

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS**



**BOOK OF REPORTS
2018 - 2019**

PROUDLY SERVING OUR HEROS!

PRESIDENT

Patricia L. Murray

This year has been an adventure. July 1, 2018, I hit the ground running and haven't stopped. My administrative year began with the revelation that we had no electronic records, missing records and incomplete records. Members of our Department stepped up and volunteered their time and used their knowledge and years of experience to help get our records and headquarters organized and functional – it really does take a village and I am so proud of our village.

Many of our Units and Districts extended invitations to attend meeting and functions and I attended as many as I could. Your kindness, friendships, understanding and amazing cooking have given me many memories that will last a lifetime.

This fall our members were asked to donate socks for our veterans in the VA hospitals located in our state. We challenged the Legion and we WON! Our members rose to the challenge and donated 3600 pairs of socks! Sadie Mae, the sock monkey, made appearances to help promote the challenge and she even helped deliver the socks. This spring I asked members to donate 3 in 1 body wash to the VAs and haven't been disappointed. We don't have a final total because we are still collecting but know that the VA hospitals and the veterans will be very appreciative of our donation.

This year my cooking skills were used to prepare lunches for our Fall and Spring Conferences – Fall Conference proceeds were donated to the American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund and Spring Conference proceeds were donated to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

The Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs invited me to different events that were hosted by the Department of Veterans Affairs this year. I represented our Department at the groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion of the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery, Veteran's Day Ceremony at the Arkansas Arts Museum, Women's Summit and Korean War Veteran Recognition Ceremony. The VA invited me to different events including National Salute to Veterans Week and I was given a radio interview at the VA about the Auxiliary, its members and the way we volunteer.

Being the guest speaker at the American Legion Auxiliary Heber Springs Field of Heroes Closing Ceremony in November was an honor and I witnessed something new to me, the presentation of Quilts of Valor to deserving veterans. If you ever get the chance to see that presentation, don't pass up the opportunity.

I attended American Legion 100-year celebrations at Legion Posts and brought greetings on behalf of the Department of Arkansas. It is always an honor to meet Legion members and hear their stories of their service to our country and our Auxiliary members work with their Legionnaires to provide food and support for the events.

Attending Arkansas Girls State for a week was an adventure. Approximately 900 delegates, counselors and staff members spent a memorable week at Harding University. Delegates were eager to learn, counselors were great mentors to the delegates and staff members put in many hours to ensure that Arkansas Girls State was a success. Many thanks go out to Charlotte Wilson, Girls State Director, and our Canteen ladies (and gophers) who put in long hours to keep everyone happy. We learned many things that week including that cereal could be eaten with a fork and that sleep is very overrated.

Much of my time this year was devoted to upgrading department electronics and operating systems, upgrading our computer security, correcting member records and trying to make our department member friendly. An open house was held in December and members attended that had never been to our department headquarters. It has been an awesome year and I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity to be your President for 2018 – 2019. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Northwest Divisional Vice President

Amanda Wade

I accompanied the Northern Vice Commander of the SAL, Bob Wade, when he went to different Posts to try to get a SAL up and running, I visited the Auxiliary and spoke to them to find out what if anything was needed by them from Department . All Units visited had the same thing to say, having trouble getting members to join and then to stay. Have trouble getting the community involved in functions, many communities think that any function is just for the Legion and Auxiliary members. Some ideas were given to various units on what fundraisers and/or community gatherings have worked at other units, such as Family Game Night, Spaghetti Dinners, Chili Cook Offs, Back Pack Bingo, etc. I also attended several different Unit meetings and breakfasts, to see if I could be of any assistance to them. Also, along with Jo Anne Cobb, we visited some Units to help get community service/volunteer hours. It is difficult to get to everyone in the area since many have their meetings and breakfasts and/or functions at the same time. I also installed officers at Prairie Grove and Rogers. I did not get to go to as many Units as I hoped, out of all of the Units meeting and fund raisers I attended, I must say, we have a really good group of ladies and I am proud to have been the NW Divisional Vice President.

Historian

Wanda Honeycutt

As State Historian I requested all photos of their events and a group shot of their Unit members twice with only one copy to be sent to Department Headquarters. These photos collected will be used to make a huge mural which will hang in Department Headquarters as part of our 100th year celebration. The group shots will be put in a binder and put on Display for all to see. Arkansas has a Facebook page which explains why only three reporting Units have a Facebook page. Units are preparing to have "Old Fashion Picnics" this summer to kick off our 100th birthday. Members know our 100 years start October 219 and are holding back as they are helping their Legionnaires prepare for their 100th year celebration at our State Convention in June. Excitement is in their air as most members plan on participating in Arkansas American Legion 100th year events.

32 Units kept a history/record of activities for 2018-2019

38 Units invited Department President, District President, Membership Chairman and community dignitaries to attend their Unit/District Meetings

8 Units sent documentation detailing visits

31 Units did take and kept photos of guest visitors

3 Units have a Facebook page

32 Units have a folder of information from the Historian

Based on report, Units are maintaining files to refer back to for information for:

- Fundraisers
- Photos
- Membership drives
- Poppy distribution records
- Updated forms
- Historical facts of their past/future officers and minutes.

Americanism

Lisa Evridge, Chairman

Arkansas American Legion Auxiliary has been a very state this past year. I received 17 Unit's year end reports and so happy to report that all of the Americanism Programs had Units participating and supporting the American Legion Programs.

One Unit was involved in Voter Responsibility and Education "Get out the Vote", another Unit was involved in the setup, decorating and manning the registration for 130 Women Veterans and 47 Vendors for two days at the 2019 Women Veterans Summit held in Little Rock, Arkansas. Another Unit held their annual "Field of Heroes" from 9/11 through 11/11 with over 130 flags purchased and all proceeds went to Veterans and local Fire, Police and EMT departments. One entered a Patriotic ALA Float in the local "Old Soldiers Reunion". Some were involved with the "Quilts of Valor" presentations, two Units were part of the Gold Star Family Flag presentation and another Unit provided 30 plus American Flags during a Naturalization Ceremony to new U.S. Citizens.

Many of the Units participated in local fairs, school assemblies to education the citizens in Flag Education and pass out Flags. Units also placed Flags on Veterans graves, donated flags to Veterans to fly them at their home. All Units encouraged their members to wear Patriotic colors while out representing the ALA. Several Units promoted proper Flag Disposal and assisted in many Flag Disposal ceremonies.

The Americanism Essay Contest was presented to several schools and even if we did not receive much feedback, I know our ladies put in the effort and we hope in the future that it does better. We also submitted two adult essays.

It has been an honor to be the Department Chairman for Americanism this year and with the assistance of my committee and our Arkansas American Legion Auxiliary members with their heart, time and money, we have successfully educated and honored many of our Veterans, their families and the citizens of Arkansas. I am proud of all of our accomplishments this past year and will submit with pictures a few for National for Awards.

History

Nora Earnest, Chairman

American Legion Auxiliary History is all about who we are as an organization. Our records speak volumes of who we are as members. These records concern the items that officers, members, directors, staff, and volunteers have produced and compiled over the years. Each Unit has a unique testimony to the achievements of that unit and our organization. What a privilege to share these memories with the next generation of new ALA members and tell our story.

I have compiled from the Unit History Reports 2019 the following information:

History Activities:

The Units implemented from the Program Action Plan:

- Becoming more visible in the community, researching and sharing history of our past
- Giving more intentional effort to preserving history in pictures at various events.
- Expand their newsletter
- To create an internal culture of goodwill
- To develop leadership at all levels
- Building Brand Loyalty

Places the Unit's reported they have for displaying awards, pictures, plaques, and other items are:

- Electronic and hard back albums. Display cabinet for trophies and charter; some framed items
- Displayed on a special table in the entrance where we have our meeting
- Glass display cases contains the Unit's valuable trinkets and artifacts

- Scrapbooks along with plaques on a shelf in the main room to be viewed by all
- A wall especially designated for the ALA to hang pictures, awards and plaques
- Binders displayed with memorials of past members
- Book case in ALA meeting room for binders

How are important documents are stored:

- In frames and glass display cases and in a metal firebox
- Filed in a cabinet to be used as needed
- In plastic containers in a storage room
- They are placed in a locked file cabinet
- Online files

As a Unit we need to be maintaining and preserving our records for they are invaluable to society by serving as informative and educational resources to a variety of potential users. They need to be available for use by everyone inside and outside the organization. It's up to us to continue to share, tell and show who we are in the area where we live.

