

THE ARKANSAS



LEGIONNAIRE

CONVENTION ISSUE 2025

An Official Publication of The American Legion Department of Arkansas



For God and Country

HEAR YE - HEAR YE...

**THE 106TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
WILL SOON BEGIN:**



"I believe our flag is more than just cloth and ink. It is a universally recognized symbol that stands for liberty, and freedom. It is the history of our nation, and it's marked by the blood of those who died defending it."

~John Thune

Department Convention - 18-22 June

18 June - Hotel Check-in for Training/Convention

19 June - Training Day

20-22 - Department Convention



**Convention Rules
([click here - page 5](#))**



In this issue...

2. A Word from the Commander
4. A Word from the NEC
5. Convention Rules
6. Convention Rules (continued)
7. A Word from the Service Officer
8. Oratorical Winners Announced
9. Candidate for SW Area Vice Cdr.
10. Candidate for SW Area Vice Cdr.
11. Chaplain's Corner
12. Auxiliary President Comments
14. Auxiliary President Candidate
23. Remembering Bob Pepper
And much, much, more...

ARE YOU THE ONE?

Greetings my Legion Family...this year has gone by so very fast; however, I am still enjoying serving as your Commander!

I have gotten an opportunity to meet a lot of amazing people on this journey, and I am so very proud to be a member of The American Legion Department of Arkansas. And I count it a privilege and honor to be part of an organization that promotes community service at all levels.

While serving in this position, I have found it to be both challenging and rewarding. The best of it all for me is the opportunity to do this with my dear wife Pearl. The hospitality which we have received together has truly been amazing! We have both witnessed the Legion Family at work serving the community, state, and our nation. Thanks to each of you whom have allowed us to both be part of your family!

As we move forward, I continue to challenge each of you to embrace the clauses in our American Legion Preamble, and to strive to ***"Be The One!"***

Actually...the ***"One"*** is the one who puts ***"service before self,"*** and embraces the opportunity to have an impact on the future of this great organization by serving with Responsibility, Integrity, Respect, and Excellence! For ***"YOU ARE THE ONE"*** to make a difference in the trajectory of this organization!!!

A wise man once said, ***"If you are not leading, then you are letting it happen."***

As I said earlier, it is an honor to have served as your Department Commander for the year 2024-25. I have announced my candidacy for a second term; and if elected, I will continue to do my absolute very best to lead by example...with the purpose of furthering the interests of **EACH** member of this organization...by simply promoting the programs, services, and advocacy efforts of The American Legion.

And I will continue to try and help **ALL** of us evolve by Teaching, Empowering, Activating, and Mentoring in hopes of increasing our membership!

One must know the value of their own individual membership; because without the individual, there is no Post...and without the Post...there is no Department!!!

You are the Ones that make this Department great...and I thank each of you for your efforts!

Be The One to Fortify This Family...and God Bless you all!

Tony

Antoine "Tony" Gordon
Commander, Department of Arkansas





**AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
COMMANDER'S BANQUET**

Name: _____ Guest: _____

When: Saturday, June 21 2025 - 6:30 pm

Where: Silver City 5 & 6, Wyndham Riverfront Hotel, North Little Rock, Arkansas

Dress: Business Casual

Guest Speaker: Tony Cross, National Be the One Manager

Cost: 45.00 per person and for Chicken – 47.00 per person for Salmon – Deadline to have reservations and ticket paid for is Friday, June 6th.

Contact Department Adjutant Bob Renner to make reservations.

☐

Chicken Parmesan

In Check-box please

Indicate number of Chicken plates ordered.

☐

Pecan Encrusted Salmon

In Check-box please Indicate

number of Salmon plates ordered.

Includes:

Hot Rolls and Butter

Green Garden Salad

Green Bean Almandine

Mashed Potatoes

Apple Blossom or Lemon Blueberry Cheesecake

Coffee, Tea, & Water

Please indicate number Chicken or Beef plates and send with payment to American Legion Department of Arkansas P.O. Box 3280 Little Rock, AR 72203. Make checks payable to American Legion and note on check that it is payment for "Department Commander's Banquet"

A WORD FROM THE NEC

Two teams (1 & 2) went to Washington D.C. to attend meetings and to meet with our legislators February 22-26. Terrific Team2 were Marie Wilbanks, Kateri Killman, Patrick (Doc) Phillips, Dallas Erdman, and Auxiliary member, Jamie Phillips. As the team leader, I had the honor of introducing our awesome team members. After introductions, they each then elaborated on several of the Legion's priorities for this coming year which were based on the Legion's Four Pillars and specifically tied into National Security. We met first with Congressmen Westerman, then we met with Senator John Bozeman, and finally we met with Congressman French Hill. We asked each legislator to support bills that would help strengthen our national security, both directly by maintaining military superiority, and indirectly, by taking care of our active duty members, our veterans and their families. Topics included:



