



# American Legion Auxiliary

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK, INC

## Empire State News

**"Devoted To Service Not Self"**

**"Teamwork Is The Key  
To Our Success"**



**February 2009**



### **DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - - - Karyn Porempski**

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News from the Queen Bee!!!

WOW!!! Our honey bees really swarmed to the hive located at the Marriott and filled it to capacity for our Mid-Winter Conference. The buzzing was so loud we were told to keep it down (imagine that). Our leadership chairman, Sharon Arthur, Junior Activities Chairman Dawn Grant and all our presenters did a spectacular job of instruction. All of us thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie and fun. The luncheon program was arranged by Past Department President Betty Jane Light – even though she broke her hip 10 days before the event (she is doing fine). We thank Past Department President Patricia Dyer for graciously filling in for that day. Their hard work in the planning and their commitment to the task is greatly appreciated by each and every one of us. I hope you all were able to meet and greet our National Vice President Carlene Ashworth from Texas representing our National President Rita Navarette, and hearing her message. I hope you all appreciated the Creative Arts Display from the Albany VA Medial Center

For your information The Ride 2 Recovery (R2R) program is planning a large ride in 2011 in New York - ground zero to the Pentagon. John Wordin, executive director tells us this will be a very large event with the New York Fire Association leading as host. In honor of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, a special edition R2R challenge event will be held. The ride would be eight (8) days and approximately five hundred (500) miles. Participants would include survivors, family members and first responders from 9/11, wounded heroes from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and finally the general public. Supporters would include United Healthcare, the USO and the AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY. There will be more information as the event gets closer. A check for \$1,000 from the Department of New York was presented to our National Vice President Carlene Ashworth at our Mid-Winter Luncheon to help fund the Ride 2 Recovery Program.

During our Mid-Winter Conference your president visited the American Legion on Sunday morning at the Desmond and presented a check on your behalf to our Department Commander William Kearsing for \$1,000 for his project,

the National Emergency Fund (NEF). At the same time a check for \$5,000 was presented to Fang Wong, New York's candidate for National Commander to help with his campaign. I was honored to represent you at the Sons of the American Legion meeting. They were thanked for their ongoing efforts to help the American Legion family especially for organizing the Walk-a-Thon. They "Marched for us – we'll walk for them" campaign scheduled for April. I have been assured that some of the funds from this project will be donated to the Department President's Project this year.

On the home front, our visitations are continuing since you last heard from your Queen Bee in the December newsletter. We visited Westchester County in December in the 9<sup>th</sup> District, the first joint visitation that included the Department President and from all indications it was well received. Kings and Richmond Counties in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District were next on the agenda. Everyone was in the holiday spirit – the decorations in both districts were absolutely gorgeous – along with the delicious dinners, corsages, beautiful gifts, the hospitality and friendship. The generosity continues toward the Department Presidents project and we have been successful in recruiting veterans to help us make poppies. Please keep trying to recruit veterans for poppy making to keep our program viable.

Now that the holidays are over we need to start buzzing again to shake off those winter blahs – I have just the solution – honey production and signing up NEW BEES!!! Our Beekeeper Nancy tells me we are about 2,700 members ahead of last year – get those stingers out. Many of our VA Healthcare facilities in New York are sponsoring their Creative Arts contests in their respective hospitals during the month of February. Remember this is part of the Department President's Project for this year. These winners are destined for the National Creative Arts Festival to be held in October, 2010. Please help support this wonderful program that immensely helps to rehabilitate our veterans.

**Our membership challenge with Department Commander Kearsing is still ongoing - Help me win by keeping the BEES swarming and filling the hive.**



## **PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY**

February 14<sup>th</sup> is right around the corner—don't forget NATIONAL SALUTE TO HOSPITALIZED VETERANS DAY. Be sure to report your activities of serving hospitalized female veterans and active duty servicewomen in our VA facilities. Taking just a few minutes to visit these women and providing them with items is such a gratifying use of your time. They will be so appreciative of your kind act of remembering and would enjoy personal hygiene items, puzzle books, wordbooks, note pads, and stamps. These little things will help to make their stay that much more comfortable. Let's be sure to make a point of remembering their dedication and sacrifice to our great nation.

Can you believe it? Our administrative year is more than half over. NOW is the time to be thinking about that "Unit Member of the Year" your Unit will want to promote.

Too often we fail to recognize those Unit members who so unselfishly provide constant support to our Units. Take a good look at the membership in your Unit and make a point of nominating a member who deserves to be considered for this most prestigious award.

The complete set of rules/guidelines is addressed in the 2009-2010 Plan of Action. One VERY important point to remember is that the Unit member who is nominated cannot have obtained an ELECTED OR APPOINTED leadership role higher than Unit President. The selection can only be based on accomplishments/activities that the Unit member has performed for the CURRENT administrative year.

All nominees are invited to attend the Past President's Parley Breakfast at the 2010 Department Convention in Syracuse, NY in July. The sponsoring Unit is asked to purchase the breakfast ticket for their nominee. The "Department" winner chosen will be announced on the convention floor following the breakfast and then be a guest at the Past President's luncheon at the National Convention in Milwaukee, WI in August.

**Please check all rules and deadlines in your Plan of Action.**

**Please remember, I must RECEIVE all entries by May 10, 2010 with entries going to my address listed.**

Susan M. Britton  
Past President's Parley

On the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival material located in the Mid-Winter Booklet under the heading Support it states:

Funding is needed to support the invited veterans and staff who work at the Festival . If you would like to support this, checks can be made out to General Post Fund 1329. Please indicate that the money is to be used for veterans and/or staff attending the NVCAF. Checks can be mailed to: \_\_\_\_\_

Because this is our Department President's Project we are asking that any money raised for this program, please be sent to the Department Office at 112 State Street ,Suite 1310, Albany, NY. 12207. Please earmark the checks for Creative Arts – Department President's Project. At our Department Convention our President will announce what the total is to be forwarded on the State Creative Arts Program to President's Parley Chairman.



## Membership Message from the Beekeeper - - - Nancy G. Kurk, Chairman

The American Legion Auxiliary Bees are certainly not hibernating this winter. The Buzz continues for membership. The Bumblebees have been buzzing to the Busy Bees, who in turn buzz the Worker bees, who buzz the honeybees. The beekeeper heard one of the Pollinators had an addition to her family and the Auxiliary now has a cute little Junior new bee. The room was buzzing when she arrived at the membership rally to greet her new American Legion Auxiliary Family at Midwinter Conference.

**Congratulations, the "Honeycomb Award", goes to the First District.** Those Honeybees are on the go and brought to the hive the highest percentage of membership 10 days prior to Midwinter Conference with 92.07% of goal. They were awarded \$50.00 for their efforts. Bumblebee Barbara Wong continued to guard the swarm, working with the team to strive to fill the hive. The First District consists of New York and Bronx Counties. The Carpenter Bee in the First District is Judy Lanci from Bronx County.

**Congratulations to Schuyler County 103.7% Membership,** and the first County to reach 100% of goal. It has been a cold winter, and we have had our share of snow, ice, slushy roads and slippery sidewalks. Hope all the honeybees have kept warm and safe this winter.

