



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPT NY

EMPIRE STATE NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY KIM QUICK

I am so honored to have been elected as the 2024-2025 Department President from New York. I look forward to seeing all of you at conferences or visitations.

My theme this year is "Action for our Veterans." We still need to come out of the COVID doldrums and get moving again. Please continue to work the mission of helping our veterans and their families in whatever ways you can. My project this year is to raise funds to build sleeping cabins for Homeward Bound Adirondacks.

You will be receiving your Plan of Action books (one for each county and unit) as you have in the past. Please read the information in each section. You can also download information on each committee from our website www.deptny.org under the Programs tab.

I am encouraging all of you to take the 90-minute Be The One Columbia Protocol developed by the Columbia Lighthouse project at cssrs.columbia.edu through the www.legion.org website. We are not therapists, but we can help save lives.

I would also like members to log on to our national website www.alaforveterans.org.

The national website has so much information, most able to be downloaded for free - like the children's coloring books and unit guidebooks. Take the ALA courses through the ALA Academy on the website or find the dates and places for National Mission Training. There is so much help for you online. If you need help from your Department Chairman, please email them at the email address provided for the specific committee in the Plan of Action.

It won't be long before the November reports are due. Counties, please consolidate your reports and summarize the narrative. Highlight activities from your Units, but not send all the Unit reports to the Department Chairman. Thank you.

By the time you read this newsletter, I will be on visitations in the Fabulous 4th District; my home District. We will have completed the 10th, 1st, and 2nd District visitations. I thank you all for your hospitality. I am putting some pictures on the American Legion Auxiliary Department of New York President Facebook page - check it out.

National President, from the Department of Kansas, Trish Ward gifted to me some playing cards for each committee. You may have seen me on Facebook playing cards in each District. Please use these cards to gain new insight into your programs.



SEPTEMBER 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CEO's Message • P. 2

The Lead • P. 3

Growing Business • P. 4

ALA FAMILY COLLEGE

SAVE THE DATE!

June 6 - 8, 2025

SUNY at Morrisville

BY DEB HERRMANN



AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

BY CAROL HASSETT

It's a beautiful Autumn sunny day. You have a taste of a refreshing drink. But the weather atmospheric suddenly changes, the wind becomes terrible, flowing heavy flood water with hurricane and tornado winds suddenly develops. Or perhaps like a financial or more climatic terrible issues!

Perhaps we could resort to cashing in water or soda bottles to help others. So, members who need more money to help with their disasters can have help.

Grants up to \$3,000 would definitely help our Auxiliary members in financial times of need for basic needs of utility bills, eviction notices or other types of weather-related difficulties.

Perhaps a hardship application from the loss of work, terrible sickness or disasters is our way to help of our American Legion Families. More information can be found by logging into the ALAforVeterans.org.

We would suggest for instance units collect \$.25 for 365 days, (total \$91.25) for a year. (A mighty AEF for just a unit. A \$100 donation of an individual would also be greatly appreciated). Remember, AEF, (MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS BE ONE)

AMERICANISM

BY GINA SOUTHCOTT



Let's raise our flags high and watch them fly!

Promote flag etiquette at your local library's Storytime, what happens to your flag from day to nighttime. Explain flag history, so that it's not a mystery. Wreaths across America is another way, to learn how and why the wreath lay.

Let's put a package together and get it to your school counselors, History teachers and English teachers too! Show them the awards that the children can receive with the oratorical contest and the essay contest, make sure to include all the things that they have to do!

So, let's fly our flags, and fly them high.

CHAPLAIN

BY SALLY JOHNSTON

As a result of my attending the joint Patriotic Memorial Service at the National Convention in New Orleans, LA, I am reminded by the National Legion Family Chaplains that we begin each of our meeting with a preamble that states in part "For God and Country." Our organization was founded on these 2 principles and therefore as your department Chaplain this year I will remain focused on the same.

As you are aware it is the Chaplains job to attend all meetings to perform opening and closing prayers, in charge of religious services when asked at the passing of a member, visiting members and veterans who are shut-ins or in nursing homes, sending sympathy cards to family members and reporting the same.

This year, same in years past, I will be preparing a prayer / devotional book for our Department President. I will need your help to make this happen. I look forward to receiving your many prayers to help compile the book. Part of the Chaplains responsibilities is to include the Gold Star Mothers. Sometimes we forget to record those hours. Let's make sure to record those hours / activities.



Remember to utilize the current forms when filling out death notices and reports and forwarding them to me so that I can provide sympathy cards in a timely manner. I will record and disperse when and where needed. Refer to the Plan of Action for additional resource material that is available through our national website www.ALAforVeterans.org.

Let's all continue to work on the national "BE THE ONE" initiative as we "Lead the way to the North Star"

CHILDREN & YOUTH

BY YVONNE BRUNNER

A warm welcome back to a new beginning for Children and Youth this year. Our emphasis will be on promoting programs that safeguard, nurture, and provide assistance to children and youth, particularly those from military and veteran families.

