

## 2024-2025 American Legion Auxiliary

### Department of New York VA&R Service to Veterans Supplement

#### **Department VA&R Service to Veterans Chairman**

Lora Rowe

PO Box 504

Norwich, NY 13815

C: 607-316-1020

E-mail: [nyalaVAandR@gmail.com](mailto:nyalaVAandR@gmail.com)

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee is to promote programs and services that assist and enhance the lives of veterans and their families, ensuring restoration and/or transition to normally functioning lives.

#### **Support the therapeutic rehabilitation and healing of veterans through arts, crafts, and hobbies. Support veteran caregivers, family members, and survivors.**

- Volunteer at local VA facilities, including state VA facilities in your area.
- Collaborate with organizations that support veterans and their families, such as Wreaths Across America, Honor Flight Inc., and the Military and Veteran Caregiver Network.
- Look in your community for opportunities to support veterans, their caregivers, their families, and their survivors.

#### **Outside Partnerships**

##### **Wreaths Across America**

- Take part in local wreath placement at a national cemetery.
- Sponsor wreaths for placement through Wreaths Across America.

##### **Honor Flight Inc.**

- Volunteer with local hubs.
- Utilize your unit's poppy funds to support important aspects of Honor Flight activities. For more information, please see [www.honorflight.org/donations](http://www.honorflight.org/donations).
- Participate in welcome-home events.
- Coordinate the creation and delivery of cards and letters to Honor Flight hubs for mail call.
- Consider volunteering as a guardian for an Honor Flight. Please note — there is an associated cost.

##### **Military and Veteran Caregiver Network**

- Learn who is considered a caregiver. This will help you identify caregivers in your community and maybe even as a caregiver yourself. If you identify as a caregiver, consider joining their online peer support community.
- Familiarize yourself with local caregiver resources found in the Hero Care Resource Directory
- Refer to the MVCN's community calendar for educational and volunteer opportunities

##### **National Veterans Creative Arts Festival**

- Promote awareness of healing through arts, crafts, and hobbies.
- Donate to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival through the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.
- Donate to local Veterans Creative Arts Festivals (e.g., time, supplies, money).

- Identify arts, crafts, and hobby projects targeted to veterans (writing, oral history recording, visual and performing arts, quilting, and gardening).
- Donate art supplies to your local U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facilities including state veterans homes, community living centers, and VA medical centers.
- Plan and organize a local Veterans Creative Arts Festival.
- Advocate for art therapy, music therapy, drama, and recreational therapy programs within the VA healthcare system.
- Apply to the ALA Foundation for Veterans Creative Arts Festival Grants to be used for local competitions and festivals in your community. For more information, please go to <https://alafoundation.org/vcaf-grants/>.

### **Center for Development and Community Engagement (CDCE, formerly known as VAVS)**

- Recruit Auxiliary members as volunteers for the VA Center for Development and Community Engagement at VA healthcare facilities.
- If you see a need in your community that is not being addressed, contact your local VA.
- Familiarize yourself with the service of the VA caregiver support program
- Volunteer at your local VA facility for events such holiday gift shops, Bingo, baby showers, etc.
- Don't forget to include all American Legion Family members in your VA events.
- Coordinate a supply drive for the needs of hospitalized veterans by gathering items such as socks, underwear, toiletries, etc. Please contact your local VA facility or American Legion Auxiliary CDCE representative for needed items.
- Don't forget your state VA facilities, such as state veterans homes. The veterans who reside there have needs that we may fill as well. For more information and local points of contact, please refer to <https://nasdva.us/resources/>.

### **Service to Veterans (Outside of VA Facilities)**

- Take part in a veteran job fair by organizing or working at an informational table.
- Promote local veteran-centric job fairs in your community. Support The American Legion by helping host a local job fair at your post home or community center.
- Support veteran caregivers, family members, and survivors.
- Provide a spa day or caregiver day out for community veteran caregivers.
- Offer to sit with a veteran while the caregiver runs errands.
- Offer to run errands for a caregiver.
- Prepare information for units concerning the needs of caregiver support.
- Transportation of veterans to appointments or running errands.
- Contact an American Legion Service Officer at your post and offer to be on the list of people to call when a veteran's family needs help.
- Buy school supplies, host a baby shower, or send care packages to veterans' children who are headed to college.
- Become the catalyst to find needs and encourage members to help veterans in their community.
- Promote volunteer opportunities in community settings.
- Utilize websites, newsletters, and other media.
- Report your ALA Service to Veterans hours to your unit VA&R chair.

