

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
MEMBERSHIP GUIDE
2026-2027

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Welcome to the 2026-27 membership year. The Department membership team invites you to join in the fun celebrating and growing our organization. Our mission is for every Unit in the Department of Michigan to achieve goal membership by July 4, 2027. The Area Membership Chairs will be working closely with District Presidents and District Membership Chairs to accomplish our goals. They are an excellent group of members who will offer assistance to help with membership and ALAMIS questions.

Questions regarding eligibility, transfers, and forms should be directed to your District Membership Chair/President. If they are unable to assist you, they should contact your Area Chair. **Please remember that general membership questions should NOT be directed to the Department Headquarters staff.**

This year's membership theme will be focused on being strong, kind, and to Love.

Strong Like a Polar Bear🐻‍❄️Kind Like a Purple Heart💜Bound Together by Love❤️‍🩹

The Districts (Polar Bears) and the Units (consisting of Cubs) will work diligently on increasing and retaining their members. Besides the usual Department awards, there will be two additional ones for the Polar Bear and Cubs that have the highest percentage of goal by 30 days before Department Convention. So, get those Polar Bears and Cubs on the move!

UNIT LEADERSHIP ROLES

It is very important that your leadership roles/contact information are up to date and accurate. Incorrect information leads to lost mail, missed information and unreturned phone calls. If you have access to ALAMIS, using Unit tab- Edit Unit Information, verify that the mailing address is correct and that the contact information is current. Also verify that the Leadership Roster is up to date. If you do not have access to ALAMIS send the information via email: info@michalaux.org.

FROM THE ALA DEPARTMENT OPERATION GUIDE

As a membership-driven, nonprofit patriotic service organization, the American Legion Auxiliary could accomplish very little without its members and their individual dedication to our mission. The very fact that we have over 500,000 members carries tremendous influence and clout as we lobby for veterans' issues along with the rest of the Legion Family. Through our various programs, our dedicated members impact the lives of veterans, military, and their families, as well as the public. The future of the ALA and the continuation of our great works depend on our ability to recruit and retain members. In short, without our members, the ALA could not exist.

RESOURCES

Forms and membership materials are available on the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan website (michalaux.org) under the FORMS tab and the ALA National website (legion-aux.org).

TRAINING

There is a video presentation of "Paperwork 101" that Department Headquarters staff created as a membership resource for Districts and Units. It explains how to properly fill out the Transmittal Form, Transmittal List, Membership Application, Member Data Form and the ALAMIS Access Form. The video is on the Departments website at www.michalaux.org.

There are also how-to videos on ALAMIS on the ALA National website at www.alaforvets.org.

FACEBOOK

Please join the National Membership Facebook page (American Legion Auxiliary National Membership Group to become aware of frequent updates and reminders. There are also good ideas that you can use for your own membership recruiting.

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

At the 2026 American Legion National Convention, delegates adopted new membership eligibility language for the American Legion Auxiliary-expanding eligibility and allowing more family members to join the ALA. The Legion has authority over the ALA's membership eligibility; this language change allows more people into our organization-strengthening our ability to better serve our Veterans, military and their families.

Following is the updated text from TAL that reflects the updated eligibility provisions for members in the ALA:

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE**:**

Section 2. Membership in the ALA shall be limited to:

1. grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of members of The American Legion; and

2. grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of all servicemembers who served in either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, and any time after December 7, 1941, who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of their entry therein served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge;

3. grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of all servicemembers who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and anytime after December 7, 1941, who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during either eligibility period and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge;

4. to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

The revisions to the ALA's eligibility mention above allow individuals the potential to be members of both the Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. The Legions's National Judge Advocate has confirmed that this dual membership does not constitute a conflict of interest with The American Legion.

The eligibility changes are effective immediately. Updated membership applications, brochures, and additional membership resources are available at www.ALAfor Veterans.org.

Other factors to consider when determining membership eligibility:

1. When a request for ALA membership is based on the military service of a family

member who is still living, that family member must be a current member of The American Legion.

2. When a request for ALA membership is based on a deceased Veteran, the prospective member will be asked to provide verifying documentation that proves his/her eligibility.

   The following documents are acceptable to verify membership eligibility in the ALA:

   a. DD214 – Discharge Papers (not issued until after the Korean War)
   b. Official military orders
   c. Official military service citations/awards
   d. Letters related to the Veterans military service on official government letterhead.
   e. Certificate from the Veterans Affairs center in St. Louis
   f. Data from the back of older discharges

MEMBER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Recruiting and retaining a diverse, active membership is critical to our mission. Well into the future, Veterans will need our support and advocacy to assist them at home and abroad, during war and peacetime, to receive the attention and support they deserve.

It is important for all members of the ALA to become familiar with the tools available as we work to increase ALA's positive visibility to attract and retain members. Letting members know that their contributions are valued, along with welcoming, respectful treatment goes a long way toward creating a positive experience and an appealing environment for both current and potential members.

MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVES DRAWINGS

Autumn Leaves - Two Units who have at least 1 paid membership, per the ALAMIS report (09/18/2026) Award: $50.00 for membership promotion. Drawing at Fall Conference.

It's All About Our Veterans - Two Units that have paid membership at 75% or greater of the goal, per the ALAMIS report (11/11/2026). Award: $50.00 for membership promotion.

National Ribbons Day - Two Units who have paid membership at 100% or greater of the goal per the ALAMIS report (01/31/2027). Award: $50.00 for membership promotion. Drawing will be at Winter Conference.

Area Winner - First Area to reach 100% of goal. The Area Chair will have $100 donated on their behalf to the Legion Family program/project of their choosing.

2027 DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Gladys Taylor Citation - Unit with the highest percentage of goal – Deadline: January 31, 2027

Doyle Cup - Unit having the highest percentage of goal – Deadline: April 1, 2027

Patricia Donald Citation - Unit with 200+ memberships having the greatest numerical increase – Deadline: 30 days prior to 2027 Department Convention

Chloe O'Neil Cup - Unit have the greatest numerical increase in members – Deadline: 30 days prior to 2027 Department Convention

Ester V. McCoy Cup - Unit having the highester percentage increase over the previous year's membership – Deadline: 30 days prior to 2027 Department Convention

Orlene Penning Citation - Junior Group having the newest members for the year – Deadline: 30 days prior to 2027 Department Convention

Ethel Stitt Cup - District having the greatest numerical increase in members – Deadline: 30 days prior to 2027 Department Convention

Elizabeth Lyons Citation - District Chairperson with the highest percentage increase – Deadline: 30 days prior to 2027 Department Convention.

ALL UNITS THAT REACH THEIR GOAL BY 30 DAYS PRIOR TO 2027 DEPARMENT CONVENTION WILL BE AWARDED RIBBONS.

THE 30 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTMENT CONVENTION IS MAY 25, 2027
Units need to have their renewals and application entered on ALAMIS by this date. If a Unit mails paperwork to Department Headquarters for processing, the Department staff need to receive the paperwork **5 days prior to this date for processing by the deadline.**

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

2027 MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Member Award: Recruit/Rejoin 10

- **Award:** Special gift selected by the National Membership Chairman
- **Presented to:** Members who recruit and/or rejoin 10 Senior and/or Junior members. Rejoined members must not have renewed since 2023 or earlier.
- **Deadline:** Members must be entered and paid in ALAMIS member database by June 1, 2027.
  - FORMS must be received at National HQ by June 7, 2027.
- **Materials and guidelines:**
  - Form can be printed from the ALA national Membership Committee page of the national website (www.ALAforVeterans.org). You must be logged in to the *My Auxiliary* area to access the page.
  - One entry per recruiter.

Unit Award: 100% Unit Award

- **Award:** A special gift from the National President
- **Presented to:** Units that reach 100% of their 2027 membership goal by January 31, 2027.
- **Deadline:** January 31, 2027
- **Materials and guidelines:**
  - This award will be based on units that reach 100% of their reported goals by January 31, 2027 as verified by ALAMIS.

Note: **Departments must submit unit goals to National Headquarters by September 1, 2026, to be eligible for the 100% Unit Award. These must be sent in a specific format which will be provided by NHQ. Gifts for winning units will be mailed to each department for distribution.**

Unit Award: New Unit Award

- **Award:** A special gift selected by the National President
- **Presented to:** New units chartered between September 1, 2026 and July 31, 2027.
- **Deadline:** July 31, 2027.
- **Materials and guidelines:**
  - This award is automatically presented upon receipt and processing of new unit charter applications at National Headquarters.

Department Membership Goals: Department membership goals are based on each department's 2025 membership as of 30 days prior to the 2025 National Convention plus a 1% increase.

Seating at National Convention: Seating at National Convention will be based on each department's percentage of their 2027 membership goal, from highest percentage to lowest.

Department Award: 50% Award

- **Award:** $50 to be used to advance the ALA mission
- **Presented to:** Departments reaching 50% of their 2027 department membership goal.
- **Deadline:** Veterans Day, November 11, 2026.
- **Materials and guidelines:**
  - Award will be based on membership entered in the ALAMIS member database by November 11, 2026.

Department Award: Highest Percentage of New Members per capita

- **Award:** Citation Plaque
- **Presented to:** The department with the highest percentage of new 2027 members per capita. Citation Plaque will be presented to the winning department at their mid-winter meeting by the national membership chairman.
- **Deadline:** January 1, 2027

Department Award: 85% Award

- **Award:** $85 to be used to advance the ALA mission
- **Presented to:** Departments reaching 85% of their 2027 department membership goal.
- **Deadline:** Merit Medallion Membership Deadline March 15, 2027.
- **Materials and guidelines:**
    - Award will be based on membership entered in the ALAMIS member database by March 15, 2027.

