AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
21 So. Fruit Street – Suite 266
Concord, NH 03301
nhalasec@legionnh.org
603-856-8942

Hello everyone,

Just reminding everyone to share this with your Units. The Department is accepting resumes for the job of secretary/treasurer. The deadline to submit your resume is October 15, 2026. If you are interested, please send your resume to ALA Dept of NH, 21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 266,
Concord, NH 03301 Attn: Cathy Perra. If you have any questions, please call me at 603-540-2110.
IF you need anything from the Office or have any questions, please still use the regular email and phone. Karyl Horn, who is doing membership, or I, will return your call or email.
If you attended the POW/MIA 24-hour vigil at the Veterans Home in Tilton, don't forget to put those hours and mileage on your Americanism report. Did you attend a 9/11 ceremony? Or assisted with any celebrations, dinners, or meat raffles? Don't forget to keep track for your reporting.

October 3rd is the Junior Conference which is being held in Seabrook. If you have any Juniors or are thinking about starting a Junior program, please attend. The Juniors run the conference and would love to see everyone. The North Conference is on October 10th in Hillsboro, and the South Conference is on October 24th in Jaffrey. The conferences are when the Chairman talk about their programs and will answer any questions you have especially on reporting. The meetings start at 10:00 am and everyone is invited.

The National President will be visiting November 19th through November 22nd. We will be taking the National President to the Shipyard on Friday, November 20th. If your Unit or Post would like to sponsor a meet and greet or a dinner on Saturday, November 21st, please let me know.

I would love to come see what you are doing in your Unit so please, if you would like me to attend anything, email me or text me. Hope to see you soon.

"Bear Down and Support Our Veterans"

Cathy

Cathy Perra,
Department of NH, Auxiliary President
Project: Honor Flight New England

FROM DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR
MARY KAY MACNICHOL
Email: macnicholmk@gmail.com

A big shout-out to all the Units that submitted their activity reports.
As a District, we are busy meeting our mission, woohoo!!!
Reporting can be as easy as the following:
SAMPLE

Date	Category/Program	Activity	Mileage	# of Volunteers	Total donated in hours	Donations
9/11/2026	Americanism	9/11 Remembrance Flag waving on Maple Street – 1hour	Total 39 miles, 3 miles per member to the Post	13	$448.37*	
9/11/2026	Community Service	Worked Legion Meat Raffle		3	$103.47	$15 bought 50/50
9/19/2026	National Security	Stood at POW/MIA Vigil	36 r/t x 4 = 144 miles	4 each stood a total of an hour	$137.96	
9/19/2026	VA & R	Bought & delivered groceries to a veteran, 1.5hrs	3.5 miles	1	$51.73	$72.60 Groceries

*This total represents 13 volunteers x 1 hour =13 x $34.49 (amount allotted by National for each hour of our service).

Need to spice up your day

October 1st is National Pumpkin Spice Day
Pumpkin Spice Bread
Prep: 5 minutes, Cook 1 hour
Servings: 2 loaves

2 c. flour
1 tsp. ground cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg, baking powder, baking soda
½ tsp. salt, 2 eggs, 1 c. vegetable oil, 2 c. sugar, 2 tsp. vanilla, 1 15oz. can of pureed pumpkin

Preheat oven to 350 degrees, prepare two loaf pans with a thin coat of butter and lightly dust with flour. In a large mixing bowl, beat eggs, add sugar, oil flour, soda, salt, baking powder, cloves, nutmeg, and cinnamon. Mix well, stir in pumpkin puree. Transfer mixture to loaf pans, bake for 1 hour and 5 minutes. Loaves are done when a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. **Enjoy!**
~Mary Kay

Chaplain

Celebrating Birthdays in October are:

10/19 Jean Drew – 50 Great Falls Dr, Penacook, NH 03303

10/29 Terri Ouellette – 319 Raymond Rd, Candia, NH 03034

As autumn's colors remind us of change and renewal, we give thanks for the blessings of freedom and community. We remember with gratitude the service and sacrifice of our veterans and their families. Guide our hearts to serve with compassion, our hands to work with purpose, and our voices to speak for those in need. May our efforts this month bring comfort, unity, and hope.

Should you need a well wishes, sympathy, thank you, or thinking of you card please reach out to me via text/call 603-520-0809 or via email at ahatchala@gmail.com.

Thank you, Amanda Hatch

Poppy Corner

Hello all! Hard to believe that summer has ended, school has started and fall is in the air.

Have you checked your Poppy supplies. Do you have enough poppies made? I checked in at Department while we have poppies made there are not many. We have unassembled Poppy kits available please submit your order form. Poppies are $130.00 per 1,000.

As always, we are looking for poppy makers! Please give me a call or send an email and we can arrange to get them out to you!

How are you preparing for Veteran's Day with Poppy distribution? Please share how your unit utilizes poppies on Veteran's Day.