1. **Lethality of the Armed Forces**

Summary: Maintain and update our military equipment

2. **Military Quality of Life**

Summary: Improve living conditions for active military

3. **Protect Coast Guard Pay**

Summary: Assure Coast Guard gets paid in case of government shutdown

4. **The War Within**

Summary: Amply fund the VA's suicide prevention programs

5. **Community Care Balance**

Summary: Hold Office of Community Care accountable for providing care for veterans in rural areas

6. **End Veteran Homelessness**

Summary: Agencies need to pay greater attention to underlying causes for veteran homelessness

7. **Protection of the U.S. Flag**

Summary: Give Congress the power to prevent desecration of the U.S. flag

We, as Legionnaires need to do our part too! Our Washington DC Legion Legislative Team are asking us all to contact our respective Legislators to help get The American Legion's priority bills passed!

It's really simple, just click <[here](#)> or go to: <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/register> - Once you register, you will automatically receive a notice with a preprinted letter to your District Representatives whenever there is a bill that National wants the legislators to vote for. You only have to click on it and you're done. We are very fortunate to have legislators in our state that are very supportive of our military and veterans so let them hear from you.

Please "Be The One" to help get these bills passed! For further information on these topics or any other of the Legion Priorities not listed here, contact one of the above team members.

I look forward to seeing you all at the department convention. Thank you for allowing me to serve!

Mary

Mary Erdman, NEC
(501) 454-7357
maryrdmn@gmail.com

For God and Country...



*** NOTE - The following report is unedited by the newsletter editor and is hereby provided as directed.**

(Continued from page 1)

**CONVENTION RULES COMMITTEE REPORT
TO THE 2025 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**

THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR THE 106TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS HAS AGREED ON THIS REPORT, SUBMITTED HERE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

1. Recommend that Robert's Rules of Order be adopted for use during this convention, with certain modifications.
2. The order of business shall be conducted as outlined in the latest edition of the *Arkansas Legionnaire*, except when altered by action of the convention.
3. Voting strength of posts shall be based upon membership records accounted for by the department ten (10) days prior to opening day of this convention. The list of delegates and alternates from each post, shall be at department headquarters no later than noon on opening day. These lists will be accompanied by a registration fee of \$5.00 per delegate. Delegate fee must be paid in full on authorized delegates in order to vote your delegate strength. In the Department Convention each post with a current charter that meets all requirements for maintaining its charter as defined in the Department Policy Manual shall be entitled to one delegate and one delegate for each additional 25 members, or major fraction thereof, and to one alternate for each delegate. (ref; Sec. VI, para B. Policy)
4. When delegates address the convention for any purpose they must rise and while standing address the chair with its correct title of "Commander." Upon recognition, they are to clearly state their name, plus their post's name & number. Business is introduced by a motion, or by a resolution. The steps in making a motion and voting on it are as follows:
 - a. Obtain the floor – the member rises and addresses the presiding officer.
 - b. Make the motion – the member then states the motion. In order to state a motion properly, members should use the words "I move that..." when introducing a motion.
 - c. Second the motion – if anyone wishes the matter discussed. If the motion is not seconded, the motion is not before the assembly.
 - d. State the motion – the chair then states the motion
 - e. Discussion – after a motion has been stated by the chair, it is before the assembly for consideration and discussion. The maker of the motion has the right to open and close the debate. Discussion must relate to the immediately pending question.
 - f. Put the question – after sufficient opportunity has been given the debate, the chair repeats the motion and says, "are you ready for the question?"
 - g. Announce the vote – If in doubt as to the result, the chair calls for a rising vote, first for, and then against, the motion, asks the adjutant to count the votes, and then announces the results.
5. Any subject brought before the convention, not in line with and contrary to policies and principles of the American legion will be declared "out of order" by the Commander.
6. All those who have been recognized by the chair shall be entitled to a respectful hearing. The chair has authority to clear from the floor and to have the Sergeant-at-Arms escort from the convention anyone who causes a disturbance that may interfere with an orderly procedure of the convention.
7. In the event of a debate, concerning any subject, each speaker shall be limited to five (5) minutes.
8. Two (2) delegates only, from any delegation are allowed the floor for any subject at one time.
9. The floor is granted only once to any delegate speaking on one (1) subject; except as may be granted by a two-thirds vote of the convention. Also, excepting the chairmen of this convention committees, who may speak as often as necessary in connection with reports of their respective committees.
10. In preparation for a roll-call, the delegation chairmen shall poll their delegates, who are on the floor at the time in order to announce their delegation vote, when called for.
11. If a poll of their post is demanded by a delegate, the convention secretary shall conduct an individual poll of the delegates and no discussion of the question is allowed.
12. Anyone without credentials as delegate, or as alternate, who may act in the absence of a delegate, shall not participate in any manner on any subject nor vote in this convention. An alternate may serve on any convention committee, however, as a direct participant and in addition to the other delegates.
13. Delegations may arrive at a vote in any manner they see fit but must announce the vote in full units; no fractions!
14. A unit rule of voting by post shall not be enforced in the convention, over the objection of any delegate from that particular post.
15. Voting shall be by acclamation, unless a demand for the roll-call is made by three (3) or more delegation chairmen.
16. Amendments or resolutions offered from the floor at the convention must be in writing and shall be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration.

