



American Legion Auxiliary

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK, INC

Empire State News

“Devoted To Service Not Self”

**“Teamwork Is The Key
To Our Success”**



December 2009



DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE - - - Karyn Porempski

Where in the world is the Department President – Queen Bee Karyn???? I am happy to tell you that it has been a BEEutiful journey so far.

Our Department Commander, Bill Kearsing Detachment Commander Dave Bishop and your New York Queen Bee have been spreading the message to the American Legion family in the 4th, 5th, 6th and 9th Districts, New York County in the 1st District and Schoharie in the 3rd District in our great Empire State. Your President has completed 33 county visits as of November 15th plus the official visit to the 8/40 at Vernon Downs and the three (3) National Commanders’ visits in the 6th, 7th and 8th Districts. Your District Presidents, our Carpenter Bees and the County Presidents did an outstanding job keeping our bees swarming and the hive was always abuzz with activity during our visitations. Everything was amazing – decorations, corsages, hospitality, gifts and the wonderful generosity toward the President’s Project and most of all the sincere friendship and camaraderie shown to the traveling party. I cannot thank you enough.

Commander Kearsing and I have a membership challenge going – dinner with our spouses to the organization that has the highest percentage 30 days prior to Department Convention in July. Will you help me win the challenge????

Madame Secretary/Treasurer and I attended the Presidents and Secretary Conference in Indianapolis in October where we were given a wealth of information to share with our membership. This will be done through bulletins, newsletters and most of all at our Mid-Winter Conference in January. So please plan to “BEE THERE!!!

The National theme for this year is Reconnect and Energize. Our motto is Service not Self and the theme for our 90th Anniversary celebration is Reconnect with our heritage to strengthen our future. 90th Anniversary celebration ideas are included in this newsletter.

We were also told about the newest discounts and services provided by the American Legion Auxiliary and they are:

Jenny Craig – free 30-day program – 25% off the 6

month VIP program Gold/Platinum – 20% off the 1 year premium success program. Call 1-800-96Jenny or at www.jennycraig.com/CorporateChannel/ALA.aspx.

www.alatravels.com - American Legion Auxiliary’s very own full featured travel web site. Collette Vacations – a global leader of world travel and escorted tours is offering 150 vacation choices on all seven continents, also on ala.travels.com. Enjoy trips especially created for the ALA or specifically for you.

Wyndam hotel group – phone 1-877-670-7088 and give ID#1000002807 or

<http://tr.triprewards.com/triprewards/control/extclick?refcode=AAUX&page=mbse> advanced search.

Potential new member benefits:

The Tri-North Group Independent Associates of Pre-Paid Legal Services – provides identity theft solutions and legal service plans to more than 1.5 million members in the U.S. and Canada.

Nutrisystem – Discounts on weight loss solutions.

Contact our national website for more information.

Leadership chairman Sharon Arthur, along with her facilitators are planning an interesting, informative and fun filled Mid-Winter Conference at the Albany Marriott on Wolf Road in Albany on January 22nd and 23rd, 2010. Get your reservations in – they are going very quickly. Don’t BEE sad if you are too late. A membership rally is planned for Friday evening with many surprises. A Creative Arts Display will be featured along with our Vista member, Nicholas Kelly and James Sheets from the Watertown Vets Center. “Bee Spectacular” and send your Juniors to Mid-Winter. Our Junior Activities Chairman, Dawn Grant, and Tanisha Lee, Honorary Junior Department President, are planning an instructive and enlightening conference. A pizza party on Friday and Auxiliary speakers will be featured on Saturday, along with programs to help our veterans.

“BEE ENTHUSIASTIC” and bring many members and new bees so we can welcome them to our bee hive of activity so they can learn and “BEE THE BEST THAT THEY CAN BEE”!!!!!!!

Hope to see you soon. Have a very Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.



Membership News from the Hive - - - *Beekeeper, Nancy Kurk, Chairman*

The buzz has filled the land and the bees are coming home for the winter. We are planning a honey of a membership rally at our Midwinter Conference. The Beekeeper invites all the honeybees, worker bees, busy bees, carpenter bees, pollinators, newbees, wantabees, and do bees, to participate in the rally on Friday evening. The Bumblebee's will be all a buzz and anxious to share there membership success.

Congratulations to Joan Roller, 2nd District, she has been appointed by Queen Bee Karyn to serve on the Membership Support Team. The 2nd District consists of Kings and Richmond Counties. Congratulations also to Julie McGill who has been appointed to the Membership Support Team serving the 4th District in Saratoga, Washington, Hamilton, Essex, Franklin, St. Lawrence, Warren, Clinton, Fulton, Montgomery and Schenectady Counties. Welcome to the Team Joan and Julie.

Membership Support Team members throughout the Department report assisting Units and Counties in their areas. Please don't hesitate to call on them if you need a little help. All the Support Team members are listed in the Membership section of the Plan of Action.

Congratulations to all the Units and Counties that made the "Bee Amazing" target date October 1st. and the "Bee Spectacular", target date of November 1st. The hives are all a buzz; bumblebees, worker and busy bees have continued to bring the swarm back to the hive, destroy the virus so all will survive. Here is a list of sweet successes:

"Bee Spectacular Award" – BY Oct. 1st - Counties 55% Units 100% One Drawing for \$100

Bronx	428	291	67.99%
Dutchess	574	404	70.75
Franklin	779	467	59.95
Lewis	452	271	59.96
Montgomery	213	127	59.62
Orange	671	443	66.02
Schuyler	130	93	71.54
Sullivan	128	71	55.47

Units that qualified for October 1st. Bee Spectacular Award 100% - Five Drawings for \$100

Unit #1607	George Smith	24	26	108.33	Orange
Unit #0397	Lynch-Burgtett	29	31	106.90	Allegany
Unit #0633	O'Connor-Doyle	101	106	104.95	Orange
Unit #1012	Robert E James	28	29	103.57	Allegany
Unit #1327	Virgil E Deyo	39	40	102.56	Greene
Unit #0253	Theodore Korony	45	46	102.22	Bronx
Unit #0294	Joseph Gallipeau	30	30	100.00	Livingston
Unit #1796	New Windsor	47	47	100.00	Orange

"Bee Amazing Award" Counties with 65% - By Nov. 1st. - One Drawing for \$100

Bronx	428	360	84.11%
Cortland	390	257	65.90%
Dutchess	574	450	78.81
Franklin	779	562	72.14
Greene	326	225	69.02
Herkimer	656	429	65.40
Jefferson	2256	1694	66.28
Lewis	452	330	73.01
Montgomery	213	142	66.67
New York	303	236	77.89
Onondaga	1527	999	65.42
Orange	671	521	77.65
Oswego	754	498	66.05
Putnam	123	81	65.85
Schenectady	76	65	72.37
Schuyler	130	105	80.77
Washington	615	406	66.02

Units 100% - By Nov 1st - "Bee Amazing Award" qualifiers - - Five drawings for \$100

Unit #476 Edward T. Ruane	21	23	109.52%	Albany
Unit #607 Frank H. Brink	22	22	100	Erie
Unit #1626 Francis J. Donovan	35	40	114.29	Erie
Unit #1319 Lewis	29	29	100	Essex
Unit#893 Covey-Pashley	33	40	121.21	Herkimer
Unit#1664 Frederick F. Cadille	27	28	103.70	Niagara
Unit#937 Taconic Valley	17	17	100	Rensselaer
Unit #411 Rusy-Bohm	22	22	100	Suffolk
Unit#651 Smith-Warner	22	25	113.64%	Suffolk
Unit#703 Raymond W. Harvey	11	15	136.36	Washington
Unit#546 Robson-Savage	43	44	102.75	Yates

These drawings will be done at our December Executive meeting and a bulletin will go out with the winners. Congratulations to all the qualifiers!

