



Missouri Legionette
American Legion Auxiliary Department of Missouri
Special Edition - June 2026

*Endorsement for Department
President 2026*



Eighth District
Department of Missouri

At the Winter Meeting in January 11 of 2026, in Jefferson City, Missouri, Mrs. Lindy L. Picray was endorsed for the office of Department President for the 2026-2027 year.

Lindy gains her eligibility through her maternal grandfather Orborn Jones who served in the US Navy during WWII. Her paternal grandfather Gordon L. Capps Sr, served as a B-17 pilot in the US Army during WWII, and was considered MIA after he crash-landed his plane in Switzerland. He later escaped a Swiss internment camp. Her father Gordon L. Capps Jr. served in the US Army during the Vietnam War. In addition, her husband John M Picray, served in the US Navy from 2005 to 2009 during the Global War on terror.

Born and raised in the State of California, Lindy moved to Missouri in 2012 to work at the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Missouri headquarters as part of the AmeriCorps program. She also joined Unit #5 in 2012 and served as Unit President from 2015-2017. She has served on the Unit level in various chairmanships and offices over her 14 years of membership.

Lindy has served as President of the Eighth District, a position she has held for three years. She was Vice President for two years and has held various chairmanships in the District.

On the Department Level, Lindy has held various chairmanships including education, VA&R and membership. She has also served as a member of the Finance committee, Girls State Committee, Girls Nation Selection Committee, Chaplain and Historian. She is currently serving as Department First Vice President.

Lindy attends Department Conventions and Conferences as well as National Conventions. Lindy acted as the presiding officer over the 2025 Fall Conference.

Lindy and her husband John have 2 cats and live in Jefferson City. They are expecting a future boys stater and Squadron 5 SAL member in the spring of 2026. She is currently employed by the State of Missouri with the Secretary of State, as an Elections Specialist with the Elections Division.

It is with pride and confidence that District 8 unanimously endorses Lindy Picray as a candidate for American Legion Auxiliary Department President for the 2026-2027 year.



Dorothy Goodin, President



Cindy Lambert, Secretary





Endorsement for Department 1st Vice President 2026

American Legion Auxiliary

District 17

The Executive Committee of the 17th District met Sunday December 14, 2025 and unanimously endorsed Jaretta Holt for Department 1st Vice President of Department, for the year 2026-2027.

Jaretta has a family history of military service. She gained her eligibility through her grandfather, Mark Caudill, who served during WWI. She also had eligibility through the service of her husband, Charles Holt. He served in the US Air Force from 1972 until retirement in 1992. He is the Commander of Post 38 American Legion District 17. Both of her grandfathers served during WWI and she has uncles who served during WWII and the Korean War in the US Army and US Navy. Her brother served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War. Her son Harvey served in the US Air Force as a K-9 officer in Iraq. Her grandson, Jaden, is currently serving in the US Air Force.

Jaretta is married to Charles Holt, and they have four sons: Nathaniel Murphy, Harvey Holt, Marvin Holt, and Christopher Holt. She is a paralegal and worked in her profession until 2011.

She joined the American Legion Auxiliary in 2013 as a member of Unit 434, Nixa, MO then transferred to Unit 38, Fair Grove, MO, where she was instrumental in helping with the organizing of Unit 38 Fair Grove. She has served her unit as Treasurer, Secretary, and President, District 17 she has served as

President and has reassumed her position as Treasurer. Department she has served as Chaplain, Historian and is currently 2nd Vice President. She is currently serving as Department Fund Raising Chairman for her fourth year. Jaretta likes to smile and laugh and enjoys meeting people. She enjoys being a part of the American Legion Auxiliary helping our veterans and their families and working with the community. She is happy when she is volunteering and helping others. She loves her family, her three dogs, cooking and playing bingo. She also enjoys being a part of our great organization,

In consideration of her dedication and service to our organization we the members of District 17 know she will make the motto of the American Legion Auxiliary "Service Not Self" shine. We proudly endorse Jaretta Holt for Department 1st Vice President of Department for the year 2026-2027,

District Vice President

District Secretary





Endorsement for Department 2nd Vice President 2026



AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

ENDORSEMENT

Department Second Vice President 2026-2027

Michelle Bruns

At a regularly scheduled meeting of the District 9, American Legion Auxiliary Department of Missouri held at St. Clair, Unit 347, on Sunday, December 14, 2025, Michelle Bruns was unanimously endorsed for the office of Department Second Vice President for the year 2026-2027.

Michelle gained her eligibility in the American Legion Auxiliary through her late father, Charles C. Coyner, Sr, a United States Army veteran of World War II. Michelle was raised in an active American Legion Family of Colwell-Harris-Paul Williams Unit 320 in Pacific since she joined as a Tiny Tot in 1967. Michelle is now a member of Union Unit 297 in Union, Missouri.

