



*The American Legion Auxiliary  
 Department of New York, Inc.  
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*September  
 2021*



*Department President's Message.....Mary E. Farley*

Happy Fall,

I can't believe we are entering a new administrative year, and I am so excited to be your Department President for 2021-2022.

My theme this year is "Anchored in our History, Sailing to our Future." We just celebrated our 100th Birthday so now we look forward to "sailing" through another 100 years.

As we sail forward to another 100 years let's try to remember why we became members of this wonderful organization. I hope it was to honor our veterans, our service members, and their families. I think sometimes we lose focus of our mission - "In the spirit of Service, Not Self". We must all remember to be kind to one another and think before we speak, words can be very hurtful.

As many of you know by now some of our visitations were canceled due to the rising number of COVID cases in our state, they are going to be rescheduled at a future date so stay tuned for more information.

Keep working on your membership, remember to recruit, renew, and retain members this year. I just received an email today stating that we have 184 new members added within the last 2 weeks! Great Job everyone!!

Please stay safe!

*Awards from National Convention 2019-2021*

Americanism Education	Best Department Americanism Program in the Eastern Division	Terri Wallace
	Spirit of Youth 2020-2021 Unit 188, Livingston Co.	Rianna Garlic
Juniors Membership	Children of Warriors 2019-2020 Unit 94, Suffolk Co.	Colin Rieff
	2020-2021 Unit 1282, Nassau Co	James Connor
	ALA Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship 2019-2020 Unit 1456, Bronx County	Julie Posey
	2020-2021 Unit 1456, Bronx County	Victoria Gorgoglione
	National Junior Member of the Year, Unit 432, Suffolk Co.	Riley Meckley
	Units that reached 100% of 2021 goal by November 2020	
	Unit #660 – Bradley-Jessop	
	Unit #797 – L Major James A. Mc Kenna	
	Unit #1358 – Kings Highway	

	Unit #1038 – Adolph Pfister	
	Unit #1634 – Sergeant John Sardiello	
Recruit 5	Emmy Creskey, Sharon May, MacKenzie McDaniels, Charlotte Ridley	
Past Presidents' Parley-	Department Unit Member of the Year, Unit 789, Jefferson Co.	Kelly Scott
Active-Duty Service Member	representing the U.S. Marines –	Lance Corporal MacKayla McDaniels
Poppy	Best Department Poppy Program in the Eastern Division	Sophie Liberatore
Poppy Posters	Best Poppy Poster in the Eastern Division, Unit 35, Orleans Co	Olivia Beiber
Poppy Posters	Class IV – grade 8 & 9 in the Eastern Division	Emily Stadter
	Class V – grade 10 & 11 in the Eastern Division, Unit 35, Orleans Co	Olivia Beiber
	Class VI – grade 12 in the Eastern Division, Unit 35, Orleans Co.	Zachary Colacecchi
VA & R	Most Outstanding Unit VA&R Program in the Eastern Div., Unit 1038	Emmy Creskey

*Membership.....Nancy J. Babis, Chairperson*

HELLO FELLOW DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MEMEMBERS! What an honor it is for me to share with you some things I've learned at National Convention in Phoenix this year. Other than it is HOT in Phoenix I learned that we have an amazing membership team of dedicated Auxiliary members being led by President Kathy Daudustel, and membership team members Michele DeGennaro National Chairman, Valerie Brown Debros Vice Chair and Linda Green Eastern Division Membership Chair. Our membership team hashtag this year is #TogetherWeServe. There is strong encouragement to work together with the Legion Family to renew, recruit and retain members. There even is an award for the best Department program demonstrating working together to achieve our goals.

Please join the Auxiliary Membership Facebook page. There are lots of ideas, suggestions and motivation from all across the country. Speaking of joining....if your Unit doesn't already belong to ALAMIS please consider joining. It is a great way to access membership information. There currently there is a pilot program going on in 3 units across the state that will enable them to transmit to National Headquarters directly using this program. Stay tuned as to how the trial goes.

Membership renewal notices will be sent via regular mail September 15, 2021, and February 2022 and by email November 2021 and January 2022.

**Ways to renew membership are:**

- 1). Pay your Unit membership chairman personally
- 2). Mail your check with your renewal notice to the Unit
- 3). Call National (317-569-4570) Monday – Friday 8:30 am- 4:30pm EST.  
You can pay multiple family dues this way
- 4). Online at [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org).

UPDATES TO MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS ARE COMPLETED EVERY WEDNESDAY. CHECK DEPARTMENT WEBSITE ([WWW.DEPTNY.ORG](http://WWW.DEPTNY.ORG)) to chart your unit/county/district's progress. The Department finished last year just 1300 short of our goal. Top Dog Mary (Pug) and the Vice Presidents (Golden Doodles) are counting on all of the Rottweilers (County), Labrador Retrievers (Unit), German Shepherds (Past Department Presidents) and Cocker Spaniels (all unit) members to help us reach our goal of 36,474.

