

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

August 2026

Issue #9

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

***COMMUNITY
SERVICE***

PRE-CON

MEETING

Tuesday

August 18, 2026

7:30pm

[Click here](#)



Community Service National Chair John R. Tester

Greetings ALA Community Service,

As our Community Service year begins to come to an end, I am absolutely amazed by the incredible amount of dedication,

compassion, and service you have shown to your communities throughout the year. From large projects to the many small acts of kindness that often go unnoticed, each of you has made a difference. Your willingness to step up, lend a hand, and serve those around you truly represents what the American Legion Auxiliary is all about. **Thank you** for everything you have done and for the countless hours you have given to make your communities stronger.

While our program year may be winding down, our work is not finished! September will bring the **9/11 Day of Remembrance**, one of our signature opportunities to honor those who were lost and those who continue to serve and protect our communities. I encourage every Unit to find a meaningful way to participate and continue putting our mission of service into action. Keep looking for opportunities to help, keep making a difference, and most importantly, **keep working Community Service!** Your service matters, and the impact you make reaches far beyond what you may ever see.

It has been an absolute honor to serve as your National Community Service Chair for the last 12 months. The dedication of service to our communities that I have witnessed will not be easily forgotten. It's been a pleasure working with each of you. Thank you!

John R. Tester





Community Service National Vice-Chair Amy Luft

Amy's Angle...

Although this program year is coming to an end, community service never truly ends. It is not confined to one committee or one set of activities—it is woven throughout every aspect of our organization. No matter which program or leadership role you choose to become involved with next year, community service will no doubt continue to be an essential part of fulfilling our mission.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment, your generous hearts, and all that you have accomplished this year. You have been a fabulous team to work with! Your dedication this year has truly embodied our mission of service to veterans, military, and their families. Together, you have shown that when American Legion Auxiliary members serve, our communities—and those we are honored to support—are stronger because of it. Well done team!

Blessings,

Amy~



COMMUNITY SERVICE *PRE-CON* Zoom Meeting

— PLAN ★ CONNECT ★ COLLABORATE ★ MAKE AN IMPACT —

**AUGUST 18**
7:30PM EST



★ ALL DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN
ARE ASKED TO ATTEND. ★

⇒ *All members are welcome!* ⇒

 Stronger
Together
Better
Communities

 Service to
Veterans,
Military, and
Our Communities

 Share Ideas
Connect
Make an Impact

 FOLLOW THE LINK ON THE
FIRST PAGE TO REGISTER! 

YOUR DEDICATION ★ OUR MISSION ★ THEIR FUTURE



Southern Division

What an incredible year we have had in the Southern Division Community Service program. Our Division stepped forward with purpose, passion, and delivering projects that met the needs of the community. From largescale community partnerships to small but powerful acts of kindness and care, we showed what can happen when service is intentional, organized, and rooted in love for our veterans, their families, and our communities.

Every department contributed something unique and meaningful. My thanks to each of you, because your work shaped the year in ways that will never be forgotten.

- Alabama, thank you for your spirit of collaboration that strengthened communities.
- Arkansas, thank you for turning challenges into opportunities for meaningful service.
- Florida, thank you for infusing every project with energy and innovation, proving how powerful fresh ideas can be.
- Georgia, thank you for your dependable service and community resourcefulness.
- Kentucky, thank you for ensuring that no need went unanswered.
- Louisiana, thank you for your warmth and generosity to every initiative.
- Mississippi, thank you for touching lives through heartfelt acts of kindness.
- North Carolina, thank you for your compassion and creativity in your projects.
- Oklahoma, thank you for your community partnerships.
- Puerto Rico, thank you for inspiring us with your dedication to serve our communities.
- South Carolina, thank you for your steadfastness in your devotion to our families.
- Tennessee, thank you for delivering meaningful and memorable service.
- Texas, thank you for your unwavering commitment to our communities.
- Virginia, thank you for enriching every community you touched.

Together, you created a tapestry of community service that reflects the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Pamela Elam-Lipscombe
Southern Division Chairman



Gaining knowledge, sharing ideas, and enjoying plenty of fun while attending Mission Training in Atlanta, Georgia.

*Pictured: Department of Florida Chair Tamara Zelle,
Department of North Carolina Chair Juli Zajc,
Southern Division Chair Pamela Elam-Lipscombe*



Eastern Division

The 12 Departments of the Eastern Division have spent this past administrative year promoting the ALA mission within their respective communities. They continued to promote the Be The One campaign each month. Departments/Units ensured they were wearing ALA-branded gear while out and volunteering in their communities. Departments continued to support the work of The American Legion family throughout their local areas.

The work accomplished by all Departments will have a lasting impression on their communities. It was an honor and privilege to work with such dedicated ALA volunteers this year. Keep being mission-driven! Keep being family-focused!

Yours in Service,

Paulette Caron
ALA Eastern Division Community Service Chairman

Central Division

I had an amazing year as my first National appointment.

I learned how other programs could coincide with Community Service. To figure out which submissions belong to which program. Community Service is about working with your community. Some communities just think the American Legion is just a bar. We need to get out there and tell our story about what we do with the Veterans and how we can help with in the community.

I enjoyed working with each of the department chairman. Some did well and some didn't. You can give chairman all the tools they need to have a successful year, but it seemed some didn't utilize them or just didn't care. I did meet Indiana's chairman at Mission Training and can't wait to meet up with her at National Convention.

No pictures to share at this time.

I want to thank you John, for being patient with me and working with me. Being new was a little scary, but you got me through this and I felt more confident.

Cindy Masowick
Central Division Chair



Northwestern Division

This division had a new chairman in each department that I worked with this year. The chairmen worked hard to provide information to their units and were able to share events that their units held for their communities to participate in.

All the work that they did paid off this year. They sent in some great reports for the department at year end. They also did a fabulous job in getting their reports in by the 15th of May. They were even turning in unit awards, citation for American Legion Family Day and unit awards for the best American Legion Family Day. They were so successful that they were the first division to report 100%. I cannot wait to find out who gets the awards from this division in August at the Pre-Con meeting on August 18, 2026, at 8 pm. I will send the link when it is received.

Keep your eyes on how you can help your communities in these next few months. End your year and start recording the events for next year. In my community, they are raising funds for an All Inclusive Park designed for kids and adults of all ages and abilities. This park will feature: Inclusive playground equipment, musical instruments, fun for everyone and a space where all can play together. What can you find in your community to support as a family?

Ann Ritacco

Northwestern Division Community Service Chairman



Department of North Dakota celebrating the 250th Birthday of the USA. Their Minto American Legion Auxiliary Unit 201 served at the weekly Thursday Night Cookout. In honor of USA's 250th Birthday, the unit had 250 star cookies to serve at the cookout. ND Dept President Candace Berg was our guest and also helped to serve. We are in our 19th year of weekly cookouts for the community.

Thank you, ND Chairman Shelley, for sharing this event.



9/11 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

SEPTMBER 11, 2026
25 YEARS LATER — WE REMEMBER

Twenty-five years have passed since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, but the memories remain forever in our hearts.

 **WE REMEMBER** the nearly 3,000 innocent lives lost.

 **WE HONOR** the heroes who ran toward danger.

 **WE REMEMBER** the first responders who gave everything.

 **WE HONOR** the families and loved ones who continue to carry their loss.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET

★ SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 — SEPTEMBER 11, 2026 ★

REMEMBER ★ HONOR ★ SERVE



American Legion Auxiliary

Serving Our Veterans, Their Families & Our Communities

