



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

*1580 Columbia Turnpike, Bldg. 1, Suite 3
Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033
518-463-1162 / fax 518-449-5406
www.deptny.org*



November/December 2021

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

After months of waiting due to Covid I finally was able to start visiting our great New York State! It was wonderful to meet and talk with so many Auxiliary, Legion and Sons members and officers in all the counties I visited.

I began my first visit on November 6, 2021, to the 9th District. Starting in Rockland County, we visited the Brick Museum, followed by a visit to the Haverstraw Town Hall 911 Monument then on to the Afghanistan War Memorial, all which touched my heart.

The next day in Orange County we went on a tour of the West Point Military Academy which is such a beautiful historic place. We started by visiting the Chapel and to hear the Cadets sing was amazing, perfect to begin a Sunday morning. We took a tour around the entire complex - even meeting and talking to two West Point Cadets in full dress uniforms and getting in on a photo shoot with them!

Monday, we found ourselves in Dutchess County at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum, where we walked around the grounds - going through the rose garden and visiting the final resting place of the President and his wife, Eleanor. We also saw a piece of the Berlin Wall that was made into an inspirational artwork. What an amazing day!

The next day off to Putnam County where we drove around the town and saw all the magnificent flags flying knowing that each flag represents a Veteran. It was simply breathtaking. After the tour of the County Veterans Park, we visited a home that Putnam County residents built for their homeless veterans that was so wonderful. No veteran should ever be homeless.

Our last stop was Westchester County where we were invited to attend their Veterans Day ceremony at Lasdon Park, then a tour of the monuments representing all of our Nation's wars. We enjoyed a delicious dinner at the Post in Mount Kisco, and the night ended with a small fire in the Post fireplace! Leaving the Post, I got my picture taken with some firefighters - men and women, what a way to end the visits! Ha-Ha.

As you can see, I had a great time, and I would like to thank the 9th District again for a wonderful visit and for your hospitality for me and my husband Dennis. We enjoyed many nice lunches and dinners... meeting many of the Legion Family members... being introduced to civic leaders and tour guides...I will never forget my first Visitation!

Special SHOUT OUTS to Mary Ann and Richie Calbo and Maureen Morgan for being my Very Special 9th District Guides!

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas Happy New Year! And may all our servicemen and servicewomen and our Veterans share in the same joys of the season.

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

Happy fall, ya'll. Fall happens to be the Dog Pounds busiest season. I am so pleased we are over halfway to our goal! We currently (as of 11/17/21) are at 60.46% of goal. I truly appreciate your hard work in getting this membership in so quickly. We can't let up on our hunt for new members and our renewals.

Congratulations and a big BOW WOW to the five units Unit 617 in Marathon 6th District, Unit 1038 in Valhalla 9th District, Unit 322 in Saint Regis Falls 4th District, Unit 137 in Gloversville 4th District and Unit 358 in Pulaski 5th District who reached 100% by our first Milestone of October 15, 2021. They each received \$100 for their efforts. Sad to say no county reached 100% for this award.

Our second milestone was November 11, 2021. We have 13 Units reaching this 100% Milestone. Congratulations and woof woof to all! I will be drawing the names of the winners at the December Executive Committee meeting. Stay tuned! No Counties have reached this milestone yet, but there are several in reach – Columbia, Sullivan, Schuyler, and Bronx all have over 70% You can do it!

Unit	City	District	Percentage
0521	Montgomery	9	130
1418	Fort Covington	4	127.78
0322	Saint Regis Falls	4	116.67
0213	Brooklyn	2	111.76
0954	Churchville	7	110.53
0617	Marathon	6	106.90
0358	Pulaski	5	104.76
1038	Valhalla	9	104.41
0137	Gloversville	4	104.35
0205	Kenmore	8	104.17
1282	Merrick	10	101.09
0255	Caledonia	7	100
0044	Malverne	10	100

The next milestone is January 15, 2022. Auxiliary memberships make great Christmas gifts!

