



American Legion Auxiliary

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

TO: National Executive Committee Members, National Officers, National Chairmen, Past National Presidents

CC: Dept Presidents; Dept Secretaries, NHQ Staff; National Committee Members

From: Kelly Circle, Executive Director

Re: **Weekly Briefing 11-20-2020**

Read your C&B day

It was great to see all the pictures of members reading the National C&B on November 14th! Remember, the picture contest runs through June 30, 2021 so send your submissions to Trish Ward at **tbw_ksaux@yahoo.com**. For fun, I've attached my submission for your viewing pleasure.

Update on the new national website

We are in the final the testing phases of the revised www.ALAForVeterans.org and are aiming for a launch in December. The site has been refreshed to reflect a more modern feel, and the member portal section was expanded to allow members to have much more control of their own data.

Visitors who come to the site will notice the prominence given to the American Legion Auxiliary's mission activities, events, and scholarships (plus be able to see the ALA blog and social media posts from the homepage). Members who log in to the member portal will be able to navigate national committee information, forms, and handbooks/guides in a more upfront manner.

But first ... make sure your web browsers are up to date:

You may have seen the social media posts from ALA National Headquarters, but as the website launch gets closer, please make sure your internet browsers are up to date.

What does this mean? If your technology is not current, connecting can be difficult. Ask yourself these questions: How has your online experience been? Have you found that webpages are slow to load? Do you have more trouble connecting than others do?

There may be a simple solution to solve these problems. Try updating your internet browser or downloading a different browser. This is free and easy to do.

For the best online experience, National Headquarters recommends using Google Chrome, Firefox, or Safari. Many websites no longer support Internet Explorer.



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Google Chrome

To download Google Chrome, follow this link: www.google.com/chrome

If you already have Chrome installed, follow these steps to update:

- Open Chrome.
- At top right, click the three dots.
- If you see an option to update Google Chrome, click on it. If not, that means you are already up to date.

Firefox

To download Firefox, follow this link: www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox

If you already have Firefox installed, follow these steps to update:

- Open Firefox.
- Click on the menu bar and select About Firefox.
- Firefox will check for updates and download them automatically.
- When the download is complete, click Restart to update Firefox.

Safari

If you use Apple products, your default browser is Safari. This browser will update whenever you run iOS updates.

If you have questions, email PR@ALAforVeterans.org.

Trainings this week

This week we've had three great [virtual training](#) courses- *Getting Started with Juniors* on Monday (it will be repeated December 10,) and *Caregiver Support through Mission Delivery* on Tuesday and Thursday. In Tuesday's session, participant polling showed an increase in recognition of themselves as caregivers—from 50% recognition at the beginning of the course, to 75% at the end. On Thursday evening, participants went from 59% recognizing themselves as caregivers to 67% after the course was complete. This is significant because this shows that we can help ourselves while helping others too. As the airlines say, "Put your own oxygen mask on first before helping others." In other words, take care of yourself so you can continue to take care of others.

The ALA participated in the virtual exhibit hall at the **Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)** two-day virtual Education Summit. This event featured senior military and government and education leaders who covered current issues relevant to military-connected children. In a twist of good fortune, they listed the vendors alphabetically, so we were at the top of the list!

As Elizabeth Sendelweck and ALA Girls Nation Chair Wendy Riggle have been hosting virtual chat sessions with the ALA Girls State leaders, they have expressed



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gratitude for the generous sharing of ideas, information and technical experience among the ALA Girls State Directors. With so many stakeholders, each program must weigh the benefits and risks of moving forward with a face-to-face ALA Girls State program or planning for a virtual program. The wisdom and experience of the ALA Girls State Community has been very helpful as each program explores their options and makes the best decision for their program. This is an excellent example of how we can use technology to our advantage to facilitate communication and improve our programs. Way to go Girls State Team!

NVCAF schedule

Remember, the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is just around the corner! November 30 – December 4th. I've attached a flyer with all the sessions open to the public with information on where to log in and how to log in. This is a great opportunity to see one of our premier programs directly helping veterans and you don't have to pay for travel. If you want to feel good and get inspired, please join us for any and all sessions you can work into your schedule.

Red Book update

Please note there is a red book update attached to this email so please take out a pen and update your hard copy. The electronic copy on the website is up to date.