



# 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: Department Presidents; Department Secretaries, NHQ Staff**

From: Kelly Circle, Executive Director

Re: **Weekly Briefing 7-02-2020**

For a short week, it certainly has been a busy one here at National Headquarters! A few more people were in the office and contractors were bustling about in their facemasks doing some planned-for and much needed building maintenance. (The joys of “home” ownership!)

I'd like to introduce two new staff members to our Development team, Lauren Carpenter and Zac Felty. (See attached picture from their first day!) Lauren Carpenter is a proud life-long Hoosier, who graduated from Indiana Wesleyan University in 2017 with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism. She recently worked in marketing and fundraising for HVAF - Helping Veterans and Families - and is excited to continue serving veterans, military, and their families. When she isn't working, you can find Lauren at a concert (pre-COVID), reading a book, hiking, watching the newest documentary on Netflix, or hanging out with her family and friends.

Zac Felty is a recent graduate from Valparaiso University with a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and has held internships at Kankakee Community College Foundation and the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. He has a passion for philanthropy and is excited to help veterans, military, and their families. When not working, Zac enjoys reading about political science, finding new places to hang a hammock and relax and spending time with his 4 siblings.

In other personnel news, Gary Ward has accepted our offer and will be joining us next week as the Director of Finance. Prior to joining American Legion Auxiliary, Gary served as the Director of Finance at South Bend Clinic and IU Health focusing on the healthcare industry. He also served as the CFO for over seven years for Franklin United Methodist Community which is one of the ten largest single site retirement communities in the U.S. He served in public accounting for the first fifteen years of his career in tax and audit, specializing in several industries including non-profit industry clients.

Gary is a graduate of Ball State University with a BS in Accounting. He has been a Certified Public Accountant since 1987. In his spare time, Gary enjoys spending time at the family lake house with his wife and four children.



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Congratulations to ALA Empire Girls State (NY) on a successful virtual Girls State this week! Three hundred girls participated with many activities throughout the week. See more here on their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/empiregirlsstate>

The official trailer for the Boys State documentary was released this week by Apple TV+. It's a feature length original documentary film exploring "a microcosm of American democracy..." and was filmed at TAL Texas Boys State. It opens in select theaters on July 31<sup>st</sup> and will be available on Apple TV+ on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViiYJZqGC5w&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR0oI2UW-ZOlwWrYb0\\_n18NJJXFKmlq521ruUP1066\\_xBmPKGXUt1F4qzs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViiYJZqGC5w&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR0oI2UW-ZOlwWrYb0_n18NJJXFKmlq521ruUP1066_xBmPKGXUt1F4qzs)

I have just one more link to share for the week. In honor of the upcoming Independence Day holiday, I want to share the latest version of Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the U.S.A." for inspiration and listening enjoyment:

<https://youtu.be/gS0fxy8rHo8>

**Have a safe and happy Independence Day!**