**ALA Unit 156 Committees & Chairs 2019 – 2020**

**Unit President, Doreen Gallagher Wall; lst VP, Viki Trifari (Membership); 2nd VP, Jane Gelsi (Children & Youth); 3rd VP, Susan Vaughn (VA & Rehab.)**

**Corresponding Secretary, Harlan Sexton; Recording Secretary, Mary Luciana**

**Unit Treasurer-Marguerite Sessa.** Unit Treasurer is responsible for handling all Unit funds including the collection of dues from members and donations to special funds. Provides a monthly financial statement to the Unit and Finance Committee as required in addition to an annual audit.

**Historian** –***vacant*.** The Unit Historian is charged with the responsibility of recording the activities and accomplishments of her Unit during her terms of office. The writing of a Unit or Department history is a very important assignment.

**Unit Chaplain-Evangeline Parenti.** The Unit Chaplain will express, by word and action, our founding principal of service to God and Country. She will encourage the Unit to celebrate the diversity amongst its members and their faiths. She will provide spiritual and emotional guidance to members, or their families, as needed or requested

**Sergeant-at-Arms, Judy McCormick** is responsible for keeping order at Unit meetings, for the advancement and retirement of the Unit colors and their proper care.

**Americanism Program- The** purpose of the Americanism program is to promote patriotism and responsible citizenship. The Americanism work of the Auxiliary includes all activities tending to perpetuate American ideals and to uphold the principles of American democracy.

**Cavalcade of Memories*- vacant.***  The purpose of the Cavalcade of Memories Committee is to collect, chronicle and preserve the history of the American Legion Auxiliary through photographs, documents, personal mementos and other artifacts.

**Children & Youth**-**Jane Gelsi, Jennifer Sortino, Joanne Valletta** The purpose of the Children & Youth Committee is to work collaboratively with The American Legion to promote programs that protect, care for, and support children and youth, especially those of our military and veterans.

**GI Josh Program-Joanne Valletta** in conjunction with Therapy Dogs International.

**Community Service –Joanne Valletta.** The purpose ofthe Community Service Committee is to work in cooperation with The American Legion to direct and sponsor programs and services that provide care and protection for our nation’s children, especially those of our military and veterans

**Education-*vacant*.** The purpose of the Education Committee is to promote quality education for children and adults through classroom activities, literacy programs, scholarship promotion and support of education beyond high school.

**Finance** –**Susan Vaughn.**  The purpose of the Finance Committee is to oversee the general financial policy of the organization and to prepare and monitor the annual budget and its expenditures

**Empire Girls State**- **Sue Vaughn.** The purpose of the Girls Nation Committee is to provide an outstanding, unique and coveted educational opportunity to the young women of our nation that instills the basic ideals and principles of American government through the Girls State and Girls Nation citizenship training programs.

**Juniors**-**Jane Gelsi.** The Junior Activities Committee is to promote volunteerism through community based programs and services that involve veterans and to teach the principals of loyalty to God and country, justice, freedom and democracy to our young members. Junior membership shall consist of that group under the age of eighteen years.

**Juniors Patch Program** - **No Committee** Juniormembers are encouraged to participate in the Junior Activities Patch Program. Completing required criteria for patches affords junior members the opportunity to increase their knowledge of the various aspects of the American Legion Auxiliary. Patches are available on topics such as patriotism, health, fitness, and leadership.

**Leadership Program**-**Laura Booth.** The purpose of the Leadership Committee is to develop and prepare knowledgeable and capable leaders to carry on the growth and success of the Auxiliary by promoting activities and resources that educate, motivate and mentor members of all ages on all levels and phases of our programs.

**Tiny Tots-** **Laura Booth- Laura Booth.** The enrollment of junior members from birth to six years of age is known as Tiny Tot enrollment. Tiny Tot certificates are available through Department Headquarters. Upon reaching the age of six, certificates of promotion to junior membership are available.

**Legislative**-**Cathy Cebek.** The legislative representation will basically relay information from the American Legion Page through Facebook, twitter and social media to have legislation passed-The Legislative Program provides information and assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion. American Legion and Auxiliary members are interested in legislative measures, which come before the United States Congress and the state legislatures. Through lobbying efforts The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary are able to influence legislation of benefit to veterans, the community and our nation.

**Membership-Viki Trifari.** The purpose of the Membership Committee is to promote the benefits of membership and to promote retaining and recruiting a diverse, active membership to carry out the American Legion Auxiliary mission and programs.

**National Security**- ***no Committee; hours are sent to Anne Greaney at Bronx County*.** The purpose of the National Security Committee is to maintain and promote a strong national defense by providing the necessary means to strengthen our military families and prepare our citizenry for response to natural and man-made disasters.

**Past Presidents Parley- Susan Vaughan.** The **p**urpose of the Past Presidents Parley Committee is to recognize and honor female veterans and to utilize the experience and knowledge of past Auxiliary leaders for the training and encouragement of future Auxiliary leaders.

**Poppy Program**-**Chair- Joanne Valletta.** The purpose of the Poppy Committee is to educate our membership and the public concerning the Poppy’s significance and the financial benefit realized by our nation’s veterans as a result of its distribution.

**Public Relations-Corresponding Secretary (Harlan Sexton).** The purpose of the Public Relations Committee is to work collaboratively with all levels of the organization to create, implement and support a proactive communication network that advances the objectives and programs of the American Legion Auxiliary and positively projects our image and programs to the general public. The success of our programs is due to the support and volunteerism of our members. To maintain this support and increase volunteer hours, we must keep members informed in a timely fashion.

**Veterans Affairs & Rehab**-**Susan Vaughan.** The purpose of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee is to promote programs and services that assist and enhance the lives of veterans and their families, ensuring restoration and/or transition to normally functioning lives. The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation work of the American Legion Auxiliary includes bringing physical comfort and mental cheer to veterans in hospitals, aiding the disabled to earn money for the support of themselves and their families, and helping them to reestablish themselves in life. The American Legion Auxiliary cooperates with The American Legion in ALL its endeavors on behalf of veterans

**Field Service Program**-**Joanne Valletta**-Therapy Dogs International (TDI) a volunteer program similar to that of the Hospital Volunteer program, but conducted in community nursing homes and non-VA facilities visiting veterans. Pet therapy at Providence Rest, United Hebrew and Dumont and private visits.

**Warrior’s Family Assistance Program**-**Meghan Clancy,** Deployed veterans assistance.

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**Independent Programs that ALA Unit 156 is involved with:**

Quilters by the Sea QOV (official group of the Quilts of Valor Foundation). Harlan Sexton, Group Leader, Joanne Valletta co-leader

My Brother Vinny: Viki Trifari

Chris Engeldrum Support the Troops Fund: Cathy Praino, Korony Post

Hudson Valley Honor Flight: Joanne Valletta

Fort Drum Children’s Winter Clothes Drive: Meaghan Clancy

**Community programs that ALA members are involved in (not complete):**

City Island Garden Club Beatification Program, City Island Community Center, local churches, Girl Scouts, Island Current, City Island Nautical Museum, Viacom community projects, City Island Oyster Reef, AARP, City Island Civic Association, City Island Rising, POTS