

Education E-Newsletter

The American Legion Auxiliary Education Program Outreach Committee

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

The American Legion Auxiliary National Scholarships

The Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship application is an online application and is due March 1. All others are due to the Unit by March 1.

A. Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship

- Awarded to children of veterans who served in the armed forces during the eligibility dates for The American Legion.
- Three \$5,000 scholarships will be awarded in each division. • Fifteen outstanding students will be awarded a total of \$75,000 to further their higher education.
- The applicant must complete 50 hours of community service during his/her high school years to be eligible for one of these scholarships.

B. The Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

- One scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded in each American Legion Auxiliary division.
- Applicant must be a member of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion and shall have paid dues for the two preceding years and for the calendar year in which the application is made.

C. Spirit of Youth Scholarship

- One Junior member in each division will receive a \$5,000 scholarship.
- Applicant must have held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the immediate past three years, hold a current membership card and continue her membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during the four-year scholarship period.

D. American Legion Auxiliary Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship

- Ten scholarships, in the amount of \$2,500 each, will be awarded to a current college student for 2021. Two scholarships will be awarded in each division of the American Legion Auxiliary. The scholarship is a grant; not a loan.
- Candidates for this award shall have been Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary, held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the past three consecutive years (2019, 2021 and 2022) and must be a paid member for the current (2023) membership year. Applicant must continue her membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during the scholarship period. *
- This scholarship is intended for the traditional student with no interruption in her education, who is at least in her first semester of college or technical school but not yet attained a bachelor's degree. Any member who is non-traditional student (a student returning to the classroom after some time away from college) is welcome to apply for the American Legion Auxiliary Non-Traditional Scholarship.

Only the one selected entry of each of the National Scholarships for each department shall be forwarded to your Division Education Chairman, for competition at the national level, so it is received ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1, 2023.

ALA Education

Share Your Story

Be sure to “LIKE” us on Facebook.

Help spread the word about your service in the ALA Education Program. This is a closed group so you have to request permission to join. You then have to answer 2 questions to be approved: (1) Are you a member of the ALA? and (2) What is your unit and department (state)?

Year-End Reports- Narrative report to Division Education Chairman by May 15, 2023, plus copy to National Education Chairman

Did you know that National has a blog? The blog features excellent info and photos that can be easily shared. No log-in

required! <https://www.legion-aux.org/blog>

Please send information on your Department's Education Program events. Throughout the year, please send photos and short blurbs about your members in Education action to your Division Chairmen and post on the National Education Facebook page.

Websites with Education Planning Information:

www.ALAforVeterans.org

1. American Legion Auxiliary scholarship applications: www.ALAforVeterans.org/Scholarships
2. Educational resources through the Americanism and Children & Youth Commission of The American Legion: www.legion.org/education
3. Free online tutoring for military children: www.tutor.com/military
4. Student Veterans of America: www.studentveterans.org
5. Your national Education committee members (see Education program page on the national website or Annual Supplement for contact information).
6. The national Education Committee Facebook group, search ALA Education

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Give to the American Legion Auxiliary Scholarships

Go to <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/education>
& click on "Donate"

SAVE THE DATE Note Change in Date

3rd Quarter Education Department Chairmen Virtual Meeting

Please join me as I host the 3rd Quarter Virtual National Education Joint Committee meeting on **April 4, 2023**, at 8:00 PM (EST). National Headquarters has important information and instruction on the new Electronic Year-End Reporting Process which will be discussed. Please be assured that the new process will make reporting once you have your narrative and photos easier by automatically sending your report to your Division and National chairman. Divisional breakout sessions will follow this. To close, we will all join back to the main group.

The Department Chairman will be receiving the registration link from their Division Chairman during the month of March. I hope that your schedule will allow you to join us for this important meeting.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY JUNIOR MEMBER LOYALTY SCHOLARSHIP 2023 APPLICATION

American Legion Auxiliary Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship Application – also available online at www.ALAforVeterans.org

Ten scholarships, in the amount of \$2,500 each, will be awarded for 2023. No scholarships will be awarded in each of the five divisions of the American Legion Auxiliary. All are gift scholarships, not loans.