### Membership Support Team News

Do you know who your Membership Support Team member is in your District? Please refer to your Plan of Action. Please change the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Team Member to Joan Roller and 4<sup>th</sup> District Team Member to Julie McGill. Your District President can give you further contact information. Thank you to Barbara Wong and Susan Britton for training Joan and Julie respectively for the support team. Welcome to the team Joan and Julie.

February is the month for love or to share our feelings for those we hold dear. Consider having a Valentine party at your Unit meeting. Share a phone call with a member who maybe hasn't been attending the meetings or some new members to get more acquainted. Give each member a folded paper the size of a small note. Ask each member to write something they love about coming to the Unit meeting, or something they would love to change about the Unit meeting. No need to sign a name. Pass around a shoe box decorated for Valentines Day, each member will place their love note in the box. While enjoying refreshments the Unit President can read the love notes and make notes regarding the content. Now if you are not crazy about a Valentine party, how about a beach party? That's right a beach party! Crank up the heat; invite the members for a summer picnic, yes in February. Bring a dish to pass. The Unit will provide the hot dogs/hamburgers, and members can provide the rest; rolls, ketchup, mustard, trimmings. If wanted, baked beans, macaroni and potato salad. Give each member a recipe card titled "Unit Delight". Each member will share an ingredient to spice up the Unit meeting, or reduce the heat. Use a sand pail with a shovel to collect the cards. Remember it is a beach party!

New business for the March meeting, how do we improve our meetings so more members will attend and feel needed? You will have your answers from your Valentine Party or Beach Party. Reconnect change for the positive, in service to our Veterans, Youth and Community.

Spring is really just around the corner! Spring time is a time for renewal and new growth. Have you taken a good look at your honeycomb foundation? Does it need a little repair or do you need to sweeten that honey just a little to bring more members to the meeting? Welcoming new members to be active in our programs? Remember we are "Veterans Advocates." We really do have something for everyone. Is everyone urged to participate and share their ideas? Are you discussing the programs and reporting all you do? "Teamwork is the key to our success!" Need some help accomplishing the task? Call your Membership Support Team member for help. They are ready and trained to assist your Unit or County.

News you can use. Shake those cabin fever blues! Give a friend a telephone buzz and let them know you are thinking of them today. Some of our best friends belong to the American Legion Auxiliary. Our National Membership Theme is "Reconnect and Energize". In the Department of New York, you are reconnecting and on the way up the hill to reach our goal of 100%. I know we can, I know we can! Our bee's are buzzing and creating the energy needed to make it to the top.

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### MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS as of January 26, 2010

1st Place	1st District	92.07%	6 <sup>th</sup> Place	4 <sup>th</sup> District	77.30%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	9 <sup>th</sup> District	84.51%	7 <sup>th</sup> Place	6 <sup>th</sup> District	75.47%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	5 <sup>th</sup> District	82.57%	8 <sup>th</sup> Place	8 <sup>th</sup> District	74.80%
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> District	78.62%	9 <sup>th</sup> Place	10 <sup>th</sup> District	71.41%
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	7 <sup>th</sup> District	77.80%	10 <sup>th</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> District	70.80%

**Department - - 77.96%**

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## **VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION - - - - Sally Johnston Chairman**

Thanks to 46 of the 62 Counties who reported for our first reporting period equaling 74.2 % overall. I would like to offer some suggestions for the next reporting period. Some of your reports could not be used because the number of Veterans served, hours spent for the good of the Veteran / Veterans family and the dollar value was not recorded. I would ask that you spend a little more time thinking about how your report should be filled out so that everyone involved gets the proper credit. There were many wonderful works that I read from each of your Units, with many hours spent with a Veteran / their family, but not enough information to report. I ask you to try to remember to write down everything you do for the Veteran / Veterans family and if you are having trouble, appoint a couple of members to work on the appropriate way to fill out the form so that your good works are reported. I agree the report form is not the easiest to work with, but do the best you can as this is the format I have to work with. Let's put that "Teamwork" spirit out there and get the job done together. I believe we all have Past Officers at every level that would be more than willing to help if we just ask. Because the VA&R form is missing some information at the top of the report, I would ask to make sure that your Unit #'s, County and District names are listed on your next report form. This will help me prepare my report. I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**IMPORTANT News from our National VA&R Chairman Kris Nelson regarding the Ride2Recovery / Spinning Nation 2010 program.** On February 27, 2010 participating health clubs nationwide, including most 24 Hour Fitness Clubs will be hosting two one-hour indoor cycling classes. Spinning, the world's leading indoor cycling brand, announced that they will be hosting the third annual charity event "Spinning Nation" on Feb 27, 2010. **Proceeds from this year's event will go to the Ride2Recovery program**, a charity benefiting the mental and physical rehabilitation of men and women in the armed forces. If you would like to participate in the event, log onto <http://www.spinningnation.org/> to find a location near you. Each 24 Hour Fitness Center location is offering two 50 minute spinning cycle sessions with a donation of \$75.00 per session. The objective of the American Legion Auxiliary is to sign up members, friends and neighbors to fill the available slots. If you wish to find out more information visit the ALA National website. Would you please consider supporting our wounded warriors while doing something fun? Any monetary donations need to be earmarked **R2R (Ride2Recovery)**. All proceeds received are used exclusively to purchase "Spin Cycles" for wounded warriors and for the "Spin Cycle Labs" at military and Veterans hospitals.

**WALK-A-THON:** Those of you who attended Mid-winter Conference have received complete information to share with your Units / Counties regarding the rules etc. for the upcoming Walk-A-Thon event, proceeds to be used for the Veterans / Veterans Family needs. If you are not able to attend or participate in the "Walk" see what you can do with the sale of the "Boots" at \$2.00 per pair. The slogan, **"They Marched For Us, We Walk For Them"** is very heartwarming and it is hard to say NO to as for as participation. Do what you can. If I can help you in any way let me know.

Did you participate in any activities on **Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 18, 2010?** Many of you have participated in some event for our Veterans on this day. If so, you can report any of the activities, donations etc. that you provided our Veterans under this committee. Your dollars, number of Veterans served and number of volunteer hours spent needs to be reported. There is a website you can log onto to "Find a Veteran in need",

<http://www.operationhomefront.net/default.aspx> An example of helping a Veteran at his /her home may be volunteering with some basic repairs, interior painting, snow removal / other seasonal yard work or maybe the building of a wheelchair ramp. Help with everyday needs.

With the cold winter weather, let's remember to plan a **"Stand Down"**. Homeless Veterans are the important focus during a "Stand Down". They are helped with food, clothing, shelter, health screening, VA benefits and possible leads for employment. How better to serve our Nation's Veterans than helping those who are without the necessities of life. Visit [www.nchv.org/page.cfm/id=122](http://www.nchv.org/page.cfm/id=122) to learn more.

Some interesting information regarding Female Veterans of Operation Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. Did you know that the largest group of women veterans today served in the OEF/OIF. In 2008, women made up 11 percent of OEF / OIF veterans! They too are faced with PTSD, hypertension and depression. Let's remember the special needs that we as females have and offer to address their needs appropriately. Learn more about some of the Women Veterans Health Care issues. Visit <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth/index.asp>

**The Veterans History Project** is still very much alive. We need to talk to our Veterans and ask them to please share their stories. It so important to record their Histories in honor and memory of the sacrifices they made to allow us to be free. There are no words that could ever express the gratitude of thanks for their service to our nation.