On the Unit level, Michelle held every office and served 12 years as Unit 320 President. Some of the chairmanships she held included Americanism, Community Service, Poppy, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. She is currently serving her Unit as chairman of the Girls State program.

On the District level, Michelle served as Historian, First Vice President, President (two terms), and is currently serving her eleventh year as District 9 Treasurer. Michelle has served as chairman of Gold Star, Music, Past Presidents Parley, Americanism/Americanism Essay, two years as the National Candidate Campaign Liaison from District 9 and is currently serving as Ways and Means and Past Presidents Parley chairman.

On the Department level, Michelle has served as chairman of Public Relations, Junior Activities, and Southeast Division Membership. Michelle also served as Department Color Bearer and Personal Page. She also served on the American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State Staff for four years. Michelle is currently serving as Department Historian and her third year on the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation committee.

Throughout her many years of service, Michelle has attended numerous Fall Conferences and Department Conventions. She has also attended National Leadership Workshops/Mission Trainings and National Conventions. She served as a Missouri Page at the 1998 National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, and as the Mailroom Director at the 2003 National Convention in St. Louis, Missouri.

Michelle and her husband Tom have two sons, two daughters-in-law and two granddaughters, who are also Junior members. Michelle has been employed as a Sales and Use Tax Accountant for the past 28 years.

In view of her continued dedication and service to the American Legion Family, we of the Ninth District proudly present Michelle Bruns as our candidate for the office of American Legion Auxiliary Department Second Vice President for the year 2026-2027.

Laura Diel, 9th District President

Lori Millam, 9th District Secretary





Endorsement for Department Historian 2026



ENDORSEMENT
Department Historian
Catherine Auffert

At a regularly scheduled meeting of District 4, American Legion Auxiliary Department of Missouri held at Curry-Richardson-Sparks-Waldeier Unit 528, Parnell on Saturday, March 7, 2026, Catherine Auffert was unanimously endorsed for the office of Department Historian for the year 2026-2027.

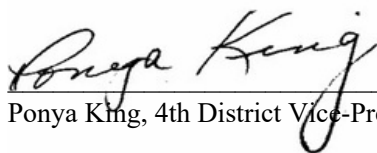
Catherine became eligible for the American Legion Auxiliary through her late father, Philip Auffert, a Korean War veteran. She has been an active member of Unit 528 in Parnell since 1973 and has learned the importance of serving veterans and their families by working alongside her mother. Catherine has encouraged her family members to join the Sons of the American Legion and the Auxiliary. At the Unit level, she has served as Secretary/Treasurer since 2003, Membership Chairman since 2007, Girls State Chairman since 2014, and Junior Activities Chairman since 2017.

Catherine is in her third term as District President after serving ten years as Secretary/Treasurer. She served in numerous roles for multiple years, including Sergeant-at-Arms and Chairman of Budget and Finance, Girls State, County Government for Nodaway County, and District Page. Catherine has chaired various committees, including Education, Gold Star, Public Relations, Children and Youth, National Security, Americanism, Americanism Essay, and Leadership.

Catherine has served multiple years at the Department Level as Color Bearer and Chairman of Americanism, Children & Youth, and is a member of the ALA Girls State Foundation. She has also chaired Northwest Division Membership, Gold Star Members, Legislative, and served on the Finance Committee. Additionally, she has been part of the ALA Missouri Girls State Staff for 29 years.

Catherine lives on her family farm with her extended family along what could be called Auffert Avenue. For over thirty years, she has positively impacted her community as a secondary special education teacher, spending more than 25 years at North Nodaway School District in Hopkins, MO. She has also taught religious education in her church community for 16 years.

In recognition of her ongoing dedication and service to the American Legion Family, we of the Fourth District proudly present Catherine Auffert as a candidate for the office of American Legion Auxiliary Department Historian for the year 2026-2027.



Ponya King, 4th District Vice-President



Sheridan Mires, 4th District Secretary



2026 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
HOUSING REQUEST
July 9-12, 2026



HOUSING/HOSPITALITY/CAUCUS ROOM & VENDOR TABLE REQUEST

Oasis Hotel and Convention Center
2546 North Glenstone Ave, Springfield, MO 65803
1-417-866-5253 Group: American Legion

Make reservations directly with the hotel, using a credit card for confirmation be sure to mention you are with The American Legion.

****CUTOFF DATE FOR ALL HOUSING RESERVATIONS IS JUNE 10, 2026****
(Group room rates are not guaranteed after the cutoff date)

Cost per night is \$119.00 (plus Sales and Lodging tax)
\$25.00 a night incidental fee will be charged during check-in and release at the end of stay

Check in time 4:00 p.m.