RULES

1. Candidates for this award shall have been Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary, held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the past three consecutive years (2020, 2021, and 2022) and be a paid member for the current (2023) membership year. Applicant must continue their membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during the scholarship period.
2. This scholarship is intended for the traditional college student with no interruption in education, who is at least in the first semester of college or technical school but not yet attained a bachelor's degree. Any member who is a non-traditional student (a student returning to the classroom after some time away from college) is welcome to apply for the American Legion Auxiliary Non-Traditional Student Scholarship.
3. This is a scholarship to attend an accredited institution of higher education for the completion of a bachelor's degree. Applicants must have completed at least one semester with grades that meet continuation requirements at the institution of their choice. Applicants must have at least a 3.0 GPA using a 4.0 scale.
4. Previous American Legion Auxiliary national scholarship recipients are welcome to apply.
5. Applicants must present the completed application, along with the other required materials specified on the following page, to the president of their American Legion Auxiliary unit ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2023.
6. Judging, at all levels, shall be on the following basis: Leadership, Character, and ALA Participation (as presented in applicant's essay) 50% Academic Achievement, 25% Completed Application 25% THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.
7. The first half of the award (\$1,250) will be paid directly to the school for the first semester upon notification from the school that the student has re-enrolled. American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters must receive certification of enrollment within 12 months of the winning recipient's notification, or the scholarship will be forfeited. There shall be no money paid to the school for the ensuing semester until notification of re-enrollment has been received from the school. Notification from the school must include verification of at least a B (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) average. If the winner discontinues their education or membership in the American Legion Auxiliary before all scholarship funds have been dispersed, the balance of the scholarship will be forfeited. The winner will have four years from the date of notification of scholarship to use the scholarship funds.

www.alaforveterans.org/Scholarships/Junior-Member-Loyalty-Scholarship/

The Auxiliary has many tools that aid members in learning about our programs.

*ALA Academy

<https://member.legion-aux.org/member/online-training>

- Self- Paced Courses
- ALA Academy Live



Education Resources

(found on the National Education Committee page of the National website under Member Resources)

Give 10 to Education Citation
(downloadable word doc)

- Give 10 to Education Suggested Donation Items and Tracking Sheet (downloadable word doc)
- ALA Education Facebook Group
- American Education Week Cards

ALA National Scholarship FAQs

- ALA Member FAQs:
<https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/education/national-scholarship-resources-faq>
- Non-ALALA Member FAQs:
<https://www.legion-aux.org/scholarships/faq>

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2nd Quarter Virtual National Education Joint Department Zoom Meeting January 10, 2023

Thank you to the attendees that participated in this Zoom meeting. The group was pleased to have the National Vice President, Lisa Williamson, participate in our Zoom meeting. The National Chairman, National Vice Chairman, Committee, and National Senior Program Coordination provided Information and suggestions on Teacher Appreciation Week, Veterans in Community Schools, Scholarship information/deadlines, and updates on the National Presidents Children of Warrior Scholarship. Kristin Hinshaw, National Education Senior Program Coordinator reviewed with members the questions which have been posed to the Education Program concerning scholarships and expanded on answers when necessary.

Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship

- Are stepchildren/step-grandchildren eligible?
 - The criteria for this scholarship follows that of membership eligibility in the American Legion Auxiliary. The IRS definition of eligibility for a veteran's service organization auxiliary does not include stepchildren.
- Service hours.
 - Your National Honor Society administrator may sign off on your volunteer hours.
 - Volunteer hours can be from more than one organization. If an organization was not involved, a letter verifying the service would suffice. The hours may be spread across all the high school years, not just their senior year.
- Are the scholarships based on merit or need?
 - Judging is based on the following:
 - 30% - Character/Leadership, 30% - Essay/Application, 40% - Academic Achievement
- Is the FAFSA required?
 - The FAFSA is not required.
- Is ALA membership required?
 - Membership in The American Legion Family is not required for this scholarship.
 - If the student is the descendant of a veteran who served during one of the eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion, they would be eligible to apply. The eligibility dates are as follows:
 - Candidates for this award shall be direct descendants of veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941.
- Can more than one person from a department can submit an application?
 - The process will be the same as last year. Each department will receive their applications via email from NHQ. They then judge those applications and pick one to send to the division chairman for judging at the national level.
- Is my grandfather's discharge card sufficient?
 - Yes, a discharge card is sufficient.
- Requirement for Veteran's discharge papers
 - Acceptable Proof of Service Documentation includes the following:
 - Form DD214 (Official discharge certificate)
 - Official "Honorable Discharge" certificate
 - Form DD1300 (Official military death certificate)
 - Official record of burial in a military cemetery issued by the National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Current or former military ID card
 - Current or former LES (Leave and Earnings Statement)
 - Official logbook entries from a military unit
- Confidential Letters of Recommendation
 - Confidential letters of recommendation may be emailed to this address (Education@ALAFForVeterans.org). Please be aware, however, that if an emailed letter is not able to be matched correctly with a student's application, that application may not be considered complete.

