



Chairman: Lisamarie McCarley, Unit #18

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American Legion Auxiliary units in all 50 states proudly host ALA Girls State, an amazing week of learning focused on responsible citizenship, leadership and love for God and Country. Participants are assigned to mock cities and to either the "Federalist Party" or "Nationalist Party." They are immersed in learning about the political process by electing officials for all levels of state government and allowing them to actively run a mock government. Assistance from dedicated ALA volunteers ensures the program's nonpartisan governmental, patriotic and civic objectives are carried out through interactive learning.

Two girls are selected from each ALA Girls State program to attend ALA Girls Nation. ALA Girls Nation "senators" meet for a week in Washington, D.C. where they run for political office, campaign and debate for the passage of legislation and meet with U.S. Congressmen and Senators from their states. Capping off the week of ALA Girls Nation is a possible meeting with the President of the United States at the White House.

This year ALA Girls Nation will convene July 22-29, 2017.

Mid Year reports narratives are due to me by December 17th

(National by January 5th)

Year-end reports are due to me by May 1st

(National by May 15th)

Please pass out my contact information to your Unit Girls State Chairman

There are 5 main objectives this year on the National Level:

- Instill an awareness of the American Legion Auxiliary's mission in all ALA Girls State citizens.
- Actively encourage all eligible ALA Girls State citizens (past and present) to join the American Legion Auxiliary.
- Increase participation by highlighting college scholarship/funding possibilities for ALA Girls State program participants.
- Utilize the Internet, social networking sites and written media to increase awareness and visibility of ALA Girls State.
- Stay up to date on the latest ALA Girls State programming news and best practices.

ALA Girls State Scholarship:

Every year, a participant of each ALA Girls State program, who is a direct descendant of a veteran, is eligible to apply for the Samsung scholarship at the state level. One ALA Girls State citizen from each state is named as a department finalist and is guaranteed to receive a scholarship. The amount of this scholarship varies each year. National winners are then chosen from the pool of department finalists, each receiving a \$20,000 scholarship.

Unit/Post Participation:

I know most Units do not have their own Girls State Program so I would like your assistance with the Department Program.

Each year this program's expenses continue to rise and the income/donation received are not enough to continue growing this program. While we do receive a grant from the State of Delaware the grant was reduced this past year due to budget cuts - this is not an inexpensive program to run.

I am asking if each Unit/Post could assist with is one large fund raiser, ear marked for the Girls State Program. It could be something simple as a 50/50 run once a month or maybe just a change can set up at your Post bar. There are many possible ideas and I look forward to all of your suggestions.

Also, if any Unit member is interested in the Girls State Program, please see me so we can see how you can fit into the program. We always need help on the initial Sunday with check in and various other items. If you have a specific skill you are willing to share, or several free hours in the evening to come by and assist with whatever we are doing the evening. Please let me know.