair for our Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

For God and Country



CHILDREN & YOUTH

Holly Fletcher, Chairperson
2025-2026

No report provided.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Kim Frazier, Chairperson
2025-2026

The community service program encompasses many different areas but unfortunately many Units don't keep track of all their involvement throughout the year and therefore do not take proper credit for the work they have done. Your annual reports need to be completed and submitted for this Department (Michigan) to receive proper credit.

We didn't have 100% reporting this year with only twelve districts reporting and only ten units wrote narratives.

Over 250,000 hours were spent by our members volunteering, spending over \$300,000 in actual monies and over \$200,000 on in-kind donations.

Members have participated in community beautification by planting flowers and trees, raking leaves, shoveling, plowing snow, cleaning up discarded items and properly disposing of them. Some of our members participated in an adopt-a-highway program.

Within our communities we show support for our troops with signs, banners and ribbons. Members also volunteer their time at domestic violence centers, food banks, Habitat for Humanity, homeless shelters, senior citizens centers, Meals on wheels and nursing homes. Units also helped by loaning medical equipment to those who needed it. Many have signed up and some have already donated organs and tissues. Many in our state also participate in the recycling and composting programs offered within their communities.

This year twenty five of our units reported putting on Halloween and Christmas parties for the children in their communities. Several units put together baskets for first responders. Forty units hosted blood drives where more than 10,000 units of blood were collected.

Please remember, when applying for awards, to include all required information. I would like to thank President Dawn for this appointment and for giving me a wonderful committee member, Linda Wallace.



CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Sharon Schulte, Chairman
2025-2026

Every year the Department Chairmen wait anxiously to see how many reports we receive. Many times, what we receive does not reflect what we should receive. Reporting is important for us to judge where we are succeeding in our efforts and where we need to put extra emphasis. However, this year, I am proud to report that I received 100% District reporting. This is the first time it has happened since I have been your Department Constitution and Bylaws Chairman. Thank you to all the District Chairmen for their effort and hard work.

Our Units are doing a wonderful job making progress in the updating of their governing documents. Everyone has made great progress on making their documents gender neutral and many have included the authority to hold electronic meetings. Electronic meetings and hybrid meetings are a step into the future of the organization. For those who don't know what a hybrid meeting is- it is an in-person meeting which also allows members to sign in digitally. This form of meeting can be very beneficial. It will allow members who are unable to attend in person, including snowbirds, to still participate. Authorization for this type of meeting must be in your documents.

The Department requests that all documents are reviewed at least every 3 years. If you have no changes, there is a form to file to indicate your review. A copy of the form is attached to the Department Constitution and Bylaws Guide. More Units are placing the specifics of their generally accepted policies into their Standing Rules. This is an excellent idea as it can avoid confusion and misunderstanding as time goes on. Newer members who were not in the Unit when the policies were instituted need clarification of the specifics that putting it in the Standing Rules can provide.

Most of the Units have copies of the Department and National Constitution and Bylaws. They are both available on their respective websites. Each Unit should mail a copy of their Standing Rules to their District Chairman after approval from Department. It is each Units' responsibility to do so. These copies are for reference only. Units should give copies of their most current Standing Rules to their members. Don't forget to refer to Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (12th Edition) if something is not covered by our governing documents.

Constitution and Bylaws continue to be an education for me. New situations and questions arise on a weekly basis, requiring research and thought to answer in a concise and forthright manner. It also reinforces the need to use language that is unambiguous and precise. Continue to update and review your Standing Rules. Read the Uniform Unit Constitution and Bylaws. Become more familiar with your other governing documents-financial and procedural. The more comfortable we become with our rules, regulations, policies and procedures, the more effective we will be in carrying out the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Thank you, Madam President Dawn for the appointment this year. It has been a pleasure.



EDUCATION

Connie Kovacs, Chairperson
2025-2026

The Department of Michigan American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) 2025-2026 Education Program began in September where we had our fall conference. With schools of instruction where the Chair and Committee explained the education program highlighting the following: Give 10 to Education, Department scholarships, National scholarships, Veteran in the Classroom Project, Education Week, Read Across America lastly, Michigan's Teacher of the week.

There were gift bags for teachers with school supplies for wish list general merchandise, such as Kleenex, Clorox wipes, and snacks for the children. Michigan Give 10 to Education was at the forefront of their program this year. Districts collected and distributed school supplies to schools throughout our state. A few Districts had all their Units help and collected enough items to stuff backpacks to give to a local school. One Unit assisted in the purchase of welcome back-to-school t-shirts for a Great Start Readiness Program class and purchased bags filling them with materials used in the classroom to have readily available to the students at home. Some Units realize that education doesn't stop in the classroom and added donating to ROTC programs, drama departments, music departments, and athletics programs.

October came quickly and getting the word out and how important Halloween safety and educating our communities on the safest way to enjoy this holiday with their children. Units gave away the ALA Halloween coloring book. Units gave them out at their own trick or treats and passed them as treaters came to their houses.

November came and it was time for our Veterans in their classroom. Two sponsored Units bring your Veteran to school day, allowing children to bring their parents, grandparents, brother, sister, mom, and dad to school and share the day with them once again. Veterans Day also gave way to ensure schools had flags and the children learned how to properly take care of these wonderful flags.

Education Week was time for muffins, cookies, and other treats being dropped off at administrative offices, whether it be at the local school or at the school bus yard, notes and posters placed for the kitchen staff custodial staff, the secretaries, the aids and more. Remember that everyone that touches a child helps with education and safety.

December and January were time to band together and make sure every class had enough tissues to get through the cold winter months. Units donated boxes of tissues. Writing a thank you note on the box for the teacher. Some Units added jokes to the box just another way we helped with supporting our educators.

February was here and it was time to shower the love on Valentine's Day. It was time to show the love with gift cards and appreciation. It was time for Read Across America this year. Michigan had three Units that went above and beyond and had wonderful Read Across America programs.



Sharing books in the classroom, at the public library and hosting special events at local Unit/Post homes. These were fun events that allowed reading to come to life.

Units donated to our Department scholarships, National scholarships, and making sure their funding for their own Unit or District scholarships was readily available for these students about to mark in life.

Our Units help sponsor events throughout the school year. Michigan is proud of all the accomplishments of their Department and looks forward to many more years of serving our children on their educational path.



FINANCE

Deanna Cortright, Chairperson
2025-2026

This year I have been busy assisting units with getting their non-profit status activated again. Several of our units that have been without this status for several years have been able to get their status re-activated. There are also some that are in the process of getting all their paperwork in. Sometimes this is not an easy endeavor. It is expensive and some of our units just don't have the financial means to do it. My thanks to those that have put the effort into attempting resolution of these outstanding issues.

Assistance has been given to units that have struggled with their finances and, in some cases, have discovered that there are funds missing, or unaccounted for. We have worked to get new practices in place that will make their finances more transparent and less likely to be questioned.

Our Executive Director has continued to look at ways to cut expenses. There is progress being made and economic alternatives utilized. UPS is now picking up our poppy orders rather than staff having to leave to take them to be shipped.

More units are also using ALAMIS which is so beneficial to them. There are so many questions that units can get answered just by going on that National database. Membership can be processed in a more timely manner when the unit does it instead of mailing it to the Department headquarters.



GIRLS STATE

Beryl Robbins, Chairperson
2025-2026

The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program took place June 22-29, 2025 last year. It was held on the campus of Michigan State University, with 189 students who completed the program. I am happy to report that we have already received 183 applications for this year's program that will begin on June 14, 2026.

As the ALA Department of Michigan Girls State Chairman, I had ten out of thirteen Districts turn in an annual report. I am also the Girls State Chairman for the 16th District and received nine out of fifteen Units' reports. It looks like reporting did increase slightly this year. I believe having our Winter Meeting focus on reporting has had a positive impact this year. We did experience some formatting issues on our forms this year that made it very difficult to complete and read them.

The District Chairmen who submitted reports state that the methods used to recruit students were word of mouth, contacting schools and working with counselors and civics teachers, community events, Facebook posts and receiving copies of online applications I distributed to them. Some work with other community organizations and businesses to obtain funding. The ALA Girls State Committee offers their assistance in holding orientations, and we also post an Orientation PowerPoint, and provide a checklist for our students so they know what to bring, how to pack and other important information.

We continue to use Wufoo as our online application and registration system. I receive the applications and then email them to Units and Districts in the students' area, which helps those who can't always get into their local schools. We encouraged our delegates from 2025 to recruit Juniors from their high schools. In addition, some of our city counselors reached out to schools in their hometowns. We also continued to utilize our Sponsorship Pledge form for 2026 and received more entries this year than in 2025. As applications came in, we were able to email them directly to the sponsors in the students' area who completed a pledge form. We also continue to depend on our loyal sponsors that support us each year.

Every year at ALA Girls State, as our mission related activity, we hold a POW/MIA ceremony and display the POW/MIA table in the cafeteria all week. We also have ALA volunteers present "ALA Moments" at each evening flag retreat that describes our ALA Programs, such as Poppy, VA&R, and Education. In 2026 we will celebrate our Nation's 250 anniversary with a special event currently in the planning stages.

We are very fortunate to hold our program in East Lansing, and so close to our Michigan State Capitol that provides us with a variety of non-ALA speakers. We hold a "Women in Government" panel on Tuesdays that seems to be one of the most impactful portions of our program. The students enjoy hearing their success stories and how they dealt with various struggles in the workplace to get where they are today.



Mark Sutton, a media/marketing/promotional wunderkind our Executive Director, Shannon Werner, brought on board a couple of years ago, was our photographer in 2024, 2025. I am happy to say he will be returning this year. He is the man behind the updates to our Department's ALA Girls State web page and Facebook on a regular basis. This is in addition to the the activities and projects he handles for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan.

We invested in some marketing tools in 2025 that we continue to use to publicize the program, such as a roll-up banner, tablecloth and picture backdrop to use during our session. The picture backdrop was set up all week and was a huge success.

Our 2026 ALA Girls State session is scheduled for June 14 – June 20, 2026, on the campus of Michigan State University. This year, we decided to bring Michigan's Upper Peninsula students down to MSU on Saturday evening instead of Sunday morning. As of the writing of this report, we have 32 students from the Upper Peninsula who are planning on attending!

We are in the process of ordering our delegate t-shirts, and lanyards. This year we are going to order and sell hand held fans to the students that will match their party affiliation, since our week at ALA Girls State is normally the hottest week of the summer!



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Sue Verville, Chairperson
Sheila Maxwell, Committee Member
2025-2026

This has been a challenging year for all our Juniors. We did not have any Junior Officers to be Honorary Juniors this year. No matter how hard we tried to get them together, nothing seemed to work out. Hopefully, next year will be better.

We received eleven District Reports; some of the Units reported no activity. From the reports we received, we have two Juniors working hard for Junior Miss Poppy, Aurora Vogel from Oxford Unit #108, and Little Miss Poppy, Caoimhe FitzGerald from Harding-Olk-Craidge Unit #18. They did some wonderful things this year.

Other Juniors got their patches from the patch program. They reported that fourteen Juniors and one S.A.L. earned their patches. It was reported that Twenty-Four Juniors helped promote Americanism, Community Service, Poppy, and VA&R. Twelve Juniors and one S.A.L. member made thank you cards for our Veterans who are in our Veterans Homes. This was something special that Madame President Dawn asked the Juniors to do this year.