Utilize our website to send a Valentine's Day Card to your favorite Veteran. What a great opportunity to get the Junior Auxiliary members involved. Introduce them to the ALA Department of New York web page. Let them print as many Valentine Day cards as they wish and help them to get involved with the VA hospitals and Clinics, and possibly local nursing homes where our nations Veterans reside. Help them in mailing or maybe hand delivering Valentines to the most deserving Veterans in their local communities. Remember our Juniors are our future. Work with them and show them what can be accomplished as a Teamwork effort.

## VA&R (con't)

I ask that you continue helping our Veterans / Veterans families. Report what you do and always remember through whom you received your eligibility to join the largest women's patriotic organization and why you joined. Together working as a TEAM for one common goal, one nation under "God" we can meet and exceed the goals and tasks set before us and BEE spectacular.

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### Children and Youth - - - - Ann Geer, Chairman

Have you heard of a child or teen who has performed an heroic act? Most of you have most likely seen such a young person on TV or you've read about it in the newspaper. It probably left a good impression in your mind. Have you ever considered recognizing a young person for his valorous actions? If you haven't, maybe you should. The National American Legion Auxiliary has developed the "Youth Hero Award" for the purpose of recognizing young people who have performed outstanding deeds. This program starts at the Unit level.

How can you go about finding a "Youth Hero?" You can start by publicizing the program. A great way to do that is to contact local organizations that work with the children and youth in your community. Develop a flyer that can be posted in fire departments, town and city halls, school bulletin boards, Boys and Girls Clubs, the YMCA and any place else that works with children. Let the local sports teams know about the program as well. It won't take much to develop a flyer and the National American Legion has a sample flyer on its website. Look under Children and Youth and click on resources at the bottom of the page. You can adapt the flyer to meet your needs.

Recognition of a child hero is also easy. You can have a special recognition ceremony within the community. You can host a reception for the child and his family at your Legion Home. Present the hero with the Youth Hero certificate that National has designed. All you need to do is fill out the application, following the directions. Your unit may also wish to present some type of award, such as a plaque or pin. Publicize the award by contacting the local media. It's a good way to spread the word about the American Legion Auxiliary. In other words, great publicity for us. But most important, is the recognition of our children. *They are our most important*

*resource*; the future of tomorrow. A great time to start the promotion of the "Youth Hero Award" program is during April, which is Children and Youth Month. You can incorporate it into your month's activities.

The American Legion Family has been celebrating Children and Youth Month since the early 1900's. It was originally called Child Welfare Month and celebrated in May. In 1938 the American Legion and Auxiliary joined forces and changed the month to April, adopting the title Children and Youth Month. During all that time the American Legion Family nationwide has promoted youth in our communities by having special programs and functions involving children. As Americans we need to remember, amid the problems we face daily with the environment, crime, unemployment and financial uncertainty, the one constant which will make or break this nation is our young people. They are our future. Our dreams and hopes for a better tomorrow rest in their hands. It is our responsibility to prepare them for that role.

Here are a few ideas for Children and Youth month; hold a "Spring Fling" and invite kids to come to the post for games, music, prizes and refreshments. Hold a bicycle safety and inspection class, sponsor a finger printing clinic, make donations to Children's Miracle Network, promote school nutrition programs, have a teen talent show, do research on Operation Military Kids to find out what you can do locally, sponsor a community youth program such a little league or pee wee football, and teach kids flag etiquette. You are only limited by your imagination! Did you know that April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Month of the Military Child, and Youth Sports Safety Month? You can incorporate those ideas into your activities as well. And remember - REPORT what you do to the department chair.

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### == PLEASE TAKE NOTE == UNITS WITH LESS THAN 10 SENIORS PAID

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Bronx Co: #1065  
Cayuga Co: #257, 1314  
Chenango Co: #1478  
Columbia Co: #184, 252, 1470  
Dutchess Co: #739, 1758  
Erie Co: #1320, 1587  
Genesee Co: #1352  
Greene Co: #166  
Hamilton Co: #1402  
Kings Co: #965, 1011, 1872

Madison Co: #894  
Nassau Co: #160, 390, 854, 948  
Orange Co: #293  
Queens Co: #104, 123, 298, 483, 797, 1078, 1786  
St. Lawrence Co: #74  
Schoharie Co: #57, 1764  
Suffolk Co: #185, 1766  
Warren Co: #961

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

How is your Community Service project coming? Each unit is expected to implement and work with another organization on at least one project for Community Service each year! What is your project this year? Have you implemented your plan yet? Did you advertise in your local community calendar for that big event? Did you recruit someone to take pictures? And finally, have you reported your results to the community and to me?

Community Service is the backbone to the American Legion Auxiliary! Working with local organizations no matter how big or small is what we are all about!

Here's a project for you . . . How about putting together a Community Program to collect *underwear*! It may sound strange, but shelters, families, the homeless always need new underwear. Socks, underwear, and t-shirts could be collected at your Post Home and put into a drop off box. As you know, these items can be collected in all sizes – so anything you collect will be appreciated!

Do you have any old winter coats that you no longer wear and don't know what to do with them? Coordinate a community event to collect coats and help to keep someone warm!

Have you ever thought about just fixing a dinner and dropping it off at a nearby shelter or to a family with a deployed family member? What a thoughtful gesture!

Start thinking now about spring!! How about organizing a team now to volunteer for Adopt-A-Highway. Get your volunteers and start planning now!

Spring really is coming and you could volunteer to be a chairman for the American Cancer Society Daffodil Days! Seeing those bright yellow flowers brings hope to everyone! Go on line now and enroll to be a volunteer!

Don't forget about all the awards for Community Service! Start thinking now about who you would like to submit an application for. May 1<sup>st</sup> will be here before you know it!

In the past few articles, I've provided many ideas as to how the American Legion Family can help your community in 2010! I hope that you've put some of them to work!!

Community Service allows us to broaden our horizons in our own communities and at the same time enhance community awareness for the American Legion Auxiliary. Make sure you and your Unit is a part of it!

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## **HISTORIAN - - - Kathie Renner, Chairman**

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Now that the holidays are over and we are half way through our Auxiliary Year – wow time does fly – it's time to get those cameras back out. I have only received pictures from ONE COUNTY- from Madam Queen Bee Karyn's visitations around our great state. I know there has to BEE more pictures out there.

I hope there are Unit/District Historians who are taking advantage of the Auxiliary's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, by doing their part in the National Historian's Project, "MILESTONES OVER THE YEARS".

This is a one-time project, an opportunity to research and record historical events from the past to the present. Some research examples can BEE:

- The naming of your Post/Department Home – who & why
- The renaming of their Post/Department Home – who & why
- National Officers (Unit, District & Department levels)
- Department Presidents (Unit level)
- Milestone Accomplishments (various Programs/Activities)

A written document of this research may BEE submitted to the National Historian when completed no later than June 1, 2010.

Unit Historians please make sure you get your reports to your County Chairman so her report can reach me by the March 10, 2010 deadline.