We have received two nominations for the national Youth Hero Award for this year. The Youth Hero/Good Deeds Awards is an excellent way to recognize a child under the age of eighteen, who has exemplified heroism and leadership. Make sure you promote these awards throughout your local schools, at meetings and community events. When submitting your nomination form be sure to send a copy to the Department Children & Youth Chair. Nominations forms are submitted online through the national website: <https://member.legion-aux.org/youth-hero-good-deed-awards>.

Donations to the Child Welfare Foundation supports the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of our children and youth. Our CWF mascot, "Miss Penelope" is doing well. Ideas for your own 'Miss Penelope,' is ask to units to promote this program during its meetings or special events. The CWF is offering a beautiful banner/streamer to any unit that donates at least one dollar for each member, based on the official membership total during the award year (June 1 - May 31, 2025). Please visit the national website: <https://www.legion.org/publications/249944/cwf-banner-program-request-form>.

As schools reopen, it is important to ensure that every child is familiar with the safety guidelines for walking to and from school. Donations of extra school supplies for the classroom are greatly appreciated. When providing snacks for the classroom, consider individual packaging and be mindful of any food allergies. Encouraging child literacy is fundamental for a well-rounded education. Make it a habit to read together with your child every day.

With Halloween just a brief time away, this is a fun time to think about hosting a 'Trunk or Treat,' or a unit party with fun activities such as painting pumpkins, face painting, spider cornhole or pin the face on the pumpkin. Remember to download the 'Halloween' and 'America the Beautiful' coloring books. Please visit the national website: https://legionaux.formstack.com/forms/youth_hero_good_deed_award_nomination
I cannot wait to read about all the exciting activities your unit has participated in, in the November report!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

BY LORI MCFARLAND



It's the beginning of the school year and Holiday Season, so we need to help the community, by collecting school items for children in need. Some children do not have all the items needed for school, so we need to collect school supplies for all children. Continue to help with your local food pantry, hold food drives at your posts. Winter will be here soon, take up coat and cloths drive. We all help the community in one way or another, let's remember that all we do for the community is reported. Have a great year helping our Veterans and community.



CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

BY DEBORAH MORRIS

This is not generally a "reporting committee," but if you do a yearly review of your docs with no changes, still let me know. I will be compiling your activities as I review your updated governing documents.

"Think for a moment" when was the last time your members reviewed or updated their Unit, County or District (C&B)?

- 1) Have you checked your (C&B) documents date, been awhile?
- 2) You should review your governing documents once a year, for needed changes.
- 3) It's also an excellent learning tool for your members.

I'm offering you step by step instructions of how to prepare your documents to be sent to this chairperson.

- 1) You will need a 1 copy of your last (C&B), can't find it, contact me.
- 2) You will also need 1copy of your new (C&B), you can find on dept website deptny.org fill out all the blanks, and (please print clearly). I will send 1 copy to Dept HQ for filing and 1 will be returned via email.
- 3) Please remember to use the front cover form (Page1) of (C&B) please clearly print your unit/county/district name, the date of members approved, and signatures of President and Secretary, the 2 Lines below are for "Dept. use only".
- 4) The last page of (C&B) the "Standing Rules" there is a 1 & 2 rule lines. So, that means when you have additional "Standing Rules" the numbers will be 3, 4, 5 and so on. Please do not start with the #1. Also, please do not repeat rules that are addressed in your (C&B) ie: the Unit meeting date & time, or quorum numbers. Please keep your standing rules current.
- 5) You will need the (C&B) review form, found on Dept. website deptny.org, under programs, scroll down to form and print it off. Please make sure you have the contact information on the review form clearly print your name, email, and cell number, this is your contact information for my use.
- 6) Please send to Deborah Morris, Dept. C&B, 7826 State Rt.13, Blossvale, NY 13308
nyalacconstitution@gmail.com

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CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

BY DEBORAH MORRIS

For any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me through the (C&B) email, I will respond to you within 24 hours. This is an awesome chance to mentor. It is important to share all information with your officers and members. To our Units & Countries Chairs each month you should read a section of your (C&B) and standing rules to your members at meetings for discussions. We need to build confidence in our leaders for understanding of your governing docs. It's a very useful tool for our leaders of tomorrow. Imagine how proud you would be to have been a mentor of a future Dept. President. Goosebumps! Thank you in advance, for accepting the (C&B) committee in your Unit and County, may God Bless you all with strength and a great sense of humor it's quite the learning committee.

EDUCATION

BY MARYANN CALBO

I am very enthusiastic about my assignment of Education Chairman for the Department of New York. I am looking forward to working with all of you.

Key Program Statements:

- To promote quality education for children, especially for military children, and adults
- To encourage schools to invite veterans to speak in their classrooms
- To provide scholarships for students who desire a college education
- To Support legislation that establishes new scholarship opportunities
- To support the Education program and scholarship opportunities of The American Legion

On the Auxiliary Department website, (deptny.org) you will have access to all of the information and requirements for scholarship applications. This is the time to contact your local schools and talk about our programs. Let's all work with our local schools with our family, the American Legion, and the Son's of the American Legion in tandem to promote our scholarships, Empire Girl's State, Boy's State, Americanism contest and the American Legion Oratorical contests.

