



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

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2022 April 2022

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

Greetings members,

As this is the last newsletter of this administration, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you for your generous donations for the Department President's Project, America's Vet Dogs. My goal is to raise \$50,000.00 this year. It is amazing to see that as a department, we were still able to raise \$30,000.00 as of April 15, 2022, for this very worthwhile organization.

Keep up all the magnificent work you are doing for our Veterans. Hope to see you all soon at Department Convention. Don't forget to submit your Department President's Award entries directly to me. Below are the criteria:

**2021-2022
Department President's Awards**

Unit

The Department President's Award will be presented to the Unit that donates the largest single **donation into Department Office** by May 1, 2022, Department President's project – America's Vet Dogs.

County

The Department President's Award will be presented to the County that donates the largest single **donation into Department Office** by May 1, 2022, Department President's project – America's Vet Dogs.

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE AWARDS

Write-up cannot exceed 1,000 words, may include photos, PR clippings, printout of social media posts, etc. **All entries are to be mailed to the Department President at her home no later than May 1, 2022. Email entries will not be accepted or considered.**

AMERICANISM - To the Unit that submits the best overall Americanism Program in a school. Entry to include at least two (2) of the programs outlined under the Americanism Committee.

CHILDREN & YOUTH - To the Unit that submits the best overall Children & Youth Program benefiting military children or children in the community. Entry to include at least two (2) of the programs as outlined in the Children & Youth Committee.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES - To the Unit with the best Junior activities promoting Auxiliary programs and membership

MEMBERSHIP - To the Unit that recruits the largest number of new members (Senior and Junior).

VA&R - To the Unit that submits the best program serving our Veterans. Entries must include at least two (2) programs outlined under the VA&R Committee.

God Bless you, God Bless the American Legion Family, and God Bless America.

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

I can't believe it is April already! We certainly will have great May flowers with all the rain we have been getting. Our Labrador Retrievers have been doing a great job getting unit membership in. A reminder to the 9 Boxers out there in the dog pound- as you hold Spring conferences encourage units and counties to get their membership in. We need only 924 members to reach 95% for our department. That translates into \$250 for the Department of New York if we reach 95% by May 27th! I know we can do it!

Speaking of awards, Congratulations to the 9th District for reaching 100%. Woof Woof! The Fourth Milestone Award period ended March 11, 2022, there were 76 units that reached 100% goal. Each of these units are eligible for the five \$50 drawings. The winners were picked at the April Executive meeting and are Unit 567 Erie County, 862 Warren County ,1342 St. Lawrence County, 1291 New York County and 253 Bronx County. Congratulations your check is in the mail!

Upcoming awards include:

- Milestone #5: Units and Counties with 100% membership will be in a drawing for five \$25 winners (unit) and one \$25 county. Winners will be announced at the July convention! Stay tuned!
- Department President's for the unit that recruits the largest number of new members, Jr. and Sr. combined.
- 1001 Dalmatian Award to the District with the highest numerical gain over goal by close of books June 2022
- Cocker Spaniel Award to the District membership chairman with the greatest number of new members by May 8, 2022.

President Mary and I are so impressed with your hard work this year. Keep up the efforts and sniff out new ways to recruit, rejoin and renew members. I'm searching for doggie treats for our next get together. Keep those tails a wagging!

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

As I write this article the sun is shining, children are outside playing. Warm weather will allow members to plan outdoor activities for veterans. Events could include, fishing derby, picnic lunch, games such as cornhole and bocce ball to name a few. Invite scouts, and other groups in your community, to plan a joint event.

With Memorial Day approaching, a great activity would be making handmade cards to give to hospitalized military/veterans. They really appreciate receiving cards and mail throughout the year. Plan a memorial Ceremony at your post, invite veterans in your community, serve refreshments.

One last reminder for: The annual Sons of The American Legion & American Legion Auxiliary Walk-A-Thon NYS is April 23, 2022. The Sons and Auxiliary can work together on this project. Walks are not limited to that date; in fact, you can collect donations without actually planning a walk. Donations obtained for this event will be divided equally for Department of NY Commander & President's project: VA Hospital Homeless Veterans and Americas Vet Dogs, respectively. For information to organize a walk in your area visit NY Sons of American Legion

website www.sonsdny.org , search Walkathon. All donations must be sent into Department of NY Detachment office by May 23rd.