There are many awards both Department and National that our membership teams are eligible to receive. The first deadline is October 15, 2021, for 100% membership for both Counties and Units. The next deadline is November 11, 2021, for 100% membership (both Department and National). So, get that membership in today! The dog days of summer are over, time to get to work for our Veterans and Families.

## *VA&R / Service to Veterans.....Karen St. Hilaire, Chairperson*

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee commonly referred to as VA&R is one of the most important committees. It is the reason the American Legion Auxiliary formed, and the reason we belong.

Our mission in promoting this committee is to enhance the lives of our active military, veterans, and their families. We can accomplish this mission and support rehabilitation of veterans through arts, crafts, and hobbies. This can occur on a small scale at your post, community center, senior housing, or Veterans Hospitals.

For those who have a VA Hospital in your community, contact them to see if you can volunteer. Maybe your unit can host a game night, like bingo, card games or other activities. Some hospitals are not allowing visitors in right now. You can inquire as to needed items such as blankets, robes or other personal items that can be dropped off at the hospital entrance.

Service to Veterans refers to those activities provided outside hospitals. You could mow your veteran neighbor's lawn, shop for groceries, or just visit with them.

Do not forget to recognize and support the Caregivers. You could offer to sit with the veteran so the caregiver can go get a cup of coffee, take a walk, or just take a break.

Whatever activities your unit or members provide make sure you report it. These hours and activities are then reported to congress, to show the need for benefits and programs for our veterans. When submitting the VA&R report, please write the names of volunteers' hours for each individual on the back of the form or add a second page if emailing. This will make it easier to keep accurate account of hours needed to award volunteer service bars and pins.

I just received a request from National VA&R Committee Chairman Lisa Williamson. She is asking units/members to send in pictures of VA&R activities. Reminder, please email original photos at the highest resolution and do not copy and paste photos.

## *Children and Youth.....Kimberly A. Quick, Chairperson*

The Children and Youth program emphasizes protecting, caring for, and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans' and military families. Please see the 2021-2022 Department of NY Plan of Action Supplement for all awards under this committee.

Star Spangled Kids has been moved to the Americanism committee by national two years ago, so please report it under Americanism.

The ALA Halloween coloring book is available on the national website [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org) for downloading or purchasing.

Good Deed and Youth Hero awards. These are national awards and require our Department Secretary Barbara Corker's signature for certification by Department to be considered. When emailing to Barbara at [nyalasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:nyalasecretary@gmail.com), please copy me at [nyalachildrenandyouth@gmail.com](mailto:nyalachildrenandyouth@gmail.com) or you can still send them in the mail directly to the Department office.

The Child Welfare Foundation has awards in the Plan of Action that are given by The American Legion. Do you have the CWF piggy banks? Do you collect spare change at your meetings? Do you make regular donations?

Check out the national website [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org) under the Children & Youth committee for other projects such as ordering a button for Proud Parent of a Military Child, or Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2. The

ALA also collaborates with Military Child Education Coalition, TAPS for military child support, Big brothers, Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Scouts Clubs of America, and Give an Hour.

Last but not least, remember the children and youth affected by the hurricanes and fires across the country. Make sure they are fed and clothed. Kids are also sometimes caregivers. Look to see how you can help them.

*Americanism.....Maureen Morgan, Chairperson*

Congratulations to Terri Wallace for receiving the Best Department Americanism Award in the Eastern Division for the 2019-2021 Administrative Year!

As the new school year starts for many students, we also acknowledge the Memorial of 911 and remember those that gave their lives for our Country. The show of the American Flag, Memorial Ceremonies, and the show of remembering what our Country what went through 20 years ago is heartfelt.

Americanism is the showing of what our Country and the Flag stand for. We need to encourage that with our young students by giving classes on Flag etiquette and encouraging the students to write essays about what Americanism means to them.

The National Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-12 is on the Department and National Website. The Essay theme this year is “How can we support families who provide care to their veteran?” Please adhere to the rules and include the Essay Cover Sheet. All entries must be sent to this Department Chair no later than March 15, 2022, to be considered for forwarding on to the National Americanism Committee.

Let’s get out there and never forget.

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

The American Legion Family College of New York is a 3-day leadership weekend immersion into the American Legion Family programs and structure. More details can be found in the Plan of Action Supplement for 2021-2022 please review and contact me with any questions.

