



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Michigan
Leadership Guide
2026-2027**



“Leadership is the 8th wonder of the world”.

It inspires others to believe and enables that belief to become reality. It motivates, encourages, and brings out the very best in people. Let’s be this kind of leader this year!

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LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The American Legion Auxiliary is an organization that provides both Junior and adult members, the opportunity to develop and hone their leadership skills. Our organization depends upon an ever-emerging stream of competent new leaders, trained, and guided by experienced ones, to assume leadership within the Auxiliary and advance its mission long into the future.

Most leaders are not born. They are made. In addition to leadership qualities such as integrity, vision, and the ability to communicate effectively, a good leader knows as much as possible about the organization they are leading, has a passion for the work, and has mastered basic skills such as parliamentary procedure. Every member is encouraged to enhance their membership by expanding their knowledge of the organization. The Auxiliary Basics Course is designed and

available for any member in good standing.

Recognizing that to continue to maintain a viable organization to carry out the mission of serving veterans, active military and their families, our children and youth as well as our communities, we must work to train and mentor our members to be the future leaders of our organization.

The Auxiliary offers various opportunities for members to serve in leadership roles, from chairing a short-term community service project at the unit level to running for a national office.

KEY PROGRAM STATEMENTS

- To raise awareness of ALA leadership development opportunities. (Workshops, Newsletters) To promote participation in the ALA Academy. (Instruction to log in, Trifold)
- To enhance knowledge about ALA history, programs, and organization. (Basic Leadership Course)

DATES AND DEADLINES

Unit reports due to District by April 30, 2027

District report awards submission by May 15, 2027

MICHIGAN LEADERSHIP TOOLS

Helping Michigan Auxiliary members learn easy practices to mentor our new and seasoned members. This is the key to our future.

- ✓ Workshops
- ✓ Fillable form
- ✓ Zoom events

LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Most Outstanding Unit Leadership Program

1. A certificate is presented to the Unit with the best Overall Leadership Program.
2. Entries must be in narrative form, not more than 1000 words
3. Winner sent on to National

Sandra A. Knapp Award

1. A certificate is presented to the DISTRICT.
2. Best overall Leadership Program.
3. Entries must be in narrative form, not more than 500 words

Unit Member of The Year

1. Only senior members in good standing are eligible.
2. Current membership dues must be paid.
3. The member cannot have obtained an elected or appointed leadership role other than that of Unit President.
4. Selection is based on accomplishments, activities, etc., for the current administrative year.
5. Years of membership are not part of the criteria; the nominee may be a new member.
6. The Unit must submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less describing the nominee's accomplishments and activities together with the nominee's name and address.
7. The Unit President and Secretary must sign the entry form unless the nominee is one of them, in which case a Leadership Chairman must sign the entry form. (Recognition for both people)
8. The Leadership Chair must report the Unit Member of the Year to the National Leadership Chair by May 15, 2027, to be recognized at the National Convention.

My Mentor

1. This is your chance to honor the Auxiliary member whose example has encouraged you to become a good member/leader.
2. They may have worked closely with you, or you may have admired them from afar. There is no time limit for this award.
3. Write about how they impacted your life as a part of the ALA.
4. In 500 words or less, tell us about them including their name, Unit and District number (Recognition both persons)

ALA Academy

To access Online courses through the ALA Academy you must first log into the "Auxiliary Member Portal."

To do this:

- *Go to the National website, www.alaforveterans.org
- *Click on 'Member Log In' from the upper menu links
- *Enter your account User Id and Password.
(First time users must select 'Create Account' to set up your log in credentials)
- *After entering your user ID and Password, you will land on your account info page where you can pay your dues, print your membership card, etc...
- *Hover your cursor over 'Meetings and Trainings' on the upper menu.
- *Slide down the dropdown menu that appears and click on 'ALA Academy'.
- *Click on 'Launch ALA Academy'.

RESOURCES: ONLINE/IN PERSON

www.alaforVeterans.org

ALA Senior Basics Course: A Course on our History and Legacy

Junior Leadership Course: "The ALA: My Organization and What I Need to Know"