Please mark your calendars! Here is an important week coming up! November 13-17th is Education Week, plan a reading event, schedule a school Veteran speaking engagement or Give 10 to Education. Let's all promote the value of volunteerism and who we are and what we do.

Our youth are the leaders of tomorrow. Let's steer them in the path of patriotism, civic duty and love for our Veterans who have endowed us with the rights we take for granted. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Let's hit the ground running!



EDUCATION



FINANCE



We hope everyone had a wonderful summer, but it's time to get back to business! Our wonderful office personnel, Barbara, Caitlin, and Tara continue to ensure we stay on track. Financially, we are doing well, and our investments are holding strong.

Unit/County budgets should be ready for review by members in order to know what funds will be needed to carry planned events and program missions. During a Pre-Convention virtual meeting "passing the hat" to quickly obtain funds for a particular need was discussed. National discourages this practice. It puts a burden on the person/persons responsible for collecting the funds as well as leaving the Unit vulnerable to the loss of these funds. This is why our Department requires a check rather than cash. There is a paper trail showing how much was received, our Submittal Forms tells us where the funds go.

Don't forget that the Mandatory Bonding and Day Fund, still \$16, needs to be sent to your County Treasurer as soon as possible. The County Treasurer needs to remit to Department a check covering all the Units in their County. The office will be sending notices soon, but there is no need to wait.



EMPIRE GIRLS STATE



BY CLAIRE HERRMANN, STEPH FALLON, MEGAN HOCKADAY

Firstly, thank you to everyone for all their hard work in pulling off another successful ALA Empire Girls State Session this past July. We can't do it without all the unit and county chairs, volunteers, donations, staff, and supporters!

With 2024 in the books, it is time to kick off our 2025 ALA Empire Girls State Session! To begin, our team will attend the annual Girls State Conference in Indianapolis September 27-29, 2024. This conference allows us to begin planning, receive the latest updates from National Headquarters and network with other Girls State Teams from other Departments and the Girls Nation Team.

Last year we held an Overview for Unit and County ALA EGS Chairman Meeting via Zoom, and we will do the same again this year. This is especially important for those chairman who were new to their position. For our seasoned chairman, it is a chance to share tips and tricks, but also be sure you get the latest updates! Yes, things are always changing and improving! So, mark your calendars! We will offer one live virtual session on Wednesday, November 13th at 7pm. This will be recorded for those who cannot attend live. Details will be sent via email in October and will be on our website (www.empiregirlsstate.org). Feel free to email empiregirlsstate@gmail.com with your information if you would like to be included. The presentation is designed for Unit and County ALA EGS Chairman, but any ALA member may join to learn more about the ALA EGS Program.



EMPIRE GIRLS STATE



Here's some details for the 2025 ALA EGS Session:

- ALA Empire Girls State will take place at SUNY Brockport Monday June 30th - Sunday July 6th, 2025.
- Tuition for the sponsoring Unit or Post is \$400.00 per citizen.
- Each Citizen (not Alternate) will pay a \$50.00 Non-Refundable Registration fee. We ask that the Unit or Post not pay that fee except when a family has a financial hardship. Girls compare notes after they arrive, and they don't understand why some Citizens attended "free" and some had to "pay" \$50.00. We suggest that the Unit could consider returning the \$50.00 Application to the family after they attended if they feel strongly about covering the fee. Contact us if you have questions!
- Interviews should take place as soon as you can schedule them but no later than January. Citizens and Alternates must be selected by March 1st. Do NOT start your interviews in March. (Contact us if you have any problems connecting with schools).
- ALA Empire Girls State utilizes an online Registration Form and will upload all necessary forms. Candidates will complete all paperwork by March 31st.
- All paperwork and payment must be received at the Department level by March 31st. Due to time constraints, we will no longer be accepting late submissions.
- All Citizens and Alternates are required to attend a virtual ALA EGS Orientation via Zoom in May/June. Parents, sponsoring ALA Units and TAL Posts are encouraged to attend the virtual meeting.
- Parents, Units and Posts are encouraged to attend our State of the State Ceremony (culmination of the program) on Saturday, July 5th at 7:00 PM at SUNY Brockport.
- Citizens may not leave on Saturday night with their parents after the ceremony. Check out is Sunday morning from 6 am - 9 am.
- Citizens that finish the program are eligible for the Samsung Scholarship. Consider helping your candidates with the process starting in March!
- Citizens that finish the program are also eligible to enroll in a Leadership Course for College Credit from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs for college credit at a greatly reduced tuition price.
- If any American Legion Family group would like to support the program, other than by sponsoring a Citizen (\$400), consider paying for a Booster Ad or as a Booster Supporter in our State of the State Program (\$1 - \$50). We also have an ALA EGS Store. Consider providing citizens with money to buy apparel, stickers, and other merchandise throughout the week!
- Please check the 2024-2025 Plan of Action. Share those pages with your Unit and County ALA EGS Teams.