I will be sending out an email soon to all unit presidents requesting the name of your poppy chair is your unit has one. I am hoping that we can communicate and share ideas with all units. I have seen so much creativity in my travels I can't wait to learn more and ahsre those ideas with everyone.

Lisa Johnston
2026-2027 Poppy Chair
Email: peaceout99@comcast.net
Phone: 603-785-5717

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

The seasons are beginning to change as we prepare for our Fall/Winter activities and events. As I am sure you are getting ready to plan for the upcoming holidays to support our Veterans and Communities.

We will be attending the upcoming North and Fall Conferences. North Fall Conference October 10th hosted by Hillsboro Unit. South Fall Conference October 24th hosted by Jaffrey Unit. If you have any questions or in need of assistance, please stop by our table and have a chat with us. We have lots of information we can share with you.

We are always in need of volunteers as a unit or individual members for the following events held at the VA Manchester CLC Unit. One is the monthly Bingo held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 5:45pm set up and 6pm start. We need the months December 2026 to May 2027. The other program is Veterans Day Out. This gives you an opportunity to sponsor a trip. This is held on Wednesdays each month and if you would like to invite the veterans to your post or another location of interest for a social. Best way to sponsor a trip. 1. Send your representative on the trip and have them pay directly. 2. Gift Cards given to Megan/Kristina. 3. Prepay for the trip location and pass along information/tickets to Megan/Kristina. If you are interested in signing up, please contact Diana Douglas at 603-817-3511 or Dianna.douglas63@gmail.com

The following is a list of upcoming events that we will be hosting over the next couple of months at VA Manchester CLC Unit. We would love for you to volunteer and come and support our Veterans. If you would like to sign up to volunteer, please contact Diana Douglas.

Adopt a Veteran

November 1st, Lists will be sent out to units that have signed up to Adopt a Veteran

December 18th All unwrapped gifts to be returned by this date to CLC Unit

Creative Arts Show

November 3rd 9am to 4pm and November 4th 9am to 2pm

Helping Veterans pick Christmas gifts for family members

November 18th Time TBD

Christmas Tree decorating for 12 days of Christmas

We will need 3 volunteers to decorate the 3 trees assigned to American Legion Dept Auxiliary Nov 27th Time TBD

CLC Unit Christmas Party Date and Time TBD

Upcoming event that we are planning is the Post Holiday Party being held at the Tilton Veterans Home on Saturday, January 2nd, 2027. The set up time will be 1:30pm and the Party will be 2:30pm to 3:30pm. We have secured the DJ for the event. We will be needing volunteers to come and assist the Veterans during the event. We will also be asking for desserts. We ask that desserts are no nuts and are

soft easy to eat desserts. If you are interested in helping with this event please contact Wendy Boissoneau Decato at 603-494-7475 or wboissoneau@comcast.net

Always keep in mind and share the news that our American Legion Department has a Veterans Fund which is assistance eligible to any honorably discharged veteran and the spouse, surviving spouse, or minor children of the honorably discharged veteran providing they can demonstrate a need for assistance and show proof of need. The veteran, spouse, or children found eligible need not be a member of the American Legion, Auxiliary, or Sons. However, those applicants who request assistance and who are current members of the above organization shall have priority for assistance over nonmembers of these organizations. All applicants must be a resident of New Hampshire. If you need the application for assistance or need more information about the program, please contact Roseann Morrissette at 603-973-4086 or roseannmorrissette@gmail.com

Your VA & R Team

Dianna Douglas, Chairman

Wendy Boissoneau Decato, 2nd Member

Roseanne Morrisette, 3rd Member

Please bring completed word searches to the Junior Conference (on October 3rd) to be entered into a drawing for a prize.

AEF PROGRAM: KEY WORD SEARCH

Chairman: Beverly DeMille

W	Q	S	S	O	L	C	I	H	P	O	R	T	S	A	T	A	C
A	S	S	I	S	T	S	E	I	T	I	L	I	T	U	S	D	U
C	E	L	I	G	I	B	L	E	R	Y	P	N	C	X	N	I	R
T	C	F	L	H	K	U	T	N	A	R	G	U	E	I	O	S	R
O	O	I	P	A	Y	R	A	M	I	R	P	E	X	L	I	A	E
F	L	N	U	R	F	O	E	L	N	G	V	N	P	I	T	S	N
N	L	A	M	D	O	E	L	S	I	E	R	A	E	A	A	T	T
A	E	N	P	S	R	G	K	I	N	W	Y	U	N	R	N	E	S
T	C	C	K	H	E	D	R	T	G	S	H	I	S	Y	O	R	I
U	T	I	T	I	S	N	Y	A	W	A	R	D	E	D	D	N	S
R	E	A	M	P	A	N	E	F	M	B	O	X	S	F	C	I	I
E	A	L	A	P	P	L	I	C	A	T	I	O	N	O	A	N	R
W	I	N	T	E	R	Y	C	N	E	G	R	E	M	E	I	H	C
E	M	P	L	O	Y	M	E	N	T	X	R	E	F	U	N	D	S