*** NOTE - Unedited by the newsletter editor documentation (continued from previous page).**

17. Resolutions originating in the several posts shall not be considered at this convention, unless a copy is received by the department adjutant at least ten (10) days prior to opening day of convention. Except the convention committees may originate and present resolutions they deem as proper.
18. When the final reports of convention committees and/or department officers have been approved, the nominations and election of officers shall be the next order of business.
19. The nomination of a candidate, for a department office shall be made from the floor of the convention. A post may present as many candidates as it chooses.
20. Nomination speeches are limited to five (5) minutes. Seconding speeches of two (2) minutes duration and no more than two (2) seconding speeches per candidate.
21. Nominations and elections of officers shall proceed in this order:
DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN
DEPARTMENT FOURTH VICE COMMANDER (SW)
DEPARTMENT THIRD VICE COMMANDER (SE)
DEPARTMENT SECOND VICE COMMANDER (NE)
DEPARTMENT FIRST VICE COMMANDER (NW)
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
22. Should more than (2) candidates be nominated for an office, the balloting continues until one (1) candidate receives a majority of votes; yeah. If no candidate receives a majority of votes, then the candidate with the lowest number shall be dropped after each subsequent ballot.
23. Those elected shall be installed immediately and before any further business is conducted (ref; Art. II, Sect 1, Bylaws)

DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

24. The number of delegates allowed is determined by the membership of each Department as shown at national headquarters thirty (30) days before opening day of National Convention. Each Department is allowed one (1) delegate per 1,000 members or a major fraction thereof, plus five (5) for the Charter and one (1) for the National Executive Committeeman; who's a constitutional delegate voting with the state delegation.

MEMBERSHIP DIVIDED BY 1,000 = DELEGATES
PLUS THE CHARTER = 5 DELEGATES
PLUS THE NECMAN = 1 DELEGATE

TOTAL NUMBER ALLOWED = _____

The Tenth Department Convention adopted a resolution providing for each district to elect one (1) delegate and one alternate to the National Convention. We recommend those delegates and alternates, elected at their district conventions, be now confirmed. We recommend too, that the Department Commander, Immediate Past Commander and the Department Adjutant be designated as delegates. All other delegates shall be nominated by a committee appointed by the department commander and being subject to approval by this convention.

To be considered by the nominating committee, those Legionnaires planning to attend National Convention and National Committee meetings (as assigned) should turn-in their names to the convention secretary after adoption of his report. The Immediate Past Commander is chairman of the National Convention delegation and the Department Adjutant shall be the convention secretary. The chairman is authorized to fill vacancies in this delegation at the time delegates are certified to the National Adjutant.

If you are interested in attending the National American Legion Convention, please contact Department Adjutant at (501) 375-1104 and he will be able to tell you about the costs which will be incurred. National Convention will be held in Tampa, Florida, August 22 – August 28, 2025. We will be staying at the Hilton Tampa Downtown, Tampa, FL. You will be required to pay your own transportation and accommodations. Hotel rate for Legionnaires is \$129.00 per night single or double (tax not included) but must be booked through the Department Adjutant.



Pay Attention:

REAL ID



DEADLINE

May 7, 2025



Department Service Officer
Allen Miller

Greetings my fellow Legionnaires...

As of **May 7, 2025**, you will need either a Military ID, or a Real ID to enter “ANY” Military Installation (please see the links below for more detailed information):

[LRAFB to implement significant changes for Veteran installation access](#)

[About REAL ID | Homeland Security](#)

[REAL ID | Homeland Security](#)

[Types Of Veteran ID Cards | Veterans Affairs](#)

Please remember to be vigilant at **ALL TIMES**...and please be safe out there!

May God Bless,

Allen

“A constitutional speech contest”



The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. The program has featured numerous politicians and prominent contestants over the years, including former presidential candidate Alan Keyes, national television commentator and talk radio host Lou Dobbs, and former U.S. Vice President Mike Pence.

Young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Over \$203,500 in scholarships can be awarded each year. The overall national contest winner gets a \$25,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$22,500, and third gets \$20,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$2,000 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship. The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

High school students under age 20 are eligible. Competition begins at the post level and advances to a state competition. Legion department representatives certify one winner per state to the national contest, where department winners compete against each other in two speaking rounds. The contest caps off with a final round that decides the three top finishers.