Children and Youth

LaNea Taylor, Chairman

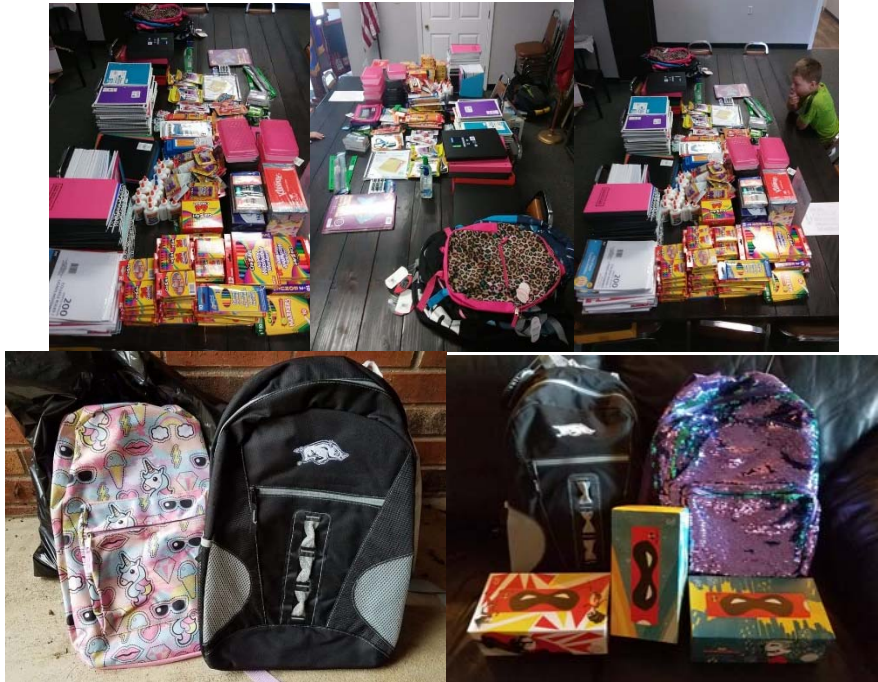
We have had an extraordinary year in the Department of Arkansas and the Children and Youth mission program. I have been very happy to be serving as the Department of Arkansas Chairman of Children and Youth for 2018/2019. Having had a lot of fun this year, I have honestly learned a great deal about the communities, the other American Legion Auxiliary Units working this program, and the extraordinary children and youth highlighted in our report. Without hesitation, I am so proud of our wonderful caring ALA members working in the Department of Arkansas when it comes to participating in this mission program of Children and Youth. Our future seems a little brighter when I see the work we have done.

Many Units are proud of their activities, and it is fitting to provide this report as a "Year in Review".

Following the National Convention in 2018, and the DEC meeting to confirm the Chairs for the Department administrative year, we hit the ground running. Every ALA Unit, their Officers and members were encouraged to read the National Programs Action Plan to familiarize themselves with each program, and the suggestions included on the implementation of the specifics of the mission programs and the annual supplement. As Unit President of Shelton-Tucker-Craft ALA Unit 27, the officers of the Unit met to review the Programs Action Plan and Annual Supplement.

August / September, 2018

- Unit 27 in Fayetteville sponsored a back to school picnic and school supply drive with their "Fill the Bus" community program in August 2018. The Unit and members of the local community received donations and filled school supply lists for 7 students of veterans and what was left over went to a local school.



- During September two of the junior members of Unit 27, as well as some of the senior members reached out to Elkins School District and worked with them to make homemade thank you cards and coloring pages to give to First Responders EMT's firefighters police officers and Dispatchers in honor of 911. Each student at Elkins School District that participated received an American flag lapel pin provided by unit 27.



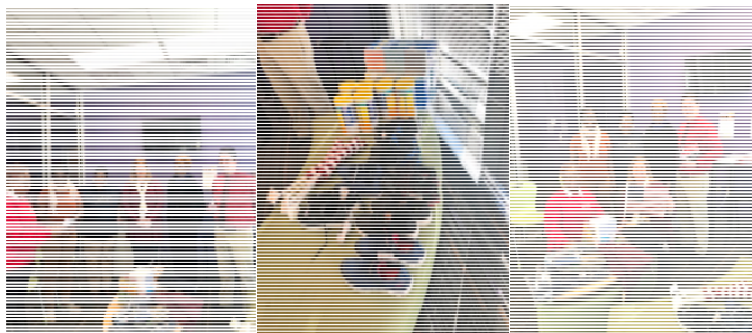
- With the beginning of the school year, Unit 77 began reaching out to elementary and middle schools in the area, along with the local boy scout troops, to seek time on student assemblies and or classroom time to teach flag etiquette, Veterans Day programs and Poppy programs.



- Unit 27 sponsored activities for the “9/11 Day of Remembrance” and included First Responders in their program. Area students were invited to “Honor our Heroes” and “Heroes Don’t Always Wear Capes” with submitting coloring pages which were displayed.



- Unit 77 in Bentonville sponsored a School Supply Drive and Food Drive. School supplies were given to members of the National Guard for their children and the food was donated to the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank. 30 hours were spent \$300 in 15 volunteers.
- Unit 74 in North Little Rock began its year at the 2018 Department Conference in June, where 3/5 junior members attended the youth meeting. They contributed to children by adopting a school and they provided supplies requested for students, classroom and teachers. 34 hours were spent \$500 and 17 volunteers. To increase Community support they participated in: A tribute to Fallen Heroes, Run for the Fallen, military Hall of Fame, global war on terrorism Memorial dedication ceremony. They state that children in youth were very involved in their signature fundraiser fashion show. They strongly support the annual picnic which brings military families together including many children, to support and get to know each other better. Additionally, supporting public schools has been a primary activity. Use are encouraged to attend district and state meetings! 3 out of 5 attended the annual conference. Unit 74 was selected as the 2019 partner of the year by NLRSD Boone Park, their adopted school. They were honored at in April luncheon along with other business partners. Efforts are underway to start activities for the Youth. Way to go Unit 74.



- Unit 1 in Little Rock sponsors and hosts their Annual Backpack Bingo, working 135 hours, spending \$1,250, with 16 volunteers. Unit 1 reports that they will plan and carry out part of the programs action plan in April which is Children and Youth month. Unit 1 raised money for the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation however there is not an amount listed. Unit 1 also participated in "Month of the Military Child" and they contacted local schools to see if they had a need for clothes and supplies, supporting "Purple up for Military Child".
- Unit 100 sponsors backpack bingo for all school children ages 7 to 17. Refreshments are served at no charge. The prizes are back to school supplies such as backpacks, notebooks, pencils, glue, crayons, scissors, etc. There were over 75 in attendance and handed out over 80 backpacks. Hot dogs, chips and donuts with lemonade and fruit punch were served all of which were donated the backpacks and supplies were mostly donated however the auxiliary did spend approximately \$100 and had 12 volunteers.
- Unit 27 collects food for the American Legion Post 27 Military Family Food Bank to assist veteran, military and deployed military family with food.



- Early in the season, Unit 27 participates in a poppy distribution where Junior Auxiliary members learn the concepts of volunteerism and helping veterans and military through the symbol of the poppy.



October / November, 2018

- Unit 34 in Atkins had 6 volunteers participate in Pickle-Fest and Memorial Day event. This was to help increase community support of military. They gave out literature. They served 150 hours and spent \$50.00. The Unit placed special emphasis to create an internal culture of goodwill and develop leadership at all levels.
- The youth from Unit 77 participated in placing US Flags on veteran's graves at the VA Cemetery.



- Unit 21 in Jonesboro did participate in events to increase community support of military. Their events: Veterans Parade, Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony, Veteran Resource Fairs, St. Patrick's Day open house, Military Ball, Armed Forces Day, and Flag Day. This unit helped a child of active military that had 3rd degree burns.
- Unit 158 in DeWitt participated in and sponsored a booth at the Webb's Fall Festival and the local county fair with Junior and Senior members attending.



- In October, Unit 100 and one of the Sal members took approximately 18 children from the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter pumpkin picking. They supplied snacks and all the children went home with pumpkins.
- Thanksgiving Celebration for all military members and families was sponsored by Unit 27 and the American Legion Family in Fayetteville. The Delegates from the 2018 Session of Arkansas Boys State and ALA Arkansas Girls State helped to serve.





- Unit 77 was excited to bring to their American Legion Post and the Bentonville community a “Miss Poppy”, “Little Mister Poppy”, “Little Miss Poppy” and “Little Miss Tiny Tot Poppy” Pageant.



- Unit 27 sponsored their first Annual “Little Miss Poppy” and “Little Mister Poppy” and “Little Miss Tiny Tot Poppy” Pageant.



- Also in the month of October, Auxiliary Unit 100 met at the post and prepared for what they call “Boo-Bash”. This is another event for children and was held on October 28th 2018. The Unit gave out prizes for the best costumes. There were 45 children, 24 adults, and 12 workers. They served apple cider, hot chocolate, donuts, candy and different treats.



- Along with the American Legion family Post 100 the auxiliary helped host family night potluck dinner. People brought their favorite dish or finger food or just come as they were to enjoy and share in a night of fun, food, games and crafts. No electronics were allowed.



- Along with Veteran's Day comes Poppy Distribution from Unit 77 in Bentonville. Celebrating with the American Legion Post, Unit 77 also participated in the Annual Armistice Day Celebration! Always encouraging Junior members to learn about volunteerism for Children and Youth of military families, Bentonville Unit 77 brings out Senior and Junior members to work together for their Post events and Poppy distribution.



- As a craft project, Unit 100 made lap blankets for the VA Hospital and gave lessons two others as well as yarn if they wanted to make one as well. They had over 45 attending most of which were children. They played games and taught crafts. Approximately \$100 was spent and there were 14 volunteers.



Photos



- Another way Unit 100 contributed to children is by making lap blankets and hats for Children's Hospital in Springdale. 30 hours spent in for volunteers. The unit participated in community support for military by working the poppy program and helping out at the Christmas shop at Fayetteville in November 2018. The unit did plan and carry out support services through youth Outreach. 20 hours were spent in three volunteers. The unit reported they did not plan or carryout any program for Children and Youth month and they did not hold a fundraiser or raise money for child welfare Foundation. When answering the question "what did your unit Implement from the program action plan or annual supplement" the report was "nothing". From the looks of their completed report after additional information was given, they did a great deal for Children and Youth this year. Thank you Unit 100!

December 2018

As you might imagine, December is a very busy month for holiday activities in the Children and Youth programs.

- With the assistance of the Junior Auxiliary and the Rainbow Assembly from Siloam Springs, Unit 27 prepared stockings for the residents of the Fayetteville Veterans Home and delivered them with the Junior and Senior members.



