

American Legion Auxiliary Glossary of Terms

A

- AEF:** Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Created in 1969, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund assists eligible members with food, shelter and utilities. Grants are also disbursed for emergency needs due to weather-related catastrophes and educational training. *See the AEF brochure for further information.*
- ALA:** American Legion Auxiliary, the largest women's patriotic service organization in the world, with nearly 800,000 members. Founded in 1919 as an Auxiliary to The American Legion.
- ALA Girls Nation:** *See Girls State*
- ALA Girls State:** The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Program has provided High School Juniors all across the country the opportunity to participate in a hands-on citizenship training program for over 60 years. These young women learn about local, state and federal government by actually creating their own policy through the election of public officials on local, county, and state levels and then by carrying out the duties of these respective offices. A continuation of Girls State is Girls Nation where two "senators" from each state are selected to participate in a simulated National government program in Washington, D.C.
- ALAMIS:** American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System. It is currently in use by ALA Departments and many units.
- Auxiliary** American Legion Auxiliary's quarterly magazine that is distributed to every current senior member.

B

- Boys Nation:** *See Girls Nation*
- Boys State:** American Legion Boys State is a participatory program where each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government. At American Legion Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. This program coincides with the American Legion Auxiliary's Girls State program.

C

- C&Y:** Children and Youth Committee
- C&B:** Constitution and Bylaws Committee
- Century Club:** The Century Club is an annual giving program in which Auxiliary members and friends of the national organization donate \$100 or more to become members of the Century Club. Contributions are used to support the operations and programs of the Auxiliary such as Girls Nation, scholarships, Auxiliary Emergency Fund and much more.

Chairman: Members may be selected to serve as a committee chairman on the unit, department or national level. The incoming National President prior to the start of the next administrative year selects national chairmen.

Charter: A Charter is, essentially, an application to start a new unit within a department. It also serves as a piece of history. Charters may be cancelled and revoked. *See Unit Handbook for more information.*

Consolidated Report Form Implemented in the 2010-2011 year, this report captures the mission-related outcomes from unit activity so that the Auxiliary and Legion family can demonstrate our impact on the veteran community. The information reported is sent to The American Legion National Headquarters to include in their annual report to Congress.

D

DEC Department Executive Committee. The Board of Directors for the department.

Department: Within the Auxiliary, each state (as well as Puerto Rico and District of Columbia) is known as a "Department." Each department has their own constitution and is governed by a department executive committee. Department presidents typically change annually; however, each department has a department secretary who typically handles day-to-day business and is usually the first point of contact for the department. There are currently 52 Departments in the ALA.

PDP Past Department President. Once a department president completes her annual term, she becomes a past department president. Most continue serving, particularly as mentors to future leaders at the unit, district/county and department levels. Many go on to serve on national committees and other national leadership positions.

E

Emblem: The Auxiliary's symbol is referred to as an emblem, not a logo. Permission to use it must be given by the National Secretary.

Emblem Sales: The Emblem Sales Division of The American Legion National Headquarters not only sells Legion merchandise, they also stock many Auxiliary items. Some of these items include pins, jewelry and clothing. Additionally, supply items such as the Unit Handbook are available for purchase. Each fall, Emblem Sales produces a new catalog.

G

Girls Nation: *See ALA Girls State*

Girls State: *See ALA Girls State*

Gold Star Mothers: This is an organization of mothers whose sons or daughters served and died that this world might be a better place in which to live. The biological mothers of sons or daughters who died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America or its Allies, or died as a result of injuries sustained in such service, are

eligible for membership in the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. An adoptive mother or stepmother who parented the child, whose biological mother is deceased, from the age of five years is also eligible under the above conditions.

J

Junior Auxiliary members who have not yet reached the age of 18.

Junior Handbook: A resource for Junior members and Senior members who work with Juniors. It is available for free on the American Legion Auxiliary national website; hard copies may be purchased through Emblem Sales.

