American Legion Auxiliary History

The American Legion Auxiliary is the largest organization in the world dedicated to veteran service for women. Founded in 1919, the organization consists of around 800,000 members in 9,500 communities across the United States. For a century, the American Legion Auxiliary has been serving, helping, and meeting the needs of the nation’s veterans, military, and their families – here and abroad.

This past year, ALA members’ volunteer service of more than 40 million hours plus $37 million raised and spent on mission outreach has a collective value of $1.7 billion in service to veterans, military children and communities.

On Dec. 20, 1920, the Dept. of Texas ALA held its first meeting in San Antonio, later establishing its headquarters in Austin. The first president, Mrs. E. C. Murray, served two terms from 1920 to 1922, with the first secretary, Ada Mae Maddox, serving until 1930. The department increased from 23 Units and 400 members its first year to nearly 100 units and over 4,000 members in its second year. By 1949, more than 500 units and 22,000-plus members composed the Dept. of Texas.

Numerous programs were established immediately following its first convention in Houston. The Texas ALA set up a hospital funding program in its second year, and in the 1923-1924 year, the Rehabilitation and Child Welfare Committees were organized. The first national convention in Texas came to San Antonio in 1928, and the next year brought the first issue of the Lone Star News. The Texas Bluebonnet Girls State was instituted in 1940, six years after the national junior membership program and three years after the national Girls State program.

Over the years, The American Legion Family has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans, helped military families through transition and produced many important programs for the country’s youth.

For more information about the ALA, visit https://www.alaforveterans.org

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