

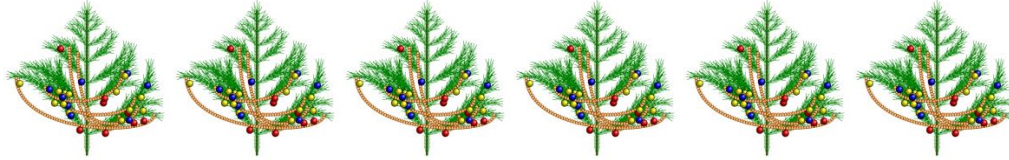


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www.deptny.org

November - December 2019



Department President's Message.....Linda S. Tome

“Preserve the Past ~ Focus on the Future”

Greetings American Legion Auxiliary Members!!

What a whirlwind this year has been already! I'm just loving visiting our Counties in this beautiful state of New York! How lucky we are to have such an amazing landscape!! AND the dedication of our members continue to inspire me! Thank you! Can you believe that we have already visited 42 of our 62 counties? I so appreciated our day in each of your Counties – from the Post homes and their history, the memorials, monuments, our VA hospitals, NYS K-9 training, Fort Drum, etc. I have been so blown away being in each of our counties and seeing how proud you are of your history and what you have been doing so far! Thank you for your hospitality, gifts and donations to Stop Soldier Suicide while on our visitations!! You are all amazing and have done so much already . . . I hope that you are reporting it!! ☺ I look forward to the 3rd, 7th and 8th District for our remaining Visitations next year with much anticipation!!

On behalf of the three Vice Presidents and myself, our thanks for all the courtesies extended to us during our travels for Fall Conference! It was certainly a blast! It was a long week driving across our state, but we all agreed we certainly had a great time seeing our members and spreading our news!

I'm still wondering however, if you all understand the change to the Constitution & Bylaws that was made at National Convention this past August? I think there may still be some confusion about changing the word “wife” to “spouse.” What this means is that if the spouse is a member of the American Legion (male or female) the wife or husband may join the American Legion Auxiliary! Keep spreading the word of this new membership eligibility. I'm hoping to get our membership numbers **above** our goal and with the new Legion Act and our change to our membership eligibility for our entire organization, I think we can do it – but we all have to work together to make that happen!!

I just returned from the Veterans Day Parade marching down 5th Avenue! What an experience!! It's absolutely a sight to see all the people clapping, saluting and saying “thank you” over and over again while you are marching! The respect and gratitude of our citizens for our veterans was overwhelming. I wish that there were more Auxiliary members marching in this parade to see just how much this country loves and respects their veterans! It gave me goosebumps **and** tears! Please consider joining us next year! You will never forget it!!

I am so looking forward to the Mid-Winter Conference this year (January 24/25, 2020). There is so much planned for learning opportunities as well as for celebrating 100 Years -- informative sessions and presentations, a fashion show with “you,” our members, showing the fashions through the years, several speakers and our National President, Nicole Clapp! You will not be disappointed, I'm sure!

Until then, Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and please remember our members who are in nursing homes or who may be shut-ins during this holiday season. It is a lonely time for many. Let's really *Celebrate 100 Years of Service not Self* -- consider paying their dues as a gift and stopping in to present this thoughtful present to them . . . sit and chat a while! Your heart will be full when you leave! I guarantee it!!

Membership.....Mary E. Farley, Chairperson

Let me begin by thanking everyone I met during Fall Tour. Your hospitality and your friendship were very much appreciated by all. Riding through the wonderful state of New York was absolutely beautiful; I can't remember ever seeing fall colors like that it literally took my breath away. Thank you again!

A few changes were announced since the Fall Tour, the following was sent to me regarding eligibility:

The American Legion National Judge Advocate recently defined those eligible for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary. Stepchildren and step-grandchildren are not eligible to join as new members. Current members may continue as long as they do not let their membership lapse. Direct descendants are defined as "two degrees of consanguinity from the veteran". This is the government definition and therefore means that we may not sign up "greats" as new members (great-grandmothers, great-grandchildren). If they are already members, they will be "grandfathered in," as long as their membership does not lapse. From the "ALA in the Know Membership e-bulletin"

Membership is coming in nicely, but I would like to see even more. By now we should not have any Units with zero membership. Our District Presidents, District Vice Presidents, County, and Unit Membership Chairmen, need to start finding out why their membership has not been sent. If there a problem within the Unit, try to find out the problem and help them solve it.