Additional Information:

All of our information is on our ALA EGS Website:

<https://www.empiregirlsstate.org>

- There is a tab, "ALA Resources." The password is: GirlsState You will be able to access resources and copies of any forms.

Within the website, there is also a link to join our ALA Empire Girls State team! Please review the job descriptions and requirements and consider joining our team! Applications are due January 1, 2025! Once selected, our Team meets via Zoom approximately 4 times throughout the Spring to get to know each other and to cover some initial training. In-person Orientation Training takes place at SUNY Brockport Saturday, June 28th - Monday June 30th, 2025, prior to our 2025 ALA EGS Session. It is such a rewarding experience, we know that if you join us one year, you too, will catch the "girls state bug" like each of us have!

Don't forget to review your 2025 ALA EGS County Quota form!

This information is in the Plan of Action and requires your county's immediate attention! The Quota Form needs to be returned to Steph Fallon, ALA EGS 1st Vice Chairman by November 1, 2024, so that plans can be made to accommodate each and every county! Get started planning right away and let us know if we can help in any way!

HISTORIAN

BY PATRICIA GALLEY

Welcome back!!! As we start a new journey, I would like to take the time and thank Our Department President Kimberly Quick for giving me this opportunity to be your Historian.

President Kim's theme this year is "Action For our Veterans." Let us all work together for the common goods of serving our veterans and their families wherever they need us. Also, her project this year is Homeward Bound Adirondacks. It's a place for healing, resilience strength for those who have sacrificed for our nation.

The most powerful tool for this organization is History. It's the circle of Life. The past, present, and the future. Capture those moments with a click of the camera and small captions. Please Include your Juniors too. They can earn badges and learn how to make a history book too. It also will let other units know what you are doing. It might put a spark under them to start one too. New ideas or suggestions are great for our history and our organization. Please remember to do your reports. There are 2 reporting dates and I'm looking forward to seeing what you have accomplished. Don't forget to look up the awards too. Never too late to get started now. The early bird gets the worm!!! **P.S.- my zip code is 14024 too. Not 14023**

ALA Junior Members and school-aged Sons of The American Legion members may earn patches for activities in ALA programs. The Patch Program teaches youth about The American Legion Family, volunteering, and serving veterans, military, and their families. There are four levels depending on your age and or grade level. You may earn a total of 35 patches. These are the levels in which junior members may participate and earn their patches. Purple Level - preschool age 3 - Kindergarten 3- patches can be earned. Red Level: (1st -4th Grade) 10 patches can be earned. Gold Level: (5th - 8th Grade) 10 patches can be earned. Blue Level: (9th - 12th Grade) 12 patches can be earned.

To get the breakdown of what the member has to do to earn the patch please sign into My Auxiliary Portal and hover over the Committees with your mouse. Click on Junior Member Activities and click on the link. To the left of the screen, you will see related pages in bold click on the first link Junior Activities Patch Program. Once that screen pops up you click on the grade level that is on the left of the screen. For example, I would click on the Red Level because I have granddaughter who is in the first grade. As you scroll down you will see at the top what type of patch you may earn doing certain activities and what is the requirement in receiving the patch. The subject topics include Americanism, Community & Family Safety, Community Service, Digital Media, Education, Leadership, Membership, Physical Fitness, Poppy Patch, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. When looking at the sheet you will see an asterisk star before the item number. This is a required activity where the rest of the activities are the choice the member. To learn more about the Junior Patch Program check out the ALA Academy. And oh yes, there are a couple of subject titles relating to Juniors let's say you are the Junior Activities committee chairperson for your unit. Scroll down until you see Junior Mentor Series: Junior Meetings (ALA Live Recorded Session) (Course 4) this course is 43 minutes and 15 seconds and very informative guide in mentoring You. Okay so you have new Junior Members there is a self-paced course ALA Juniors E-Learning Course the member may enroll which gives them an understanding about the mission of the ALA and how they may excel as a Junior Member. Did you know there is a Commemorative Enrollment certificate you may present to new Junior Members.



There is also a Commemorative Graduation Certificate you may present to those Juniors who are aging out at 18 and now become senior members. The certificates can be located while you are at the My Auxiliary Member Portal. Hover your mouse over the COMMITTEES, a drop-down will appear bring your mouse down to the Junior Member Activities and click. It will be in bold lettering Junior Activities Key Resources. You can click on any of the links to include Junior activities handbook and more. I would empower you to check out all the great information available at the tip of your fingers as these tools can be of great help inspiring our future leaders. Remember they are children, and we should make it fun so they will be inspired to continue in carrying out the ALA mission thru their eyes.

Extra! Extra! Calling all Junior Members between the ages of 8 and 17 who want to have fun and make new friends while engaging with other members across our glorious country mark your calendars. The 2024-2025 ALA National Junior Meetings are filling up quickly. Where and dates are as follows. Nashville, TN and Denver, CO - November 16, 2024. Des Moines, IA - January 25, 2025. Las Vegas, NV and Boston, MA - February 1, 2025. Just a reminder National Junior Meetings are held the same time as ALA Mission Training. So, while you are attending the mission training the Juniors are having their meetings. So, it's a win win for them and you.

