



American Legion Auxiliary

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

To: ALA PNPs, ALA Foundation Board, ALA Dept. Sec/EDs, ALA NHQ Staff, 2021-2022 National Chairmen, National Officers, Dept Presidents, NEC, Alt NEC
CC: TAL Executive Directors, National Judge Advocate, Media/Communications
From: Kelly Circle, Executive Director
Re: Weekly Briefing 03-24-2022

Another successful auction supporting military spouses and families

American Legion Auxiliary Department of California member Erica Henson created a one-of-a-kind handbag out of a military uniform, part of the heirloom program through R.Riveter, a U.S.-based handbag company.

The bag was auctioned Tuesday, March 22 with 100% of the proceeds donated to the Auxiliary to continue serving veterans, military, and their families. Because of the generosity of our bidders, \$960 will be donated to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship Fund!

ALA Member Discount. Didn't win the auction? No worries! You can still purchase items to support military spouses and families AND get a member discount on RRiveter.com. Get a special 20% discount by following this link <https://bit.ly/3tYTswm>

41st National Veterans Creative Arts Festival Art & Writing Exhibition and Stage Show Performance *Stage Show Available for Public View via Livestream*

The 41st NVCAF Art & Writing Exhibition and Stage Show Performance in St. Petersburg, Fla. are closed to the public. To ensure social distancing guidelines are met and to mitigate risks of COVID-19 exposure, attendance at the exhibition and show performance is capped with a limited number of invited guests. There is no available wait list for either the exhibition or performance.

We are pleased to provide alternatives for the public to support Veterans at this year's Festival.

- Sunday, April 24 – Enjoy viewing the Veteran artwork, writing pieces and performances and watch the live stage show at 11 a.m. EST via at www.creativeartsfestival.org. [this URL is not yet active]
- Check our @Sports4Vets social media pages on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for additional coverage and highlights of the Festival.

VA remains committed to honoring our nation's Veterans by ensuring a safe environment to deliver exceptional health care. Thank you for supporting Veterans and their creative accomplishments.



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Honoring one who helped pave the way (by guest contributor, Cathi Taylor,
Archivist, NHQ)



Allow me to introduce you to Winnie Davis Freeman. According to her obituary, Winnie was “one of the South’s most prominent newspaper women and feature writers.” That is quite an accolade, particularly for a woman who died in 1924. I haven’t been able to learn much about Winnie other than she was one of ten children, the daughter of a typesetter for the Birmingham Herald newspaper, born in Georgia, raised in Alabama, and her only brother, Edward, served in the Great War.

I don’t know what Winnie did to help with the war effort. I can’t even say for sure if she was an Auxiliary member without combing through our charter applications. What I do know is that Winnie submitted an article to the Legion, one that was printed in the April 16, 1920 edition of *The American Legion Weekly* titled “What of the Auxiliary?”. Consider the date. This is five months after the Legion’s first national convention where it had only decided to have an auxiliary, but had yet to determine what it would look like. This is seven months before the Legion determined the auxiliary would not come from an existing women’s patriotic organization, and the hiring of Pauline Cranston Curnick to lead these women to their own national convention.

I cannot do justice to the article by summarizing it for you. What I will do is provide you the link to it <https://archive.legion.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12203/2929/americanlegionwe213amer.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>. It’s 2 ½ pages long (beginning on page 5), but well worth reading. It’s a good reminder for any member who wonders whether the effort is worth all the hassle.

This week marks the 98th anniversary of Winnie’s death, March 21, 1924. She was only 36.

Thank you, Winnie, for your contribution to the creation of the American Legion Auxiliary.



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You can still register for ALA Mission Training in Omaha!

Got an open calendar for next weekend? Pencil in our Mission Development Training 201 in Omaha, Neb.!

This April 2 event, the last of our Mission Trainings for the 2021-2022 admin year, will help members overcome common hurdles in mission delivery. The underlying belief in this training is that improving the member engagement experience will also drive membership. You can read [this post on the ALA blog](#) for full details of what to expect at an ALA Mission Training event, but here's a quick snapshot:

- Identify and engage volunteers — members and non-members
- Determine the needs in your community
- Solve roadblocks
- Construct specific volunteer menu opportunities in your community

If you're an active member looking to welcome and engage other ALA members and supporters in our mission, this event is for you! Attendees should have a basic concept of mission delivery.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR ALA JUNIORS — our younger members can increase their leadership skills and learn more about the ALA's mission, all while having fun with other Juniors! National Junior meetings are held at the same times and in the same cities as Mission Trainings. Junior members ages 8 and over may attend the national Junior meetings. They will enjoy fun and interactive activities during the one-day event while learning about the ALA's mission. And ... all Juniors who attend will receive a free ALA branded hooded T-shirt!

We hope to see you in Omaha! Register [here](#).

Red Book Updates

There are no red book updates this week. Please send all Red Book corrections to alahq@alaforveterans.org.

Archived briefings can be found in the member portal under Resources. Click Department/Units and scroll down to click on Weekly Briefings to see them all by date.