



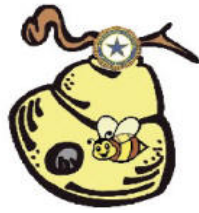
# American Legion Auxiliary

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK, INC

## Empire State News

**“Devoted To Service Not Self”**

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



**October 2009**



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

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What a fantastic convention in Buffalo!!! Welcome to the new administration!! I was truly humbled to be installed as your Department President for 2009-2010. With the teamwork of all our busy bees we will “BEE SPECTACULAR”!!

On to National Convention in Louisville – we enjoyed a wonderful week – gorgeous weather and we were housed in the Seelbach Hotel which was very close to the Convention Center, within walking distance or there was a convenient trolley they let us ride for free. Much information was shared with all our members during the conference tour. Constitutional changes and all our award winners, and there were many, are contained in this newsletter. Rita Navarette from New Mexico, our first Hispanic National President was elected, along with Carleen Ashworth from Texas as National Vice President. Joyce Arent from Arizona was elected Historian and Beverly Wolff of North Dakota is our new Chaplain.

During the convention Janet Napolitano, our Secretary of Homeland Security stopped in for a quick visit and told us she was a former Girls Stater – also Diane Sawyer (a Louisville native) from Good Morning America is a former Girls Stater.

On Friday I was very fortunate to go on a breakfast tour at Churchill Downs with Dara, Mary Ann and Delaney (our Junior Member of the Year) Oliver from Jefferson County in the 5<sup>th</sup> District. We had a great time and it was a wonderful surprise. I was also treated to a very nice dinner by our District Presidents on Monday evening (bee antennae and all). The generosity of all these individuals is very much appreciated. I am pleased to report to you that the Federal Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has approved the Auxiliary to become an AmeriCorp VISTA sponsoring organization. Our VISTA member, Nicholas Kelly, will be starting in the Department office by the end of September. The VISTA program is a National Service program dedicated to developing lasting solutions to alleviate poverty in our military and veteran families. This opportunity has developed very rapidly in response to the President’s economic stimulus package. Twelve Departments were selected to have a VISTA member in their office for a one year period. Several applicants were interviewed and Nicholas was picked and will be introduced to our membership at Mid-Winter Conference. He will help recruit 1,100 new VAVS volunteers, work on our WFA program and Heroes to Hometown and also help us to grow our membership. This is a history making moment for our Auxiliary – an opportunity to address several of our needs and provide tangible assistance to our department and units. We will be under the umbrella of CNCS which includes Neighborhood Watch and the Head Start programs to name a few examples.

The National Presidents Dinner was well attended by an enthusiastic swarm of 120 Bees from New York, the largest group in the nation. I had the pleasure of hosting a hospitality room for the delegation after the dinner that was very well attended.

We got home on Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> and the 3 Vice Presidents and myself started the first rung of the Conference tour on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. We began in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District on September 1<sup>st</sup>, then on to the 10<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Districts. We went home for the weekend and met up again on Labor Day (a travel day). Next on the agenda was the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Districts. What a tour it was – Our Carpenter Bees were certainly building the honeycomb. The turnout of busy bees at each conference was a very large swarm of very enthusiastic honeybees eager to learn about our programs. Each of our District Presidents did a spectacular job at their respective conferences and I thank them for all their efforts.

**Teamwork really is the Key to Our Success, and remember Success is a journey not a destination.**

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**Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation ----- Sally Johnston, Chairman**

On Saturday, August 22, 2009, I attended the pre-convention committee meeting for VA&R, held in Kentucky Int'l Convention Center. Carlene Ashworth, VA&R National Chairman presided over the meeting and advised that there were NO RESOLUTIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS for this committee. However she was pleased to report that the goal to increase volunteerism by 20 % across the Departments was met and surpassed. Regularly scheduled volunteers increased by 1,151 new senior and junior volunteers. Field Service and Home service volunteers increased by 3,064.

Guest Speaker, John Worden introduced the new RIDE TO RECOVERY program.

Its purpose is to provide support for wounded warriors to have interaction and quality life through bicycling. Bicycles and gear are custom designed to meet the needs of each individual who wishes to participate. For example, multiple amputees. As explained by John, cycling is a challenge for these Vets, as stated it is not a ride around the block. A cycling event is long, 20-30 miles on very difficult terrain. It is intended to challenge to the wounded warrior so that he or she can overcome any obstacle in their way and to begin the healing process. It has been proven that this program really works. There have been 2 events thus far with the next one scheduled in the state of Colorado, July 2010.

Everyone can get involved in supporting this effort. Legion Riders have been the escorts for this program thus far, riding side by side with the cyclist. Funding comes from all community service organizations, bike manufacturers, etc. John asked that the Post and Auxiliary get involved. One way he mentioned was "Dollars Make a Difference". He's asking that if every member would donate \$1.00 that would meet the current need. As a result of his comment, our very own Carol Johnson, Eastern Division VA&R Chairman, gladly emptied her "poppy bag" and collected over \$300.00 which John graciously accepted.

New York did not receive any awards under this committee.

Refer to your "Plan of Action" regarding this committee. Please note that Dept. President Karyn's project is reported under this committee. The Report Forms are very similar to last year. Read the Form carefully and report all you do. Continue to serve our Veterans through the bingo parties, Christmas parties, luncheons, trips to various appoints, Veterans History Project and Heroes to Hometown celebration. I look forward to hearing about the many ways you have served our Veterans and their families.

In keeping with Dept. President Karyn's theme: "Teamwork is the Key to Our Success", it is a simple reminder of what our organization was founded on in its infancy. Women working together side by side doing whatever task needed to be done for a common cause. Never forget, and always be mindful to thank our Veterans daily. We must NEVER forget the price they have paid and continue to pay for our freedom.

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

**There have been some questions presented to this**

**Committee I would like to answer.**

**Q.** Why do we need fund raisers in the Department American Legion Auxiliary?

**A.** Unless you have a dues raise, you need to support the 50/50, Coupons, Calendars, and to remit your per capita dues rapidly to Department Office. All of the above continue to support the Office and it's operation.

**Q.** Why did the cost of sending a Citizen to Empire Girls State raise this year?

**A.** The cost actually went up \$35.00 per girl last year but the difference in cost to Unit was supplemented by The Funds raised by Past Department President, Mary Williams during her term. This practice cannot be continued or the Funds would run out rapidly.

With The Colleges raising the amount they request per girl each year due to State Budget cuts, this was necessary.

**Q.** Does the Treasurer need to be in attendance during an Audit?

**A.** On Page 45 of the 2009 edition of the "Unit Handbook" it states, "The Unit Treasurer should be present to facilitate the audit." This, of course applies to Counties and Districts. "Roberts Rules Of Order" also states that the Treasurer should be on the Finance Committee Ex-Officio to answer any questions pertaining to her report.

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**ATTENTION**

**Reminder to Unit Presidents:** If the Dept. office has not received notification as to who the Unit President is for 2009-2010, your membership cards have not been sent out.

**Reminder to County Presidents:** County Presidents who have not submitted their names to the Dept. office, please do so. County President who have not sent in their committee appointment list, please do so ASAP.

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

National Family Week is November 22 - 28, 2009. You and your Auxiliary Unit can start planning now to get involved in this national event. The premise of National Family Week is that children do better when their families are strong and families do better when they live in communities that help them succeed. Thousands of people throughout the United States will celebrate healthy families and communities during the annual National Family Week, taking place during Thanksgiving week. You can find more information at [www.nationalfamilyweek.org](http://www.nationalfamilyweek.org).

At the National Convention in Louisville, the Children and Youth Committee meeting announced the national awards. Congratulations to Dept. Vice President Nancy Kurk. She was given the award for the Best Overall Children and Youth Program in the National Division. The meeting also covered the Child Welfare Foundation. Units and members are encouraged to make contributions to the Foundation, in order to ensure continued support of organizations that help children through yearly grants.

### **National Children and Youth Conference.**

The National Children and Youth Conference of the American Legion was held in Indianapolis from Sept. 18 to 20, 2009. The Conference provided a wealth of information on several topics of interest to the Legion and Auxiliary. You can find most of the information on the conference by going to the National American Legion Website. Just go to [www.legion.org/programs/resources/publications](http://www.legion.org/programs/resources/publications) too view the power point presentation on some of the topics covered at the conference. If you are not internet connected, please contact this chairman for hard copy information. Here are two topics covered at the Conference. More topics will be covered in subsequent newsletters.