A quick reminder to please use the County report form found on page 175 of the POA. Make sure to answer all the questions as best you can. It helps to be able to report the many creative activities our Units, Counties and Districts are doing to get membership in.

Wishing all my four-legged canine friends Happy Holidays, stay healthy and safe.

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

Hello American Legion Auxiliary Members. COVID restrictions are still in place at many Veterans Hospitals and facilities. While you cannot enter the facility, this does not forbid members from doing programs for our hospitalized veterans. It just means we have to think of alternative ways to carry out such programs. Some VA

hospitals will still allow you to provide a holiday meal for patients or items such as sweat suits, pajamas, toiletries etc. and drop them off at main entrance. Contact your local facility to arrange event. Please note when contacting the VA, the Veterans administration has changed the name of Voluntary Services to CDCE (Center for Development and Civic Engagement).

National President Kathy Daudistel's focus this year is caring for those who care for others. Caregivers can now be awarded "Service to Veterans" hours, which may be accumulated for hour bars, for time spent providing care and assistance to Veterans within their families, as long as they do not receive professional compensation. If the member lives with the Veteran, they can be awarded 10 hours a week. If they do NOT live with the Veteran relative, they can be awarded 5 hours a week. It is the responsibility of the caregiver to report these hours through their respective unit, to be reported to the department under "Service to Veterans"

For anyone who has been a caregiver you know how stressful it can be. Members can help by spending a little time sitting with the veteran so the caregiver can have a break. You can also help by picking up groceries or prescriptions.

It is not too early to review VA&R Department and National awards in the plan of action. You do the work why not apply for an award?

National VA&R Committee is asking members to share their story via photos of any events that fall under this committee, which happen within your unit, county, or district. Please email me one or two pictures that capture your story. Include name of unit, county or district and brief description of event.

Attention all unit and county VA&R Chairman, I am receiving many reports that have the same monetary amounts in both sections of the report. Entries in the first fill in section of report should reflect activities and donations that reflect activities, donations and miles driven for activities held in a VA facility. The second section following, Service to our Veterans Outside of VA Facilities, entries here should reflect all activities held outside facility, including caregiver hours. Additionally on the back of the report, please list what the activity was. If you submit, VAVS volunteer hours or Service to Veterans hours, please make sure to include the name of the volunteer, so they may be tabulated to award service bars and pins.

Remember our veterans and active military as we enter this holiday season. I wish all members a Joyous Christmas and Happy Healthy New Year.

Presidents Project

I would like to take a moment to remind everyone of Department President Mary Farley's project, **America's Vet Dogs**. Their mission is to help veterans and active service members with disabilities to remain independent. The service dogs train with the veteran to assist him/her to assist with activities of daily living. The training takes place in Smithtown, NY. Dogs can also be trained for specific needs the veterans have, for example opening doors due to hand/arm injuries. It also helps veterans to focus on the dog not on their disability, which improves their mental health.

Please consider a donation to Americas Vet Dogs, Checks made payable to ALA Department of NY, should be mailed to the ALA Department office at 1580 Columbia Turnpike, Bldg. #1, Suite 3, Castleton-On-Hudson, NY 12033. On memo line, write Department President Project.

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

Thank you for all your November reports. It's so wonderful to see all the good we, and our kids, do in these crazy times of the pandemic. Thank you for the donations to children's charities, especially CWF (American Legion Child Welfare Foundation).

To date we have received 3 Good Deed Award nominations. If you have received these awards from National and presented these awards, please send me pictures at nyalchildrenandyouth@gmail.com, we would love to see them.

Do you know of a child or teenager that is a caregiver? We would love to hear about them and their story. I hope those kids are being considered for Good Deed Awards.

I look forward to seeing all of you at Mid-Winter Conference in January 2022.

Happy Holidays. God Bless America.