AEF Program
Hardship
Crisis
Awarded
Expenses
Utilities
Employment
Financial
Training
Income

Catastrophic Loss
Disaster
Act of Nature
Emergency
Auxiliary
Three
Application
Awarded
Eligible
Grant

Assist
Funds
Current
Collect
Donations
Primary
Winter
Kit
Unit
Event

Group? Join the conversation here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/alamembership/

It's a great place to discover creative ways other units are promoting membership. If you post something, please be sure to make it shareable. Let's show everyone that NH is energized and serious about membership growth!

Exciting news: ALA Membership Eligibility has changed, which means more families can belong! See the enclosed flyer for more information.

Thank you for your patience with the Membership Report. National has not yet been able to produce a Unit Numeric Objectives Report for 2027. If you feel your numbers are off, please contact me at karylh@comcast.net. Note: PUFL/VIMS are included in this

Removing barriers for membership:

On June 3, 2026 the NEC voted on a change to Standing Rule XI. Units: Section 6. Membership eligibility through the service of a living veteran may be established by presentation of a current The American Legion membership card. Membership eligibility through the service of a deceased veteran may be established by certification of the Deceased veteran's proof of military service by the post adjutant or other post officer or by the unit secretary or other unit officer. Joining online requires an affidavit of eligibility; the Unit may request a copy of the veteran's proof of military service.

What does this change mean? The unit secretary or other unit officer may verify the eligibility of a potential member and sign the application. By expanding the options for who may review and sign membership applications, we are removing barriers and allowing the processing of membership to be more efficient.

It is not a requirement that the unit review eligibility, if a unit wishes to continue to work with their legion post, they may do so.

Together, we'll renew, retain, recruit—and rise to an incredible year!

Karyl Horn, Chairman

karylh@comcast.net

603-988-8267

FOREIGN RELATIONS

This puzzle is a word search puzzle that has a hidden message in it.
First find all the words in the list. Words can go in any direction and share letters as well as cross over each other. Once you find all the words. Copy the unused letters starting in the top left corner into the blanks to reveal the hidden message.

MARY KAY MACNICHOL, Chair

This is Hilda, a Mini Highland Cow from Scotland.
Highland Coos, as they are referred to, are the oldest cattle breed in the world, appearing in the 6th century in the Outer Hebrides. Nowadays, their lifespan is up to 20 years. That may not seem like a lot, but that is longer than most breeds of cattle.

Gallons
Grazing
Horns
Life
Milk
Ness
Dossan
Road
Beef
Winter
Coat
Friendly
Drove
Hayfields
Iverness
Loch
Protein
Span
The

S C O T L A N T D H A S T H E M O S T G I N G E R L C O L O
R E D C O W S A A S T H E Y A R E C R O S S B R O E D D A T
I N G B A C K O T S S E N R E V I O Q U E E N C V I C T O R
I A E Q A T B C H S K W L U F S S L K G N G H N N F S M G C
P L A W H M H D O U C A M W W S E H U Y A R Q Q L M X W N H
T P X A O V J T X D T E O S Y N U K Q L A P V Q M B C B I S
C Y C Z L Q R L R C Z P K K H Y L M L D H O N D F Y T E Z Y
W J Z V H U G I C W H L I R A S L O A N U F L E M H B I A D
W A Z B W E M K T Q D N C Z Y A N Y B E H G I F H H V J R S
Q J T Z M T G A T F H Q J E F S T K U I R U J E P T T K G P
D P K O A I W P N X X B R N I N Y D D R M F X J S W Y V T K
H W T U Q I J O M N Z M S O E Z F D U F X D R G O J P M H U
R B K W J U N L Q D C O L G L H J A I H R Q O C J L G P D Q
S J A J C T K L P T Z M G T D S E O R N M T R S U R S J U Z
R O F R T K R S O D Q X G T S J O S V X G N Z P S S D S R D
E Y Y T K C K X A M L F G C V S R M X O N L X Y T A Q U E Y
E O Q B Y N W O N I Q A S X K K H G F T N C I S G W N Q E N
L D I K J N R J B N Z M K C B K J G E K V G L F O B Q K L Q
M G C V B Z A R Y U J P Q H C L E O N A G B G L M P C W N Y
H Y H O H W E P M R Q J L Z M I G T D I P X M D V Z N Y O P
W J P O R Q J B S R E T N I W M O X J M T C I O N G W Y Z D
R T R R D D K I I X A E V O R D H O P Z H R X L C D X L S R
C N C V O S B M X G X L A C V B T U O N E A C O I V C I U R
S A B T T T D N V G E V K W N O S B B Y V T S B Q Q U W H Y
L T X F Z H E S F U Z L I F E D X D B J E Z D Z N K C P X E
A I I S K C Q I Y D A B D U T G R R M L F K Q U P H R M S I
Q K H L O E Q Z N O F M L M T V C J D Z Q N A G R W A S V C
A Q O D A X P O D H K E X Z N D A W E Z K F D T R B S C E V
S J W R R J Q F G N A Q E T Q M I S U I C I Y G O G R O M F
D P M R C E U G Z B O G T B R O R N N P Q D B R P M G J E E

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ALA MEMBERSHIP Eligibility Changes

More Families Can Belong!

