

From the President's Desk...

What a fantastic year our Department is having as we are "Wrapping Our Treasures in Service." It is hard to believe that we are only two months away from Year-End reports. In reading your Monthly Reports, I know that our members and The ALA Design Company's outstanding design creations for "Wrapping Our Treasures in Service" will be showcased during our Spring Conference in Virginia Beach. Our design creations have inspired outstanding service to our Veterans, children, community, and Auxiliary members. Please make plans share our praises of these excellent designs of ribbons of service at Spring Conferenced.



Please be sure to stop by the ROAR table on Saturday during the conference to verify your Unit standings on ROAR citations through March 5th. Darla Lisbon, ROAR Chairman, will have the current information from your Department President, Department Secretary/Treasurer, and District Presidents for you to review. The ROAR data will then be updated on April 15th, and placed in the Member Portal of the Department website to include the Department Chairman information on Year-End reporting. I will place a finalized table in the Department website Member Portal on July 1st. This will allow for necessary corrections before Convention for Meritorious Award.

Outstanding design creations in membership have been the showstoppers at each of the Zone Leadership Workshops and District meetings. The ALA Design Company is delighted to have Unit qualifying for 407 Membership Achievement Awards with 8 being for 102%+ as of February 20th. I am confident that the Department of Virginia's enthusiasm and dedication for the ALA will excite renewals, rejoins, and new members allowing us to reach 102%+ in membership for 2017.

I hope that each Unit will have their members wear their Membership Achievement scarves to Spring Conference on Saturday for a group picture.

I look forward to seeing you in Virginia Beach for a Spring Conference full of praises.

In the Spirit of Service, not Self,
Sallie Rossman
Department President

ALA Public Relations Share Your Story

What's your "WHY"? Be ready to share your reason for being an ALA member at Spring Conference. We'll have a photo booth for capturing your dedication to our mission and love for our organization.
#WhyALA

Membership Group Photo on Saturday, March 11th. Please **WEAR Your Patriotic Scarves** representing your unit's membership achievements.

Want to catch up on the latest news from Department?
Check out What's New page -
<http://www.vaauxiliary.org/site2/index.php/whats-new/>

Be sure to "LIKE" us on Facebook. Help spread the word about @ALAofVA and get us to 1000 Likes.

Throughout the year, please send photos and short blurbs about your members in action to Staci King, Dept Public Relations Chairman at publicrelations@vaauxiliary.org

We want to feature your unit on our website, Facebook and Twitter accounts so we can spread the good word in Virginia!



Facebook @ALAofVA



Twitter @ALADeptofVA



YouTube DeptofVirginiaALA

Websites:

VAauxiliary.org
ALAforVeterans.org

Spring Conference Logistics

The conference is right around the corner. If you have any special needs, please contact Al Steward 2nd District Conference Committee. Also, if you registered early and did not have the form with the choice of entrée for the banquet, please contact Mr. Steward on (757) 573-3966 if you have not heard from him.

Department of Virginia Spring Conference 2017 will be held on March 9-11 at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel located at 2800 SHORE DRIVE, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23451

Awareness Walk for Veterans – Virginia Beach

DATE: March 11, 2017 Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Virginia Beach Resort Hotel on beach behind Conference Center



The Department of Virginia will again be hosting an Awareness Walk for Veterans during Spring Conference. Registration fee is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 18 years of age and younger. All proceeds from this event will go to TFA and Service Officer training. Please complete the registration form and turn in during your check-in at the Spring Conference.

<http://valegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/DEPTOFVAWFVREGISTRATION2017.pdf>

For any additional information please contact: Dave Wallace at: david.f.wallace@lmco.com or call at 703-659-7589.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

End of year reports are due April 15th and I have included the updated report form to be used for our VA&R program. The Service to Veterans Breakfast form is included in this newsletter. If you are a VA volunteer, or participate with Home or Field Service volunteer, please remit your names to attend the Service to Veterans Breakfast at our Department Convention.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Spring Conference!

Cheryl Shine - VANR@vaauxiliary.org

Children & Youth

Thanks for all the hard work you have accomplished this year! After talking to unit presidents lately I am so excited to read your year-end reports. Remember year end reports are due to Department Headquarters April 15th. Don't forget to nominate Youth Hero and Good Deed Award Entries.

If your unit has any pictures, especially those of "Diapers for Babes", please send to me or bring them to spring conference. I also need pictures of anything your unit has participated in pertaining to Children & Youth. No matter how small or large the event I need pictures. What you have may be just the picture national is looking for. All other information you need to follow for year-end proceedings is listed in your Programs Action Plan. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Faye Wells – CnY@vaauxiliary.org

ALA Virginia Girls State

Branding for ALA Virginia Girls State is uppermost in our minds every time we speak to anyone about this premier program. We must make sure that all delegates, their parents and their schools know we, the ALA, are the sponsors of this program. I hope that all Units have already started their process for the 2017 program. Our Department Registrar, Frances Shelton, and all of our District Registrars have been working very hard already. If you are missing any information or need assistance, please contact your registrar or myself. Remember to check the website

www.vagirlsstate.org frequently, as it may change as information is completed for this year.

Thank you for all you are doing and will be doing to prepare your delegates for Longwood in June.

Anne Starke –
VAGirlsState@vaauxiliary.org

Education Program

Scholarship applications along with all supporting documents were due to Unit Presidents by March 1st for judging at the Unit level. Each Unit may enter one candidate per scholarship for judging at the Department level. Winning entries should be forwarded to the Department Education Chairman no later than March 15th. Please refer to the Department's Education Program for judging criteria, and requirements and application documents for each of these scholarships.