Americanism.....Maureen Morgan, Chairperson

As we approach the Holidays let's remember our Veterans that don't have anyone. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Write them cards and send the cards to the Nursing homes. The Veterans always look forward to that. Remember the Flay Day Dates. I know that Election Day, and Veteran's Day have passed but remember Thanksgiving Day is a National Holiday to fly the flag. We also have the "Star Spangled Kids" Essay, all the information is on the Amerianism@ALAforveterans.org get essays to your Americanism Chair by January 4, 2022. Help promote the Education Challenge that our Education Chairperson is having with North Carolina. To end I want to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holiday Season.

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

The American Legion Family College

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

The 2022 session is scheduled for June 3-5, 2022, at SUNY Morrisville. Both Tim Collmer and I meant with SUNY Morrisville representatives in October to discuss this session's contract. It has been confirmed that the cost will be **\$250.00** per student. The updated student and instructor applications are now available on the Legion Department Website just use the link on our own website @ deptny.org

Not a whole lot to report at this time but we are eagerly awaiting applications for new instructors. Hint – Hint. I have had two requests for applications from Auxiliary members but would love to see more. If you do apply, please be expected to be interviewed at Mid-Winter and if selected there will be an instructors training weekend sometime in April which you will be required to attend.

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

Chaplain.....Joanna vonSeyedwitz, Chairperson

Hello chaplains! We seem to have a communications problem. If I am the cause, I apologize. I need your help to let every Chaplain – Unit, County, and Department – understand a few things about our task. Sadly, members pass away. Units usually hear about it first. The Chaplain organizes Unit funeral services and sends condolences to the family. They notify the County Chaplain to keep them in the loop. AND they send a Death Notice (found at deptny.com or in the Plan of Action) to the current Department Chaplain. Please look at the date on this form. If it says 2021-2022, it is the correct address. If not, your notice may take weeks to get to me. Our 2019-2021 Chaplain, Susan Britton, has patiently forwarded close to thirty notices to me. This is NOT her job. It is important that I send a condolence card as soon after a member passes as possible. You make that happen, and their families appreciate this. Remember to include an address where I can reach the family. I know that you all care deeply about your members, and that sometimes circumstances intervene. But pass this message on to ALL our Chaplains and send me your prayers. You are all in mine. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving as God's blessings are on us now and always.

Community Service.....Barbara Neddo, Chairperson

Reporting for November was excellent. Thank you everyone. However, I have a request of all County Chairmen. A few chairmen did not use the form that is in the Plan of Action. I would appreciate very much for the next reporting time you use the form. Also, many Unit reports were sent to me. County chairmen you are responsible for putting the Units information on the report form. You can use the back of the form and if more space is needed, use another piece of paper. I do not need Unit reports.

Meeting in person at this time isn't always possible; so, I searched and found there are virtual events that can happen. This can be done thru Zoom or video conference. For example, you can have a virtual "Stand Down for Homeless Veterans." The veterans are divided into teams and earn points to gain access to the donations of food, clothes, and other basic needs/items. Some of the games are "Boot Camp," "Battleship"; and a "Trivia Challenge."

Another one I found is "Hugs 4 Heroes". To find this information, just Google Community Service. It's that simple. There are many choices to pick from.

Remember, Community Service is something all of us can do. Please everyone, stay healthy and safe. Enjoy your families and Happy Holidays.

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

The Holiday season is upon us and many of us are very busy so we don't take time to think about our governing documents, but this might be just when we need to pay attention to them. Many of our units have Standing Rules that identify how we are to deal with donations to specific organizations or programs. Read your Standing Rules so that you are in compliance with them. Some of you do not have applicable rules and must vote on every donation. Your group might want to consider adding to your Standing Rules to make these repetitive donations simpler. Others of you may decide to put the recurring donations into your budget rather than your Standing Rules. (Yes, you should have a budget.) Either way, you may be taking some of the stress out of this busy time of year.

