

Welcome.

Lucille Mozzillo

Leadership Chairman

#ALANY

#ALANYMW26





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Leadership 101 – Resources to Help Every Member Succeed

**Presenter:
Lucille Mozzillo, Leadership Chairman**



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Before we begin, let's think about a few key questions

- What does leadership mean to you?
- How do you become a leader?
- How do we keep the leaders we have?
- How do we allow those leaders to grow and flourish?



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What does leadership mean to you?

- To every member, the concept of leadership may be different, and that's ok
- According to the Merriam-Webster's Dictionary leadership is defined as "the office or position of a leader"; "capacity to lead"; "the act or an instance of leading"
- Something to note is that Merriam-Webster's Dictionary definition states that leaders don't necessarily need to be officers, but rather an individual who is able to lead.



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How do you become a leader?

- Gain a better understanding of our organization by taking courses included within the ALA Academy, attend local county, district and department leadership trainings, as well as Department Convention.
- Feeling confused on your role as an officer or chairman or not sure what to say or do in a meeting? Don't be afraid to ask for help. Also, there are many helpful documents available on the ALA National website and can be accessed 24 hours a day with just a click.



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How do we keep leaders and allow those leaders to grow and flourish?

- Maintain patience and commitment. Embrace the concept of compassionate leadership.
- Compassionate leadership includes treating their team members with a greater sense of caring, kindness, and consideration for the human condition.
- Encourage a greater level of engagement by focusing on building value, robust and trusting relationships
- Inspire collaboration and commitment. Express sensitivity and sincerity in order to enable you and your members to have fewer conflicts and better outcomes in projects and activities.



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Mentor new members for our future leadership

- Benjamin Franklin said, “Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I may not remember. Involve me and I learn.”
- As leaders, we should always remember how important it is to keep our members focused on our mission and involved at whatever level they feel comfortable. This is especially important when new members join our units.



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Mentor new members for our future leadership

- We have exceptional individuals at every level of this great organization. Share your knowledge and vision with others.
- “Seasoned” members often don't relate to new members; therefore they don't include new members in conversations or include their ideas or find out what their interests are because “that's the way we have always done it”.
- Another thing that often occurs is that we inundate them with too much information at one time and overwhelm them.



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Mentor new members for our future leadership

- Mentoring a new member or someone just getting “active” is a key role for our current leaders.
- Take time to explain our values, mission, and traditions.
- Work shoulder to shoulder with that person, guiding, listening, complimenting, and trying new ideas that will bring success to a project or program.
- “How do we lead in these challenging times?” One of the best answers is to create a meaningful mentoring program for our new members that will encourage them to be leaders when they are ready.



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How can ALA members provide leadership that inspires others and builds loyalty?

- **Practice *Service Not Self*.**
- **Show confidence.**
- **Share stories**
- **Develop expertise**
- **Be media-ready**
- **Embrace the unexpected**

Excerpts taken from: "Tips for being an effective leader, mentor"

Posted On: Thursday, 11 December 2025

<https://member.legion-aux.org/Blog/Tips-for-being-an-effective-leader,-mentor>



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Common acronyms, terms and definitions used within the ALA

Core Organization

- **ALA** – American Legion Auxiliary
- **TAL** – The American Legion
- **SAL** – Sons of The American Legion
- **ALR** – American Legion Riders



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Common acronyms, terms and definitions used within the ALA

Governing & Leadership

NEC – National Executive Committee

DEC – Department Executive Committee

PNP – Past National President

PDP – Past Department President



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Common acronyms, terms and definitions used within the ALA

Membership

SR – Senior Member - A member age 18 or older.

JR – Junior Member- A member under the age of 18

PUFL – Paid Up For Life Member

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.



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Common acronyms, terms and definitions used within the ALA

Programs & Initiatives

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.

C&Y – Children and Youth

C&B- Constitution and Bylaws

EGS – Empire Girls State

ALA Girls Nation – National-level Girls State program

Common acronyms, terms and definitions used within the ALA

Programs & Initiatives

Poppy Program – ALA’s signature fundraising and veteran awareness program

VA&R – Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Reps/Deps - Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) representatives and deputy representatives

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.



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Meetings & Structure

Unit – Local Auxiliary organization

County- Group of units within a county (62 counties)

District – Group of units/counties within a department (10 districts)

Department (Dept.) – State-level Auxiliary organization

National (Nat'I) – National-level Auxiliary organization



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Education & Training

ALAMIS – American Legion Auxiliary Member Information System

This is currently in use by ALA Departments and many units to manage membership.

Charter

An application to start a new unit within a department. It also serves as a piece of history. Charters may be cancelled and revoked.



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Awards

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

Department and Committee Awards

Several awards available for counties and units to highlight the great work that is done through our organization for our Veterans, Children and Youth and then Community.