- One of the Department premier programs is the American Legion Auxiliary Gift Shop held at the Veterans Hospitals throughout Arkansas. At the Veteran's Healthcare System of the Ozarks in Fayetteville, Arkansas, Units bring items to donate gift to the hospitalized veteran family. Unit 77 in Bentonville encourages Junior members to attend and help set up on the Friday and Saturday directly following Thanksgiving.



- Unit 27 had their second annual Christmas with Santa for descendants of military. It was a great success serving over 100 military children. They also reached out to an organization at the VA (Leroy Pond) to see what Christmas needs they had for children of veterans in house and Veterans in need. Unit 27 delivered the gifts to Leroy Pond for the veterans to give to their children. Leroy Pond is a reentry program at the VA in Fayetteville Arkansas.



- Throughout the year Unit 27 gathers pop top tabs from cans for the Ronald McDonald House at the Arkansas Children's Hospital-Northwest in Springdale, Arkansas. Ronald McDonald house assists families when their child is hospitalized away from home. The facility provides comfort and a place for family members to stay near the hospital with meals and other amenities. The tabs are delivered to the hospital from Unit 27 in December with more to come at the end of the administrative year.



- Unit 158 in DeWitt Juniors Ashlynn Jenkins, Skylar Purdy and Sydney Purdy constructed a float for the Christmas Parade in DeWitt. They are pictured here with Department of Arkansas 2018-2019 American Legion Auxiliary President, Patricia Murray.



- During December, Unit 27 participates in the “Festival of Stars” supporting Arkansas Children’s Hospital-Northwest in Springdale with donating over \$2,000 worth of toys to hospitalized children during the holidays.



- Unit 77 also sponsored a Christmas with Santa Party in their community, serving over 100 military children with each receiving stockings and a gift from Santa. Unit 77 in Bentonville hosted their first annual Christmas party for children of military descent with great success. The Unit received donations from various community businesses and private donations so they could provide Christmas presents and stockings as well as food and drinks to over 100 children. The Unit spent 30 hours and 20 volunteers participated



- Unit 30 in Sheridan contributed to children with participating in an Angel Tree spending \$75.00. They bought a school yearbook ad \$125.00. Four volunteers spent 4 hours to make this happen. The unit donated \$18.00 to the Child Welfare Foundation. They are looking forward to participating more as a Unit in the future.

- Unit 64 and Heber Springs Arkansas contributed to Christmas for military kids at the local Armory participating in their local Angel Tree program.
- To increase Community Support of military, Unit 64 participated in their “Annual Field of Heroes” where the community may make a donation to have a Veterans name and rank attached to an American flag and the flags are displayed in a prominent location for thirty days. The “Annual Field of Heroes” ceremony is a well-attended family event in Heber Springs, and is something unique to me because the flag is placed in honor of each hero. Approximately 386 hours was spent on this project with 8 volunteers.
- Unit 100 in Rogers sponsored an “Annual Lunch With Santa” in December. Over 100 children attended and received a photograph with Santa. The Unit handed out over 80 stockings stuffed with coloring books, crayons and drinking cups. A very fun event in which all stocking items for children were donated from the Thursday night bingo crew and a local vendor. They served hot dogs, chips, hot chocolate, apple cider, donuts and had coloring papers and crayons for the kids to use while waiting for their pictures. They spent approximately \$150 and the donations brought equal to around \$100. The Unit report 14 volunteers worked on this project.
- Another exciting event for Unit 100 was baking with the children of Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter. 12 children from the shelter attended. They made cookies, reindeer food and gingerbread houses. Santa was there and every child went home with a gift.
- Unit 166 in Augusta hosted a Christmas party for kids in December and collected plastic lids for a project that would provide benches at a horse ranch for families of special-need children. I personally donated quite a few plastic lids and will deliver more at our department convention in June. There was \$1,000 spent, 40 hours in 10 volunteers.



- Unit 166 also participated in events to increase community support of military by going to schools in Woodruff and White County. They did a presentation at assemblies for star spangled kids. \$0 spent, 15 hours and three volunteers. They did plan and carry out support services through youth Outreach with more than 10 volunteers and 37 hours spent. Their unit participated in Children and Youth month spending 16 hours, \$30 and had seven volunteers participate. The Unit raised money for the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. The number of hours spent was 280, \$110 with 7 volunteers participating. From the Programs Action Plan they went to schools on citizenship / Constitution Day, wore purple on April 15th for purple up for military kids day and hosted an annual Wildlife dinner to bring Community military and non-military families together. Unit 166 also collected 90 boxes of cereal for Augusta food pantry for low-income parents of children who aren't in school yet and don't have access to free breakfast. The Unit donated 20 coats to Augusta Elementary School counselor for distribution to a few needy kids in partnership with Riverwind Bank.

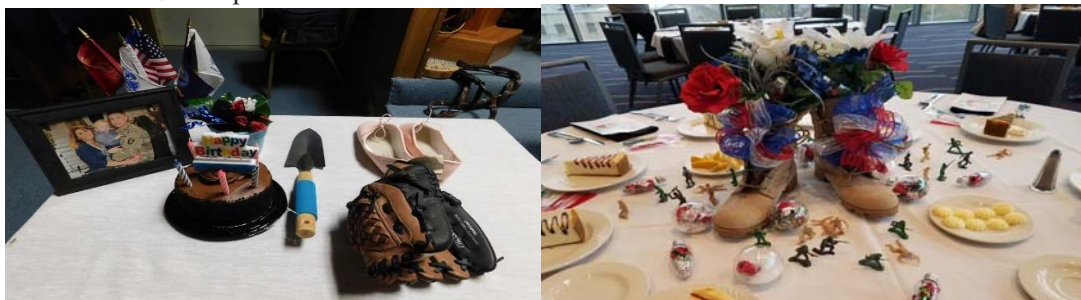
March / April 2019

- Unit 27 hosted their Annual Easter Egg Hunt to the children in the community. It was an extraordinary attendance, and a beautiful sunny day. They had their annual Easter egg hunt in

which there were local first responder firefighters with fire trucks to help teach the kids about safety, an Allstate Insurance company attended and provided onsite fingerprinting cards for the kids so that the families can take them home in case of an emergency. Each child received a “Practice Fire Safety” coloring book – “Stop Drop and Learn” pamphlet and a “Make your own Fire Escape Plan” guide. They had a hot dog and hamburger picnic free for the community and the Easter egg hunt was ages 10 and under. Over 30 kids in attendance and at least 30 adults this year which is more than double from last year. 50 volunteer hours spending \$750 and over eight volunteers. The unit did have Support Services through youth Outreach. 45 hours, eight volunteers and spent \$400. Unit 27 participates and Memorial Day 911 Fourth of July Veterans Day Christmas Thanksgiving Purple Heart, etc. to honor Heroes and increased Community Support a military. So far they have spent 160 hours \$300 and volunteers. And carrying out support services through Outreach and raise Community awareness of needs of military children they spent 160 hours \$360 with eight volunteers.



- Unit 27 did participate in Children and Youth month and Month of the Military Child. The unit has been utilizing and perfecting the military child’s table ceremony. 20 hours with eight Volunteers in \$200 spent





- Unit 27 worked very hard this year to sponsor citizens/delegates to the American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State Session for 2019. While the Department raised the Registration fee, we hosted events and dinners to raise enough funds to sponsor 58 young women to this program. At the recent Unit sponsored ALA Arkansas Girls State Orientation, we had a packed house with parents and delegates in attendance hearing our guest speakers, Amy York, a former delegate personally sponsoring two young women. Denise Garner, House of Representatives from the State of Arkansas, presented materials and information on campaigning.



- Unit 64 donated \$44 to Child Welfare Foundation by means of fundraising and various donations.
- Unit 20 in Russellville sent in their report. They are not currently working this program.
- Combining Children and Youth while promoting Community Support and Education, Unit 77 will host an event in the spring promoting the Sergeant Stubby Project.



- Unit 158 in Dewitt encourages members to invite friends to join, host fundraisers, and will become more active in the community. They are currently working on a new program in unit 158 for the children in youth. They did participate in Children and Youth month and definitely had their purple on for "PURPLE UP". Unit 158 officers and chairman did read the program's action plan for 2018 through 2022 and the annual supplement for unit responsibilities for the children and youth program.

GOOD DEED AND YOUTH HERO NOMINATIONS

It seems the Units in the Department of Arkansas are great fans of nominating youth in their communities for the Good Deed and Youth Hero nominations! Each one of these nominees has an incredible story to share and their heartfelt motivation tugs at compassion, empathy and heroism – all rolled into one!

The Children and Youth Committee implemented “Quarterly Honorees” from the nominations submitted. It was great fun to read the selections, and very difficult to select the honorees.

- For the First Quarter, the Honoree is **Katherine Dumond** from Unit 158 in DeWitt, Arkansas who sponsored fundraising for a S.W.I.N.G project for handicapped children.
- Our Second Quarter Honoree is **Audrey Hill** from Unit 27 in Fayetteville, Arkansas, for making a free library and food pantry in a low-income housing development in her community.
- Our Third Quarter Honoree is **Leo Rae**, from Unit 77 in Bentonville, Arkansas, who began a mission when he was only six to bring baked goods to fire departments and police stations on Christmas Day each year.
- Our Fourth Quarter Honoree is **Ruby Kate**, from Unit 93 in Jasper, who started “Three Wishes for Ruby’s Residents” where she helps nursing home residents receive small gifts to help them feel better in many ways.

Unit 27 – Fayetteville: Unit 27 participates in the Good Deed and Youth HERO program. As of December, Unit 27 has turned in at least 6 Good Deed Award nominations.

- The first nomination was a young man, Jayce Michael Center, who used his allowance to sponsor two students at Elkins Public School to receive one book a month for 9 months. This is a total of 18 books. Sometimes when students order books from the book orders not every child is able to do so. By sponsoring a student this allows each child to receive a book and no one is left out. This nominate is a first grader and he sponsored two students in the third grade.