The new year is also a great time to refresh your Constitution and Bylaws. There have been many changes to our operations in the past few years. Are your documents up to date? Those of you who have not changed your documents in the past five years really need to look at what you have in writing and on file. If things become contentious, you will need documents that reflect the reality of your group. You can be held legally responsible for what your documents say. Some of the paperwork on file at the office says that unit dues are \$10 for senior renewals. I doubt that that is reality for any units since you are sending the Department \$20 per senior renewal. Updating your Standing Rules to reflect the appropriate dues is easy and may save you a hassle later. If you are not making other changes, downloading, and filling in the blanks of the template from the Department website should not take more than a few minutes and should pass easily when presented to the unit for their approval.

I hope you have a wonderful Holiday season whatever holidays you may celebrate. Please remember our veterans who may be in need at this time of year.

Education.....Anne Baglio, Chairperson

Hello everyone, I hope everyone is well. Since I have been Chairman of Education, I have learned a lot regarding the needs for the schools and all the scholarships that are offered. I have done 7 of the 8 visitations in my 8th District and have had shared all the information about the Education Program/Challenge and had a lot of fun doing it. I have learned a lot from all the different Units and creative ways they are coming up with to help the children.

As for the New York vs North Carolina Education Challenge we have had a slow start getting the word out to all the Units. We need ALL Units to get involved and collect school items for their local school(s). I have already made one big donation from my Unit and Legion Post to my local elementary school. A second donation will be going to another local school in the area. This second donation is with the help of my place of employment (Nursing Home). We (Activity Director) and I created an Education Tree and had the Veterans and others decorate the tree with school supply pictures. Then put-up flyers asking for donations from the staff and family members visiting their loved ones. It is going great. Sometimes you have to think out of the box and be creative. This Part #1 challenge goes until April 15, 2022.

Don't forget the second part of the Challenge is to get as many National Education Scholarships out to people to apply for. We just need the count as to how many you receive back. Remember this part #2 is only till February 2022.

Remember to PLEASE pass the word down to your Units. I have had many Units or Counties say that they have not heard of the Challenge. Send me pictures, with names, unit # and County and I will get them posted on Dept. FACEBOOK and also National Education Facebook. Don't forget to apply for any or all Education Awards for your hard work and effort that you all do. If you have any questions, please email me. Thank you to everyone that has been working hard on this challenge.

NEW YORK WE CAN WIN THIS, WITH EVERYONE'S HELP!!

*ALA Empire Girls State..... Wendy Privitera,
Chairperson*

.....Members Kris Dziduch and Terri D. Wallace

The EGS team continues to work on plans for the upcoming Session of Empire Girls State and we couldn't be more excited! We are even more excited to be holding this year's session in person at SUNY Brockport from July 3-July 7 ,2022. Kris has collected the county quotas, unfortunately we are still trying to reach out to a few counties we haven't heard from yet. Please note that it is essential to return your county quota sheets in a timely manner so that we can contact counties that are willing to send additional girls. Terri is waiting anxiously to start receiving application packets from counties starting in March. Before you know it May and June will upon us, and while that might mean it is Spring to others, to us it means it Empire Girls State Orientation Season! Orientation will be virtual this year, information will be emailed directly to citizens, alternates, and county girls state chairmen. This orientation is mandatory

As we are preparing for the 2022 session, we would like to put a request out for members to join our staff. Applications can be found in your POA and on the Department website under the Empire Girls State Tab. Come spend a week with us and see what your hard work and fundraising for tuition allows these girls to participate in, we promise you will not be disappointed!!

Thank you for your continued support and for all that you do at a Unit, County, and District Level! EACH OF YOU is why this program can be a success each and every year! THANK YOU!