The 2022 session is scheduled for June 3-5, 2022, at SUNY Morrisville. Both Tim Collmer and I will be meeting with SUNY Morrisville representatives in October to discuss this session’s contract. At the moment the cost will be **\$250.00** per student, if that changes, I will inform everyone after the meeting. By the end of October, the updated student and instructor applications will be available on the Legion Department Website just use the link on our own website @ **deptny.org**

If God willing, this will be the fourth year for the Department of NY American Legion Family College and things have changed. I am happy to announce that Terri Wallace and Nancy Babis will once again be joining us and new to the team will be Past Department President Debbie Morris. I am sad to say that due to health-related issues Diane Craig and Kathy Cubit had to step down. We need additional instructors not only with Diane and Kathy stepping down, but I believe there are 2 Legionnaires also stepping down due to health concerns. Please consider joining the team. The list of the topics can be found in the Plan of Action.

The American Legion and the SAL members are on-board with the Family College concept, it is now time that the ALA members to jump on-board. Only as a united team can we ensure that this great organization will be around for another 100 plus years. Learning as well as teaching each other about ourselves will only make us stronger.

There is a National Membership Award for the best American Legion Family program/project that supports each of the organizations in maintaining and recruiting members. "Together We Serve" is this year's slogan. I think the Family College is perfect for this award. Wouldn't it assume to bring this award home to New York State?

I look forward to a great year. I am 100% invested in making the Family College concept exciting for everyone and something everyone would want to attend.

*Auxiliary Emergency Fund.....Ida Knapp, Chairperson*

The Department of New York did not receive any awards under this committee at National Convention. A Citation plaque to the unit that contributed the largest amount per capita awarded to Unit 0109 in the Department of Montana. The Department that contributed the largest amount (per capita) was the Department of Montana. The Department that contributed the largest donation was Texas.

This committee was started in 1969 and the grant was only \$150.00 - fifty-two years ago, now it is \$2,400.00.

Did you know that a 2-liter soda bottle will hold \$500.00 of dimes! This is a great way to collect funds at the post home.

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund is going to need donations now with all the wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes and all these other natural disasters across the country. Even our own disasters, here in NY that we have had in our homes. I have paperwork to give out if you need to file for a grant, so please contact me at 607-760-5944 or email at [nyalaemergencyfund@gmail.com](mailto:nyalaemergencyfund@gmail.com). The paperwork is also on the Department and National website.

*Chaplain.....Joanna vonSeydewitz, Chairperson*

A few notes from National Convention: I'm sure that Past National Chaplain MaryAnn Casadei must have been so disappointed in missing the National convention. However, Past National Chaplain Rosemarie Hauck stepped in with beautiful words about her service. Our new National President, Kathy Daudistel, must have been thinking about MaryAnn and many others when she made caring for caretakers her focus for 2021-2022.

A Chaplain's responsibility is to give faith and hope to all. Please know that Prayer Chains are effective! Praying for others gets God's attention. Unit Chaplains should share their concerns with their County Chaplain, and definitely with me, your Department Chaplain. I will always answer calls, texts, and emails. Please note that the cell number is: #631-943-3397

Please be sensitive to diversity and inclusion. We pray to God as each of us understands Him/Her. Each of us hold our own beliefs in our hearts. There is no need to express personal beliefs when we pray for all. God knows where our love extends.

As was pointed out, we look for spiritual progress, not spiritual perfection. Please send prayers from all faiths to me for inclusion in President Mary's Book of Prayers. I look forward to hearing from all of you.

*Community Service.....Barbara Neddo, Chairperson*

Now that some of the Covid restrictions have been lifted I hope we as an Auxiliary can do more in our communities. We are here to try to improve on the lives of our veterans, their families, and the community.

Last month in the community where I live; I had a school supply drive. I collected many supplies for the local school. Most don't realize how many children go back to school with no supplies. I know personally because I worked for many years in the local school. I gave everything collected to the elementary school.



This year more than ever people are in need of the local food banks, clothing give away and much more. Covid has not been good to any of us. This year please, Auxiliary members get involved with the community you live in. Then in November please report what has been done. I expect to hear from all Counties. Have fun and report. Personal email is: [bneddo3@nycap.rr.com](mailto:bneddo3@nycap.rr.com).

*Constitution and Bylaws/Resolutions.....Marie Mock, Chairperson*

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, as we start our new Auxiliary year, it is time to review our governing documents. Some of our units and counties have not updated our Constitution and Bylaws for over twenty years. Certainly, at least our eligibility, meeting days and times, and dues have changed in that long. You need to find those forms and refresh them. To do this, simply go to the Department website and download the simple form that applies to you. Then fill in the blanks. You don't need to rewrite the whole thing. Rewriting only leads to conflict with our state and national documents. The Constitution part should require very little. The Bylaws will depend on your unit. You must have the first two Bylaws as listed on the form, but the rest depend on your own unit/county. Some units vote on everything; some units spell out many of the usual activities and donations such as memorials for members who pass, money for attendance at conventions, etc., and yearly contributions to the Post or community. If you are writing your own part, be specific and be clear. Make sure that you are not just repeating what is included elsewhere, or, worse yet, contradicting a previous statement.

