

THE ARKANSAS LEGIONNAIRE



JANUARY 2024

VOLUME 105 NUMBER 2

An Official Publication of The American Legion Department of Arkansas



For God and Country



Greetings Legionnaires,

I hope that everyone had a good holiday season. It is important to remember that not everyone finds the season cheerful, jolly or happy. I hope you each take/took time out of your busy schedules to do a Buddy Check with post members that you have not seen or heard from in a while. Remember – we should be doing Buddy Checks regularly – not just when the holidays or the mood strikes us. It is imperative that we check on and help all our veteran community members.

I would be remiss if I did not spend a few words of print to send out some very heartfelt thanks to many of our members. First up is Keith Dover. For those of you who do not know Keith - he is the Department's Public Relations Representative. Keith worked alongside Jason Irby (Corvettes) to bring recognition to the 75th Anniversary of War Memorial Stadium (WMS), the 70th anniversary of the corvette, and the 100th anniversary of the National Parks System on Veterans Day. They organized a parade and terrific program honoring all three. Our very own Arkansas American Legion Riders led the parade around the parking lot and to the entrance of WMS. Being selected as Master of Ceremonies was an honor, and as such, I followed our Riders. What a ride!! Our leading candidate for National Commander, James (Jim) A. LaCoursiere, Jr, was the featured speaker.

Veterans Day was followed by a whirlwind visit from our National Commander, Daniel Seehafer. A huge shoutout to all the posts and Legionnaires that did so much to welcome him and his aide, Mike Rohan, to Arkansas. We visited posts in Beebe, McCrory, Birdseye State Veteran Cemetery, Harrisburg, Monticello, Russellville and the Veteran hospitals in Little Rock. These locations were picked so posts in the surrounding areas could easily get there and the commander did not have to spend hours on the road. His motto: ***"We are a family that saves lives by changing lives."*** Each of us has the opportunity every day to impact some one's life. Will you each take the time to make a difference in the life of an individual that is reaching out for help. Sometimes you may not know how significant a "good morning", or "hello" can be to someone.

Finally, a huge shout out to Bob Renner, our Department Adjutant. All the background work that needs to be done to make visits, conventions, mid-winter, and a host of other things are done. These things are usually done without any fanfare and most the time little to no thanks or recognition. As Department Commander, I would not be able to be effective without Bob's guidance and behind the scene work to provide me, and others, with the information we need to keep this great department working. Thanks, Bob for all you do.

I know this is a repeat, but it bears mentioning again. The goal is not to close posts, however there are many reasons this is considered. I tasked your Membership Chair (Doc Sheets) to put together a committee to identify areas that we have a veteran population without Legion representation. We are currently looking at places where we would like to open posts. At the same time, there are (unfortunately) posts that are no longer viable. Why? Demographic shifts in population have moved folks out of the area. We are striving to revitalize as many posts as possible, but there are also posts that are being shuttered (around the state) because they either don't have enough members (or veteran population to be viable); they refuse to recruit or revitalize; or they are not doing Legion business. Some posts have opted for merging in an effort to keep a Legion presence in the area. I appreciate those that have made that decision. As always – the department is available to help to ensure your success. What type of post would you like to be a part of – one that is active, vibrant, known in the community or a post that will lose its charter? I hope that you chose to be active!

There are other committees hard at work to make things better for all our veterans, and especially our Legionnaires. I hope you will consider saying yes if you are approached by a committeeperson and asked to help. We need to work together to make your department shine and for your efforts to be recognized statewide and nationally. Thanks again for entrusting me to be Commander for Legion Year 2023-2024.

~ Marie Wilbanks, Commander, American Legion Department of Arkansas



Mid-Winter Edition IN THIS ISSUE...

1. Commander's Corner
2. Mid-Winter Agenda
3. NEC News and Information
4. Department Level News
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"Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the assessment that something else is more important than fear!"