Come one and all Bee Spectacular, Bee Amazing, Bee dressed as a bee and help us fill the hive for all the members to see! Where? Mid-Winter Conference at the Marriott Hotel, Wolf Rd. Albany, Friday evening 7 p.m. Please **BEE** there! Don't miss the fun. Bring a new honeybee and win a prize!

MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS as of Nov. 30, 2009

1 st Place	1 st District	82.76% -----	4 th Place	3 rd District	65.08% -----	7 th Place	7 th District	62.77%
2 nd Place	5 th District	71.96%---	5 th Place	4 th District	64.39% -----	8 th Place	2 th District	62.11%
3 rd Place	9 th District	71.77% -----	6 th Place	6 th District	63.52% -----	9 th Place	8 nd District	60.24%
						----- 10 th Place	10 th District	58.62%

Department - - - 65.90%

PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY - - - Susan M. Britton, Chairman

Special recognition continues to be placed on our female warriors. NOW is the time to get started and find those servicewomen in your area that deserve to be recognized as we honor our servicewomen in all 5 branches of service-- Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

The Department of New York is anxiously awaiting entries that demonstrate the character, strength and dedication of the women who serve our nation so proudly. Each Unit may submit ONE entry for EACH branch of service--so each Unit could submit a total of five (5) entries with each servicewoman representing a different branch of service.

If you don't know of any candidates, ask at your Unit meeting or inquire in the community to search out these deserving women. Too often, they are in our own backyards and we don't even know that they are there. These nominees should be **ACTIVE** duty servicewomen and willing to attend National Convention in August 2010, if at all possible. Included on the entry form should be a brief narrative of their military service **as well as** a narrative written by the nominee (not to exceed 750 words) entitled "Service in the U.S. Armed Forces: A Source of Personal Pride". **(PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN NARRATIVE TITLE FROM THE ORIGINAL PLAN OF ACTION.)** Be sure the entry

form is signed by either the Unit President or the Unit Past President's Parley Chairman.

The requirements must be sent with the award entry form included in your 2009-2010 Plan of Action and received by me by May 10, 2010 at my address shown in the Plan of Action.

We owe it to these women to recognize their efforts. Get permission to post award information on military base bulletin boards, in dining halls or recreation facilities. Be sure to provide Unit contact information. Once contact has been established with these servicewomen, the possibilities to provide additional assistance to them are endless. With the holidays coming, provide childcare or help with food/holiday gift shopping. Remember them on their birthdays and various holidays.

The holidays are also a wonderful time to remember and visit with those female veterans who are hospitalized or homebound. Involve your Juniors so they see the value of remembering those special women who have served. Flowers, hygiene products, stamps, note cards, books and magazines will be greatly appreciated.

Wishing each and every one of you a joyous Holiday Season filled with the satisfaction of a job well done in service to our female warriors and veterans.

Children and Youth -- Ann Geer, Chairman

There are so many ways we are able to help our children! The American Legion Auxiliary works with many programs and non profit organizations to provide our children with futures, with promise.

One way to aid the development of our kids is to contribute to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. This past year the Foundation donated in excess of \$600,000 to non-profit organizations that benefit and educate families and communities about the special needs of our children. Since 1955 The Child Welfare Foundation has given over \$9 million in grants. Among the organizations and foundations that received grants was the "My Hero" project. This is a program that benefits kids world wide through the internet. Kids are given the opportunity to log on, share information, connect globally and learn about the technology of the internet. In the future, our children will be living in a global economy and they will have global interests. Their focus will not be solely on the United States but on the world. This is a great tool to lead them to that future. But the "My Hero" program isn't just about technology. It's primary focus is on personal values. To quote from the "My Hero" brochure: "Using technology to share stories about role models is a powerful way to help young people understand and appreciate diversity and the strength that resides in all of us to effect positive change in our world." The "My Hero" website is free and has no commercials or advertisements. It is a forum for learning, giving kids from first to twelfth grade the opportunity to share stories, create art, learn about film production and write about their heroes. The website contains many examples of people who have overcome obstacles and achieved their dreams. It also provides project based learning resources designed to celebrate the best of humanity. If you have internet access, try logging on to www.myhero.com. It's a great website and it's available to children of all ages (yes adults too) for free! The project is funded by individual, foundation and corporate support, including the Child Welfare Foundation.

The American Legion Children's Home is located in

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Ponca City, Oklahoma and is the only American Legion home in the country. It was founded in 1929 and since then has served over 8,000 children. Originally the home was founded to provide a home to the children of veterans whose parents were unable to care for them or whose parents were deceased. Today it's role has expanded to include abused and neglected children, and children who have no one to care for them while their parents are deployed. The facility houses 62 children, aged 11 to 18. The Children's Home services include 24 hour care, counseling and therapy, an on-campus school, independent living training and recreational activities including team sports. There is also a new equine therapy program which offers traumatized youth a chance to be challenged and to succeed. The children are assigned tasks to accomplish with horses while working together as teams. It is highly successful. The American Legion Children's Home would like to expand it services, build a new dormitory and a storm shelter, chapel and conference room. Last year the Child Welfare Foundation gave one of its largest contributions ever to the American Legion Children's Home, \$84,000.

On the Fall Conference Tour each District President was given cute little yellow piggy banks to fill for the Child Welfare Foundation. Each county has received one. Have you filled them up? Are they overflowing? I hope so. Please get your pigs to your District President before Mid-Winter Conference, so she can tally the amounts. The Child Welfare Foundation does a tremendous amount of good for our children and youth. Your donations to CWF have helped young people with autism, hydrocephalus, Down Syndrome, and Huntington's disease. It has provided life saving medical treatments, encouragement to challenged children, life saving flights for pediatric patients needing air-medical transportation and education on an approach to the treatment of Down Syndrome through nutritional intervention. What a great gift to children this Christmas season. The gift of caring through a donation to the Child Welfare Foundation.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed Holiday!