### **Children's Organ Transplant Association**

The Children's Organ Transplant Association is a national charity dedicated to raising funds for transplant needy patients. Its priority is to assure that no child or young adult is denied a transplant due to lack of funds. Since, 1986, the Association has served more than 1,400 patients, in 49 states. A total of 100% of funds raised in honor of assisting patients are used for transplant related expenses. Over a two to three year period the expenses for a family of a child requiring a transplant can add up to \$100,000. Lifetime expenses can often exceed one million dollars. So most families are in need of assistance. The funds raised are used for actual medical expenses related to transplant, transportation expenses for the child and family to get to the hospital where the transplant will occur, living expenses to assist parents while out of work during the operation and recovery, medications, etc.

In addition, to assisting in funding the cost of a transplant, COTA enlists family and community volunteers to help in fund raising, which allows parents to spend valuable time with their child. The Association provides fund raising tools for volunteers and assists in setting up fund drives. One of its most successful tools is the canister drive, which places coin canisters in communities to collect donations. Did you know that one eight ounce jar of coins equals \$14.27, and a gallon jug can yield as much as \$228? Using coin collection as part of the fund raising allows the community to turn change into life-saving dollars. The Children's Organ Transplant Association has partnered with The American Legion Family to raise funds for children in need. The partnership challenges you to collect one million pennies to help make one million miracles. To get started, go online to [www.cota.org/Legion](http://www.cota.org/Legion) or call 800-366-2682. Tools, tips, ideas and resources are available at no charge. There is a large amount of information on the website that will give you insight into the organization, its mission and how it works to help children in need of transplants. In addition to fundraising, COTA works to raise public awareness about the need for transplant donors. With the help of the Association, you can hold awareness events that provide information on organ donor programs. Free information and tools are provided by contacting COTA. Please look at the information available on the website and perhaps you and your unit will decide to become "Miracle Makers."

### **Operation Give a Hug**

At any one time, more than 250,000 children have at least one parent deployed overseas in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Having a parent deployed to a war zone for an uncertain amount of time is among the most stressful events a child can experience. Operation Give a Hug is a non-profit, all-volunteer program established in 2004 to help comfort military children by giving them special dolls, often referred to by children as their daddy or mommy doll. Each doll provides a place to put the photo of the deployed parent and gives a child a tangible way of relating to that parent. Since its inception, Operation Give a Hug has given out more than 52,000 dolls to children who have parents serving our nation -- Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserves. The dolls are also being used by pediatric psychologists and school counselors to help children cope with deployment.

The goal of Operation Give a Hug is to give dolls to military children throughout the world who are missing Mom or Dad during the long deployments. Because this is an all-volunteer program, ALL donations go directly to providing dolls for children. You can help provide this comfort to the little ones left behind. For a donation of just \$6 you can provide a military child with a doll. For questions about Operation Give a Hug, email at: [information@operationgiveahug.org](mailto:information@operationgiveahug.org) or call 253-691-9391 (Eastern Standard Time).

**CHILDREN & YOUTH (con't)**

Following is an excerpt from a thank you letter from a mom: "Let me first start off by saying **thank you** from the bottom of my family's heart. My husband deployed to the Middle East in 2004 for one year. This was by far the longest amount of time he had ever been away from us. During that time my daughter was five. She was given a "daddy doll." and from the day she received it, until the day he came back, she slept with it every night. Whenever she missed him I would tell her to give her daddy doll a hug and kiss. The doll brought her great comfort and eased her stress. It would have been so much more difficult to pass the time without it. Again, many thanks for what you have done for my family and for thousands of others!"

Now, you have two ideas to implement for your unit's Children and Youth Program. Hope they are helpful! Please send your unit reports to your County Chairman before November 10. Let's have 100% reporting for the Department of New York this year. Thanks!

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**Warrior's Family Assistance - - - Ann Geer, Chairman**

The Warrior's Family Assistance Program that was begun last September by the Department is a great success! In the first year from September 2008 until July 2009, there were 15 grants given to veterans and their families totaling over \$20,000. Since the start of the 2009 administration another five grants have been given. Thank you one and all for supporting this terrific program!! Each member of the American Legion Auxiliary is an important part of the Warrior's Family Assistance. The program would never have happened without your support. Thank you!

What can you do to help Warrior's Family Assistance? First and foremost, spread the word about the program. Get the information out into your communities, distribute those brochures that each county received, publish newspaper articles, compose public service announcements, talk with local officials and anything else you can think to do that will publicize this program. If you haven't already done so, meet with your local post to explain the program to them. Often initial contact with an applicant is through the local post, so it is essential that Legionnaires and members of the Sons of the American Legion know about the program. Don't be shy about it! Ask to attend a post or squadron meeting to explain WFA. Ask them to contribute monetarily as well.

In addition to getting the word out, it will be very helpful if each unit and county identify several Auxiliary members who are willing to act as members of the review panel. If you can have people ready in advance, the entire application process will go quickly and veterans will receive assistance immediately. The unit members are essential to the success of this program, so please be ready when you receive the call to assist. This program needs you to be successful.

In addition to assisting in application reviews, you can research available resources in your communities. There may be assistance available to local veterans of which they are not aware. And consider researching available funding and contributions for Warrior's Family Assistance. Ask for donations. Units can do fund raisers for the program, as well. The more contributions received, the more we can be assured of assisting veterans. Each dollar raised goes directly to the WFA fund **Remember to that this is a program that assists veterans, so you can use POPPY FUNDS to make a contribution.** Poppies can be distributed all year round, so perhaps you can plan a fund raiser around the poppy. Let's work as a team and strive to fulfill our purpose, that of serving veterans, their children and their communities. After all, it's what we are all about! Thank you for supporting Warrior's Family Assistance.

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**American Legion Auxiliary College of New York**

Friday, June 18, 2010, through Sunday, June 20, 2010

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN INSTRUCTOR?**

We are looking for enthusiastic members who want to share their excitement about our organization! The College Action Team will assign curriculum topics, provide guidance, and conduct instructor orientation. Instructors should plan to attend a weekend training session, prior to the College, as well as the College

session itself. Application forms for instructor positions are in the Plan of Action. If you'd like to be a part of this exciting new program in our Department, send your completed applications to Cathleen MacInnes by **October 15, 2009.**

**Cathleen MacInnes,**

145C Gibbs Street - Rochester, NY 14605 - (585) 737-0194

[cathemac@earthlink.net](mailto:cathemac@earthlink.net) (please put ALA College in the subject line)

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## Membership - - - - - Nancy G. Kurk "The beekeeper"

Our first newsletter of the year and I can hear the buzz across our Department. "Veterans Advocates", that is what we are, the buzz has started near and far! Every District is all a buzz; they want to fill their hive just because! The beekeeper has visited 1-10, given them the tools to all begin. Queen Bee Karyn did declare start the membership buzz, do not despair. Our team can do it; yes they can now who will be first in our great land? Fill the hive we must, in God we do trust!

From the Queen Bee Karyn to the beekeeper even the wanna bee's are a buzzin'. Carpenter bees have their tools, and the bumble bees are on the move. The Worker bees are helping the busy bee's gather the swarm while the honey bees are welcoming all back home. The new bees will help our organization survive. Working together we will fill the hive! The pollinators will help keep us on track and gather all those lost bees back.

Teamwork is the key to our success, using the three part application we are working as a team to increase our membership and change the face of the American Legion Auxiliary. As we begin our 90<sup>th</sup> year, let's strive to fill the hive with new members and create a buzz with our renewals. "This is the American Legion Auxiliary", "Warriors Family Assistance", brochures will help us target the younger members in our Community. Bee sure you have a contact number on the back. **Bee** positive and **Beelieve** with more contacts in our communities we can achieve our goal! Have you visited the National Guard Units and Army Reserves in your area? Have you contacted the County Service Officer? Remember if the National Guard or Army Reserves have been called up for active duty they are eligible for membership in the American Legion.

Check with your Post, they should be offering free membership for active duty military personnel.