We have had some award winners. The following awards have been achieved:

Milestone #1 100% by October 1, 2019:

Unit 0301 Queens Village	103.45%
Unit 1443 Greenwood Lake	102.08%
Unit 0021 Schenectady	100.00%

President Linda's Birthday Party Award: To the County with the highest percentage of membership by Photographer Linda's Birthday, October 25, 2019.
Schenectady County with 90.00%

Centennial Celebration Award: Awarded to the District Membership Chairman with the highest percentage goal by November 10, 2019.
1st District with 73.05%

Congratulations to all our winners!

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Holiday season and may all our servicemen and women and our veterans share in the same joys of the season.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter Conference. Have a Happy Holiday.

Department President's Project- "Stop Soldier Suicide".....Nancy J. Babis

Did you know that 700 plus military and veterans are served annually? 32% of those served are military family members. Stop Soldier Suicide has over 3,500 resources at its finger tips. It's not always easy to find the right resource when a veteran is struggling. Stop Soldier Suicide works 1:1 to help navigate the maze of services. Resources include: mental health , PTSD (Post traumatic stress disorder) and TBI (traumatic brain injury), emergency financial aid, housing assistance, alternative therapies (art, equine), retreats for military, veterans and their families as well as the GI bill.

Your help in spreading awareness about this amazing program along with your donations to the President's Project will go a long way in helping these amazing Viet Nam veterans carry out their vision and dream of making a difference in the lives of our military, veterans and families. Thanks you!

VA&R / Service to Veterans.....Nancy J. Babis, Chairperson

I am overwhelmed by the reports I received for our November reporting period. Now that the weather is turning colder and snow is sure to come, please keep our homeless veterans in your thoughts and actions. Organize a new clothing drive to provide hats, coats, thermals to our shelters. Hold a chili or soup day and invite our Veterans in out of the elements for a few minutes.

I wanted to follow up and explain a couple things about STAND DOWNS. The origin: During war, exhausted combat units that required time to rest and recover were removed from the battlefields to a place of relative security and safety. At this secure base, troops were able to take showers, get clean uniforms, haircuts, good hot meals, receive medical and dental care and most importantly receive mail from home. Today it is a grassroots community based intervention program designed to help the nation's estimated 107,000 homeless Veterans "combat" life on the streets. Usually it is a one – three day event where community resources pool together and provide services to assist in rebuilding their lives. As a stand down provided our soldiers with an opportunity to renew their spirit, health and overall sense of well-being, today's Stand Down affords the same opportunity to homeless veterans. (militaryconnection.com). Reach out to your local VA's and check to see how you can help at their next event.

Thank you for all you do for our veterans and their families. Keep up the Good Work! See you at mid-winter! Happy Holidays to all

Children and Youth.....Karen St. Hilaire, Chairperson

100th Anniversary ALA.....Colleen McDaniels, Chairperson

Hopefully by now all Units, Counties, and Districts have held or are planning a 100th Anniversary Celebration. Don't forget to send me information on your celebrations and please include a few photos! I listed several ideas in the last newsletter and two below, but if you are still struggling for ideas, please reach out to me and I would be happy to help.

Another great idea is to join in the season of giving by hosting a toy or food drive for local military families in need during the holiday season. Remember our service men and women who are deployed and not able to be with their loved ones for the holidays. A special Christmas/Holiday Troop Pack could help bring the community together for a very worthy cause. Make the event joyous! Incorporate an ugly Christmas sweater contest and offer prizes for the winners and an honorable mention, all while giving back to those that give their all for our country.

Don't forget to wear you ALA shirts. Another great way to celebrate is to wear your RED 100TH ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRT on Fridays. By doing so you can remind others that the ALA Remembers Everyone Deployed by wearing red, opens the door to share our mission when others see our logo, and you are honoring our rich history by celebrating our 100th! If you need an 100th Anniversary Shirt they will be available at Mid-Winter. If you desire your shirt before then you can contact me to arrange a pick up or mailing. Shirts are \$12 for M, L, XL, \$13 for 2XL, and \$15 for 3XL.

No matter what you choose to do, rally your ALA members to pitch in and help make your unit, county, and district more visible and inviting to the community. A little impact could go a long way. Here's to your success!