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To All our Auxiliary Members:

*The Department Office Staff wishes you a Joyous Holiday
and a Happy and Healthy New Year.*

Terry, Donna, Kim, Yolanda and Nick

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION - - - Sally Johnston, Chairman

Busy Bees you are striving to fill the hive working as a Team to achieve our successes for our Veterans and their families making our Queen Bee Karyn very happy and very proud.

Many great works have already been completed. Keep up the good work. However, let me say as I have been reading your reports many included concerns and complaints about the reporting form; it's confusing and don't know where to report. Each year, the chairman receives direction from the National Organization regarding the information we need to supply to them. As your Department Chairman it is my responsibility to file my report to National according to their format. However, I would ask that each of you contact me with some possible solution and I will discuss this with our Department President Karyn and try to come up with a **“workable solution”** for all parties involved.

Let's talk about the Department President's two-fold project. As mentioned on the Fall Conference Tour and Department visitations thus far, Department President Karyn talked about the Creative Arts Festival New York and how important this project is for our Veterans rehabilitation. This program allows each individual to excel in their special area of expertise whether it be music, art or dancing. During their preparation for the Festival they are building character and self worth. Then the real satisfaction comes when the gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded with the possibility of participating at the National Festival.

Remember during Madam President's speech she had some examples of the items not provided by the VA Centers such as ribbons, medals, certificates, arts and craft supplies? Well that's where we as members come in. With the economy being what it is and everyone struggling, we all have to make choices as to what projects we are going to support. Please support President Queen Bee Karyn's project however you can! Whatever funds you are able to spare, goes for direct benefit of the Veteran.

In addition to the Warriors Family Assistance (WFA) program that cannot meet all the needs of our Gulf War Veterans, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom Veterans, Department President Karyn has included this area of need as the second part of her project. Any donations received under the Department Presidents projects will be split 50/50 in an effort to provide the much needed items /services that are not available through the Veterans Administration - for whatever reason. Grocery gift cards, prepaid cell phone cards, and public transportation are just a few examples of how your donations will be used. A suggestion that might work for your Unit/County, is collect loose change at meetings. You'd be surprised how quickly it all adds up. Maybe your Unit members would be willing to pledge \$1.00 per month for this project. As there are many talented members with lots of crafty ideas, I'm sure you could come up with a fundraiser that would render much revenue for this most worthy cause. All of your efforts are appreciated as we all have a common cause; helping our Veterans in every way we can.

Again this year the Walk-A-Thon sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion is partnering with the American Legion Auxiliary to raise monies to support our Veterans programs. As mentioned to me last year one Unit was able to raise over \$1,000.00 by using the slogan, “They marched for us, Let's Walk for them”; (cutting out paper boots and selling them for \$1.00). This is something that worked well for that Unit – maybe you can come up with some unique idea in your area. Remember to get “The Legion Family” involved and work together as a Team, so everyone wins. As a reminder, mark your calendars to reserve Saturday, April 17, 2010 for the Walk-A-Thon and plan to be there. (more info will be forthcoming when available)

The Fisher House is another area that needs our assistance in terms of donations. The Fisher House provides a home away from home through the efforts of volunteer resources and monetary donations. It provides assistance for veterans and service members families of a Veteran receiving treatment at the VAMC.

To learn more, visit www.FisherHouse.org.

Our Eastern Division chairman, Rani is from the state of Vermont where at this time there are no Fisher Houses and as part of her Plan of Action this administrative year, she is hopeful of getting a Fisher House up and running. However, she would love to hear directly from any of you with first hand experiences. Her email address is: (lgile@charter.net)

Kris Nelson our National VA&R Committee Chairman sends updates regarding Volunteer Recruitment and Placement Process. In an effort to increase our Volunteers by the anticipated 10% in our VA medical Centers (VAMC) or outpatient clinics to include Volunteers outside the VAMC through Field Service and Home Service, the National organization has teamed up with Iparticipate.org. Visit <http://www.iparticipate.org/cause/support-military-families> to see the Auxiliary's link under the AmeriCorps VISTA heading. Through this link over 36 new volunteers have contacted the Auxiliary ready and willing to get started in the world of Volunteering for our

Veterans. As a result of this action, I have been given names and addresses that I will be forwarding on to the respective County VA&R chairman. As your Department Chairman, I have been given specific procedures and forms that I must fill out and return to the National organization. I thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as WE comply and complete the task at hand.

The Warriors Family Assistance (WFA) Program Chairman Ann Geer has been very busy along with the members on the committee to process all requests for grants in a timely fashion. It takes everyone involved in processing an application to do their job as accurately and quickly as possible so there is no hold up in the process and the applicant receiving the grant. You will hear more about upcoming changes from Ann. I just remind you that this program is reportable under the VA&R committee. Thanks to all who have participated in helping with the process of gathering necessary information so that the committee can make an educated and well informed decision. We want to help all we can. Remember, any monetary donation you are able to give, send directly to the Department office earmarked WFA.

The Executive committee will be meeting soon to discuss what information we will be including in the Mid-Winter Conference. We have much to offer, so please plan to attend.

As we approach the Holiday Season, remember to share your wealth with a Veteran. For it is through the efforts of our Military personnel, Past, Present and Future that we are able to meet *freely* with our friends and family to enjoy this special time of year. Invite a Veteran and his or her family into your home for a meal or evening of treats and Christmas Caroling. They need our help and support today more than ever and in so many ways. We must never forget the price of our freedom. "One Nation Under GOD "

Warriors' Family Assistance - - - Ann Geer, Chairman

We are a Success!! The Warriors' Family Assistance Program has really taken off. Since July we have given 14 grants to veterans and their families throughout the state, from Buffalo to Albany to Brooklyn and points in between. Assistance has been given to pay for rent, car payments, medical bills, food, utility bills and heat. The grants total in excess of \$16,000. **A special "Thank You"** to all of the Auxiliary members who have assisted in the application and review process. You are the key to this program's success. Without you there would be no Warriors' Family Assistance program at all.

There have been a few changes and additions to the program. First of all, the application has been changed, so please contact the Department office for a copy of the new one. Also the guidelines have been updated to accommodate the application changes. Those are also available from the office. They will be posted on the website as well. To assist our members in the application review and recommendation process a handbook of instruction has been developed. Anyone asked to do a review will be provided with that handbook. It is also available to all. We are asking that blank applications be retained by unit members. Please do not leave them in locations where you leave the brochures. We want to be certain that the veterans who apply for assistance are eligible for the program.

We need your continued support to grow and sustain the Warrior's Family Assistance program. How can you help? Publicize, publicize, publicize!!! Hand

out brochures in your communities. Take them to VA hospitals, clinics, doctors' offices, veterans service agencies and anywhere there are veterans. Have you gotten the word out to your local post? Have you contacted your local newspaper, radio, station, television studio? How about the VFW, DAV, Vietnam Veterans, Legion Riders, Elks and Moose Lodges? We have plenty of brochures in the office, so let's use them. If you need information on the program the WFA chairman will be happy to assist.

