

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

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FROM THE 2026-2027 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE



2026-2027 National President
Dr. Coral May Grout

Leadership is Personal... The Power of Connection

Rebecca Farley
Central Division Chair

Leadership is not simply about standing in front of people. Some of the most powerful leadership happens when we choose to stand beside them. Throughout my leadership journey, I have learned that one of our greatest tools is something that cannot be found in a handbook, taught through a presentation, or measured on a report. It is personal connection.

Great leaders learn to meet people where they are. Not everyone enters our organization with the same experience, confidence, skills, or desire to lead. Some members are ready to step forward and take charge. Others may need someone to walk beside them for a while. Leadership means recognizing the difference and adapting how we encourage, mentor, and support each other.

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What Does Leadership Look Like to You?

Dept of CO President -
Ashley Flores

Leadership is the capacity to translate a vision into reality while paving the way for others to follow. Growing our future to honor their service and sacrifices. It is about serving others, listening, setting an example, and helping those around you grow.

Leaders become great not because of the power they hold, but because of their ability to empower others. To me, leadership means leading with compassion, integrity, and purpose. It means being willing to step forward when needed, while also knowing when to step back and allowing others to shine.

Leadership Continued

Sometimes leadership is giving direction. Sometimes it is asking, "What do you think?" or it is opening a door. And sometimes it is simply noticing someone who may feel invisible and saying, "I see what you are doing, and it matters." That is the power of personal connection.

As leaders, we should become students of the people around us. Who needs encouragement? Who needs an opportunity? Who has a talent that has not yet been discovered? Who accomplished something worth celebrating? Who has been quietly serving without recognition? And our celebration should not stop with the people we directly lead. Strong leaders celebrate the success of others, across Units, Districts, Departments, programs, and communities. Someone else's success does not diminish our own. In fact, when we celebrate one another, we strengthen the entire American Legion Auxiliary.

Building relationships also builds our network, and our network becomes one of our greatest leadership resources. Every conversation, introduction, shared idea, encouraging word, and genuine connection creates another bridge. Those bridges connect people to people, people to opportunities, and ultimately people to our mission.

Meaningful connections require something from us, it requires our presence. Put down the title for a moment. Look beyond the position. Listen to the person standing in front of you. Learn their story. Recognize their strengths. Notice when they need an extra word of encouragement or a little confidence borrowed from you until they discover their own. People may join our organization because they believe in its mission, but relationships often give them a reason to stay, serve, grow, and eventually lead.

Our American Legion Auxiliary is filled with potential leaders. Some already know it. Some are still discovering it. And some may simply be waiting for another leader to see something in them that they have not yet seen in themselves. Make the connection. Celebrate the person. Build the relationship. You never know when one simple moment of encouragement will become the beginning of someone else's leadership story.

Quarterly Leadership Zoom

Oct 13 – 7 pm Eastern

Click [Here](#) to Register today

What Does Leadership Look Like to You?

Dept of NE President -
Vicki Cyboron

Leadership for me is to be a cheerleader. It is important to encourage people and help them understand the programs and the need to help our veterans, communities and children and youth. When you are excited on the programs it helps bring the excitement to all other members.

ALA Academy

Knowledge Builds Stronger Members

ALA Academy courses are a valuable resource for every American Legion Auxiliary member, whether you are brand new to the organization or have served for many years. These courses help members better understand the ALA's mission, history, programs, leadership practices, and organizational responsibilities. By taking advantage of ALA Academy, members gain the knowledge and confidence to become more engaged, serve effectively at the Unit, District, Department, and National levels, and share the ALA mission with others.

ALA Academy is an investment in yourself—and in the future of our organization.

Get Started With These Suggestions . . .

[ALA 101: Member Orientation](#)

[ALA Leadership: Living Our Motto of Service Not Self](#)