If you have any questions please call, text, or email me. I will gladly help in any way I can so that together we may succeed.

LEADERSHIP

BY SHEILA HOLMAN



Happy September everyone. 🍁 It is hard to believe that fall is knocking at our door. It is that time of the year again when everything starts out fresh. We are all leaders with the American Legion auxiliary, whether it being a unit president, District, county, or a member that helps our veterans or are volunteering on different committees. All of our leadership shines through.

I would like to remind everyone about our ALA national website. There is so many classes that can be used to help us feel more confident when it comes to different committees, or maybe even conflicts in our units. There are also classes to make us understand what it is to be an American Legion auxiliary member and how our branding works. Please log onto this website it is <https://www.alaforveterans.org/ala-academy/>.

Mid-winter planning is in its beginning stages. I will keep everyone abreast and how things are progressing. I am open to hearing any suggestions that any member has about the midwinter. Please just email me.

I will conclude with a quote that was handed to me at the national convention, you are so much richer than you think. You have something more valuable than money and more precious than gold. Something stronger than titanium and more brilliant than diamonds. You've got you! Your dreams are the best investment there is. Give them your all and the payoff will be big.

Looking forward to hearing from everyone. Have a wonderful September.

MEMBERSHIP

BY MAUREEN MORGAN



I cannot believe it is September already. Children are back in school. The days are getting shorter, and everyone is back in work and school mode. What a great time to get into membership mode too. The National Convention was great and there was so much motivation going around that you couldn't help but get excited.

This year the National President Trish Ward is Leading the Way to the North Star and the Divisions have been divided into five different parts of the Earth. The Eastern division is the Water and water has many uses. Our Eastern Division Membership Karyl Horn wants to see the Eastern Division "RAINING" Members.

Remember the Milestone #1 is right around the corner 75% by October 15, 2024. Let's see Units and Counties make this Milestone. Make sure to read your plan of action. National makes changes and you want those awards. There are so many awards that many Units and individuals qualify for, and they don't fill out the form, it's so easy.

I'm putting out a challenge to every District Vice President to Challenge another District Vice President to see who can reach 100% membership by April's Department Executive Meeting. I am hoping I will need 10 special gifts for all the districts that reach this goal. I won the ALA Foundation PULF Raffle at the National President's Dinner, and I paid it forward by paying my husband's auxiliary dues. I was so excited.

So, let's go NEW YORK MEMBERS 100% for National Convention this year.

LEGISLATIVE

BY LYN VISCONTI

Hello Team! Yes, team, it is ALL our responsibility to know the proposed bills. You need to understand the bills and the impact they will have on our veterans, their families, our communities, and the nation. To contact your political officials, there is a template in the Plan of Action if you are unsure how to write or email. Follow the template and send it out.

Everyone is encouraged to sign into sign up for the Legion newsletter, www.legion.org/legislative. You can also join [Facebook.com/groups/ALALegislative](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALALegislative). Another important way to let your voice be heard, <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>. Please sign into the American Legion Auxiliary website, Dept. NY. Click programs, click the legislative action center, click sign up for alerts As we join as one voice to advocate and support for the rights our veterans and communities, just imagine the weight it will carry with our politicians! Thank you for caring and making your voice count, especially for those that may not have the ability to make their voice count.



YAY!!! Since the dues increase, we are now in the black and expect to be through 2025!! However, while the proposed budget is positive, there are areas that they will be watching closely.

- Decrease in membership - from 2014-2023 membership has decreased by around 150,000 which is lost revenue for 2025.
- Cancelling more units than we charter. During 2023-2024 170-unit charters were canceled while only 47 new units were chartered.
- Large expense items: Building expenditures, national auxiliary magazine, travel, and meetings. Although HQ has put together plans to help reduce these large expenses and has negotiated some good contracts, they will continue to monitor these three large expenses.

There are initiatives and special projects that have been put in place to counteract some of those challenges for 2025. In addition, several additional revenue sources will help the 2025 budget:

- The ALA Foundation has increased its donations this year and will provide \$75K to support the National Creative Arts Festival for 2025; \$37K for ALA Girls Nation and new this year, the ALA Foundation will provide \$20K of support for Spirit of Youth scholarships for 2025.
- New royalty income agreements were reached with USAA, Lands' End Business, and 501Tech Stack.
- A new affiliate partnership was formed with R. Riveter to pay a percentage of revenue generated with an affiliate link to the ALA.

That's it for now . . .

NATIONAL SECURITY

BY SANDIE BAKER

Currently, the security of America remains an uncertainty. We must never relax our efforts of continued preparedness for the forces that may threaten our democracy. The National Security program promotes and maintains a strong national defense through continued support of our active-duty service members and their families.