Monetary contributions will be needed as well. **Remember Poppy Funds can be used to make a donation.** How about a fundraiser for the program? At the pace applications are being received the program will be short on funds by the end of the year. Any donations received will be appreciated. The WFA is funded through the VA & R Fund, but obviously there is a limited amount of money. Once the funds run out, the program ends for the year, unless we have additional money from contributions.

One last item - We hope to develop a contact list of Auxiliary members who are willing to help with reviews. We need people from throughout the state. Applications come from every part of the state and with a contact list it will be faster to process the grants. If you are interested in being on the contact list, please contact the chairman.

Thanks to all of you for your support of this program. You are the key to the success of Warriors' Family Assistance.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!




==== **American Legion Auxiliary College of New York**
You'll be glad you're a grad!

Interested in learning more about the American Legion Auxiliary College of New York? Stop by our information table at the Mid-Winter Conference! You can pick up applications and information sheets. The members of the College Action Team will be available to answer your questions. Graduates of the 2009 session came from every District in the Department. Why not invite the graduates from your area to speak at your meetings? They're one of your best information resources!

We encourage every County and Unit to consider sponsoring one (or more) of your Vice Presidents to attend the 2010 session. Tuition is \$200 per student. We know that some may have difficulty with this expense - so at Mid-Winter Conference, we'll be raffling a fully paid tuition. You could be the lucky winner! Tickets will be available at our information table.

We also remind you that Past Department President Susan Britton is offering a Scholarship Award this year to a student who expresses a strong desire to attend the College. Instructions about applying for the scholarship are in the Plan of Action, available on the Department website, and will also be available at our information table at Mid-Winter Conference.

We are looking forward to a 2010 American Legion Auxiliary College session that will  BEE SPECTACULAR and memorable for all attendees. Start making plans now so you can attend in June!

Your College Action Team:

Cathleen MacInnes, Dean ----- **Barbara Wong, Associate Dean**
Carrie Davenport, Curriculum Coordinator -- **Lisa Harrington, Registrar**
Vicki Sampson, Member at Large

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COMMUNITY SERVICE - - - - - Linda S. Tome, Chairman

The Auxiliary's Community Service program is based on the premise that no organization has a right to exist within the community without giving something to that community in return. This is the time of the year when Community Service abounds! It's around every corner, especially now! Just think about all the good you can do in your community:

- Thanksgiving is the time of year to serve families in your community that cannot afford food.
- Volunteer at a homeless shelter at Thanksgiving and Christmas time.
- Serve a warm dinner at the post home for homeless veterans.
- Local food banks need to have their shelves restocked – especially now!
- Take up a collection of used coats and deliver to a local school for children who do not own one, or for women in shelters.
- Put up a tree in your post and collect hats, gloves, mittens and scarves and donate to your local VA.
- Volunteer to shovel snow or do yard work for a veteran or a family of a deployed soldier.
- Offer to baby sit for the family of a deployed soldier.
- Bake cookies and take to shut-ins.
- Collect new toys and donate them to Toys for Tots.
- Volunteer in VA hospitals and nursing homes.

Let's get out there and make a difference – the American Legion Auxiliary! BEEEE Spectacular this holiday season! Happy holidays to you & your family.

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CANCER AWARENESS - - Virginia Robbins, Chairman

When submitting your reports, please send your **Unit copy** to your **County Chairman** for her to report to me. Also be sure to earmark your checks as to where the money is to go when submitting to the Department. Cancer is on the rise in many ways and types – children, women and men. We certainly need to find a cure. Many groups are having Walk-A-Thons, Bingos etc. to help raise funds for a cure.

Donations to be sent to the Dept. office and earmarked for: **Strong Memorial, Rosewell Park, Sloan Kettering, Stony Brook and Camp Good Days.**

CHAPLAIN - - - - *Carrol Goerke, Chairman*

Lord, help us to be able to deliver your message reverently, faithfully and fruitfully to all our members, our friends and especially our Veterans near and far. Let the words from our hearts give them and their families comfort in their lives. As we enter this glorious and festive season, oh Lord, help us to remember our purpose as spiritual leaders of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Seasons Greetings, one and all. The holiday season can be one of the busiest times of the year for everyone, especially for Chaplains. There will be many social events within the American Legion Family. When you attend these events, encourage your host or hostess to open with a prayer, especially at family get-togethers. This can be another opportunity for the children to learn the value of prayer and thankfulness.

Also, during this holiday season, as Chaplains, make time to visit members and friends who are in nursing homes and homebound. Bring a holiday greeting card and read it to them, or just sit with them and read a special holiday story. For those members who are far away, you can send a grace card or a greeting card. Remember to share your time and the talent God gave you.

The poem below was sent to me by a Past Unit Chaplain in Chautauqua County along with a "Prayer Rock" in a pillow sack. Thank you, Erma. I would like to send each of you an imaginary "Prayer Rock" and share with you the poem that came with it.

The Little Prayer Rock

I am your little prayer rock, and this is what I'll do
Just put me on your pillow until the day is through
Then turn down the covers and climb into your bed
A WACK your little prayer rock will hit you on your head
So that you will remember as the day is through
To kneel and say your prayers just as you intended to do.
When you are all finished, just drop me on the floor
I'll stay there all night long to give you help once more.
At waking in the morning CLUNK, I'll stub your toe
So that you remember your morning prayers before you go.
Now put me atop your pillow, when your bed is made
And your clever little prayer rock will continue to be your aid
Because your Heavenly Father cares and loves you so,
He wants you to remember to talk to him...you know!

Thank you to the County Chaplains for sending me their November reports and to the Unit Chaplains for sending me the names of their deceased members. May God continue to comfort and bless their families.

I wish everyone a happy, safe and blessed holiday season

Education - - - - *Diane Gerber, Chairman*

I am very happy to report that all our Bees are working tirelessly educating our students about our scholarship programs. Many schools are not aware of the vast amount of funds that are available to their students unless we get the word out. By ordering "Need a Lift" brochures which enlightens both the student and the parent and helps the parents plan a financial goal for their child. I strongly encourage our entire Legion Family to sponsor a "Family Day Breakfast or Luncheon" inviting the school counselors and/or college advisors to attend along with the students and their families and

talk about our scholarship opportunities. Open the discussion to the Oratorical Contests, as well as the Boys/Girls State Program. Please remember the deadline for scholarships is **March 2010.**

To all Chairmen, please review each application carefully. The rules vary for each scholarship. It would be terrible to disqualify a student for some silly mistake or oversight. Thank you to all the Chairman who have used the report form available on line or in the Plan of Action. Keep up the good work – let's continue "buzzin' round schools!"