Now is the time to check the requirements to apply for Department and National Awards. Note the deadline for your entry, as they differ depending on the award. How great would it be to receive an award for all the work you do?

One last request, if you held an event or donated items to veteran facilities (like handmade blankets and hats), please email or snail mail one or two photos. I need these for my year-end report.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart, for all you do for our active military, veterans, and their families.

President's Project

The service dog programs of America's Vet Dogs were created to provide enhanced mobility and renewed independence to veterans, active-duty service members, with disabilities, allowing them to once again live with pride and self-reliance. It costs over \$50,000 to breed, raise, train, and place one service dog; however, all of Vet Dogs' services are provided at no charge to the individual. Funding comes from the generosity of individuals, corporations, foundations, businesses, and community organizations.

Thank you to members, units, counties, and Districts who donated to Department Presidents Project. At the April Department Executive meeting, we hosted our own Paint and Sip party. Not only did the participants have fun, we also raised over a thousand dollars for America's Vet Dogs.

Your donations are important to this project. There is still time to plan a fundraiser at your unit. Checks made out to Department of NY American Legion Auxiliary, mailed to 1580 Columbia Turnpike, Bldg. #1, Suite 3, Castleton on Hudson, NY 12033.

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

May 13th is Children of Fallen Patriots Day. Do you have any of these children in your community? If so, do you do anything special for them? If you are not sure, maybe you can work with your Post or Squadron to find out. Please see the website <https://www.fallenpatriots.org/children-of-fallen-patriots-day> for more information.

I would like to thank you all for your hard work recognizing our kids for what some call "Caught Being Good." In New York, as of April 18th we have had 24 Good Deed awards and 1 Youth Hero award. *WAY TO GO!* Thank you also for your photos of ceremonies where you have presented these awards. I am so proud of all of you.

Thanks again and God Bless you all.

Americanism.....Maureen Morgan, Chairperson

Happy Easter and Passover to everyone. I want to thank every County that submitted Essays for the Americanism Contest. The winners have been picked and sent to National. It's time to look in your plan of action and work on those Americanism awards. They are due May 1, 2022, to the Department Chairperson. We also have our final report due May 10, 2022. I know every unit does the pledge and preamble before their unit meeting. Remember that counts towards Americanism hours. Let's hope spring gets here soon.

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

The 2022 session is coming together for June 3-5, 2022, at SUNY Morrisville. Tim Collmer and I will be holding a training for the new instructors for this year's session the weekend of April 22nd. We currently have 50 applications with more coming in. Have you gotten yours in yet? It isn't too late. The tuition is \$250.00. The updated student applications are available on the Legion Department Website just use the link on our own website @ **deptny.org**

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

Hope you are doing well. Happy Easter to everyone hope you have a great weekend with your families.

Let's remember all the people out there that have had a disaster that has happened at this time. We have raised some money, but we need more to help those Auxiliary families out. There are many ways to raise the money. I understand that not every unit can do this. Anything will help.

Don't forget to put in for awards for Department and National. Let's make NEW YORK State look good. Thank you for all your help

Chaplain.....Joanna vonSeydewitz, Chairperson

I'm worried that nobody reads the information and requests made in the newsletter. In February I asked for a small donation from each Unit for the Chapel of Four Chaplains. I did not receive any. I also asked for prayers to be sent for President Mary's Prayer book. Just one from each Unit. I received two.

Please help me to complete these projects. I am praying for our Mission of Service not Self. I am praying for each of you and your loved ones. You have responded to so many Veterans and helped bring in membership. You have given much needed school supplies to our children. Please send me your prayers. And remember to honor your dead by sending me the Death notice in a timely fashion. I do believe that their families appreciate the card sent in Memory of each departed member. It has been a difficult year for many of you. Thank you for caring for each other. May the God you pray to wrap His arms around you with his love.