*Finance Committee/Audit.....Sally Johnston, Chairperson
.....Violet Brosart and Linda Moseman Members*

Let this article serve as a "reminder" that your mandatory taxes were due into department by November 1, 2021. For those Units that have not yet done so, please send your payment to your County Treasurer. In doing so, the County Treasurer can forward the total sum of all the Units within your respective counties to the department office.

Additionally, there are some Units that have not completed and forwarded to the Department Office the Unit Audit / Data form. If your Unit has not completed the form, please do so and forward to the department office by deadline date of December 31.

It has been brought to my attention that there are still several Calendars that have not been sold, or if they have been sold the money and stubs have not been turned in to the department for accountability. Drawings begin in January 2022. Make sure that all the monies received from the sale of the calendars and their respective stubs are forwarded to the department immediately so that they can be accounted for and included in the drawings. If you have unsold Calendars, you may want to solicit that they make great Christmas gifts. However, if you have Calendars and simply cannot sell them, please return them to the department office along with a list of numbers for our Department Secretary. Please keep in mind that there will be no reimbursement for postage.

With Covid still knocking on our doors, let's remember to utilize the Zoom account that the department has provided for the benefit of our members to keep everyone informed. Fundraising maybe a challenge again this year, but don't let Covid stop you from exploring the many ways we can continue to raise funds for our committees, supporting our Veterans, Children & Youth, and our communities.

Be Safe and Healthy.

Historian..... Yvonne Brunner, Chairperson

Our year began with the Department of NY Convention in Albany. Although in-person participation was limited, the general membership had the opportunity to attend the convention via a Zoom feed through the department website. The National Convention had limited in-person participation but again those of us not able to attend watched remotely.

As our members started to roll up their sleeves and get to work, units/counties and districts were creative in their communication with members. Some opted for in-person meetings while others utilized Zoom. Communication was not limited to this, many used newsletters that were mailed or emailed to keep members informed of upcoming events. Telephone 'buddy checks,' were implemented when home visits were limited.

During this first reporting period I am pleased to say that thirty-seven counties within the Department of New York sent in Historian reports. All reporting counties are retaining records, documenting events through photographs, and creating history books.

As part of our ongoing recorded history, it is so important to preserve the work of our members for future generations. It is a priceless moment when you see the smile of a family member looking at a photograph of their relative and are told about the work their relative did for our organization.

I encourage everyone to share their moment, that slice of auxiliary history. Individually what we do today, will serve as a collective memory for tomorrow.

Let's Make History Together: nyalahistorian@gmail.com

Junior Activities..... Jennifer Farley, Chairperson

This year we will be having an in person midwinter conference! Juniors will conduct their business and elections in person again for the first time since 2019!! WOOHOO! Watch out for more information!!

Juniors can still be helpful while also keeping everyone safe. Include your Juniors in planning of Legion/ Auxiliary functions. With the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons upon us, Juniors can stay busy making cards and

assisting with virtual Christmas parties. Juniors may make and send cards to deployed troops in order to brighten their holidays. They can also assist with food drives for homeless shelters or Veteran groups for the holidays. Some Legions are holding Wreaths Across America ceremonies in December, Juniors can help with laying of wreaths at the cemetery with social distancing and the wearing of masks. Juniors can also work on the patch program at home. Participating in the patch program is a terrific way to be involved in learning about the Auxiliary and our Legion family, volunteering in the community, and serving our country's veterans.

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

Leadership..... Marrick McDonald, Chairperson

Hi members!

I have a few things to share with you during this newsletter.

First, National Leadership Chairman Brenda Collins has asked for pictures with synopses of your leadership activities throughout the year. So, please email me them as they happen, so that I may forward them to her. My email is nyalaleadership@gmail.com.

Second, **Mid-Winter Leadership Conference** is fast approaching. It will be Friday, January 21 and Saturday, January 22, 2022. Mark your calendars. Planning is continuing. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn. A master schedule of all the workshops will be in the conference call. The workshops will be Friday afternoon and evening. There will be no whole group activities on Friday evening. Saturday will be whole group presentations. The event will end with a luncheon honoring our National President. Please watch your email for the Mid-Winter Registration Forms which will be sent out after the Department Executive Committee Meeting. They will also be available on the Department website – deptny.org.

