AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY
The American Legion Auxiliary is the largest patriotic women’s service organization in the world, with nearly 1 million members. Affiliated with The American Legion and chartered by Congress in 1920, the Auxiliary is a veterans’ service organization with members in nearly 10,000 American communities. The organization sponsors volunteer programs on the national and local levels, focusing on three major areas: veterans, young people and the community.

The services of the American Legion Auxiliary directly and indirectly touch the lives of all Americans. With the philosophy of "Service, not Self," the American Legion Auxiliary develops a strong spirit of volunteerism in its members, who have joined together in the fellowship of giving to others.

**Mission Statement**

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

**Vision Statement**

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

**Purposes**

- In fulfillment of our Mission, the American Legion Auxiliary adheres to the following purposes:
- To support and advocate for veterans, active military and their families
- To support the initiatives and programs of The American Legion
- To foster patriotism and responsible citizenship
To award scholarships and promote quality education and literacy
To provide educational and leadership opportunities that uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy and encourage good citizenship and patriotism in government
To increase our capacity to deliver our Mission by providing meaningful volunteer opportunities within our communities
To empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through Service Not Self Values

Our statement of values is predicated on the founding purposes:
- Commitment to the four founding principles: Justice, Freedom, Democracy, Loyalty
- Service to God, our country, its veterans and their families
- Tradition of patriotism and citizenship
- Personal integrity and family values
- Respect for the uniqueness of individual members
- Truthful open communication in dealing with the public and our members
- Adherence to the adopted policies and rules

American Legion Auxiliary

Membership is open to wives, mothers, daughters, sisters, grandmothers, granddaughters and great granddaughters of veterans who served during wartime; some Auxiliary members are veterans themselves.

- If an applicant is joining on her own service record, the Auxiliary unit to which she is applying for membership will be responsible for verification of her eligibility for membership.
- If applicant is joining on the basis of her relationship to a member of The American Legion, an officer of the post to which that relative belongs must certify the Legionnaire’s membership in that post.
- If an applicant wishes to join a unit or a post other than the one to which her Legionnaire relative belongs, the unit to which she is applying for membership should check the eligibility with the post of her relative.
- Under no circumstances, when eligibility is to be based on relationship to a deceased veteran, should an adjutant certify an application for membership without checking
the veteran’s discharge papers to determine that the dates of service fall within the Legion’s eligibility time periods. The deceased veteran need not have been a Legionnaire for the applicant to qualify for Auxiliary membership.

The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program

The official flower of The American Legion is the poppy. As a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice, the poppy is worn and to honor the men and women who served and died for their country in all wars. Every May, Legion, Auxiliary and SAL volunteers distribute millions of bright red crepe paper poppies for contributions to assist disabled and hospitalized veterans. As the oldest and most widely recognized Legion and American Legion Auxiliary program, this campaign provides multiple benefits to veterans and their communities.

Resolution No. 20, “The American Legion Poppy Program,” passed May 8-9, 2013, outlines the proper use, manufacture and distribution of the poppies and raised funds. All funds are to be used for honorably discharged U.S. veterans; for the welfare of veterans’ families; for the rehabilitation of hospitalized military personnel returning home and awaiting discharge who require treatment in service hospitals; and for the welfare of veterans, active military personnel and their families where financial and medical need is evident. Priority is to be given to veterans first in the manufacture of poppies.

All American Legion posts and SAL squadrons are encouraged to establish a poppy program following the guidelines and procedures established by their respective departments.