Let's BEE SPECTULAR with our cameras and take pictures, pictures and more pictures of Madam QUEEN BEE Karyn.

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## **COUPONS - - - Evelyn Perry, Chairman**

Years ago coupons were given for purchases, but have since been discontinued in most areas of the State. To replace the coupons, we are asking for \$.15 cents per member which is used to assist our Department when they have a need. Not a lot to ask for. Please do your share. Refusing to participate is putting the burden on someone else, so let's show our Department we appreciate their efforts by paying, sharing and doing our duty for God and Country as a family member of The American Legion Auxiliary.

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## National Security - - Pat Bergin, Chairman

The National Security Committee continues to be one of the busiest "hives" in the "Bee Community". I would like to thank all the Counties that reported to me for November, 2009. I am looking forward to hearing from all chairman for the March 10, 2010 reporting date. When reporting please remember to indicate what County and District you are from.

Auxiliary members enthusiastically participate in coupon clipping. Please send coupons directly to the bases, not to this chairman or Department. Please take note that as of this writing, Italy has become overwhelmed with the amounts of coupons that are mailed to them and respectfully request that we no longer send coupons to them at this time. Also, please use one of the following addresses for the Navy FSC or the Navy Commissary:

Fleet & Family Support Center  
PSC 473 Box 116  
FPO AP 96349-0116

Commissary Store  
PSC 473 Box 33  
FPO AP 96349-0033

We should continue our efforts to be "Ready" for the winter months still ahead. Make sure you have supplies at home in case of weather emergencies. Prepare a "plan of action" with family and friends to be "ready" for all kinds of emergencies.

During the month of February, remember our Servicemen and women. Unit members should send care packages to our military personnel at home and abroad. Involve your Junior members and encourage them to make and send Valentine and Easter cards.

Let us think ahead to April - Children & Youth Month - with special emphasis on "Month of the Military Child". Identify Military families in your community. If you do not live near a Military base, contact local Veterans organizations for information on Military Families in your area. The Army and Air Force have Family Coordinators in every state. Here are email addresses for some of these coordinators: Army: Beverly Keating - [beverly.keating@ny.ngh.army.mil](mailto:beverly.keating@ny.ngh.army.mil); Air Force: Lisa D'Agostino - [lisa.dagostino@nysuff.ang.af.mil](mailto:lisa.dagostino@nysuff.ang.af.mil); Teresa Scanlin - [terri.scanlin@nysra.ang.af.mil](mailto:terri.scanlin@nysra.ang.af.mil).

Plans can include Easter Parties, Spring Dance Parties, and Arts & Crafts activities. Scrap booking for military children is a great project for kids to share their activities with a deployed parent. Some of our local craft stores feature Saturday craft programs for military children. This information can be found at [www.monthofthemilitarychild.com](http://www.monthofthemilitarychild.com)

Let's BEE SPECTACULAR! Support our Military Families and Report! Report! Report!

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

Our Juniors are surely Buzzing throughout the Department of New York spreading the word that "Teamwork is the Key to Success." At the December Executive Meeting held at the Marriot in Albany on December 4 & 5, I was delighted to report that the Juniors have actively participated with the American Legion Family in Veterans Day Dinners, preparing boxes for the troops, and laying wreaths at the Bath National Cemetery. We even had a 5<sup>th</sup> District Junior, Delaney Oliver, of Jefferson County who was the New York State Junior Auxiliary Member of the year for 2009, appear with Miss America Katie Stam on the cover of the American Legion Auxiliary Homefront Magazine. At the Executive Meeting in Albany there was one new amendment that was passed in regards to the American Legion Auxiliary College and it read the following: A Scholarship will be offered to one Junior member to attend the American Legion Auxiliary College in June with the application, criteria, and selection to be determined by the College Action Team. The Executive Committee strongly urged that this will be another way for the Juniors to learn about the programs as they are our future.

Please take a moment during the cold, snowy and winter weather and look into the Plan of Actions or Department of NY Website (DEPTNY.ORG), open up facebook or twitter and see all that is available to the Juniors. Encourage your Juniors to start working on their Junior Awards for National or Department. If you have a graduating Junior in your Unit have them apply for the numerous scholarships that are being offered and please forward them to the proper location stated on the application. Remember to adhere to the rules and deadline dates stated on the application. "Need A Lift" is available on the Department Website and in the Library for their use. Also encourage your Juniors to take their Junior Leadership Course and continue to work on their Patches. Remember that we need to connect with our Juniors and get them involved in our Units and in all our programs. Encourage them to bring eligible new bees to their meetings. Remember to please mentor, mentor, mentor and report, report and report. Remember that our Juniors are just baby bees who need a lot of tender nurturing and honey in order to become a beautiful Bumble Bee to fill the hive of our future Auxiliary Members. I hope that everyone has a wonderful Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day.

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**CHAPLAIN -- -- -- Carrol Goerke, Chairman**

**A Happy New Year to All**

Let us take a moment and reflect on all the things that happened in our lives in 2009, paying special attention to the good things. Then let us thank God for keeping us close to his heart, especially, our Auxiliary members who have lost a loved one, those who are sick with various ailments and who are affected by the excessive cold weather we are experiencing this winter.

Let us remember to thank him for providing all our needs, and for giving us guides and new friends along the way. Sometimes it is not easy to find the time or words for prayer. So, here are seven ways to **"Energize" your prayer life.** **1) Pray with a Formula Prayer:** Formula prayers are based on acronyms-you can make up your own. Here is an example. P.R.A.Y., which stands for Praise, Repent, Ask and say Yes. **2) Read or Recite a Traditional Prayer:** When you don't know what to say, recite one from memory, like the Lord's Prayer, or a Psalm. **3) As a Prayer,** be still and listen to what God has to say to you: Take a few deep breaths and imagine being filled with the presence of God. **4) Have a Casual Conversation Prayer with God:** Just tell him what's on your mind as if you're talking to a friend. He knows what's on your mind anyway. **5) Pray for your enemies:** When you pray for your enemies, you release some of the power they have over you, and you experience peace. **6) Do something different-Pray a Rotation:** Try praying at a different time of day, such as, during your commute to and from work; pray in a different room or while you're doing the dishes-be creative. **7) Pray Online:** You can find a lot of prayers sites on Google, Yahoo, Facebook, Twitter or e-mail.