National has made three changes to their governing documents. The name of the audit committee has been changed to the Risk and Compliance committee (not something lower levels need to do), there is now an executive committee to the National Executive Committee, and the Executive Director will have check signing power. These changes do not require action on our parts. If you have questions about them, please contact me or check the National website.

Thank you to those who have updated their paperwork recently. Our governing documents need to be current and precise to avoid frustration and confusion when an issue comes up. You might consider adding the possibility of electronic meetings to your documents as we have had some issues this year with the pandemic stopping in person meetings. If your documents are thorough and up to date it will solve many of the questions that do not need to become contentious for us.

Feel free to contact me with questions at [nvalaconstitution@gmail.com](mailto:nvalaconstitution@gmail.com).

*Education.....Anne Baglio, Chairperson*

Hello everyone, I hope everyone is doing well. I had the great honor of going to the National ALA Convention in Phoenix, AZ. It was HOT... HOT... It was my first National Convention, and it was great. I learned a lot and want to share with everyone.

My Department Chairmanship is Education. I am really excited about this program. If we can help our children in getting scholarships that is a wonderful feeling. Don't you want to feel wonderful? So, let's get started. First, start getting familiar with the POA (Plan of Action) supplement, the Education is on page 79, regarding the scholarships that are being offered. The scholarship information is also on the Dept. website at deptny.org.

Keep in mind the deadline dates. The National deadline dates are sooner than Department dates. Mark these dates on your home calendar.

As for National Education awards for New York, we did not receive any for last year. But this year the sky's the limit. There are so many ideas out there to spread the word about the scholarships and help the education program. One state reported they made "School Cakes". Not like traditional cakes, these are like diaper cakes, they are made out of school supplies and delivered to different schools around the state. Another State filled

laundry baskets with supplies and delivered to different schools. Even though school started the students are always in need of supplies throughout the year. Be creative. Take the time and tell your story about the impact you or your Unit had on other people. We need to get out there and show what we do and who we are. Make sure when you are giving supplies, or anything make sure you “Brand” (tell them who you are) American Legion Auxiliary Unit? It is so important to brand and report your hard work. National and Dept. of NY have many awards for your valuable contribution. Report and apply for these awards.

**Now the BIG NEWS...** I was approached at the States Dinner in Phoenix, AZ, by Ms. Betsy Lee Hodges from North Carolina ALA and she would like to challenge the Dept. of NY Education (all of US) this year. I am currently trying to get a hold of her to finalize the details as to what we are going to do. So please get busy and help our children, grandchildren, and military children. As soon as I know more about this challenge, I will share the information. Thank you for your hard work and getting the news out there.

If you have any questions, please contact me. Anne M. Baglio – cell phone 716-432-1354 or email nyalaeducation@gmail.com

*ALA Empire Girls State..... Wendy Privitera, Chairperson  
.....Members Kris Dziduch and Terri D. Wallace*

We are excited about yet another great year for the Empire Girls State program. The 2021 virtual session was a big success and was filled with many amazing young ladies eager to learn and participate. We are already working hard preparing for the 2022 session, which we hope will be in person!

Please note a few important details for the program:

- Location: SUNY Brockport
- Dates: July 3, 2022 - July 9, 2022
- Tuition : \$ 355 (\$330 tuition plus \$25 application fee)
- **We will be holding virtual orientations:** Information on these will be emailed directly to your selected citizens and alternates

There is a lot of great information in the Plan of Action! Please! Please! PLEASE! Read it carefully!!! In addition to all of the great information, there are also applications to join the awesome Empire Girls State team!! Please review the job descriptions and requirements and see if it’s something you might enjoy doing! Applications are due January 1, 2022, so that we can begin working through them and selecting the staff! It is such a rewarding experience, and 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 county quota’s! **This information is in the Plan of Action and requires your county’s immediate attention!** The Quota form needs to be returned to Kris Dziduch EGS 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman by **November 1, 2021**, so that plans can be made to accommodate each and every county!

Happy Planning and let us know if we can help in any way!

*Finance Committee/Audit..... Susan Britton, Chairperson  
.....Violet Brosart and Linda Moseman Members*

Welcome to a new administrative year under the leadership of Department President Mary Farley. We begin and start fresh each year with finance and all that comes with it. Your unit’s yearly budget should be in place

and be voted upon for approval as soon as possible. Your budget is merely a “guideline” and items can be added with approval at any point in time.