Community Service.....Barbara Neddó, Chairperson

Time has flown by this year; this is my last article for the Department Newsletter. Reporting in the month of March was down from November. The reports I did receive were very good. Thank you for reporting. Many units had no reports because of Covid, and no meetings in the winter months. The 1st, 5th, 8th, and 10th District had 100% reporting. Congratulations.

For the second time I went into my local high school in a Special Ed class and helped students make Easter cards for their parents. I brought a treat for the students.

Has anyone tried going online to volunteer? I found an interesting one, the Smithsonian Digital Volunteers. What the volunteer does is help make their collections more accessible by volunteering online to transcribe historical documents or edit articles related to their artifacts and research. Memorial Day is next month. Volunteer to give a ride to a veteran to their local parade or Legion Post.

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

As we approach the summer months, we may be wrapping up our programs because we take a break in July and August. That means we should be thinking about what we have done this year and how it worked for us. Are there things which we should consider making into standing rules because we do them every year, or do we move them to a budget item and note that in our standing rules? As we look back at the year, we have a good perspective to determine what changes need to be made to make things run more smoothly.

We also need to prepare for the dues increase which is undoubtedly going to happen. Your dues should cover what you need to send to Department for each member, and you don't want to be raising your dues every year. Some units hold fund raisers to supplement the dues they receive from members. That's fine as long as you actually do it. Your dues are standing rule number one for senior dues and number two for junior dues. Make sure your governing documents are current and prepared for what is to come. If your standing rules say that your dues are \$5, then a member has a right to only pay that, regardless of what you have raised them to since submitting your documents. Be aware of your Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules. They are important when disputes happen.

As we prepare for Convention, we need to think about what we have in our written documents. What should we change to be more efficient? Look back on your year to prepare for a smooth future.

Education.....Anne Baglio, Chairperson

Hello, I wish I could tell you the winner of the Education Challenge, New York (Empire) vs North Carolina (Tar Heel) but we have a pending conference call regarding this to see who the winner is. As soon as I know the results, I will let everyone know. The anticipation is killing me. I want to say thank you to all of the Units that participated in the Challenge (Give 10 school supplies). Remember if your Unit wants to submit for an Education Award, please look in the POC and apply. We all work hard for what we do. Get an award for it.

As a reminder, May 2-6 is Teacher Appreciation Week. Teachers are some of our unsung heroes. They have had to go from teaching in person to remotely and back and forth again to now in person. I give teachers all the credit in the world. It takes someone really special to teach our children of today and all the changes that have been happening. Please remember to thank teachers during their appreciation week. Some ideas are Amazon gift cards, special coffee and teas for the teacher lounge, store bought pastries/cookies, festive socks, teacher supplies, mason jars filled with different candy/chocolate. Also, don't forget your teacher aides.

Thank you for letting me be your Education Chairman. See you in Binghamton.

*ALA Empire Girls State.....Wendy Privitera, Chairperson
.....Members Kris Dziduch and Terri D. Wallace*

Can you believe that the Empire Girls State program is just 3 months away!!!????!!!
Yahoooooo! You did it! The hard part is behind you! Interviews are done, citizens selected and hopefully you are as excited about the upcoming program as we are.

At this time, all applications should have been forwarded to the county chairman so that they can be on their way to Terri Wallace the Empire Girls State Registrar. There are some openings for

additional citizens, so if your unit has the funds and would like to sponsor an additional citizen, please contact Terri Wallace with the information

District Orientations are on their way. Please note citizens and alternates are required to attend an orientation, the dates for these are:

- Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 7pm
- Wednesday, June 1, 2022, at 7pm
- Monday June 6, 2022, at 7pm
- Sunday June 12, 2022, at 2pm

The girls will be contacted via email about the dates, information is also available on our website: empiregirlsstate.org

We are still in need of counselors, please contact members or past Girl Staters. Applications are on our website

Thank you for all that you do at a unit, county, and district level for the Empire Girls State program. It does not go unnoticed.

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

Please be aware that you will soon be receiving your Department Convention Call whereby the “proposed membership dues increase” is addressed. The proposed change is for \$2.00 increase. It is important for those of you who can attend the Department Convention this year do so. You will be able to learn more about the proposed change and how it will affect membership dues moving forward.