When is the last time your Unit held an initiation ceremony? Have you presented a new member with a copy of the Preamble to read aloud at the meeting with the other members, presented them with a membership pin? Explained why we do what we do for our Veterans, Children and Community. Ask them to share something about themselves and what they are most interested in. We really do have something for everyone. New members and renewed members need to feel welcome and needed. Our decline in non-renewals is often because they don't think we need them. Many comment, "They don't need me, they do it all by themselves". Let's start mentoring new members and the members who do not feel needed. We do have something for everyone. Just because it is not the way you did it, doesn't mean it's wrong. Having some problems in your Unit? Contact the Membership Support Team member(formerly UD&R) in your area. You can find their contact information in the Plan of Action. They want to help you **BEE** spectacular!

107 Department of New York Units reached or exceeded their goal in 2008-2009. Their "stars" were shining brightly. They received a certificate signed by the Past National President Desiree Stoy for their outstanding achievement.

**Bee** sure and check your Unit transmittals that they are complete!

**Bee** sure and send in your membership at least once a week!

**Bee** sure to read the Plan of Action and prepare a plan of action for your Unit to achieve their goal!

**Bee** sure and read all the awards offered not just for membership but all our committees. You do the work now just tell your story. They call your name you get the glory!

**Membership is every bodies Buzziness!**

**BEElieve it and you can achieve it!**

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### MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS as of October 1, 2009

<u>1<sup>st</sup> Place</u>	1 <sup>st</sup> District	51.71%	<u>6<sup>th</sup> Place</u>	6 <sup>th</sup> District	34.41%
<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</u>	3 <sup>rd</sup> District	41.52%	<u>7<sup>th</sup> Place</u>	8 <sup>th</sup> District	30.76%
<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</u>	9 <sup>th</sup> District	39.47%	<u>8<sup>th</sup> Place</u>	2 <sup>nd</sup> District	29.26%
<u>4<sup>th</sup> Place</u>	5 <sup>th</sup> District	38.85%	<u>9<sup>th</sup> Place</u>	7 <sup>th</sup> District	28.33%
<u>5<sup>th</sup> Place</u>	4 <sup>th</sup> District	35.13%	<u>10<sup>th</sup> Place</u>	10 <sup>th</sup> District	25.89%

Department - - 34.03%

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

Hello all Department Busy Bees!!!! I know it is early in our “buzzy” year but I am hoping that some of you busy bees have taken some pictures of our Madam Queen Bee Karyn. If so, I would appreciate you sending them to me.

I am looking forward to receiving reports from our county Historians for the November 10<sup>th</sup> deadline. All Unit, County and Junior Historian information is fully explained and outlined in the Plan of Action. Please read the rules carefully and let’s see how many entries we can have to judge on the Department level. Remember “BEEING CAMERA HAPPY WILL BEE THE KEY TO OUR SUCCESS.”

I received paperwork from our National Historian, Joyce Arent, on some of the National Programs. This year, in wanting to promote the research of history

during the last 90 years, a one time project is being offered to all Historians – it is called – “Milestones Over The Years” Project. This is an opportunity to research and record “history” events that reflect milestones in respective Units, Districts, and Departments since first chartered. What a great idea!!!!!!! A written document of this research may be submitted to the National Historian no later than June 1, 2010. This gives you Busy Bee Historians plenty of time to compile your history. Let’s “BEE SPECTULAR” by showing Department Queen Bee Karyn that New York State will have plenty of historic participation in the following categories: Department Senior and Junior History Contest and Veteran’s History Project. For further information visit the National Web Site.

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

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and fun-filled summer. As stated in the Plan of Action, “Chaplains are the Spiritual Leaders of this great organization. Therefore we should be able to provide emotional guidance to all members when needed. We can do this in many ways. We end most of our documents with the words “For God and Country”. This means that praying is very important, especially when we gather together. At a meeting, or a joyful event and especially at a sad occasion. Always remember the

value of each others’ “time” and “talents”. This is very important because together you will be able to serve our Country and our Veterans. Please start planning your fundraisers for special projects and contributions mentioned in the “Plan of Action.” During this administrative year, please send me a prayer(s) for the Department President’s “Book of Prayers” that will be presented to President Karyn at the close of her administration.

**A Short Poem on “VALUE”**

To realize the “VALUE” of a sister or a brother,  
Ask someone who doesn’t have one.  
To realize the “VALUE” of four years,  
Ask a collage graduate.  
To realize the “VALUE” of one year,  
Ask a student who has failed a final exam.  
To realize the “VALUE” of one minute,  
Ask a person who has missed the train, the bus or a plane.

Time waits for no one. Treasure every moment you have.  
You will treasure it even more when you can share a moment with someone special.  
By remembering the “VALUE” of our Department President’s theme:  
“Teamwork is the Key to Our Success”. Together let us BEE SPECTACULAR Spiritually for this great organization.

**COUPONS - - Evelyn Perry, Chairman**

“Coupons Are Everyone’s Business”. Like the bees that nurture our plants and flowers, our coupons (stamps) help our Department to operate. “Let’s strive to fill the hive”. The S&H Green stamps and Top Value stamps may not be available in all areas, but there is an alternate – cash. If you collect stamps, your quota is 60 per member. Send your stamps to me. If you pay cash, your quota is \$.15 cents per member according to your quota. Send your remittance to your County Treasurer and in turn send to Dept. office. Remit your report to this chairman and keep a copy for your records. Your Unit quotas for Coupons are based on the 2009-10 membership goal.

**Reporting dates are, Nov. 10, 2009 – March 10, 2010 – May 10, 2010.**

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

When submitting donations for the Cancer Committee, be sure to earmark what hospital you wish your donation to be sent:

- Strong Memorial Center, Rochester**
- Rosewell Park Center Institute, Buffalo**
- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York City**
- Stony Brook University Medical Center, Stony Brook**
- Camp Good Days, Mendon**

**PUBLIC RELATIONS - - - Charlene J. Jarvis, Chairman**

First I would like to start out talking about National Convention in Kentucky, It was a wonderful meeting and I enjoyed talking to the other District Presidents. And I met many people from the other states, and you learned how they do some things different. It teaches you a lot and it gives you some great ideas.

Our 2008-2009 9<sup>th</sup> District President, Janet Mahoney, who had Public Relations last year won 2 National Awards. I hope to do just as a good job this year.

Every Unit should promote what they are doing in our organization, and there are so very many different ways to accomplish this. You can do it through Newspapers, Radio, Television, News Letters and Wire Service and don't forget the Internet. This way People can see who we are and what we do. And make sure you use the words, "American Legion Auxiliary" in every publication.

When you are sending me newspaper articles please send two copies, one for my report and one will be given in a book to Madam President Karyn at the Department Convention.

Don't forget about the deadline dates and check out the "Plan of Action" for the Awards that can be won.

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**PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY - - - SUSAN M. BRITTON, CHAIRMAN**

ARE YOU FULFILLING YOUR MENTORING ROLE? That question is one which every Past President should ponder from time to time. As a Past President, you are in the unique role of being responsible to provide mentoring and encouragement to those who wish to serve in the same capacity as you did—that of a Unit President. Your role as a Past President takes on great importance. It is one which will set the standard for new and upcoming leaders to carry the American Legion Auxiliary into the future.

Are you doing your part? If you can honestly answer "no", then there are several ways in which to become a more successful mentor. Look over the members in your Unit and see who would be a good candidate to pursue a leadership role. The candidate might not be well trained in all program areas of the ALA, but if you see a member who has the potential to learn, is willing to take advice and one who has the best interest of the organization at heart, then you most likely have yourself an ideal candidate. Approach the member with your thoughts on their ability and possible leadership capabilities. Ask them if they would consider taking on a leadership role at some point in the future. Some members might not be interested at this point in time, but might want to consider the possibility a couple of years down the road. Put them on the back burner and provide them with committee work to further educate themselves. If you have a candidate that is willing to pursue a leadership role, ask them what they might be interested in and what type of leadership role they would be willing to serve in. Each member is unique and might have differing areas of interest.

As a Past President, always be on the lookout for those who are struggling with members who consistently reflect negative images. Be prepared to assist with those who find it difficult to be positive and share possibilities with them so that they can find a meaningful role for themselves in our organization. Very often, a disgruntled member is one who can't find a special place for themselves within the workings of the Unit. Once they do, very often they become productive and a valued part of the Unit.