Many Juniors participated in parades, Poppy Parties, can drives, did pocket Flags, Memorial Day Services, and made Christmas Cards, Poppy Posters, care packages, Four Chaplain's Service, and Veterans Dinners.

The 5th District reported that they had a fundraiser for KAT6 and raised \$1,600 and \$1,000 for the Bator Family. In the 18th District, Abby Jones raised money for her special project, Honor Flight. She did an awesome job.

We were informed that nine Juniors will be graduating to become Senior members this year. They will hold their own ceremony at the Unit level.

It was reported that three Juniors attended the National Junior Conference and one S.A.L. member. Five Units reported they do have a mentoring program for their Juniors. One Unit reported they do have Junior Officers in their Unit. They make sure the Juniors are interested in doing things. They have team-building games, teach the Juniors about the Table for One, the Flag-folding programs, and help with Auxiliary functions.

We received five different submissions for various awards this year. It was tough deciding who would win because they were all exceptionally good. We wish they all could win, but we had to select only one per award.

Looking forward to next year and hoping there will be more Juniors who can become Honorary Junior Officers. Keep up the great work, everyone, and let's keep moving forward in the coming year.



LEADERSHIP

Jodi Loewenstein, Chairperson
2025-2026

Leadership has been a strong focus for Michigan this year, especially encouraging new leaders to become involved in the ALA Academy.

During the Fall meeting, we announced a friendly competition among Districts to see which District could complete the most ALA Academy classes. The winning District will receive a special prize. I am proud to announce the 2nd District won the challenge with an impressive 45 classes completed.

Throughout the year, I was also honored to be invited to several Districts to conduct leadership training. These trainings brought together many seasoned members who shared their knowledge, answered questions, and offered ideas based on their own experiences within the organization.

To keep the training engaging and fun, I incorporated interactive games and ALA themed quizzes which encouraged participation and teamwork while helping members learn more about the American Legion Auxiliary.

I attended Mission Training in Indianapolis, which was a great learning experience. The leaders of the training made it very educational and interactive. I enjoyed the way you were seated with people you may have not known and from different states.

This year we also received several nominations for awards and are fortunate to be able to present all of them.

In addition, we will be holding another giveaway at Department Convention for both the Unit and District with the highest number of ALA Academy classes completed since Winter Meeting.

To wrap things up, 10 out of our 13 Districts submitted reports. One of the Districts reported doing leadership training and it went over so well they have scheduled to do more.

It has truly been a great year for leadership growth and participation across Michigan.



LEGISLATIVE

Anita Mennel, Chairperson
2025-2026

The Department of Michigan promoted the legislative agenda in this administrative year starting with our educational fall conference. During that time our IT specialist added a link on our website, allowing easy connection to the Legislative priorities, as well as being able to sign up for Grassroots Action Center. This enabled many members to sign up 'on the spot.' District program Chairs offered friendly competition challenging Units to report back the number of members who signed up, by tracking and reporting the number of members that communicated. While the totals are low, every single attempt makes a difference, and the total reported members equaled 124 members. Legislative responses received were 672, with most of them being emailed responses.

Throughout our great department, just seven units shared that they participated in Town Halls, three attended rallies and 1 hosted a Legislative reception. Staying active in local elections and serving on numerous elections and school boards is how members keep active and informed. Thirty-seven members reported promoting the priorities of the American Legion. Some reported they held specific times for letter writing and did get responses back from their legislators. Many reported uses of tech-knowledge, like emails and Facebook links to improve communication and share information, especially that are pertinent to Veteran related legislations. One shared that a unique way to encourage and educate members was to communicate through direct email sharing concerns and priorities for advocating, allowing members to get the information without spending time searching through websites and such. Others reported communications that include e-newsletters and social media pages. Sharing a focus on local Veterans' issues and spreading the word about the local resources is yet another way to keep legislative issues in the forefront. Only two members reported they sit on Legislative boards for their communities. Using rallies, meetings, and other events where members were able to develop relationships with legislators has been successful with some Units.

A small handful of Units reported promoting absentee voting at meetings prior to elections. Other attempts were through emails, newsletters and social media. Reminders were communicated about non-political, non-sectarian nature with members of the Legion Family. Some distributed copies of TAL legislative priorities as well as the State Legislative Priorities. Sadly, no reports of how support was given to promote absentee voting or in-person of our military.

Eleven Units reported using the ALA legislative Advocacy Guide, and 17 reported promoting use of TAL Legislative Website. Some simply explained to members how and where to find the Legislative priorities as well as encouraging members to use priorities to help our Veterans.

District meetings were also utilized to promote priorities. Power point presentations were used to show how easy it is to send ready pre-written letters composed by TAL. While there are many members who utilize the readily available tools to stay apprised of TAL priorities, most fail to report. This seems to be a common thread among our members. We are amazing at working all our programs, but not great at "blowing our horn." We continue to share with all members the importance of reporting. What happens in our units, with our numbers of service hours and finances,



gets reported up, and eventually to the Legion and ultimately to congress, where the impact is made to help get legislative priorities passed.

Thank you Madam President for this appointment and THANK YOU to Carol Renis an awesome committee member.

In Service-not Self



MEMBERSHIP

Carol Burke, Chairperson
2025-2026

We closed 1988 with our highest membership ever—34,871 Auxiliary members. From that peak, membership declined steadily to 26,401 in 2021. Since 2022, however, we have added members each year and are on track to do so again this year. Although returning to our 1988 level will take time, it would be wonderful to celebrate America's 250th birthday with Department membership reaching 30,000. We can achieve that goal by July 4th if each Unit, on average, reaches its membership goal and adds three more members. Even if your Unit has already done so, others still need support. We are in this together, one step at a time. Together, we can fulfill Mission Possible—Operation 250 Candles—and reach 30,000 members.

This year, we introduced four new Unit membership incentive drawings, each offering a \$50 prize to encourage membership promotion. The winners of the No Goose Eggs drawing were Unit 380-Carson City and Unit 174-Lawrence. We Love Our Veterans was awarded to Unit 298-Williamsburg and Unit 531-Copemish. Unit 382-St. Clair and Unit 144-L'Anse won the We Love Ribbons from National drawing. In addition, 22 Units will receive a gift from National President Pam Ray for reaching 100% of their goal by 1/31/2026. Although the Department did not meet the deadlines for the 25% and 60% membership awards, we did earn the 85%, 95% and 100% awards and remain on track to achieve the 102% benchmark and the 95% retention citation.

We received year-end reports from 10 Districts, which showed that Units across the state have been hosting membership teas and rallies. Unit 32-Livonia hosted a tea where new members were installed, and years-of-service bars were presented. In November, District 16 held a membership rally and dinner, during which member Units shared their current membership totals. We would welcome more details about how Units are achieving exceptional growth, such as Unit 36-Kalamazoo with more than 500% growth and Unit 340-Hermansville and Unit 81-Concord each with more than 200% growth. Growth at that level does not happen by chance; it reflects a strong commitment to the idea that membership is everyone's responsibility. The Districts also reported that Units are aware of and making use of the expanded eligibility that includes all spouses of Veterans.

Use of the American Legion Auxiliary Membership Information System (ALAMIS) also increased this year as Membership Chairmen embraced technology. Greater use of ALAMIS has improved member satisfaction and reduced many of the stresses felt by Membership Chairmen, not least by eliminating the dreaded paper transmittal. About 50% of our Units now use ALAMIS. If your Unit has not yet adopted it, now is the time.

I am deeply grateful to our outstanding Department Membership Committee for helping make this progress possible. When you see them, please thank these not-so-secret agents: Southern Area-Carla Pohl (Hummingbird), Eastern Area-Shylynn Jones (Trouble), Western Area-Candie Chase (Lightening), Northern Lower Area-PDP Ruth Goth (The Wise Owl), and UPAA Area-Bonnie Taylor-Vazquez (Yooper Goose II). Thank you all for your dedication.



A special thank-you to our Department staff, Shannon Werner and Mike Marroitt, for their assistance and patience. I also thank President Gramza for this appointment and for her unwavering confidence in me. Now, let us celebrate the success of Operation 250 Candles—and aim for fireworks on July 4th as we reach 30,000 members.



MUSIC

Dawn Gilbert, Chairperson
2025-2026

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Music Chairman for the 2025–2026 year.

I received annual reports from six Districts encompassing 62 Units. Of those, one Unit and two Districts reported using music during their memorial ceremonies.

Across the state, Units continue to incorporate music in meaningful and creative ways. Some choose to open their meetings with music, while others use it to close their gatherings-either by singing together or by sharing a music video. Common selections include our national anthem, The Star-Spangled Banner, Lee Greenwood's God Bless the USA, and, of course, "Happy Birthday" to celebrate member birthdays.

Two Units reported having musicians perform at their Christmas parties for community children, as well as at other events throughout the year. Several Units also shared that they use current, upbeat motivational songs-particularly those that support messages of hope and suicide prevention.

Many members participate in music beyond their American Legion Auxiliary work, including singing in their local church choirs or participating in school choirs as junior members. Their talents enrich not only their communities but also the spirit of our organization.

Music has a unique ability to uplift, comfort, and inspire. I encourage all Units to continue exploring ways to use music to brighten someone's day and strengthen the bonds within our organization.

Yours in service.



NATIONAL CEMETARY FORT CUSTER

Katherine Anderson, Representative
2025-2026

Upon entering our National Cemetery everyone is greeted by the beautiful avenue of flags.

Development of the 770 acres continues to accommodate additional burials. There are places for casketed remains, in-ground cremated remains, a columbarium and an area for scatter cremains.

Since the first interment in 1983 there are now over 47,000 burials. Our area serves Veterans in Michigan, northern Ohio and Indiana.

Advanced technology to identify remains has enabled previously unknown or unclaimed remains to now be resting in our National Cemetery.

A Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremony are held to honor our Veterans and their families. Over 34,000 flags were placed on Veteran's graves for the Memorial Day program by many volunteers. Wreaths Across America in December had 2,700 wreaths placed.

We are thankful to all the volunteers that help, especially our Honor Guard that perform military honors five days a week.



NATIONAL SECURITY

Deborah Weatherbee, Chairperson
2025-2026

It was an honor to be the Department of Michigan National Security Chairman this year. It was my goal to have Districts and Units learn more about this important committee.

Four Units participated in the American Legion National Security Program CERT training. Two Units donated a total of \$932 to Quilts of Valor. Several Units purchased Blue Star/Gold Star Banners with 35 Units presenting Blue Star Banners with 5 Gold Star Banners presented. Nine Units participated in Welcome Home activities. 255 members donated blood, 53 worked blood drives, 31 donated food for those donating blood and the monetary amount was \$1,303. Sixty-one Units observed the POW/MIA Empty Chair at official meetings. Eighty-two Post homes were reported to have a POW/MIA table display. Eight Units reported addressing the emotional & social needs of active, reserve and transitioning military service members. Two Units explained to members about RED Friday with 733 participating in wearing RED on Fridays! One Unit promoted the Salute to Service Member Award and is submitting a nomination for Salute to a Service Member Award.

At a National Security Zoom Meeting by Norma Tramm and Central Division April Kollmorgen it was discussed about DPAA awareness and information. Department of Michigan Fall Conference was in September, and I had the privilege to show the Official DPAA Agency Video. This video we learned so much about the mission and work of DPAA and "You Never Leave a Fallen American Behind." I encouraged all Districts and Units to show this video at their meetings. One District showed the video and 3 Units viewed this video at their meeting.