SAME MISSION. MORE FAMILIES. A STRONGER TOMORROW.

WHAT'S NEW?

These family relationships are now gender-neutral and may be male or female.

Grandmother	→	Grandparent
Mother	→	Parent
Sister	→	Sibling
Daughter	→	Child
Granddaughter	→	Grandchild

Adopted relationships are eligible.

STILL NOT ELIGIBLE

Male veterans under their own service.

Nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.

Sister or brother-in-laws are not eligible.

APPLICATION VERIFICATION

6/3/26

The **American Legion Auxiliary Unit Secretary or other unit officer may verify the eligibility of a potential member and sign the application.**

WHAT STAYS THE SAME?

LIVING VETERANS

The veteran must still be a member of The American Legion.

DECEASED VETERANS

The veteran must have served during an applicable War Era and been honorably discharged or died in service.

FEMALE VETERANS

May join under their own service without being a member of The American Legion, unless someone is joining under their service (the Living Veteran requirement applies).

SPOUSES

Male or female spouses of veterans remain eligible (since 2019).

TWO DEGREES OF CONSANGUINITY MEANS:

Great-grandparents, great-grandchildren or any further generations are not included. This is ***per IRS requirement.***

GET THE UPDATED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Visit the ALA Department of Wisconsin website

www.amlegionauxwi.org

→ Programs → Membership → New Member: Application

SERVICE ★ ADVOCACY ★ COMMUNITY ★ TOGETHER FOR VETERANS

Music- Kathy Treadwell Chairman

All music platforms have patriotic playlist available

1. Featured Top 10 Patriotic Songs (From Country Living Magazine)

- The Star-Spangled Banner – Francis Scott Key The U.S. national anthem, symbolizing resilience and freedom.
- God Bless the USA – Lee Greenwood A post-9/11 anthem honoring liberty and military service.
- America the Beautiful – Ray Charles Celebrated for its majestic tribute to American landscapes and ideals.
- Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue – Toby Keith A fiery post-9/11 country hit expressing military pride.
- This Land Is Your Land – Woody Guthrie Folk classic emphasizing shared American identity and geography.
- Born in the U.S.A. – Bruce Springsteen Often misunderstood; actually reflects veterans' struggles after Vietnam.
- Ragged Old Flag – Johnny Cash Spoken-word tribute to the endurance and symbolism of the American flag.
- An American Trilogy – Elvis Presley A blend of three historic songs celebrating cultural heritage.
- Living in America – James Brown Funk anthem about everyday American life.
- Yankee Doodle – American Folk Historic, lighthearted tune central to American celebrations.

MEMBERSHIP 2026–2027

ALL BEAR PAWS MATTER!

Let's "bear down" together and make membership a strong, successful

priority this year!

The 2026–2027 membership campaign is officially underway! Our first

goal is clear: build early momentum and help every unit reach 50%

membership by Veterans Day, November 11, 2026.

There's even more to celebrate units that reach this goal will be entered into a drawing,

with five units—celebrating the 250th—eligible to win $50 each!

A big congratulations to Antrim, Unit 50, for reaching an outstanding 100% membership!

District 2 is leading the way at 17.61%! Congratulations to Director Boissoneau-Decato

and the members of District 2 for "bearing down" and setting the pace. District 4 is close

behind in second place with 13.61%. Who will take the lead at the Fall Conference in

Hillsboro on October 10, 2026? Bring your membership and help your district surge

ahead!

Did you know there's an American Legion Auxiliary National Membership Facebook

AEF PROGRAM

Chairman: Beverly DeMille

Did you know that the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) Program supports eligible members of the American Legion in times of need? This national grant assistance program provides members with temporary assistance through awards (up to $3,000). The AEF Program helps members in the following 3 ways:

1. AEF Hardship: members experiencing Financial Crisis can apply for a grant to assist with past due expenses including rent or mortgage expenses, essential household utilities (electric, gas, water and/or sewer) and/or loss of employment income.
2. AEF Hardship: members experiencing Financial Crisis can apply to receive funds for educational/training programs to help position a family member to replace their family's primary source of income following a catastrophic loss (example: death of a spouse).
3. AEF Disaster funds: members enduring setbacks as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis can apply to be awarded funds to repair damage to vital portions of their home, contents and/or for other essential emergency expenses after a disaster.