Let's start searching for those members who are looking to come forward and take on active leadership roles in our Units. Help them to "BEEcome" spectacular. It is crucial that our hives are packed with a fine selection of productive "WORKER BEES".

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**AMERICANISM --- --- Zennz Rockwell, Chairman**

Americanism is one of the most educational and vital programs within the American Legion Family. As members of this great organization, it is our duty to encourage and spread Americanism and patriotism.

I encourage each Unit and County chairman to carefully read your "Plan of Action". You will found a world of information within these pages on awards, essay contests, scholarships and resources available through National Emblem Sales.

Now is the time to rally around our American flag and promote all the good for which it stands because our country is facing many difficulties, obstacles and conflicts. Be enthusiastic about our programs - teach

adults and children the correct way to respect their flag and their country. Through Emblem Sales is a very good flag education DVD for schools and organizations to learn about their flag. Encourage students to enter the Americanism Essay contest, also support the "Spirit of Youth Fund" so more students can attend "Freedom Foundation " at Valley Forge. Encourage all citizens to exercise their right to vote. After all this is the land of the free and the home of the brave. I would like to see everyone share in the spirit, spread the pride and shout out to the world "God Bless America!!"

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**ATTENTION: When forwarding your report from the Unit to County, please include your Unit # and name. When the County is forwarding the report to Dept., please include the County name.**

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

Advance preparation and publicity are needed to promote our American Legion Auxiliary Poppy/Poppy Poster Program. Educate the public and our members about the significance of the Poppy.

The time is NOW to place your Poppy order. Remember poppies may be used all year. Therefore, order extras for decoration, corsages and Poppy award entries. Our veterans are making the poppies, so if you would like your order before May, now is the time to order. This will give the veterans time to fill the orders. Please note that the cost of the poppies has increased to \$175.00 per 1000.

Promote the Poppy Poster Contest in your local schools. Teachers incorporate this into their programs for the year.

Start your Unit members thinking of ideas for entries for the Poppy hat, centerpiece and wreath contest. Also, Junior members can make entries of favors, hats and centerpieces. You will be surprised how much they will enjoy entering the contest.

Think about the Poppy Corsage Contest that will be part of the Awareness Assembly in Washington, DC. Each Dept. may submit 5 entries. Your entries are to be taken to the **Mid-Winter Conference, in January**, for judging. Read the rules in the Plan of Action bulletin. **If possible, please notify me if you are entering a corsage to be judged.** Let us all "BEE Spectacular" in making this program a success.

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## **EMPIRE GIRLS STATE - - 2010**

Plans are underway for the 2010 session of Empire Girls State. This year's session will be held at SUNY Brockport from **Sunday June 27<sup>th</sup> to Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Due to increasing costs of running the program the tuition cost has been increased to **\$260.00** per girl.

County quota forms are located in the Plan of Action. County Girls State Chairmen should review and fill this form out completely and return it to Vice Chairman Kathy Cubit by November 7<sup>th</sup> 2009 as indicated on the form. It is imperative that you return the completed quota sheet on time. The information you report on the quota sheet will be used to fill any vacancies that become available. Counties interested in sponsoring additional citizens must indicate their interest in doing so, however, the completion of the quota sheet **DOES NOT CONFIRM** that you will be sponsoring additional citizens; it merely confirms your *interest* in this possibility. You will be contacted directly if such an opportunity arises.

We are also looking for Auxiliary members who are interested in volunteering as a nurse or housemother. The applications for either of these positions are in the Plan of Action. Completed applications may be forwarded to the Empire Girls State Chairman Wendy Privitera by December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009

If you have any questions feel free to contact Wendy or Kathy. We would be happy to be of any assistance

**Wendy Privitera, Empire Girls State Chairman**

**Kathy Cubit, Vice Chairman**

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## **Department Convention - Syracuse, NY - July 14-17, 2010**

### **Shelby Sobolowski, Convention Chairman**

The 2010 Department Convention will be held in Syracuse with the Auxiliary Headquarters located at the Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel & Conference Center on University Avenue.

The Hotel has requested that Units and Counties do not have hospitality rooms in individual members hotel rooms. Their solution to this is to offer 4 rooms for members to use as their hospitality room.

These rooms are 25'x23' and can hold 40-50- people. The hotel will supply tables and chairs. Members using the room will need to supply all of their own paper items, plates, cups etc. plus their beverages. Ice can be provided by the hotel.

There is NO CHARGE for the rooms, but the Hotel has asked each group to pick up all of their trash and place in trash containers provided before you leave the room for pick up by hotel maintenance.

The four (4) rooms will be available on Thursday and Friday night from 5pm to midnight. The availability of the rooms are on a first come, first serve basis. Requests must be made by Mid-Winter Conference.

Send your written request to Shelby Sobolowski, 2521 Old State Road, Camden, NY 13316. You will be notified by mail if a room is available for your group. All approved Unit or County requests will be required to sign an agreement regarding clean-up and failure to do so will result in a \$250.00 clean-up charge.

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# LEGISLATIVE -- -- Judy Lanci, Chairman

National Legislation meeting held in Louisville, Kentucky was held to an enthusiastic group of women. Many of whom spoke on techniques they use to increase our membership as we educate and promote absentee voting programs. Members shared success in recruiting stations, training locations, Forts, National Guard offices and any other locations that house service related personal. While they promoted absentee voting programs they solicited membership in the American legion and worked on expanding membership to wives, children and eligible family members. This was a great way to grow our membership numbers for the American Legion Family. "Teamwork is key to our Success".

Reports given at National were strong as we improved our contacts with our elected officials but still not where we would like to be. I implore all units to be proactive and use planned actions to stay in touch with your local officials on a regular basis. Refer to my Plan of Action for resources. It is this type of grassroots movement that can really make a difference. You are the advocate for our Veteran and their families. Calling, e-mailing or visiting an elected official's office is quite effective. Having two or three members go with you with the same message can be very impressive and help get your point across loud and clear. Stay informed, keep abreast of issues that are important to the American Legion.

Award presented to Anne C. Geer, Legislative Chairman 2008/09 -

Department of New York, Most Outstanding Overall, Legislative Program-Citation Plaque

**Please Note: Updated Legislative Unit form for Plan of Action enclosed.**

## Special points of interest:

### **National Legislative Point Paper**

#### **111th Congress-1st Session**

- \* Resolution for September 16th has been named as American Legion Day.
- \* H.J. 47 Flag Amendment
- \* FY 2010 National Defense Authorization Act
- \* FY 2010 Defense Appropriations
- \* FY 2009 Dept. of Defense Supplemental

- \* FY 2010 VA Budget FY 2010 Vets Appropriations
- \* Advance Appropriations for VA Health Care
- \* Disabled Veteran's Tax
- \* Medicare Reimbursement Act VA Medical Care
- \* New GI Bill Educational Benefits Law
- \* The War on Terrorism
- \* Illegal Immigration

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For further information go to: [WWW.LEGION.ORG](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG) - Click on Legislative Action Center - Issues and Legislation  
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### **Key Results from 2008/09**

\* 73 Congressional Reports submitted, \* 486 Women Veteran Programs, \* 255 Absentee Voting Programs promoted.  
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## **Counting Thy Blessings, One by One**

### **Thanksgiving Prayer**

*We are thankful, God, this Thanksgiving Day  
For all the blessings sent our way. We pray  
for every family large or small, We ask Thee  
to care for them all. For all our loved ones far  
away...Dear Lord, keep them safe we pray.  
May they know they are not forgotten on this  
Thanksgiving Day.*

*We give thanks for the miracles we receive,  
Forgive us for being so blind we do not see.  
Give us a new awareness of everything and for  
the Joy to our life that you bring. Dear God,  
we are thankful to you for the many things  
that you do. We ask for Thy guidance along  
our way as we pray this Thanksgiving Day.*  
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## **CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS -- - Mary Anne Casadei**