Department Award: Highest Percentage of New Members per capita

- **Award:** Citation Plaque
- **Presented to:** The department with the highest percentage of new 2027 members per capita. Citation Plaque will be presented to the winning department at their department convention.
- **Deadline:** May 1, 2027

Department Award: 95% Award

- **Award:** $95 to be used to advance the ALA mission
- **Presented to:** Departments reaching 95% of their 2027 department membership goal.
- **Deadline:** National Poppy Day® May 28, 2027.
- **Materials and guidelines:**
    - Award will be based on membership entered in the ALAMIS member database by May 28, 2027.

Department Award: 100% Award

- **Award:** $250 to be used to advance the ALA mission
- **Presented to:** Any department that has reached 100% of their 2027 department goal.
- **Deadline:** Independence Day, July 4, 2027.
- **Materials and guidelines:**
    - Award will be based on membership entered in the ALAMIS member database by July 4, 2027.

Department Award: 95% Retention Award

- **Award:** Citation Plaque
- **Presented to:** Any department that reaches 95% retention rate (includes renewals and rejoins)
- **Deadline:** 30 Days prior to National Convention, July 31, 2027
- **Materials and guidelines:**
    - Award will be based on membership entered in the ALA MIS member database by July 31, 2027

Department Award: 102% Award

- **Award:** $500 to be used to advance the ALA mission
- **Presented to:** Any department that has reached 102% of their 2027 department goal.
- **Deadline:** National Lighthouse Day, August 7, 2027.
- **Materials and guidelines:**
    - Award will be based on membership entered in the ALAMIS member database by August 7, 2027

2027: RECRUIT/REJOIN 10

Members who recruit and/or rejoin 10 junior or senior Auxiliary members for the 2027 membership year. Rejoins must not have paid membership dues since 2024 or earlier.

One entry per recruiter.

Certified forms must be received at ALA National Headquarters by June 7, 2027.
Please send this form to your department headquarters office no later than one week prior to the deadlines.

New members must be paid in ALAMIS by June 1, 2027.

ENTRY/CERTIFICATION FORM

Please type or print legibly and fill out the form completely. Incomplete forms may not be processed.

Recruiter's Name: _____ Member ID#: _____
Recruiter's Department: _____ Unit #: _____ Email: _____
Recruiter's Address: _____
_____

Names of *New/Rejoined* Members	Member ID#	Names of *New/Rejoined* Members	Member ID#
1.		6.	
2.		7.	
3.		8.	
4.		9.	
5.		10.	

Certified by Department Secretary: DATE: _____

Department Secretary
Printed Name: _____ Dept: _____

Dept Secretary Signature ***(required)***: _____

***I certify that all 10 members are new or rejoined into the 2027 year.**
***I've provided or verified member ID numbers and that the form is filled out legibly and completely.**

DO NOT SEND INCOMPLETE FORMS or more than 1 form per recruiter.

Units: Send form to your department secretary.

Departments:

Please either scan and email to:
membership@ALAforVeterans.org
(Subject line: Recruit 10/ Member Name & ID)

Or

Fax: (317) 569-4502 (Attn: Membership)

***Must be received at NHQ no later than midnight June 7, 2027.**

Each recruiter will receive a special gift selected by the 2027 National Membership Committee Chairman.
One award per recruiter.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

ALAMIS – CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026-2027 (American Legion Auxiliary Management Information Systems)	
Early July, 2026	2027 Membership dues available for renewal. Exact Date TBD
August 3, 2026	Units to be cancelled at Convention must be submitted via the charter cancellation form available in ALA MIS.
August 7, 2026	All new Dept officers need entered into ALAMIS;
August 7, 2026	Last day to enter remit to persons and addresses in ALA MIS so that they are reflected on the 2027 1st mailed Renewal Notices.
August 7, 2026	Senior members not renewed for 2027 in ALA MIS by midnight, will get renewal notice
September 1, 2026	New members for the 2027 membership year can be added to ALAMIS
September 15, 2026	1st Renewal Notice mailed out from printer
Late October, 2026	1st PUFL Distribution for 2027 Membership Year. Exact Date TBD
January 3, 2027	Senior members not renewed for 2027 in ALA MIS by midnight, will get 2nd renewal notice
Late January, 2027	2nd PUFL Distribution made to Depts. This is only for new PUFL's processed between September and December whose 2027 dues were not paid.
February 1, 2027	2nd Renewal Notices mailed out from printer
February 1, 2027	Membership Rollover, Depts must pay 2027 dues before it can pay 2026 or prior
February 5, 2027	Units to be cancelled at NEC meeting must be submitted via the charter cancellation form available in ALA MIS.
April 1, 2027	Last day to make changes to member info for the 2028 printed rosters & membership cards
May 1- August 1, 2027	Depts update Remit to Individuals and Addresses in ALAMIS
May 3-May 7, 2027	Depts report any DEPT rate changes for 2028 to ALAMIS Helpdesk
May 10-May 21, 2027	Depts report any UNIT rate changes for 2028 to ALAMIS Helpdesk
May 24- June 1, 2027	Nat'l will ask Depts to review the 2028 dues rate report on ALAMIS and confirm they were entered correctly.
June 7, 2027	2028 Dues Rates locked for membership year