ALA Department of Idaho
President's Message 2026-27

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Members of American Legion Auxiliary Department of Idaho I really appreciate how you stepped up in this past year to serve, encourage, and bless the efforts of ALA Idaho and our own Department Officers. Welcome to our new year – a year when we seek growth, purpose, and unity. We always face change in our world and this year we choose to face it with joy and gratitude. Our theme is "Together We Grow" and we face the challenge of growing in knowledge, experience, and the ability to see and serve for blessings that have yet to arrive.

Part of those blessings will be new members – and we want to be ready to help them with resources so they can find their way around and enjoy the blessings of ALA. You may not yet have dug into ***ALA Academy***, but it teaches us about the different areas of focus and resources in our organization and why they are important. I encourage you to try these simple online courses that explain how ALA got started, why our symbols were chosen, and even what VA&R means.

As we grow our own knowledge and put it to work by sharing it with others we remember the goals of our own Girls State, The American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, the Legion Riders, and why it is important that we help each other succeed. We want to lift up and encourage each part of the Legion family to be stronger and more active.

While "Together We Grow" is our theme, we will often tack on the words "and Serve" to remind us that we are always a service organization. We want to help our military, our veterans, and their families at all stages of their lives as well as teach a love for America to the youths and newcomers to our communities.

Our project this year is **Tunnels to Towers Foundation**, a highly rated support organization for veterans, first responders, and their families. Funds raised in their "Run, Walk & Climb Series benefit the In the Line of Duty Program, which provides mortgage-free smart homes to our nation's catastrophically injured veterans and first responders, as well as mortgage-free homes to Gold Star families

and fallen first responder families with young children. Funds also benefit the Homeless Veteran Program, which provides housing and supportive services to our nation's homeless veterans." Find them at https://t2t.org

As you know, Joann Babbitt, who has been our Department Secretary, has retired from that position and Sharon Clark has been hired to take on that role. Kristal Tighe has agreed to stay on as our Treasurer for one more year and we appreciate her expertise and help. Please, contact any of us as needed, we are here to help you. Our contact information is in the Directory pages. If you are calling ALA Department officers and you don't know if they have your phone number I suggest you text them first telling them who is trying to reach them, so they are more likely to answer.

We have hit the ground running and will be attending National Convention at the end of August and begin traveling to District Meetings in mid-September. We look forward to meeting even more of you and being inspired and encouraged to learn what you have achieved since our last visit.

Lucinda Sutherland,
Department President,
"Together We Grow"
ALA Idaho