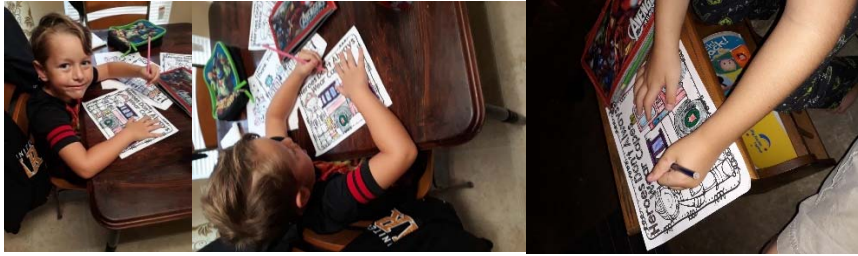
- The second nominee is Audrey Hill, who made a little free library and a food pantry to benefit more than 50 kids in a low-income housing development. She helped to build the little Free Library and food and went to the city and got permits to legally do so in placing it in this area of town. She goes by often to help make sure it is sure it is stocked. 39.5 hours was spent on the project. The nominee stated that she sees the pantry having a very positive impact on the Willow Heights community in Fayetteville Arkansas and we'll help them have easy access to books. The Pantry will also help and hopefully keep people from being hungry. She named three that were on her take action team as well as her parents.



- Third nominee is a 9 year old young lady, Cabella Wilson, who made a lemonade stand which she uses for charity and has also started a GoFundMe page. This will be her 6th year to do her charity work in our community. She has had her Lemonade Stand every year during the Bikes Blues and BBQ Motorcycle Rally. She says she thought it would be a fun experience the thought of helping people and just getting to come out here and have fun. She had just turned three years old when she started Bella's lemonade stand. The grandmother of the nominee said the first-year Bella put some of the money in her college fund and gave the rest to her church. The next year she gave it all away and every year after she has chosen a different charity. This year she is donating the money to the Arkansas Children's Hospital, St. Jude's Children Hospital and the Shelby Ray Dotson scholarship fund. In 2017 the lemonade stand raised more than \$1,600 for Charities during the rally. What an amazing young lady!



- The next nominees are actually brother and sister who have taken the mantle to Honor 911 Heroes and they call their project "Not All Heroes Wear Capes"! These amazing siblings make homemade thank you cards and coloring pages of "thank you" to First Responders, dispatch, EMT, police officers and firefighters in seven towns. They inspired the Elkins after school program in Elkins Public Schools 3rd and 4th grade to participate. Participants were given flag lapel pins. Of the siblings, the sister is a junior ALA member of Unit 27, and the brother is a member of the SAL at AL Post 27.



- Another nominee, Eva Flippo, started a free library in her town of Elkins. She loved to read and wanted to share that love with others. Her free library has caught the attention of many and has been a great success in the Elkins area. Her Free Library is made out of a recycled newspaper stand and is enjoyed by all.



Unit 64 – Heber Springs: Unit 64 sent in two Good Deed Award nominations.

- The first nomination is a young lady, Avery Hampton, who raised and donated \$180 to their local Armory. The money she raised was used to purchase winter clothing for military children in need. The funds raised was donated to the Armory at their beauty pageant fundraiser and she was crowned as a "Civic Princess"!
- The second nominee from Unit 64 is Lucian Capas, a 9 year old. On his birthday, along with his friends, they delivered donated items to the local animal shelter.



Unit 77 – Bentonville: Unit 77 had three nominations for Good Deed award this year.

- The first and second nominations were brothers, both 16 years of age, Benjamin Gary Boyle and Samuel Jack Boyle. For the past two summers the boys have worked with the program "Olivia's Basket". Together they've raised over \$5,000 to cover the cost to build houses in Ensenada Mexico. They have also raised \$1,000 to give to the teens of single moms spending money on their trips. This past summer the boys along with others from the organization work during a heat advisory.

Not only do they build the house but they furnish the house as well so when they leave, the family has everything they need to start a new life and are not in a worse place than before. They have

their needs met. Most of these families make \$13 a day and so a house is an impossibility without Olivia's basket!

History of Olivia's Basket:

Olivia Ray was hit and killed by school bus in Fayetteville. As the daughter of missionaries, her favorite thing to do was build houses in Ensenada every summer. Olivia's basket was created in her honor and today 19 houses have been built. She would have been 19 years old.



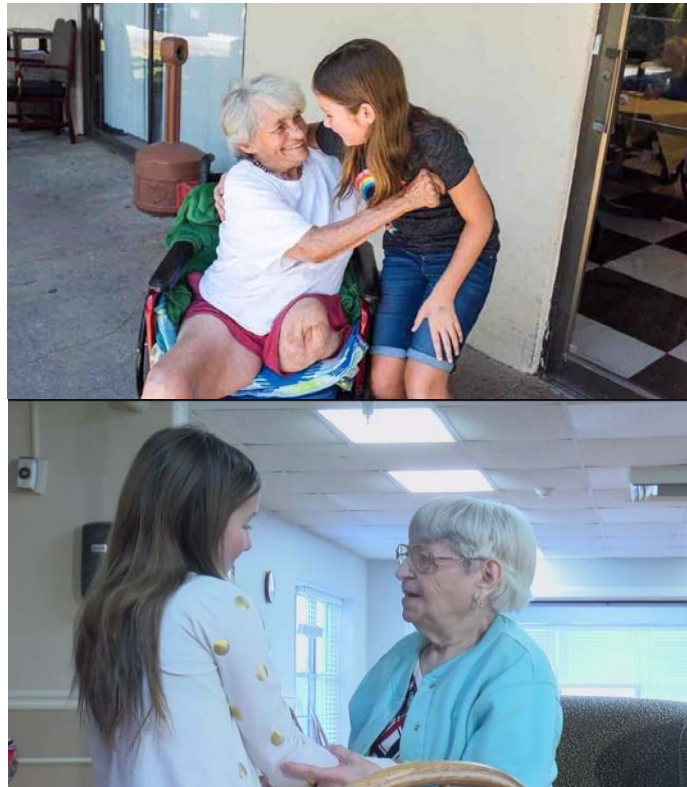
- The third nomination is Leo Rea, an 11 year-old boy. In late 2014, when Leo was just 6, Leo's family made a quick stop at a fire station so Leo could see the fire trucks and say hello to the firefighters. It was just a few weeks before Christmas and somehow the conversation came up that the firefighters and police officers still work on Christmas. Leo realized what a sacrifice this would be, missing the time with their families, and he wanted to do something for them on Christmas to show appreciation for all they do. They decided to bring cookies to their local fire station on Christmas Day. This was also the same year Leo learned that the police were also working on Christmas Day. Leo decided to bring cookies to their local police department as well to let them know they were appreciated for all they do. The next year he wanted all of the local departments to get cookies. This was a big undertaking and they couldn't do it all on their own, so they started a Facebook event to get the community involved. Leo had families bring cookies or other goodies to 39 families that year. In 2016 and 2017 it grew even larger and they had many families make it a tradition to give some cookies to their local departments. In 2018 it was their biggest year ever. / 45 families show their appreciation to police, firemen, doctors, nurses and other community Heroes at 75 different departments, stations and hospitals.



Unit 93 – Jasper: Unit 93 in Jasper did not send in a Children and Youth year-end report but they did have one Good Deed nomination. Hold onto your boot straps - this is a good one!

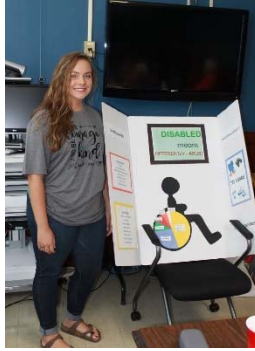
- The Unit 93 nomination is Ruby Kate, an 11 year old girl that is granting nursing home residents wishes. Ruby continues to raise money to pay for the things the nursing home residence wish for. She has now formed a nonprofit organization in Facebook page “Three Wishes For Ruby’s Residents”. Ruby has appeared on *CBS Sunday Morning* garnering national recognition with Steve Hartman for his “On the Road” segment. You can see the interview on Steve’s Facebook page. The segment first aired on March 1st, and has been seen on other news broadcasts. Ruby would come to the nursing home after school where her mother worked. While she was there, Ruby began by asking residents what they would wish for if they had three wishes. Ruby began going to work to raise donations to grant these wishes. Ruby began a “GoFundMe” page and she has raised over \$250,000 to pay for the wishes of her special residents. Ruby has gone on to form a nonprofit organization comprised of a kids board that helps run this organization. This is amazing work for Ruby and the other young children helping her. Stop and take a look at Ruby’s Facebook page - “Wishes for Ruby’s residence”. There is also a website to follow at “threewishes.global”

If you would like to watch the Steve Hartman segment about Ruby Kate, the link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avdBHbVwe9E>



Unit 158 – DeWitt: Unit 158 has watched the local newspaper, as well as social media for information on youth in their Community who have gone above and beyond to make a difference. Unit 158 has submitted three nominations for the good deed award and hope to send more in the future.

- The first nominee was a young lady, Rylee Kathryn Dumond, in their community who hosted multiple fundraisers to benefit the S.W.I.N.G project. The funds raised went towards the purchase of handicap accessible swings for the local city park. The same young lady was locally nominated for Citizen of the Year.



- The second nomination for Good Deed award is the young lady, Avery Hampton, who has hosted a lemonade stand to raise money for the backpack program at the local elementary school. Through her fundraiser, she raised over \$600 and was able to pack 40 backpacks.