As I began my Finance/Audit Chairmanship, I noted that the Department office had over 200 “outstanding checks” that had not been cashed. Some dated back to 2019. Obviously, with the pandemic, many units/counties did not meet, but deposits still should have been made for these checks. Some were made out to individuals for winnings on the Department calendar. Some were to counties for county membership dues portions. In fact, one county had “9” checks over the course of the past year for dues portions that had not been cashed totaling almost \$1,600. In an effort to “clean up the books”, units/individuals will have until October 30, 2021, to cash/deposit checks that have been sent to them. After that date, those checks will be voided and no longer valid. **PLEASE** deposit/cash checks in a timelier manner. Many banks might not even honor these stale-dated checks. If that occurs, please contact Department Secretary Barbara Corker for a replacement check. Please remember to send back the outdated check so a new check can be issued.

**Please remember to file your Unit Audit Data form by December 31, 2021**, which can be found on the Department website or in your 21-22 Plan of Action.

Reminder: If you or someone you know are interested in applying to be on the Finance/Audit Committee for a 3-year term beginning with the 2022-2023 year, a letter of interest and resume are required to be submitted to the leading candidate for Department President by February 15, 2022.

*Historian.....Yvonne Brunner, Chairperson*

Welcome to the beginning of a new and exciting next chapter in our auxiliary journey. Our department convention was held in Albany, New York with a limited number of in-person guests. I hope all of you had the opportunity to join in through the “live,” convention podcast. Remember to visit the ‘American Legion Auxiliary Department of New York President,’ Facebook page under Community to see all the photos and fun.

Part of our mission as an American Legion Auxiliary member is to preserve the memories of our time spent with our veterans, active-duty service members, their families, and the community. As Unit Historians or County Historians we capture our grassroots effects. The roll of the Historian can be likened to being a roving photographer. Always be ready! Some of the best photos happen unexpectedly. The camera on your phone has become our best asset.

Some tips and tricks to bring your history to life.

Accompany the Public Relations Chair – coordinate event planning both ALA family and local events. This is a wonderful opportunity for photos and maybe an interview.

Interview – have a “Spotlight on You,” interview with a member. This can be a scheduled meeting or an impromptu chat at a local event. Start upping your history with live chats that you can later add to a Facebook page.

Historical Society – if you have a local Historical Society ask if you can include a History Book of events for your auxiliary.

Social Media – is your best friend. Always promote your page (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram). Keeping your page updated will help retain interest. Upload and post flyers of local events that the ALA will be a part of too.

Take advantage of your local resources - keep a list of all local media outlets, newspapers, other FB pages or websites. There are many who will allow you to promote your events for free.



Remember to share your photographs and stories with me. Let us have this year's department history book filled with events and adventures from across the great State of New York.

Let's Make History Together!

*Junior Activities.....Jennifer Farley, Chairperson*

Even though we are still in the midst of a pandemic, there are still activities that Juniors can do! They can hold meetings in person or virtually. They can also participate in senior member meetings. When holding meetings in person, please remember to follow safety guidelines such as wearing face masks and social distancing. If you are starting District Visitation, invite your Junior members to attend and participate in them as well!

Are you helping your Junior and young SAL members work on their patches? You may need to adjust some of the activities due to social distancing. Be creative! Be flexible! What matters most is that they learn about the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary!

Don't forget to encourage your Junior members to wear RED on Fridays for Remember Red (Remember Everyone Deployed).

Our Juniors are the future of our organization! Let's work to encourage and educate them! I am looking forward to a fun year working together with our Junior members!

*Leadership.....Marrick McDonald, Chairperson*

I am so excited to be the Department of NY Leadership Chairman; I just completed two years as Eastern Division Leadership Chairman, where I was mentoring the Department Chairman from the Division. I am excited to be able to put all that I have learned from that chairmanship to practice in this chairmanship.

Mid-Winter Leadership Conference planning is in full force. It's scheduled for January 21 and 22, 2022. In reading all of the previous Mid-Winter Conference evaluations for the past two in-person conferences there was one common theme: we want to LEARN!

So, Friday is going to look very differently than at the previous conferences. There will be 7 time slots: 4 in the afternoon and 3 in the evening. Each time slot will have 4 different workshop options. Workshop topics include protocol, parliamentary procedure, finance, leadership committee, Warrior Family Assistance committee, VA&R committee, Membership Committee, Americanism committee, voting strength, and standing rules. There will also be several How-To workshops: how to be a unit president, how to be a county president, how to run a meeting, how to work with the American Legion Family, how to be a county Empire Girls State chair, and how to work with other like-minded organizations.

Saturday morning will be a whole group session, where we will get to see the new Honorary Junior Department officers installed and learn more about Department President Mary's Project. There will also be three other presentations, which are still in the works. More details to come.