Junior Activities.....Dawn M. Grant, Chairman

We all know the Junior members of our organization are the future of our group, and we should strive to support them and lead them in the right direction as they are the leaders of tomorrow. All across NY State our senior Junior Activities Chairmen have been mentoring our Juniors and leading them in the right direction. We have heard of the Juniors holding their fall conferences, preparing their programs for this administrative year, working on the Patch Program and also preparing for fundraisers such as Relay for Life, Wreaths Across America and many other functions. Remember to report, report, report and mentor, mentor, mentor. We need to know what your Juniors are doing throughout NY State. Encourage your Juniors to use Facebook as many Districts have put pictures and other great information on this website. We must remember "Teamwork is The Key to our Success" and we must remember that mentorship is key.

Remember to have your Juniors look through the Plans of Action and start working on the Patch Program badges along with the Department and National Awards.

Remember that if you have any Juniors or Seniors in High School who have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award and the appropriate Religious Emblem, under the Americanism Program, there is a \$1,000 scholarship available. Remember to look at all of the programs and not just under the Junior Activities Committee for awards. Please follow the criteria and guidelines for receiving these awards.

Encourage the Juniors to also ask a friend or family member who is under 18 years old and meets the criteria to join the Junior American Legion

Auxiliary. The Juniors have already had a few New Bees join. I have set a goal for this year to have each Junior member bring in one additional member. Let's show Queen Bee President Karyn that the Juniors can double their membership goal and fill her Bee Hive. .

The Junior Mid-Winter Conference announcement will soon be out in the mail. The Honorary Junior Department President Tenasha Lee will hold her "Bee Spectacular" Conference on January 22 – 24, 2010 at the Albany Marriott. This will "BEE an Extravagant and Very Important Conference." The Honorary Junior Dept. President Tenasha Lee requests that everyone attending the Junior meeting please bring one item to send overseas to our troops and/ or a letter to send along with the items. She would like to also request that everyone attending bring a recipe with them that either starts with the letter "B" or has honey in the recipe. ex: "B"rownies or any recipe you would put honey in. This is sure to be a very exciting conference so bring your "Bee Spectacular" Juniors.

Remember that the Juniors will be electing their Department Honorary 2010 – 2011 Junior President and other Officers at this conference. Let's strive to make this the largest Junior turnout ever. We encourage you as, Senior Junior Activities Chairmen, to urge your Juniors to hold an office as this is key to success. The 2010 – 2011 Honorary Junior Department President will be installed in July at the Department Convention with the incoming Department President.

I would like to wish everyone a very joyous and "Bee Spectacular" Holiday season. Bee Safe!!

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Finance/Audit Committee, - - Violet Brosart, Chairman

"The mission of the Finance/Audit Committee is to oversee the general financial policy of the organization and to prepare and monitor the annual budget and its expenditures."

Units should have an annual audit as described in the "Duties of the Unit Treasurer" section of the 2009

"Suggested Unit Handbook." They must file an annual Tax return. (Refer to the aforementioned Handbook, page 33, for more information.

The Unit Audit Data Form should be returned to the Department Office at this time. The Deadline is December 31, 2009. Do not send it to me. Send to the Office.

Some Questions Asked:

Q. Does the National Organization Audit the Units Books?

A. No.

Q. Can the Unit use the Post E.I.N. number?

A. No, you must have your own number. Contact the IRS and file for your own.

Q. Can a member ask to see the Treasurers books?

A. The Treasurers books should be available at every meeting and should be available for inspection. Any member can call for an Audit.

Q. Does the County committee have to have an E.I.N. number?

A. No, The Federal Government does not recognize County Committees, as they are not chartered. Not all States have County Committees.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

National Security - - Pat Bergin, Chairman

Thank you to all the County Chairmen who reported to this Chairman. Please remember to indicate the name of the County whose activities you are reporting.

As we begin to plan for the holiday season, let us also prepare for the winter weather – snow and ice storms, flooding from melting snow, loss of power and heat. Are you prepared? Do you, your children, your neighbors have a plan of action? If school is closed early and you are at work, where will your children go? Talk to your families, neighbors and co-workers. Remind everyone to stock up on extra food, water, batteries and candles and have a plan of action in case of emergencies. Encourage citizen preparedness programs in your community.

Remember our men and women in the military. Send cards and care packages. The US Postal Service has a special box that is perfect for care packages. It is a flat rate no matter how much it weighs. Ask your members to crochet or knit toasty toe slippers for our troops. Collect and donate old cell phones to **“Cell Phones for Soldiers”** ([website:www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com](http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com)). Give our Military the opportunity to call home. One County project is “Operation Christmas Stocking”. Twenty inch Christmas stockings were purchased and filled with toiletries, snacks, socks, hats, gloves, etc. A note was pinned onto the stocking for male or female as well as \$1.00 towards shipping. The stockings were delivered to a central area before being shipped overseas.

“Let’s Say Thanks” is a website that gives you an opportunity to send a free printed postcard to U.S. Military Personnel stationed overseas showing your support and appreciation for their service to our country - (www.letsaythanks.com). After speaking to many Veterans, I have found that nothing is more encouraging to active duty personnel than a letter, card or package from the home front. Let us together write, collect, package and send as much as we can to our troops. Let our Auxiliary put a smile on as many faces as possible. Now is the time for action, especially with the holidays right around the corner. Remind our troops that they are not forgotten.

Support our Military families here at home. Invite them to Unit and Post Holiday Parties. Donate food baskets and holiday gifts to the Military families in need. Purchase Blue Star Banners for families with active Military personnel in your community. Share the Holiday Spirit.

I wish you all a Blessed and Happy Holiday.

HISTORIAN – KATHIE RENNER, CHAIRMAN

I have yet to receive any pictures for Queen Bee Karyn’s pictorial book. I know she has been traveling the state like a “BUSY BEE” and you must have taken some pictures. Please mail them or send them via my email address, both of which are in the Plan of Action.

The following are objectives that I have compiled so New York State can “BEE SPECTACULAR” for Madam Queen Bee Karyn at the Department Convention. If each Senior/Junior historian camera bug follows these simple guidelines, your Unit, County and District will have a well recorded history of events, programs and special activities.

1. Let’s obtain 80% participation from Senior and Junior Historians by March 10, 2010.
2. Remind all Unit Historians to keep written records for all future Auxiliary Members.
3. Remember to record all historic events in your District as well.
4. Remember one basic tip for writing a history – keep notes on who, what, where and when.
5. Remind Senior/Junior, County/Unit Historians about reporting activities/programs to Department by March 10, 2010.
6. 100% participation from County Historians by the May 10, 2010 deadline.
7. All Unit reports to County Historian by March 1, 2010 and by May 1, 2010; all County reports to this Chairman by March 10, 2010 and by May 10, 2010
8. All Unit, County and District Senior and Junior reports and entries must be received by this Chairman by May 10, 2010

Remember, not only “Teamwork is The Key to our Success – Our success also lies in the hands of the written histories and Camera Shutter Bugs for all future members.