- The third nominee is Molly Anderson, a student in high school. She received the community service Achievement Award from FBLA for completing more than 500 hours. She is very active in the “Knitting for a Purpose” project where she knits hats for newborns at Arkansas Children's Hospital. Along with that project, she helps place flags at local businesses for the federal holidays, and volunteers with “Acres of Help”. Molly has hosted career day at Jouett Elementary school, and has worked with the Lions Club for their pancake supper. What a busy young lady!



COMMUNITY SERVICE

JoAnne Cobb, Chairman

Hello all and welcome. We are proud to say that the Department of Arkansas has clocked 100,019 Community Service/Volunteer hours. This includes 24 out of our 89 units reporting. We understand that some of these units are “Dues Paying” members only due to age, but with only 24 units reporting with 206 individual members we managed to reach a little over 100,000 hours, this includes the yearend reports that I received. Also, take note, the total reported was 100,019 hours – got that 019 – what was the year the Auxiliary started – 1919 – what year is it now – 2019 – strange coincidence – and no I did not make it come out that way – in fact, it was only after I sent out the e mail that I noticed the 19.

In our 24 units reporting and out of our 206 members, 21 members reported 1000 hours or more and there were 22 members with 500 hours or more.

We are hoping to at least double the units reporting, the members reporting and the hours reported for 2020. The goal for next year is 200,020 hours. The Calculation for exceeding the goal is:

12 members per unit X 35 hours per month = 420 hours per member
420 hour per month X 12 months = 4,752 hours per unit per year
4,752 hours per unit per year X 48 units = 207,036.

We all worked so hard on this and it paid off. The members, the Unit Presidents, the unit chairpersons and the Community Service Committee which consisted of Me, Niki Frazier and Amanda Wade. Niki and Amanda out did them selves getting units and members to report hours and they deserve a round of applause. All of us on the committee and Barbara Aguirre recused ourselves from “Top Member” award.

The “Top Member” and the “Top Unit” will be announced at the Convention. There are two awards for the “Top Unit”. One for the unit to keep forever and the other will be a traveling Eagle that the unit will proudly display for the year with a plaque showing the unit number and number of hours and will go the “Top Unit” for the next year.

Education Report

Nancy French, Chairman

Education in Arkansas has always been extremely important and a major focus of the politicians, focus groups, teachers and with parents to name a few. According to the eighteen reports received by the Education Committee, the members of the Units of the Department of Arkansas have followed through with this thinking and have been busy working the Education Plan of the American Legion Auxiliary. All of the scholarship programs offered by the American Legion Auxiliary were well publicized and distributed by the Units. Of the eight scholarship applications received for the President’s Scholarship, one application was sent for Divisional consideration. Arkansas is projecting to award one \$1,000 Academic Scholarship this year.

Units reported sending \$70 dollars for the Department Academic Scholarship, \$180 dollars for the Nurses Scholarship, \$130 dollars was donated for scholarships but not specified and one \$500 dollar donation stated “to be used for the scholarship in most need.” One Unit gave a \$250 VIINH Scholarship.

One Unit reported they award two \$1,000 scholarships each year – one goes to a local high school senior in the county. The second one is called “The Members Only Award” and is open to all Auxiliary members and/or their children or grandchildren, no matter where they live. If no one applies for the Member Only Award, a second award is given to a local graduating senior. The Unit raises money via raffles, proceeds from their Bingo kitchen, sale of custom-made T-shirts and other fundraising efforts and also accepts donations to help one or two students in their future education. Their Past President’s Parley donates \$100 each year to the Department’s Nursing Scholarship.

Literacy and working with schools and in the classrooms seems to be a favorite with our membership. Eight Units participated in literacy projects. Five schools and 65 students were served with a total of \$50 dollars spent. One Unit reported donating school supplies. Five Units reported participating in the Give 10 Program.

Five Units participated in the classroom mentoring and reading programs. Eight groups were served with a total of 128 students. No money was reported spend on this activity.

One Unit reported working the Flag Education program serving nine groups with 100+ participants and an expenditure of \$600 m/l. Two Units reported working the Poppy Education program with one school and 260 participants each with no capital outlay. One Unit reported working the Veterans in the Classroom Program with two groups and one school with 45 participants and no money spent.

One Unit reported that because of death of a family member who was a veteran, the legend of the “Penny on the Tombstone” is being taught to and being practiced by children when visiting the cemetery.

Three Units reported in this area but did not designate if they worked the Veterans in the Classroom, the Poppy or the Flag Education Program. Seven groups were served, with a total of 88 participants and \$220 spent.

Several Units of the Department of Arkansas supports many of the American Legion Programs including the Oratorical Contest, American Education Week and the Policy in Education Program. One Unit donated \$25 for a medal and certificate to be presented to an ROTC group.

As the Education Chairman, I have two concerns regarding the Education Report. One is that the Units and members of the Department of Arkansas are doing so much more but are not taking the time to report their progress and “blow their own horn.” Also, we have so many teachers in our membership, we should be doing more to work with them to align and present our programs with their lesson plans when appropriate.

Comments always reveal more about what is happening regarding how the Unit implemented from the Action Plan or Annual Supplement. Comments noted on the reports are:

- Encouraging and supporting education beyond High School. One of youngest adults (c. 2015) has founded a scholarship with five friends to the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. They awarded two \$500 scholarships and one \$750 scholarship.
- Talked with 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students about heroes, first responders and flag education.
- Wear Auxiliary apparel to schools and have veterans share their experiences with students.
- Always wear American Legion Auxiliary apparel when we visit schools.
- Save Box Tops for Education for Augusta Elementary School.
- Promoted Teacher appreciation Week last May.
- Participated in American Education Week before Thanksgiving and recognized all staff at Elementary school.
- Create an internal Culture of Goodwill.
- Develop leadership at all levels.

Girls State

Naomi Borchert, Chairman

There were seventeen units reporting (5 Units reported for the mid-annual report). According to the reports ninety-nine members were involved in the process. Members were involved in several different areas of the planning for their Girls State activities either with schools, individual delegates, or family members. There was also active engagement with community groups and their leaders. The number of active members participating in planning and preparing for Girls State at the unit level is probably under-represented. For example, many units all active members participate at some level whether it is working on publicity with the local paper/radio, soliciting funds from local individuals and civic organizations or setting up, decorating or providing refreshments for the reception following the conclusion of Girls State, or working directly with the schools. A few of the reports did not answer the question concerning the number of members participating. I feel this is probably true for most if not all units who send delegates to Girls State.

These seventeen units worked with 80 schools – public and private. One unit included working with a homeschooling student which was one of the changes their unit made in their plan of action. The reports reflected a majority of units working closely with principals and counselors assisting both school and students in registration as well as selection of delegates. The ways units worked/assisted the schools was varied. Some Unit members gave their personal phone numbers and/or email addresses to parents, counselors or students to aid in the process of registration. Other units reported handing out the registration packets or referred them to the Auxiliary or Girls State website to the delegates. One unit reported utilizing Facebook to contact and stay in touch with and/or answer questions for delegates. Another example was a faculty member at the school who is a member of the local American Legion

Auxiliary Unit and the unit's Girls State chairman. She acted as the liaison for the Unit and the school. She works directly with the counselor, parents and students in the registration process.

An orientation meeting for delegates was held by eight of the seventeen units reporting. One unit reported that the school held an orientation meeting. Some units just passed out packets of materials to the delegates and answered questions. Many of the units have former Girl State citizens to share their experiences of what to expect during the week of Girl State, giving them tips and advice on what to bring (or not bring) that might not be included in their packet. One unit hosts a Fashion Show where parents and sponsors are introduced to the delegates and sponsor certificates are presented. One unit has the delegates from both Boys and Girls State to help the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary place flags on Veteran's graves for Memorial Day at local cemeteries. Following this activity the delegates have an orientation program and treated to pizza and snacks. During all but a few orientation meetings the purpose, aim, and membership requirements of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary were discussed and promoted.

At least ten of the seventeen units reported having receptions or joint meetings with their Posts where delegates gave accounts of their experiences during the week. Some of these included both sponsors and parents. There were a few units reporting having banquets for delegates, sponsors or parents. One unit hosts a reception on the Sunday following the Friday dismissal from Girls State where delegates, parents and sponsors are invited. Delegates are given the opportunity to share their week's experiences. This gives the unit the opportunity to insure the delegates sign thank-you cards to their civic, business or church sponsor that may not be in attendance. This is another place where units report going over membership qualifications for the American Legion and Auxiliary with not only the delegates but their family members and community members. Units reported having membership applications available. One unit shared scholarship opportunities available through the Auxiliary at the orientation and reception. Units do not require but do encourage community service. The three activities that units encourage the delegates to participate in is poppy distribution, placement of flags on graves of veterans and the celebratory activities for the 100 Year American Legion Anniversary.

At the beginning of the week the Auxiliary and its programs are promoted during the introductory session using the informative video on the National website. An appeal to the delegates to join is made during this and other times throughout the week. A display with membership brochures is available to the delegates at the Canteen. Throughout the week staff of the Canteen encourage the girls who are eligible to consider joining a local unit when they return home.

During the first day's session the delegates are introduced to the Poppy Story. The canteen staff take the opportunity to reinforce the poppy program by having display in the canteen. The girls are encouraged to take a poppy and wear it throughout the week. For many this is the first time they have heard about the Poppy Story.

A contest between the Nationalist and Federalist Parties is organized toward the end of the week to collect money for a special program, such as the Veteran's Hospital.

Following the elections and the inauguration delegates are scheduled for a trip to the Arkansas Capital in Little Rock, Arkansas. The elected candidates get the opportunity to meet their "real" counterpart at the Capital and preside over their responsibilities. For instance, Senators and Representatives are responsible for creating, presenting, and voting on legislation.