I emailed information from newsletter articles from Central Division April Kollmorgen and any newsletter/email that came from National Security Chairman Norma Tramm. I promoted the Warrior Wednesday with sending emails out to the District Presidents and discussed this at Winter Meeting. One Unit promoted this and had Army National Guard Chaplain participate in this worthy program.

At Winter Meeting there was a presentation by special guest Michelle Peel from Border Patrol in Port Huron. We learned so much about going across the border into Canada and returning across the Blue Water Bridge. She discussed being stopped with illegal drugs, plants and much more. This was informative and everyone learned so much.

Many Units presented Blue Star banners and sadly a few had to present Gold Star banners. It was a much-needed lesson about how the Gold Star Mothers started and why. It truly was rewarding to hear the history of the Gold Star Mothers in West Michigan. Along with this meeting Unit 179 Secretary Sue Potter had a display of Gold Star banners from her family that served in World War I, World War II and Vietnam. She explained about raising money for the Woody Williams Foundation-Gold Star Families Memorial Monument in Grandville. A Gold Star son, Paul Anglim, has been the committee chair raising money to get this monument placed at Wedgewood Park in Grandville. Paul is a member of American Legion Squadron 179.



One Unit participated in Welcome Home activities. A few Units and Districts attended Operation Handshake at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport at Thanksgiving and Christmas welcoming active military home as well as Veterans. This is so rewarding watching the military see their families at holiday time.

A few Units observed the POW/MIA Day on September 19, 2025, and held ceremonies at their local Post while observing the POW/MIA table. Many Posts display a POW/MIA table in their Post and over 60 Units had observed the POW/MIA Empty Chair at their meetings.

Several Units reported addressing the emotional and social needs of active, reserve and transitioning military service members. One Unit assisted military spouses in getting and maintaining employment. Four other Units reported financial support of \$647. Also they provided transportation and specific invites to Post events. One Unit held a Job Fair.

At the Winter Meeting the Department of Michigan had an enormous number of members wear their Red Shirt on Friday. Along with that over 700 members reported supporting Red Shirt Friday!

Being chairman of National Security, one of the areas I love is sending care packages. A few Units sent out care packages to our deployed. At one Unit they send out several care packages a year and the chairman promotes with the American Legion, Auxiliary and SAL collecting items with a red bucket in the clubroom all year long to put in the care boxes. It is a joy having Ship Thrifty help with the computer work and delivering it to the local post office.

On May 8, 2025, two Unit members had the honor to attend the memorable Police Memorial Service held at American Legion Boat and Canoe in Grand Rapids. They have a roll call of fallen officers with many police departments from around the state. When they call the fallen officers, an officer from that Police Department carries a red rose to the podium. At this time if there is a family member present the officer stops and escorts them to the podium and they lay a red rose in memorial of their loved one. This is a very humbling, sad and tearful service.

On September 11, 2025, one Unit supplied meals for the Fire Department which included pulled pork and buns, coleslaw, potato chips and homemade chocolate chip cookies. Another Unit provided lunch and dinner for local police and fire department. Several of their Unit members participated. They served pizza, salad and cookies. It is always a rewarding experience remembering our police and fire fighters on 9/11. One Unit supports local fire, police and EMT's by recognizing every organization within Crawford County with Certificates of Appreciation. One Unit recognized and thanked their Township Public Safety Officers by assembling 50 kits with items in blue bags. The Director of Public Safety along with two other PSO's were invited to a Unit meeting, and the presentation was made to them. We thanked them and let them know they are appreciated. This Unit also purchased 12 doggie washes for \$120 at a local store so the Public Safety K-9 Officer could take his K-9 (E.J.) for a bath each month.



One Unit has been involved with Cards for Soldiers since 2018. One member originated the program in 2005 and has now gone worldwide. The program supplies handmade cards for the military to use at every base that has an American Red Cross, USO or Chaplain services and to ships afloat. Unit Members sign cards of appreciation, encouragement and get-well cards to the military. They had 7 members actively working on this program and in 2025 and have mailed more than 300,000 greeting cards. One Unit member has put in nearly 300 hours per month getting the cards ready for shipment. This Unit has approximately 4000 hours in time wrapped up in the process of making cards, signing cards, boxing cards and mailing the cards. This program continues to grow, and the Cards for Soldiers program has over 11,000 card makers and supplies this Unit with cards to ship. These cards are also included in the care packages from Desert Angels and Operation Troop Support.

In conclusion of this report, I feel the Department of Michigan achieved their goal of participating in and educating all the members in Michigan. Some Units really had some unique ideas about achieving different opportunities.



PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY

Mary Dubay, Chairperson
2025-2026

Past Presidents were honored by recognizing their leadership, dedication, and lasting impact on their Unit and District. They were acknowledged during meetings and at special recognition luncheons or dinners for their contributions to the American Legion Auxiliary. Their pictures were hung in their Post homes or notated on plaques which were hung on the walls of the same. They were given Past President pins in honor of their service when they completed their year, or in some cases, years of service.

Many Past President Parleys collected donations from their members which were then used for special projects of their choice or donated to the Past President Parley Medical scholarship fund.

The 6TH District reported that they have a Past President Parley diorama, with handouts, which is part of a traveling roadshow that they use to teach the purposes of a Past President's Parley with suggestions on how to be an effective Past President.

It was also reported that Past Presidents are remembered when they pass by the draping of the charter and having a service to remember them by at a Unit meeting. Past Presidents were also remembered at District Memorial Services.

Past Presidents are a wealth of knowledge, and many Past Presidents remain actively involved in their Unit, District, or Department and when requested will mentor, guide, or assist our current and future leaders.

The Past Presidents Parley Chairman is also the Distinguished Guest Chairman. National President Pam Ray was with us at the Winter Conference in February. She attended the Commanders Banquet and visited with the National Legion Commander Daniel Wiley. We were able to show her some of Lake St. Clair and the surrounding communities on our drive from Port Huron to the Michigan Veterans Home Chesterfield. She was amazed to see vehicles, snowmobiles, etc. on the ice, and enjoyed her visit to the home.

Madam President, thank you for this appointment.



PERSONNEL

Shari German, Chairperson
2025-2026

STOP... seriously, don't skip this report!

First, we want to give a HUGE shout-out to our incredible Department employees. Their dedication, creativity, and commitment to the Mission of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, have been nothing short of outstanding. They've organized, streamlined, and rolled out cost-saving improvements that keep our operations running smoothly. Their teamwork is powerful — and because of them, this committee's work is a breeze. When you see them at Convention, please take a moment to recognize and thank them. They've earned it.

Now, let's talk about how *we* can support *them*:

1. Membership Processing — We Need Your Help!

We're seeing a high number of membership applications returned, and many of them are preventable. Please reach out to your Units — especially those who don't usually attend Fall Conference or Convention — to make sure they're using the correct forms and following the right procedures. Department has also created a one-hour training session to walk through the proper process.

Share it widely! <https://michalaux.org/forms/>

2. Use Your District Leadership Team

Your District Presidents and Chairs are your first line of support. When questions go through them, it saves valuable time for our Department staff and keeps the office running efficiently. It's not that staff don't enjoy talking with you — they do! They're just working under tight timelines, and we want to protect their ability to perform at the high level we all depend on.

Personnel Committee Update

This year, the Personnel Committee completed some important tasks, including reviewing and summarizing updates to the Employment Agreement for the Executive Director/Secretary/Treasurer. We also recommended policy updates, so we align with the Michigan Earned Sick Time Act.

A heartfelt thank-you to the team — Marcy Jorae and Karen Kurzynowski — for their thoughtful work and collaboration.

Madam President Dawn, thank you for your trust in me and for the honor of this appointment.



POPPY

Christine Merlington, Chairperson
2025-2026

This year as Poppy Chairman has been a very learning and enjoyable experience. I was on zoom meetings with the National Officers and learning more than you can imagine. I got to learn what other Departments were doing and it allowed me to bring some of that knowledge back to Michigan where it was used to guide us in encouraging participation at all levels, it was great.

As Poppy Chair I was invited to different events and doings this year. I was invited by District 18 Little Miss Poppy Aurora Vogel to a Memorial Tribute in the Old Mount Pleasant area. It was hosted by Rolling Thunder Chapter four. It was a moving experience watching as they honored and presented plaques to family members with the names of POW/MIA soldiers who had been located and returned home. It was very emotional being there for this event. I would recommend attendance to anyone, as they will be there again this coming September for more families.

I was invited to a fundraiser by current Department of Michigan Little Miss Poppy, Caoimhe FitzGerald where her unit hosted a fundraiser for her special project, Michigan Wounded and Returning Warriors. She is doing great with this project and having fun along the way.

As Michigan is producing poppies in abundance, we were able to assist other Departments with their needs. This was something they were very grateful for and we were glad to help.

We had lots of good reporting this year, however, I only heard from Eight Districts. Those Districts did fantastic on their numbers. We had over 23,000 Poppies ordered from Units and Districts this year. Over 20,000 of those were used for distribution and 3,000 were used for creations and displays.

Many Units and Districts donated generously to many Veteran related organizations and activities, among them were USO, Wilwin Lodge, Fisher House, Veterans Bingo, Christmas Gift Shops, Honor Flights, Creative Arts Festival and assisting our local Coast Guard during the government shutdown. Michigan, your hearts are all in the right places.

We received many Poppy Posters for judging this year. It was extremely difficult for the committee to decide on some, but the amount we had made us feel good. It's encouraging as several Districts will be coming home with awards this year and should be proud.

I was glad to see so many ways of getting the word out about the poppy program as well as how we interact with the public to help them learn about the poppy story. One District held a Junior Auxiliary Party and encouraged the public to join; there they learned the history of the poppy and were able to join in on making crafts and posters. Other Districts handed out poppy coloring books, bookmarks and more at community events. This information was awesome to read.

In closing, I would like to thank President Dawn for the chance to be your Department of Michigan Poppy Chairman. It was an enjoyable year.



PUBLIC RELATIONS

Suzanne Knapp, Chairperson
2025-2026

Nine Districts reported this year. Even with missing the other four, the Department of Michigan continued to demonstrate a strong commitment to public relations, communication, and community engagement throughout the year. Districts and Units utilized a wide variety of traditional and digital communication methods to promote events, inform members, and strengthen relationships within their communities.

Districts and Units relied heavily on websites, Facebook and other social media platforms, newsletters, emails, phone lists, text messaging, and mass mailings to keep members informed and connected. Many also encouraged members to stay informed through Department and National websites in addition to local communications. Programs, events, and community activities were promoted through a variety of methods. Districts specifically reported using numerous outreach methods including Facebook and other social media platforms, local newspapers and newsletters, flyers, postcards, and posters, emails and websites, radio and television announcements, word-of-mouth promotion, community booths and information tables.

Several Units also participated in school and community events, public service announcements, farmers markets, and collaborative activities with The American Legion and Sons of the American Legion members. These combined efforts helped increase public awareness of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) and strengthened engagement with both members and the community. Overall, Districts focused on maintaining visibility through both traditional media and digital outreach.

We tried to encourage Districts and Units to utilize the ALA Public Relations Toolkit to assist with outreach and communications. However, only nine Units reported actively using the toolkit during the reporting period.