However you choose to Energize your prayers, remember that God looks forward to hearing from you. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Department Chaplain also looks forward to hearing from you regarding all the good works you are doing for our Veterans, and Children and Youth in your area. Continue to open and close meetings with prayers. Send Grace Cards, visit the shut-ins, especially if they are members. Attend funeral services, and if the deceased is a member, drape your Unit Charter in their memory. February is the month that the American Legion recognizes and honors the Four Chaplains, George L. Fox, Clark V. Poling, Alexander D. Goode and Johnny P. Washington. These Chaplains gave their life jackets to four soldiers so that their lives can be saved and then went down with the U.S.A.T Dorchester as it sank into the freezing North Atlantic waters on February 3, 1943. Make a special effort and encourage your members to attend "Chapel of Four Chaplains" memorial services and to make a special donation to the fund. Continue to follow the instructions in the "Plan of Action" so that you can participate in all the programs. By doing this you will have a lot to report and a lot to put in your Award Entries. Remember, there are two entries—The Thelma Peabody Award and the Vivian Luitink Award. One more reminder, please send prayers to me, so that I can put it into the Department President Prayer Book. And always remember BEE SPECTACTULAR and prayerfully work together with each other. I'd like to end with a verse sent to me from Chaplain, Evajane, **"Dear Lord, help me to remember that nothing is going to happen to me today that you and I alone cannot handle.**

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

**New Dress Code in Effect for 2010 Empire Girls State**

A new dress code will be in effect for the citizens attending the 2010 session of Empire Girls State to be held at SUNY Brockport from June 27<sup>th</sup> to July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Girls will be required to wear their Empire Girls State T Shirts to all meetings and sessions this year. Along with the T-shirts the girls will be asked to wear black, Navy or Khaki pants, Capri's, skirts or dress shorts. There are laundry machines and dryers on each floor and housemothers will be doing wash each night for the girls. Additional shirts will be available for purchase. Formal dress is still required for the State of the State Ceremony to be held on Friday evening. Please inform your citizens during your orientations of this change.

Along with the dress code change other things to inform your citizens during your orientation are to bring with them sheets, pillows and towels as these are not provided by the college. Please review with them the application for the **Samsung Scholarship** and remind them they must have it completely filled out with all attachments when they arrive at check in

County Chairmen please make sure you complete the County Transmittal Form when you return your applications to Vice Chairman Kathy Cubit by April 14<sup>th</sup>. Also make sure EVERYTHING is attached on the application. Included should be a copy of the girl's immunization record or a signed notarized statement stating personal belief against immunizations and a copy of the girl's insurance card. These are required by the Lakeside Health Care System. This will make processing of the applications much easier.

Any questions? Kathy and I are here to help you! Please don't hesitate to give us a call!

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**EMPIRE GIRLS STATE 2010  
CD YEARBOOK  
BOOSTER ADVERTISER**



*To be advertised in the 2010 Empire Girls State CD Yearbook  
\$1.00 per Booster*

**PLEASE PRINT NAME CLEARLY**

**PLEASE PRINT NAME CLEARLY**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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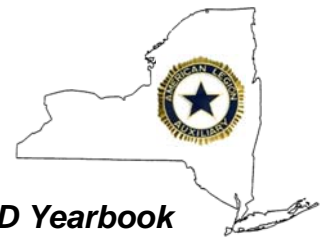
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**Make check or money order payable to: *American Legion Aux. Dept. of New York*  
Send to: *Kathy Cubit, 113 Kislingbury St, Rochester, NY. 14613*  
Telephone: (585)647-9294 E-mail: [kcubit@yahoo.com](mailto:kcubit@yahoo.com)**

**Deadline: May 14, 2010**

**EMPIRE GIRLS STATE 2009  
CD YEARBOOK  
BOOSTER ADS**



*To be advertised in the 2010 Empire Girls State CD Yearbook*

We encourage you to support the Empire Girls State program by placing an ad in the CD Yearbook for 2010. Citizens will receive these CD Yearbooks after the session and would be thrilled to see an ad from you congratulating them on their accomplishments at Empire Girls State! Please feel free to make copies of this form and give to other Auxiliary members, Post members, friends, local businesses as well as the parents of your Empire Girls State citizens! Thank You!

Please check  the desired size / space:

All ads to be put at end of photos in "OUR BOOSTERS" Section:

Full-Slide Ad (1<sup>st</sup> 2 slides)  \$100

Full Slide Ad  \$50

Half Slide Ad  \$30

Quarter Slide Ad  \$20

Business Card Size Ad  \$10

Benefactor (one line listing)  \$5

Booster (name only)  \$1

Sponsoring Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please enclose ad copy for mechanical or write in below.*

Make check or money order payable to: *American Legion Aux. Dept. of New York*  
Send to: *Kathy Cubit, 113 Kislingbury St, Rochester, NY. 14613*  
Telephone: (585)647-9294 E-mail: [kcubit@yahoo.com](mailto:kcubit@yahoo.com)

**Deadline: May 14, 2010**

## **Finance/Audit Committee - - Violet Brosart, Chairman**

There have been a lot of questions regarding Ledgers, Check Books and having the books audited.

**1.Question?** How many people in the Unit should have a checkbook?

**Answer---One.** The National Policy and Procedures manual states "It is recommended that all funds concerning Auxiliary Programs should be handled in the Units by a Unit Treasurer who is bonded; in the Departments by Department Treasurers who are bonded (this includes Girls State Funds). It is imperative that funds be handled in this manner to have a uniform procedure and for protection of all Auxiliary Funds" (Finance Committee , NEC meeting January 1929, Affirmed, National Convention 1929 Louisville KY.)

**Question?** Does the Treasurer need to be present to hold an Audit of the Unit?

**Answer—**Yes the Treasurer should be present to facilitate the audit. Once the final audited financial report

and Treasurer's report are formally adopted by the Unit, these documents should become part of the Unit's permanent records.

Any member can call for an Audit. Books should always be brought to a meeting and be open for inspection by any member that requests to see them.

### **How should a Ledger be set up?**

**Answer---** A Ledger should have separate columns or pages for separate items. i.e: General Fund - this is operating funds. Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation - this is where Poppy money is kept and buying future orders of Poppies should come from this fund. Donations to VA Hospitals and Field Service Facilities should also come from this fund. Included in the VA&R fund is the WFA Program. This administration (2009-2010) the Presidents Project comes under VA&R. Any other special projects you wish to make, as Junior Scholarships etc. should be put into a separate column.

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## **POPPY/POPPY POSTER - - - - Judy MacRoberts, Chairman**

The Poppy Program must grow to meet the needs of America's veterans of several wars and the Gulf War. The Poppy is a symbol that honors those whose lives are sacrificed for freedom, and it helps those in need of rehabilitation and financial assistance as a result of those wars. **"The measure of a man may be his willingness to serve his Country. The measure of a Country may be its willingness to honor those who served"**.

Reminding the public that millions died so that they might live in freedom is something we do in Units everywhere as we let the public know the story behind the little red crepe paper flower. It's not just another solicitation in front of the grocery store or in front of the Post Office, it is part of America's character and the American Legion Auxiliary's founding principals.

Did you remember to order your poppies? If not, and if you hurry, there is still time to fill orders for Poppy days. Contact your local newspaper, radio and TV stations for their cooperation. It is of utmost importance that the public be given an opportunity each year to help us in the great work that we do through our Poppy Program. They have the opportunity to join us in paying tribute to all who died in service by wearing a Poppy.

Display the Poppy story and Posters in your Post rooms and businesses to help promote your local Poppy day

distribution.

Be sure to involve both your Senior and Junior members. Perhaps a Junior member can take poppies to school and pass out the story of the poppy and briefly explain the purpose and why we have the Poppy Program.

The Poppy Poster contest exposes young people to the purpose for Poppy day and it encourages them to express what they have learned in the design of the poster.

Now is the time to start working on your awards. At your Unit and County meetings start Juniors and Seniors working on ideas for centerpieces, wreaths, corsages and hats. For the Juniors, table favors and tray favors. You might be surprised at how easy it is and you may be the Junior or Senior to win.