Americanism.....Terri D. Wallace, Chairperson

Americanism is promoting patriotic education among youth, adults and our communities. **How can you support the ALA's Americanism program in your community?**

- **Americanism Essay Contest** - "How can we address the health and well-being of our veterans, military and their families?" (Reminder: Essays are due to your Unit for judging by February 15th and to the Department Americanism Chairman by March 15th. All details in Plan of Action Supplement page 45 or Plan of Action pp 7-8).
- **Flag Etiquette** - Does your Unit teach Flag Etiquette or the Meaning of the 13 Folds of the US Flag? (There are many ideas on pages 7-14 in the Plan of Action)
- **Star Spangled Kids** (moved from the Children & Youth Program this year). "Star Spangled Kids" is an initiative to educate children and youth in the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism, and the U.S. Constitution. Auxiliary members can partner with the American Legion Family, team with their Education chairman, and bring veterans or active duty military into the classrooms to talk about what their service means to defending the Constitution. The goal is to educate youth on the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism, and the U.S. Constitution. Idea: share "Fascinating Facts about the U.S. Constitution" each month in your unit newsletter, in tweets, or in a Facebook post.

American Legion Family College.....Debby Herrmann, Liaison

Auxiliary Emergency Fund.....Carol Flaherty, Chairperson

Chaplain.....Susan Britton, Chairperson

With the holiday season upon us, what a perfect time to plan a visit, send a card, send a gift or allow for some type of recognition to a veteran, an ill member or Gold Star Mother in your community. The holidays are a time for reaching out to those who are in need and especially those who have no one to share the holidays with.

As the spiritual leader of your unit, you are in a unique position to ensure that those needing our assistance are cared for. You can be sure that a card, visit, gift or even just a phone call can turn a holiday into one that could touch a heart deeply.

Four Chaplains Sunday: The first Sunday in February is Four Chaplains Sunday. February 3, 2020 marks the 77th anniversary of the sinking of the USAT Dorchester carrying 902 U.S. troops, merchant seamen and civilian workers. Memorial services are encouraged to recognize those who perished. Suggested services, prayers, music and ceremony guidelines can be found on both The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary websites. Because of the interfaith nature of the four chaplain's sacrifice, services are an opportunity to bring together people of all races, faiths and creeds in an observance of our shared humanity.

Attention All County Chaplains: Be sure to submit your entries for the *Karyn Porempski Award*. Please see page 61 in your Plan of Action Supplement for 2019-2020. Deadline is May 1, 2020. Please adhere to all rules shown here.

Attention All Members: Just a reminder to share a prayer or devotional thought with me for Department President Linda's Prayer Book. What a special opportunity to share on the occasion of our 100th Anniversary and be a part of the celebration.

Community Service.....Desiree Smith-McPherson, Chairperson

I have received amazing reports of the many acts that you've all contributed towards our veterans and communities. Thank you for making a difference on "Make a Difference Day", showing all the thoughtful things you have contributed your time and services to on that day. Many of our communities need the support and aid from our services such as giving groceries, visiting nursing homes and hospitals, in addition to having fund raisers to help the homeless. Continue to do the great work you do and send it into your community service chairman. Happy Thanksgiving and see you'll at Mid-Winter. I'm looking forward to receiving your second report in March 2020.

Constitution and Bylaws/Resolutions.....Sally Johnston, Chairperson

What is a "Resolution"? By definition is it a formal motion in writing, made of two major parts, for the purpose of changing an official rule or policy that is part of our governing documents.

Who can write a Resolution for presentation? Any member in good standing. Why would a member want to prepare a Resolution? To update or accommodate a new practice / policy that is not already covered in our governing documents.

How would a member begin to formulate a "Resolution"? Begin with the "why" or more commonly referred to as the "Whereas Clauses". A good example of this is a "Courtesy Resolution". When we attend Department Convention, the Resolutions Chairman typically presents a Courtesy Resolution regarding the work that our Department President has done for her administrative year. The Resolving Clauses state the reasons for the Resolution.

Example: Whereas our Department President Jane Smith, a 40-year member of Unit 123, Albany County, 3rd District, Albany New York, was elected to the highest office of Department President Continue on with 2 – 3 more "whereas clauses" and finish up with "Resolving Clauses"; Therefore, be it resolved, that members of New York congratulate and support....