Dr. Lisa Chaplin-
education@vaauxiliary.org

Membership

Eastern Zone is leading with 81.3%. Western Zone is oh so close with 79.8%. Northern Zone is on their heels at 79.3%.

Discover Your Unit's Achievement by opening the latest Membership report!

<http://www.vaauxiliary.org/site2/index.php/whats-new/>

Deanna Schwartz
membership@vaauxiliary.org

Poppy - Please remind your unit members that we will be holding the Spring Conference Poppy Contest Saturday March 11th, 2017.

Spring Conference Poppy Contest Categories are:

- Hats or Bonnets
- Spring Centerpiece
- Patriotic Display
- Corsage



Arrangement Themes are Spring, Traditional/Department Theme, or Patriotic.

Junior Entries will be the same categories but judged separately.

Note top winners in each Junior Category will receive a special poppy surprise

Sarah D. Markel – poppy@vaauxiliary.org

ROAR

It is hard to believe that in a few short months, it will be time to send in the end of year reports, highlighting all of the wonderful activities that have been done to "Wrap Our Treasures" and "Tie That Ribbon with a ROAR". Below, I have highlighted a few of the deadlines that need to be met in the coming months, and as always please continue to refer to your Programs Action Plan for further information.

- Building fund, \$0.50 per member, needs to be postmarked by March 1st.
- End of year report forms need to be postmarked by April 15th.
- List of Unit Officers sent to Department and District President as soon as elections are held.
- Be represented at the Annual District Meeting and answer roll call each day of the Department Convention.

Unit Presidents: Included is a spreadsheet that can be used to help you track the completion of citations for your Unit.

District Presidents: Please refer to the "Member Portal" to access your citation spreadsheet.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions!

I am excited to see all of you at the beach and hear about the beautiful ribbons that have been tied with a "ROAR"!

Darla Lisbon – roar@vaauxiliary.org

Community Service

Spring has sprung early in our communities. It is just too hard to believe spring conference is just around the corner and year-end report time will follow close behind. I hope you have been documenting your Community Service projects and are getting ready to share the news about engaging your communities. I am excited and looking forward to hearing all about your projects. Please remember it does not have to be some big flashy event to deserve to be reported. Each time you interact with your community you make a difference and it is important to report what your Unit has been up to. When units submit reports, you provide the information we need to let National know what an amazing group of Auxiliary members we have in Virginia.

Please send me photos of your members embracing your community. A picture is worth a thousand words and I would love to project your pictures during the convention in July. Your members will enjoy seeing themselves and the rest of us will benefit from seeing what you have done this year. Please send them to me via e-mail as soon as you can so I can get started making all of you famous. If you cannot send them via e-mail feel free to use snail mail (18198 Sands Road Purcellville, Va. 20132) and I will do my best to get them included in the Community Service slideshow.

**Thank You for All You Do to
Make A Difference In Our
Communities**

Ann Moran –
communityservice@vaauxiliary.org

Junior Activities

We have lots of exciting news and fun activities in store! Spring Conference will be unlike ANY other conference before! The Junior members will NO LONGER be having a BAZAAR. Instead we will be having a craft show! For several years, the Juniors have enjoyed hosting a bazaar as their spring conference fundraiser, but this year we have decided to try something new! We are asking all Juniors and Seniors to craft, craft, craft and bring your DIY projects and handmade goods with you to donate to the sale! The Junior sleepover on Friday night will be a great time for us to finish our projects and get things set up!

Additionally, for the first time in our department's history, we will be having a Junior dance party with the newly formed Junior group of the Detachment of Sons of the American Legion! This dance party will be held on Saturday night from 7pm-10pm. Pizza, refreshments, snacks, and music will be provided! [Click here for more information.](#)

Claire Gallagher – Juniors@vaauxiliary.org

News from the Washington, DC VA Medical Center

The homeless stand down, Winterhaven, was held on January 28, 2017 and was a huge success. There were 804 veterans registered of which 71 were women. Not all of these veterans are homeless and out on the street. This event is to also help those who are on the verge of becoming homeless or helping those who do have places to live but need just that extra little bit of help. The weather cooperated and a lot of the veterans came.

- Edna Eagle, ALA Associate Representative,
Washington, DC VAMC

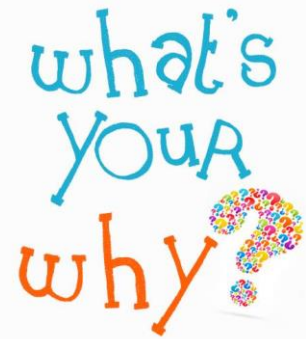


**Reports Are Due
April 15th**

**Let's Get 100%
Reporting**

Forms Available on Member Portal

www.vauxiliary.org



National Exec. Committee

There is so much to share about the recent Washington DC Conference and NEC meeting! A couple of examples... National has announced a new training academy and encouraging results from the annual financial audit. I'll be sharing additional lessons learned and resources to help units retain membership at the Dept Spring Conference.

- Janet Renner, NEC & Past
Presidents Parley

Department Headquarters

ALA Department of Virginia
1708 Commonwealth Avenue
Richmond, VA 23230

Ideas for next month's
newsletter? Email
publicrelations@vaauxiliary.org

Mission Statement

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the ALA is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.