Lastly, start thinking about your nominations for the Unit Member of the Year. Criteria for this award is outlined in the Plan of Action. This honor now is part of the leadership committee's responsibilities.

Finally, John Maxwell reminds us that "leadership is not about titles, positions, or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another."

Legislative..... Karen Chan, Chairperson

Agenda for the 117th Congress (2021-2022)

Troops to Teachers program (Senate 573) – Calling on Congress to save the Troops to Teachers program (TTT). The Department of Defense (DOD) terminated the TTT program by shifting the resources used to administer the TTT program to higher priority programs more closely assigned to the National Defense Strategy. The shift has caused the cancellation of the TTT program. The TTT program was designed to assist transitioning service members and veterans to begin careers as educators in K-12 public, Charter and Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. Since 1993, more than 100,000 veterans have successfully transitioned to a career in education. This success helped filled in the shortage of teachers across the country and lowered veteran unemployment. It is important to call on Congress to reauthorize the TTT program.

Buddy Check Week (Senate 544) – This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to designate one week each year for purposes of organizing outreach events and educating veterans on how to conduct peer wellness checks. The VA will be responsible to ensure the Veterans Crisis Line has a plan for handling the potential increase in calls that may occur during such week. The Senate has approved legislation. The bill is now with the House to follow suit. The urgency with this bill is if our Representatives don't act before Congress

recesses next month, it could be at least three months before they consider this legislation again. It can potentially be dropped altogether.

Healthcare for your Troops Act (H.R. 3512) – This bill is to amend United States code title 10 to eliminate certain health care charges for members of the Selected Reserve eligible for TRICARE Reserve Select, and for other purposes, to the Committee on Armed Services. The latest action on May 25, 2021, was referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

To repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (H.R. 256) – On June 17, 2021, the House of Representatives passed this bill. The Senate received the bill and read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Comprehensive and Overdue Support for Troops (COST) of War Act of 2021 (Senate 3003) – The exposure of military personnel to toxic substances during their service has fallen short for decades. The COST of War Act of 2021 addresses these issues and to increase health care access for 3.5 million Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. On October 19, 2021, this was placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Open the VA to all WWII Veterans (Senate 1040) – The American Legion are in full support of this proposal. Delegates at the 2017 National Convention in Reno, Nev., unanimously passed a resolution calling for an amendment to the Veterans Health Care Eligibility Act of 1996 law which would open access to VA healthcare for WWII veterans.

Please contact your Senators and Representatives to support these bills.

National Executive Committee person.....Patricia Hennessy

During this time of social distancing, isolation, and uncertainty, it is vital for units to reach out to their local supporters to let them know they are appreciated and loved. A handwritten thank-you goes a long way.

You know your donors best, so be sure to use the most appropriate method of contact. Some donors are stuck inside and alone. A call from you would make their day. Others are working from their living rooms and kitchens while trying to educate their children, and a call might be overwhelming, so write them a letter instead.

You could also invite donors to participate in a group video chat. A support group of people who all love the ALA mission could be just what you and other supporters need during these challenging times. It could be a great way to share activities with kids, recipes, or ways you can continue to support veterans without meeting in person.

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

We hit the ground running on National Security, what incredible accomplishments you have made for our Veterans and their families. Numerous care packages were mailed, including hand-written letters, Girl Scout cookies and school supplies for our military children, ensuring that our heroes and their families are never forgotten. You attended military send-offs, celebrated military holidays, helped to display blue star and gold star banners, and greeted veterans at welcome home ceremonies. Your generous donations of new and gently used suits and workwear for men and women veterans re-integrating to the workforce through Save-A-Suit program eliminates the additional expense to them in purchasing civilian work clothing.