Franklin D. Roosevelt

*** Note - The temporary editor for this copy of The Arkansas Legionnaire is Keith Dover, Public Relations, Flag Alliance, and POW-MIA Chairman. (majord91101@gmail.com)**

**The American Legion Department of Arkansas
Mid-Winter Conference - January 20-21, 2024**

AGENDA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024

8:00 a.m. Call to Order (Silver City Rooms 1&2)

Sgt-at-Arms - secure the door, everyone will please take their seats

Colors in place - Hand Salute

Department Chaplain - Invocation

Area Vice Commander - POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony

Pledge of Allegiance

Preamble of The American Legion

All Past Department Commanders to rise and be recognized.

Guests to Bring Greetings

Dee Smith, Auxiliary President

Bob Wade, Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander

Mike Stambough, American Legion Riders Director

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Drawing for Mid-Winter Sweepstake Winners

9:00 a.m. - Dismiss the Auxiliary, SAL, and Guests.

9:15 a.m. - Greetings and Announce the purpose of this meeting.

9:30-11:30 a.m. - DEC Meeting in Recess for the Purpose of Committee Meetings and Post Officer Training.

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. - Lunch on your own.

12:30 p.m. - Reconvene DEC Meeting.

- Sergeant at Arms gives Instructions.

★ **Guest Speaker - Charlie Aucion, National Vice Commander.**

- Roll Call of Department Executive Committee.

- **Crucial Business for the DEC**

- **Accept Meetings' Minutes** - June 18-20 (Convention), July 10 (DEC)

1:00 p.m. - DEPARTMENT OFFICER/COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS:

NEC	Mary V. Erdman
NW Area Vice Commander	Koyt Kidd
NE Area Vice Commander	Kevin Caldwell
SE Area Vice Commander	Joe McGloflin
SW Area Vice Commander	Dallas Erdman
Judge Advocate	James McMenis
Membership Chairman	William "Doc" Sheets
<u>Americanism Program Reports:</u>	Ralph Sims, Chairman
Baseball	Jeral Howard, Comm.
Boy Scouts	Mike Benefield, Chairman
Boys State	Len Cotton, Chairman
Shooting Sports	T.J. Acevedo, Chairman
Oratorical	Roger Lacy, Chairman
American Legion Foundation Report	Roger Lacy, Chairman
Real Properties Management	Marvin Jumper
Convention Committee	Kevin Caldwell
Policy Committee	J.W. Smith
Constitution and By-Laws Committee	James McMenis

Committee Meeting Schedule

- Convention Committee - 9:30-11:00 a.m. (Razorback Room)
- C&B/L Committee - 11:00 a.m. (Razorback Room)
- Budget and Finance/Policy Committee - 9:30-11:00 a.m. (Executive Board Room upstairs)

Mid-Winter Training Schedule (Friday)

- Service Officer - 9:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m. (AR Traveler Room)
Tony Gordon
- Lunch - 11:30-12:30 p.m.
- District Officer/Cdr. - 12:30-1:30 p.m. (AR Traveler Room)
Doc Sheets
- Adjutant - 1:40-2:40 p.m. - (AR Traveler Room)
Patricia Carmack
- Break - 2:40-2:50 p.m.
- MyLegion.org - 2:50-4:00 p.m. - (AR Traveler Room)
Chris Nalepa

OFFICER/COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (cont.)

Public Relations	Keith Dover
Children & Youth	Marie Wilbanks
Department Service Officer	Tony Gordon
Department Training	Doc Sheets
Budget and Finance	Chuck Eick
Activities Committee	Doug Warner
Emergency Management	Dennis Mayher
Department Commander	Marie Wilbanks
• New Business from Department Executive Committee	
• Anything for the Good of the Legion	
• Announcements / Adjourn until 9:00 Sunday Morning	

Sunday January 21, 2024

8:00 a.m. - Patriotic Memorial Service

9:00 a.m. - DEC Reconvenes

- Unfinished Business from Saturday
- Adoption of Resolutions
- Acceptance of Finance Committee Report
- Department Chaplain - Benediction
- Colors in Place - Hand Salute

12:00 p.m. - Meeting Adjourned

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NEC NEWS AND INFORMATION



I'm writing this note having just left our National Commander Daniel Seehafer who was visiting Arkansas. Commander Seehafer visited posts in Beebe, McCrory, Harrisburg, Monticello and Russellville and the VAs in Little Rock and North Little Rock. The post visits were well attended by

our members, auxiliary members and even some dignitaries and guests. We were all made to feel welcome and were also well fed!