## **DEPARTMENT VETERANS' AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION** **SERVICE TO VETERANS' AWARDS**

### **Department Award Rules**

- Entries must be typed, double spaced, not to exceed 1,000 words.
- Word count in lower left corner of cover sheet unless otherwise noted under award instructions.
- Entries must be in narrative form and placed in a folder.
- Pictures, newspaper clippings and other materials and/or documents may be included.
- All entries must include a cover sheet with the name of the award entry, name of the Unit/County/District, name, and address of the Unit/County/Chairman.
- Entries must be received by the Department Chairman no later than MAY 1<sup>st</sup> unless a different date is specified.

**DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S AWARD:** To the Unit that submits the best program supporting our Veterans and their caregivers and family members. Write-up cannot exceed 1,000 words, may include photos, PR clippings, printout of social media posts, etc. All entries are to be mailed to the Department President at her home no later than May 1, 2025. Email entries will not be accepted or considered.

**THE LINDA TOME AWARD:** To the unit and County who submits the best report on their year-round VA&R/Service to Veterans Program.

**THE BETTY JANE LIGHT AWARD-** to the Unit chairman who initiates and completes the most outstanding program for assisting & caring of women veterans.

**Department Award:** To the Junior Group reporting the most outstanding service benefiting our hospitalized veterans.

### **2024-2025 NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION VA&R AWARDS**

#### **Deadlines and Submission Requirements**

All award submissions must include a narrative (either a PDF or Microsoft Word document) explaining why the department or unit you're nominating should receive the award. You may also upload other supporting documentation that will give the committee a full picture of the important mission work your department or unit has accomplished this year. These files can be photos (JPG, JPEG or TIFs -- no larger than 14MB) or PDF documents. If you have more than three supporting files, please email the committee email address listed in the form.

**National Awards Form Link:** <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

**Unit Award:** Most Outstanding VA&R Program (per division)

All unit entries must be submitted via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.

Note: You will receive confirmation when your award is submitted.

**Department Award:** Best Department VA&R Program (per division)

All department entries must be submitted via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.

Note: You will receive confirmation when your award is submitted.

**VA Medical Center Appointments Representative and Deputies**  
**2024-20245**

**Albany Stratton VAMC, 113 Holland Ave., Albany, NY 12208**  
**3rd District**

Representative: Marie Mock  
168 Dunsbach Ferry Rd.  
Cohoes, NY 12047  
518-783-5316  
[mcmock@hotmail.com](mailto:mcmock@hotmail.com)

Deputy: Judy Benner  
13 Broderick St.  
Albany, NY 12205  
518-869-8668  
[judybenner13@gmail.com](mailto:judybenner13@gmail.com)

**Western NY (Batavia) VAMC, 222 Richmond Ave, Batavia, NY 14020**  
**8th District**

Representative: Valerie D. Wells  
22 Church St.  
Lyndonville, NY 14098  
585-339-8500  
Vdwells63@gmail.com

**Bath VAMC, 76 Veterans Ave., Bath, NY 14810**  
**6th and 7th Districts**

Representative: Jacqueline Williams  
60 Bissell Ave.  
Corning, NY 14830  
© 607-368-2140  
Jacquelinekanerwilliams@gmail.com

Deputy: Suzanne Moore  
5 Lake Ave.  
Binghamton, NY 13905  
(H) 607-760-5658

**James J. Peters (Bronx) VAMC, 130 West Kingsbridge Rd., Bronx, NY 10468**  
**1st District**

Representative: Ann Greaney  
530 Ellsworth Ave. #E1  
Bronx, NY 10465  
H- 718-931-1050  
C-917-797-6231  
[agreaney@verizon.net](mailto:agreaney@verizon.net)

Deputy: Kathleen Devine  
1 Beech Place  
Bronx, NY 10465  
C: 646-732-3781

**New York Harbor (Brooklyn) VAMC, 800 Poly Place, Brooklyn, NY 11209**  
**2nd District**

Representative : Marie Santa Croce  
25 East 4th St.  
Brooklyn, NY 11218  
C-718- 436-6303  
[re507@aol.com](mailto:re507@aol.com)

Deputy : Dorothy Scheuring  
19 Bills Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11218  
C- 347-403-4756  
d\_scheuring@yahoo.com

**Western NY (Buffalo) VAMC, 3495 Bailey Ave., Buffalo, NY 14215**

**8th District**

Representative: Carol Puckett  
57 Harwood Rd.  
West Seneca, NY 14224  
C-716-998-2022  
[capuck47@verizon.net](mailto:capuck47@verizon.net)

Deputy: Elizabeth Bruce  
114 Mang Ave.  
Kenmore, NY 14217  
C 716-876-8022  
[Highpocket6@aol.com](mailto:Highpocket6@aol.com)

Deputy: Amelia Parrish  
82 Plymouth Ave.  
Buffalo, NY 14201  
716-883-0434

**Canandaigua VAMC, 400 Fort Hill Ave., Canandaigua, NY 14424**

**7th District**

Representative: Sandy Coyer  
4497 Cty. Rt 33  
Honeoye, NY 14471  
585-410-3106  
[scoryer1@yahoo.com](mailto:scoryer1@yahoo.com)