Several Districts and Units actively promoted the ALA and enhanced community visibility through public service, outreach, and fundraising activities. Members increased awareness of the organization by wearing ALA-branded apparel during these events and activities. Additional community service and outreach efforts included: donating personal care items to senior centers, supporting homeless shelters and local schools, organizing blood drives, hosting trunk-or-treat events, participating in poppy distribution programs, assisting Veterans through community events, participating in parades, festivals, city meetings, and public fundraisers, hosting dinners and sponsoring public events and supporting youth organizations such as 4-H and Boy Scouts. These efforts helped strengthen The Legion Family's public image while reinforcing the organization's commitment to service and community involvement. The American Legion Family brochures were available at all events to provide information and promote awareness of the organization and its programs.

Video conferencing platforms, including Zoom, along with newsletters, were used to help keep members informed and connected throughout the year. Districts and Units utilized a broad range



of communication and outreach tools to share information with members and the public. Common methods included: Facebook and social media, local newspapers, newsletters and emails, websites, flyers and posters, radio and television announcements, community outreach events and public service opportunities. Many also used booths and informational tables at local events, schools, farmers markets, and community gatherings to promote programs and encourage participation.

A total of 28 Units across Michigan reported involving their communities in ALA events and activities. I know this is significantly higher as I hear about all the programs that are out in the local communities that are organized by, or the ALA participates in. Through public outreach, service projects, and community partnerships, Districts and Units successfully encouraged participation and increased public awareness of the organization's mission and programs.

Thank you, Madame President for this opportunity and thank you to Anita Greca for helping on this program.

SECTION D

VA & R



VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

Julie Becker, Chairperson
2025-2026

No report provided.



VA&R HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVE

Ann Arbor VAMC
Krystal Hall, Representative
2025-2026

Since 1953, the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System (LTC Charles S. Kettles VA Medical Center) has provided state-of-the art healthcare services to the men and women who have proudly served our nation. It is considered a privilege to serve in meeting their healthcare needs.

The Medical Center campus includes the main hospital, several outpatient clinics, the Community Living Center (CLC) providing extended care, three research buildings, five administrative outbuildings, two parking garages, and the Fisher House. The Ann Arbor System with main hospital campus located in Ann Arbor and with clinics in Adrian, Canton, Howell, Jackson, Flint, Lansing, Toledo, and Findley (Ohio) has serviced over 80,250 Veterans living in a 15-county area of Michigan and Northwest Ohio during the past fiscal year.

The main hospital campus located in Ann Arbor serves as a referral center for specialty care and operates 114 acute care beds and 40 Community Living Center (extended care) beds. More than 703,281 outpatient (clinical/encounter) visits were made at our facilities; there were more than 6,211 inpatient episodes of care provided in the hospital and extended care center. Since the opening of the AA VA Fisher House, on June 1, 2020, the Fisher House has hosted more than 6,147 Veteran families (11,697 individual guests-including 171 children). The average length of stay for guests has been 4 days, and with the longest stay of 219 days; guests come from 34 different states, eight countries, and three continents. The Fisher House is a 'beautiful home away from home' that provides high quality, temporary lodging to families and caregivers of Veterans and active-duty service members who are undergoing care at the VA facilities.

The Auxiliary was able to hold our annual Gift Shop in the Auditorium at the VA. Members from the 2nd District continued to be active/supportive (Units supported the Gift Shop with cash and in-kind (gift) donations totaling over \$7,097.17). The Gift Shop event was held November 18-19 with 11 volunteers donating 135 hours. We were able to aid 93 veterans in selecting gifts for their families (269 family members were sent gifts). Volunteers continue to have a strong impact at the Ann Arbor Health System.

During the past fiscal year, the Management Team reported:

- In-kind donations (items donated) increased to a value of \$628,080; monetary donations increased to a value of \$130,038.
- Volunteers registered increased to 262; with hours increased dramatically to 26,379. It has been shared that there are several new initiatives/programs for which I hope to recruit volunteers (new and returning) to support; some example areas.
- Compassionate Contact Corps (CCC), a program where volunteers will be able to communicate with Veterans (identified by VA Staff) off-site (phone contact); currently there are 47 Veterans enrolled and 43 volunteers.
- Working with the Red Cross to promote blood drives.



- Coordinating the CLC Bingo program (local ALA Units are signing up for 2nd Saturdayafternoon times, four Units from the 2nd signed up this past year).
- My Life My Story—a Veteran Experience program where the Veteran is interviewed and theirstory will be compiled and be included in their medical record.
- Veteran Whole Health—program to help Veterans receive more life support (besides medicalneeds); aspects to be included: primary care, volunteer help/support, recreational therapy, lifeguidance, family/support care (outside of the hospital environment), arts and crafts opportunities.

As in past years, the goal continues to be that we provide the best care and support for our country's Veterans and their families (when appropriate). As I complete my 14th year as the Representative to the Ann Arbor Medical System, I have two major goals and/or projects. First, is to provide support (by being both reactive and proactive) to the ALA members and the Ann Arbor VA staff to fulfill existing and new volunteer opportunities. I suspect volunteer involvement will be a challenge to recruit new and returning volunteers in the coming year. I welcome that challenge. Secondly our (ALA) aim continues to facilitate donations to fulfill special needs as identified by the staff; as well as to have successful events/projects such as the Gift Shop, Father's Day, Annual Baby Shower, to actively support the CLC Bingo program, and to develop new opportunities (one example: Unit 557-Dexter has worked with VA staff to take CLC housed Veterans fishing at a nearby trout farm—two years now).

In closing, I offer that I am honored and humbled to have the opportunities to work with such dedicated staff, volunteers, and other supports (including 'my Deputy' Ethel Putala—thanks Ethel for all you do) here at the Ann Arbor VA Health System as we service and support our Veterans.



VA&R HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVE

Battle Creek VAMC
Chris Reed, Representative
2025-2026

Greetings from the Battle Creek VAMC! As we close out another year, I'd like to reflect on the great events we hosted at the Battle Creek VA, along with a little sad news.

Events that took place this year include the Easter Party where we provided Easter bags for the Veterans, the annual PGA Golf Outing, the Summer Concert (in conjunction this year with the Watermelon Fest), the Patient Carnival, Winter Wonderland (which replaced the outdoor Holiday Parade), Christmas Gift Shop, the New Year's Day Pizza Party and lastly, we ended the year supporting the National Salute to Veterans week by hosting a bowling tournament at the VA for the Veterans.

In addition to the above events, we also supported our Monthly Bingos that take place on the fourth Wednesday of every month. We did have a few new Units who hosted Bingo for the first time, but we are always in need of more volunteers. For those who hosted this fiscal year, I would like to say Thank You for your support! Please, please consider supporting this event. It is a truly rewarding experience, and the Veterans are so very appreciative. If your Unit is interested and can help, please contact either myself or Penny at the numbers below.

Chris Reed – VA&R Representative - ckhud@mei.net – 269-420-1488
Penny Wright – 2nd Deputy - 269-838-8902

Some very exciting news from this year took place at the annual Battle Creek VA Volunteer Luncheon that was held on August 12th. The American Legion Auxiliary was the recipient of their annual Community Service Award! We were represented by Barb Parks, Penny Wright, Jackie Skinner and me. It was a very exciting time for our ALA!

On a sad note, we lost Barb Parks on January 2nd. She had been very ill and in a nursing home. Barb was not only a Past VA Representative, but also a Past 4th District President. She will be deeply missed by all of us.

In conclusion, we continue accepting donations to help with all the events we support throughout the year. If your Unit is interested in making a monetary donation, checks can be sent directly to Department – made payable to: ALA Department of Michigan - and earmarked for the Battle Creek VA. We truly appreciate all the donations we receive each year to keep our activities going! I hope everyone has had a great year and is looking forward to a beautiful summer.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve another year as the Battle Creek VAMC Representative. It has truly been a pleasure working with all of you.

In Service to Our Veterans



VA&R HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVE

MVH Chesterfield Township
Marie Gomez, Representative
2025-2026

While MVH Chesterfield just recently celebrated their 5th year anniversary, we reflect with deep gratitude on the Veterans who call this place home and the incredible community that surrounds them. Since opening, the home has proudly served Veterans across Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne Counties. With room for 128 members, there is generally an average of 122-125 members — including six remarkable women — MVH Chesterfield continues to provide exceptional short- and long-term care, rehabilitation, dementia and memory care, and palliative services. For most, this place is simply “home.”

In my 2nd year as Representative, I proudly share with you, all our American Legion Auxiliary accomplishments over this past year (from May 2025 to April 2026), as we have so much to PRAISE GOD for.

Reflecting, MVHCT has received 2 major recognitions: Ranked **#1 Nursing Home in Michigan** (*August 2025*) and **Veteran Friendly Volunteers of the Year Award** (*November 2025*). These honors reflect the dedication of staff, volunteers (like you and me), and supporters (like our American Legion Family) who pour their hearts into this home every day.

The American Legion Auxiliary has been a constant source of joy, comfort, and connection for our Veterans. Over the past year, the ALA (alongside 13 Units from the 7th & 18th Districts) has hosted: a Memorial Day Celebration, Halloween Party, and a Veterans Day celebration. We were a sponsor for MVHCT's 4th Annual 5k Walk, Run & Roll, and held our 3rd Annual Christmas Shoppe, bringing over **\$12.5k** in retail for our Veterans and their families. In addition, we provided entertainment, including a Crooner Classic performance and welcomed Veterans to various Posts for fish fries and breakfasts (including a breakfast with the Easter Bunny).

Aside from all that, our Units also contributed to Instant Lottery Tickets (used for prizes), a variety of snacks, homemade blankets, cards, Diamond Art sets for raffles, and/or has contributed to the MVH Charitable Support Fund) – where every dollar goes back into activities for the home.

I would LOVE to THANK all our Units and Volunteers for all their time/effort/continuous donations/and prayers this past year – Together, WE are an AMAZING Team!!! Thank You to Units: 4, 8, 16, 108, 143, 216, 293, 326, 351, 377, 382, 449, and 566. Shout Out to our volunteers: Patti Angerilli, Lea Arnold, Carol Burke, Michelle Coltson, Kathleen Copeland, Lee Cook, Jackie Ellsworth, Tricia Hunt, Debbie Cooley, Darlene Jones, Abbie Jones (youth), ShyLynn Jones, Suzanne Knapp, Kara Landrum, Barb Leach, Diane Lighthall, Marianne Markowicz, Charly Mathews, Ann McClellan, Alicia Minster, Andrea Pharris, Robyn Puckett, Christine Robertson, Patti Sikowski, Keri Sutton, Audrey Symon, Kelly Vondra, Shannon Wawruck, Mollie Lynch, Colleen Gerlach and Mary Beth Funke. Also, Thank You to our other Legion Family members who contribute to our auxiliary events: Braygen Gomez (youth),



Damien Gomez, Oscar Gomez, Dennis Rygwelski, Don Hamlin, Joe McClellan, John Myroniuk, Shirley Symon and Bob Montgomery.

In addition to the ‘events’ that our Auxiliary brings to the home, there are plenty of other events put on via MVH that many of our volunteers also contribute to, such as: trips to Sanders Ice Cream Shop, restaurant outings, picnics, concerts in the park, movie nights, bowling, church visits, DJ trivia’s, fish fries at the home, bingos, poker/euchre, game nights, car shows, various musical entertainment, America’s Got Talent episodes, 80’s night, spaghetti luncheon’s and steak/ karaoke nights at Post 4, and various shopping trips. Some of our volunteers will often come to MVH to sit with our Veterans who appreciate a friendly presence and participate in the “no member dies alone” program.