I attended the Fall Meetings at National Headquarters which included the NEC Meetings. Once again there were many resolutions passed along with receiving reports from the following commissions and committees that met: Americanism, Internal Affairs, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Media & Communications, Finance, and National Security. The Arkansas representatives from these committees or commissions should be able to provide you with the information from the reports.

At the NEC Meeting, twenty five (25) resolutions were presented and passed by the NEC. I will provide a brief synopsis of a few that may spark your interest and if you want more detail don't hesitate to contact me.

- 1) Extend age from 23 years to 26 years, for Tricare dependents who are enrolled in school full time
- 2) The American Legion strongly encourages posts to host S.A.V.E. training classes and invite local community, governmental agencies, not-for-profits and businesses
- 3) Only VA accredited representatives should file initial claims for veterans' compensation. Also, Congress should fund and support VA staffing and enforce penalties against non-VA- accredited service officers filing claims.
- 4) The American Legion shall have policies and procedures mandating sexual abuse awareness training and history background checks screening for staff and volunteers 18 years of age and older, who have continuous contact with minors participating in Legion youth activities.

Please contact me or one of the representatives (see 2023-24 list) members from Americanism, Media & Communications, Veterans' Affairs & Rehab (Commissions that met during fall meetings) for more information regarding resolutions.

Thank you for allowing me to serve!

Mary Erdman, NEC

(501) 454-7357 - maryrdmn@gmail.com

For God and Country!