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary whose dues are current and who have maintained annual membership for three consecutive years (the current year in which the application is submitted and immediate past two years) and have not been awarded an AEF grant (disaster or hardship) in the past twelve months are eligible to apply for these grants.

Are you eager to be part of a 'Members Helping Members' initiative? Here are some things you can do:

- Ask if businesses would be willing to let the ALA place a donation box in their place of business to collect donations.

- Contact local businesses to discuss coordinating an event where a percentage of their proceeds could be donated to the AEF Program.

- Pass an AEF collection container around at your monthly meetings & other ALA events - every penny counts!

- Encourage preparedness! Consider offering an Emergency Power Outage Kit as part of a winter fundraising

Public Relations

Are you aware that there are ALA online classes through the AL Academy? Log into your account and take the pre-recorded classes when it's convenient for you! There are so many available, the top two for Public relations are:

ALA Branding - Provides an overview of branding and explains how the Auxiliary's brand impacts the reputation and overall mission of the ALA. You'll learn why brand loyalty is critical to the ALA's future and discover ways to build brand loyalty.

ALA Live: Using social media to Promote Your Local ALA - Designed for members who are new to social media, serving as page administrators, or seeking a refresher, this webinar covers foundational strategies for managing public accounts professionally and confidently. Participants will learn how to engage both internal (members) and external (nonmember) audiences, maintain brand consistency, create engaging content, manage sensitive situations, and protect the integrity of the ALA's nonpartisan mission.

Please remember to send me flyers, newspaper articles (with the headline, paper name, date and full article) so I can add these to Cathy's book at the end of the year!

If you have any questions, please reach out to me. PR Chair Amanda Hatch 603-520-0809 ahatchala@gmail.com

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Girls STATE

The Department Executive Committee officially voted in key additions to the Granite Girls State staff during its meeting on Saturday, September 12:

Claire Hildebrand – Educational Director: A former Girls Nation attendee, Claire brings firsthand leadership experience alongside three dedicated years as a respected Junior Counselor to guide the program's curriculum and delegate experience.

Kate King – Secretary: A proud member of Unit 72 and an experienced educator, Kate steps into the secretary role to manage program coordination and communication.

Ami Davidson – Resident Medic: Returning to care for our delegates and staff, Ami ensures the health and well-being of the entire session. We are thrilled to welcome her back!

With these appointments, the Granite Girls State leadership team is well-prepared for another dynamic, inspiring session.

Let's get the word out, tell your friends, your kids, nieces this is an amazing program and we want to help it grow bigger and better!

Amanda Hatch, Chairman	2nd Chair Amy Best	3rd Chair Tara Bigue
21 Gebo Way	29 Suncook Valley Road	623 Concord Road
Belmont NH 03220	Alton, NH 03809	Northfield, NH 03276
603-520-0809	603-717-1202	603-820-7025
ahatchala@gmail.com	amy.best925@gmail.com	t.bigue42@gmail.com

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NHVH Representative
Hello everyone; happy fall!

The veterans' home has been busy with a field trip to Clark's Bears, football watch parties, a Jeep Patriotic Parade, BINGO parties, and other events thanks to the wonderful Recreation Department. September 19th-20th was the POW/MIA Vigil held at the veteran's home which allowed residents to observe the ceremony as well as the changing of the watch persons. Many residents remained and engaged in conversation with those in attendance for the POW/MIA vigil. It was nice to see so many American Legion Family members in attendance.

In regards to wish list items, we are getting into colder months which means things like the common cold becomes more common. Items such as tissues, hand sanitizer as well as slippers and socks are priority items. You can find their wish list on their website which will also take you to their Amazon wish list where you can view the items, brands and quantity or order directly from that site. I will be at the North and South Conferences in October, so feel free to bring items there (I will have a donation form for you to fill out) and I will deliver for you or ask me any questions.
Thank you for supporting our veterans, they are most grateful for your support.
Best,
Emma Davidson
New Hampshire Veterans Home Representative

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Fundraising
Our calendar raffle fundraiser is in full swing. Keep up the great work. If anyone wants tickets, please get in touch with me. Remember for every 50 tickets sold by a unit will receive a free ticket for their unit. This is a department fundraiser therefore it is the responsibility of everyone in this department.

Verna Perry-Beliveau

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AMERICANISM –

The following explains the Dept NH guidelines for the Americanism Essay Contest.

We must follow National Rules and Cover Sheet Instructions which are attached. There is a Department procedure to follow: The process of elimination and determining the NH state winner for each age class, we must have Department entry deadlines.

(1) Participants turn their entry into the local unit no later than March 1st, 2027; the Unit has to judge these submissions and determine a winner in each class.