Speaking subjects must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. Speeches are eight to 10 minutes long; three- to five-minute speeches on an assigned topic also are part of the contest.

The Department of Arkansas American Legion held their annual Oratorical Contest Saturday, March 22, 2025. Seven students sponsored by American Legion Posts. Competed for cash scholarships given to the top (3) winners.

First Place - Nadia Young (11th), Crossett High School, Post 11

Second Place - Mattie Jimerson (11th), Cabot High School, Post 71

Third Place - Tooba Sehr (12th), Ft. Smith Southside High School, Post 31

The Department winner will represent Arkansas at the American Legion National Oratorical Contest May 17, 2025. This includes an all-expense trip with a chaperone to Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan. Scholarships are awarded to the (3) top finalists.

★ ***1st Place - \$25,000***

★ ***2nd Place - \$22,500***

★ ***3rd Place - \$20,000***

Click [here](#) for more information.



CANDIDATE FOR SW AREA VICE COMMANDER BRIAN BURDINE

Dedicated Leadership and Service

My name is Brian Burdine, and I am honored to announce my candidacy for SW Area Vice Commander. As a proud member of Post 10 in El Dorado, AR, I have served numerous leadership roles, including Post Commander, Adjutant, and Finance Officer for Post 10, as well as District Commander.

My extensive experience within the organization has equipped me with the skills and insights necessary to lead effectively and foster a sense of community among our members. Throughout my tenure, I have dedicated myself to promoting the values and mission of our organization, ensuring that we continue to support and honor those who have served.

In 2009, I retired from the Army after a commendable 30-year career. My military service has instilled in me the principles of discipline, commitment, and integrity, which I carry into my work with Post 10. I am passionate about advocating for veterans' rights and providing resources to those who have sacrificed for our country.

As Vice Commander, I will strive to enhance communication between posts, support initiatives that benefit our members, and uphold the traditions that make our organization strong. I am committed to serving with dedication and excellence, and I humbly ask for your support in this endeavor.

Together, we can continue to build a bright future for our community and honor the legacy of our veterans. Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Brian



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**Editor for The Arkansas Legionnaire is Keith Dover, Public Relations, Flag Alliance,
and POW-MIA Chairman. (majord91101@gmail.com)**

CANDIDATE FOR SW AREA VICE COMMANDER JERRY ASHBY

Announcing my candidacy for 2025/2026 Department of Arkansas SW Area Vice Commander. Active Nine-year American Legion Membership, currently finishing my third year as Post 39 Commander. Provided leadership to resurrect our broke, failing post transforming it into a 100% membership growing vibrant part of our community. We have developed many events and projects with emphasis on our Four Pillars. Served as post trustee, Post Commander, District 15 Chaplain, currently serving as District 15 Commander and member of the SW Area membership committee. Graduate of the Basic and Department of Arkansas Legion College.



Motivation comes from a deep burning desire to help facilitate Legion growth, through increased membership and mentorship. Simply put, I want all Veterans to enjoy the benefits of direct post involvement and fellowship by participating in the greatest Veteran Service Organization on the planet.

Previous leadership rolls include: Race relations committee member during the South Conway County School District desegregation case – Founder and leader of the Conway County Angel Tree Toy Run with an 8 year run – Served 11 ½ years in the Arkansas Patriot Guard Riders in all leadership positions including State Captain for my final 2 ½ years – Organized the Arkansas Run for The Fallen State Capitol Flag Line – Founder and Location Coordinator of the Wreaths Across America at Elmwood Cemetery, Morrilton 2024 event with 100% coverage of 598 Veteran headstones requiring over \$10,100.00.

Under my leadership, Post 39 has developed or continues the following: Membership in the Morrilton Area Chamber of Commerce – Monthly Veteran food box distribution in Conway and Perry Counties serving 175 Veterans – Perryville City Park Veteran Flag Field (100 Flags) – Wreaths Across America at Elmwood Cemetery 598 graves – Boy Scout sponsor – Legion baseball sponsor – Boys State sponsorship – School Veterans Day programs – Conduct Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony, Pow/MIA Remembrance Ceremony, Arkansas Run For the Fallen support, - Arkansas Patriot Guard Riders Museum Curator and support, - Participation in all local parades and events.

Recognized as “Citizen of The Year” by the Morrilton Area Chamber of Commerce for community contributions – Lifetime memberships, American Legion, DAV, VFW, PTA.

Retired from the U.S. Navy (1964 – 1981) with 11 years, 6 months of active service including 3 tours in the Vietnam War, 1966, 1967, 1968. Medals: National Defense Service Medal – Vietnam Campaign Medal (With Device 1960-) – Vietnam Service Medal (3rd Award) – Navy Unit Commendation (2nd Award) – Good Conduct Award (2nd Award).