One of our most meaningful accomplishments this past year was the creation of the **SNOEZELN Room**, a soothing multi-sensory space offering light, sound, aromatherapy, tactile elements, and calming visuals—especially comforting for Veterans with PTSD or those needing a peaceful escape. A HUGE Thank You to our Department Executive Committee that unanimously voted at Fall Conference, to outfit this important therapeutic room with everything necessary to bring the vision to life! And a Thank You to MVH for creating/placing a plaque on the door stating, “Relaxation Room: Generously Donated by the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan!”

In February, we were honored to welcome National President Pam Ray and Department President Dawn Gramza for a tour led by Kip—MVH Chesterfield’s very first resident—who proudly shared his personal living space.

Hilary Kurelich, MVH Coordinator for Volunteers & Donations, shared a heartfelt note: “We are extremely grateful for the support from the American Legion Auxiliary. Your generosity and dedication make a lasting difference in the lives of our Veterans.” her words echo what so many of us feel: your service matters, and it is seen!

With all the reports, summaries and random questions that I have had throughout the year, I cannot forget to THANK each one of the following Department members: Darlene Jones, Julie Becker, Shannon Werner and Deanna Cortright. Thank You so much for your continued patience!!

TOGETHER we accomplished the following:

Total # of volunteers = 40

Total hours members volunteered. = 967.04

Total dollars spent = \$12,692.54 (activities, Xmas shop & Snoezelen)

Total # of Veterans assisted = 128+

Total of in-kind donations = \$12,969.21

THANK YOU for truly making this a spectacular year-it is my PRAYER that we all can continue to make the “MISSION POSSIBLE” in the upcoming 2026-2027 year!!!



VA&R HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVE

MVH – Grand Rapids Home for Veterans
Judy Jones, Representative
2025-2026

No report provided.



VA&R HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVE

MVH Jacobetti Home for Veterans
Wanda Westman, Hospital Representative
Linda Kaare, Deputy
2025-2026

Hello from Jacobetti Veterans Home in Marquette. It has been a good year with many activities for our residents. Units from the UPAA District continue to support us in many events, such as Christmas Gift Shop, bingo and Adopt-a-Vet. Our volunteers participated in holiday parties, Vegas Days, and Cinco de Mayo. Earlier this year, we donated "Rosie the Riveter" cookies to commemorate the special Rosie Day.

We are pleased to announce that Jacobetti now has a full activity staff, so we are now open to many events, even evening activities. We are also thrilled to let you know that progress on the new Veterans Facility in Marquette is going quite well. The footings and foundation are finished for one unit and this summer; they should get the other two finished. The parking lot is finished, now that there are no more issues with the local school. Our residents are so excited about the progress and completion should be in 2028.

My Deputy, Linda Kaare (Unit 44) and I have been very busy planning different activities from home. Most of our Christmas Gift Shop items were bought online, along with t-shirts from various branches of the service that we will give as prizes for a special bingo we will host in the following months.

April 2025 brought outings to Post Homes for lunch, movie theaters and sporting events. We started planning the order of flowers for the grounds of the home, which our Auxiliary would pay for. The home also celebrated Volunteer Appreciation Week with special gifts and a luncheon.

May 2025 is Mother's Day month when we honor our special Ladies. We also finalized the ordering and planting of flowers for the grounds. How beautiful they looked all summer.

June 2025 brought summer picnics and outdoor events. We celebrated our men on Father's Day by handing out cards and putting \$5 in each of their personal accounts. Received \$5,000 from Department for a special request for warm winter clothing.

July 2025 we had more picnics while enjoying the warm weather, fishing and outings to Post homes.

August 2025 is our annual carnival, trips to UP State Fair and Marquette County Fair. During the summer, lots of family members come to visit before school starts back up.

September 2026 we held another Vegas Days party, started to order warm winter clothing, such as coats, jackets and sweatshirts with money received from a special request from Department. We sent out Christmas Gift Shop requests to the UPAA Units for much needed items.



October 2025 we celebrated the Navy's 250th Birthday with bingo and social. We purchased needed gift-wrapping supplies in anticipation of Christmas Gift Shop. Sponsored another bingo party also.

November 2025 we celebrated the Marine Corps 250th Birthday with bingo and social. We sponsored a second party out of the donations that we received from UPAA Units. We took advantage of Black Friday sales and ordered the items needed for Christmas Gift Shop and warm winter clothing. We start to receive checks and gift donations from various Units of the UPAA District.

December 2025 the Christmas Gift Shop was held for two days with one day to set up the recreation hall the day before. Many thanks go out to all the volunteers and Units who helped make this a success for our residents. We also hosted a lady's luncheon on the first day of Gift Shop to honor our female residents. A few more volunteers would have been useful on the second day of Gift Shop as we had to come back on Saturday to inventory what was left behind and we finished delivery of all the special requests on Monday morning. We helped with labeling the VFC holiday cards with a note stating "\$5 will be put into your personal account from the VFC'S. Merry Christmas!!!" Our Auxiliary contributes \$200 annually to this fund along with all the other service organizations and this money is used for special events.

January 2026 we planned the year's activities as we worked with the activity staff. Bingo is still ongoing on the first three Mondays of the month.

February 2026 we helped at the VFC Valentine Party, Fat Tuesday and Mardi Gras Parade. Also, a DJJ Winter Carnival was held.

March 2026 we started preparing for Mother's Day with a special party for our six ladies. We also helped with Vegas Days as dealers, and everyone enjoyed themselves making a little money too. We helped them play with Monopoly money, which we trade for real cash up to \$11 each. Fun, fun!! Many thanks to American Legion Post 44 for organizing the National Vietnam War Veteran's Day event. They shared their experiences and socialized with our residents.

Events in April included "DJJ's Got Talent" talent show. A Luau Happy Hour, Military Appreciation Month, Mother's Day and Military Spouse Appreciation in May along with the Memorial Day Ceremony. Also, annual flower planting was held in May.

Sincere thanks to the American Legion Auxiliary for allowing me to be the MVH/ Jacobetti Representative. It is my honor to serve in this capacity.



VA&R HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVE

Oscar G. Johnson (Iron Mountain) Medical Center
Barbara Larson, Representative
2025-2026

No report provided.



VA&R HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVE

Saginaw VAMC
Sandy Neuchterlein, Representative
2025-2026

Saginaw VAMC assists 34,000 Veterans across central and northern Michigan including a CLC (community living center) and 11 CBOC'S (community-based outpatient clinics).

We had a very successful year with many donations from many organizations. Highlights were once again our Christmas backpack program at our December VAV'S meeting. Forty backpacks were filled containing hats, gloves, socks, wallets, flashlights, puzzle books, and gift cards for local restaurants or gas cards. These were distributed to the CLC residents on Christmas Eve.

We also sponsored an Easter Egg Hunt for our CLC residents with 250 filled eggs containing flag pins, money, candy, patriotic rubber ducks, and wristbands. This was a big hit with our Veterans, and they have already requested another party for Halloween this year.

We had many Bingos in the recreation room and provided prizes such as patriotic ball caps, wheelchair/walker bags, toiletry bags, and of course, money. This brings so many smiles to our Veterans. The "service cart" is also visiting the CLC monthly and providing many hand-crafted items.

We are looking forward to a new Recreational Therapy Room on the first floor of our facility this month.

I also packed many boxes of clothing and supplies that were sent out to our CBOC locations before the holidays.

Thank you for all your support and donations to the Saginaw VAMC. This has been a very successful year. God bless you, our Veteran's, and the American Legion family.



VA&R HOSPITAL DIRECTOR

Darlene Jones, Representative
2025-2026

It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve in this position. Being able to meet and work alongside the dedicated hospital representatives and volunteers from the various homes throughout Michigan, as well as assist the hospital representatives, has been both inspiring and rewarding.

I have witnessed the compassion, patience, and commitment shown to our Veterans. Meeting the needs of our Veterans is not always easy, especially while working within the guidelines and restrictions of the VA homes we serve. Yet, despite these challenges, our Hospital Representatives continue to give their time, energy, and hearts to ensure our Veterans feel remembered, respected, and cared for. Their devotion and kindness make a lasting difference, and I am deeply grateful to have shared in this important work.

I am sure the Hospital Representatives would agree that this work is made much easier because of the many volunteers who help at events and generously donate items needed. Your continued support, kindness, and generosity are deeply appreciated and truly make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

The work our representatives do requires a tremendous amount of dedication, compassion, and love for our Veterans. It also means sacrificing time away from their own families. During the holidays, many of our Hospital Representatives can be found at VA hospitals and Veterans' homes, balancing family celebrations with their commitment to our Veterans. Some are fortunate enough to have family members join them, making service a shared family commitment.

So, when you see these Hospital Representatives, please take a moment to thank them for their service, dedication, and the care they give so selflessly to our Veterans throughout the year. Things have changed over the years, but not the dedication of our Hospital Representatives. These Hospital Representatives exemplify the motto to "In the spirit of Service, not self." Most don't want to leave the position because they are passionate and love what they do.

Although I only received 2 reports, it was interesting to read about what each hospital allows and does not allow.

In closing, I would like to thank every Hospital Representative for their dedication and work; you enrich our Veterans' lives. I would like to thank President Dawn Gramza for allowing me to be the Department of Michigan Hospital Director.

For God and Country



VA&R HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVE

John D. Dingell VA Medical Center
Karen McAdams, Representative
2025-2026

No report provided.

SECTION E

MEMBERSHIP REPORT



**Department of Michigan
District Standings for May 27, 2026
(30 Days Prior to Convention)**

1 st place	District 5	103.76%	Nancy Stroosnyder
2 nd place	District 3	103.71%	Penny Wright
3 rd place	District 6	101.45%	Pat Lozano
4 th place	District 9	101.33%	Linda Gamache-Chick
5 th place	District 2	100.49%	Mary Karen Rogers
6 th place	District 8	100.32%	Marcy Jorae
7 th place	District UPAA	99.29%	Bonnie Taylor
8 th place	District 16	98.06%	Pam Globke
9 th place	District 10	97.79%	Rysta Brown
10 th place	District 7	96.98%	Pam Wagner
11 th place	District 18	96.85%	Kim Lipman
12 th place	District 4	95.50%	Kathie Hartman-Gleason
13 th place	District 19	91.00%	Charlotte Ellard