National Committee Representatives 2023-24

Americanism Council

Alison Lawton - alilawton1@att.net

Koyt "Billy" Kidd - koyt@battlecrossstowing.com

Joy Hendrix - irishjosie1975@yahoo.com

Patricia Carmack - adjutantpost313ar@gmail.com

Dominic Listermann - dlisterman@gmail.com

Committee on Youth Education

Michael Westergren, Chair - michaelwestergren@earthlink.net

Constitution & By-Laws Committee

J.W. Smith - jw-post29@cox.net

Foreign Relations Committee

Dallas Erdman - erdman45hsv@gmail.com

Legislative Commission

Patrick (Doc) Phillips - ovadoc@yahoo.com

Media & Communications Commission

Jake Greeling - greeling@cox.net

Media & Communications Council

Kirk Williams - kirkeduc@yahoo.com

National Security Council

Kevin Caldwell - kevincaldwell1971@gmail.com

Patrick Mc Reynolds - phmcr@protonmail.com

Lorenzo Rogers - mrlrogers1@me.com

Richard Liles - richardliles9420@gmail.com

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council

Barbara Aguirre - ladybkfan1@hotmail.com

Veterans Benefit Committee

Antoine Gordon - antoinegotdon@gmail.com

Veterans Employment & Education Council

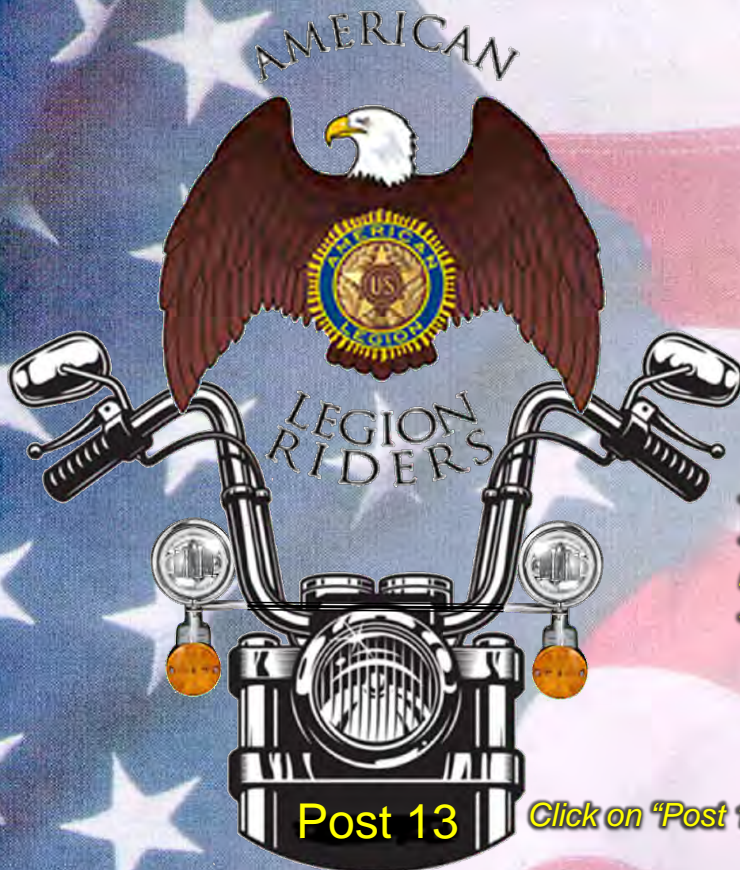
James Michener - jamiewmic@gmail.com

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation and NEC Liaison

Mary Erdman - maryrdmn@gmail.com

Veterans Education, Benefits & Homeless Committee/Consultant

Dr. Estella Morris - chinad7@comcast.net



**I WANT YOU...
To Be The One!!!**

Post 13

Click on "Post 13" (left) for Post info!

**P-L-E-A-S-E... "Be The One" to understand...VETERANS JUST LIKE YOU need help too...
and that's why WE ARE RUNNING THE SHOW this time around!!!**

**SO PLEASE LISTEN MY DEAR VETERAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS...
American Legion Post 13, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13, American Legion Riders (AR),
and American Legion District 14, are hosting a PTSD Seminar...
and WE NEED YOU TO BE A PART OF IT!!!**

WHEN: Third Saturdays Every Month at 10:00 a.m. (Starting January 2024)

**We will have guest speakers from numerous agencies...some "non-government" - local people
who want to help their veteran family and friends who might just need to talk with someone!!!**

So PLEASE...come be a part...because WE ARE HERE TO HELP EACH OTHER!!!

MAY GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU...and we look forward to seeing you there!

**"Harley" Mike Stambough, District 14 Commander, 2nd Vice-Post 13,
Director, American Legion Riders - AR**



For God and Country



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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
& WELLNESS

Click on the logos for more info!



DEPARTMENT LEVEL CORRESPONDENCE



Membership Chairman
William "Doc" Sheets

This has been a great six months of membership thus far. We have been working hard with the District Commanders, Area Commanders, and the Membership Team since the Membership Workshop was held in August.

We have been hitting all of our interim goals thus far. I stay in contact with all of the above officers on a weekly basis, and keep all updated as to our progress. The request was that the District Commanders visit very post in their district during the year, to see where we can assist posts with their needs.

After the first of the year, we will be meeting with a few new venues to open posts in places that have no post at all but a large Veteran Population. We still, however, are still only tapping into about 5% of the Market share of Veterans in Arkansas. Every Post and every District should want to get Veterans to be involved with The American Legion going forward.

BE THE ONE!!!!!!!



Northwest Area Vice Commander

Fellow Comrades, It has been a great second quarter in the North West Area. We are seeing growth in our posts and more activity from our members, our growth requires that "go get it done" mentality and that has been seen, for that I can't thank you enough. Keep up the great work.

Our National Commander visited my home post Riggs-Hamilton Post 20 here in Russellville in early November and several other post across the state. I had the opportunity to get to spend a little extra time in visiting with him and the passion he has for his fellow man is overwhelming and if you did not get to meet him and hear his words of wisdom, you missed out.

As we move toward the new year of 2024, I foresee much more growth as we have had several posts reaching out for help. Our membership Chairman Doc. Sheets has been working tirelessly in keeping us up to date on our membership goals and supplying us with any and all information regarding membership capabilities, I urge you to reach out to him.

Revitalizations are a must and retention is most important. With our over a century of community service and the desire to continue to serve our great nation, it's up to us to keep passing the torch and once again I am seeing this more and more each day.

With the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons things are always hectic with families and celebrations, I pray for the safety of you and you families whether you are staying at home or traveling, may God bless and keep you in his guarded hand.

From my family to my Legion Family, I wish you tidings of comfort and joy and a blessed Christmas and New Year!