In conclusion, if you as a member in good standing wish to make a change, it is possible to present your "change" in writing by way of a Resolution. Take the time to review thoroughly what the change is that you would like to present. Make sure you have the facts and propose your resolution accordingly. When completed forward to the Resolutions Chairman for further consideration.

Resolutions is a committee that many of us don't understand and we tend to be skeptical about "trying" to prepare a Resolution. As we learn together, there are many resources available to help us. Refer to our Plan of Action and Supplemental Plan of Action. Go to the American Legion Auxiliary National website and search for more information. Maybe one of the best ways to learn about how to write a Resolution is to ask another member. What a great way to continue to build on the 5 Goals as set forth by our National Organization. In particular, Goal #2, Create an internal culture of goodwill and Goal #3, Develop Leadership at all levels.

Update on Constitution & Bylaws:

As of this writing, other than the Department C&B / Standing Rules, the Unit C&B / Standing Rules are the only 2 that have been changed to meet the changes as set forth by National Convention action. Please be patient. Remember the Department Adhoc committee worked several years to make the necessary changes to our Constitution and Bylaws that were presented and voted on at Department Convention in July 2019. The changes for the County C&B and Standing Rules along with the District Standing Rules, are being worked on should become available shortly after our December Department Executive meeting.

I would encourage all Units to continue to "update" your C&B and forward them to me. Remember, whether you update them and send them to me for approval or not, the National organization trumps all!

I trust every Unit / County / District is Celebrating with Department President Linda as we continue to:

"PRESERVE THE PAST AND FOCUS ON THE FUTURE".

Education.....Cynthia Babb, Chairperson

For those preparing to go to college, now is a very busy time: applications, acceptances and scholarships. For auxiliary members we can help in the scholarship department. There are four National Scholarships: Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship, The Non-Traditional Student Scholarship, Spirit of Youth Scholarship, and the Junior Auxiliary Loyalty Scholarship. The information for these scholarships can be found on the National Website at www.ALAforVeterans.org/scholarships Applications are due to me for these **National Scholarships** by **February 15, 2020**.

The scholarships offered by the Department of New York are: Department Scholarship, District Scholarship (one for each district), Raymond T. Wellington, Jr. Memorial Scholarship, Helen Klimek Student Scholarship, Mary Ann K. Murtha Memorial Scholarship, Cerullo Memorial Scholarship (Sons of the American Legion) and the Past Presidents Parley Scholarship in the Medical Field. Please ensure that each scholarship application is accompanied by the Scholarship Cover Sheet. Units please submit scholarship applications to your county chairman by **March 5, 2020** as County chairmen must submit scholarship applications to me on or before **March 15, 2020**.

ALA Empire Girls State.....Jennifer Farley, Chairperson
.....Members Wendy Privitera, Kris Dziduch

We are so excited for the upcoming Empire Girls State session!

***Sr. Counselor, Jr. Counselor, Central Staff Applications, and Nurse Applications and job descriptions are available on our website (under the Empire Girls State section in Programs) or in the Plan of Action. We are still accepting applications for all positions!

Special Notes about the 2020 Empire Girls State Program!

- **Dates: June 28, 2020-July 4, 2020 (Sunday- Saturday)**
- District Orientation Leaders - The purpose of the District Orientation Leader is to conduct a uniform statewide orientation containing current factual and helpful information to all citizens, alternates and parents from their District on the American Legion Auxiliary Empire Girls State Program. There will be 1-2 Orientation Leaders per District. If you would like to apply to have this position, please fill out the application and send to Jennifer by December 1, 2019! Applications are available in the Plan of Action, the ALA Department of New York website, and the ALA Empire Girls State Website!
- Orientations Leaders, once selected, MUST attend a training at Mid-Winter on Friday. More information to follow.
- Samsung Scholarship: Encourage your citizens to apply! This is a great opportunity and we do not want anyone to miss out! In fact, one of our citizens this year, Vada Kirsch from South Wales won the \$10,000 Samsung Scholarship this year! Way to go!
- Make sure you return the Quota form that was in the Plan of Action to Vice Chairman Wendy!

Please consider supporting the ALA EGS program by purchasing an Ad and/or Booster! See the flyer for more information!

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact any of us!