I am still looking for pictures from the Department Convention and Conferences.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The Mid-Winter Conference (Jan. 22-23) reservation amount is \$30.00 per person.



LEGISLATIVE - - - - - Judy Lanci, Chairman

It has been a challenging as well as exciting year. We just elected many new legislators. It is time to call and meet our newly elected officials. Please be sure to be courteous and respectful of their valuable time. Make them feel welcome to their newly elected office as you let them know your views and the views important to The American Legion.

I would like to thank many of you for your calling efforts on two items that were both moved on very quickly. first was American Legion Day on September 16, 2009 and the second was calling a congressman from Oklahoma to move a bill that was tabled due to his hold on two significant pieces of legislation. See below:

Ask Senator Coburn to stop holding up Vets' bills.

Senator Coburn (OK) has placed "holds" on two significant pieces of veterans' legislation in the U.S.

Senate: S.252, Veterans Health Care Authorization Act of 2009, and S. 728 Veterans' Insurance and Benefits Enhancement Act of 2009.

Under the rules of the Senate a "hold" allows a Senator to prevent a bill from reaching a vote on the Senate floor. It appears Sen. Colburn is using this parliamentary procedure to prevent these two bills from going to the Senate floor and, as a result, VA is being deprived of essential tools to provide high quality care to those who have suffered in service to our nation.

Both of these important bills have passed the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. Unfortunately, Senator Colburn has placed "holds" on them.

This was communicated and turned over in one day of calling from our American Legion Family.

There is another piece of Legislation that needs our attention as we call our Senators. It is Bill S1963.

Please contact your Senators for support of S.1963. The Caregiver and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2009.

In an effort to move two important legislative initiatives to assist service-connected disabled veterans and their dependents, who receive their health care services from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), The Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman from Alaska introduced S.1963, the Care and Veterans Omnibus Health Service Act of 2009.

The new bill combines provisions from S.252, the Veterans Health Care Authorization Act of 2009, and S.801, the Caregiver and Veterans Health Services Act of 2009, which were unfortunately stymied by a congressional hold. Both of these measures were supported by The American Legion because of the significant changes each measure will make in the lives of American's veterans and their families.

Please contact both your Senators and request they become cosponsors of **S.1963** today. Encourage them to push for immediate floor action to ensure passage of this legislation.

These bills are very detailed and can be read in full on the American Legion Home Page

<http://www.legion.org> under Legislative Action Center, Legislative Alerts & Updates.

As you read through these bills you will see the importance of our grassroots calling efforts.

Please be diligent when a calling alert comes out to your District. "Bee Spectacular."

We also have many Resolutions that are important to our Legion Family. These items are in the Legislative Program year 2010.

- Military Service Credit (Res 10)
- Free hunting, fishing & trapping licenses for active duty service members (Res4)
- Keep county/city veteran service agency (Res 5)
- Preserve Oxford vet-nursing home building (Res 11)
- NYS-SLA 30 day billing policy (Res 13)
- Veterans' Memorial Preservation (Res 15)
- Veterans' Organization Real Property Tax Exemption (Res 19)
- Enforce NYS Flag/Pledge Laws (Legislative Committee)
- Monitor Year 2009 one house legislation

We have already sponsored or co-sponsored the following Veterans' Legislation that were enacted into NYS Law. Listed below are just a few that were enacted:

Chapter 340, NYS Laws of Year 2009 -- (Sen. Vincent Leibel//Mofa Peter Abbate)

Increase the number of entry level, non-competitive positions from 300 to 500 to allow New York State disabled veterans a more equitable access to employment with New York State.

Amendment Passed - --- Election Vote: Yes 1,805,172 No 503,803 - - - (Sen. Kenneth LaValle/Mofa Felix Ortiz)

The proposed amendment to the NYS Constitution in relation to additional civil service credit for disabled veterans was submitted to the people at the general election on Tues, Nov. 4th, 2008 ----

Chapter 966, NYS Laws of Year 2009 ----- ----(Sen. John DeFrancisco/Mofa Michael Cusick)

This amends S2420.21 of the Penal Law and S79-m of the Civil Rights Law to prohibit any person from purposely creating a disturbance at a funeral, burial or memorial service.

Chapter 663, NYS Laws of Year 2009 --- (Sen Andrew Lanza/Mofa Michael Cusik)

Exempts NYS Military personnel who are serving in a combat zone from income tax on such service.

The best way to stay abreast of current legislation as well as alerts and updates is to go to The American Legion Action Center as stated above and click on the Current Legislation tab. This will explain the bill as well as if the American Legion supports or does not support a piece of legislation.

Keep the calling, e-mailing and visiting of your elected officials as a top priority. Thank you too many of you who have sent copies of your reply letters included in your reports as well as during the month. Your grassroots efforts are working.

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The American Legion Auxiliary – Celebrating 90 Years of Service Not Self.

Clarity and consistency are crucial in messaging. We encourage you to implement these points during this special 90th anniversary year as you share your Auxiliary story with your families, friends and communities.

Official tagline: Celebrating 90 years of Service Not Self, for Veterans, God and Country.

Official logo: Rita Navarret's 90th anniversary pin available for download at (<http://www.legion-aux.org/NationalLeaders/1.NationalPresident/index.aspx>)

Official kickoff date: Nov, 10, 2009

Official email signature for all ALA members, leadership and staff:

Celebrating 90 Years of Service Not Self for Veterans, God and Country

Official Statistics: Impact numbers including hours served, veterans served etc. are available at www.legion-aux.org. Use these when you: speak in your community, talk with friends, or create flyers for promoting the ALA.

90th Anniversary Celebration Ideas

Promote the ALA's 90th anniversary everywhere and in everything you do this year: dinners, parades, Stand Downs, meetings, flyers programs etc.

Throw a party! Everyone loves a party. Invite the community to a Legion Family 90th anniversary party. Serve cake, wear party hats and provide opportunities for people to share their favorite memories of an Auxiliary event or project. Then be sure to invite your guests to participate in your next ALA project.

Memorize a few statistics: Mention them at every opportunity. Visit www.legion-aux.org for a flyer with these stats.

Wear your pin everywhere! Rita has great stories of how wearing her pin has caused people to ask her about it which then opens up the opportunity to talk about the ALA and engage support.

Take a photo! Have everyone in your Unit wear her pin and/or ALA shirt and send it to National Headquarters for use on the Web or in e-News.

Request a letter. Use the template available on the Web site to ask your mayor, governor, senators and representatives to write a proclamation acknowledging the 90th anniversary of the ALA www.legion-aux.org

Create a Legion Family Parade Float. Include the 90th anniversary slogan and some of those stats!

Run a water station. Be seen at your runs, walk, fairs and other community events.