Billy, "Koyt" Kidd,

1st Vice Commander

American Legion Department of Arkansas



Department Service Officer
Antoine "Tony" Gordon
Veterans Benefit Administration
Little Rock Regional Office
Virtual Veterans Claims Clinic

The Little Rock Regional Office will host an appointment only Virtual Claims Clinic on Thursday, January 25, 2024 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, dial 501-370-3829 between 7:00 a.m. and 5:59 p.m., beginning Wednesday January 3, 2024 until Wednesday January 24, 2023

The Virtual Veterans Claims Clinic will be staffed by Regional Office employees ready to virtually assist Veterans one-on-one with specific questions regarding their claims.

- NOTE: Please upload any documents for your appointment to www.va.gov no later than Wednesday January 10, 2024. More information is also available at: www.benefits.va.gov/littlerock

Post Service Officer Training

Greetings Legionnaires! Post Service Officer (PSO) Training will be offered on Friday, January 19th, 2024 at 9:30 a.m., at the Riverfront Wyndham Hotel located at 1 Riverfront Drive, NLR, AR. We will discuss a variety of subjects to include Interview Techniques, Standard Claim Forms, Keys to Service Connection, Supplemental Claims, and Lay Statements. I hope to set some time aside for general questions and scenario based training. If you have specific topics you wish to discuss, please feel free to email me at: antoinegordon@gmail.com.

We will also have Mr. Phillip Du, Deputy Director of Benefits & Claims of the National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division from Washington, D.C. with us providing a national perspective on the duties and responsibilities we have as American Legion Representatives as it relates to Service Officers.

I have emailed a copy of the training slides to those of you that I have email addresses on. If you will be attending training, and did not receive a copy, please email me, and I will provide you a copy.

Antoine "Tony" Gordon

Service Officer

Department of Arkansas

501-772-0795

antoinegordon@gamil.com

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

We all struggle with spiritual discouragement and lethargy. Some days our circumstances threaten to overwhelm us, and we struggle just to pray. Many times we just don't feel like doing the things we know we should. For one reason or another, God sometimes seems far off and unreachable.

David faced times like these in his life. The Psalms are filled with verses that express his despair and feeling of abandonment. Yet the Psalms also give us the key to living victoriously during the dark periods of life. Let's take a quick look at Psalm 119:89-95*.

"Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations; You established the earth, and it stands. They stand this day according to Your ordinances..."

My circumstances or feelings have not changed God. He is the same God today as He was when He hung the stars in the sky, led the Israelites through the Red Sea, and fed the five thousand.

"For all things are Your servants..." All things, even the things affecting me right now, are God's servants. The circumstance, people, and events around me are all under God. They are His servants, designed to help and bless me spiritually.

"If Your law had not been my delight, Then I would have perished in my affliction. I will never forget Your precepts, For by them You have revived me. I am Yours, save me; For I have sought Your precepts. The wicked wait for me to destroy me; I shall diligently consider Your testimonies."

Recalling God's faithfulness and control over everything that touches us gives us strength to walk with God even when we feel like giving up in despair. After all, our feelings and circumstances have not changed God. He is perfectly capable of sustaining us if we will only let Him. We simply need to choose to delight in and diligently consider God's precepts (His principles and character) despite how we feel. Choosing to delight in God might not be easy. It might even involve hard work. But only God can revive and save our soul from spiritual lethargy.

Next time you feel spiritually drained or inadequate, remember that you have a choice. You can wrap yourself up in excuses and self-pity, or you can choose to draw your strength from an unchanging God.



**Richard Lyles, Post 71
Department Chaplain**



TRAINING AND EDUCATION



**Director of Training
William "Doc" Sheets**

As we have talked about over the past few years, Training and Education are going to be the backbone of The American Legion going forward, to make our Organization be successful in the future.

One of the things that we wanted to be sure of, was making the training fit the needs and requests of our Membership, from the individual, post, district and department levels. Starting back at the June 2023 Convention, we again gave training the day before the start of our Convention. It was a great success and so going forward, we will again offer Training the day before our Mid-Winter Conference in 2024. We have posted the Training Schedule on the Department Website for all to see. You can visit www.arlegion.org to see and download the schedule. We are however, offering this year, 3 brand new training modules per the requests of the Department Membership. District, Adjutant training and then mylegion.org introduction courses as well. The training will be on Friday before the start of the Conference. If you would like to have any of this training, be there on Friday.

