



2024-2025 Leadership Plan Toni Gimpel Department Chair

Welcome to the Idaho ALA Leadership Plan of Action. I have listed points that I hope will help Idaho Auxiliary members this coming year to all become the leaders to continue working for the ALA Mission.

***Mission Statement:** In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support the American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our children, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace, and security.*

Key Program Statements:

- To raise awareness of ALA leadership development opportunities.
- To promote participation in the ALA Academy.
- To enhance knowledge about ALA history, programs, and organization

Leadership Program Statements:

By recognizing those serving at the unit level, who exemplify the values and ideals of the Auxiliary and whose accomplishments significantly impact the program work in their units, The Unit Member of the Year award is presented each year to a deserving Unit member. More information about how to choose your Unit Member of the Year I will distribute in a later mailing.

Leadership plays a critical role in assuring the team can work around barriers and keep the focus on achieving a successful outcome. Keeping communication open, encouraging new and creative ideas, and aligning the skills and interests of members will make your team more inclusive and less exclusive. The most successful leaders do these things every day:

- Promoting the vision
- Managing priorities
- Delegating tasks
- Motivating change
- Generating urgency
- Communicating clearly
- Listening actively
- Managing risk
- Acting decisively
- Empowering others

Leading from within will make good sense. A leader that has a meeting environment that is open and inviting to all, and a culture where greatness and learning can thrive, and be part of the whole team's culture. Leadership is an action, not a position. Putting good leadership concepts into work will ensure that your team is on the right path to achieving greatness in all aspects of the volunteer experience.

Leadership Program in Action:

Units:

- Explain to members why we do the things we do (tradition, history)
- Hold a workshop on how to chair and/or organize a project.
- Encourage a member to temporarily serve as unit president, or chaplain for a meeting.
- Develop a plan to use tools and resources monthly or quarterly at meetings.
- Hold a workshop/brunch on how to prepare reports. There is a need to have a workshop on the correct way of reporting and holding it prior to reporting time.
- If unit budget allows, consider a gift of the ALA pin to new members. In talking to our new members and explaining to them the importance of 'Branding,' we have given each a name tag and asked them to wear it to all Auxiliary functions. We encourage our members to wear both their auxiliary name tag and pin. Purchasing unit handbooks to share among members is also instrumental in teaching about the organization and our programs.
- Offer a new member orientation packet and initiation.
- Offer a refresher course for all members on Auxiliary information.
- [Online Training \(legion-aux.org\)](https://legion-aux.org) ALA Academy classes and Live virtual webinars: These courses are free and are offered live, you will need to register in advance.
- Recognize members who have completed the courses either in a meeting, via public relations or membership.

Members:

- Attend a workshop/training session to learn about available tools, resources, and leadership opportunities available. Mission Training for our region is scheduled for February 1, 2025, in Las Vegas—Save the date and plan on attending. Join the Facebook ALA Leadership Group and stay up to date when more information is given out. Also, receive more information about the Leadership Program at www.legion-aux.org
- Collaborate with a mentor to develop/enhance interest, skills, and knowledge at the ALA. Mentoring of new members to let them know we are here to help them learn and serve. Encourage them to help choose programs and projects that will fit the abilities of our unit.
- Chair a short-term project, do not be afraid to volunteer.
- Give a short presentation on an ALA program to the unit. Have a new member choose a program of interest to her, study the manual, and present it at a monthly meeting!

Toni Gimpel

Idaho ALA Department Leadership Chair 2024-2025

tonigimpel.tg@gmail.com

(208) 521-9872

2190 Calico Drive

Idaho Falls, ID 83402

Honor Our Veterans Every Day