*Finance Committee/Audit.....Cathleen MacInnes, Chairperson
.....Linda Moseman and Violet Brosart Members*

We are often asked questions about Unit bank accounts: Can a Unit have more than one bank account – for example, a separate one for our color guard? Can a Unit have a savings account or CD and a checking account?

A Unit may have more than one bank account – as long as it follows these rules:

1. All accounts must be opened using the Unit EIN/TIN. The name of the account may, however, differ slightly so as to distinguish accounts (for example, Unit 0000 Kitchen Account or Unit 0000 Color Guard).
2. The Unit Treasurer must have signatory authority on ALL accounts, although this authority may be shared with others.
3. The Unit Treasurer must report on the account at EVERY unit meeting. This report should include at least the previous month's ending balance, any deposits and withdrawals from the account made since the last report, and the current ending balance.
4. The Unit audits – whether done annually or more often – must include ALL accounts.

All of these rules serve to protect the Unit's funds. The rules ensure that all accounts and funds are within the Unit's control and oversight and comply with the National bonding rules for coverage.

The Gift Shop rules require that all Gift Shop funds be placed in a Unit's bank account, to comply with the bonding requirements. It may be practical for a Unit to open a separate account for the Gift Shop funds, to make sure that they are kept separate from the Unit's funds. However, as noted above, the account must use the Unit's EIN/TIN, the Unit Treasurer must be one of the authorized signers on the account, a report of the account must be given at every Unit meeting, and the account should be audited at the same time as the Unit's books are audited.

Historian.....LouCinda LaFountain, Chairperson

We are beginning a new year and we have the opportunity to earn some great awards. Wouldn't it be great if New York earned the majority of the awards this year? Some of the awards are: The Department President Award, Sally A Johnston Award, this one has 3 parts. Juniors could actually get involved as they could earn a badge for history that should be fun. A picture History book could also be done and with all the people that take pictures it could be fantastic!

Be one of the Units or Counties to win by working together to make this 100th year the best. I'm sure it is going to be an interesting year with all that is required. I would love to hear about all your projects. Directions are in the white 4 year plan book. Don't forget our 100th year celebration as this is one of the projects that our Department President Linda is looking forward to and it is mandatory.

I know that we have had a lot of changes this year but, we are up to it, I have confidence in all of you. Remember hours, travel and expenses, very important. I'll be looking forward to hearing from you all.

Junior Activities.....Diane Butler, Chairperson

Happy Birthday American Legion Auxiliary! Thank you for sending in your quarterly reports, I was disappointed to see how many units and counties reported **no activity**. Junior members are our future. I was hoping to read that Junior members were included in birthday planning and to see all the great work Junior members had done during the summer, since last reporting in May 2019. Junior members don't have to have official meetings to report. When holding meetings, Junior meetings should be fun, interactive and engaging. All ten districts had a fall conference, were Junior members included? Did they do an activity? Were Junior members included in Post 9/11 ceremonies, Halloween parties and Veterans Day celebrations? Please be creative, think of activities to include Junior members in.

The Junior Activities program prepares girls under the age of 18 to become active adult members of the organization by providing positive volunteer experiences that instill the ideals of the Auxiliary. These girls develop leadership skills while having fun and hopefully becoming the future leaders of our organization.

Juniors are members of the Auxiliary who are organized as a committee of a unit. Juniors are not a separate Auxiliary organization. Junior members conduct their own meetings and perform their own special activities. Junior members plan their own community service projects, along with supporting projects sponsored by the Auxiliary and The American Legion Family. One such project is President Linda's project; Stop Soldier Suicide.

Connecting with our Junior members and involving them in worthwhile activities that support our mission are the best ways to ensure the continuation of the Auxiliary for as long as there are veterans to serve.

There are many tools available on the Auxiliary web site www.alaforveterans.org for Junior Activities, including the Junior Activities brochure. I would be happy to sign any enrollment/graduation certificates you'd like signed for Junior members. There are so many opportunities for our Juniors, please consider including them in activities, Department should not receive quarterly reports stating "no activity."

Midwinter conference is coming up January 24th through the 26th, 2020 in Albany, NY please consider inviting your Juniors to attend! Midwinter conference is a great learning opportunity and shows Junior members how valuable they are to the American Legion Auxiliary. Registration forms will be available on the website in December. I look forward to working with Junior members at mid-winter conference.