Married to my wonderful wife Barbara for over 57 years...who serves as Auxiliary Unit 39 secretary/treasurer, and District 15 Auxiliary Vice President, one son Shane, Post 39 Member & USAF (Ret.), our daughter Christine works in research and currently serves as Auxiliary Unit 39 president and District 15 Auxiliary president. In addition, I’m a 32-year Leukemia survivor!

Jerry

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Why Become A Christian?

When considering Christianity, the bigger questions are: *Why are you here, where did you come from and what is your purpose in life?* Humans are distinct from all other sources of life. Animals don't grapple with philosophical questions like these, only humans do.

The difference is that man was created in the image of God (*Genesis 1:27*). When God breathed life into him, the man became a living soul. That soul is immortal - it will live on for eternity.

When you were born and cried your first breath, your nature demanded to have your own way. Children do not have to be taught to sin, they come by it naturally because our first father, Adam, passed sin on to us (*Romans 5:12*).

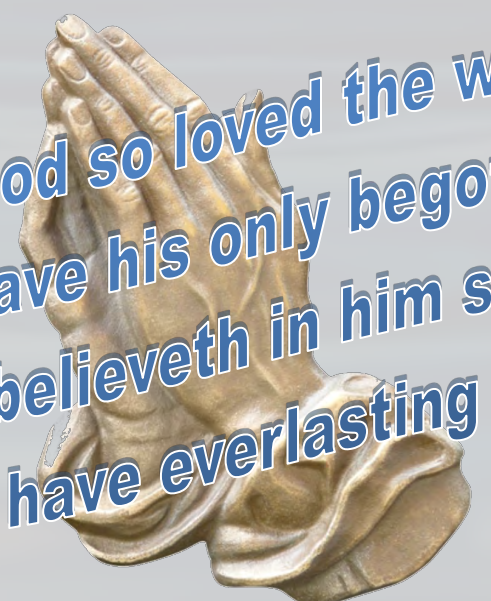
Our spirit knows that we have done wrong, and it seeks a resolution to the sin problem. We instinctively know when we do wrong and we instinctively know we need forgiveness, but we cannot obtain it ourselves. That is why God has provided a way for us to be forgiven (*John 3:16*).

God not only cancels the debt that you owe, but He allows you to find the purpose for your life. God designed each person to have a purpose that can only be discovered when you are in a right relationship with Him.

Lastly, God now gives you an expected future (*Jeremiah 29:11*). Death is not the end, it is the beginning of a new, eternal life. God has provided a way to this life...all you have to do is accept it.

Who or what is the boss of my life? Your answer to that question determines where you will spend eternity.

*Richard Lyles, Post 71
Department Chaplain*



For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.

~ John 3:16



A Letter from the President

Greeting my sisters and brothers of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arkansas.

I hope that this message finds you all well. It is so hard to believe that we only have a few more



weeks in the 2024 – 2025 year, and it will be completed. We have had an amazing time “BEE-ing Mission Minded” while “Leading the Way” to Department Excellence this year. The 2025 year started off with a great BUZZZZ! It has truly been an honor serving as department president this year. In addition, I have come to know so many new members around the state while fulfilling the role of department secretary as well this year. I have enjoyed visiting the districts, units, and posts around our great state.



We have some outstanding members in our department who are wholeheartedly serving our Veterans, Military, and their families. I want to encourage ALL of our Legion Family members to continue to BEE Mission Minded, and do things accordingly for the betterment of our Veterans, organization, department, and communities.

We continue to strive to reach our Department of Excellence goal this year, and in the years to come. Thus far, we have successfully accomplished two of the five steps required for goal. By the time this is published, we should have three. Thanks to an absolutely AMAZING RENEW CREW, we reached the most difficult step on March 3, 2025. That was to reach our 85% membership goal by March 15, 2025. We have also completed our department audit (990 compliance) thanks to our diligent department Treasurer, Charley McAfee. We are hoping to submit our donations to the national projects soon, as well.

It is imperative to bear in mind that the 2025 memberships year does NOT end on June 30, 2025, but is viable until December 31, 2025. Therefore, turn in all **new** membership as quickly as you receive it. DO NOT hold it for the upcoming membership year. That is a disservice to our new members, and it is a detriment to the department as a whole.

We must continue to strive to make this a year of Department Excellence. It is in our reach. However, to accomplish this endeavor we must ALL work as a TEAM. To quote our National President, Trish Ward. “Remember: Together, we are stronger and can have a greater impact on those we serve.”

It takes all of us, individually, and collectively to make a difference. Lord willing, I look forward to serving with you all the remainder of the year. In addition, I am excited to serve as the 2025 – 2026 National Executive Committeeperson, Lord willing next year. Until then, keep serving, *recruiting*, and BEE-ing Mission Minded!

