



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/EDs, NHQ Staff; National Committee Members
From: Kelly Circle, Executive Director
Re: **Weekly Briefing 07-30-2021**

It's been another great week and a fabulous ALA Girls Nation! Our new location at the William Bolger Center is even better than the pictures and the staff could not have been any better. They went the extra mile to make sure our every need was met and always with a smile! If you talk to any of the volunteers, they will most likely tell you about the food first. It was absolutely delicious and there was always something for everyone.

This year was a bit different in that we stayed on campus more than previous years which allowed the Senators more time to plan their party platforms, conventions, and rallies. They debated approximately 18 bills and resolutions. By today's Senate session, it was like watching a choreographed ballet of Senators rising, being recognized by the presiding officer, offering debate, yielding their time, and so on. The government staff did a great job teaching them and the Senators learned quickly.

I've been extremely fortunate to participate in Girls Nation for five years as a volunteer. Every year, I went home inspired, with hope for the future of our country because of these amazing young leaders and this year is no different. The ALA provides this incredible life experience for 100 young women each year and because of what we do here, and at every ALA Girls State program, our Country is in good hands with the next generation of leaders. Thank you to all the ALAGS volunteers nationwide for all you do!

Speaking of looking to the future, see the attached pdf of detailed program resources and here's a brief summary of what this is about:

To continue the ALA's meaningful impact into our next century of service, it is vital that we carry our accomplishments across administrations, rather than starting fresh each year. When the 5-year action plan was written in early 2017, it was to provide some continuity for planning, but parts of it are no longer relevant today. Therefore, going forward, the national president's focus each year will be conveyed through the national chairmen, national committee members, and department presidents with resources found on the national website at www.ALAforVeterans.org. Through our national and state leaders, members will



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look for ways to carry out the mission using whatever local resources are most available.

Each program also has its own private Facebook group, where information and ideas will be shared. Links to each group can be found on that program's committee page in the MyAuxiliary member portal.

Units should first identify the needs of veterans, military servicemembers and families in their local area through research and contact with their state's [Office of Veterans Affairs](https://www.va.gov/about_va/state-dva-offices) at https://www.va.gov/about_va/state-dva-offices and then choose activities that suit the interests and resources of their unit. Units are not expected to do *everything*; just pick the activities that meet the needs of your community and match the enthusiasm and resources of the members who will carry them out.

Please see the attachment for Red Book updates for this week.