Also, please review the updated National Programs Action Plan Supplement; it can be found on the national ALA website. There are national unit awards outlined in that document. There were no national unit leadership awards given in this division last year. Let's not have that happen again.

In closing, Brene Brown defines a leader "is anyone who takes responsibility for finding the potential in people and processes, and who has the courage to develop that potential." To whom are you a leader?

*Legislative..... Karen Chan, Chairperson*

Agenda for the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress (2021-2022)

Here are some listings of bills in progress. You can check the progress of these bills on the website [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) by typing in the bill number in the search bar.

A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate one week each year as “Buddy Check Week” Act urging its members to continuously reach out to fellow veterans as one step toward reducing veteran suicides. S.544

A high percentage of post-9/11 veterans have been exposed to airborne toxic hazards, often the result of personal proximity to burn pits for extended times during service. The American Legion urges Congress to reintroduce and pass the Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Act of 2020 and support further studies into conditions directly related to contaminants in order to establish a complete list of presumptive diseases caused by toxic exposure during service. H.R. 3967

U.S. Coast Guard personnel carry out daily missions vital to national security. They serve in the only military branch forced to work without pay during government shutdowns because of their status under the Department of Homeland Security. The American Legion urges Congress to reintroduce and pass the Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act. This would guarantee that the Coast Guard personnel are paid without delay. S.1845

VA Caregiver Transparency Act – provide clarification and improvement of program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs. H.R. 4625

Suicide prevention assistance act – Amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to provide self-harm and suicide prevention services in primary care offices and for other purposes. The grant shall be used to hire more clinical social workers to carry out the activities such as screen patients for self-harm and suicide, provide patients short-term self-harm and suicide prevention services and to refer patients to a health care facility for purposes of receiving long-term self-harm and suicide prevention services. H.R. 2648

Please contact your Senators and Representatives to support these bills.

*National Executive Committee person..... Patricia Hennessy*

I can honestly say it was a busy and hectic week in Phoenix as well as HOT! Yes, a dry heat, but still darn hot!

I am sure you will hear from others, but it was stressed that our dues cover only 60% of operating cost. Yes, a dues increase will be proposed next year to be effective 2024. Start saving those pennies!

A resolution to change the NEC TO BOARD OF DIRECTOR failed on the convention floor by a landslide.

The NEC meeting was held on Thursday morning. National President Kathy Daudistel with our usual opening ceremonies.

Within the agenda were:

- Approved the slate of National Appointments which include several New York members.  
Lucille Mozzillo, Eastern Division Chair for Education  
Linda Tome, Eastern Division Chair for Leadership  
Marie Mock, Eastern Division Chair for Poppy

Foundation Board of Directors  
Cathleen MacInnes, President  
Terry Wallace, Treasurer  
Carrie Davenport, Elected Director

CONGRATULATIONS LADIES!

Budget was approved for National. Again, mention dues increase. Also, the Foundation budget was adopted.

*National Security.....Mary Ann Calbo, Chairperson*

This month we are reminded of what led us into Afghanistan, we commemorated the 20th anniversary of 9/11 in honoring over 3,000 who were killed in the 2001 attacks. We relived the story of great loss, our resilience, and the hope for a better future. Our brave men and women have suffered 20,000 injuries and a great loss of over 2,000 lives since 2001. Our military orchestrated the biggest airlifts in history to secure the safe haven of most American and Afghan allies is surely miraculous. We have ended America's longest war that lasted two decades.

We must be ever vigilant in our resolve of supporting our active duty, reservists, National Guards, transitioning military, their families and gold star families. Let us never forget the great loss of life suffered in securing our homeland.

Please give this information to any identified veteran in crisis: 1-800-273-8255 Text 83855

The Salute to Active-Duty Female Veterans will be reported under the National Security Committee, the award entry was formally under the Past President's Parley Committee. The award honors one active-duty woman from each branch of service. The recipients are invited guests of the Auxiliary at the National Convention.

The Susan Britton Award is for the most outstanding overall report of National Security issues reported by the unit and county National Security Chairman.

Look for the forms in the Plan of Action pages 177-183 and I am looking forward to your November reporting.

*Parliamentarian.....Mary Lou Platt*

There should be a Parliamentarian on every level of the American Legion Auxiliary. A Parliamentarian advises the President on various issues and matters of parliamentary procedure. The Parliamentarian does not rule. The President has the right to follow that advice or disregard it.

During the meeting, the Parliamentarian should be seated next to the President. The Parliamentarian speaks to the President and only speaks to the membership if the matter is complicated and then only at the request of the President.

Parliamentarians are not expected to know everything there is about Parliamentary Procedure, but it does help to understand the rules and regulations of the American Legion Auxiliary and the proper procedure for carrying them out.