(2) The Unit winners in each class are then sent to the Department chairman, by March 15 2027, for judging to determine the Department winner in each class to be forwarded to National for judging.

(3) The National winners in each class will receive a $50 check and a $50 donation will be made to the Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund in their names.

MAY I MAKE A SUGGESTION: To recognize the Unit winners, maybe your unit could give the winners in each class a small cash prize as well as a certificate.

Paula-Carol (P. C.) Alger, Americanism Chairman

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST
2026 Cover Sheet

The American Legion Auxiliary's Americanism Essay Contest is for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs, divided into six classes. One award in each class will be presented in each division. Winners will receive a $50 check, and a $50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund.

Essay Title:
"How can you be a beacon of light for our veterans?"

Essay Classes:

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement*
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level

THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.

Essay Checklist:

- ☐ Class competing in _____
- ☐ Sponsoring ALA unit _____
- ☐ Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- ☐ Completed essay cover sheet as first page of essay
- ☐ Word count of essay_____
- ☐ Due date for student to return to ALA unit _____

To be completed by the student and parent/guardian:
Please write legibly in ink.

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Student or Parent/Guardian Address (Street, City, State, ZIP): _____

_____

Student or Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Student or Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Name and Signature: _____

School Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

School City/State: _____

Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.)

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: _____

Signature of Unit Americanism Chair: _____

Unit Winner Due to Department on: _____ Department: _____

Signature of Department Chair: _____

Department Winners Due to National Americanism Division Chair by April 15, 2027

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST
Contest Rules

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Essay Title: *"How can you be a beacon of light for our veterans?"*

Essay Classes:

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement*
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level

1. The Americanism Essay Contest cover sheet must be filled out **legibly** and **completely**. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
2. Student or Parent/Guardian contact information is required in order to notify winners.
3. Departments (states) will determine the deadline for the local unit contests.
4. Essays are due from the state department chairs to the Americanism Division chairs by April 15.
5. Essays received after the contest deadline will not be accepted.
6. Submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary. Through submission of an essay, contestants and their legal guardians grant non-exclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted and agree to have their names and writing published for commercial use without additional compensation or permission.
7. The essay shall be the work of only one individual.
8. Use of AI in writing essays is not allowed. Essays will be checked for use of AI. Any essay determined to be 30% or more AI written will be disqualified.
9. Essays will be scored using the following rubric:

Word Count	Essay does not comply with applicable word count = 0 Essay complies with applicable word count = 5	5
Cover Sheet	Cover sheet is incomplete = 0 Cover sheet is fully complete = 5	5
Topic/Theme	Essay does not address topic = 1 Essay thoroughly addresses topic = 25	25
Content - Original thought	Essay does not display original thoughts = 1 Essay displays original thoughts = 25	25
Grammar	Essay is not written well grammatically and contains many spelling errors = 1 Essay has no grammatical or spelling errors = 10	10
Clarity/Coherence	Essay is not easily understood = 1 Essay is clearly stated and easily understood = 10	10
Organization	Essay is not organized = 1 Essay is organized = 10	10
Correct Word Usage	Essay does not use correct word choices = 1 Essay uses correct word choices = 10	10
	TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE	100

THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of New Hampshire

Unit			Locations	Goal	Sr	Jr	Total	% of Goal	Deleg.	At Lg.	Levy	Bond
District 5 - Jean Bergh-Goguen - 603-738-7848 - 54 Academy St., Boscawen, NH 03303												
42			Barnstead	46			0	0.00%	2		$11.25	$5.20
21			Concord	164	4		4	2.44%	3		$114.00	$5.20
81			Contoocook	68			0	0.00%	2		$47.25	$5.20
103			Deerfield	29	1		1	3.45%	2		$25.50	$5.20
112			Epsom	16			0	0.00%	2		$12.75	$5.20
59			Hillsboro	232	52	3	55	23.71%	4		$148.50	$5.20
88			Loudon	11			0	0.00%	2			$5.20
31			Penacook	159	15		15	9.43%	3	5	$111.75	$5.20
				725	72	3	75	10.34%	20	5		
District 6 - Paula Ross - 603-731-0415 - PO Box 303, Stoddard, NH 03464												
29			Claremont	202	45		45	22.28%	3			
97			Grafton	11			0	0.00%	2		$7.50	$5.20
22			Lebanon	340	15		15	4.41%	5	2	$216.00	$5.20
40			New London	73	1		1	1.37%	2	1	$36.00	$5.20
25			Newport	106	3		3	2.83%	3		$61.50	$5.20
				732	64	0	64	8.74%	15	3		
District 7 - Barbara Sullivan - 603-832-8382 - 14 Pleasant St., Franklin, NH 03235												
72			Alton	254	6		6	2.36%	4	5	$181.50	$5.20
15			Ashland	12	1		1	8.33%	2		$7.50	$5.20
46			Conway	110	8		8	7.27%	3		$78.75	$5.20
102			Gilmanton	14			0	0.00%	2		$8.25	$5.20
1			Laconia	106	9		9	8.49%	3		$57.75	$5.20
83			Lincoln	80	14		14	17.50%	3			
33			Meredith	87	9		9	10.34%	3		$64.50	$5.20
49			Tilton	221	58		58	26.24%	4	2	$155.25	$5.20
18			Wolfeboro	31			0	0.00%	2		$17.25	$5.20
				915	105	0	105	11.48%	26	7		
District 8 - Pamela DiPerro - 774-364-1988 - 100 Stonecrest Dr., Haverhill, NH 03765												
36			Berlin	70	1		1	1.43%	2		$41.25	$5.20
62			Colebrook	31			0	0.00%	2		$23.25	$5.20
82			Gorham	95			0	0.00%	3	1	$72.75	$5.20
17			Groveton	179	3		3	1.68%	3	1	$115.50	$5.20
68			Littleton	120	2		2	1.67%	3	2	$84.75	$5.20
41			Whitefield	39	2		2	5.13%	2		$23.25	$5.20
20			Woodsville	162	27		27	16.67%	4		$120.75	$5.20
				696	35	0	35	5.03%	19	4		
200			Dept. HQ	35	8		8	22.86%				
									184	43		
				7617	743	11	754	9.90%				
				7617				9.90%				
Needed to reach 100% by Department Convention								6863				
Needed to reach 100% by National Convention								6863				