Individual units are quite successful in soliciting funds from local civic organizations (Lions, Rotary, Ruritan, etc.) businesses (local banks, etc.), churches and individuals. Some units have used informative letters describing the Girls State program while other units report making direct personal contact with businesses, organizations and individuals.

Two units specifically stated that after having read the Programs Action Plan for 2018-2022 and the Supplement they would be implementing the following goals: to create an internal culture of goodwill, to develop leadership at all levels, and emphasize the National President's focus on women veterans.

Our Girls State Director has been available at the State Convention and Fall Conference to give reports and answer questions about the program which has helped to keep the Girls State program in the forefront of units.

Finally, this year there are 906 girls registered for the 2019 Girls State! That is an increase of 54 delegates from 2018.

Junior Activities

Michelle Henning, Chairman

1. **Do your units have Junior members in their units.** We had 12 units report each representing their juniors. Of the 12 units 5 are promoting the Patch Program. We had 11 Juniors/SAL participate in the patch program earning 31 Patches!!!!
 - #158 – 1 Jr – 4 patches
 - #1 – 5 Jr – 8 patches
 - #64 – 2 Jr – 4 patches
 - #77- 2 Jr – 4 patches
 - #27 – 1 Jr – 30 patches – He is a Jr SAL member completing ALL of Red - Level 1 Including the Children of Warrior National Presidents Patch

2. **What type of volunteer hours are your juniors performing?**

Our honorary Junior Department President issued volunteer challenges to the Juniors to encourage participation. This year we had 17 Juniors report volunteering 543 hours. The following is how the Department of Arkansas Juniors volunteered their time.

- Community Service Projects not limited to the following:
- Assisting in preparing for and setting up Unit/District meetings
- Assisting in Cub Scout Meetings
- Mr. and Miss Poppy
- School Supply Drives for local reserve units
- Food drives
- Placing flags on and removing from graves for Memorial Day and Veterans Day
- Department Christmas store for Veterans
- Christmas parties for decedents of Veterans.
- Promoting the Poppy program
- R.E.D. t shirt orders
- Bake sale for Operation Christmas Child
- Led the Pledge of Allegiance
- Assisted in celebration of life for a SAL member
- Shopping for veteran donations
- Support Our Troops Fans and Window Signs
- 100th Year celebration for Veterans at the Veterans building
- Honoring first responders on 9/11
- Wrap presents for Veterans of nursing homes

3. **How are Senior Members mentoring the Juniors?** In the reports submitted the senior members continue to list mentoring the juniors at the top of their priorities. Listed next are ways each Unit mentors their juniors.

- Offering advice
- Teaching them by offering hands on opportunities
- Helping the junior complete tasks
- Set an example for the junior members
- Demonstrate how to host fundraisers
- How to respect the ALA
- Promote community service
- Assist with the patch program

- Encourage the juniors with their 4H projects
 - Helping with the needy
 - Incorporate the activities in the junior curriculum and explain the connection to the mission
 - Explain the rules of the officers
 - Involve the Juniors in all unit and post activities if they are available
 - Teaching the Juniors leadership and what the organization is about
 - Juniors are invited to unit meetings, district meeting and conferences.
 - And at all meetings Juniors are encouraged to participate and follow the lead of the Senior members.
4. **How are your Juniors promoting the National President's request of supporting female veterans with a focus on the homeless female veterans?** Unfortunately, this is an area our Juniors fell short.



Brown-Wright Unit #158 Junior Member Ashlynn Jenkins places a flag on a fallen veteran's grave for Memorial Day at the DeWitt Cemetery



Brown-Wright Unit #158 Junior Ashlynn Jenkins lends a helping hand during the Department of Arkansas Convention in June 2018



Brown-Wright Unit #158 Junior Members Ashlynn, Skylar, and Sydney distributed Poppies on National Poppy Day during the Veterans Memorial Concert



Brown-Wright Unit #158 Juniors Ashlynn, Sydney and Skylar assist the Brown-Wright Post #158 with placing flags on Veterans graves in the DeWitt Cemetery for Memorial Day



Juniors from Riddle Hutcheson Unit 77 Bentonville Volunteer at the first Annual Christmas Party of descendants of veterans.



Juniors from Riddle Hutcheson Unit 77 Bentonville Volunteer at the Annual Department Christmas Store at the Fayetteville VA



Juniors from Riddle Hutcheson Unit 77 Bentonville Place flags on veterans' headstones at the Bentonville cemetery for Veterans Day



Juniors from Riddle Hutcheson Unit 77 Bentonville Participate in the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day, Mr and Miss Poppy, Tolling of the Bells all on November 11, 2018



Juniors from Riddle Hutcheson Unit 77 Bentonville preparing to place flags on veteran headstones at Bentonville cemetery, for Memorial Day!



Juniors from Riddle Hutcheson Unit 77 Bentonville



Juniors from Riddle Hutchison Unit 77 Bentonville Participate in the showing of "Sgt Stubby".



Juniors from M M Eberts Unit 1 Little Rock participate in making and distributing cards on 9/11 for their local first responders.

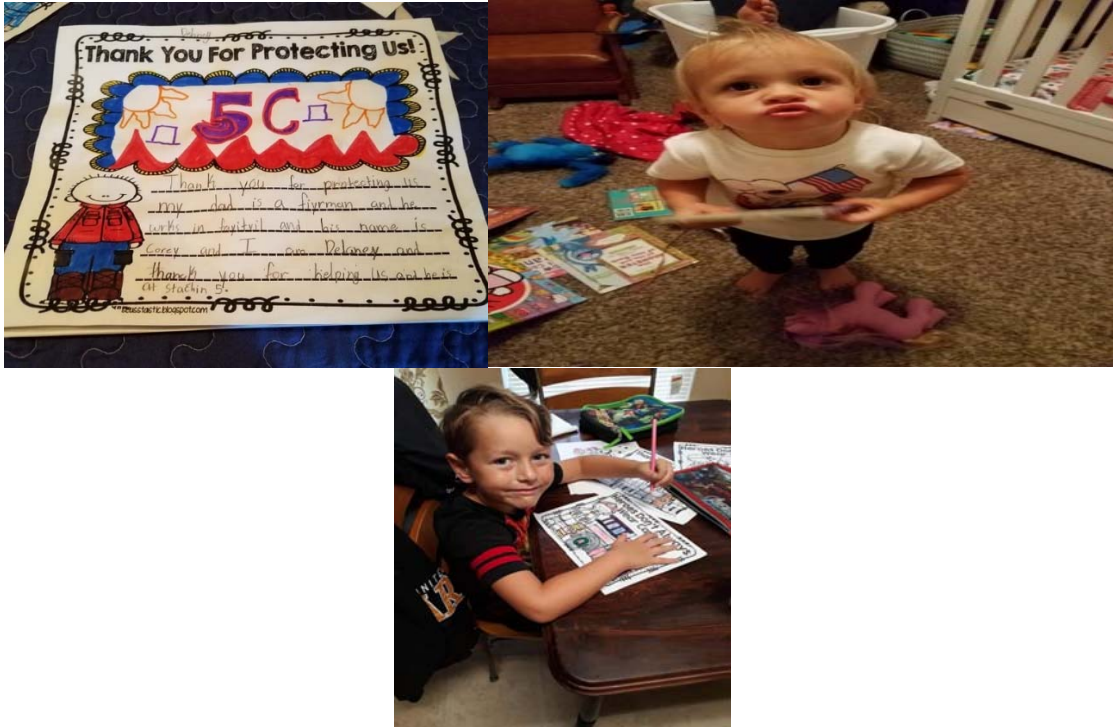


Barbara Johnson added 5 new photos.

17 mins · Jacksonville · 🧑🏻‍🦰

The Junior members of American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arkansas Unit 001 spent Friday sorting and counting items to go to the holiday Gift Shop at the 2 central Arkansas Veteran's Hospitals this week. They also packed 126 bags with an assortment of toiletries to give away to Veterans and others in need. This is what community service is all about.





Juniors from Shelton Tucker Craft Unit 27 Fayetteville, coloring and delivering cards to first responders on 9/11

Shelton Craft Unit 27 Fayetteville collects school supplies for seven children of veterans and the remainder was delivered to a local school.



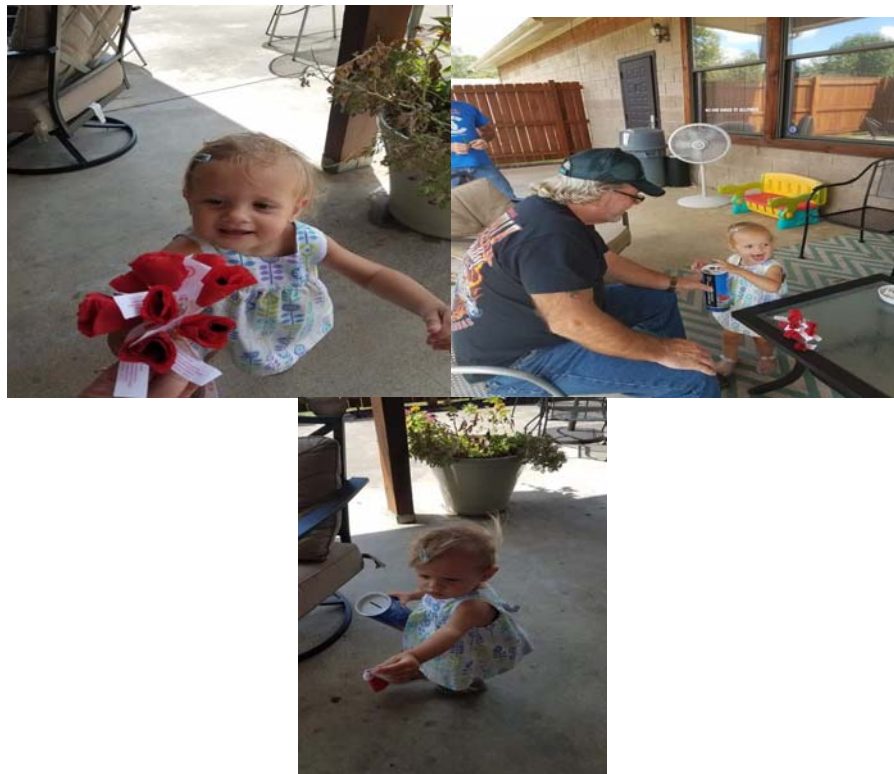


Juniors from William M. Batjer Unit 100 Rogers participate in making and distributing cards on 9/11 for their local first responders.





