

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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

Hello, Fellow American Legion Auxiliary Members:

I am so excited to welcome you to your 2024 American Legion Auxiliary Department Convention! We've had a great administrative year so far, and I'm looking forward to seeing what the rest of 2024 has in store for us.

Our focus is always on our veterans, military, and their families, but this year, we are also putting an extra emphasis on suicide prevention awareness with The American Legion Family's Be the One mission. I am honored that the entire American Legion Family chose this focus for the administrative year. Together, we can each Be the One to save one.

The suicide rate among military members and veterans is much higher than the general population. Statistics show that each one of those deaths can affect up to 135 people. Please keep spreading the word and help our servicemembers by destigmatizing getting help. Continue to be there to ask, listen, and encourage them to reach out by calling the Veterans Crisis Line at 988.

In addition to increasing awareness about the Be the One mission, please keep raising funds for the American Legion Auxiliary's greatest need — Spirit of Youth Scholarships. We have increased the number of SOY scholarships by 49 — bringing the total to 67 — and the total amount awarded to \$100,000. With your help, the ALA will assist more students to fulfill their educational pursuits! To donate, text "Lisa" to 1-844-940-3450 or donate online at www.ALAforVeterans.org/donate.

In addition to conducting official business at your department convention, I hope you are all as excited as I am to celebrate the upswing in membership growth we are experiencing this year! This is great news for our organization! Keep recruiting and retaining members to help move the mission forward to serve our veterans, military, and their families. Please continue to work toward your department's membership goal as we get closer to the 2024 National Convention.

Thank you for everything you do for the American Legion Auxiliary. Have a great convention!



Lisa Williamson
2023-2024 National President