The reason for having rules in the first place is to enable us to agree on the governance of our organization. Without rules, the American Legion Auxiliary would not last as a group. We wouldn't be able to avoid conflicts and we would experience disagreements on many issues without resolving them. We would find ourselves not knowing which rule takes precedence and when.

*Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* is a wonderful resource for anyone who has to spend time in meetings.

Robert's Rules sets up some basic classifications to help avoid complications and to be able to keep discussion and action on a controversial issue from getting out of hand.

Your meetings will run smoother, shorter, and fairer by following:

- Courtesy & Justice to every member.
- Acting on only one thing at a time.
- The right of the minority to be heard.
- The rule of the majority to be recognized.

Please note Mary Lou's cell number is: 607-221-9783

*Past Presidents' Parley.....Linda Tome, Chairperson*

At the National level, we no longer have a Past Presidents' Parley Committee; however, we will have a Past Presidents' Parley Committee on the Department level . . .from what I understand when I was at National Convention, the Strategic Planning Committee had in their plans to remove this committee at the National level. (As an FYI, please note that the majority of Departments at this National Pre-Convention Committee meeting, all were going to keep the Past Presidents' Parley Committee!)

*So, what does that mean to you?* Basically, that you will not have to do ANY reporting to the Past Presidents' Parley as it is no longer a reporting Committee!! Instead, you will report your activities to the Leadership and National Security Chair respectively as these numbers still need to be reported to congress.

So, what happens to the *Unit Member of the Year award??* We will still have that award; however, it will now be under the Leadership Committee and therefore you will now submit your nominee to the Department Leadership Committee Chairman, Merrick McDonald. So, Units and Counties you will now report your activity under Leadership.

And then you ask *what about the Salute to Active-Duty Servicewomen?* Which oh by the way our own MacKayla McDaniels won this year for the branch of the Marine Corp! This award entry will now be sent to the Department National Security Committee Chairman, Mary Ann Calbo – so Units and Counties will report this activity under National Security!

Past President Parley dues remain at \$5/Unit, County, District Past President.

We will still have scholarships at the Department Level – awarding a \$1000 scholarship for post-secondary education in the medical field. And we will still have the Betty Jane Light Award to the Unit chairman who initiates and completes the most outstanding program for the assisting and caring of women veterans. Please see the Plan of Action regarding the Department Rules to apply for this award.

It was suggested by last year's National Committee Chairman that if you want to keep this Committee as a Reporting Committee at the National level, I was advised that we need to send letters to National giving reasons why we should keep this Committee.

Any questions on any of this, please shoot me an email at nyalapastpresidents@gmail.com!!

*Poppy.....Patricia Murphy, Chairperson*

Congratulations Sophie Liberatore on receiving Best Department Poppy Program Eastern Division. I have huge shoes to fill. Department of New York also had winners in Eastern Division Poppy Posters Class IV grade 8 & 9 - Emily Stadter, Class V grade 10 & 11 - Olivia Beiber, Class VI grade 12 - Zachary Colacechi. Best overall poppy poster from the Eastern Division Olivia Beiber. Congratulations to all.

Despite Covid Department of New York Poppy Distribution was a success. To date donations total \$20,654.96. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped make this happen.

Reminder that Poppy orders need to be placed by December 1, 2021, to assure delivery.

*Public Relations.....Colleen McDaniels, Chairperson*

It is crazy to think that 18 months later COVID is still keeping us from some of our regular activities, but this does not have to keep us from promoting our mission. Many units are still working our amazing programs. When we think of Public Relations we often think of local newspapers and social media. When I found out my department committee would be public relations, I looked for ways to step up my game. I found templates for letters to the editor for almost every holiday and major event we as ALA members participate in on the National Website. I changed the Memorial Day/Poppy promotion to fit what my unit was doing, I wrote an article about my EGS citizens and sent it to the Newspaper and the school principal who put it on Facebook, and I wrote an article about Dept awards my unit received and used a photo of the Juniors. Not one letter or press release took more than 15 minutes. However, Public Relations is more than just our News Articles and Social Media Posts, it is what we do and how we display our logo. Promoting the AEF for members in need after flooding shows how we look out for our members, posting a photo of Juniors with their Department Awards shows our compassion and gratitude for what they do, submitting meeting highlights to the paper talking about a donation for VA recreation shows what we do and that we care about our Veterans.

I know that for many of us it is hard to put these things out there, many were raised not to brag or be boastful, but if we don't tell what we do and who we are we who will?

*Warrior Family Assistance.....Sally Johnston, Chairperson*

Warriors Family Assistance (WFA) - What is it? What types of grants are available? Who can apply?