As addressed in previous newsletter articles, this may affect how several Units handle those dues for members that have reached a specific criterion according to the individual Units Standing Rules. (Ex, members in good standing reaching the age of 70 and has been a member for 20 years, the Unit will pay their dues).

When preparing a budget for next year you may want to keep this in mind and plan your fundraising activities accordingly.

Be looking for new information for a change in the Finance vs Audit Committee. The National Organization has announced that there are some new rules regarding the Finance vs Audit committee to stay in compliance. Unfortunately, at this time, I do not have all of the particulars to pass on to you. I would expect upon completion of National Convention, we will have the “complete and accurate” information to pass on to Units.

I can’t stress enough. With the membership dues on the rise, we anticipate the possibility of losing several members simply because they cannot afford to pay their dues. We as Units can help with the proper budgeting and planning of fundraisers to help to continue to pay for those members who, without them in the beginning, we “may” not have the strong Units of today.

Prepare those budgets, welcome change so that we can continue to keep this great organization growing strong and continue our mission, of “Service Not Self” for our Veterans, their families, children and youth and our communities.

Historian.....Yvonne Brunner, Chairperson

It is so delightful reading all of the history reports. The inclusion of a photograph along with your narrative makes the events come alive. Even through limited activities our members have forged forward to accomplish the mission of our organization.

Some units shared their special Friday night festivities. One-unit shared photographs and a story about different theme nights every Friday. It gave them an opportunity to have raffles, bake sales and more while all the proceeds assisted veterans. Another unit held Friday night dinners. It gave everyone the chance to sit down to enjoy a good meal with some conversation. Another unit shared their Family Skate Night activities. I have to say that brought back a flood of memories of my youth. It is wonderful to see members working together to serve so many veterans.

Many of our members are starting to participate in the “Member Spotlight,” feature which is put on the DNY Facebook page. The ‘Member Spotlight’ is an opportunity for our members and Units to shine, bringing their best efforts forward while perhaps encouraging others along the way. It’s easy to be a part of this feature. Simple send in a photograph or two and a short one or two paragraphs to the Department Historian.

President Mary’s History Book – photographs of all events are accepted by email. As Historian I will print any photograph from events you have participated in. Include everyone’s names and unit number. If you would like to send in a story or two about your unit that is ok too. All submissions will be included in the Presidents History Book.

Awards for History books for Junior and Senior members is just around the corner. It will be fun to see all the submissions.

All members are asked to participate in this celebration of who we are, what we do and why we matter.

Remember our history starts with your story.

Junior Activities.....Jennifer Farley, Chairperson

We were fortunate to have three of our junior members attend the Eastern Division National Junior Meeting in March in Baltimore, MD. They had an amazing time meeting other junior members from other departments and they learned so much.

Include your Juniors in planning of Legion/ Auxiliary functions.

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. They can keep making cards for our deployed troops and veterans in the nursing homes and VAMC’s for Memorial Day, Flag Day, 4th of July, Labor Day and remember that “Every day is Veteran’s Day.” Please don’t forget to let them help with distribution of Poppies.

Our Juniors are the future of our organization! Let’s work to encourage and educate them so they stay involved in the organization.

Leadership.....Marrick McDonald, Chairperson

This is the first year that Unit Member of the Year has been under the category of Leadership. The individuals who are nominated can only have served at the Unit Level. The application form

is page 150 in your Plan of Actions. Please add an attachment if you need additional writing room. The deadline for nominations is May 1, 2022. Please email them to nyalaleadership@gmail.com or mail them to me.

Have a great rest of the administrative year.

Legislative.....Karen Chan, Chairperson

Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2021 – H.R. 3967

On June 17, 2021, this bill was introduced by Representative Mark Takana [D-CA-41]. The House passed this bill on March 3, 2022. It is now with the Senate.