Junior members from Shelton Tucker Craft unit 27 Fayetteville, participating in Mr. and Miss Poppy



Junior member from Shelton Tucker Craft Unit 27 Fayetteville, participating in disbursing poppies.



Shelton Tucker Craft unit 27 Fayetteville, hosting a Christmas party for descendants of veterans





Shelton Tucker Craft unit 27 Fayetteville, hosting a Christmas party for descendants of veterans



Shelton Tucker Craft unit 27 Fayetteville, hosting a Christmas party for descendants of veterans

Leadership

Dale Lester, Chairman

- We had 15 Units that turned in their reports with 14 being timely
- Things the Units some of the Units did to implement from the Action Plan or Annual Supplement:

30- “How to lead a small Unit”-Action Plan

34- Create a Culture of Goodwill, Develop Leadership at all levels.

74- Members earn a Poppy Pin as they complete ALA Academy.

166- Held workshop focusing on preparation of reports, identified members who lack the ability to communicate via internet to ensure their inclusion in all Unit/Department communications and participate in the LAL Academy-all 6 blocks encouraged

64- Be open not critical, thank members, listen to what members have to say

- 10 Units encouraged member to take the online ALA Academy with 12 members completing.
- 8 Units conducted leadership workshops, mentoring & training
- 1 Unit had 1 member that attended the leadership conference in May
- 7 Units - How to conduct and participate in a meeting
- 9 Units -History of the Auxiliary
- 9 Units -Understanding of the Preamble
- 7 Units -Teaching the duties of elected and appointed Officers
- 8 Unity -Auxiliary Programs
- 5 Units -Parliamentary procedures
- 9 Units -Unit Constitution & Bylaws
- 6 Units -Flag Etiquette
- 5 Units -Effective mentoring

Has your Unit developed Leadership activities for your Unit? 4 Units have with 3 giving detail: 34- Give copies of all reports to ea. Member, Sec. & Fin. Go over ALA Guidelines in handbook. **74 -** Encourage VPS to conduct meetings, encourage each officer to be actively engaged & accountable for their positions.

166- Using positive experienced members to train/guide new members, attempt to discover potential leaders within the unit by distribution of Unit Survey form to members.

- **11 Units had their Senior members mentor junior members**

Membership

Carol Westergren, Chairman

This year's theme for the State of Arkansas is that Good Will equals membership. We realized that we needed to build good will across our state. We felt that building good will was more important than numbers were; continue working on retaining members that we already had.

We had Good Will Ambassador buttons made. As we traveled around the state, we passed these out to members who showed good will by helping a new member at a meeting, coming up with a great idea to help our veterans and just by being a wonderful Auxiliary member.

We have passed out many buttons and our members are proud to wear them.

Even though reaching goals was not our number one mission, we did celebrate with those who are renewing and getting new members. As they hit 80%, 90% and of course 100% we have mailed out cards to the units letting them know how proud we are of them. We will be giving out 100% ribbons at our June convention because our units love getting them and this is something, we have not done in the past few years.

We also took place in the Arkansas Women's Veterans' Summit. We had a membership table set up there and were able to talk to women veterans about the Auxiliary and what we can do for them. Arkansas is a festival state, so our units set up and talked membership and what we can do for our veterans and their families.

In April of this year District 4 hosted leadership training and invited District 5 and to come to this training. We love to see district working together to promote Good Will and to learn more about the American Legion Auxiliary. President Murray, last year's Membership Chairman and current National Security chairman Dee Smith and myself were invited to speak on how to attract new members and mentor them once they join. Of course, we spoke on good will within our units and with your Legion family. Most of these districts are small and their units are small so we spoke on how they can work together to help our veterans and their families.

We hope meetings like this will continue into the next year.

Our President Patricia Murray has really promoted the Legion Family and how important it is to not only build our auxiliary, but to build the Legion and the Sons of the American Legion. Not only with numbers but with good will.

I know that as of this writing, we have not made goal, but I am excited that we are over 70%. We had a lot of rebuilding to do this year and I know that the ladies who have renewed are really wanting to be apart of the auxiliary for the right reasons – to Help our Veterans, actives duty and their families and our COMMUNITIES and or course to promote GOOD WILL.

As we look at our 100th year coming up, I am excited that The Department of Arkansas will counite to grow and promote Good Will because of the groundwork that was laid this year. We are ready to help the next leadership team and celebrate our 100th year.

National Security

Denise Smith, Chairman

The 2018-2019 fiscal reporting year has been largely involved with taking steps to revitalize the Department of Arkansas National Security Program. We have worked with other committee chairmen to both foster and expand support for shared programs; worked to begin finding and nurturing external relationships with local, state and military support organizations; and, worked to continue to offer information to our units in an effort to help our members (and ourselves) better understand and implement the American Legion Auxiliary National Security Programs.

We began our year, with the help of our President, Patricia Murray, by ordering free brochures and pamphlets from the US government agency of publications in Pueblo, Colorado. These publications deal with an array of subject matters and offer information to spouses of deployed military personnel and US families in general. Subjects include how to purchase a vehicle, find employment, build a personal/ home disaster relief readiness kit, find emotional aid for deployment distressed children, etc. We offer this information at Department of Arkansas meetings and events. We have also been working to educate our Unit leaders on the benefits of creating member profiles so that members may gain access to the extensive library of information offered on the National ALA Members Only site (including all National Security partner affiliate information).

Unit leaders asked for simple ways to involve members, especially less active and aging members, with Unit and Department events and projects. We answered these requests by resurrecting an older, tried and true project of cutting out expired coupons for use by our troops stationed abroad. As of May 10, 2019, units reported 35 volunteers spending \$93.00 and 395 hours purchasing, cutting and sorting coupons with

a combined value of over \$2,000.00. Coupons were collected at District and Department meetings and mailed to TROUPONS in Florida.

We began working with our Children and Youth Committee to build a list of Units willing to stand ready to purchase **Joshua Dog and Friends** materials for children of deployed service members. At this time, we have a total of 12 Units ready and financially able to make purchases of these materials. Together with Children and Youth, we stand ready to help lessen the emotional distresses of children who are facing the uncertainties of parental deployments. Many Units within our Department have purchased Poppies, held Poppy Distributions and have voted to set aside a portion of poppy donations for the purpose of helping military families in need.

We have created relationships with other military aid organizations, both private and governmental. Partners include the American Red Cross Military Services agents in Little Rock, AR and National Guard Military Families Support and Family Readiness agents; Survivor Family Specialists at Camp Robinson; and attorneys at the Judge Advocate General's office. Contact lists and a list of all Arkansas National Guard armories are available to all Units upon request. We have used these relationships and the financial support of some of our Units to assist with financial aid for two (2) military families here in Arkansas this fiscal year.

Last fall, we attended a POW/MIA Remembrance service at the Arkansas State Capital with our Department President. This service was amazingly poignant and filled with information and contact opportunities. We later invited a retired colonel, member of Senator Boozman's staff to give the same speech at the ALA, Department of Arkansas, Mid-Winter Conference.

At Mid-Winter Conference, Past Department President Iris Murray and Department President Patricia Murray were presented with a Blue Star Banner flag. Their brother and uncle, respectively, was reported as MIA in December of 1943 (WWII). Army PFC George C. Osborn, Jr. was assigned to the India China Wing Army Transport Command and reported MIA when his flight was lost over the Himalayas. In addition to the flag, the Murray family was presented with a framed rubbing of PFC Osborn's name taken by request from a war memorial in the Philippines by military personnel stationed there. Presentation was made with the help of (Col. Retired) Anita Deason of Senator Boozman's Office and Family Survivor Special Andrea Fisher of Camp Robinson.

One-hundred percent of Units reporting stated they are honoring US POW/MIA's. Every Unit is setting a "missing man" table at meetings and events. Seventy-three (73) volunteers have spent 528 hours at a cost of \$490.00 honoring our POW/MIA's at meetings and events. Leaders of these Units are looking earnestly among their own members to find those families needing Blue Star and Gold Star recognition. To date, reports note a total of 25 Gold Star family members and 45 Blue Star family members among the Department of Arkansas membership. Saxton-Willis Unit 64, Heber Springs, gave a dinner for the Gold Star family of Army Sgt. Dwayne E. Kever, reported KIA in August 1968, a casualty of war in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam near the Cambodian border.

Support for our active military personnel is reported as high. Notable numbers include: 29 volunteers have spent \$125.00 and 79 hours honoring the military child; 10 volunteers spent 10 hours and gave \$150.00 in support of USO events; 17 volunteers spent 22 hours and \$110.00 working with ROTC programs; 4 hours have been spent donating blood; 36 hours have been spent working on CERT and Ready Kids; and, 360 hours have been spent knitting and sewing for our troops.