Organize an outing to a sporting event. Ask for the 90th anniversary slogan to be shown on the scoreboard.

Send Your Memory. Email your all-time favorite activity, event or project that typified the heart of the ALA mission. We want to feature these on the Web, e News and the magazine. Send to: alahq@legion-aux.org.

Create a video. It can be as simple as "Why I love being involved with the ALA". Your Juniors know how to do this! Post them on YouTube and send them to National Headquarters at alahq@legion-aux.org.

Share your celebration ideas. Email your great ideas for celebrating the 90th so they can be included in future e-News editions and issues of the Auxiliary magazine. Send to alahq@legion-aux.org

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Poppy/Poppy Poster- - - Judy MacRoberts, Chairman

There is still time to order your Poppies for your Poppy distribution. You do not have to order 1,000 poppies. You may order as many as you need for your program. Keep in mind that the Veterans that make these poppies are to be congratulated for their efforts. Poppy Supervisors are also to be congratulated for their patience to help these Veterans and for their time spent with each of them. Poppies are to be used all year. Include a poppy when sending Veterans their Veterans' Day card, Valentine's Day card, Birthday card, or Christmas card. I have received a few phone calls and emails concerning how the Poppy monies should be used, I know this information has been given in other bulletins, but I will briefly review the information again.

Resolved: By the National Executive Committee of the American Legion regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, IN, May 3-4, 1967, that the funds derived from the distribution of Poppies shall be used for the following purposes only: For the rehabilitation of veterans honorably discharged for the U.S. Armed Forces after April 6, 1917:

- For the welfare of the families of veterans of the above named periods;
- For the rehabilitation of hospitalized servicemen returning home and awaiting discharge who require treatment in service hospitals;
- Poppy funds can be used for worthwhile scholarships for **Veteran's children, but not grandchildren.**
- Funds can be used only for the welfare of a veteran's immediate family; such as minor brothers and sisters.
- And remember, we can now use Poppy funds for our new Warriors Family Assistance (WFA) Program to assist our recent veterans

It is already the month of February and we need to prepare for our poppy contests. Check the various contests in your Plan of Action Bulletin.

Reminder: Poppy Corsage Contest which will be part of the Awareness Assembly in Washington, D.C. Each Department may submit 5 entries. Winning corsages will be used in the 2009-2010 Girls Nation Session. First place winner will receive an award. Additionally, a Chairman's Choice Award will be presented to a poppy corsage chosen at the Awareness Assembly in Washington D.C. that will be worn by the National President for a photo op.

Take your entries to the Mid-Winter Conference in January for judging. Each corsage should have the name of the creator, her Unit and Dept. The corsages should be approximately 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" and fit in a standard 4"x 4" corsage box.

God Bless Our Veterans and God Bless America.

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C O U P O N S - - - - Evelyn Perry, Chairman

HELP - - In our first quarter (Nov. 10) I believe our Bees have been locked up --- only 3 Units have reported to me. When we were in the work force, we had to pay anyone who worked for us. Our Department is our employee. In order to do its job, it needs funds to pay for equipment, materials, rent, lighting, telephone and postage.

This is where the Coupon Program comes in. Each Unit has a membership quota. When you multiply this to the 15 cent assessment, that is the amount you send to your County Treasurer, who in turn sends it to the Department for its needs. Treasurers are the key to the success of the Coupon Committee. Treasurers need to send me a report on each Unit and the amount each Unit sends. If this is done once a month, I would know whether or not our bees are busy and doing their job. If you have S&H Green Stamps, just pack them up and send them to me. I will have them turned into cash.

Let's get buzzing, do our share, and let the Department know that we appreciate the job that is being done for us.

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Website Coordinator - - - Ann Viverito

Each year we have a new chairman for all programs; this holds true for our Leadership committee as well. The last administration, Linda Moseman Raymond created the "Super Nova Library." This year I had to change the Name to "Library" so as not to infringe on her creation. As a result, all links to the library had to be changed. If there was any link in the library you were not able to access, I'm so sorry. All links are now corrected!

Please forgive my mishaps with the website this year, I will try to do better in the remaining months...

Best Wishes for a Blessed and Joyfull Holiday Season.

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AMERICANISM ---- Zenna M. Rockwell, Chairman

It is not our place to comment on other organizations' programs, however for information reasons, this article is intended to provide clarification for the membership of the American Legion Auxiliary.

There has been some discussion recently concerning Flag etiquette and whether or not it is proper to cut the stars out of unserviceable American Flags.

Without naming the organization, a local group started a program where they take unserviceable American Flags, cut the stars out, put them in individual small plastic bags and send the stars to service members proclaiming, in essence, that this star came from a flag flown in the United States for you to have a piece of home with you. Their justification is that "the flags are going to be disposed of anyway, what's the difference if we cut the stars out?"

This is a practice NOT supported by the American Legion Auxiliary and is NOT a part of the American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Program as it is considered Flag desecration. Unserviceable Flags are to be disposed of intact and honorably without question.

Furthermore, when you Pledge Allegiance to the Flag, the phrase "indivisible" defined means "that which cannot be divided" and cutting the stars out of the Flag is also considered dividing the Union. Too many citizens have sacrificed everything to sustain and protect the Union, from the Revolutionary War to today and cutting the stars out of an American Flag is disrespecting not only the Flag but the spirit of those who have defended it throughout our history, past and present.

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary should not participate in this program as it clearly opposes what we as an American Legion Family have strived

to accomplish for the Flag of the United States, which is protection from desecration.

The Pocket Flag Program is the proper way to give our service members a "piece of home". This is a complete American Flag that they can and do carry with them. The Pocket Flag has enjoyed much success over the years and our service members appreciate receiving them.

It is our responsibility as members of the "World's Largest Women's Patriotic Organization" to Honor and Respect the American Flag and be vigilant with its protection.

Promoting the spirit of PATRIOTISM through it's Americanism Program has been a tradition of the American Legion Auxiliary. The responsibility of each member is to keep the fire of Patriotism burning. It should be shared with our fellow citizens within our communities.

Several patriotic holidays are coming up that should be promoted in every community. Bill of Rights Day on December 15, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 15 and in February President's Day.

Encourage the youth of our communities to participate in the Americanism Essay Contest. Include our Junior members and the Junior SAL members. The title/theme this year is "What is My Patriotic Role as a U.S. Citizen?" The deadline for the essay to the Units is April 15, 2010 and to the Department May 1, 2010. Another award is the Girl Scout Achievement Award, with a deadline of March 15, 2010 to the Unit and to the Department by April 15, 2010.

Our country is facing hard times here and abroad and it is up to us as Auxiliary members to remind every person what our flag stands for. Be proud, salute Old Glory and remember why we live in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Constitution & Bylaws - - - Mary Anne Casadei, Chairman

Well it is hard to believe that the Holidays are just around the corner. Our Department Constitution & By Laws Chairmen have been as Busy as Bees reviewing and making all the necessary changes to their Constitution & By Laws. To date I have reviewed and approved 4 County Standing Rules and 14 Unit C&B/Ls.