For God and Country,

Pearl L. Gordon, President
2024 - 2025
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arkansas

See our visits & travels on Facebook:

Department of Arkansas
Commander – President Gordon
2024 - 2025



BEE MISSION MINDED!!



CALL FOR THE 103rd ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS - 2025

By the authority vested in me as President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Arkansas, and in accordance with the mandate of the Executive Committee of The American Legion, the 103rd annual American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arkansas Convention will be held in North Little Rock, Arkansas, **June 20 - 21, 2025.**

Purpose

To receive reports from Department Officers and Chairmen of the Standing Committees. To consider amendments to the Constitution & Bylaws. To consider resolutions. To elect delegates to the National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary. To elect officers for the ensuing year and transact any other business brought before the Convention.

Representation

Each chartered Unit shall be entitled to 2 delegates to the Department Convention, the outgoing Unit President serving as Chairman of the delegation. The Unit shall also be entitled to 1 additional elected delegate for each 25 members or major fraction (*) thereof, whose current annual membership dues have been posted to ALA MIS (**) by April 29, 2025. The Unit shall be entitled to 1 alternate delegate for each delegate. (Constitution, Article VI, Section 5: Delegates-At-Large to the Department Convention shall be all Department elected officers, National Executive Committee person, Alternate National Executive Committee person, the District President of each District, Chairmen of Standing Committees and all Past Department Presidents in good standing in their Units.) The voting strength of a Unit shall be equal to the total number of delegates to which the Unit is entitled, regardless of whether or not its delegate is present to vote, provided at least one such delegate is present to cast said vote, and all delegate registration fees for that Unit have been paid in full; otherwise, the Unit will not be entitled to vote. No person shall be entitled to more than one vote by virtue of any office held. All Past Department Presidents in good standing in their Unit shall be life Delegates-at-Large to the Department Convention. Unit representation will be based on the Unit Membership as of April 29, 2025. Units shall have Credentials and Delegate Fees in Department Headquarters ten (10) calendar days prior to the date of the Department Convention (No later than June 10, 2025).

Credentials

Credential Reports in duplicate will be sent to each Unit President. These shall be filled out when the delegates are elected and mailed to Department Headquarters together with a check for the \$10.00 registration fee for each delegate, alternate delegate, delegate-at-large, and guest. The registration fee of \$10.00 for each delegate, alternate, and delegate-at-large, must be received in Department Headquarters ten (10) calendar days prior to the date of the Department Convention (no later than June 10, 2025).

Registration

All delegates, delegates-at-large, alternates, and guests will be required to sign the attendance register at the Registration Table on Friday, June 20, 2025, or Saturday, June 21, 2025. A registration fee of \$10.00 for each guest shall be received in Department Headquarters ten (10) calendar days prior to the date of the Department Convention OR paid when registering. The registration badge given by the Registrar at the Convention shall be exhibited on demand to gain entrance to sessions of the Convention.

Convention Headquarters will be at the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

Guests

Guests will be seated in the Convention Hall as space permits.

Pearl Gordon

Department President 2024 - 2025

*Major fraction thereof: any amount greater than one-half

**ALA

MIS: American Legion Auxiliary Membership Information System



Announced Candidate for State President 2025-2026



Patty is eligible for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary through her husband, Michael Tucker, retired Air force veteran. Patty has been a member of the ALA of Arkansas since 2018 and a PUFL since then.

Patty has served in various offices at the Unit 53, District 5, and State level.

Patty served on the Department Education Committee and serving on the Department Legislative Committee.

She is a graduate of the Arkansas Legion College. Patty serves as the AR Deputy Representative for the VA hospital in Memphis, TN

Patty is a graduate of Arkansas Northeast College, graduating with highest honors. While at the college she was a member of the Gamma Beta Phi Society, serving as President for the local chapter and Treasurer for the State chapter

Patty worked for various companies before retiring. She has had extensive training in leadership, team work, and business management.

Patty's additional activities include representing the American Legion Auxiliary while working with the Northeast Arkansas Veterans Action Council and Mid-south Veteran League. She also has many hobbies that occupy her days and also works with different animal groups in the area as foster fur-parent.

Patricia (Patty) Tucker was born in Harrisburg, Arkansas. Patty met her future husband, Michael Tucker when she transferred to Lepanto High School in Lepanto, Arkansas. Patty and Michael met after a 30-year gap and married in 2005.

She and Michael have 2 daughters (in Arkansas), 1 son (in Texas), 3 granddaughters, 4 grandsons, and 6 great-grandchildren (1 boy and 5 girls) who keep them on their toes. Patty has had family members in Military service in every conflict since the Revolutionary War when her 4th Great-Grandfather served at Valley Forge with General George Washington.