Don't forget to submit nominees for "Salute to Female Veterans" award, it is now under National Security. Thank you for all you do in "Service not Self." Looking forward to your next reporting.

Parliamentarian..... Mary Lou Platt

Due to the Pandemic, we've been forced to move online, however Zoom presents some technical challenges to meet parliamentary demands. By now, many of us are familiar with Zoom meetings and how they work but we do have members who have never participated in a Zoom meeting, or any type of virtual meeting and now find they need to. This is where you can be a help, have patience with them and show them how to zoom. Zoom can be a scary word to someone who is participating for the first time.

Once your Unit Bylaws are updated to permit electronic meetings, you'll be able to proceed with a meeting online (as per Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (12th ed.). Our Department Constitution & Bylaws Chairman, Marie Mock will be able to assist you with updating your Bylaws.

Running a practice session allows for all participants to test out their equipment, troubleshoot any problems and gain experience with the Zoom platform prior to the actual meeting.

During the actual meeting, be sure to turn off notifications on your computer and remove distractions before you begin. While participants should remain muted when not speaking, the President (Chair) should generally stay unmuted so that she/he can speak when necessary. The President and the Parliamentarian can decide, before the meeting, of a recognized manner for them to use to allow for questions and advice (i.e., raise hand, phone connection between both of them, private chat).

Unmute when you are recognized by the Chair to speak or are making an interrupting motion: Interrupting motions are points of order, requests for information and parliamentary inquiries. If you want to object to a particular motion, you can use the Raise Hand tool, much as you would physically raise your hand. The results are immediately visible to all participants in the particular panel.

If there are some participants who are not eligible to vote, they can be moved into a Breakout Room while the votes take place. If a participant's internet connection goes down, the meeting does not get interrupted, it shall be as if the member simply stepped out of the meeting until they reconnect. When the President adjourns a Zoom meeting, unless requested to stay, click on "leave the meeting."

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

As your Past Presidents' Parley Chairman for 2021-2022, I encourage all Past Presidents (Unit, County, District and even Department) to pay their Parley dues of \$5.00 as soon as possible and encourage those eligible members who are not members of the Parley to join! Even though this may not be a reporting committee, the PPP dues are still owed to the Department. Are you aware of what these dues are used for?

- A scholarship of \$1,000 awarded to a descendent of a veteran planning to further his/her higher education in the Medical Field (see page 95 of the 2021-2022 Plan of Action for application information)
- Award of \$150/facility for hospitalized female veterans at the thirteen facilities and five homes
- totaling \$2,700.

Without these dues being paid as requested, we will not be able to award this scholarship nor support our hospitalized female veterans. So, I encourage you to get those Past President Parley dues into your County Treasurer so that they can be remitted to the Department Office!!

As members of this organization, it is our responsibility and obligation to mentor members to move forward in the organization and to honor and serve our veterans, active-duty military, and their families. Let's all keep that in mind as we celebrate this holiday season.

Poppy.....Patricia Murphy, Chairperson

As we enter this holiday season let us give thanks for our veterans. The National Poppy committee asks that all members join in the Poppy Challenge: Poppy in the Window of Each Veteran. Members, senior and junior, place a poppy in the window of each Veteran in their community. This poppy will allow citizens to recognize the sacrifice of the Veteran and their family for the rights our citizens are granted today. See the suggestions <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAPoppy>. You don't need to wait for reporting dates send your activities involving Poppy's to me anytime so that I can share them with Eastern Division Chairman Marie Mock. Poppy reports are arriving daily. The activities described of distributing, use of funds from donations and the education of community members of the meaning of the poppy are incredible. Poppies can be distributed throughout the year. Before utilizing Poppy funds review limitations of use:

- For the rehabilitation of Veterans honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces after April 6, 1917.
- For the welfare of the families of Veterans of the above name period.
- For the rehabilitation of hospitalized military service personnel returning home and awaiting discharge who require treatment in service hospitals.
- For the welfare of veterans, active military personnel, and the families of Veterans and active military personnel of the above-name period where financial and medical need is evident.
- For the purchase of poppy kits and supplies used to make symbolic poppies and poppy items that will be distributed for donations to the Poppy fund.