This bill addresses health care related to veterans who were exposed to toxic substances during military service. This PACT Act will provide priority group 6 health care for over 3.5 million toxic-exposed veterans. It will also provide extension of combat eligibility for health care from 5 to 10 years with a one-year open enrollment period for those veterans who missed their window. Concede exposure to airborne hazards/burn pits based on locations and dates of service. Require medical exams/opinions for certain veterans with toxic exposure disability claims and other related extensive services to toxic exposed veterans.

Improve Health Care for Women Veterans – S. 2533

On July 29, 2021, this bill was introduced by Senator Jon Tester [D-MT]. The Senate passed this bill on March 24, 2022. It is now with the House. The bill addresses the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provision of mammograms and breast cancer treatment. The VA must submit a strategic plan for improving breast imaging services, implement a 3-yr pilot program to provide telescreening mammography services and upgrade services to use three-dimensional breast imaging. The VA must enter into a partnership with at least one cancer center of the National Cancer Institutes of Health to expand access to high-quality cancer care for women veterans.

Concurrent Receipt - Major Richard Star Act – S. 344

On March 17, 2021, this bill was introduced in Senate by Senator Jon Tester [D-MT]. This bill allows a veteran with a combat-related disability and fewer than 20 years of credible service to receive retirement pay, without reduction, concurrent with disability compensation.

Please contact your Senators and Representatives to support these bills.

National Executive Committee person.....Patricia Hennessy

The NEC Zoom meeting was held on March 5, 2022. The meeting was interesting as we were presented with a broad overview of the budget/assets of the National Organization. The National Organization has more than \$20 Million in their portfolio. It was also interesting to sit and listen to all this with very little comment regarding the proposed raise in dues. The Foundation is also doing well.

Executive Director, Kelly Circle spoke on the diversity equity and inclusion demographics with regards to staff and staffing needs. She also informed us that Poppy funds may now be used for donations to YMCA for food; honor flights for both attendee and care giver; and Blue Star to support their baby showers.

National has seen an increase in membership, retention of these new members however is a problem. She also indicated that national will continue with Zoom meetings as they are a cost saving item.

The NEC were asked by Madam National President Cathy is sign on and support that proposed dues increase. Very few questions, and my comments was the only one concerning impact of our

membership. The vote was taken by a yes or no ballot and 78% if the NEC's passed this. This will be brought to the floor at this year's convention.

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

We all hold in reverence our military Veterans who are and have served so honorably. Since our nation's inception, more than 760,000 immigrants have become naturalized U.S. citizens in serving our great nation. We made a promise of citizenship to them. Citizenship assistance programs have disappeared from our military bases which made it impossible for them to become naturalized citizens while in service. In the worse cases these brave heroes have met with deportation and a loss of the VA benefits that they have so deserved.

We all join with the American Legion to support the Veteran Deportation Prevention and Reform Act that addresses naturalization of non-citizen veterans during their service to our nation and prevents the deportation of non-citizens veterans and their families. U.S. Veterans from other nations are serving honorably throughout the world, let us fulfill our promise to them who have assisted in keeping us all safe.

Don't forget to submit nominees for "Salute to Servicemembers Award." All nomination forms must be submitted to the Department Chairman no later than May 1, 2022.

Parliamentarian..... Mary Lou Platt

The basics of the nominating committee and its process was covered during the Parliamentarian presentations of the virtual Mid-Winter and also printed in the last issue of the Department's newsletter "Empire State News." This article will cover the Parliamentarian's role, as it relates to the nominating committee and voting, plus the President's role relating to voting.

Parliamentarians who are appointed from the membership, by the President, are known as Member Parliamentarians. The member parliamentarian has a duty to be impartial. He or she does not make motions, does not debate and because of the complete impartiality required, are duty bound to forego completely their right to vote on any question at any time, unless the vote is by ballot.

The member parliamentarian does not nominate, present, or recommend anyone for any position and does not serve on the nominating committee. To do so, could be viewed as being biased. Those same rules apply to the president who must also maintain impartiality.

The President votes along with the other members when the voting is done by ballot. A ballot vote is not a tiebreaker. When voting by ballot in an election, and the result of a ballot is a tie, then everybody gets to vote again.

When you're voting by ballot on a motion and the result is a tie, you do not vote again, the motion fails.

