



August 25, 2026

Dear Versailles Unit 173 American Legion Auxiliary Member,

Did you know that the American Legion Auxiliary has been in existence since 1920? Now, more than ever, we need your help. We know that everyone leads a busy life, but we need you to help us by paying your membership dues, attending meetings, and helping with our projects. Your membership is very important to us. Even more important is your presence at our meetings.

The mission of the Auxiliary is to support the American legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who served by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families both at home and abroad. Membership in the Auxiliary offers not only incredible benefits, but the money received from membership dues helps to fund our scholarship programs, aid to VA hospitals, veterans' programs, teach our children about Americanism, disaster fund relief and much more. High school seniors may qualify to apply for thousands of dollars in scholarships given out each year by units, department, and national headquarters.

Because of the American Legion Auxiliary members, veterans at the VA hospitals enjoy visits from unit members, bingo, and free phone calls to loved ones. Unit #173 supports Mr. Martin Russ, a veteran at the Indiana Veterans Home in West Lafayette. The food banks at local homeless shelters are a little fuller, and the men and women serving overseas have found they have new friends and warmer feet. Now, don't you think that your membership can make a difference?

It has been difficult keeping some of our projects alive due to lack of interest. We average 10 members at our meetings each month. The bar members have served at least 3 funeral dinners this year and we thank them. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check to ALA Unit#173.

Congratulations to our Unit and its Membership chairman, Penny Schornick. We received a banner for 100% membership this year! Thank you, Penny, for your hard work and dedication to this project! Dues are in the process of being collected right now. **Dues are Sr. Members- \$35 and Jr. Members- \$10.00-Dues increased for Seniors by \$5.00** Our Unit 173 receives \$4.00 for each membership paid at this time. Any donations made are greatly appreciated.

Four students received \$500.00 scholarships from our Unit #173 in May. The recipients were **Avery Andrews, Kaidyn Gilpin, Kaiya Renear, and Aubrey Werner.**

Our Unit #173 was happy to sponsor four South Ripley students to Hoosier Girls State. Delegates were **Emily Campbell, Emma Justice, Gia Nordoff, and Ella Saylor**. Nancy Durham, Americanism Chairman, was happy to bring our first place essay winners to the July meeting along with our Hoosier Girls State delegates. The winners with their families were **Reese Swinney, Kinley Menchhofer, Allie Swinney, Olivia Ballmer, and Sophie Lauber**. **Allie, Reese, and Kinley** were also district winners and received a little extra reward from our unit.

Our Unit also was part of the Wreaths Across America program on the square in Versailles in December as well as the Wreaths education program in our local schools. We had a record breaking year for Poppy donations in May. In July, we supported the Taste of Versailles event sponsored by the American Legion. Our members made ice cream cups to be handed out on the day of the event. We passed out 44 little flags in August and information on the flag was handed out at the Versailles Farmers Market. This year we participated in the DAR 250th Celebration recognizing Ripley County's Revolutionary War Soldiers.

Officers for 2026-27 are: President-Carol Holzer, 1st Vice-President-Penny Schornick, 2nd Vice-President-Barb Shadday, Recording Secretary-Susan Underwood, Treasurer-Nancy Durham, Corresponding Secretary-Jane Westmeyer, Chaplain-Cheryl Welch, Historian-Nancy Durham, Parliamentarian-Susan Underwood, Sergeant-At-Arms-Susan Underwood.

We are preparing for our October basket give away. Any member that would like to donate items for the baskets would be greatly appreciated. You can drop your items off at the post and place them on the table upstairs. We will be putting them together in September.

The Charter was draped for these members this year: **Barbara Iceberg, Dorothy Laker, Beverly Rogers, and Brenda Steele**

Tickets for the basket give away are included in this letter. Just put a name and phone number on the back of each ticket and include them with your money. Tickets are 1 for \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00. Put them in your envelope addressed to **Versailles American Legion Auxiliary, P.O. Box 448, Versailles, IN 47042**. Be sure to put your membership check in the same envelope.

God Bless You and God Bless America!

Warm Regards,

Carol Holzer  
2026-27 President  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Leora Weare Unit #173