Deputy: Charlotte Ridley  
110 Chapel St.  
Penn Yan, NY 14527  
315-246-8001  
[gege62037@aol.com](mailto:gege62037@aol.com)

Honorary Representative: Virginia Robbins  
245 East St., #709  
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472  
585-624-1441

Deputy: Bernice Sank  
24 Narry Lane  
Mount Morris, NY 14510  
585-658-4115  
[beesank@gmail.com](mailto:beesank@gmail.com)

**Hudson Valley (Castlepoint) VAMC, 41 Castle Point Rd., Wappinger Falls, NY 12590**

**9th District**

Representative: Helen Reynolds  
17 Overlook Ave  
Beacon, NY 12508  
845-831-6748/c.845-401-4725  
[hellbelle52347@gmail.com](mailto:hellbelle52347@gmail.com)

Deputy: Bella Bourke  
6 Christina Drive  
Dover Plains, NY 12522  
845-877-6353/c.845-2222-8546  
[grandmabella@optonline.net](mailto:grandmabella@optonline.net)

**Hudson Valley (Montrose) VAMC, 2094 Albany Post Rd., Montrose, NY 10548**

**9th District**

Representative: Mary Ann Calbo  
61 Hemlock Circle  
Peekskill, NY 10566  
(H) 914-736-0885  
© 917-689-8305  
[Maryann3354@aol.com](mailto:Maryann3354@aol.com)

Deputy: Roseanna Santangelo  
125 Fields Lane  
Peekskill, NY 10566  
(H) 914-293-7617  
© 914-589-3517  
[rx1996@gmail.com](mailto:rx1996@gmail.com)

Deputy: Patrice Cortelli  
17 Crescent Court  
Peekskill, NY 10566  
C 914-806-8531

**New York Harbor (Manhattan), 423 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010  
1st District**

Representative: Rose Anne Bartolino  
1950 Hutchinson River, Apt. 10E  
Bronx, NY 10461  
(H) 718-892-1898  
© 646-725-2008  
[RABC67@hotmail.com](mailto:RABC67@hotmail.com)

Deputy: Kwanyee Francis Wong  
204 Federal City Rd.  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648  
(H) 609-895-7179

**St. Albans Community Living Center, 179-00 Linden Blvd, Jamaica, NY 11425  
10th District**

Representative: Jean Ross  
394 S 1st St.  
Lindenhurst, NY 11757  
631-412-5814  
[rjeanr26@aol.com](mailto:rjeanr26@aol.com)

Deputy: Nicole Ross  
394 S. 1<sup>st</sup> St.  
Lindenhurst, NY 11757  
631-412-5814

**Syracuse VAMC, 800 Irving Ave., Syracuse, NY 13210 - 5th District**

Representative: Patricia Murphy  
104 Dolores Terrace N.  
N. Syracuse, NY 13212  
315-427-7578  
[Pmurphy6851@yahoo.com](mailto:Pmurphy6851@yahoo.com)

Deputy: Madeline Skapars  
104 Sunnyfield Rd.  
Camillus, NY 13031  
315-289-8702

Deputy: Roberta Marks  
512 First St.  
Liverpool, NY 13088  
315-420-4901

## **NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HOMES**

### **New York State Veterans' Homes Oxford NYS Veterans Home - 6th District**

Tami Darrow-Zebrowski  
6 Lillian Dr  
Binghamton, NY 13905  
607-772-5994  
tzebrowski@stny.rr.com

### **Montrose NYS Veterans' Home - 9th District**

Mary Ann Calbo  
61 Hemlock Circle  
Peekskill, NY 10566  
914-736-0885  
[Maryann3354@aol.com](mailto:Maryann3354@aol.com)

### **Batavia NYS Veterans' Home - 8th District**

### **Stony Brook NYS Veterans' Home - 10th District**

Patricia Bergin  
126 LaBonne Vie Dr., Apt D  
E. Patchogue, NY 11772  
(H) 631-207-5899  
© 631-875-4708  
[Ptberg63@aol.com](mailto:Ptberg63@aol.com)

### **St Albans NYS Veterans' Home - 10th District**

Jean Ross and Nicole Ross  
394 S 1st St.  
Lindenhurst, NY 11757  
(H) 631-412-5814 © 631-805-3677 rjeanr26@aol.com

## **Christmas Gift Shop Chairman 2024-2025**

### **Albany Stratton VAMC 3rd & 4th District**

Judith Benner  
13 Broderick St.  
Albany, NY 12205  
(H) 518-869-8668/  
c. 518-817-1240  
[Judybenner13@gmail.com](mailto:Judybenner13@gmail.com)