If the vote is not by ballot (i.e., voice, stand-up, hand raise) the President can cast a vote only after the results are known and if he or she want their vote to affect the outcome. In other words, the president may break a tie causing a motion to pass or make a tie causing a motion to fail. If the president does not want to change the outcome, he or she does not have to vote at all. By reserving their vote, they preserve the appearance of impartiality.

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

I hope everyone has been well and enjoying the weather!

Do you have a unit member that goes above and beyond? Someone who is always there? If so, please take the time to nominate that outstanding member for UNIT MEMBER OF THE YEAR! Please send the nomination form (found in the Plan of Action) to Marrick McDonald by May 1st!! We want to celebrate all members who were nominated at Department Convention at our breakfast Friday morning! The award winner will be announced on Friday during platform remarks. This special member will be invited to attend the National Convention held this year in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to be celebrated nationally!!

AND . . . Don't forget to apply for the Betty Jane Light Award! The Unit chairman who initiates and completes the most outstanding program for assisting and caring of women veterans should be applying for this award! Be sure to get that entry into me by May 1st! Let's be sure to recognize your Unit Chairman for the work that they've done!

Have a great spring!! See you at Convention!!

Poppy.....Patricia Murphy, Chairperson

Poppy Day May 27 this year is rapidly approaching. I have my poppies, canisters and of course, my poppy attire Ready to go. Poppy Day is significant to me. As it is a fun day too visiting my hometown, friends, teachers while spreading the word of what the Poppy is about and use of funds taking care of our veterans.

To date 155 units have ordered 50,000 Poppies, totaling \$126,851. Several units reported they will be using left over Poppy's. There are still Poppies available if you need to place your order, do so ASAP to ensure receipt by Poppy Day.

Have you planned your Poppy Day Activities? Preparations for Poppy Day activities should be reported in the next reporting due to department on May 10th, 2022. Pictures of preparation activities would be great.

A 2022 Virtual National Poppy Day is planned for May 27 at noon ET. Refer to the national website for suggested activities and projects for National Poppy Day event everyone is encouraged to Submit photos and videos to PR@ALAforVeterans.org by Monday, April 25,2022. I encourage all to participate.

A reminder that all **Poppy Posters** to be judged must be to the department chairman by **May 1st**. Please bring Poppy hats, centerpieces, and nontraditional entries to Department Convention. Judging will take place on Wednesday, July 13th. Inquire at registration where to bring your entries for judging. Please refer to the Plan of Action for rules Poppy entries. Little Miss Poppy entries are due to Department Chairman by May 1,2022. Refer to Plan of Action for requirements.

I would be remiss if I did not thank President Mary for this fun and educational Committee. I have enjoyed poppy hats, Paint and Sip Poppy painting along with participating in virtual National Poppy Committee meetings. Thank you, President Mary.

Public Relations.....Colleen McDaniels, Chairperson

I want to share a few key highlights as the year winds down. Just remember that although our reporting year is winding down our work never does. Let's break it down a little to make it a little easier to shine our light.

1. Reports are help share ideas and get compiled into our Department Year-end report to show how great the Department of NY truly is! Just a reminder that I must have final reports into me by May 10th so I can file our Department of NY Public Relations report on time. Also, don't forget to apply for the Department and National Awards that are listed in the Plan of Action or on the Dept. website at www.deptny.org
2. Public Relations and Branding our organization are always important. As we report the activities that keep us 'Anchored in our History," we need to look ahead as we are "Sailing to our Future," with Armed Forces Day, Poppy Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day Empire Girls State, and the Fourth of July approaching, I urge everyone to think how you can help keep our amazing organization shining its light in your communities in a positive light. Keep using the ALA logo and branding, (don't forget to get logo use permission to keep our brand protected, information can be found on the National website: www.legion-aux.org) Keep sharing information about the ALA in a positive light when you are at events and out in the public...leave your conflicts behind...remember to smile...your smile will be the face of the ALA in your community...share your enthusiasm!
3. Build your knowledge and learn to draft an article for a news article, social media post, and more. Remember you can find sample Letters to the Editor on the National website that can be tweaked and modified to fit your purpose. I use the letters and break them up into smaller posts for Facebook and other social media. As you are preparing that press release try to capture the perfect picture to grab the attention of the reader...after all a picture is worth a thousand words. Building knowledge is easy through ALA Academy Courses, resources on the National website, and reading National Magazine

So, let's get to it and share all the good the American Legion Auxiliary does as we stay "Anchored in our History" and are "Sailing into our Future."