The WFA is a program unique to New York affording grants up to \$1200.00 to help our currently deployed military and their families and those honorably discharged within the last ten (10) years. The National Guard and Reservists who have been federally deployed within the past ten (10) years are also eligible. (Read more in your 2018 – 2022 Plan of Action or the 2021 – 2022 supplement also available on the department website [www.deptny.org](http://www.deptny.org))

There are 3 types of Grants available.

**MAINTENANCE** - which includes cost of living, food, shelter to name a few.

**MEDICAL** – to help with the cost of current medical expenses and outstanding medical bills.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR EMPLOYMENT GRANTS** - assists in finding transportation to work and childcare if the custodial parent must find employment.

The above is a condensed overview of the program. At the request of our Department President Mary, she has asked that **ALL 62 County Presidents** appoint a WFA Chairman who can work the program. We must all take a part in letting our Veterans know that this program exists and how to apply for a grant.

If your Unit or your Post Home has a Stand Down, this would be a great time and place to have a table and display the WFA brochures and talk about the program. Regardless of what's going on around us in this world, we still have a responsibility to our currently serving service members and our Veterans as well.

We don't know what our nation is still facing with the "pandemic", but what we do know is how to serve our



Veterans. Would your Unit consider doing fundraiser for this program? Let's remember "why" we joined the American Legion Auxiliary and from whom we received our eligibility (dual members excluded). Let's make everyone in our "American Legion Family" and the public aware of this program. Ask your local merchants / doctors' offices / libraries, etc., if they would provide you with some space where you may display the WFA Brochures. Be sure you have current and accurate contact information on the brochures. Let's not forget our American Legion County Service Officers locations. We should be communicating with them on regular basis to see if we as an American Legion Auxiliary can help in any way.

Let's begin immediately working on this program. Remember this is a "reporting committee".

I look forward to receiving your first report by November 10 to include all of your successes and ideas to pass along to other Units / Counties.

*Message from the Department Office.....Barbara, Caitlin and Sarah*

President Mary has asked me to share the following important information:

**Gift Card Scammers**

Please be careful of scammers who convince you to buy gift cards! How do scammers convince you to pay with gift cards? Scammers pretend to be someone they're not to convince you to pay with gift cards. They want to scare or pressure you into acting quickly, so you don't have time to think or talk to someone you trust. Visit this web site from the Federal Trade Commission to get more information:

https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/gift-card-scams

- **Please note the following changes for the 2021-2022 Department Plan of Action:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> District President Joanna's cell phone is: 631-943-3397

- 4<sup>th</sup> District President Barbara's personal email is: [bneddo3@nycap.rr.com](mailto:bneddo3@nycap.rr.com)

- 3<sup>rd</sup> District Vice President Lucille's email is: [Lucille1lkpt@yahoo.com](mailto:Lucille1lkpt@yahoo.com)

- Constitution and Bylaws email is: [nyalaconstitution@gmail.com](mailto:nyalaconstitution@gmail.com)

- PDP Mary Lou Platt's cell is: 607-221-9783 She no longer has the fax number

- PDP Linda Tome's new email is: [lindatome.ala@gmail.com](mailto:lindatome.ala@gmail.com)

- ALA EGS page 103, last sentence should say Department President Mary Farley

If you notice any other, please let me know.

- **The 2021-2022 Plan of Action** is now on the Department website along with all the forms which are fillable for your convenience. [www.deptny.org](http://www.deptny.org).
- **Each District President** has a Zoom account for the use of scheduling District, County or Unit meetings. All you have to do is contact your respective District President and she can set up the meeting for you.
- **Membership updates** – As a reminder, membership totals are updated each week by the Department Office on Wednesday. If you need up-to-date membership totals, you can email the office or call the Department office for up-to-date numbers for your unit and/or county meeting.
- **Please do not send DD214's into the office with applications.** Once the Post Adjutant/Officer signs the application, return the supporting documents to the member. The office only needs the completed – signed application with the dues and transmittal. Direct Descendant is no longer an option; please make sure you are circling daughter or granddaughter on older applications.

**DO NOT SEND IN INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS!!**

- **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. This also pertains to unit President, Membership Chair and Unit Treasurer.

- **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/County Presidents, Unit/County Membership Chairmen and Unit/County Treasurers if we have your updated email address. 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 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.
- All Department checks must be deposited within 90 days.
- 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.
- When submitting a donation form please indicate what unit or county it is from: i.e. Suffolk County not SCALA. Unit #1234 – official name of unit not a nick name or location.
- Please check the Department website for County Visitation updates/cancellations.

**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**

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



**BE SAFE, WEAR YOUR MASK, WASH YOUR HANDS AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING SO WE CAN BE TOGETHER AGAIN! If you don't feel well, stay home to avoid possible transmission! All our members are important!**