



NC ALA Department Convention June 20-22, 2024

Our Department's June Convention is not just an event, it's an opportunity to connect, learn, and grow together. I hope to see everyone there, including first-time attendees. I am looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. Please let me know if this is your first time at a Department Convention.

Several hotels are nearby if you cannot get a room at the North Raleigh Hilton. If you can only attend on one day, please drive up for the day.

An opening session and a memorial service will be held on Thursday evening. On Friday, we will continue to hear committee reports, and then after lunch, we will recess for Division Caucuses and elections of officers. The election of our Department Leadership is very important, and your participation is highly valued. If you can only attend one day, please make it Friday. All candidates would appreciate your support. Friday, the Legion is having a banquet. If you are interested, please fill out and complete the attached form.

Saturday, we will continue with reports from committees. After lunch, we will install our new department officers and hold the first DEC meeting for the 2024-2025 year. For a tentative complete schedule, see the attachment.

For God and Country,
ALA Proud and Strong,
Julie

Upcoming Events

American Legion World Series Aug. 15-20 Shelby NC

ALA 104th National Convention August 23-29 New Orleans,

www.ALAforVeterans.org/meetings/national-convention.

The Department of NC's hotel will be the Springhill Suites Convention Center. **All rooms must be booked through the Department American Legion's office in Raleigh.** This is an all-suite hotel. Room rates will be \$149.00 per night plus tax (16.20% plus \$1.00) for \$174.13 per night. **The registration form is attached to this email.**

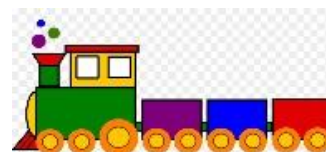
BE THE ONE

"Be the One" crisis #988 and press 1. Counselors are available 24/7 or text 838255. Remember, the objective of the BE the One Campaign is to prevent suicide.

All Aboard the NC Membership Train.

Our Team North Carolina is in the race to win it, and we need your support. Your membership renewal is crucial to our success. We appreciate your continued commitment to our cause. To make the process more enjoyable, consider planning a fun event for your members, both paid and unpaid. No business, just fun.

There are three ways to Renew: Online at www.alaforveterans.org, By Phone at 317-569-4570, or by mail, send your renewal notice.



National Oratorical Contest Winners

May 17-19 2024

The Oratorical Contest began in 1938 to develop knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution. It is a high school speech contest on the U.S. Constitution. The competition teaches leadership skills, the history of our nation, and the ability to think and speak clearly. Most importantly, it is vital to understand the duties and responsibilities of citizenship. This year, two of our members Vice Presidents, Toni Reale and PDP Betsey Lee Hodges, were able to attend and served as judges.



1st Place Aubrey Moore Sponsored by Post 186 Seattle WA.

2nd Place Knox Boyd Sponsored by Post 38, West Lafayette, IND.

3rd Place David Daniel, Sponsored by Owensboro, Ky.

The National Creative Arts Festival 2024

The National Creative Arts Festival 2024, is a week-long celebration of creativity and rehabilitation, was held in Denver, Colorado from May 11-18. This year's festival showcased the artistic talents of Veterans from across the country, highlighting the transformative power of creative arts in their rehabilitation journey. The festival is co-presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Competition includes art, creative writing, dance, drama, and music. In 1989, when the Music Festival and VET ARTS merged, thus creating the Creative Arts Festival, which then added dance and drama.

. Local creative arts winners advance to a national judging process. The first-place-winning Veterans are invited to attend the National Creative Arts Festival. Each Year, a different VA Facility hosts the national event. Many of you may remember when the Durham VAMC hosted the Creative Arts Festival in 2015. Thanks to the hard work of Sharon Neville and many hard-working auxiliary members in North Carolina, this was a huge success, and I enjoyed participating in it for a couple of days.