Unit			Locations	Goal	Sr	Jr	Total	% of Goal	Deleg.	At Lg.	Levy	Bond
District 1 - Candace Chamberlain - 603-831-9243 - 283 Squantum Rd, - Jaffrey, NH 03452												
11			Jaffrey	238	20		20	8.40%	4	3	$154.50	$5.20
4			Keene	251	11		11	4.38%	4		$167.25	$5.20
				489	31	0	31	6.34%	8	3		
District 2 - Wendy Boissoneau-Decato- 603-494-7475 - 24 Mitchell St., Merrimack, NH 03054												
50	**1**		**Antrim**	**10**	**17**		**17**	**170.00%**	**2**		**$9.75**	**$5.20**
13			Greenville	138	33		33	23.91%	3	1	$92.25	$5.20
48			Hudson	135	4		4	2.96%	3	3	$91.50	$5.20
98			Merrimack	113	3		3	2.65%	3		$78.00	$5.20
23			Milford	108	34	4	38	35.19%	3	1	$72.00	$5.20
3			Nashua	66	3		3	4.55%	2		$45.00	$5.20
5			Peterborough	30	11		11	36.67%	2			
65			Weare	37	2		2	5.41%	2		$15.00	$5.20
10			Wilton	124	22	1	23	18.55%	3	1	$95.25	$5.20
				761	129	5	134	17.61%	21	6		
District 3 -Patty Lin Cassen - 603-781-3468 - 270 High St. - Hampton, NH 03842												
114			Barrington	22	5		5	22.73%	2		$12.75	$5.20
8			Dover	221	4		4	1.81%	4		$142.50	$5.20
51			Epping	148	3		3	2.03%	3	1	$94.50	$5.20
32			Exeter	78	6		6	7.69%	3		$53.25	$5.20
35			Hampton	10			0	0.00%	2		$6.00	$5.20
67			Newmarket	180			0	0.00%	4	1	$133.50	$5.20
73			Northwood	13	6		6	46.15%	2		$9.00	$5.20
6			Portsmouth	224	49		49	21.88%	4	1	$140.25	$5.20
7			Rochester	446	6	2	8	1.79%	6		$298.50	$5.20
47			Rollinsford	174	28	1	29	16.67%	3		$117.00	$5.20
70			Seabrook	430	28		28	6.51%	6	1	$381.00	$5.20
69			Somersworth	198	4		4	2.02%	4	1	$135.00	$5.20
				2144	139	3	142	6.62%	43	5		
District 4 - MaryKay MacNichol - 603-396-6477 - 448 Laydon St., Manchester, NH 03109												
54			Bedford	35	6		6	17.14%	2	3	$18.75	$5.20
108			Chester	19	1		1	5.26%	2		$13.50	$5.20
9			Derry	25	3		3	12.00%	2	2	$13.50	$5.20
16			Goffstown	16			0	0.00%	2		$6.00	$5.20
37			Hooksett	86	12		12	13.95%	3	1	$63.75	$5.20
27			Londonderry	138	13		13	9.42%	3			$5.20
2			Manchester	396	65		65	16.41%	5	3	$287.25	$5.20
43			Manchester	159	41		41	25.79%	3	1	$96.00	$5.20
100			Pelham	83	13		13	15.66%	3		$59.25	$5.20
34			Plaistow	45			0	0.00%	2		$27.00	$5.20
90			Raymond	136	1		1	0.74%	3		$103.50	$5.20
63			Salem	38	5		5	13.16%	2		$23.25	$5.20
				1176	160	0	160	13.61%	32	10		