### **Western NY (Batavia)VAMC 8th District**

#### **Bath VAMC 6th-7th District**

Adelaide Butler  
289 Flint Rd. B  
Binghamton, NY 13905  
(H) 607-798-9711

Suzanne Moore  
5 Lake Avenue  
Binghamton, NY 13905  
(H) 607-724-9706

#### **James J. Peters (Bronx) VAMC 1st District**

Susan O'Keefe Vaughan  
152 Tier St., Apt. 202A  
Bronx, NY 10464  
347-515-0626  
[Sue183v@aol.com](mailto:Sue183v@aol.com)

#### **New York Harbor (Brooklyn) VAMC 2nd District**

Dorothy Scheuring  
19 Bills Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11218  
H)718- 438-6579  
©347-403-4756  
[D\\_scheuring@yahoo.com](mailto:D_scheuring@yahoo.com)

#### **Western NY (Buffalo) VAMC 8th District**

Suzanne Williams  
3 Monroe Street  
Salamanca, NY 14779  
H 716-945-0039  
C 716-432-1354  
[Wms0339@localnet.com](mailto:Wms0339@localnet.com)

#### **Canandaigua VAMC 7th District**

Sandy Coyer  
4497 Cty. Rt 33  
Honeoye, NY 14471  
C 585-410-3106  
[scoyer1@yahoo.com](mailto:scoyer1@yahoo.com)

**Hudson Valley (Castle Point) VAMC 9th District**

Helen Reynolds  
17 Overlook Ave  
Beacon, NY 12508  
(H) 845-831-6748  
© 845-401-4725  
hellbelle52347@gmail.com

**Hudson Valley (Montrose) VAMC 9th District**

Mary Ann Calbo  
61 Hemlock Circle  
Peekskill, NY 10566  
(H) 914-736-0885  
© 917-689-8305  
[Maryann3354@aol.com](mailto:Maryann3354@aol.com)

Patrice Cortelli  
17 Crescent Court  
Peekskill, NY 10566  
C 914-806-8531

**New York Harbor (Manhattan) VAMC 1st District**

Fanny Hom  
420 W. 19th St. Apt 9C  
New York, NY 10011  
212-675-1841

**Syracuse VAMC 5th District**

Karen St. Hilaire  
122 Campbell Road  
Mattydale, NY 13211  
(H) 315-454-4183  
© 315-748-4481

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK GIFT SHOP RULES

The Gift Shop Chairman is appointed by the Department President yearly. Gift shops are typically hosted at a VAMC, or in a facility treating a large number of veterans. Each Chairman is responsible for all the funds, purchases, coordinating/instructions for the volunteers and reports for the program. Many Chairmen appoint a co-chairman which is generally approved by the District President. The program is a District event whereas the Units, Counties, Post and Squadrons contribute to the fund to purchase the gifts, which are selected by the facility's veteran to send to their next of kin and others as deemed appropriate. All costs including postage, refreshments, etc., are at the expense of the gift shop funds. 1.

1.Regardless of any changes to a District's particular program, the Gift Shop Chairman must read the rules and report any program changes and justification for the change at the Fall Conference. Any program changes should be presented in the form of a motion and voted on by the voting members assembled. There will be no deviation from the rules as contained without consent of the Department Executive Committee.

2.The Gift Shop Chairman will provide receipts of all contributions and expenses with the gift shop report as attachments. This report is to be completed no later than December 31st and distributed to all contributing Counties within the American Legion Family, noting Unit, Post and Squadron contributions. Send a copy of report to the District President including copies of receipts, original report and receipts to the Department VA&R Chairman.

3.The Gift Shop Chairman will work with their Voluntary Service Programs Director and/or designee to arrange a date and time for the Gift Shop. The VAVS Representative and Deputies as assigned will be privy to the plans and assist as needed.

4. All gift shop funds are accountable through the Gift Shop Chairman's Unit bank accounts to comply with our bonding requirements. Accounts must have two or more authorized signatures, one of those signatures being the unit treasurer.

5. The Gift Shop Chairman is to disperse with any gifts left over from the Gift Shop. Any proceeds from the sale of these gifts are to be returned to the Gift Shop fund, with a receipt of sale. All such receipts must be submitted with the gift shop report. Any clothing appropriate for the Veterans is donated to the facility for their use. Items appropriate for prizes should be donated to the facility for recreational events. Donation forms should be completed, and a copy attached to the report.

6.Funds exceeding \$4,000.00 are to be disbursed in accordance with the wishes of the District. A motion as to the donation of funds should be made at the Spring Conference or next meeting following the close of the gift shop books. \$4,000.00 may be placed in a six-month interest-bearing account in the name of the Unit, American Legion Auxiliary in which the Chairman is a member.

Adopted: December 5, 2021, by Department Executive Committee