We are governed by our Constitution & By Laws. All our members should be given a copy when they join our organization. The Unit Constitution & Bylaws should be reviewed at the beginning of each year. Any changes made should be handed as directed in the Plan of Action. Encourage your members to familiarize themselves with the Unit Constitution & Bylaws. Encourage them to ask questions. Designate a special time to review the ByLaws and explain them to the members. This can be combined with Unit or County Leadership Seminars. Take the time to make your new members comfortable with C/BY. If you cannot answer their questions tell them you will find out and get back to them. There are plenty of people who are able and willing to help you. You can contact the Dept. Constitution & ByLaws Chairman, the Dept. office or any of the Dept. Certified Leadership Instructors in your District. We as an organization need to start treating our Constitution & ByLaws as a tool. As long as we treat it as something to be wary of, our members will never reach their full potential. Don't forget that knowledge is your best defense. Study your Constitution & ByLaws, increase your confidence, increase your knowledge and increase your love of our great organization.  
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**Junior Activities - - - -Dawn M. Grant, Chairman**

Upon attending the National Junior Activities Meeting on Saturday August 21, 2009 in Louisville Kentucky I had a wonderful opportunity to bring back to our Department very pertinent information in regards to our Juniors. They are our Future and they need to be made to feel they are part of our wonderful organization. As Junior Advisors we all need to mentor and educate our :”Juniors”, so they can develop into active Seniors in the future. Remember to let them run a meeting, set up their Constitution and By-Laws, and set up a budget for their programs There was a resolution passed in committee and approved by convention action to change the grade levels for the Patch Program. The changes are as follows:

- Level 1 – Ages Kindergarten through Fifth Grade
- Level 2 – Ages Sixth Grade through Eighth Grade
- Level 3 - Ages Ninth Grade through Twelfth Grade (or 18 years old) ----- to:
- Level 1 – Ages Kindergarten thru Third Grade
- Level 2 –Ages Third Grade thru Eighth Grade
- Level 3 – Ages Ninth Grade thru Twelfth Grade (or 18 years old)

Congratulations to our Department Junior President Tenasha Lee, Vice President Danielle Cobb, Secretary Danielle Kinney, Treasurer Allie Breen, Chaplain

Elizabeth Batchelder, Historian Amy Collazo, and Junior Sergeant at Arms Emily Kinney. Also Congratulations to our National Junior President Molly McLaughlin, Chaplain Hailey Bland, and Historian Brittany Watts. These fine young ladies will lead our organization’s Junior Programs for the administrative year of 2009 -2010.

**At our “Bee Spectacular” Midwinter Conference in January 2010 the Juniors will elect their officers for the year 2011 – 2012.** Remind all of your Juniors to please attend this Midwinter Conference as all of the officers for the administrative year of 2011 – 2012 will be elected and then take office in July, 2010 at the Department Convention which will be held in Syracuse, NY. The Honorary Department Junior President will have the “Bee Spectacular” honor of being installed along with our Department President. I am extremely honored to serve as the Department Junior Activities Chairman this year and to work alongside a very fine, dedicated Honorary Department Junior President, Tenasha Lee and her officers this year. Thank you Department President Karyn for giving me this fine honor. I know that by working with Tenasha this year we will have a “Bee Spectacular Year.”

**NATIONAL SECURITY - - Patricia Bergin, Chairman**

Now that school is in session and our Auxiliary meetings are in full swing, we should begin our “Plan of Action” for the upcoming months. Let’s start with planning POW/MIA ceremonies as part of our auxiliary programs. When a Unit or County has a special program such as Gold Star Parents ceremonies, add the POW/MIA service to the agenda. Be sure to have the POW/MIA service part of your Fall and Spring Conferences and the Department President’s visit. “Let us Remember”!!

Coupon clipping is an important project in which we can help our active military families that have limited income. Encourage homebound members to participate in coupon clipping. When you are

reporting coupons sent, please also include the number of “pounds”. **An up-to-date coupon list is included with this newsletter.** If you are unsure about a commissary accepting coupons (as their needs do change), an email address is included for each base. Before we know it, the holidays will be here. Please consider purchasing gift certificates from the military commissaries for active military families. These gift certificates can be ordered at a local commissary, on-line [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com)., by phone 866-770-4458, or by mail or fax (must download order form.

**Included in this newsletter, you will find patterns for the neck coolers and the toasty toes slippers.**

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

Now that fall has arrived, can Mid-Winter Conference be far behind?

**Please save the dates – January 22 – 23, 2010. The Conference will again be held at the Albany, Marriott Hotel. The rooms will be \$114.00 for 1 to 4 people. Each unit must have its own tax exempt forms (no copies). Many exciting things are being planned. Back by popular demand, the Department Office staff will explain the forms we all use. Your evaluation sheets from last year’s conference have been utilized in planning for 2010. We will start the weekend off with fun Friday night activities.**

**The luncheon will remain at \$30.00 and Betty Jane Light is our chairman. Our special guest will be National Vice-President Carlene Ashworth.**

**A special bulletin regarding Mid-Winter Conference information will be available soon. It will be addressed to County Presidents and Leadership Chairmen only. They will be the leaders who will distribute the information in their counties. Please be watching for it in October.**

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

Where has the time gone? It seems like only yesterday we were getting ready for summer vacation and here it is the beginning of a new school year. Are we ready to help educate and inform all our students of the opportunities the Auxiliary has to offer? November is an exciting month as National Education Week – November 15-21, 2009 begins to open a world of information full of scholarship programs, Oratorical/Essay contests, and Boys/Girls State news. Have you ordered the “Guide for Parents and Students” from National Emblem Sales? Our Education program has much to offer and we must help to educate both the parent and student. The dreams and reality of today’s student are endless. Inform your local schools of “**Box Tops for Education.**” Have a Unit, Post or Squadron adopt a

school and that particular school will benefit from the collected box tops. Check out the SunnyD beverage website: **SunnyD.com** and learn how to get 20 free books for a classroom! Both of these projects can be a fantastic opportunity for our Juniors’ and helps them to be involved within their communities. Have them collect the box tops and labels and make it a fun project.

Veterans in our classrooms are the back bone of our Nation’s history. Help a Veteran mentor a class and remember to contact your local newspaper so other communities can learn of The American Legion Family programs. And don’t forget to report--report--report!!!

Together as a team we can succeed to make this world a better place in the field of EDUCATION!

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

**Community service** . . .this is an opportunity to volunteer at the local level . . .helping friends, neighbors and local organizations. We all have this ‘talent’. . . and I’m sure that you are doing it today, but you just don’t think to report it!! If you aren’t sure what could be considered reportable for Community Service, here are a few ideas to begin to work on now and/or to report on in November:

- Help to clean up your highway and beautify your community;
- Plan now to help out with the Annual Special Olympics with a donation of food, money or time volunteering;
- Help out with blood drives;
- Assist in nursing homes or hospitals;
- Food, clothing, monetary contributions, and a helping hand are always needed at homeless shelters;
- Take time to visit our seniors, shut-ins and those living alone. Help with appointments, shopping and reading.
- Do you participate in a neighborhood watch group? Report it!
- Are you organizing a group to get involved on October 24<sup>th</sup> for Make a Difference Day?

How about planning now to participate in the National Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service to be held on January 18, 2010. Start planning now because your unit could be eligible for a National Award for the best overall activities for Community Service! This is just one of the designated areas of special emphasis this year that National will be looking at. Be sure to read the Plan of Action for more information!

These are just a few simple ideas for Community Service. It only takes a few minutes to help out another person, an organization, or your community directly. Once you do you not only feel good about yourself, but you’ve just also promoted our American Legion Auxiliary program and our organization! . . . . And don’t forget to report all your good work!! Have fun!

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## **AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND - - - - - Mary Smallcomb, Chairman** **“Teamwork is the Key to our Success” - - - - Members Helping Members**

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund, started in 1969 from proceeds from the Estate of Helen Colby Small, American Legion Auxiliary member, and is maintained through Donation from individual Members, Units, Counties, and Departments of the American Legion Auxiliary, as well as from memorial and honor contributions.

This year is the 40th anniversary of the AEF. We need help The funds rely on contributions from members, Units and Departments to be able to continue to provide grants to those in need. This is truly “Women helping Women”. During 2009, contributions totaled \$ 169,616.00 and grants disbursed were over \$ 200,000. We need to work hard to ensure that funds will always be available to those in need.

There are many creative ways to raise money for the AEF. (1.) Work with your American Legion Posts and see if you can place a jar in every meeting hall. Ask members to bring there loose change and place it in the jar every time they come to the Post...(2.) You could also donate .40 cents per member.