Just a few small reminders, please remember to include the completed Constitution & By Laws Revision Transmittal Form with your updated C&BL or Standing Rules and make sure you have them signed by the Unit or County President and Secretary.

Bee Spectacular! Our Department President is depending upon you to make sure your C&BL are up to date and that everything is humming along for our Units and Counties.

The BUZZZ words for you are update, revise and complete your C&BL and standing Rules so that your Unit and County can BEE SPECTACULAR.

Have a Blessed Holiday and God Bless us everyone!

LEADERSHIP - - - Sharon Arthur, Chairman

I wish to thank you all for your wonderful reports. It has been "BEE-autiful" reading about all the super things you are doing to promote our programs. It seems "Mentoring" has taken hold and many of you are encouraging our seasoned members, and assisting our new members in learning about our organization. Please continue with the same enthusiasm you have shown thus far. Great Job!!!

Mid-Winter Conference is only a few weeks away. The cost for the conference is \$30.00 and the hotel rooms at the Marriott are \$114.00 for up to 4 people per room as I reported to you in the last bulletin.

After the December Executive Meeting, you will be receiving a copy of the agenda for the weekend. Our plans are well underway and we will be finalizing all activities. Betty Jane Light has been working with the hotel to ensure us of a yummy lunch. Should be a wonderful experience and I hope many of you will be able to attend.

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY - - - - Mary Smallcomb, Chairman

"Teamwork is the Key to our Success"

Members Helping Members

Our National President's theme is Reconnecting with Members. President Karyn's theme is Team Work Is The Key to Success. With these two theme's we can make a difference in our member's lives by contributing to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Last year the National Organization gave out \$210,000.00 dollars in grants, and they only received 182,000.00. So we need your help. As you know this is the only committee that the Auxiliary

has to help our own members. This is 40th anniversary of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, so let's make this a speculator year in donations. One individual member from each division who contributes the biggest donation to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund will receive a certificate and special recognition at National Convention and placed in the program book.

Public Relations - - Charlene J. Jarvis, Chairman

I would like to thank everyone who sent me their report. I enjoyed reading the newspaper clippings and newsletters. Just a reminder that I need 2 original copies of the newspaper clippings:

- (1) - to make a book for our Department President
- (2) - to enter a Public Relations Book to be judged by the National Committee.

I know that mostly everyone does some kind of work for the Community, Children and Veterans. When you do you should publicize it, so the public can see what the American Legion Auxiliary is doing. Halloween and Thanksgiving just passed and I know that Units have worked with Children on Halloween parties and that some Units have held dinners for their Communities on Thanksgiving, Did

you advertise it? I hope so. I also know as Christmas approaches many Units, Counties and Districts do things for the Veterans at the VA Hospitals, Community Care Centers and State Veteran Homes. Please let the public know what you have done. I am looking forward to getting the clippings from your events.

Also you can report to your local newspaper when, where and time of your meetings so that your members (especially those that do not attend) will be better prepared to attend.

Please send me your completed reports. If you have a newsletter please send me copies. I would like 100% reporting for Public Relations.

My best Wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

EMPIRE GIRLS STATE - - - Wendy Privitera, Chairman - - Kathy Cubit, Vice-Chairman

I am pleased to announce that the Applications and Planning and Orientation material will be to the Department office very soon and our goal is to have it out in early January. Please review ALL the material carefully. There are some new changes. After you have selected your Girl State Citizen Please make sure to review the entire application with your selected citizen so the application can be completed and returned to you in a timely manner. County Chairmen are reminded that you will send 1 check along with your applications to Kathy Cubit by the requested date. Please make sure you review the applications to make sure the requested information is attached. We are still looking for Auxiliary members who would like to serve as Housemothers for the 2010 session. Applications are in the Plans of Action or on the Department Website. If you have any questions about what housemothers responsibilities are, feel free to contact Kathy or Wendy and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have. We promise you it will be a week you will never forget. We wish everyone a Happy and Joyous Holiday Season.

- **Origin of the Name New York:** The English took over of the area that had been called “New Netherland” in 1664, and renamed it New York to honor the Duke of New York (York is a city in England)
- Our beautiful state of New York was the 11th state in the USA; it became a state July 26, 1788.
- **State Flag:** New York’s official flag was adopted in 1901. The flag has a deep blue background . It pictures Liberty (she symbolizes freedom) and Justice (she symbolizes justice before the law). Liberty is holding a pole with a liberty cap, and has a discarded crown at her feet (which represents freedom from Britain after the Revolutionary War). Justice is blindfolded and is holding the scales of justice. A shield between them pictures the sun, hills and 2 boats sailing on the Hudson River. Over the shield is a globe and a bald eagle Under them all is a white, flowing ribbon that reads “EXCELSIOR”.
- **State Capital:** Albany
- **State Nickname:** The Empire State
- **State Motto:** Excelsior (Ever Upwards)
- **State Song:** “I Love New York”
- **Area:** 54,475 square miles (NY is the 27th largest state in the USA).
- **Population:** 18,976,457 (as of 2000) NY is the third most populous state in the USA, after California and Texas.
- **Major Industries:** Finance, communications, international trade, publishing, fashion, farming (fruit and dairy), tourism.
- **Main Rivers:** Hudson River, Mohawk River, Genesee River.
- **Highest Point:** Mt. Marcy, 5,344 feet (1,629M) above sea level.
- **Bordering States:** Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island (water border)
- **Bordering Country:** Canada
- **Bordering Bodies of Water:** Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Champlain, Atlantic Ocean.
- **Presidential Birthplaces:** Martin Van Buren was born in Kinderhook on Dec. 5, 1782 (he was the 8th US President, serving from 1837 to 1841).
Millard Fillmore was born in Locke Township (now Summerhill) on Jan. 7, 1800. (he was the 13th US President, serving from 1850 to 1853).
Theodore Roosevelt was born in New York City on Oct. 27, 1858 (he was the 26th US President, serving from 1901 to 1909).
Franklin Delano Roosevelt was born in Hyde Park on Jan. 30,1882 (he was the 32nd US President, serving from 1933 to 1945).
- **Statue of Liberty:** The Statue of Liberty is located on Liberty Island in NY Harbor; it was a gift from the government of France.
- **State Bird:** Eastern Bluebird
- **State Mammal:** Beaver
- **State Insect:** Nine-spotted ladybug (ladybug beetle)
- **State Fish:** Brook trout
- **State Shell:** Bay Scallop
- **State Flower:** Rose
- **State Tree:** Sugar Maple
- **State Fruit:** Apple
- **State Gem:** Garnet (a deep red semi-precious stone)
- **Dinosaur Fossils found in New York:** Coelophysis trackways (found in the Newark Basin)