CALENDAR PROGRAM WINNERS

September 2026

	AMOUNT	F. NAME	L. NAME	TOWN	STATE
$20.00	Jackie	Jackie	Drouse	Loudon	NH
$20.00	Ron	Ron	Duford	Chichester	NH
$20.00	Melissa	Melissa	Ingham	Alton	NH
$20.00	Wendy	Wendy	McMann	Stratford	NH
$20.00	Robert	Robert	Santovasi	Rollnsford	NH
$30.00	Layla	Layla	Doyle	Littleton	NH
$20.00	Linda	Linda	Dupont	Gorham	NH
$20.00	Kate	Kate	MacDonald	Hampton	NH
$20.00	Wanda	Wanda	Furish	Portsmouth	NH
$20.00	Diana	Diana	Bailey	Alton	NH
$20.00	Don	Don	Senecal	Mont Vernon	NH
$20.00	Lincoln	Lincoln	Berry	Milford	NH
$30.00	Bryan	Bryan	Young	Stewartstown	NH
$20.00	Ed	Ed	Spaulding	Derry	NH
$20.00	Sue	Sue	Orr	Manchester	NH
$20.00	Margaret	Margaret	Martinez	Manchester	NH
$20.00	Betty-Jo	Betty-Jo	Green	Loudon	NH
$20.00	Rebecca	Rebecca	Burke	Swanzey	NH
$20.00	Jenni	Jenni	Hakey	N. Stratford	NH
$30.00	David	David	Gregoire	Manchester	NH
$20.00	Ed	Ed	Micac	Warner	NH
$20.00	Kelvin	Kelvin	Edwards	Kittery	ME
$20.00	MaryKay	MaryKay	MacNichol	Manchester	NH
$20.00	Wendy	Wendy	Boissoneau	Merrimack	NH
$20.00	Sara	Sara	Hayden	Woburn	MA
$20.00	Erica	Erica	Shearin	Hillsboro	NH
$30.00	Elise	Elise	Ledoux	Kensington	NH
$20.00	James F	James F	DeLanoy, Sr	Derry	NH
$20.00	Denise	Denise	Thebodeau	Litchfield	NH
$20.00	Karen	Karen	Myszkowski	Salisbury	MA

DATES TO REMEMBER

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will start at 10 am, with coffee @ 9:30

2026

Aug. 1	Organizational Meeting – Post 43 Manchester (56 Boutwell St)
Sept. 12	Department Executive Committee Meeting – Post 72, Alton (Route 28)
Sept. 19- 20	POW/MIA Vigil – NH Veteran's Home (139 Winter St -Tilton) Opening ceremony @ 11 am – Closing ceremony @ 11 am
Sept. 19	District 2 Leadership Class and District Meeting– Post 23, Milford (15 Cottage St) Coffee @ 9:30 – meeting @ 10 – Class to follow
Oct. 3	Junior Fall Conference – Unit 70, Seabrook (Walton Rd.)
Oct. 10	North Fall Conference – Unit 59, Hillsboro (538 N. Main St.)
Oct. 24	South Fall Conference – Unit 11, Jaffrey (20 Webster St)
Nov. 14	District 7 Leadership Class - TBD
Nov. 15	District 8 Leadership Class – Post 17, Groveton
Nov. 19-22	National President Visit

2027

Jan. 9	Department Executive Committee Meeting – Unit 37, Hooksett (5 Riverside St) SNOW DATE Jan. 23
Jan. 30	Mid-Winter Conference - Unit 7, Rochester (94 Eastern Ave)
March 6	Oratorical Contest – St. Anslem College
March 13	Spring Conference – Unit 82, Gorham (6 Androscoggin St)
March 20	Jr. Oratorical Contest – St. Anslem College
March 27	Department Executive Committee Meeting – Unit 23, Milford (15 Cottage St)
May	Junior Convention – Unit 7, Rochester (94 Eastern Ave)
May 21-22	Department Convention – Waterville Valley

VA

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration

Manchester Healthcare System

Join us for VA Manchester's

Veterans' Connection Creative Art Exhibit

All are invited to visit the exhibit and support the talented Veterans for this pop-up artisan showcase!

Tuesday
Nov. 3, 2026
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
&
Wednesday
Nov. 4, 2026
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Recognition ceremony at 2 p.m.

Manchester VA Medical Center
718 Smyth Road
Manchester, NH 03104
Solarium

Reach out to Sara Lesko, CTRS/L, for more details:
603-624-4366 Ext. 202321 or sara.lesko@va.gov