Follow ALA Juniors on Facebook and Instagram. I look forward to receiving reports in March, listing all activities Junior members participated in and please include pictures!

The Juniors will be doing a service project at Mid-Winter and are requesting units, counties and districts to consider making a monetary donation for the project. The Juniors will be assembling essential bags to be taken to the VAMC's across New York State for homeless veterans. Please send your monetary donations to the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York, 1580 Columbia Turnpike, Bldg. #1, Suite #3, Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033 and earmark it Mid-Winter Junior Project. Please send it no later than January 10, 2020.

Leadership.....Amy McEathron, Chairperson

I am gearing up for our Amazing Mid-Winter Conference on January 24th and 25th. I hope you have reserved the dates and plan on attending. My goal this year is to have over 500 in attendance. We have a fun filled packed day and half along with a lot of information to share.

Friday night will be our Fashion Extravaganza. We will have each district dress accordingly:



If you already have clothes in another era, you may join that district for the era you represent. Let's show our National President the fashion that New York has and let's celebrate our 100-year anniversary. This is just the start. We have a packed schedule which will be released from Department shortly. There will be information on all committees, 3 guest speakers, and presentations on several committees. I planned midwinter around your prior suggestions. Show lets show your support and reach our 500 goal.

DID YOU JOIN the ALA leadership Facebook group - ALA Leadership Program. Did you know, there is a Protocol Quiz under the leadership tab on the National Website. There is a lot of information on our National Website for you to share and pass on.

Please remember you can nominate a fellow member for special recognition from the National President! Has a member in your unit implemented an innovative way of identifying and selecting new leaders? If so National wants to hear about it. Please send the nominations to me at nyalaleadership@gmail.com and I will compile information for our Department to send to National. I need you to include the following: a. Name of the member being nominated b. Email address of the member being nominated c. Name of the member's Facebook account (if applicable) d. Name of the Department of the member e. Short description (No more than 2 paragraphs) of the innovative leadership recruitment or development practice Put the words "Leadership Rock Star" in the subject line of the email.

REMEMBER: There will be 2 awards given by me at Mid-Winter, for the county and unit with the most members in attendance at Mid-Winter. I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Legislative.....Maureen Morgan, Chairperson

National Executive Committee person.....Deborah Kryczkowski

National Security.....Peggy M. Martin, Chairperson

The National ALA President, Nicole Clapp's, theme this year is "Celebrate". We are celebrating our 100th Anniversary of our American Legion Auxiliary! We are celebrating our service to Veterans and their families. One way we recognize these families is the Banner Program, and sometimes these banners are referred to as Service Flags. The idea for this was designed in 1917, and 102 years later, still being used to recognize the sacrifices families give for our country each day. The flags originated during WWI and expanded to include WWII, then Korean War and "any period of war or hostilities". The Gold Star represents loss of a family member during military service, while a Blue Star represents an active military family member. In 2010 The House of Representatives passed a resolution recognizing the Silver Star for family members who were discharged being wounded or injured in a war zone. Units can use these banners as ways to thank our families by presenting these banners to them to display in their windows so we can all be proud of their sacrifices. This can be a way of opening the door for our ALA family to find if there are needs that can be met by any of our many programs. It may add a name to our list of men and women that we send packages to. So let us all "Celebrate" our military, and their families with these banners, and take pictures so we can all share what sacrifices they have made for our freedom.

Parliamentarian.....Patricia Hennessy, Chairperson

The role of the Secretary at meetings builds effective leadership and communication skills and can be a coveted job. The requirements for the Secretary include the ability to:

- Record accurately the decisions, commitments, and major discussion points made at a meeting
- Record the action items and due dates that meeting members committed to (action items have names attached, but the minutes don't state who said what in informal meetings)
- Review the major decisions and assignments or voluntary commitments and action items at the end of the meeting so participants can agree on them before leaving
- Be flexible because attendees can add or correct anything they disagree with in the minutes
- Insure the minutes are available to be read at next meeting and maintain all minutes in a file.

Past Presidents' Parley.....Kimberly Quick, Chairperson

BE A MENTOR, NOT A TORMENTOR! That phrase has been repeated to me time and time again. It's so important to remember it as a Past President when we mentor our members and officers. President Linda reminded us on the Fall Conference tour to be nice and show goodwill. We almost lost a great leader because of TORMENTORS.