L

Legion Family Members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and Legion Riders comprise the Legion family, which has a combined membership of nearly 4 million.

N

NEC: The National Executive Committee is the governing body for the national organization. The NEC meets preceding National Convention, immediately following National Convention and also at mid-year, typically prior to the Washington D.C. Conference.

NPAAE: National President's Award for Excellence -- the Best of the Best. One Department and Five Units are awarded the National President's Award for Excellence each year at National Convention.

NVCAF: National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Held annually, the Auxiliary is a national co-sponsor of this event (along with the Department of Veterans Affairs). This program is specifically for veterans in the VA healthcare system who use art as a form of rehabilitative therapy. Departments and Units raise funds to support this annual program at the local and national levels.

P

Page: There are three different types of pages: Local Page, Department Page and President's Page. All three play a role in the national convention. A local page serves in conjunction with the local convention committee and assists with directions, locations, etc. A department page assists their delegation and may present department's colors. A president's page accompanies the National President and serves as an aide (i.e. running errands, delivering messages, etc.) When serving at events, they generally wear white and blue.

Poppy: The poppy became a symbol of the sacrifice of lives in war and represented the hope that none had died in vain. The American Legion Auxiliary poppy has continued to bloom for the casualties of four wars, its petals of paper bound together for veterans, reminding America each year that the men and women who have served and died for their country deserve to be remembered. (*see Poppy Story on last page*)

Poppy Poster

- Contest:** Units in their local schools sponsor the Poppy Poster Contest. Specific requirements and rules guide winner selection. Local winners are judged by national division chairmen and divisional winners are featured in the national *Auxiliary* magazine.
- Post:** The American Legion's equivalent to an Auxiliary unit. Auxiliary members belong to a unit, not a post.
- PNP:** Past National President. Once a national president's annual term ends, she is referred to as a past national president. A PNP will typically continue to remain active in the Auxiliary, serving on committees and as a member to future leaders at all levels.
- PUFL:** Paid Up For Life membership. Members who are current on dues may complete a PUFL application and pay a one-time fee, based upon the member's age and total dues at the time of application, to become a member for life. The one-time payment is placed in a trust to pay the member's dues each year.

Public Spirit

- Award:** Established in 1983, this award recognizes outstanding individuals or organizations for contributions that positively impact our communities, particularly efforts that benefit our military, veterans and their families. It is awarded at the annual Auxiliary Washington, D.C. Conference. The recipient is selected by the American Legion Auxiliary national president and must be present to accept the award.

R

- Reps/Deps** Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) representatives and deputy representatives
- Roster:** A list of members in a specific department or unit, available via ALAMIS.

S

- SAL:** Sons of The American Legion. Founded in 1932, SAL members include males of all ages who are dependents of those who served in the U.S. military and eligible for American Legion membership.
- Senior:** A member age 18 or older.
- SOY:** Spirit of Youth. Established in 1983, the Spirit of Youth Fund provides scholarships to Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary; said member to have held Junior membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the past three years and must hold a membership card for the current year.
- Stand Down:** In times of war, exhausted combat warriors are removed from the battlefields to a place of relative security and safety to take care of personal hygiene, get clean uniforms, enjoy a warm meal, receive medical care, and receive and send letters. Now refers to a grassroots, community-based intervention program to help the nation's homeless veterans "combat" life on the streets. Homeless veterans are brought to one location for one to three days and are provided access to community resources to begin addressing individual problems. Homeless veterans are provided with necessities including food, clothing, medical, legal and mental health assistance, and job counseling.

T

TAL: The American Legion, also call The Legion. Members often referred to as Legionnaires.

U

Unit: A unit is the grass roots level of membership. Each unit has their own constitution, bylaws and officers. The ALA has more than 8,000 units.

V

VA&R: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee

VAVS: VA Voluntary Services

W

Washington D.C.

Conference: Formerly known as Awareness Assembly. Annual meeting conducted in February/March in Washington D.C., in conjunction with The American Legion, focusing primarily on legislative issues.