You're Invited to the

American Legion Auxiliary- Arkansas Girls State



Inauguration - Auxiliary Night 2025



Wednesday, May 28, 2025 – 7:00 pm

(Arrive early for parking and seating – Benson Auditorium)



You have invested to make a difference in the lives of our future leaders.



Come out and see what Girls State is all about!



GIRLS STATE 2025 SESSION: MAY 25 – MAY 30, 2025 AT HARDING UNIVERSITY, SEARCY



Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)

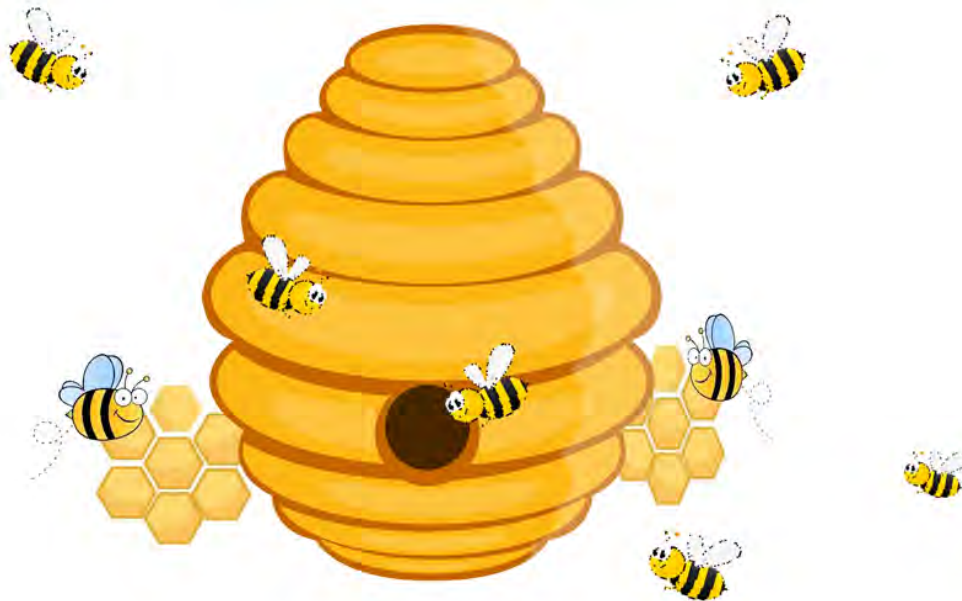
The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is a national grant assistance program that provides hardship and disaster emergency assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary up to \$3,000 as the result of an act of nature or another personal crisis.

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary whose dues are current and who have maintained annual membership for three consecutive years (the current year in which the application is submitted and immediate past two years) and have not been awarded an AEF grant (disaster or hardship) in the previous twelve months are eligible to apply for a grant.

If you have a need, contact your unit president or department office. For more information, please visit our national home page:

www.legion-aux.org

BEE Mission Minded!





Department of Arkansas



BUSY BEE Units that are BUZZZZZZing for EXCELLENCE at 100% or greater!



KUDOS to:

Unit 043 - Mt. View	100%	Unit 020 - Russellville	108%
Unit 017 - Paragould	115%	Unit 080 - Clarendon	100%
Unit 336 - Hardy	115%	Unit 030 - Sheridan	124%
Unit 436 - Earle	104%	Unit 232 - White Hall	100%
Unit 106 - Searcy	116%	Unit 343 - Redfield	125%
Unit 112 - McCrory	104%	Unit 111 - Crossett	100%
Unit 027 - Fayetteville	114%	Unit 297 - Junction City	100%
Unit 029 - Siloam Springs	105%	Unit 058 - Texarkana	100%
Unit 077 - Bentonville	100%	Unit 427 - Hope	100%
Unit 100 - Rogers	112%	Unit 013 - Hot Springs	120%
Unit 139 - Springdale	112%	Unit 039 - Morrilton	100%
Unit 146 - Prairie Grove	106%	Unit 074 - Sherwood	117%
Unit 274 - Cave Springs	102%	Unit 019 - Benton	100%
Unit 093 - Jasper	100%	Unit 1000 - Dept.-LR	102%
Unit 018 - Mena	113%		



Thank You for BEE-ing Mission Minded!



Pearl Gordon, President
2024 - 2025



American Legion Auxiliary

**College
Students**

Department of Arkansas

What's in it for Me ...?



Eligible members qualify for new adventures to Broaden their Skills, Social Contacts, Mentorships, and Show Honor by Serving the Nation's Veterans, Military and their Families. All while gaining and/or qualifying to apply for:

- **Scholarships** (*application due March 1st*)
- Internships
- Team Building
- Networking
- Leadership Training
- Pin Recognition
- Leading the Way to Excellence



Our Mission

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary 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 our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.



BEE Mission Minded!!