If your Post or general area around your post or Your District would like training then be sure and put in a request for the training and what subject(s) you would like as well.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY...BE THE ONE!



**Antoine "Tony" Gordon, Dean
Department of Arkansas Legion College**



The most recent Department of Arkansas Legion College (DALC) was held in Malvern, Arkansas on October 20-21, 2023, with a graduating class of 15. Malvern Post 11 were tremendous hosts for the event. I laude them for their efforts.

The DALC Team members are encouraged by the interest shown in this program, and we solicit your input on future Legion College Dates and Sites. The plan is to have surveys available at Mid-Winter Convention in hope of gathering information to facilitate member engagement throughout the Department of Arkansas, and surrounding states.

In the interim, if you have any ideas, and/or comments, particularly about the next Legion College locations, please feel free to contact our Department Adjutant, or me directly via email at: antoinegordon@gmail.com

Thank you for being a member of The American Legion, Team Arkansas. Let us strive to grow as a Department. Training and Education are the keys to growth.

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

- Teach The Value of the Preamble
- Empower Members to be Difference Makers
- Accountability to Community, State, & Nation
- Mentor to Maintain Membership

CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENT



ANTOINE "TONY" GORDON for 2024-25 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Integrity ★ Selfless Service ★ Excellence

Eligibility and Accomplishments

United States Air Force

April 22, 1985 - September 30, 2007

American Legion Affiliations

Post Service Officer

Post Commander

Past District Vice Commander

Past District Commander

District Executive Committee

Department Service Officer

Committees and Appointments

Past Department Membership Chair

Past Department Legislative Chair

Past Director of Marketing Department Legion College

Department Training Team Member

Department Internal Affairs Chair

Editor, Department Newspaper

Dean, Department Legion College

TAL Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council

TAL Veterans Cemetery Council

2019 National Legion College Graduate

THE VISION

Where there is no vision, the people perish. In 1919, The American Legion was founded on four profound pillars: **Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth**. Each of these pillars encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nation's Veterans, its servicemembers, their families, the youth of America and the ordinary citizens.

As a Legionnaire, I am committed to continuing the legacy of our founding members by promoting the programs of The American Legion (TAL), the catalyst for stimulating growth throughout the entire Department. One hears quite frequently about the need to recruit a younger population of Veterans and their families. I agree that there is a need to replenish membership, but we must also preserve the timeless traditions of The American Legion. To do that, we must get back to the **BASICS: Comradery and devotion to mutual helpfulness, the embryo for, "Be The One!"**

It is imperative that we place a greater emphasis on service to Veterans, servicemembers and communities. Hence the need for promoting our American Legion Programs. Far too often we lose site of the vision by promoting people first. Our tremendous programs are the greatest recruiting tool we have. I implore each and every member of this Department to remember the importance of the Mission, Vision, and Objectives of the world's largest Veterans Service Organization, The American Legion.

As a candidate for Department Commander, State of Arkansas, I hereby ask for your vote!

Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in all you do!

T.E.A.M.

Teach The Value of the Preamble

Empower Members to be Difference Makers

Accountability to my Community, State, & Nation

Mentor to Maintain Membership

BE THE ONE





DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY NEWS

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arkansas
1415 West 7th Street - Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 374-5836 FAX (501) 372-0855 Email: arkaux@att.net



DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

President	Betty Cupples, Heber Springs
NEC	Dee Smith, McCrory
Alternate NEC	Ada Heath, McCrory
N.E. Division Vice President	Patricia "Patty" Tucker, Osceola
N.W. Division Vice President	Vera Thompson, Springdale
S.E. Division Vice President	Pat Clark, Sheridan
S.W. Division Vice President	Pearl Gordon, North Little Rock
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Charlie McAfee, Little Rock
Chaplain	Vacant
Historian	Jane Keever, Heber Springs
Sergeant At Arm	Barbara Engler, Heber Springs
Parliamentarian	Melissa Mangini, Augusta