At the awareness Assembly in 2010 special recognition will be given to one Unit or Department in each Division contributing the largest amount to AEF by November 10,2009. So get your coin jars in place get the word out let’s make this a year of record breaking contributions

## **TIME SENSITIVE SPECIAL COMMUNICATION REGARDING COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Here's a great opportunity for Community Service – and a chance to vie for a \$10,000 charitable donation! This is the 19<sup>th</sup> annual national day of helping others – created by USA WEEKEND Magazine – “Make A Difference Day.” Although the American Legion Auxiliary is always helping others and doing work in the community every day, we ask that you set aside a special day – October 24<sup>th</sup> – to do something *really* special!

The American Legion Auxiliary Community Service program offers many opportunities that would qualify for “Make A Difference Day” projects. The USA WEEKEND Magazine has entry forms and related “Make a Difference Day” articles along with information about this special day and how you can be a part of it. Just go to [www.makeadifferenceday.com](http://www.makeadifferenceday.com) to read these articles, obtain guides and register your project in DAYtaBANK. It's really pretty simple! There's even an idea generator on line to help you develop a project based on answering a few simple questions!

Your Junior members can help with ideas and energy to help make this an outstanding activity for all as well. So, whether you are registering online with DAYtaBANK for a chance at the \$10,000 or just for the sake of helping those in your community, you need to start now to:

- 1) Find a need within your community through your newspapers, ask at a volunteer center, look around or ask your neighbors.
- 2) Use the website [www.1-800volunteer.org](http://www.1-800volunteer.org) as another resource.
- 3) Create a project or cooperate with other organizations on a project.
- 4) Plan and publicize your project to get the most participation.
- 5) Perform your good deed on Saturday, October 24.
- 6) Report your success. Entry forms must be postmarked to USA WEEKEND by November 16, 2009. Be sure to include information on this project in your Community Service annual report!

If this is your first year to participate in this activity, you may want to start small . . . but start! For those of you who always participate in this project – thanks and get going! Good Luck to all this year!!

**Linda S. Tome, Community Service Chairman**

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## **The “Buzz” from your Department Parliamentarian.....Regina Harris, Chairman**

Silence is the Golden Rule for those who serve as the Parliamentarian. Look Good, because, “good parliamentarians are seen and not heard”.

To most of us, a Motion is Motion, plain and simple, but how many of us know that there are 13 classes of motions? I know I didn't until just recently. Thanks to Queen Bee Karyn, I have been doing my homework. So let me pass a little on to you.

### **Main Motions and Secondary Motions?**

There is always confusion between main motions and secondary motions.

If a motion is made while another motion is pending and it is ruled to be in order, it is by the very nature a secondary motion. If a motion is made while no other is pending, and ruled to be in order, it is a main motion. Just common sense 1 & 2.

An example of this could be while a motion is pending, and a long debate has been going on, someone motions for a 10 minute break, or recess for lunch, it can be seconded and passed. As well as being a popular person, you have made a secondary motion.

### **Privileged Motions?**

The following five motions are in the class of privileged motions:

**Fix the time to which to adjourn.** This sets the time for another meeting to continue business of the session.

Adoption of this motion does not adjourn the present meeting or set the time for its adjournment.

**Adjourn:** A motion to close the meeting.

**Recess:** A short interruption which does not close the meeting.

**Question of Privilege:** To bring an urgent request or a main motion relating to the rights of either the assembly or an individual up for immediate consideration.

**Call for the orders of the day:** By use of this motion, a single member can require the assembly to follow the order of business or agenda, or to take up a special order that is scheduled to come up, unless two thirds of the assembly wish to do otherwise.

Privileged motions have special privileges on when they are offered as secondary motions. When they are main motions, they are treated like any other main motion and must follow the rules for a main motion.

Look for more types of motions in the future, but if you are looking info, or help, just give a call or e-mail.

(718)531-1326 or [rharris569@aol.com](mailto:rharris569@aol.com), love to hear from ya!

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# News from National Convention

## Membership - National Convention Action

The resolution to include the spouses of female veterans was lost in committee.

The resolution to include the wives of the Sons of the American Legion was defeated.

The resolution to increase the dues by \$2.00 was defeated.

107 Units in the Department of New York, received citations from Desiree Stoy, now Past National President for the National President's Unit Achievement Award. The National President's Citation was awarded to Units, with 10 or more Senior members, which met or exceeded their membership goal and achieved the following criteria, by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. - - - - -

1. Retained 905 or higher of the previous year's members.
2. Unit met membership goal.
3. Unit increased membership from previous year.
4. Unit followed corporate mission statement.

**Congratulations to all for a job well done.**

***On a personal note, I would like to thank all members for the hard work, many hours and monies contributing to the "Children and Youth Program", in 2008-2009. You gave a "stellar" performance and New York received the "Best Program Award", in the Eastern Division. I was proud and humbled to accept on your behalf.***

***Nancy G. Kurk, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President***

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## PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY PRE-CONVENTION MEETING - - - By Susan M. Britton

During the Pre-Convention meetings held in Louisville, Kentucky at the National Convention, I attended the Past Presidents Parley Committee meeting.

No recommendations/resolutions were proposed under this committee. 40 Departments had submitted "Unit Member of the Year" entries. We were reminded that any nomination for this entry MUST be for work completed during the CURRENT year and the nominee **CANNOT** have obtained either an **electd** or an **appointed** office higher than that of Unit President. There has been previous discussion on this rule, but it remains a standing guideline.

It was suggested that each Unit President return to their Units and be diligent about motivating members to become active members and consider taking a leadership role. It was also suggested to consider honoring a "Unit Member of the Month" at the Unit level so that several members could be recognized on the Unit level for their dedicated efforts. Then the Unit could choose one nominee to be the "Unit Member of the Year" from that specific Unit. Wouldn't it be wonderful to recognize more than one member who gives so freely of their time, talent and treasure??

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## On The National Level - - - By Susan M. Britton, NEC 2009-10

At the close of the National Convention held in Louisville, Kentucky August 20-27, 2009, Rita Navarette from New Mexico was installed as National President and Carlene Ashworth from Texas was installed as National Vice President. As a result of the election of officers, Joyce Arent from Arizona was elected National Historian and Beverly Wolff from North Dakota was elected National Chaplain.

As NEC for the Department of New York, I attended my first National Executive Committee Meeting following the installation on Thursday, August 27. We ratified Mary "Dubbie" Buckler as National Secretary and Marta Hedding as National Treasurer and their oaths were administered. We then ratified Patricia "Trish" Ward to the ALA Foundation Board of Directors. She will serve as Foundation Secretary.

We also ratified the distributed list of Standing National Committee Appointments including three minor changes, as well as the Special Committee and Administrative Committee appointments.

The ALA Foundation Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Budget Report Proposal was presented and adopted.

Finance Chairman Linda Boone then presented the ALA FY 2010 Budget Report. The report had been previously distributed and there were many questions regarding both reductions in anticipated revenue as well as reductions in projected expenses. After lengthy discussion, the budget was approved.

It was noted that immediately following our NEC meeting, national officers would be meeting with an organization that is interested in producing a documentary and had offered to produce it with the help of the ALA. They would in turn provide 30% of the sales/revenue from the sale of the DVD to the ALA. It was agreed that the offer should be reviewed.