Our 100th anniversary can take you back to when you were Unit President for the 1st time. Were you nicely mentored or yelled at? Were you led or pushed? These are memories that can help you now.

Use your successes and failures to help your members with programs and events. Encourage new members to join in. Let a member know if you think she has what it takes to "go up the chairs". Talk to them about what is expected and how to do things. You may be a PAST President, but you are still important to your Unit's future.

Poppy.....Sophie Liberatore, Chairperson

There were many reports with wonderful ways that our Auxiliary members have been distributing Poppies. Units are raising awareness of the Poppy and the Poppy program through many of these events. Some that have been reports thus far are setting up display tables at local stores, attending mid-night madness and handing out poppy's, speaking at Post and Auxiliary functions about the Poppy program to name a few. Some units have donated to Honor Flights. Others have donated gift cards, clothing and food to their County Veterans. Many have made donations to the VA centers and made donations to local parades while passing out Poppies. One Unit reported making Poppies with a second-grade class. What a nice idea that is!

The Poppy Story has been promoted through local News articles and by attending local town and city meetings. Many Units have reported receiving Proclamations on National Poppy Day in May!

Please be sure to forward your photos as well as posting them on face book so we can all see what you have done or plan to do. Please keep the reports coming in with more new and exciting ideas.

The Poppy Program and the 2014-2019 Centennial Strategic Plan – Using the image and story of the Flanders Field Poppy to educate people about the sacrifices of our military service members and help us raise awareness of The Legion Family and link us to our mission in the eyes of the public.

Public Relations.....Carrie Davenport, Chairperson

Developing A Relationship with Your Local Media Can Boost Your Public Relations Game

There are many things units, counties and districts can do to help establish a relationship with their local media and make the most out of the newspaper, television, and radio publicity. Start by making a list of media outlets in your area and identifying who in each of these newspapers, TV stations, or radio stations might be a potential contact person. Then investigate the deadlines associated with each media outlet. TV stations often have a morning news deadline and an evening news deadline whereas newspapers have daily and weekly deadlines depending on the section of the paper you are aiming to have your story run within.

When you contact the media be confident in what you're saying, and be kind. You will get more with honey than you will with vinegar. Media outlets remember those who are good to them and easy to work with. You want to be one of those people. You can do that by how you tell your story. Be sure to reach out to the media outlets well in advance and send as much information as possible make it interesting and exciting to read. Consider using one of the press release templates available on the website. If the media can't make it to your event, send information of the ALA mission in action like photos for both print or broadcast use. When doing so make sure to include some important ALA Facts as well as fact about your event.

When working with the local newspaper there are several things you can do to help improve your chances that the story will not only be run, but that it will be accurate as well. Before agreeing to an interview with a newspaper, practice what you will say with someone else. Set it up as a mock interview to ensure that you are able to accurately and succinctly tell the important parts. Don't be intimidated if the reporter uses a voice recorder or a cell phone to record the conversation. If you make a mistake, don't worry about it. Rephrase yourself. The reporter wants the story to make them look good just as much as they want to make you look good and they will use the information that is the best. Know how long you have been allotted for the interview. This will help you ensure that you don't spend too much time on one question and not have enough time for other key facts. Stay relaxed during the interview and offer to provide photographs.

Now all of the tips listed above will apply to TV as well. In addition to these tips, when doing a TV interview though make sure that you make eye contact with the reporter, look at the interviewer and pretend that the camera isn't there. Wear solid colors and be ALA branded. If you aren't sure if what you are wearing is appropriate, then it probably isn't. When doing a radio interview, what you wear is not as important as what you say! To be prepared for a radio interview it is important to know what to expect. You will likely have to wear headphones. This is so that you can hear what the host is saying as the interview occurs. Also note that many times there will be more than one person doing the interview and often more than one guest during the radio show. It is not uncommon, so don't let either of these scenarios keep you from sharing your information.

Keeping these tips in mind will help you make the most impact using traditional media outlets such as newspapers, television, and radio!