JUNIOR OFFICERS

Honorary Jr. President	Callie Caldwell, McCrory
Honorary Jr. Vice President	Callie Caldwell, McCrory
Honorary Jr. Secretary	Savannah Brown, Crossett
Historian	Nevaeh Flett, Bentonville

DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

Americanism	Amanda Wade, Rogers
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Elaine Strickland, El Dorado
Children & Youth	Michelle Henning, Bentonville
Community Service	JoAnne Cobb, Rogers
Constitution & Bylaws	Beverly Wood, North Little Rock
Education	Tammy Jerdee, Heber Springs
Finance	Ada Heath, McCrory
Girls State Chairman	Arlene Crane, Benton
History	Nora Earnest, Atkins
Junior Activities	Michelle Henning, Bentonville
Leadership	Patricia Murray, Redfield
Legislative	Mary Erdman, Benton
Membership	Pearl Gordon, North Little Rock
National Security	Barbara Engler, Heber Springs
Past Presidents Parley	Betty Minor, White Hall
Poppy	Nicole Smith, Fayetteville
Public Relations	Shoshanna Wells, Heber Springs
V A & R	Patricia Murray, DeWitt
VA&R/Gift Shop (Little Rock)	Patricia Murray, DeWitt
VA&R/Gift Shop(Fayetteville)	JoAnne Cobb, Rogers



Greetings!

This quarter has been busy in the membership department. We are steadily making gains in our numbers. I want to thank Pearl Gordon for her tireless efforts in this. Keep it up everyone!

We had a visit from our National President, Lisa Williamson, in November. We visited the B-17 Memorial in Sheridan, and had lunch at Post 48 in Sheridan.

The Auxiliary there did an amazing job preparing lunch for us. Then we took her to Fort Roots and toured the hospital and grounds. The staff there was most welcoming and helpful. Beebe, Post and Unit 91, entertained us for dinner with a special Taco Tuesday. It was awesome. Thanks to Carol Westergren and her team.

Wednesday started off at the State Capitol with a tour of the inside of the Capitol and the Memorials all around it. She especially enjoyed the Gold Star Memorial. Lunch was at the Red Apple Inn in Heber Springs, sponsored by Unit 64. Dinner that night was at Post 1 in Little Rock and it was fantastic. Special thanks to all the members and Posts that turned out to meet with her.

The following week saw the National Commander here. I had a good time visiting McCrory and having lunch with him. And dinner at Kobe's Japanese Steakhouse one night was awesome with Department Commander Marie Wilbanks and other Legionnaires. I thank them for including me.

Mid—Winter Conference will be next month, January 21, 2024, at the Wyndham Hotel in North Little Rock. Registration will begin at 8:00 am and the Conference will start at 9:30. Hope to see all of you there.

Spring Conference will be April 22, 2024 at the State Veterans Home in North Little Rock. More info on that in my next mail-out.

As some of you know, our Department Secretary, Meg Dunn, resigned in November. We are looking for a replacement, but until that happens, please bear with me as I try to do the office work. Hopefully, when we get someone, I can start visiting units again. Right now I just don't have the time, so please forgive me for not coming around. I want to thank the members that have been helping me with this.

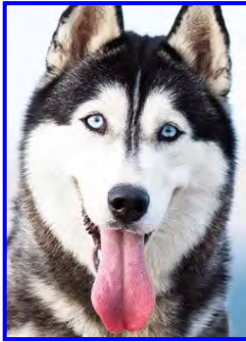
Let's all remember to Be the One, and keep helping our Veterans.

God Bless the United States of America

Betty Cupples, President, Department of Arkansas American Legion Auxiliary.

Mid Winter Conference - January 20-21, 2024
ALA Registration 8:30 a.m. - Conference: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30

 **AMERICAN**
LEGION
AUXILIARY



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arkansas Membership Committee

Pearl Gordon – Chair
Debbye Barreda – Member
Sonja Clark – Member



Hello MUSHERS!

We seem to have slowed down a bit on the last mountain range. Nonetheless, we are not giving in, the Department of Arkansas is still in this race! So, gird your loins! We are going to buckle down, feed our super pups some super kibble, and finish this race at 100% BEFORE department convention.

