



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 01-08-2021**

Happy New Year, Everyone! You'll notice a slight change in the title of the weekly briefing. I've changed it from NEC briefing to just Weekly briefing as the distribution group has grown beyond just the NEC. These briefings are to share information so please feel free to distribute as you see fit.

Just a reminder, Red Book updates will be attached to each weekly briefing. Don't forget to update your hard copies.

For the 2021-2022 National Committee appointments, Kathy Daudistel is using the completed applications submitted last year to make her selections. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Kathy at kdaudistel@alaforveterans.org.

I love to see members helping members and I want to share the guest blog from Marge Christianson regarding fundraising. It's an excellent article and has very helpful information! When I read it, I saw that her ideas could be applied to membership recruitment as well. Click here to read her ideas: <https://www.legion-aux.org/Blog/Fundraising-is-about-relationships> Thank you, Marge, for your contributions to the ALA!

Two days ago, National Commander Bill Oxford, posted a statement condemning the violence at the Capitol. <https://www.legion.org/commander/251500/american-legion-condemns-violence-us-capitol>. He drew negative comments because some thought he was taking a political stance, and some said he was silent when there were violent protests at other federal building this summer. I'm sharing the links of the relevant messages he has sent so you have all the information to draw upon as you form your conclusions. On July 23rd, this statement was issued: <https://www.legion.org/commander/249544/other-virus> and on June 1st, he posted this statement: <https://www.legion.org/commander/249162/american-legion-national-commander-%E2%80%98america-you-can-do-better-%E2%80%99>.

Many of you may have seen our President's message on Facebook last night. I've copied President Clapp's message below to ensure more members can read it. Please forward this email or print and mail to those members who aren't on social media or don't have computers.



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Dear Fellow ALA Members,

We have had political unrest and social upheaval throughout the last year and the stress from seeing it all has had a negative impact on our health and well-being. It rose to a crisis point yesterday, but remember, democracy has been under attack before and has always been able to right itself as we are witnessing now.

We are strong; we will get through this. Our democracy is strong; it will survive. Now is the time to come together, for the good of our veterans, military, their families, and our country, to set aside our political differences and reflect upon who we are as a group and what we stand for. We are mothers, daughters, granddaughters, sisters, and spouses of those who fought for the very freedoms we are seeing in turmoil now. Some of our members have fought for these freedoms themselves. Please honor their service and their sacrifices. Partisan politics are not part of the American Legion Auxiliary. In honoring our veterans, one of our core values is to demonstrate and pass on respect for our country. As we continue to work our Mission in 2021, remember our declaration:

We are the American Legion Auxiliary.

We are called to serve.

We respect our country and the service of those who defend our freedoms.

We are loyal to our United States Constitution and to those who protect it.

We are humbled by the courage of our veterans and their families.

We are alone, yet we stand together.

We are daughters, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers. We are family.

We are of every color. We are of every faith.

We are of every age.

We are anyone and everyone.

We are common and extraordinary.

We are citizens.

We live in small towns.

We live in suburbs.

We live in cities.

We work in fields, in factories, warehouses, offices, at home.

We are a community. We help one another.

We love our flag and all that it stands for.

We are many. We are one.

We are the American Legion Auxiliary. A Community of Volunteers
Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families.

We commit ourselves to the ideal: *Service Not Self.*

<https://youtu.be/UZSMUNbXmRk>