National Security is all about providing support and assistance to active service personnel and their families—primarily to alleviate the stressors of the individual in service so they may concentrate on their duties and not worry about their families here at home. Some activities each Unit can get involved with include, but certainly are not limited to:

Blue Star Banner/ Gold Star Banner recognition of the service member. We can do this by ordering banners from National Emblem Sales. Blue Star Banners support deployed active service, while Gold Star Banners support families who have lost a family member while actively serving.

Military Spouse or Partner providing spouse-to-spouse or family -to- family support. Military Spouse Appreciation Day is the Friday before Mother's Day in May—yet we can provide support to military families throughout the year. Military spouses and partners face struggles that are largely invisible or misunderstood by the civilian community and this can make it tough to figure out how to show them our support. A couple of ideas on how we can do this is to send them an occasional note to let them know that they are thought of. If they are new to your area give them a welcome letter and small gift. Another idea is the Military Spouse eMentor Program—this is where spouses and partners can receive advice, support, and inspiration. Underemployment and unemployment are a common concern of military family members. The milspousementor.org program website can offer more ways in which we can support our military families. And yet still, is the ALA Military Family Readiness Action Guide at alaforvetrans.org, a resource for specific details on how we can help work together to assist military families relocating; find the ALA Unit near them and facilitate introductions. Point the military spouses or partners to local job fairs through your Chamber of Commerce.

POW/MIA Recognition Day is the third Friday in September---2024's day was September 20th - this recognition is a day set by the National Defense Department for all to remember and honor those Americans who were or may still be a prisoner of war and those missing in action.

Wear RED on Friday in support of deployed troops as we remember and think of their well-being. Tell others why you wear RED on Friday—that it is because we are remembering everyone deployed. For more information about RED on Friday see the website OperationComfortWarriors.org

Host a welcome home or send off event. Get involved in formal reintegration initiatives. For example: The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program for more information the web address is yellowribbonevents.org

Send manufacturers coupons to multiple military commissaries for active service members to use. These can be current and up to six months past due. For a list of where to send visit

<http://www.operationwarriors.com/en/militaryfamily.html>. An idea is to host a coupon clipping with

NATIONAL SECURITY

BY SANDIE BAKER

Send manufacturers coupons to multiple military commissaries for active service members to use. These can be current and up to six months past due. For a list of where to send visit <http://www.grocerysavingtips.com/p/militaryfamily.html>. An idea is to host a coupon clipping with your Unit. Remember to record the quantity coupons sent and approximate dollar value. It will make end-of-year reporting much easier.

Host Blood Drives; collect supplies for military family emergency readiness kits—contact your local Red Cross or visit <https://www.ready.gov/donateblood>. This website can walk you through the most important aspects to be mindful of when assembling kits for our military families. This also includes our First Responders recognition.

Many Units already send care packages and cards to deployed military. This is a tangible way to let them know when someone is thinking of them. Holiday or family meals for the military works to provide meals for military families to enjoy and the box includes everything the family would need to prepare and cook in their own home.

Those are just a few ideas of the reportable items under National Security.

Others include:

Quilts of Valor

Wreaths Across America

K-9 for Warriors; K-9 Partners for Patriot

TAPS—the Tragedy Assistance Program for survivors of family killed while in service

Adopt A Service Member where the Unit follows the service member from a start in bootcamp entry and follow them their entire journey.

Many of the “ideas” listed won’t be exact wording in your POA list—if you are unsure of how to report, reach out, we can help—if your Unit has no National Security Chair, have the Unit President or a member please send in the reporting form. There are fillable reporting forms for each program on deptofny.org.

We are continually serving our active military throughout the year...these actions are reportable. All of your supportive measures of them and of their families deserves recognition.

Reminder when reporting to include the number of volunteers—all volunteers not just the Auxiliary. If community members, spouses, scouts—whomever volunteered, include them in your reporting when reporting on any committee not just National Security.

Include the number of volunteer hours and the number of military and military families served.

Include things like the value of goods, services and milage. ALL committee reports are due in November and April each membership year. Please, be sure to report from the summer months to November’s report. All these actions, great or small, add up!

PARLIAMENTARIAN

BY JOAN CACCAMO

What is a Parliamentarian? The Parliamentarian is a member who has been elected or appointed who provides advice or counsel on matters of parliamentary procedure.

The goal of parliamentary procedure are to protect the rights of the minority, maintain the rule of majority, and promote the most efficient proceedings.

They are to provide impartial guidance and impartial advice on questions regarding the proper procedures for conducting the meetings of the organization. An impartial parliamentarian helps achieve the confidence and trust of members.

A parliamentarian interprets and applies the "Rule of Order" for meetings of deliberative assemblies. These rules, such as Robert's Rule of Order Newly Revised, enable groups to efficiently and fairly discuss and determine actions to be taken.

The Parliamentarian does not rule!

POPPY

BY LAURA BOOTH

What a year it has been. We had many posters sent to me this year. I submitted for all classes. We had 3 poppy poster contest winners in the National Eastern Division.

Class II	Ian Ryan- Bronx County Unit 156
Class III	Abigail Whalen Madison County
Class VI	Ariela Franco-Westchester County Unit 1038

Thank you all who participated.