Dept of Michigan Membership 30 days before Convention

Area	District	Unit	City	Goal	Juniors	Seniors	Total	Percent
06		0235	Brighton	0	0	20	20	#DIV/0!
		Total		0	0	20	20	#DIV/0!
		Total		0	0	20	20	#DIV/0!
4		0220	Lawton	0	1	12	13	#DIV/0!
		Total		0	1	12	13	#DIV/0!
		Total		0	1	12	13	#DIV/0!
Eastern	06	0038	Fenton	25	0	24	24	96.00%
		0064	Flint	132	2	122	124	93.94%
		0119	Linden	20	2	15	17	85.00%
		0141	Howell	435	24	468	492	113.10%
		0158	Clio	61	7	52	59	96.72%
		0238	Holt	85	2	78	80	94.12%
		0267	Davison	71	4	64	68	95.77%
		0269	Haslett	165	6	159	165	100.00%
		0294	Swartz Creek	123	8	95	103	83.74%
		0296	Williamston	15	0	13	13	86.67%
		0306	Flint	25	0	1	1	4.00%
		0367	Montrose	22	2	20	22	100.00%
		0413	Grand Blanc	251	4	271	275	109.56%
		0419	Pinckney	184	19	169	188	102.17%
		0491	Leslie	121	6	127	133	109.92%
		0510	Stockbridge	64	2	58	60	93.75%
		Total		1799	88	1736	1824	101.39%
	07	0004	Mt Clemens	43	3	40	43	100.00%
		0007	Caro	22	1	19	20	90.91%
		0008	Port Huron	123	5	92	97	78.86%
		0016	Lapeer	117	6	109	115	98.29%
		0135	Imlay City	20	0	22	22	110.00%
		0181	Mayville	15	0	3	3	20.00%
		0197	Harbor Beach	74	8	60	68	91.89%
		0255	Croswell	74	0	69	69	93.24%
		0293	Sebewaing	128	7	137	144	112.50%
		0326	Sterling Heights	89	0	67	67	75.28%
		0351	Utica	70	2	76	78	111.43%
		0382	Saint Clair	28	0	44	44	157.14%
		0421	Unionville	50	4	39	43	86.00%
		0449	Marysville	225	1	206	207	92.00%
		0457	North Branch	10	0	10	10	100.00%
		0489	Peck	126	2	118	120	95.24%
		0499	Port Austin	213	0	254	254	119.25%
		0525	Smiths Creek	10	1	4	5	50.00%
		0543	Caseville	36	5	17	22	61.11%
		0566	Memphis	18	0	15	15	83.33%
		Total		1491	45	1401	1446	96.98%
	08	0022	Saginaw	105	1	106	107	101.90%
		0057	Owosso	65	5	67	72	110.77%
		0101	Greenville	264	8	258	266	100.76%
		0150	Frankenmuth	51	3	35	38	74.51%
		0153	Saint Johns	96	9	88	97	101.04%
		0175	Saranac	161	4	168	172	106.83%
		0182	Hubbardston	117	2	123	125	106.84%
		0203	Belding	213	4	218	222	104.23%
		0212	Chesaning	5	0	3	3	60.00%
		0248	Laingsburg	168	5	158	163	97.02%
		0256	Saint Louis	43	0	42	42	97.67%
		0295	Breckenridge	80	4	76	80	100.00%
		0380	Carson City	173	9	157	166	95.95%
		0412	Bath	216	11	185	196	90.74%
		0439	Saginaw	276	0	302	302	109.42%
		0452	Stanton	134	2	119	121	90.30%
		Total		2167	67	2105	2172	100.23%



Lower Northern	18	0014	Birmingham-Troy	57	0	50	50	87.72%
		0020	Pontiac	44	6	38	44	100.00%
		0063	Clarkston	84	0	76	76	90.48%
		0108	Oxford	181	16	160	176	97.24%
		0143	Auburn Hills	94	5	90	95	101.06%
		0149	Holly	26	0	24	24	92.31%
		0172	Rochester	23	3	17	20	86.96%
		0216	Milford	203	6	198	204	100.49%
		0224	Wixom	53	0	36	36	67.92%
		0233	Lake Orion	174	3	179	182	104.60%
		0253	Royal Oak	175	0	188	188	107.43%
		0346	Farmington	93	3	83	86	92.47%
		0374	Berkley	210	0	196	196	93.33%
		0377	Waterford	200	2	186	188	94.00%
		Total		1617	44	1521	1565	96.78%
	Total			7074	244	6763	7007	99.05%
	09	0009	Muskegon	26	0	33	33	126.92%
		0010	Manistee	143	2	148	150	104.90%
		0035	Traverse City	43	1	38	39	90.70%
		0069	Whitehall	211	0	216	216	102.37%
		0076	Ludington	349	0	350	350	100.29%
		0094	Cadillac	139	0	122	122	87.77%
		0219	Fife Lake	247	21	243	264	106.88%
		0221	Frankfort	79	0	93	93	117.72%
		0289	Williamsburg	15	0	12	12	80.00%
		0297	Ravenna	52	4	49	53	101.92%
		0300	Lake City	193	4	188	192	99.48%
		0381	Newaygo	246	2	255	257	104.47%
		0397	Holton	201	4	197	201	100.00%
		0411	Hesperia	124	0	110	110	88.71%
		0531	Copemish	32	2	33	35	109.38%
		Total		2100	40	2087	2127	101.29%
	10	0018	Bay City	108	2	105	107	99.07%
		0098	Big Rapids	17	0	14	14	82.35%
		0104	Standish	136	2	140	142	104.41%
		0106	Grayling	30	5	21	26	86.67%
		0110	Mount Pleasant	58	0	49	49	84.48%
		0162	Luzerne	93	2	99	101	108.60%
		0165	Midland	119	3	101	104	87.39%
		0171	Gladwin	33	8	24	32	96.97%
		0211	East Tawas	40	6	40	46	115.00%
		0239	Linwood	76	3	80	83	109.21%
		0240	Blanchard	72	3	68	71	98.61%
		0245	Prudenville	25	0	19	19	76.00%
		0254	Mikado	77	0	70	70	90.91%
		0273	Temple	47	0	48	48	102.13%
		0274	Oscoda	164	5	158	163	99.39%
		0370	Prescott	125	2	106	108	86.40%
		0404	Harrison	139	0	128	128	92.09%
		0416	Saint Helen	235	1	221	222	94.47%
		0422	Hale	99	1	103	104	105.05%
		0443	Sanford	257	4	256	260	101.17%
		0473	Barryton	15	0	1	1	6.67%
		0554	Morley	70	0	72	72	102.86%
		0558	Farwell	270	1	282	283	104.81%
		Total		2305	48	2205	2253	97.74%



Southern	19	0122	Wolverine	39	0	36	36	92.31%
		0159	Mackinaw City	200	2	174	176	88.00%
		0194	Petoskey	11	0	14	14	127.27%
		0198	Lewiston	132	1	120	121	91.67%
		0226	Charlevoix	15	0	17	17	113.33%
		0227	East Jordan	32	2	23	25	78.13%
		0281	Harbor Springs	216	4	203	207	95.83%
		0317	Onaway	38	1	18	19	50.00%
		0463	South Boardman	39	3	35	38	97.44%
		Total		722	13	640	653	90.44%
	Total			5127	101	4932	5033	98.17%
	02	0029	Jackson	233	6	246	252	108.15%
		0031	Chelsea	20	0	17	17	85.00%
		0034	Tecumseh	117	1	126	127	108.55%
		0066	Carleton	23	0	19	19	82.61%
		0072	Dundee	42	1	39	40	95.24%
		0081	Concord	6	0	16	16	266.67%
		0097	Adrian	122	1	120	121	99.18%
		0117	Manchester	5	0	7	7	140.00%
		0155	Britton	17	0	14	14	82.35%
		0180	Hudson	74	4	68	72	97.30%
		0192	Temperance	36	4	32	36	100.00%
		0193	Luna Pier	46	2	45	47	102.17%
		0268	Milan	63	4	47	51	80.95%
		0282	Ypsilanti	47	1	34	35	74.47%
		0315	Brooklyn	582	10	573	583	100.17%
		0322	Saline	170	3	155	158	92.94%
		0324	Jackson	125	3	108	111	88.80%
		0325	Blissfield	79	2	67	69	87.34%
		0368	Morenci	63	1	64	65	103.17%
		0392	Deerfield	29	0	25	25	86.21%
		0514	Ida	115	8	99	107	93.04%
0550		Onsted	91	8	93	101	110.99%	
0557		Dexter	120	2	159	161	134.17%	
		Total		2225	61	2173	2234	100.40%
16		0032	Livonia	305	3	279	282	92.46%
		0067	Lincoln Park	93	2	82	84	90.32%
		0111	Wayne	18	0	17	17	94.44%
		0147	Northville	45	0	39	39	86.67%
		0200	Taylor	63	0	49	49	77.78%
		0217	Wyandotte	645	1	628	629	97.52%
		0231	New Boston	24	0	20	20	83.33%
	0232	Dearborn Heights	168	12	142	154	91.67%	
	0364	Dearborn	122	4	123	127	104.10%	
	0375	Detroit	12	0	9	9	75.00%	
	0389	Riverview	227	2	261	263	115.86%	
	0396	Garden City	278	9	277	286	102.88%	
	0409	Allen Park	92	6	87	93	101.09%	
	0426	Trenton	107	1	107	108	100.93%	
	0472	Melvindale	20	0	3	3	15.00%	
		Total		2219	40	2123	2163	97.48%
	Total			4444	101	4296	4397	98.94%



UPAA	12	0003	Sault Sainte Marie	255	2	267	269	105.49%
		0005	Ironwood	41	1	39	40	97.56%
		0011	Wakefield	28	0	30	30	107.14%
		0017	Iron River	31	4	23	27	87.10%
		0021	Stambaugh	115	3	98	101	87.83%
		0027	Bessemer	5	0	2	2	40.00%
		0041	Ewen	21	0	19	19	90.48%
		0043	Stephenson	31	0	25	25	80.65%
		0044	Marquette	427	4	433	437	102.34%
		0050	Iron Mountain	69	6	55	61	88.41%
		0071	Gladstone	106	1	101	102	96.23%
		0074	Newberry	182	2	178	180	98.90%
		0090	Lake Linden	100	11	84	95	95.00%
		0092	Rockland	51	0	51	51	100.00%
		0114	Greenwood	99	3	102	105	106.06%
		0115	Escanaba River	10	0	1	1	10.00%
		0131	Munising	159	1	161	162	101.89%
		0144	L'Anse	24	0	31	31	129.17%
		0146	Menominee	277	0	280	280	101.08%
		0186	Hancock	20	0	15	15	75.00%
		0244	Powers	20	0	15	15	75.00%
		0290	Engadine	42	1	36	37	88.10%
		0340	Hermansville	5	0	14	14	280.00%
		0349	Little Lake	116	12	126	138	118.97%
		0393	Hulbert	104	1	86	87	83.65%
		0438	Bark River	15	0	20	20	133.33%
		0444	Baraga	5	0	2	2	40.00%
		0540	Perkins	18	0	17	17	94.44%
		0559	Rock	5	0	1	1	20.00%
		Total		2381	52	2312	2364	99.29%
	Total			2381	52	2312	2364	99.29%
Western	03	0036	Kalamazoo	6	4	30	34	566.67%
		0042	Charlotte	104	3	99	102	98.08%
		0048	Grand Ledge	242	34	208	242	100.00%
		0052	Coldwater	140	2	152	154	110.00%
		0053	Hillsdale	169	1	165	166	98.22%
		0054	Battle Creek	35	1	33	34	97.14%
		0055	Albion	31	4	19	23	74.19%
		0156	Montgomery	27	0	1	1	3.70%
		0157	Quincy	210	16	216	232	110.48%
		0196	Union City	5	0	1	1	20.00%
		0257	Augusta	66	9	58	67	101.52%
		0259	Bronson	38	0	36	36	94.74%
		0298	Battle Creek	241	7	229	236	97.93%
		0360	Reading	50	0	70	70	140.00%
		0465	Climax	67	6	64	70	104.48%
		0475	Schoolcraft	131	1	150	151	115.27%
		Total		1562	88	1531	1619	103.65%



