

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

MEET THE COMMITTEE

The ALA National Constitution and Bylaws Committee is ready to get to work! We are here to help you with questions and even with a dilemma or pickle. We are looking forward to working with you. Be on the look out for Newsletters, Webinars, and Meetings as the year progresses. Each National Committee Member will support a Division as indicated.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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ANITA BIGGS
Committee Chair
Southern Division

I am a 34-year honorary lifetime member of Jackie Robinson Unit 252 located in Los Angeles; CA. I was elected and served as Department President during 2013-2014. My path did not take a pre-defined direction. Having reached the national leadership of the organization in 2005 as Unit Development & Revitalization National Chairman, I went on to chair the National Membership Committee and NEC (2014-2015), served as Western Division Chairman for Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (2016-2017), ALA Girls Nation (2011-2012) and (2018-2019), Americanism (2019-2021), Auxiliary Emergency Fund (2021-2022), Leadership (2022-2023), Public Relations (2023-2024), National Community Service Chair (2024-2025) and National Junior Activities Chair (2025-2026); as well as serving on the National Committees of Legislative, Membership and UD&R, a 5 year commitment from (2014-2019) on the Centennial Strategic Planning Committee as a Goal 1 Champion for Enhancing Membership Strength and member of the Future Focus Committee. I am a proud recipient of the Sons of The American Legion Post 13 Hall of Fame Award, recognized for my involvement with The American Legion Family.

I have served as 23rd District President (2005-2006), Jackie Robinson Unit 252 President (2000-2001) and most offices and chairmanships on all levels. Being extremely active in my Auxiliary Unit, District and Department, with leadership positions on all levels; currently serving as Unit Treasurer; Unit, District and Department Parliamentarian and Department Convention Commission Chairman. I continue to be a proud member and current Captain of the National American Legion Military Open Class award winner, Jackie Robinson Unit 252 Color Guard.

I am eligible for the American Legion Auxiliary through the service of my late father, William "Chief" Johnson, who retired after 30 years in the United States Navy and actively served The American Legion. I made a commitment to my father to continue his legacy and give back by helping veterans as my volunteer priority.

I am married to Lonnie, together we have three adult children, Chiara, Lonnie and Dillon; all are members of The American Legion family and seven grandchildren.

I am retired after working in the banking /mortgage industry for over 40 years.



LESLIE GINTHER
Committee Vice Chair
Western Division

My eligibility to be a member of the ALA is through my two grandfathers, who served: Charles Moses, who served in the Air Force during WWII, and Curtis Cronin, who served in the Navy and Air Force during the Vietnam Era. Raised around the American Legion, my grandfather instilled in me that if you didn't serve in the military, you should serve by giving back to those who did. Membership in the ALA is something I hold dear to my heart. I am married to my wonderful husband, Josh Ginther, who is active in the S.A.L. and my biggest supporter. I have worked in insurance for nearly 15 years, having recently transitioned from personal lines insurance to Municipal insurance for the State of Alabama.

I have served in several positions on the Unit, District, and Department levels, and I am excited to help our organization in any way I can. With the ability to have more communication and collaboration than ever before, our organization has the opportunity to grow and expand how we serve our veterans. With these new opportunities, our governing documents become very important. Understanding our structure and operations enables members to navigate the various ways we serve our veterans and their families more effectively.





DEDE THEAL

Committee Member
Central Division

DeDe Theal has been an active and enthusiastic member of the ALA since 2015, eligible through her father who served in the US Navy.

DeDe has held positions as Unit and District President, Department President, and Alternate NEC for the Department of Washington. She has served as Western Division Chair for five National Committees, and is excited to serve on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for 2026-27.