We want to highlight the efforts of members of Alley-White Unit 52, Mountain Home, AR and Pickett Unit 21, Jonesboro, AR. Jonesboro members have spent 360 hours at a cost of \$2,550.00 working to fill the needs of our military with their handmade, knitted items. Mountain Home members make and send items to active military in Afghanistan through their care package program (see attached narrative). These ladies depend on a working partnership with their area Elks Club to help them with the financial need of their program. These are only some of the efforts put forth by the ALA members of the Department of Arkansas.

We know that some Units have not sent in formal year end reports. We also know through notification in social media that Units are indeed honoring and supporting our troops. Bentonville, AR Unit 77 is supporting the Legion Family by helping with its first Armed Forces Appreciation BBQ this Saturday, May 18th. Alas, we can only report what we know. However, 22.5% of Units did submit Year-End

reports and noted a total of 171 member volunteers spent a total of 1,594 hours and \$4005.00 working ALA National Security Programs.

We are proud of our members; believe this is a fine effort; and, look forward to doing even more in the coming years.

Past Presidents Parley

Betty Minor Chairman

The purpose of the Past Department Presidents Parley is to utilize the experience and knowledge of past Auxiliary leaders for training and encouragement of future Auxiliary leaders. We have the opportunity to continue in active service to the Auxiliary in the state of Arkansas helping to ensure strong future leadership for our organization.

Goal 3 of our 5 Year Centennial Plan ask that we “Develop Leadership at All Levels”. As former leaders we are continuing to support this great organization by our responsibility of sharing our experience and knowledge. For example:

- *Several of our Past Department Presidents have served as Committee Chairman or served as members of a committee in providing leadership this year.

- *Several have served on our Department President’s Advisory Board.

- *Some have served as Volunteers for various programs of the department helping out as needed and where needed.

- *The Parley Committee is working toward putting together a Department Cookbook, collecting recipes from members in our units all over the state of Arkansas. This is a Department President’s project.

The Past Presidents Parley recognizes and honors an outstanding unit member through the Unit Member of the Year Award and women veterans through the Salute to Servicewomen Award.

Thank you to all the units that sent in a Report. We received twelve (12) reports, and of these reports, four (4) submissions were received for the Unit Member of the Year Award. The award will be given at Department Convention. There were no submissions for the Servicewomen award.

Poppy

Nora Earnest, Chairman

The Poppy Program is an integral part of the Department of Arkansas. There are so many aspects that are utilized in our units, districts and Department. It all starts with the Poppy Story. Each part of the Poppy program is promoted to the units in our Department. There are copies given out at the three Department Conferences and questions answered at each of them.

This year we had a mini-conference to teach our units by example, “How- to- Make,” a poppy from start to finish. I’m excited to say many of our members made poppies that had never tried before. Our department is pro-active in learning new things. One of our goals is to point our members to online resources. To read what the 2018-2019 Annual Supplement to the Program Action Plan. To print out what they need for their unit and stay updated on what is going on.

The units in the Department of Arkansas promote the Poppy program by using the image and story of the Flanders Field poppy to educate people about the sacrifices of our military service members. We explain how this story came about and the purpose of it.

There fourteen Units reporting what they did with the poppy’s in their community with getting the word out with what all we do with our poppy program to get our units involved.

How we promote the Poppy program:

- An ALA Member Introduced the Poppy story during a speech at their church explaining what the meaning behind it represents.
- Contacted local business for permission to distribute poppies and explained the reason we did this was to help the American Legion Family Veterans
- Wear poppies to promote conversation and interest and distribute poppy material

- Utilized the Poppy Poster thank you cards from Emblem Sales
- Highlighted and promoted the poppy and it's significance to our country
- Used tools from the ALAforVeterans.org Website

How your members increased poppy revenue:

- By poppy distribution in many areas of our cities. The American Legion and Auxiliary are involved in the distribution
- In locations where Poppies are distributed the Poppy Story is given out and explained.
- The units have a booth, the stores in the areas around our state open their doors to the American Legion Family to help in any way they can
- Some units utilize the Girl State Delegates to help distribute
- Staying at least 4 to 6 hours the day of distribution

How our members increased the number of poppy makers in our department:

- They were taught at District Meetings
- Some members where taught at Spring Conference at the Department meeting
- Unit members where taught by their poppy chairman
- Poppy literature was given instructing members how to make a poppy
- Going online and downloading instructions on how to make a poppy
- Viewing YouTube Poppy Instructions

The units promoted the Poppy Poster Contest by:

Sharing with the school the information about the age groups involved, the submissions requirements and deadlines

The units promoted the Little Miss Poppy Contest by:

The Auxiliary unit promoted and sponsored the Poppy Contest at their unit and post from ages 6-12 and ages 13-18.

- Sharing the Contest rules and Classes and Requirements

In closing I would like to say it has been a busy year. We have all learned a lot. Each year we build upon what we have accomplished before. Very thankful to be a part of so many others lives by listening, learning and teaching. Each year the tradition goes forward and many new things are added.

Service For Veterans

Michelle Henning, Chairman

This year we had 14 Units report. Of those who reported, 6 read the Program Action Plan, 4 did not and 4 did not answer.

The following are what units implemented from the Program Action Plan or annual supplement: (The information listed has been taken from exactly what was reported).

- Serving Veterans outside a VAMC
- Create an internal culture of goodwill.
- Develop leadership at all levels
- Collecting for Veterans homes and hospitals
- Placing flags in cemeteries
- Obtained and became familiar with the ALA guide for volunteers,
- Donated 100 pairs of socks to VA.

- Collected 3 in 1 body wash for VA.
- Drive Veterans to appointments at VA.
- Distributed \$50 gift cards to families of sick veterans in VA hospital to ease burden

Of the 14 units 11 reported they had members that performed activities under the Service for Veterans program.

Unit	#Veterans served	#Members	Hours spent	\$ Expended
20	11	9	2985	\$626
232	185	7	108	\$145
27	94	31	174	\$1,120
77	unknown	2	20	0
21	1478	63	4,943	\$4.090
31	315	6	2,149	0
197	3	3	10	0
64	unknown	32	282.15	\$130
158	unknown	53	2800	0
166	102	10	1429	\$720
74	unknown	209	2123	\$418

We had 11 units with 425 members serve 2,188 veterans, volunteering 17,023.15 hours, and expended \$7,249.00!!!

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Iris R. Murray, Chairman

Having three Veterans Administration Hospitals in the state of Arkansas and members volunteering in each is unique. The volunteer numbers listed are from the Central Arkansas Healthcare System, Little Rock and North Little Rock Hospitals and also the Veterans Healthcare System of the Ozarks located in Fayetteville, Arkansas. This report reflects the activities of our Units and members throughout our state for our veterans.

Many of our Units raise money in various ways so they can support veterans. Garage sales, bake sales, and meal preparations are very popular. Units, their members and even those not associated with our organization gave Christmas gifts, to veterans in nursing homes, those that are homebound and those in need. Units and members donated blankets to the VA and shelters that house homeless veterans donated many gifts for our annual Gift Shop. One Unit prepared and served meals and desserts at a local shelter and treatment center for veterans and provided Christmas gifts for the veterans and their families. Another Unit prepared goodie bags for veterans in nursing homes and delivered them on Veteran's Day. The bags included basic necessities as well as small gifts for the veterans. They were greatly appreciated as many do not have families.

Christmas is a special time for the Department of Arkansas. Our Christmas Gift Shops are multi day events serving veterans at all three of the VA facilities in Arkansas. The Department of Arkansas spends money on gifts and postage (to send gifts to veteran's families). Many Units donate time, money and gifts to make the Gift Shop a success. The wonderful staff in the Voluntary Service Department of the VAs help us in many ways. Shopping for the Gift Shop usually starts after Gift Shop ends and continues all year. Volunteers donate their time and money to find gifts our veterans can choose in our Gift Shop. Our Gift shop is not only unique in that it serves two Veteran's hospitals in central Arkansas but that the majority of the gifts chosen are sent by mail to the veteran's families because many of the veterans served are in inpatient programs or long-term residential programs and do not have visitors. The hospital located in Fayetteville is different in that most of the gifts are given to the veterans for delivery and not mailed to the families. Not only do the Units and Department support our Gift Shop, but the VA hospitals and their staff, members of the public and also other groups in Arkansas including a church group in central

Arkansas which knitted and crocheted hats, gloves and scarves. These are very popular gifts in the Central Arkansas Healthcare System.

The Department of Arkansas Auxiliary members signed almost 1000 Christmas cards at our Fall Conference that were given to hospitalized veterans in all three VA hospitals, veterans in nursing homes and were sent overseas to veterans. Members also signed over 750 Valentine's Day Cards that were distributed to veterans.

A challenge made by the Auxiliary to the Legion that resulted in over 3600 pairs of socks collected and donated to the three (3) VA Hospitals in Arkansas. Sadie Mae, the sock monkey, traveled around the state and came to meetings to help promote the project. Pictures are attached to this report. We are currently collecting 3 in 1 body wash to donate to the VA Hospitals.

The Department of Arkansas also has funds allocated for our VA&R committee. The funds are used to buy cookies to serve with coffee (two to three times a month) at our Little Rock VA and other items needed and requested by Voluntary Service. Our Auxiliary is contacted by Voluntary Service when there are special needs for our hospitalized veterans.

Only the volunteer hours volunteered by our members is reported. The amount of donations given to all of the VA hospitals was not reported by the hospitals.

The Department of Arkansas is extremely proud of everything our members do for our veterans.

The following is a summary of the Department of Arkansas VAVS activities.

Volunteers at VAMC (regular and occasional) **180**

Hours donated at VAMC (regular and occasional) **2479**