Department	04	0026	Niles	29	0	5	5	17.24%
		0045	Hastings	69	1	62	63	91.30%
		0049	South Haven	833	2	766	768	92.20%
		0051	Buchanan	217	0	247	247	113.82%
		0068	Paw Paw	6	0	5	5	83.33%
		0073	Sturgis	84	0	73	73	86.90%
		0085	Berrien Springs	69	2	64	66	95.65%
		0105	Benton Harbor	15	0	7	7	46.67%
		0127	Dorr	199	0	200	200	100.50%
		0160	Bangor	72	0	62	62	86.11%
		0169	New Buffalo	58	0	56	56	96.55%
		0170	Three Rivers	46	0	41	41	89.13%
		0174	Lawrence	38	1	38	39	102.63%
		0204	Three Oaks	149	3	151	154	103.36%
		0223	Constantine	64	0	61	61	95.31%
		0309	Decatur	15	0	3	3	20.00%
		0331	Bridgman	65	2	71	73	112.31%
		0344	Galien	39	0	35	35	89.74%
		0345	Baroda	62	0	56	56	90.32%
		0362	Coloma	48	2	35	37	77.08%
		0365	Edwardsburg	161	1	148	149	92.55%
		0454	Colon	150	0	156	156	104.00%
		0484	Hickory Corners	172	1	155	156	90.70%
		0518	New Troy	50	0	60	60	120.00%
		0568	Stevensville	177	10	172	182	102.82%
		Total		2887	25	2729	2754	95.39%
	05	0002	Grand Rapids	57	0	57	57	100.00%
		0006	Holland	508	0	527	527	103.74%
		0028	Grand Haven	1979	16	2006	2022	102.17%
		0033	Zeeland	28	0	24	24	85.71%
		0047	Comstock Park	374	10	396	406	108.56%
		0059	Grand Rapids	15	0	10	10	66.67%
		0102	Rockford	70	0	56	56	80.00%
		0123	Kent City	162	4	163	167	103.09%
		0154	Wyoming	240	7	245	252	105.00%
		0179	Grandville	320	11	354	365	114.06%
		0208	Kentwood	352	12	361	373	105.97%
		0258	Grand Rapids	120	9	117	126	105.00%
		0287	Cedar Springs	373	16	400	416	111.53%
		0305	Caledonia	338	3	359	362	107.10%
		0356	Grand Rapids	472	0	484	484	102.54%
		0376	Marne	76	2	68	70	92.11%
		0459	Grand Rapids	204	3	181	184	90.20%
		0528	Alto	143	12	138	150	104.90%
		1111	Walker	15	0	11	11	73.33%
		Total		5846	105	5957	6062	103.69%
Total		10295	218	10217	10435	101.36%		
Department	20	0225	Lansing	0	6	316	322	#DIV/0!
	Total		0	6	316	322	#DIV/0!	
	Total		0	6	316	322	#DIV/0!	
Total	Total		29321	723	28868	29591	100.92%	



SECOND DISTRICT

CREDENTIAL TALLY SHEET

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	UNIT MEMBERSHIP	NUMBER DELG'TS ALLOWED	NUMBER DELG'TS REGST'D	NUMBER DELG'TS AT-LARGE ALLOWED	NUMBER DELG'TS AT-LARGE REGST'D	TOTAL VOTING STRENGTH	TOTAL DELGTS PAID
29	Richard F Smith	252	4		1		5	
31	Chelsea	17	1		0		1	
34	Underwood-Orr	127	2		0		2	
66	Carleton	19	1		0		1	
72	Harry W Bamm	40	1		0		1	
81	Concord-Pulaski Memorial	16	1		0		1	
97	William C Stark	121	2		0		2	
117	Emil Jacob	7	1		0		1	
155	Glen H. Daykin	14	1		0		1	
180	Hannan-Colvin	72	2		0		2	
192	Sherman H. Osborne	36	1		0		1	
193	James E Yenor	47	1		1		2	
268	Earl Gladfelter	51	2		0		2	
282	Ypsilanti	35	1		1		2	
315	Wilber-Bartlett	583	7		0		7	
322	William B Lutz	160	3		0		3	
324	Rose City	111	2		0		2	
325	Robert Meachen	69	2		0		2	
368	Morenci	65	2		0		2	
392	Deerfield	25	1		0		1	
514	Ida	107	2		2		4	
550	Onsted	101	2		1		3	
557	Dexter	161	3		3		6	
TOTAL		2236 - 100.49%	45		9		54	

THIRD DISTRICT

CREDENTIAL TALLY SHEET

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	UNIT MEMBERSHIP	NUMBER DELG'TS ALLOWED	NUMBER DELG'TS REGST'D	NUMBER DELG'TS AT-LARGE ALLOWED	NUMBER DELG'TS AT-LARGE REGST'D	TOTAL VOTING STRENGTH	TOTAL DELGTS PAID
36	Portage	34	1		0		1	
42	Greenawalt-Flaherty	102	2		2		4	
48	Cole-Briggs	242	3		1		4	
52	Coldwater	154	3		1		4	
53	Leighr A Wright	166	3		1		4	
54	General George A Custer	34	1		0		1	
55	Patrick Leo Hanlon	23	1		0		1	
156	Stout-Nesbit	1	0		0		0	
157	Sherman-Rice-Demorest	232	3		0		3	
196	Union City	1	0		0		0	
257	Augusta	67	2		1		3	
259	Alderman-Luce	36	1		0		1	
298	Captain Oscar Brady	236	3		0		3	
360	Wolverine	70	2		0		2	
465	Climax-Scotts	70	2		0		2	
475	Wiley-Koon	152	3		1		4	
TOTAL		1,620	30		7		37	

Past Department Presidents

Jacklyn Skinner - 475

Carrie Bowerman - 42

Deanna Cortright - 52

District President

Penny Wright - 257

Committee Appointments

Samantha Swenson - 48

Angela Snyder - 53

Officer

Shannon Werner - 42



FOURTH DISTRICT

CREDENTIAL TALLY SHEET

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	UNIT MEMBERSHIP	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	TOTAL VOTING STRENGTH	TOTAL DELGTS PAID
			DELG'TS ALLOWED	DELG'TS REGST'D	DELG'TS AT-LARGE ALLOWED	DELG'TS AT-LARGE REGST'D		
26	Larue Messenger	5	1		0		1	
45	Lawrence J Bauer	63	2		1		3	
49	Edward W Thompson	769	9		0		9	
51	Ralph Rumbaugh	247	3		1		4	
68	Mc Gowan-Johnson	5	1		0		1	
73	Neuman-Wenzel	73	2		1		3	
85	E J Stover And A D Wagner	66	2		0		2	
105	Benton Harbor	7	1		0		1	
127	George Wagner	200	3		0		3	
160	Wilcox-Eastman-Salinas	62	2		0		2	
169	Edward C Sexton	56	2		0		2	
170	Hice-Shutes	41	1		0		1	
174	Hess-Eastman	39	1		0		1	
204	Randall Couchman	154	3		0		3	
220	Waters-Hackenberg	13	1		0		1	
223	Arthur E. Stears	61	2		0		2	
309	Phoenix	3	0		0		0	
331	Bridgman	74	2		0		2	
344	Roy Chilson	35	1		0		1	
345	Baroda Community	57	2		0		2	
362	Coloma	37	1		0		1	
365	Edwardsburg	149	2		0		2	
454	Snyder-Lewis-Welty	156	3		0		3	
484	Simmonds-Williams	156	3		1		4	
518	Wee-Chick	60	2		0		2	
568	Stevensville	182	3		0		3	
TOTAL		2757-95.50%	55		4		59	

Past Department Presidents

District President

Kathy Hartman-Gleason-51

Committee Appointments

Officer

Sue Ainslie - 45
Julie Pendell - 73
Chris Reed - 484



FIFTH DISTRICT

CREDENTIAL TALLY SHEET

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	UNIT MEMBERSHIP	NUMBER DELG'TS ALLOWED	NUMBER DELG'TS REGST'D	NUMBER DELG'TS AT-LARGE ALLOWED	NUMBER DELG'TS AT-LARGE REGST'D	TOTAL VOTING STRENGTH	TOTAL DELGTS PAID
2	Carl A. Johnson	57	2		0		2	
6	Willard G Leenhouts	527	6		0		6	
28	Charles A Conklin	2025	21		1		22	
33	Gilbert D. Karsten	24	1		0		1	
47	Louis Teistler	406	5		0		5	
59	Crispus Attucks	10	1		0		1	
102	Merritt Lamb	56	2		0		2	
123	Evans-Swanson	168	3		0		3	
154	Roger B Chaffee	252	4		1		5	
179	Neal E Fonger	365	5		2		7	
208	Daniel Waters Cassard	373	5		1		6	
258	Gerald R. Ford	126	2		1		3	
287	Glen Hill	416	5		2		7	
305	Caledonia Memorial	362	5		0		5	
356	Valley City	484	6		0		6	
376	Marne	70	2		0		2	
459	North Eastern	184	3		2		5	
528	Alto	150	2		1		3	
1111	Walker	11	1		0		1	
TOTAL			81		11		92	

Past Department Presidents

Mary Anne Yuncker - 287

Deborah Williamson - 258

District President

Nancy Stroosnyder - 528

Committee Appointments

Rebecca Hopp - 28

Shari German - 154

Deb Weatherbee - 179

Officer

Chris Merlington - 287

SIXTH DISTRICT

CREDENTIAL TALLY SHEET

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	UNIT MEMBERSHIP	NUMBER DELG'TS ALLOWED	NUMBER DELG'TS REGST'D	NUMBER DELG'TS AT-LARGE ALLOWED	NUMBER DELG'TS AT-LARGE REGST'D	TOTAL VOTING STRENGTH	TOTAL DELGTS PAID
38	James De Witt	24	1		0		1	
64	Oakley Traynor	124	2		0		2	
119	Linden	17	1		1		2	
141	Devereaux	492	6		0		6	
158	Neeley Labar	59	2		0		2	
235	Jesse B Cooley	20	1		0		1	
238	Buck-Reasoner	80	2		0		2	
267	Charles N Skellenger	68	2		0		2	
269	Captain Stephen W Frank	165	3		0		3	
294	Bernard A. Bendle	103	2		0		2	
296	Wycoff	13	1		0		1	
306	Dorie Miller	1	0		0		0	
367	Harry Baker	22	1		0		1	
413	Grand Blanc	275	4		0		4	
419	Pinckney Memorial	188	3		1		4	
491	Lyle Edwards	133	2		0		2	
510	Mackinder-Glenn	61	2		0		2	
TOTAL			35		2		37	

Past Department Presidents

District President

Pat Lozano - 119

Committee Appointments

Linda Wallace -419

Officer



SEVENTH DISTRICT

CREDENTIAL TALLY SHEET

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	UNIT MEMBERSHIP	NUMBER DELG'TS ALLOWED	NUMBER DELG'TS REGST'D	NUMBER DELG'TS AT-LARGE ALLOWED	NUMBER DELG'TS AT-LARGE REGST'D	TOTAL VOTING STRENGTH	TOTAL DELGTS PAID
4	Harry Ollrich	43	1		4		5	
7	Theron W. Atwood, Sr.	20	1		0		1	
8	Charles A Hammond	97	2		1		3	
16	Lapeer	115	2		2		4	
135	Harry F Hovey	22	1		0		1	
181	Morrison-Mead	3	0		0		0	
197	Burhans-Hagedon	68	2		0		2	
255	Cecil Service	69	2		0		2	
293	Stamnitz-Lindeman	144	2		0		2	
326	Robert L Poxon	67	2		0		2	
351	Victor I Rieck	78	2		2		4	
382	Charles J. Fulton	44	1		0		1	
421	Gateway	43	1		0		1	
449	Marysville	207	3		0		3	
457	North Branch	10	1		0		1	
489	Peck	120	2		0		2	
499	Frank Horetski	254	4		0		4	
525	Smiths Creek	5	1		0		1	
543	Jean	22	1		0		1	
566	Merrick Potter	15	1		0		1	
TOTAL		1446-96.98%	32		9		41	