We are currently at 51% of our goal which is halfway there. We have several units that have reached and/or surpassed their 100% goal. These **SUPER MUSHERS** have been entered into the

Department of Arkansas' Club 100:

Unit 106 – Searcy (133.33%)
Unit 297 – Junction City (100%)
Unit 74 – North Little Rock (110%)

There are several other units that have surpassed 75% of their goal and are known as **TOP MUSHERS:**

Top Mushers

Unit 114 – Batesville (78.26%)
Unit 006 – Pocahontas (86.84%)
Unit 261 – Ravendon Springs (82.35%)
Unit 91 – Beebe (81.48%)
Unit 112 – McCrory (80.60%)
Unit 027 – Fayetteville (90.00%)
Unit 139 – Springdale (76.92%)
Unit 162 – Green Forest (80.00%)

Top Mushers

Unit 034 – Atkins (84.21%)
Unit 076 – Danville (83.33%)
Unit 427 – Hope (94.44%)
Unit 139 – Springdale (76.92%)
Unit 162 – Green Forest (80.00%)
Unit 034 – Atkins (84.21%)
Unit 076 – Danville (83.33%)
Unit 427 – Hope (94.44%)

We need EVERY unit to reach/surpass their 100% goal in order to successfully complete the GREAT RACE! We can do it! It is not about the president, the membership chair, or any "one" person. It is about our ALA Mission. Our Mission is imperative for many Veterans, and we need our members in order to work the Mission!

So, GET YOUR PUPS UP ... and let's get Mushing by **Renewing**, **Recruiting**, and **Rejoining**.

- Pay online: www.ALAforVeterans.org and click "Renew" in the top right corner of your screen
- Pay by Phone: Call National Headquarters at (317) 569-4570 with your member ID.
- Pay at your Unit.

We are here to help. Contact me if you would like assistance in revitalizing your unit, and/or having a membership drive (phone: 501-772-0572, or email: thepearlygates77@gmail.com).

Join us on Facebook:

[AR American Legion Auxiliary Membership](#)

Or visit our website:

[American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arkansas](#)



Pearl Gordon

PRESIDENT

American Legion Auxiliary

DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS

2024 - 2025

BE THE ONE and BE Mission – Minded

Our Veterans are Worth It!

- Southwest Division Vice President 2021 – 2024
- District 15 President 2019 – 2021
- Department Executive Committee 2019 – present
- Department of Arkansas Legion College (DALC) Graduate
- DALC Administrator & Facilitator / Instructor 2023
- Master of Science in Operations Management
- BS Business Management / HR – Summa Cum Laude
- 22+ Years of Experience in Nonprofit Leadership

Vote for:

- **Accountability**
- **Transparency**
- **Accessibility**
- **Trusted Leadership**

Let us focus on our ALA Mission, personalize a culture of goodwill towards others, while increasing our membership strength, and ensuring our future existence.

THE ARKANSAS LEGIONNAIRE

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For Your Information

- Veterans Crisis Line: **Dial 988 / Press 1**
- Mid-Winter Training January 18, 2024
- VA Regional Office: 501-370-3829
- VHA Hospital: 501-257-1000
- Training: www.legion.org/training-Tuesday
- Department Website: www.arlegion.org



Department Dates and Deadlines

- Fire Fighter of the Year: January 1st
- Police Officer of the Year: January 1st
- Historian Narrative Certify: Noon, 1st Day of Convention
- Historian Yearbook Certify: Noon, 1st Day of Convention
- Convention Delegate List: Noon, 1st Day of Convention
- Children & Youth Supplement: April 15th
- Blue Cap of the Year April 1st
- Recruiter of the Year May 15, 2024
- Expense Voucher: Within 30 days of expenditure
- **Legionnaire Input for March Legionnaire: 03/01/2024**

100% Membership Target Dates:

- January 18, 2024 80%
- February 14, 2024 85%
- March 13, 2024 90%
- April 10, 2024 95%
- May 15, 2024 100%

Posts Achieving 100% by Dec. 31:

Alexander Post 28 - 112%
Bradford Post 144 - 100%

***Congratulations
for your efforts!!!***