VIRGINIA CHAPUT

Committee Member
Northwestern Division

Virginia "Ginny" Chaput is a proud native of Maine, A devoted Mother and Grandmother, and a longtime leader in service to Veterans, Military Families, and her Community. As the oldest of six children, Ginny was raised in a family shaped by military service. Her Father was a 20-year Navy Veteran, and her Grandfather served in the Army. Both left a lasting legacy of Patriotism, Commitment, and Respect for those who serve. Growing up in a Navy family, Ginny experienced life across the United States as her family followed her father's assignments. Those early experiences helped shape her appreciation for family, resilience, adaptability, and sacrifices made by service members and their loved ones.

Ginny has been an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary Smith-Tobey Unit 21 in Bath, Maine for 34 years. Her dedication to the auxiliary has included service at the Unit, Department, Division, and National Levels. She recently served as the Department Constitution & By-laws committee woman for 2 years. She also completed two years as Eastern Division Leadership Chair and now is proud to serve as a National Constitution and By-laws committee member and the Chair of the Department's Leadership Committee.

One of Ginny's most meaningful contributions was co-founding "Gifts of Gratitude," a troop care package program created with an active-duty legionnaire. She chaired the program for 10 years before helping transition it to the Department, where it became part of the national security program. The program was passed on with a strong foundation and a generous starting bank, ensuring its mission of support could continue.

Ginny was honored to serve as the Department of Maine's 100th president. By coincidence, she remained in the role for the only two-year presidential term, serving during the Covid-19 pandemic. During that time, she became known as the "Pandemic President," while the Commander was known as the "Covid Commander." Despite the challenges and tragedy of those years, Ginny worked alongside the Legion family to continue serving Veterans, their families, and communities across Maine.





MARTY PETERS
Committee Member
Eastern Division

I am a continuous member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 50 in Cleburne, Texas since 1993, (33 years) qualifying through the service of my deceased husband in the U.S. Air Force. Every year since 2000, I have held an office at some level and have enjoyed the challenges and adventures as I strived to share enthusiasm with our members.

We know that all the "real" work happens at the Unit level and I enjoy the hands-on working with our members and with other organizations as we organize and participate in city-wide events recognizing our military, veterans and patriotic events. I currently serve the unit as Treasurer. We have special activities each year including our annual Flag Day visit to a Day Care Centers and City Library accompanied by "Uncle Sam", "Betsy Ross", "Statue of Liberty", "George Washington" and other participants. I created a 9-11 table ceremony script to remember and honor the victims and the heroes of September 11, 2001, and have shared the script with other units.

I served the Department of Texas as President 2012-2013 and my theme was "Serving with a Song in our Hearts" - that summer, Texas hosted the American Legion Family's National Conventions in Houston.

I own MAP TAX SERVICES, a bookkeeping and tax business in Cleburne (since 1981), Shady is the office mascot and live on Lake Granbury in Hood County, Texas with ShadyHO's mom and sister.



ALEX GOREE
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Administrative Assistant at the ALANHQ. I manage communications, file organization, document prep, and daily operations. I am currently pursuing a PACE certification to enhance my administrative professional skills. avid reader, iced coffee enthusiast, and always dreaming of my next beach trip (more than likely to Florida).



As we get ready to get to work for the 2026-2027 administrative year, we know that governing documents will help us along the way. To be "A Beacon For Veterans" we will need to use our Constitution and Bylaws to ensure we are working as a team with a goal in mind.

Constitution Day is Thursday September 17, 2026. This day celebrates the day in 1787 when delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the United States Constitution in Philadelphia. July 4th marks our independence, but September 17th marks the official creation of the federal government and its structure. The Constitution still guides our country to this day. Like our Great Nation, our organization has grown and changed over the years requiring amendments to our governing documents.

While Constitution Day is celebrated on September 17th you can encourage your Departments and Units to review and learn their Constitution and Bylaws in fun ways throughout the year. Games like jeopardy, bingo, puzzles, and trivia are fun ways to get members involved with Constitution and Bylaws. To get your Junior Members involved you could challenge them to memorize the preamble and give them a prize when they are able to recite it.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee is always here to help and answer your questions.

Editor/Author for this issue is Leslie Ginther