Due to restrictions on how Poppy funds can be spent, the revenue received from Poppy distributions should be carried as a separate item in the treasurer's book. Refer to the December newsletter article as to how funds should be used.

Planning ahead will enable you to have a successful Poppy Program.

Report all your efforts to this Chairman by March 10<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to reading about the ideas I know exists within our membership.

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## **CANCER AWARENESS - - - - Virginia Robbins, Chairman**

Thank you to the County Chairmen who sent their reports for November reporting. They were very interesting to say the least. You were out there to fight for such a GREAT CAUSE and please continue so that we can find that CURE.

**Don't forget the Marie Cook Plaque Dept. award** to be given to the Unit with the greatest donation to the Cancer Awareness Program. Will you be the lucky winner at Dept. Convention? Another reporting period is around the corner, March 1st. Please get them to your County Chairman in time for her to report to me by March 10<sup>th</sup>. I would like to see 100% reporting. You can also send donations to Dept. earmarked for Camp Good Days, Roswell Part, Sloan Kettering, Stony Brook and Strong Memorial.



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

WE ARE ALL ABUZZ WITH SOME EXCITING NEWS!! Action at the December 2009 Department Executive Committee was taken to allow JUNIOR MEMBERS to attend the American Legion Auxiliary College of New York! This will give Junior members an excellent opportunity to see exactly what our organization is all about, as they prepare to become active Senior members.

Junior members interested in attending the American Legion Auxiliary College of New York should be:

- At least 16 years old,
- Junior members during the 2009-2010 administrative year, and
- Able to attend the entire session (Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, June 18<sup>th</sup> through June 20<sup>th</sup>).

Junior members need not be accompanied by an adult but Juniors and their moms are welcome to both attend as students.

Past National President Phyllis Bachman is offering a scholarship to one Junior member to attend the 2010 session. The Department of New York will also provide one scholarship to a Junior member for the 2010 session.

Junior member student applications are available on the Department website at [www.deptny.org](http://www.deptny.org). All Junior applications will be entered into competition for the two available scholarships.

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 and your Juniors 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

### EDUCATION ----- Diane Gerber, Chairman

Special thanks to all the "Bees" in the Auxiliary and Department office that called to see if I was "OK – in Staten Island" after our first enormous snow storm. Well to begin with it probably didn't match up to the storms my sister members experienced way up North, but it sure was a good one. And yes – we do have real-working-snowplows in Staten Island!

So, today as I sit here writing this article guess what it is doing again – SNOWING! OK – enough of the white stuff!!!!

Many thanks to all the Education chairmen that reported this quarter. But now it is time to re-energize and feed the minds and souls of our future leaders. One of the most recognized programs in our Legion Family is the Girls/Boys State program. Educating our youth in their government, Americanism, rights and responsibilities can only prepare them for a bright and strong future. Don't forget to remind your EGS candidates of the opportunity to earn 3 college credits through the New York Regents study program. Another program available to them is their local Oratorical contest. For many this is the gift of

a lifetime as they learn to speak in public on a pre-memorized topic. Scheduling an "open house" to local students and their parents on the opportunities the Auxiliary has to offer will make your Unit, Post or Squadron a strong voice within your local communities. By now all Chairman should have notified their local schools of all our Scholarships. The application process is time consuming and all applications must be presented as stated in the Plan of Action. PLEASE review the completed applications carefully before mailing! A small mistake, such as a needed recommendation, completed essay, or recorded community hours can be costly to the student thereby creating a disqualification. Allow the schools and students ample time for completion as all criteria must be met by the **March** deadline.

I anxiously await hearing from many, many students. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Let's make Madam Queen Bee Karyn proud of all our students by filling her hive with many, many winning scholarships!

### CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS - - - - Mary Anne Casadei, Chairman

For well over 200 years our U.S. Constitution has shaped American history, born from the words of men to live the consequences of being "we", the people." The Constitution & Bylaws of the American Legion Auxiliary is rather young in comparison. It, too, has shaped the history of our organization for "Unity with Purpose." We must stand for "we, the members."

What should our C/BL mean to us? How many times have you recited our Preamble, "to maintain law & order? Surely that means the law of the land and those of our organization. Webster defines law as: a rule of conduct or action formally recognized as binding or enforced by a controlling authority; and order as, "The rule of law or proper authority, a specific rule regulation or direction." Did you notice that both definitions use the word "Authority?" What is our Authority? It is our Constitution & Bylaws. If we don't like them we can change them; but, we should **Never, Never**, break them.

## LEGISLATIVE - - - Judy Lanci, Chairman

I want to thank all of our "Spectacular" Counties that sent their Legislative Reports. Please include your County and District name and number on all reports that get mailed to me so no County goes unreported. I also want to thank those "Busy Bees" who included and still keep sending reply letters from our elected officials. I will be sending these replies to Steve Robertson in the Legion Office in Washington DC. If you have any e-mail responses please forward to me at [JLancix2@aol.com](mailto:JLancix2@aol.com) so I can include in my package to Steve.

Keep up the great work as every visit, letter, e-mail and telephone call keeps our legislators listening. Focusing on Health Care Reform, Jobs and Education for our Veterans are some of the key topics of great importance to our Veterans. I wanted to keep you updated on Education and Jobs in this month's newsletter as our members are always focused on Health Care Reforms, as it is such a hot topic. Please do not take your focus off the Veterans health care needs but add on the additional topics of Jobs and Education when visiting or writing to your legislators.

When servicemen come home from long tours many don't have jobs. It's the American Legion's goal to help the returning Veterans with the best opportunity for employment. The American Legion has held many job fairs throughout the US. and uses forums like

Military.com, RecruitMilitary and AVUE Technologies. With an unemployment rate of 11.3% for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans the Federal Hiring Initiative which was signed by the President on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> enhances the recruitment of and promotes employment opportunities for veterans within the executive branch of the Federal Government. The American Legion supports this executive order.

Also concerns with the Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) Bob Madden met with Senator Burr's staff concerning our position on including vocational schools, correspondence schools, apprenticeships, flight training and on-the-job training programs in this new education benefit. The American Legion understands that not all veterans attend Institutions of Higher Learning. Many Veterans prefer traditional employment and/or may require employment for personal or family reasons. Chapter 33 needs to be modified to include non-college degree programs. The American Legion believes that veterans should never be limited in the manner they use their educational benefits.

The American legion has created a pamphlet and website ([mygibill.org](http://mygibill.org)) that explains the Post 9/11 GI Bill and other education benefits within the VA. The American Legion will continue to monitor this issue and provide updates.

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## AMERICANISM -----Zenna M. Rockwell, Chairman

Our Honey Bees (members) are hard at work with many programs on Patriotism and Americanism. I am sure members, Units and Counties are doing many things that can be reported as displaying the Flag, saying the Pledge and singing patriotic songs. So let's have 100% reporting on the next report date of March 1 for Units and March 10 for Counties. Please be sure to use the Unit and County report forms.