For More Information and to see if you are eligible to Join the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arkansas ...

www.legion-aux.org

**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**

The American Legion Family
National Poppy Day[®]

Friday, May 23, 2025



www.ALAforVeterans.org/poppy

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2024 - 2025 PRESIDENT'S PROJECT



Fisher House - ARKANSAS



Fisher House: Home away from home coming to Little Rock to better serve Veterans' Families

Fisher House – President's Project Donor Form

Name: _____



Street Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Unit/Post #: _____ Unit/Post City: _____

Any Donation amount is greatly appreciated.

Certificates of Appreciation will be issued at the end of the President's Project based on the following donation amounts:



Pollen Donor - \$25.00

Nectar Donor - \$50.00

Golden Nectar Donor - \$100.00



Thank YOU

for BEE-ing Mission Minded!



***** Make Checks Payable to: ALA - Department of Arkansas**

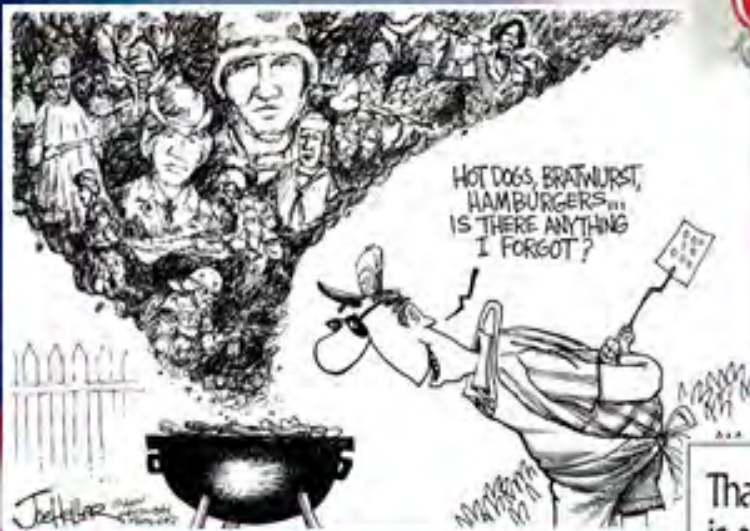
Memo: President Pearl's Project ****

Send to: 1415 W. 7th Street, Little Rock, AR 72201



★ May 26 ★

"REMEMBER"



Thanksgiving
is a day when we pause
to give thanks for
the things we have.



Memorial Day
is a day when we pause
to give thanks to the
people who fought for
the things we have.



MEMORIAL DAY

★ *May 26* ★



The price of
hot dogs



The price of
gasoline



The price of
freedom



THINGS TO REMEMBER ON MEMORIAL DAY

IN MEMORY OF
ALL WHO HAVE
SACRIFICED





POST EVERLASTING

It is with a very heavy heart to close this Convention Issue of the Arkansas Legionnaire with a note of honor and remembrance of longtime American Legion Department of Arkansas Convention Chairman and Legionnaire Robert H. "Bob" Pepper, 79, of Junction City, Arkansas, who transferred to the Post Everlasting on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at his home.

Bob was born January 29, 1946, in South Caledonia, Arkansas to the union of Lonnie Pepper and Verdie Johnston Pepper.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Lonnie Pepper, Jr., Jesse H. Pepper, one sister, Martha Nelson, a grandson, Patrick Pepper, Jr.,

Bob was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force serving in the Vietnam War as a Buck Sergeant. He was a member of the VFW Post 2413, Commander of American Legion Post 297 and currently Constable of Jackson Township. Bob held state, district and local offices in the American Legion and the VFW.

Survivors include his wife Marilyn Green Pepper, three sons, Robert S. Pepper and wife Christy, James T. Pepper and wife Nancy, Patrick W. Pepper and wife Stephanie, one daughter, Kelly R. Pepper, eleven grandchildren, Chelsea Hightower and husband Hunter, Logan Pepper, John T. Pepper, Bailey Snider, Mason Snider, Reagan Terwilliger and husband Daniel, Corey Pepper, Alex Pepper, Kaylee Pepper, Sage Pepper, Savannah Blackhorse, Ethan Langley, two great grandchildren, Preston Pepper, and Bjorn Terwilliger.

Visitation was held Sunday, March 9, 2025, at Bailey Funeral Home in El Dorado, Arkansas. Funeral services were held Monday, March 10, 2025, at the Chapel of Bailey Funeral Home with Rev. Myron Ford officiating, with interment at the Olive Branch Cemetery under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home of El Dorado, Arkansas.

Pallbearers were Adam Wood, Wayne Pumphrey, Chris Yeager, Daniel Whatley, Christopher Davis, and Aaron Galbraith.

The family requests any memorials to the American Legion or the VFW.

** NOTE - Information above was obtained from [Bailey Funeral Home](#) Obituary.*