Past Department Presidents

Betty Cline-8
Suzanne Knapp - 4

District President

Pam Wagner - 16

Committee Appointments

Alicia Minster - 4
Sharon Schulte - 4

Officer

Anita Mennel - 16
Suzanne Knapp - 4

EIGHTH DISTRICT

CREDENTIAL TALLY SHEET

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	UNIT MEMBERSHIP	NUMBER DELG'TS ALLOWED	NUMBER DELG'TS REGST'D	NUMBER DELG'TS AT-LARGE ALLOWED	NUMBER DELG'TS AT-LARGE REGST'D	TOTAL VOTING STRENGTH	TOTAL DELGTS PAID
22	Phillips-Elliott- Hodges-Van Auker	107	2		0		2	
57	Patterson-Dawson- Crawford-Arnold	72	2		0		2	
101	Ray I Booth	267	4		0		4	
150	Frankenmuth	38	1		1		2	
153	Edwin T Stiles	97	2		1		3	
175	Leroy L Dausman	173	3		0		3	
182	Walter T Roach	125	2		0		2	
203	Hugo Fales	222	3		0		3	
212	Chesaning	3	0		0		0	
248	Clare Burt	163	3		0		3	
256	Fields-Myers-Smith-Dittenber	42	1		0		1	
295	Wolverton-Sawvel-Falor	80	2		0		2	
380	Carson City	166	3		0		3	
412	Ray Barker	196	3		1		4	
439	Jastrzemski-Lelo	302	4		0		4	
452	Stanton	121	2		0		2	
TOTAL		2174-100.32%	37		3		40	

Past Department Presidents

Marcy Jorae - 153

District President

Marcy Jorae - 153

Committee Appointments

Sandra Neuchterlein - 150
Bonnie Holt - 412

Officer



NINTH DISTRICT

CREDENTIAL TALLY SHEET

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	UNIT MEMBERSHIP	NUMBER DELG'TS ALLOWED	NUMBER DELG'TS REGST'D	NUMBER DELG'TS AT-LARGE ALLOWED	NUMBER DELG'TS AT-LARGE REGST'D	TOTAL VOTING STRENGTH	TOTAL DELGTS PAID
9	Merritt-Lamb	33	1		0		1	
10	Manistee	150	2		1		3	
35	Bowen-Holliday	39	1		0		1	
69	Algot Johnson	216	3		0		3	
76	Edwin H Ewing	350	4		0		4	
94	Ray E Bostick	122	2		0		2	
219	Fife Lake	265	4		2		6	
221	John A Mortenson	93	2		0		2	
289	Deal-Ridgeway	12	1		0		1	
297	Sherman Moore	53	2		0		2	
300	Jackson-Koster-Gray	192	3		0		3	
381	Walter F Howarth	257	4		0		4	
397	Cobb-Trygstad-Anderson	201	3		0		3	
411	Thomas Richard Annis	110	2		1		3	
531	Copemish	35	1		0		1	
TOTAL		2128-101.33%	35		4		39	

Past Department Presidents

Ruth Gott - 219

Georgia Downs - 411

District President

Linda Gamache-Chick - 10

Committee Appointments

Officer

Dawn Gilbert - 219

TENTH DISTRICT

CREDENTIAL TALLY SHEET

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	UNIT MEMBERSHIP	NUMBER DELG'TS ALLOWED	NUMBER DELG'TS REGST'D	NUMBER DELG'TS AT-LARGE ALLOWED	NUMBER DELG'TS AT-LARGE REGST'D	TOTAL VOTING STRENGTH	TOTAL DELGTS PAID
18	Harding-Olk-Craigde	107	2		1		3	
98	Harry K. Kunzie	14	1		1		2	
104	Johnson Day	142	2		0		2	
106	Grayling	26	1		2		3	
110	Owen Barrett	49	1		0		1	
162	Wally Bartley	101	2		0		2	
165	Berryhill	104	2		0		2	
171	Gladwin County	32	1		0		1	
211	Audie Johnson	46	1		0		1	
239	John K. Fowler	83	2		0		2	
240	Guy Stanton	71	2		0		2	
245	Houghton-Higgins Lake	19	1		0		1	
254	Mikado	70	2		0		2	
273	Frederick W. Diem	48	1		0		1	
274	Loud Merkel La Plante	163	3		1		4	
370	Schuster-Stahl	108	2		0		2	
404	Harrison	128	2		0		2	
416	St Helen	223	3		0		3	
422	Glenn Staley	104	2		0		2	
443	Thomas-Daniels-Hand	260	4		1		5	
473	Gerald Pitts	1	0		0		0	
554	Knox-Helm	72	2		0		2	
558	Clare-Farwell	283	4		0		4	
TOTAL		2254-97.79%	43		6		49	

Past Dept Presidents

Deborah Meskill - 443

District President

Rysta Brown - 274

Committee Appointments

Peggy Meyer - 18
Skylar Posigian - 98

Officer



UPAA

CREDENTIAL TALLY SHEET

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	UNIT MEMBERSHIP	NUMBER DELG'TS ALLOWED	NUMBER DELG'TS REGST'D	NUMBER DELG'TS AT-LARGE ALLOWED	NUMBER DELG'TS AT-LARGE REGST'D	TOTAL VOTING STRENGTH	TOTAL DELGTS PAID
3	Ira D MacLachlan	269	4		1		5	
5	Ironwood	40	1		0		1	
11	Geroux	30	1		0		1	
17	Alfred Branchini	27	1		1		2	
21	Reino	101	2		1		3	
27	Peter Gedda-Francis Cychosz	2	0		0		0	
41	Ewen	19	1		0		1	
43	Godfrey Anderson	25	1		0		1	
44	Richard M Jopling	437	5		2		7	
50	Uren-Cooper-Johnson	61	2		2		4	
71	August Mattson	102	2		0		2	
74	Hugh Allen McInnes	180	3		0		3	
90	Williams-Giroux	95	2		0		2	
92	Milton G. Preiss	51	2		0		2	
114	Lillian Larson	105	2		1		3	
115	Escanaba River	1	0		0		0	
131	Roderick Prato	162	3		0		3	
144	L'Anse	31	1		0		1	
146	Menominee	280	4		2		6	
186	Hancock	15	1		0		1	
244	Tony Rivord	15	1		0		1	
290	Feneley-McNeil-Nesbit	37	1		0		1	
340	Florian-Stecker	14	1		0		1	
349	Morton-Guntley	138	2		0		2	
393	Barrus-Mcculligh-Stewart	87	2		0		2	
438	John Rheau- Fred Knauf	20	1		0		1	
444	Foucault-Funke	2	0		0		0	
540	Perkins	17	1		0		1	
559	Rock	1	0		0		0	
TOTAL		2364-99.29%	47		10		57	

Past Department Presidents

Patricia Laine - 44
Judy Lynch-146
Sue Verville-17
Julie Becker - 21

District President

Bonnie Taylor - 3

Committee Appointments

Linda Kaare - 44
Jeannie Durocher - 50
Barbara Larson-50
Wanda Westman-114

Officer

Julie Becker-21



SIXTEENTH DISTRICT

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	UNIT MEMBERSHIP	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	TOTAL VOTING STRENGTH	TOTAL DELGTS PAID
			DELG'TS ALLOWED	DELG'TS REGST'D	DELG'TS AT-LARGE ALLOWED	DELG'TS AT-LARGE REGST'D		
32	Myron H. Beals	282	4		3		7	
67	Robert A De Mars	84	2		0		2	
111	Wayne	17	1		0		1	
147	Lloyd H. Green	39	1		0		1	
200	Taylor	53	2		0		2	
217	Edward C Headman	638	7		0		7	
231	Huron Valley	20	1		0		1	
232	Carl E Stitt	154	3		1		4	
364	Fort Dearborn	127	2		0		2	
375	Joe Louis	9	1		0		1	
389	Clough-Lambrix	263	4		0		4	
396	Garden City	286	4		2		6	
409	Allen Park	93	2		0		2	
426	Harold J Chatell	108	2		2		4	
472	Melvindale	3	0		0		0	
TOTAL		2176-98.06%	36		8		44	

Past Department Presidents

District President

Pam Globke - 396

Committee Appointments

Debbie Abraham - 32
 Connie Kovacs - 32
 Cassidy Kovacs - 32
 Kim Frazier -232
 Karen McAdams - 396
 Beryl Robbins - 426
 Ashley Cetnarowski - 426

Officer

EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	UNIT MEMBERSHIP	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	TOTAL VOTING STRENGTH	TOTAL DELGTS PAID
			DELG'TS ALLOWED	DELG'TS REGST'D	DELG'TS AT-LARGE ALLOWED	DELG'TS AT-LARGE REGST'D		
14	Charles Edwards	50	1		1		2	
20	Cook-Nelson	44	1		0		1	
63	Campbell-Richmond	76	2		0		2	
108	Walter Fraser	176	3		1		4	
143	Hill-Gazette	95	2		0		2	
149	Amel Schwartz	24	1		1		2	
172	Homer Wing	20	1		0		1	
216	Ernest F Oldenburg	204	3		1		4	
224	Constitution	36	1		0		1	
233	Charlton-Polan	182	3		0		3	
253	Frank Wendtland	188	3		0		3	
346	Groves-Walker	86	2		0		2	
374	Berkley	197	3		0		3	
377	Chief Pontiac	188	3		4		7	
TOTAL		1566-96.85%	29		8		37	

Past Department Presidents

Ellen Jackson - 108
 Kimberly Champion - 377

District President

Kim Lipman - 14

Committee Appointments

Mollie Lynch - 149
 Sheila Maxwell - 216
 ShyLynn Jones - 377
 Miranda Jones - 377

Officer

Darlene Jones - 377



NINETEENTH DISTRICT				NUMBER DELG'TS ALLOWED	NUMBER DELG'TS REGST'D	NUMBER DELG'TS AT-LARGE ALLOWED	NUMBER DELG'TS AT-LARGE REGST'D	TOTAL VOTING STRENGTH	TOTAL DELGTS PAID
UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	UNIT MEMBERSHIP							
122	Robert Vroman	36		1		1		2	
159	Clayton Murray	180		3		0		3	
194	Petoskey	14		1		0		1	
198	Lewiston	121		2		0		2	
226	Leslie T Shapton	17		1		0		1	
227	Rebec-Hosler-Sweet	25		1		0		1	
281	Smith-Hoover	207		3		0		3	
317	Forest Preston Jr	19		1		0		1	
463	Gardner-Neihardt	38		1		1		2	
TOTAL		657-91.00%		14		2		16	

Past Dept Presidents

District President

Committee Appointments

Officer

Charlotte Ellard - 122

Carol Renis - 463

TWENTIETH DISTRICT									
225	Department					1			
	<u>Past Dept Presidents</u>								
	Priscilla Kelsey - 225								
TOTAL		0				1		1	

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

DELEGATES ALLOWED

TOTALS	<u>Membership</u>	<u>Del Allowed</u>	<u>Del Reg</u>	<u>DAL All</u>	<u>DAL Reg</u>	<u>VOT STG</u>	<u>Total Del Pd</u>
TOTAL TO ELECT	29,625	519		84		603	



2025 - 2026