Other Questions

- Scholarships for high school?
 - I regret to inform you that our national scholarships are only for college tuition.
- Can the scholarship applications be mailed instead of submitted online?
 - Spirit of Youth – must be submitted to the local unit in which your membership is recorded, either electronically or by mail
 - Non-Traditional Student – must be submitted to the local unit in which your membership is recorded, either electronically or by mail
 - Junior Member Loyalty – must be submitted to the local unit in which your membership is recorded, either electronically or by mail
 - Children of Warriors National Presidents' – must be submitted electronically
- What is the Essay Topic for this year's application?
 - Children of Warriors National Presidents' scholarship
 - Discuss four (4) ways to Honor our Veterans.
 - Spirit of Youth Scholarship
 - Describe what kind of service project you would choose to help a military family. Include how you would implement the service project and how you would include your American Legion Family.
 - Junior Member Loyalty scholarship
 - As a current college student, what can you do to promote membership in the American Legion Auxiliary?
- **Non-Traditional Scholarship:** Is your scholarship "open" to **graduate** students to apply or is it restricted to undergrad students?
 - There is no degree restriction for this scholarship; undergraduates and graduates are eligible to apply.
- I would like to know a little more about the scholarships and how I can apply for my daughter. She is currently in the University as a Freshman. I'm a veteran with an 80% disability per the VA. I fully retired. I did 20yrs active-duty Army.
 - If your daughter is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, she may be eligible for our Junior Member Loyalty scholarship:
 - Candidates for this award shall have been Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary, held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the past three consecutive years (2020, 2021, and 2022), and must be a paid member for the current (2023) membership year. Applicant must continue her membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during the scholarship period.
 - There may be scholarships available at your state or local level. You can find a directory of state offices on our website at <https://www.alaforveterans.org/About/Department-State-Headquarters/>.
 - You may also want to check into scholarships available through The American Legion at <https://www.legion.org/scholarships>.
- Updates to the scholarship FAQs
 - <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/education/national-scholarship-resources-faq>
 - <https://www.legion-aux.org/scholarships/fag>

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Division Highlights

Central Division:

Department of Iowa Chairman, Cheyene, handed out mints with little appreciation cards to as many staff as she could on her college campus (Central College) in Pella, Iowa. This included custodial staff, students support staff, professors, cafeteria/market staff, and more. She also student teaches in some classrooms and her kindergarten class at Madison Elementary in Pella, Iowa colored thank you notes to give to bus drivers, janitors, cafeteria staff, and other teachers they appreciated. She also reported: Moline Wink-Sparks Unit 303 presented 43 dictionaries to Woodbury Central's 3rd graders. Keokuk Unit 41 gave goldfish to all 254 teachers and other staff members at 7 different schools in Keokuk. Mindi from the *Department of Ohio* reported that she had received information about a program that where they are taking a different approach to Give 10 to Education and focusing on the needs of the students with a clothes closet. The *Department of Ohio* is having a raffle at the Midwinter to benefit education scholarships. The *Department of Kansas* has eight Department Scholarships available. The *Department of Illinois* has 3 Department Scholarships available plus the PPP Nurses scholarships.



Western Division:

- **Washington-** Communications were sent out to units within the department reminding all that scholarship applications are due to Department Chairman by March 15, 2023.
- **California-** Unit Education Chairmen have gotten creative with new ideas. They have teamed up with other Unit Chairmen i.e., Juniors, Americanism, Girls State, and Public Relations as a way of reaching out to schools to present more than one program. It is a win, win for all programs. Units have been reaching out to schools to be able to get on the school's website promoting the American Legion Auxiliary Scholarships. They are using social media to get information out to those who may not know about the organization's scholarship program to apply for certain scholarships. They continue with their "fun contest" - a contest amongst units, and districts that donate the most items for the **Give 10 to Education** Program recognizing those units/districts at their Mid-Year meeting. They have donated over \$5000.00 and 4,250(+) items. Kudos!!!! Shared on social media their activities from their annual Mid-Year meeting. They had fun times and shared stories and camaraderie.
- **Arizona-** Addressed the monthly newsletter to all units/districts stressing the importance of having all Scholarship submissions submitted by the due date(s) in March. Department Chairman states; College is very expensive, and all high school students should be taking advantage of any and all scholarships available to them, Units and Departments are responsible for promoting the American Legion Auxiliary scholarships and making sure that schools have ample time for students to apply.

Southern Division:

Departments reported that their main focus has been on getting out the scholarship information. Liz Close of the *Department of Florida* reported putting the scholarship information and the national education newsletter on the Florida Canvas Site for all of the Units to be informed. She gets great feedback from the members. Jeanette Key of the *Department of Kentucky* carries an information board with her to district meetings and department conferences. She gets quite a lot of attention and questions about the program from newer members.