Warrior Family Assistance.....Ann Greaney, Chairperson

To date, one WFA grant application has been received, reviewed by the WFA Committee and approved for payment. Keep in mind that the WFA is in place to help currently deployed military and their families and those veterans honorably discharged within the last ten years. National Guard and Reservists who have been federally deployed within the last ten years are also eligible for assistance. They do not need to be a member of The American Legion or The American Legion Auxiliary to apply. Non-repayable grants up to \$1,200 are available for maintenance, medical or employment opportunities. Grant payments are always sent directly to the creditor; credit card debt is not eligible for payment. WFA brochures can be obtained from the Department Office. Reach out to your community and VA facility to spread the word about the WFA program. Eligibility requirements, application process and type of expenses covered can be found in the Plan of Action Supplement under Programs, scroll down to WFA. You can find WFA applications on the Department website (deptyn.org) or email me at nyalawfa@gmail.com.

Thank you to the Counties that have responded with the names of members who are willing to be on a WFA review panel in their County. I look forward to receiving additional names, so please consider serving on a panel. Even if you do not have a review panel, report how you are promoting the WFA program, any monetary donations sent into the Department Office and locations where you have placed brochures. Ask your Unit to run a fundraiser earmarked for the WFA. Auxiliary members are always eager to help and run successful events. Let's be able to give back, when asked for help.

Message from the Department Office.....Barbara, Caitlin & Nicholas

- **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. The Newsletter is emailed to all Unit Presidents, Unit Membership Chairmen and Unit Treasurers if we have your email address. If you do not have email and someone in the unit would like to receive it on your behalf, please let us know so we can add them to the list. Also, all County Presidents, County Membership Chairmen and County Treasurers as well as Committee Chairmen receive the newsletter via email. If you do not have anyone in the unit and/or county with an email to receive the email newsletter for you please contact the Department Secretary for a copy.
- Mailed copies of the Newsletters are available at the cost of \$15.00 per year.
- **Membership updates** - As a reminder, membership totals are updated each week by the Department Office. If you need up-to-date membership totals, you can call the Department office for up to date numbers for your unit and/or county meeting.
- **ALAMIS access renewals** are due no later than December 27th, 2019. New ALAMIS requests are welcome with the completed ALAMIS application sent to the Department Office. If your renewal is not paid by December 30, 2019 your ALAMIS access will be suspended until payment is received.
- Members – if you move, change any contact information, phone numbers, emails, etc., please send the change to the Department office so your information is updated in a timely manner.
- Anyone not paid by December 6th, 2019 will receive another renewal notice from National mid-January 2020.
- Please DO NOT hold membership, send it in promptly.

The Department office is here to help you and we are only a phone call or email away!

**American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York, Inc.
1580 Columbia Turnpike, Bldg. #1, Suite 3
Castleton-On-Hudson, NY 12033
Important dates to remember!!!
November 28th - Thanksgiving**

**December 7th – National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, December 22nd Hanukkah begins at sundown,
December 24th – Christmas Eve, December 25th Christmas Day, December 31st – New Year's Eve**



**American Legion Auxiliary
100 Years of Service Not Self**





EMPIRE GIRLS STATE 2020 BOOSTER ADS



To be recognized at the 2020 Empire Girls State of the State Ceremony.

We encourage you to support the Empire Girls State program by placing an ad in the State of the State Welcome Presentation. Citizens, parents, and members view this at the State of the State session and would be thrilled to see an ad from you congratulating them on their accomplishments at Girls State! Please feel free to make copies of this form and give to other Auxiliary members, Post members, friends, local businesses as well as the parents of your Empire Girls State citizens! Thank You!

Please check the desired size / space:

- Full Slide \$50
- Eighth Slide \$10
- Half Slide \$30
- Benefactor *(one-line listing)* \$5
- Quarter Slide \$20
- Booster *(name only)* \$1

Sponsoring Organization _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number _____ Fax Number _____

Email _____

Please make check or money order payable to: American Legion Auxiliary, Department of NY

Send to: Wendy Privitera
340 Franklin Ave
Dunkirk, NY 14048
Email: EGSViceChair@gmail.com

Please electronically submit or write a description below

Deadline: June 1, 2020

Thank you for supporting the Empire Girls State program!



EMPIRE GIRLS STATE 2020 BOOSTER ADS



To be recognized at the 2020 Empire Girls State of the State Ceremony

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

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Please include \$1 for each name listed!

Please make check or money order payable to: American Legion Auxiliary, Department of NY

Send to: Wendy Privitera
340 Franklin Ave
Dunkirk, NY 14048
Email: EGSViceChair@gmail.com

Deadline: June 1, 2020

Thank you for supporting the Empire Girls State program!