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## VOTE - VOTE - VOTE

**Let's not forget November 3th - The day that we as Americans are privileged to Vote. Know your candidates and what their platform stands for. But most of all VOTE**

### **Rules Committee Pre-Convention Meeting -- Diane Gerber, 2<sup>nd</sup> District President**

The pre-convention Rules Committee was held on Saturday, August 22, 2009 in Louisville, KY for the purpose of the ALA National Convention. All states were represented. The meeting was chaired by Past Department President, Linda Raymond. All the Proposed Convention and Election Rules were read and unanimously passed by the attending Committee. Committee recommendation was therefore presented to the Convention Chairman. All rules proposed were unanimously passed by attending voting members. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

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### **Constitution & By-laws Pre-Convention Meeting - Diane Gerber, 2<sup>nd</sup> District President**

The pre-convention meeting of the Constitution & By-laws Committee was held on Saturday, August 22, 2009 in Louisville KY, for the purpose of the ALA National Convention. All states were represented. There were nine (9) amendments presented to this Committee. **Results of the voting membership at this Convention are as follows:**

10. Amendment #1: Proposal from the Dept. of Montana and Dept. of Alaska to amend Constitution, Article III, Eligibility, Section 1 by inserting words. - - To insert the word "spouses" following the word "wives" for membership in Auxiliary.- **Defeated**
  2. Amendment #2: Proposal from the Dept. of District of Columbia to amend Constitution, Article III, Eligibility, Section 1 by inserting words. - - To insert the words "and to the wives of the Sons of the American Legion" for membership in the Auxiliary. - **Defeated**
  3. Amendment #3: Proposal from the National Advisory Committee to amend Constitution Article V, National Executive Committee, Section 2 by striking and inserting words. - - Strike the word "without" and insert the words "with all rights except the right to" - **Passed**
  4. Amendment #4: Proposal from the National Advisory Committee to amend Bylaws, Article III, Duties of Officers, Section 7 by striking the current section and inserting a new section. - - Strike out the current Section 7 and insert a new Section 7- This amendment would allow the National Historian to receive her pin upon completion of the 3 quarterly reports. - **Passed**
    10. Amendment #5: Proposal from the National Finance Committee to amend Bylaws, Article V, Committees by inserting new sections. - - To insert a new Section 4 and new Section 5 - Delineating duties of the Standing Program Committees in alphabetical alignment - **Passed**
    10. Amendment #6: Proposal from the Special Committee on Human Resources to amend Bylaws, Article V, Committees by inserting new sections. - - Insert a new Section 4 and new Section 5 regarding Human Resources Committee. - **Defeated**
    10. Amendment #7: Proposal from the Dept. of Connecticut to amend Bylaws, Article V, Committees, Section 4 by striking and inserting paragraphs. - - Strike the first and second paragraphs and insert new paragraphs regarding Finance Committee. **Withdrawn on Convention Floor**
    10. Amendment #8: Proposal from the National Finance Committee to amend Bylaws, Article IX, Finance, Section 3 by striking and inserting a new section. - - Strike out current Section 3 and insert a new Section 3 regarding dues increase effect 2011 membership year. **Defeated**
    10. Amendment #9: Proposal from the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to amend Stand Rules, 1. National Organization, Section 5 by inserting words. - - To amend the Standing Rules, 1. National Organization by inserting the words "and if possible" after the first occurrence of the word "program" - National President and Secretary shall plan a membership theme/program in correlation with that of The American Legion. - **Passed**
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### **NEC Pre-Convention Meeting, Carol Johnson NEC 2008-09**

At the Pre-Convention NEC meeting held in Louisville, KY, the following was discussed:

**National Units:** - 24 New Units - 94 cancelled Units. (17 from the Dept. of New York) Total Units 9,672.

**Points of discussion were:** \* VIM monthly payment plan. \* Juniors, Patch program. \* Changes on Membership for spouses and also wives of SAL members. \* National Advisory Committee changes. \* National Historian receiving her pin. \* Audit Committee and terms. \* Human Recourse committee. \* Finance Committee. \* Dues increase and why needed. \* Coordinating membership objectives with The American Legion. \* Direct mail solicitation. \* The ALA magazine (Home Front) pros and cons. \* Plans of Work is now called "Plan of Action"

10. Philippines to become a Foreign Unit.
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**RESOLUTIONS presented at the Pre-Convention FINANCE Meeting - - - By Priscilla Imburgia**

1. VIM Members – Paid up for Life Membership allowing payments over a 1 year time verses all at once. **Defeated**
2. Sharing from National Headquarters the proven mailing lists from Dept. of Maryland. **Passed**
3. Content of the National Magazine to return to having mini Plan of Action and at least 4 Chairman’s articles on their programs. **Passed**
4. National Magazine return to 6 issues if dues increase passes. **Passed**
5. Dues increase was discussed and mostly against. **Defeated on the Convention Floor**

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**NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS :**

**Americanism:** \$100.00 Essay Winners: Class II – Jordan Niles, DeWitt Clinton Elementary School, Lockport, NY  
ClassV – Shannon Power, 70 Pendleton Pl., Staten Island, St.Peters High School for Girls

Best overall program in the Easter Div.- awarded to Kathryn Wood-Backer, Chairman

**Auxiliary Emergency Fund:** Unit #144 – Williston- Citation Plaque for recognition for Unit contributing the largest donation to AEF. Pre Convention revealed \$169,616.01 – just shy of the \$212,155.75 goal. 200 grants were awarded nation wide for a total of \$2000,812.58.

**Children & Youth:** Best overall program for the Eastern Division – awarded to Nancy Kurk

**Credentials:** Terry Lochner attended the Pre Convention meeting: 40 delegates present including 1 past National President, 1 NEC and 38 delegates. Total voting strength from New York is 40.

**Education:** One winner – Eastern Div.- Spirit of Youth Scholarship, \$4000 to Gabriella Rounds – 3<sup>rd</sup> District.

**Girls State:** Rachel Lipstein, Rockland County elected to position of Girls State Nation President and will receive a \$2000 scholarship.

**Legislative:** Most outstanding overall program in the Eastern Div. – awarded to Ann Geer, Chairman

**Membership:** Target date #2 – 75% of Goal by Feb. 2009 – Dept. of New York received \$100.00.

National President Unit Achievement award: 10 or more Senior members that exceeded the membership goal retaining at least 90% of the previous years membership. – Awarded to 107 Units (see insert sheet)

**National Security:** Most outstanding overall program in the Eastern Div.- Awarded to Barbara Corker, Chairman

Best overall program in support of our military with special emphasis on their quality of life –

Eastern Div., Awarded to Unit Chairman, Shelby Sobolowski, Arthur S. Moran Unit #66, 5<sup>th</sup> District

**Past President’s Parley:** Unit member of the year from NY – Awarded to Michelle Day, Unit #286, Wayne County

**Poppy/Poppy Poster:** Class II Grades 4&5 - \$25.00 to Shannon Bruce, Tonawanda Unit #264

Class III -- \$25.00 each: to Dakota Stanley and to Mathew Ryan - - - ClassV - \$25.00 to Leigh Ann Cledgett

Class VI -- \$25.00 to Justin Mark Johnson --- - Class VII \$25.00 to Emily Waltos

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**From the Department Office:**

**Do’s and Don’ts when submitting Membership**

**to Department Office: - - - By Donna Davis,**

**Membership Coordinator**

1. Send only one Unit transmittal sheet.
  2. Band all Seniors together, band all Juniors together.
  3. Keep all duplicate and deceased cards together.
  4. Do not send in drop members cards, discard them.
  5. Do not put membership cards inside data forms or staple cards to the form.
  6. Do not add back dues on the same transmittal form with the current membership dues.
  7. You can send in dues for both back and current dues on one check, but keep them on separate Unit transmittal forms.
  8. **Do not staple or scotch tape card.. this is a must**
  9. Check the box for name and continuous year changes. If this box does not have an (X), National will not make the change.
  10. Double check all new applications. Anything that is not checked off may result with your application being returned. Sometimes we do not get the application back, the person may think she is member when in fact she is not.
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**COMING EVENTS**

Mid-Winter Conf. – Jan. 22-23, 2010 –Albany Marriott  
Nat’l Vice-Pres. Visit – At Mid-Winter Conference  
Awareness Assembly – Feb.28-Mar 3, 2010 – Wash., D.C.  
A.L. Hill Day – Mar. 15-16, 2010 – Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Dept. President’s Homecoming – May 22, 2010 - Buffalo  
Dept. Commander’s Homecoming – May 15, 2010 -Albany  
Empire Girls State –June 27-July 3. –SUNY Brockport  
Dept. Convention – July 15 -17, 2010 - Syracuse  
Nat’l Convention – Aug. 27-Sept. 2, 2010 – Milwaukee, WI  
Auxiliary College –June 18-20, 2010 – Cobleskill, NY

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**DEPARTMENT FUND RAISER**

The Calendars have been distributed to every District President. If your Unit desires to sell calendars, contact your District President or the Department Office. The calendars cost \$20 each, but a the winner is drawn for each day of the year. (evening drawing). Winning amounts range from \$20 to \$100. The winners will receive a check at the beginning of every month starting Jan. 1, 2010. Just think ... a chance to win for 365 days ... and only \$20.

