



American Legion Auxiliary

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

To: ALA Red Book contacts

CC: Dan Wheeler, James Baca, Dean Kessel, Chanin Nuntavong, Mark Seavey

From: Kelly Circle, Executive Director

Re: Weekly Briefing 10-08-2021

Interesting facts from the 2021 national convention:

- 48 distinct events over 8 days.
- 357 individual speakers/presenters/facilitators/entertainers.
- 14 hospitality events involving food.
- 40+ outside vendors.

I keep forgetting to mention this in a briefing...a beautiful black blazer with red poppies made its way onto our trailer from Convention and it doesn't belong to anyone at NHQ. If it's your blazer, please let me know and we will ship it to you!

Latest ALANHQ email phishing scam gets personal

An email spammer is using my name in the "from" line and sending cryptic messages from a Gmail account. If you receive an email from me that doesn't sound like me, check the address first. These suspicious messages usually involve an urgent request for people to contact the sender, or some cases, buy gift cards for a cause.

Legitimate emails from ALA National Headquarters staff will come from the alaforveterans.org or legion-aux.org domain names. Your spam filter likely is blocking suspicious messages or moving them to a junk folder, but we know not all filters are created equal. If you have any questions or concerns about the source of an email, please delete it, don't click on any links inside the message, and definitely don't reply to the sender. Thanks for helping us work through this weirdness!

National Headquarters hosts in-person meetings

Some of our national leaders visited NHQ this week. Finance Chair, Sharon Conatser, NVP Vickie Koutz, and NP Kathy Daudistel met with various staff members to set some plans in motion and continue planning for our future. The American Legion held their Fall Conference this week as well, so our leadership and staff attended some of their meetings to hear their plans and coordinate efforts. I love seeing The Legion Family coming together!



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Great times at NP Kathy's Homecoming

I'm honored and inspired to be a part of the group celebrating NP Kathy's Homecoming this weekend! Thursday was a day of sharing and brainstorming with the Risk & Compliance committee with great ideas on how to stress the importance of minimizing legal risk and maximizing legal compliance without making it scary. Sara Riegel may have said it best, "If we build a strong foundation of risk and compliance, we can focus our energy on our mission instead."

Kathy's family, family friends, and her Legion Family have done an outstanding job welcoming us all, showing off their department, and figuring out logistics all along the way. Georgetown Post and Unit #24 served a delicious lunch for all 150 of us at once and made sure we all had a comfortable place to sit. (I want the chicken salad recipe!) They have made the most of their outdoor space with three season functionality and I highly recommend paying them a visit if you are in the area!

Kathy's home post, Latonia Post #203, served a fabulous fried chicken dinner that evening and it was clear how much the Department of Kentucky loves and supports our national president. Having National Commander Paul Dillard, and Sons National Commander Michael Fox here to celebrate with us made it a true Legion Family celebration.

In addition to the comradery, there were great conversations among the many departments sharing different ways of tackling challenges and carrying out our mission. I'm thinking of ways I can share these ideas with everyone reading the briefings and highlighting some of the great work different units and departments are doing. Stay tuned for more!

The online Red Book has been updated. All updates for the latest edition of the Red Book will be sent as one file when the hard copies are distributed.