HOSPITALITY ROOM

DISTRICT CAUCUS ROOMS

Will be assigned by Department Adjutant at Convention

Table Request for Vendors, Post and Auxiliary

All table requests will be reserved through Department Headquarters.
Please call Theresa Boss to make your request 573-893-2353
Deadline for table request: *June 10, 2026*

The Department Convention Itinerary will not be available before May 1, 2026





**DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI
AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY
BANQUET & USA 250th
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**



***Friday, July 10, 2026
Oasis Hotel and Convention Center
2546 North Glenstone Ave
Springfield, MO 65803***

***6:30 p.m. Dignitaries Reception
7:00 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Program***

***Join us in our American Legion Family Celebration Banquet marking the 2025-2026 Department
Commander Jerome Goolsby and Department President Wanda Kinder year of service to The
Department of Missouri American Legion Family.***

Come dressed to impress in your Red, White and Blue!!!!



***Please RSVP by June 30, 2026 and remit your banquet reservation(s) of
\$50.00 per person
(Make Check payable to The American Legion Department of Missouri)
Send to:***

***The American Legion Department of Missouri
P. O. Box 179
Jefferson City, Mo 65102
If you have any questions, please call: 573-893-2353***

Person(s) attending:

Total Included: _____



Please join us for
Legion Family Day

Thursday, June 25, 2026

9:30 am – 2 pm

Lindenwood University
Saint Charles, Missouri



We have a fun agenda planned:

09:30 AM Check in at Scheidegger Center for the Arts

Pick up custom ID and swag bag

2300 W Clay St.; St. Charles, MO 63301

09:45 AM Welcome Presentation

10:00 AM Tour of Schools of Instruction

11:15 AM Visit the ALA MGS Shoppe

11:45 AM Lunch with Citizens featuring presentation of POW/MIA table

12:45 PM Visit the MBS Store

1:00 PM Attend MBS General Elections Results Announcement Meet-
and-Greet with Photo Opportunity

2:00 PM Conclusion of formal program

Please feel free to stay after the conclusion of our formal program
for our Evening Keynote Speaker and
State Fair, featuring snacks, games put on by the citizens,
a live band, and more!

Please RSVP and arrange to attend by
contacting Jessie Abney at 660-429-2761 or Jessie.Abney@MOBoysState.org



Proposed Changes to By-Laws and Standing Rules
American Legion Auxiliary Department of Missouri
Finance Committee

Current Wording	Proposed Change	Wording, with Approved Change	Reason for Change
Constitution, Article VII Section 2. The books of the Department Secretary - Treasurer shall be audited by a certified public accountant thirty (30) days <u>after close of fiscal</u> year.	Constitution, Article VII Section 2. Audit by a certified public account would be every 3 years, with an internal audit / review conducted for the 2 intervening years.	Constitution, Article VII Section 2. The books of the Department Secretary - Treasurer shall be audited by a certified public accountant every 3 years after the close of the fiscal year. In the two years between external audits, an internal audit / review will be performed by a team of volunteers who are members of the ALA. The audit firm will continue to prepare the 990 tax documents in all years.	The cost of external audits has increased significantly in recent years. For the year ending 7/31/2025, <u>Department</u> of Missouri will be paying \$9000 for the annual audit and 990 preparation. <u>Cost</u> is significantly less to have the auditors prepare only our 990 tax documents. The recommendation to switch to a 3 year external audit cycle came from National as one way to help reduce this significant expense for Departments.





Current Wording	Proposed Change	Wording, with Approved Change	Reason for Change
Standing Rules 4. Itemized statements showing expenditures, by check or cash, of all Department Rehabilitation Funds, Poppy Directors and ALA Girls State, Missouri shall be submitted quarterly by these Committee Chairmen to the Finance Chairman in care of the Dept. Headquarters; bank statements must accompany the quarterly statement. Currently on page 69	Add language to include ACH payments, electronic transfer, authorized automatic debit or bill pay deductions	Standing Rules 4. Itemized statements showing expenditures, by check, cash, ACH payments, electronic transfer, authorized automatic debit or bill pay deductions , of all Department Rehabilitation Funds, Poppy Directors and ALA Girls State, Missouri shall be submitted quarterly by these Committee Chairmen to the Finance Chairman in care of the Dept. Headquarters; bank statements must accompany the quarterly statement.	Many bills are now paid using electronic methods such as the ones listed and not just by check or cash payment.

Current Wording	Proposed Change	Wording, with Approved Change	Reason for Change
Standing Rules 21. Finance New standing rule k:	Standing Rules 21. Finance New standing rule k: K. Audits of Department Finances (internal or external) will begin within 90 days of the close of the fiscal year.	Standing Rules 21. Finance New standing rule k: K. Audits of Department Finances (internal or external) will begin within 90 days of the close of the fiscal year.	Previous language in constitution required an audit to begin within 30 days of the end of the fiscal year. This isn't always feasible.