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***“If We Forget that we’re one Nation Under  
God, then we will be one Nation gone under”.***

**President Ronald Regan**

**The National “Spirit of Youth Scholarship” winning entry for Juniors.  
Awarded to: Gabriella Rounds, Gerald O’Neil Unit #1683, Rensselaer County**

**Honoring Our Promise Everyday  
“How I Can Serve My Country and Our Veterans”**

I made the promise of serving my country and our veterans as an early teen, although I have a deeper interest and involvement now. When I was young, I enjoyed learning about our country’s history and the Political Sciences. At the same time I was surrounded by veterans and volunteers that I loved. My father was a Vietnam Veteran, my grandfather was a World War II veteran, my uncle was a Korean War Veteran, my one grandmother Agnes was a pilot with the Civil Air Patrol and my grandmother Yolanda is still a very active member of the American Legion Auxiliary. I have been a Junior member since I was born. I really didn’t know all that much about the veterans’ services, or the service organizations, but from my surroundings I knew that they were pretty important and played a big role in my family’s daily life. My grandmother would take me to her meetings and various events and fund raisers, and I loved helping out. I got to know the people and wanted to know more of what they did. I found that fundraising and aiding the veterans was their major effort. I couldn’t help but wonder why a veteran needed help? What I knew of a veteran was that they served in the military, came out, and went to work. Was I ever surprised and shocked. As time went on, I learned about war and the tragedies of it. I had no idea how many people it affected.

My true awareness of a Veterans needs came to light with my own father. I knew that my father was awarded two Purple Hearts for all of his injuries incurred while fighting in Vietnam, however I left it at that. I started to realize as I got older how often my fathers’ appointments were at the local VA Medical Centers. From weekly visits to several times a week and at times hospital stays. Now I wanted to know why my father spent so much time at the V.A. My mother explained to me the injuries my father sustained in Vietnam and how he was suffering with PTSD. Today my father is one hundred percent disabled, and has not been able to work for quite awhile.

It took me several years to understand, and I don’t know if I will ever understand just what PTSD is. I do know what it does to the victim and the impact it leaves on family and friends. I started going with my father to several of his visits to the VA clinics and

doctors appointments. It was then that I realized how many veterans there were that really needed help one way or another. I inquired about helping, or volunteering. I found that there were so many things that could be done. From assisting with transporting patients to and from appointments on different floors, to helping to assist with feeding meals to those that could not. Simple things, like greeting patients and families and giving directions to their appointments, or getting reading material for waiting families. There were so many simple comforting needs that a volunteer could do. At about the same time, when I had free time, I became involved with my grandmother’s American Legion Auxiliary Unit, helping with fund raising events, dinners, Flag ceremonies and parades. I was also beginning to research different possibilities for my future. After a lot of research and soul searching I set my goal in the direction of psychology, with someday becoming a psychiatrist. I know there is currently a need for people in the mental health field within the Veterans Health Care network and even a greater need in the very near future with the soldiers returning from “Operation Iraqi Freedom”.

I have set my goals and my future on helping those in need. I dedicated the last few years of high school in preparation of entering the medical field of mental health. During the last two years I have also enrolled in our local Community College taking courses and accruing twenty six credit hours to date. The past two summers I have worked for the Easter Seals Foundation Summer Program for handicapped children. I have also completed an internship with Samaritan Hospital in Troy, NY working in the geriatric psychology ward. I found the internship and Easter Seals so rewarding that I knew that the path I was choosing was the right one.

I know that by pursuing this career as a psychologist, I will be honoring my promise, serving my country everyday and helping those that served and are serving our country. I know because I have lived and seen first hand what kind of help our veterans need now, and will need in the future. My career is one thing that I can give to my country, our veterans and my father, as well as continuing my volunteer work whenever I can.



**Membership National Citations - Congratulations to ALL !!!**

**This is the highest # of Units to reach 100%**

**By 1/31/09 within the U.S.**

**Keep Buzzzzzzing! Fill that Nest!**

<u>Unit Name &amp; #</u>		<u>Unit Name &amp; #</u>	
<u>Hoosick</u>	40	<u>Raymond – Falkner- Cook</u>	858
<u>Malverne</u>	44	<u>Newfane</u>	873
<u>Pelham</u>	50	<u>Covey-Pashey</u>	893
<u>Fred L Stilson</u>	57	<u>Montgomery</u>	912
<u>Dunkirk Memorial</u>	62	<u>Hand – Aldrich</u>	924
<u>Arthur S Moran</u>	66	<u>Newcomb – Long</u>	928
<u>Cazenovia</u>	88	<u>New York Fire Dept.</u>	930
<u>Mamaroneck</u>	90	<u>Bellmore Memorial</u>	948
<u>Clifford J. Fulmer</u>	92	<u>J. Carter Knapp</u>	953
<u>Glendale</u>	104	<u>LeRoy Gregory</u>	979
<u>Cook – Taylor</u>	111	<u>Robert E James</u>	1012
<u>Rye</u>	128	<u>Samuel H. Dow</u>	1017
<u>Millerton</u>	178	<u>Adolph Pfister</u>	1038
<u>T.G.M.</u>	187	<u>Dobbs Ferry</u>	1048
<u>Lloyd</u>	193	<u>Liberty</u>	1073
<u>Beacon</u>	203	<u>Floyd Carter</u>	1079
<u>Lt.Herman Silverstein</u>	218	<u>Niskayuna</u>	1092
<u>Baldwin</u>	246	<u>Edwin Welch Jr</u>	1132
<u>Theodore Korony</u>	253	<u>Robert Van Cott</u>	1139
<u>George A Casey</u>	275	<u>Joseph Kovarik</u>	1146
<u>Old Saratoga</u>	278	<u>Dee Victor Thomas</u>	1155
<u>Hancock</u>	289	<u>Schoharie</u>	1261
<u>Joseph Gallipeau</u>	294	<u>Mamakating</u>	1266
<u>Queens Village</u>	301	<u>Honeoye – Hemlock</u>	1278
<u>Hillburn Memorial</u>	309	<u>Merrick</u>	1282
<u>Valentine Meyer</u>	317	<u>Kimlau Chinese Memorial</u>	1291
<u>St. Regis</u>	322	<u>G. Paul Bettinger</u>	1308
<u>Lasher – Still</u>	324	<u>Wharton Valley</u>	1311
<u>Jenning-Willets</u>	346	<u>Cymbrak – Fallat</u>	1314
<u>Frank H. Arnold</u>	348	<u>Lewis</u>	1319
<u>Mineola Memorial</u>	349	<u>Virgil E Deyo</u>	1327
<u>Leisure Glen</u>	352	<u>Sylvan Liebla</u>	1363
<u>Shelberg &amp; Battle</u>	388	<u>Silver Beach</u>	1371
<u>Flatlands</u>	391	<u>Mc Fadden Brothers</u>	1380
<u>Lynch-Burgett</u>	397	<u>Arthur Finnegan</u>	1443
<u>Rusy – Bohm</u>	411	<u>Throggs Neck Mem.</u>	1456
<u>Concord</u>	431	<u>John Livingston</u>	1466
<u>Warrensburg</u>	446	<u>Gomillion - Campbell</u>	1488
<u>Seeley B Parish</u>	457	<u>Madrid</u>	1513
<u>Burns-McCauliffe</u>	465	<u>West Canada Valley</u>	1524
<u>Monroe</u>	488	<u>Mulligan – Eden</u>	1573
<u>Ossining</u>	506	<u>Gilbert Raugh</u>	1574
<u>Frederick Staats</u>	517	<u>Iroquois</u>	1587
<u>Franklinville</u>	526	<u>George Smith</u>	1607
<u>Kelley – Phillips</u>	569	<u>Saranac</u>	1618
<u>Joyce – Bell</u>	578	<u>Eagle Memorial</u>	1720
<u>Clarke White</u>	589	<u>West Islip</u>	1738
<u>Oscro Robinson</u>	617	<u>Young – Simmons</u>	1765
<u>O'Connor – Doyle</u>	633	<u>Bennett – Wells</u>	1780
<u>Six Star</u>	637	<u>New Windsor</u>	1796
<u>Smith-Weaver</u>	651	<u>Plainview</u>	1812
<u>Morrison Hayes</u>	702		
<u>Milo C. Nealy</u>	775		
<u>Henry Morrison –Deloney</u>	785		
<u>Robert Markwick</u>	798		
<u>O.Leo Curtiss</u>	830		