Let's start this year off with a bang!!

Please see updated rules and regulations in this year's Plan of Action. You can go to the department website and look under Poppy Program.

POPPY SEASON HAS BEGUN!!!!

Anyone who needs to order poppies, please do so early.

Remember to REPORT, REPORT, REPORT. All calculations benefit our Veterans.

Have a safe and Happy Fall



PUBLIC RELATIONS

BY JULIANNE BARTON

Another year is under way, BUT not really, Public Relations NEVER takes a break. Every time you advertise an event, whether in a newspaper, flyer, or on social media, it is Public Relations. Every time you wear a shirt, jacket, or piece of jewelry that represents the American Legion Auxiliary, it is Public Relations. Every time you are speaking to ANYONE about the great things that the Auxiliary does or recruiting members, it is Public Relations.

EVERYTHING WE DO IS PUBLIC RELATIONS!!!! Public relations is sooo much more than the printed word. It is all that we say, all that we do, and how we are perceived as American Legion Auxiliary Members. Do you realize that Membership goes hand in hand with Public Relations? When people see the great things, the American Legion Auxiliary does, it encourages them to join us!! It is our job to promote our great accomplishments. Take pictures of flyers that are posted about your events and take pictures at the events.

Make sure to screenshot your Facebook posts and include them when you compile your Public Relations report. Please take the time NOW and look over the Unit and County report for Public Relations found in the Plan of Action. That way you are keeping track of all the things (like how many newsletters go out!!).

Please tell me how your Units & Counties are spreading the word about how we are serving Veterans, military, and their families. I know NEW YORK is promoting the AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY. WE NEED EVERYBODY ELSE TO KNOW WHO WE ARE AND WE ACCOMPLISH THAT BY REPORTING!!!! Units should report EVERY month to their County Chairman, who will report to Department in November and April.

There are amazing resources on the Department and National Website. Take the time to look at them and utilize the suggestions and ideas that are there. We need to toot our own horn and make sure EVERYONE hears it!!!!

VA & R

BY LORA ROWE

Please reach out to your local VA facility or to the American Legion Auxiliary CDCE (Center for Development and Community Engagement) Representatives, formerly known as VAVS, and ask how you may assist in volunteer activities for our veterans who are in the VA medical centers. When volunteering in the VA Medical Centers, be sure that you put your volunteer hours under the American Legion Auxiliary.

In the Plan of Action, you will find a listing of the VAVS Representatives and Deputies along with the Gift Shop Chairman. Please note there is a change in your Plan of Action for the Syracuse VAMC Deputy. The new

Deputy is:

Rita Keyes

1010 Jewett Road

Skaneateles, NY 13152

315-567-3143

Remember the veterans who are in veterans homes, nursing homes, and those who live alone. Ask veterans in your area how you may assist them. Some may need help with their grocery shopping, housework, yardwork, or need transportation to appointments. Please remember to report your volunteer hours. Please remember to report...I look forward to reading all that you do for our veterans and the difference you make in their lives.

WARRIORS FAMILY ASSISTANCE

BY MARIE SANTA CROCE

Having the opportunity to Chair the Warriors Family Assistance Program again this year, I, together with my committee, am committed to making this program more accessible to our Veterans.

I hope that the following will make our messaging and process clearer and enable us to identify and reach out to more Veterans and currently serving Military Servicepersons who seek and deserve our help.

GOOD NEWS! The maximum WFA Grant for the '24-'25 administrative year is now \$1,500.

Grants are awarded based on the need of the applicant. This can include helping with past due bills such as mortgage/rent, utilities, home repairs, medical bills, etc. If there is an immediate need for food, clothing, temporary shelter, or other necessities, please call me at 718-938-5952.

We ask that you now form a WFA committee in your area- it could be a Unit committee, County or District committee- so we are ready to assist as soon as a need arises. Your committee should include a chairman (who is the contact person) and two other members who will assist with the application process and verify all necessary information needed.

To all WFA Chairmen, please include your name, Unit #, County/District, as well as your phone number & personal email address so that we can get and stay in touch.

To request an application contact me at: nyalawfa@gmail.com or you can call the Department Office at 1-518-463-1162

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Text or call me at: 718-938-5952

My personal email is: re507@aol.com

Note: the applicant does not need to be a member of the American Legion. He/She must be an Honorably Discharged or Separated Veteran or a currently serving member of the military.

If you request an application and your applicant no longer needs the grant, please let me know.

Last year we awarded twelve (12) \$1,200 grants for a total of \$14,400. \$2,120 was donated to the WFA Fund last year and we thank every individual and organization for your generosity.

I am happy to share that we recently awarded our first \$1,500 grant for this current year.

Please consider supporting the WFA with a donation this year. All donations go directly to assisting our Veterans/Military. Donations should be sent to the Department Office. In the memo on your check please write: WFA

Thank you to everyone in advance for your efforts and support. Please share information about this wonderful Program with your Legion Family and community. Brochures are available from your District President or by contacting the Department Office.



PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

BY LAURA ROWE



President Kim's project is Homeward Bound Adirondacks.

This organization, which is predominantly staffed by veterans, is in New York and provides many services for veterans across Northern New York. They work with the VAs and help veterans who reach out to them at no cost for their services.

They are in need of building sleeping cabins where the veterans can stay while they are there for their retreat. Please raise monies for Kim's project to help build cabins to house the veterans.

This organization also coincides with Be the One as it works with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to prevent Veteran suicide in the northern New York counties.

Please contribute to the President's Project... Homeward Bound Adirondacks.

What the Flag Means

**In honor of 2024 Memorial Day,
I love the flag is what I want to say.**

**It represents my country, the USA.
And its survival is what I pray.**

**When 24 years old I received a folded flag
At my husband's funeral receiving it made me glad.**

**After 911 citizens flew flags everywhere.
Everybody waved to them proudly everywhere.**

**It is a moving sight to see flags at cemetery graves.
The Veterans who valiantly served were so brave.**

**The flag is a symbol of freedom and hope,
In wars and hardship, we must cope!**

**By executive orders the flag for 24 hours must fly.
For all to see it flies gallantly so high.**

**Betsey Ross House and The White House are 2 places.
Fort McHenry, Baltimore the National Anthem written for all races.**

**The flag has 13 red and white stripes and 50 stars,
Representing men and women left with scars.**

**In the 60's young people began to burn the flag,
The riots were unamerican and made me gag.**

**Many have lost any decency and respect.
Love of their country they fight and reject.**

**Saying the pledge gets me emotional,
I am a strong Patriot and very devotional.**

**The flag colors of red, white, and blue,
I pledge to the American flag to be true.**

**Composed by Linda Benson Reese 2024
Member American Legion Auxiliary**

NATIONAL PRESENCE

Members of the Department of New York serving on a National Committee for the 2024-2025 Administrative Year are as follows:

Linda Tome	Public Relations Chairman
Marie Mock	Education, Eastern Division Chairman
Nancy Babis	Girls Nation, Eastern Division Chairman
Janice Gravely	Ethical Conduct Chairman
Cathe MacInnes	ALA Foundation, Board President
Terri Wallace	ALA Foundation, Treasurer
Carrie Davenport	ALA Foundation Liaison to Risk &
Compliance	

National Officers for the 2024-2025 Administrative Year are as follows:

Trish Ward	National President
Pam Ray	National Vice President
Dr. Coral May Grout	Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chairman
Dr. Lisa Chaplin	Children & Youth Chairman
Lauren Lloyd	Eastern Division National Vice President
Monique Batiste	National Chaplain
DaraAnne Oliver	National Historian
National Secretary	Linda Boone
National Treasurer	Virginia Hobbs
Linda Tome	NEC for the Department of NY

AMERICAN 1580 COLUMBIA TURNPIKE, BLDG. #1, SUITE 3
CASTLETON-ON-HUDSON, NY 12033
LEGION AUXILIARY
104 YEARS OF SERVICE NOT SELF



DEPARTMENT OFFICE NEWS

BY BARBARA & CAITLIN

- Newsletters - E-mail copies of the Newsletter are available to any member wanting a free copy. Please e-mail anyone of us at the office with a valid email and we will get you on the list. If you do not have email and someone in the unit/county would like to receive it on your behalf, please let us know so we can add them to the list. If you receive a copy of the newsletter via email, please share it with the members in your unit or county.

Mailed copies of the Newsletters are available at the cost of \$15.00 per year.

- All Department issued checks must be deposited within 90 days. Going forward the treasurer will not reissue checks that were not deposited in a timely manner.
- All checks sent to the office should be made out as follows: American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York and indicate in the memo line what it is for. Also, please remember to sign the check.
- All donations should be sent to the department office and not the committee chair.
- When submitting a donation form please indicate what unit or county it is.
- The 2025 per capita for Department and National for senior members is \$28; the junior per capita is \$6.25.
- Please do not send DD214's/active-duty documentation into the office with applications. Once the Post Adjutant/Officer signs the application (ORIGINAL SIGNATURES - NO PHOTOCOPIES) and the membership chair (ALA) verifies all supporting documents, return the supporting documents to the member. The office only needs the completed - signed application with the dues and transmittal. Remember - if the veteran is living, he/she MUST BE A CURRENT PAID MEMBER IN THE AMERICAN LEGION. Remember to check which era the veteran served and the relationship of the veteran to the ALA applicant. Please circle the appropriate relationship to the veteran.
- Applications need to be complete and legible otherwise they will be returned to the unit membership chair. New members' addresses needs to be complete. No abbreviations on city/town. All membership applications must be presented to the unit membership chairman with the proper documentation prior to being submitted to the office for processing.
- Membership chairs - if your unit members move, change any contact information, phone numbers, emails, etc., please send the change to the Department office or if you have unit write or unit full, please make the appropriate changes so the information is updated in a timely manner. This also pertains to unit President, Membership Chair and Unit Treasurer.