With President Obama sending more troops overseas, we need to show our patriotism. Fly our Flag every day. Now is a good time to pledge our support to the troops by supporting the **Pocket Flag Project**. This project originated from Boy Scouts meeting with Veterans who carried small folded Flags in their left shirt pocket. Inspired with this theme of Americanism a local project was born and today has spread into a national endeavor. Each pocket flag includes a card saying, "**A flag for your pocket so you can always carry a little piece of home. We are praying for you and we are proud of you. Thank you for defending our Country and our Freedom**". Units can also include their names and return address with each flag. For more information: [www.pocketflagproject.com](http://www.pocketflagproject.com) or **Pocket Flag Project, P.O. Box 740847, Arvada, CO 80006.**

Now is the time for units to contact Girl Scout leaders and troops about the **Girl Scout Achievement Scholarship**. The scholarship will be awarded to a Junior or Senior High School student earning the Girl Scout

Gold Award and the appropriate religious emblem. Applications are available online. Entries must be postmarked by April 15, 2010 and sent to this chairman. Reminder that the **Americanism Essay Contest** entries must also be postmarked by April 15, 2010 and sent to this chairman. Also a reminder that there are other awards for Units and Counties to enter. The Department President's "Queen Bee" award under Americanism will go to the Unit that demonstrates the most innovative program in support and promotion of **Operation Military Kids**. This can include active military and/or National Guard and Reserve personnel. Rules and deadline are in the Plan of Action. **You have to enter to WIN!!!**

**Keys to the Constitution** are distributed to every citizen at Empire Girl's State. It contains information about the Nation's Constitution. Each Unit is asked to donate \$3.00 to ensure every citizen receives a copy. Unit, please send it to the county and the county will send it to Department. In conjunction with the National Security Committee, the Americanism Committee is promoting **Month of the Military Child** in April. It is important to start planning activities now. Encourage all members to participate in **Patriotic Holiday Observances** at schools, business, organizations and within our communities. Encourage your local businesses to **Fly Our Flag. GOD BLESS AMERICA**

## **LEADERSHIP - - - - - Sharon Arthur, Chairman**

Mid-Winter Conference is now history. It was our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, begun by Charlotte Craven in 1985. You members must believe it to be a valuable experience or it would be a thing of the past!

A huge THANK YOU is in order for all of our presenters. What fun it was to have our National Girls State President, Rachel Lipstein, with us. Her message was wonderful. Nick Kelley, our VISTA volunteer in the Department Office was a real hit. Barbara MacLean, Albany VA, and Jim Sheets, Watertown Vets Center, were warmly received by our membership. They had a great deal of information to share about our Veterans' activities.

Our own Vice Presidents, Nancy, Ann and Sally, each gave a super message regarding their committees, as did Linda Tome on Community Service. Special thanks to Linda and Wendy Privitera for their techno-savvy (I am not a machine person) in running the CDs, etc.

Thanks go to our District Presidents for their participation. They spent several hours at the registration table and doing a variety of other things during the weekend.

We couldn't have done it without the assistance of the ladies in our Department office. Thank you very much ladies!!

When our luncheon chairman, Betty Jane Light, fell and broke her hip, Pat Dyer agreed to step in for her. You did a great job, Pat!

What a pleasure to have our National Vice President Carleen Ashworth with us. Her message at the luncheon was super. She is a lovely lady and represents our organization well.

Based on the evaluation sheets, "Matilda" was a real hit. Although there were many requests for a video of the skit, under Nancy Kurk's direction, it was all ad lib. We certainly now know how NOT to run a meeting.

Another request was for web sites. The Department website coordinator is Ann Viverito. She is more than happy to help. Her email is – [anniev8@verizon.net](mailto:anniev8@verizon.net) and the department website is [www.deptny.org](http://www.deptny.org). The National website for the Auxiliary is: <http://www.legion-aux.org>. Hopefully these will be of use to you all.

Our National Leadership Chairman, Sharon Conatser, encourages everyone to take the Leadership Correspondence Course. Using the National website, the course can be downloaded. Complete the course, take the test and send the answer sheet to National office as directed. Those passing will receive a certificate.

A good leader is a great listener. She is efficient and responsible. She is a good mentor. Please let me know how you are doing and if I can be of help in any way.

Under the leadership of our Department President Karyn Porempski, "Teamwork is the Key to Our Success".

Mid-Winter Conference is a reflection of that leadership. I believe it was a BUZZZZing success and it certainly involved Teamwork!

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### **-----REMINDER-----**

**Membership cards for 2011 will not be sent to any Unit owing Past due Taxes of Bonding and Department Day Fund – or have less than 10 Senior members paid.**

**PAST DUE TAXES – Unpaid Bonding (\$5.50) & Department Day Fund (\$5.00)**

Cayuga Co.: All Units	St. Lawrence Co.: #420, 514, 1539
Erie Co.: #721, 900, 928, 1320, 1377, 1587, 1672	Saratoga Co.: #70, 91, 234, 490, 553
Franklin Co.: #1418, 1479	Schoharie Co.: All Units
Greene Co.: #166, 1416	Schuyler Co.: #1208
Herkimer Co.: All units	Seneca Co.: #366, 463
Madison Co.: #894	Suffolk Co.: #185, 411, 1006, 1039, 1146, 1218, 1839
Oneida Co.: #569, 1000	Sullivan Co.: All Units
Onondaga Co.: #317	Tioga Co.: All Units
Orange Co.: #521, 1079, 1607, 1796	Ulster Co.: All Units except #950, 1026
Oswego Co.: All Units	Westchester Co. #128
Otsego Co.: All Units	
Queens Co.: All Units except 1786	

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## **Warriors' Family Assistance - - - Ann Geer, Chairman**

The Warriors' Family Assistance is taking off. It is a dynamic program which is making a difference in the lives of many veterans and their families. Hopefully you have gotten on board with the program. If you want more information however, please look on the website for the guidelines and the handbook of the program. They will be very helpful.

The program needs your help! It would be great if a file of volunteers can be developed. We need members who are willing to act on review panels at the local level. This involves delivering applications to veterans, assisting with completion of applications, reviewing the personal circumstance of the veteran and/or family and making a recommendation on the application. Already several members have volunteered their time to this program and all of them have felt personally rewarded as a result. If you would like to volunteer to be on file as a volunteer, please contact me, Ann Geer. My contact information is in the Plan of Action.

Follow up is a very important part of Warriors' Family Assistance. If you volunteer to be a review panel member, please be prepared to follow up once the application has been processed. Our Warriors have many needs that money alone cannot fulfill. Support is extremely important, particularly in areas where there is no military base or guard unit. There have been four applicants who have benefited from the generosity of the American Legion Auxiliary. Four Units have adopted WFA families. They have contributed food and clothing, baby sitting services and a lot of moral support.

Thanksgiving dinners were prepared and Christmas gifts have been given to the children in these families.

Donations to the program are also needed. Hopefully Warriors' Family Assistance will grow. It can't grow though, unless monetary contributions are received. Obviously the Department resources are not endless so donations are very important. Please consider holding fund raisers to benefit WFA. Remember also that there is a Unit award offered by Linda Moseman-Raymond to the Unit (in two categories) that makes the largest contribution.