Poppy orders are coming in and being processed, and have already mailed. If you have not placed your order do so ASAP, they were due December 1.

Public Relations..... Colleen McDaniels, Chairperson

There is so much we do every day to promote the American Legion Auxiliary from Unit, County, District, and Dept. Events to Patriotism in print and on social media. As I have been reading the November reports, I too have been realizing how much I have been under reporting. I urge all members to go back to your units and discuss what you and your units are doing to promote the American Legion Auxiliary and our amazing programs.

Goal five from the Centennial Strategic Plan is still important as we are “Anchored in our History,” and “Sailing to our Future.” It is important that we remember to always continue to build Brand Loyalty by:

- Spreading the word about the American Legion Auxiliary: *A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families.*
- Encouraging ALA members to be visible in their communities through valuable, distinct branding.

Warrior Family Assistance.....Patricia Hennessy, Chairperson

Are you promoting this program? With the financial restraints we are all experiencing, we should have more of our veterans in need of a little help. Please ensure that our American Legion Family is aware of the WFA as it is a Department Program.

Yes, it does take a little time for all necessary steps to be followed, but honorably discharged veterans within the last 10 years are eligible for a grant up to \$1,200 in a 12-month period. Monies are paid to vendors for utilities, car repairs, etc.

Each Unit/County should have applications as well as several members who are able to assist the veteran or family member to complete the application with necessary documentation and why they need help. Application and documentation are faxed, emailed, as well as a brief narrative of their interview. Upon receipt the application, documentation is reviewed by Committee members for their approval— checks are issued as soon as possible. ITS AS EASY AS THAT!

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

- Each District President has a Zoom account for the use of scheduling District, County or Unit meetings. All you have to do is contact your respective District President and she can set up the meeting for you.
- **Membership updates** – As a reminder, membership totals are updated each week by the Department Office on Wednesday. If you need up-to-date membership totals, you can email the office or call the Department office for up-to-date numbers for your unit and/or county meeting.
- **Please do not send DD214's into the office with applications.** Once the Post Adjutant/Officer signs the application, return the supporting documents to the member. The office only needs the completed – signed application with the dues and transmittal.
- Members – if you move, change any contact information, phone numbers, emails, etc., please send the change to the Department office so your information is updated in a timely manner. This also pertains to unit President, Membership Chair and Unit Treasurer
- **Newsletters** – E-mail copies of the Newsletter are available to any member wanting a free copy. Please e-mail anyone of us at the office with a valid email and we will get you on the list. The Newsletter is emailed to all Unit/County Presidents, Unit/County Membership Chairmen and Unit/County Treasurers if we have your email address. If you do not have email and someone in the unit/county would like to receive it on your behalf, please let us know so we can add them to the list. Also, County Committee Chairmen receive the newsletter via email. If you do not have anyone in the unit and/or county with an email to receive the email newsletter for you, please contact the Department Secretary for a copy.
- Mailed copies of the Newsletters are available at the cost of \$15.00 per year.
- All Department issued checks must be deposited within 90 days
- All checks sent to the office should be made out as follows: American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York and indicate in the memo line what it is for.
- When submitting a donation form please indicate what unit or county it is from.

**The Department office is here to help you and we are only a phone call or email away.
American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York, Inc.
1580 Columbia Turnpike, Bldg. #1, Suite 3
Castleton-On-Hudson, NY 12033**

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



BE SAFE, WEAR YOUR MASK, WASH YOUR HANDS AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING SO WE CAN BE TOGETHER AGAIN!