



LEADERSHIP 2026-2027

MASH – MISSION AUXILIARY SERVING HEROES

#MASH #LETSMOVE

SUCCESS IS THE ONLY OPTION

Our Purpose:

To raise awareness of the ALA Leadership development Opportunities

To promote and increase participation in the ALA Academy and other online courses

To enhance knowledge about the Auxiliary Basic Concepts, ALA history, programs, and organization

To better equip members to serve in leadership positions with confidence and skill

As leaders in the American Legion Auxiliary, we must continue to respect and teach our members so that they become potential future leaders; we must provide them with the opportunities to use their specific skills and energy. We must continuously be looking for those with the potential to become our leaders of tomorrow. Our National President, Dr Coral Mae Grout is asking us to be “A Beacon for Veterans” and President Linda’s theme of MISSION Auxiliary Serving Heroes give us a guideline for working the ALA mission and serving our veterans, military, children and youth and community.

Some leaders are born, but most are trained through mentoring to be good leaders. Regardless of experience or education, anyone can be mentored to become a leader if they devote their time and energy to listen, learn and communicate.

For one to be a good mentor they must be knowledgeable. You do not have to be an expert on everything, but basic knowledge is *essential*. We have many resources available to assist our members in increasing their knowledge of our mission and nurturing personal growth. Leaders learn, question, research and SHARE!

Our focus should be on helping our “troops” to develop unique talents and encouraging them to share with our members and the community. Mentors can be found at every level of our organization but it is important to also remember the chain of command – Unit member to Unit President; Unit President to District President; District President to Department.

Enlist ALL Troops

By taking an active part in the Unit and attending training workshops and being enthusiastic you would be surprised how much of a difference YOU can make. Everyone needs to stay open to innovative ideas and relationships.

1. Work with a mentor to develop your interests and build skills and knowledge.
2. Check out the various sources of leadership training that is available within the District, Department and National levels.
3. Build your leadership skills by volunteering to chair a program or special event.
4. Ask questions about any programs or terminology that you do not fully understand.
5. Familiarize yourself with the Department Unit Guidebook, Unit Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules. If you do not understand something please ask the Unit President, Leadership Chairperson or Constitution and Bylaws Chairperson.

Platoon Leaders - Rally the Troops

1. Get to know the members of the Unit. Learn what interests them and develop their unique talents.
2. Take five to ten minutes to incorporate one portion of the leadership training at all meetings. Be sure to set aside a time to discuss important ALA documents.
3. If possible, hold a special meeting/workshop to explain Unit Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules, how the Unit budget is created and how to write minutes of a meeting. Be familiar with where you can find things when a member asks, “Show me where that is written”.
4. You cannot do this by yourself... *Build Your Platoon*...Select members who are willing to commit their time and energy so that they will strengthen the team and will give valuable assistance to the Unit. Be sure to include members who volunteer to help.
5. Plan an initiation for new members. Present them with an Auxiliary pin, copy of the Unit Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules, a small American Flag. Be sure to let them know that they are an important part of the Unit.
6. Encourage members to purchase or download a copy of the Department Unit Guide. Remember the Unit Guide changes every year.
7. It is important to know the history of our organization so encourage the troops to take the online course offered on the ALA Academy.

Brigades and Advisors - Map the operations

You are the guide for the Units. Get to know the Platoon Leaders. Assist them as much as you can by sharing your knowledge.

1. Build the District Team. You as the District President cannot do your job ALONE. Choose chairpersons that will strengthen the District Team. Encourage them to attend the Department Workshop to get first-hand information on the programs. Carefully consider your selection. Do not give appointments to members of only one Unit. Try to involve at least one member from every Unit in the District.

2. Hold District meetings that are informative. Have chairmen speak on the programs and do a question-and-answer session. You can also do portions of the ALA Academy.
3. Communicate!
4. Share articles on mentoring with the Units.
5. Ask new and younger members to assist as a committee member.
6. Lead by example.
7. Listen to a members' concerns before you respond.
8. Answer questions being sure to give a clear answer. Don't be afraid to say "I don't know, but I'll find out."
9. Most importantly give praise and recognition when members do what is requested or go beyond what was expected.

Envoy Mission Guide

Our Department Chairmen have accepted the MISSION to bring you information on the various programs. Utilize their knowledge, ask questions, follow their instructions.

Accept the MISSION

The future of our organization depends on each of us. We are all members of the Platoon! Be enthusiastic, have a positive outlook and lead by example. Work together as a team. Motivate and instill a sense of pride in who we are and what we do. Be proud to be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary! Remember, Success is the ONLY OPTION!

Awards and Recognition

NATIONAL

UNIT MEMBER OF THE YEAR

The Unit Member of the Year award recognizes those serving at the unit level who exemplify the values and ideals of the Auxiliary and whose accomplishments significantly impact the program work in their units.

Must be a senior member in good standing and must not have served in any role higher than Unit President.

The selection is to be based on the achievement the member has made through **ONE** program or project for the **current** year.

What did the member do that was outstanding? Years of membership does not matter as this could be a new member. The narrative is to be no more than 1000 words.

Submission must be signed by the Unit President and Unit Secretary and include a cover sheet. The nominated member does not sign this.

A fully completed National Entry form is required.

All submissions are to be sent to the Department Leadership Chairman. Electronically is preferred – leadership@alafl.org. Must be received no later than May 26, 2027 by 5:00 pm EST.

ALL ENTRIES RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFIED.

This Leadership Chairperson will sign off on the National Entry Form and then forward on to the Department President for her selection.

DEPARTMENT

Meritorious Platoon Leadership Program by Membership Grouping

Platoon that has the best all-around leadership program in each membership grouping. Describe how your unit increased leadership opportunities through training and mentoring. How did your members learn, question, research and share knowledge about the ALA and the mission? Narrative is to be no more than 500 words, double spaced, electronically submitted to leadership@alafl.org. Photos are encouraged. The winners will be selected by the Leadership Committee.

REPORTING

Unit Reports due to District Chairpersons NO LATER THAN April 15th,2027.

District Reports due to Department Chairpersons NO LATER THAN May 1st,2027.

*“Start by doing what’s necessary, then do what’s possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible”
St. Francis of Assisi*

Janet Woods

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