Please continue to publicize the Warriors' Family Assistance Program. Contact the media about the program and let your local community organizations and governments know about WFA. Take brochures to VA hospitals and clinics. Brochures are available in the Department office. **Be sure to put contact information in the box on the back of the brochure.** You should have a Unit member who is willing to answer questions and take phone calls about the program. This is a grassroots program and ideally applications will be generated by the Units. Applications are available from the Department office as well. Please *do not* hand out applications with brochures. Keep the applications with one person in your Unit or County. Hand them out when requested. You may copy them as well.

Let's help this program grow into something even more special than it already is. Get involved! Helping hands are wonderful things! And opening your heart is even a greater thing!

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## **VISTA PROJECT - - Nick Kelley**

**A transcript of the VISTA speech from the Mid-Winter Conference will be posted on the Department website, [www.deptny.org](http://www.deptny.org) soon! Thank you for your interest and your continuing support of the VISTA Project. If you have any ideas you would like to share or would like to volunteer to work with our veterans, please email Nick at [nkelley@legion-aux.org](mailto:nkelley@legion-aux.org). Or, call Nick at the Department office.**

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### **Please take Notice:**

#### **The Plan of Action - Rules Correction**

**Americanism - Regina Davison Award - and Charlotte Craven Award have a miss print.**

**It should read not to exceed 1000 words not 100 words.**

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## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

**Congratulations to Marion Capasso, Past Department President, 1979-80, from Saratoga County. Marion's Unit #294, Henry Cornell, in Ballston Spa, recently recognized her for 75 years of continuous service in the American Legion Auxiliary. They celebrated her accomplishment with a cake at their Unit meeting. Marion continues to be an inspiration, to her Unit, County and the Department of New York. Do you have a member in your Unit, who you would like to be recognized for numerous continuous years of service in our Newsletter? Please forward their name and years of membership to the Department Membership Chairman.**

**Nancy G. Kurk, Membership Chairman  
[tekngk@aol.com](mailto:tekngk@aol.com)**

## **BE AWARE OF THIS CREDIT CARD SCAM**

**(Submitted by Nancy Kurk)**

This one is pretty slick since they provide YOU with all the information, except the one piece they want.

Note, the callers do not ask for your card number; they already have it... This information is worth reading. By understanding how the VISA & Master Card Telephone Credit Card Scam works, you'll be better prepared to protect yourself.

One of our employees was called on Wednesday from 'VISA', and I was called on Thursday from 'Master Card'.. The scam works like this: Caller: 'This is (name), and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA. My Badge number is 12460. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify. This would be on your VISA card which was issued by (name of bank). Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for \$497.99 from a Marketing company based in ?'

When you say 'No', the caller continues with, 'Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from \$297 to \$497, just under the \$500 purchase pattern that flags most cards. Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?'

You say 'yes'. The caller continues - 'I will be starting a Fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 1- 800 number listed on the back of your card (1-800 -VISA) and ask for Security.'

You will need to refer to this Control Number. The caller then gives you a 6 digit number. 'Do you need me to read it again?'

Here's the IMPORTANT part on how the scam works. **The caller then says, 'I need to verify you are in possession of your card'. He'll ask you to 'turn your card over and look for some numbers'. There are 7 numbers; the first 4 are part of your card number, the next 3 are the security Numbers that verify you are the possessor of the card. These are the numbers you sometimes use to make Internet purchases to prove you have the card. The caller will ask you to read the 3 numbers to him. After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say, 'That is correct, I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?' After you say No, the caller then thanks you and states, 'Don't hesitate to call back if you do, and hangs up.**

You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the Card number.. But after we were called on Wednesday, we called back within 20 minutes to ask a question.. Are we glad we did! The REAL VISA Security Department told us it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of \$497.99 was charged to our card.

Long story - short - we made a real fraud report and closed the VISA account. VISA is reissuing us a new number.. **What the scammers want is the 3 -digit PIN number on the back of the card** Don't give it to them. Instead, tell them you'll call VISA or Master card directly for verification of their conversation. The real VISA told us that they will never ask for anything on the card as they already know the information since they issued the card! If you give the scammers your 3 Digit PIN Number, you think you're receiving a credit. However, by the time you get your statement you'll see charges for purchases you didn't make, and by then it's almost too late and/or more difficult to actually file a fraud report.

What makes this more remarkable is that on Thursday, I got a call from a 'Jason Richardson of Master Card' with a word-for-word repeat of the VISA scam. This time I didn't let him finish. I hung up! We filed a police report, as instructed by VISA. The police said they are taking several of these reports daily!

They also urged us to tell everybody we know that this scam is happening.

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## Attention Unit Membership Chairmen:

The National organization has sent out the second renewal notice and it is not the same as the previous renewal notices. This is due to National cutbacks.

It was decided at the National level that rather than leave the Unit contact blank, the point of reference should be the Department office.

This office has been receiving many phone calls and quite a few of these notices have been sent in directly by the members.

Inform your Unit members not to send their renewal dues straight to this office. Procedures should be followed as in the past. The member pays the Unit membership Chairman and in turn the Unit will submit the dues to this office.

As always, this office will assist any member that calls and needing help with this situation. Also, any renewal notices received directly here will be sent to the renewal member on file.

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### HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF OUR DEPARTMENT DAY FUND

(This article appeared in Dec. 1964 newsletter)

At the 1963 Department Convention held in Syracuse, NY the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, that the tax of \$3.00 per Unit be hereby abolished and a new tax of \$1.00 per Unit be levied, same to be effective with the beginning of the fiscal year 1964-1965."

For the benefit of the newer members we wish to advise that the Department Day Fund was established in Sept. 1926 at the Department Convention held in Niagara Falls, NY. At this Convention Mrs. Isabel Burnham, then Chairman of the Finance Committee, saw the need of funds to take care of emergencies in the future – although at that time we had just finished one war and did not expect that we would be in another war. At that time she was considering the decrease in membership and wanted to insure the care of our veterans and their families many years later.

The Proceedings of the Niagara Falls Convention read as follows: "We further recommend that

this Convention body pass a resolution, "That in January of each year each Unit be requested to forward to the Dept. Treasurer the sum of \$3.00 from the proceeds of some affair, known as "Department Day" to be placed in a permanent reserve fund the income of which will be used only (except in an emergency) and then only upon the two-third vote of the entire Executive Committee, when a portion of the principal might be borrowed for Department purposes, this fund to be invested by the Executive Committee in such securities as are allowed by savings banks in the State, thus giving an assured income to the Department in the event of decrease in membership."

This was adopted. The Chairman of this Committee, Mrs. Isabel Burnham, was our sixth Department President. She died on January 6, 1962 at the age of 98. Her foresight has put the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York, in a solid financial position to take care of our work in an emergency.

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### What are VOLUNTEERS?

Volunteers are:

- ... like Ford – they have better ideas.
- ... like Coke – they're the real thing.
- ... like Pan Am – they make the going great.
- ... like Pepsi – they've got a lot to give.
- ... like Dial Soap – they care more (don't you wish everybody did?).
- ... like VO5 Hairspray – their smiles hold in all kinds of weather.
- ... like Hallmark – they care enough to give their very best.

But, most of all, *VOLUNTEERS* are:

- ... like Frosted Flakes – They're *G-R-R-R-R-R--EAT !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*
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