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

Is your unit or county promoting this department committee? It's not too late to get unit members to be your unit contact person to help our veterans in need.

The Warriors Family Assistance Program (WFA), created in 2008, continues to help our currently deployed military and their families and those honorably discharged within the last ten (10) years. The National Guard and Reservists who have been federally deployed within the past ten (10) years are also eligible for grants of up to \$1200.00.

Three types of grants are available:

MAINTENANCE:

- To alleviate the cost-of-living expenses including food, shelter, utilities, personal hygiene, clothing, homeowner's insurance premiums, home repair (not home improvement), providing handicapped facilities in the home, repair, or replacement of a major appliance
- Reconnect utilities

- Prevent eviction or foreclosure

MEDICAL:

- To alleviate the cost of current medical expenses
- To assist in payment of outstanding medical bills

OPPORTUNITY FOR EMPLOYMENT GRANTS:

- Provides financial assistance in finding transportation to work
- Provides assistance for childcare if the custodial parent must find employment

Grants are based on the immediate need of the applicant. Upon completion of the application process, grant eligibility is determined by a panel of three Department Executive Committee members: Second Vice-President, Third Vice President, and the WFA Committee Chairman.

THE LINDA MOSEMAN AWARD: Two categories for the **largest single donation** to the 'Warriors Family Assistance Program by May 1st.

Category 1 Units with membership of 10 — 99 Members

Category 2 Units with membership of 100 plus Members

Message from the Department Office

- **The 2022 Department Convention Call will be going out after May 1, 2022, to all unit Presidents and County Presidents and will be posted on the Department website.**
- **Attention all Unit Presidents and Membership Chairmen** – the 2023 Unit Data form was mailed out to all unit Presidents in February to be filled out and returned to the Department Office no later than May 1, 2022 (blue form). Please remember to review your unit dues and if necessary, vote to increase it prior to sending the form in. National is proposing dues increase at the 2022 National Convention. **This is a mandatory form and must be returned.**
- **As of April 13, 2022, only 206 units sent in their blue form. There are still 268 units that have not returned their form. If your unit does not send back their form by May 1, 2022, and they need to change their dues, National charges \$30.00 to change it. You can email the form to Caitlin at nyalamemberdata@gmail.com no later than May 1, 2022.**
- **Unit Membership Chairmen** – Please make sure you are sending in the dues in a timely manner. National already pulled the rosters for the 2023 membership year and has printed the 2023 membership cards for the 2023 dues year. Therefore, if a member's 2022 dues were not paid prior to April 1, 2022, their continuous years will automatically change in the computer. Any new members that were entered into the system after April 1, 2022, you will have to print them a 2023 membership card if there is not one printed from National. Remember to reach out to those members who have not renewed their membership and remind them of the importance of renewing their membership.
- **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. Remember – if the veteran is living, he/she must be a current paid member in the American Legion. Remember to check off which era the veteran served and the relationship of the veteran to the ALA applicant. Please circle the appropriate relationship.
- **Applications** need to be complete and legible otherwise they will be returned to the unit membership chair. New members address needs to be complete. No abbreviations on city/town.
- **Membership chairs** – if your unit members move, change any contact information, phone numbers, emails, etc., please send the change to the Department office so the information is updated in a timely manner. This also pertains to unit President, Membership Chair and Unit Treasurer.
- **Great News** – National is pleased to announce that the Pilot Program for units to process dues directly with national is a success. As of today, NY has 3 units in the Pilot Program, and they all love it. Starting with the 2023 membership year, if your unit wants to process their dues directly with National, they will be able to do those 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. More information to be coming at Department Convention so stay tuned.
- **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. Also, please remember to sign the check.
- 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.

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American Legion Auxiliary

101 Years of Service Not Self

