



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

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*2023 February 2023*

*Department President's Message.....Nancy J. Babis*

Greetings Fellow Auxiliary members,

Happy New Year! WOW what a busy Fall and Holiday season! Representing the American Legion Auxiliary Department of New York has brought such honor and education to me. Thank you for this once in a lifetime experience.

Veterans Day – the opportunity to represent the Auxiliary and march next to Commander Riley in NYC at the Veterans Day parade was humbling to say the least. Although weather was not great, the honor and privilege were immense.

In December I had the opportunity to participate with my grandchildren in Wreaths Across America at the Pembroke National Cemetery. Again, the weather was a challenge, but the results were great! Teaching the children about the proper way to lay the wreath, the salute to the Veteran and saying their name instilled a sense of pride in both myself and the kids. We will be scheduling to do it again in 2023.

What a great mid – winter conference! Kudos to Leadership chairperson Carrie Davenport and her amazing team. Carrie totally made the transition from a sedentary predictable conference to an interactive educational learning event. Thank you, Caitlin for your last-minute lifesaving printing. Thank you to presenters who stepped out of your comfort zone to provide education for our members. Tech team, many thanks for your ability to make the little things seem non-existent. Congratulations to our new Junior Officers. It was an honor to install you!

53 Counties visited. So thankful for my Legion Family has gotten to visit across the state. The pride, the history and the hospitality has been amazing. Thank you all for the amazing work you do for our Veterans, their families, and the community.

*-----Message from the Department Office-----*

- **National will be printing the 2024 Membership cards and rosters on April 1, 2023. This means that any changes, new members, rejoins and transfers made after April 1<sup>st</sup> will not be reflected on the Unit's 2024 membership cards and rosters. This does NOT mean we will stop accepting 2023 dues. We process renewals/new members ALL year; please do not hold onto it until the Fall.**

- **The 2024 Unit Data form for renewal notices will be mailed to Unit Presidents by the end of the month. It will be available as a fillable PDF to download off of our website under the membership tab. Make sure you are using the 2024 form only. Please complete the entire form and do not leave anything blank. This form is due back to the Department Office no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Please remember that the new rates will take effect with the 2024 dues that will be available to pay in July 2023. If your current rate is not sufficient, please make sure your unit notifies all members that there will be a dues increase proposed for the unit, when the meeting will be held, etc. Please make sure you follow your unit Constitution & Bylaws regarding notice to all members.**
- **The 2024 per capita for Department and National for senior members is \$28; the junior per capita is staying the same at \$6.25. If you do not submit your form by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 and your current rate is below the amounts above, the Unit will not receive a portion of the per capita for 2024. Once the rates are locked and it needs to be changed, National will charge a processing fee.**
- At this time, the current year (2023) dues have to be paid first before back dues. This now includes 2022 dues.
- **Please do not send DD214's/active-duty documentation into the office with applications. Once the Post Adjutant/Officer signs the application and the membership chair (ALA) verifies all supporting documents,** 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 to the veteran.
- **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. All membership applications must be presented to the unit membership chairman with the proper documentation prior to being submitted to the office for processing.
- **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.
- **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. 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. If you receive a copy of the newsletter via email, please share it with the members in your unit or county. 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. Going forward the treasurer will not reissue checks that were not deposited in a timely manner.

- 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.
- **All donations should be sent to the department office and not the committee chair.**
- When submitting a donation form please indicate what unit or county it is.
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*Membership.....Karen St. Hilaire, Chairperson*

Congratulations to the fifty-two units who have reached or exceeded one hundred percent of their unit membership objective. Currently the Fifth District is in first place, with 86.07% paid members. At county level Livingston County is in first place with 93.285% paid members, great job.

Department of New York also has a membership challenge; the first Department to reach 100% receives a \$25.00 donation to Girl's State program. Current standings are New York 84.21% with Massachusetts at 75.97%. We are almost there. Let's go New York I know we can do it.

Thank you to all the unit and county membership chairmen for all your dedicated hours. But we still have work to do. There are eight units who have not submitted any dues to date. We need to reach out to members who have not yet renewed. They may have just forgot, or there are underlying circumstances that maybe your unit could help by paying their dues for this year.

As warmer weather approaches think of ways your unit can recruit new members also. Some events that have been reported are setting up membership table while distributing Poppies, or unit events, how about Paint n Sip party, they are very popular. Just a reminder I need photos pertaining to membership. It could simply be a photo of new member signing an application, a dinner or event honoring members who paid by certain date. Please email or snail mail original photos to me or include as an attachment.

What a great Mid-Winter Conference we had. At the vendor fair we had a membership table, where we distributed the current membership applications, report forms, member data and other membership brochures. Also, PUFL applications for members who would like to pay a onetime fee based on your current units' dues.

Now is the time to review Department and National membership awards. Make sure to follow the requirements and deadlines, as they vary for each award. Let's keep loading our planes with paid members for the flight to One Hundred Percent and make President Nancy proud.

*VA&R / Service to Veterans.....Kimberly Quick. Chairperson*

**WALK-A-THON 2023** is underway! Details and downloads (including the "boots") are at the Department website [www.deptny.org](http://www.deptny.org) under the Events tab. We are looking forward to reaching or surpassing our goal again this year. Thank you to the NY Sons of the American Legion for working on this effort with us; what a great partnership.

I am still looking for more of your stories, that I would like to start a storybook for President Nancy called "**My Veteran and I**". Send me your stories and pictures; post on social media such as the Department Facebook page [www.facebook.com/groups/ALADeptofNY](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ALADeptofNY) , or the National VA&R Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/ALAVAR](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAVAR) . Please send or post pictures at their highest resolution possible.

Lastly, the protocols for some medical facilities may be changing; at least where NYS is concerned. Please keep in touch with your VAMC to see if their protocols are also changing. Hopefully they will start letting us back in soon.

Coming soon, reports and award entries! Don't miss those deadlines.

### *Children and Youth..... Maureen Morgan, Chairperson*

Christmas has come and gone. We are in a New Year with many great opportunities for the Units in the Department of New York to shine. Mid-winter was a great success with the vendor fair. New members got to see great ideas for Children & Youth. There are coloring books, Youth Hero Award, Good Deed Awards, and the best is the Kids Are Hero's 2 Award. There are stickers to give to our youth and great opportunities for the youth to participate in the Legion and Auxiliary Programs. All this information can be found at [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org).

With February upon us I hope many are planning Valentines' Day Parties and writing cards to our Veterans that don't have anyone. I have heard that other units are gearing up for Easter by having Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Easter Egg hunts.

April is Purple Up month for our Military Kids. On Saturday, April 15, 2023, we are asking everyone to wear Purple for our Military Children. Show our support to these young youths that need to know we are there for them. Have an open house for them on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April with games and food. Bring them into our American Legion Family so they know that members out there that care. Send pictures with your reports so that I can brag to the Eastern Division about New York.

Don't forget to get those Youth and Good Deed Awards into the Department Secretary so that she can get them too National.

### *President's Project.....Kimberly Quick*

President Nancy is up to 15 GIs in her plane. Please help President Nancy fill her plane for Honor Flight.

I hope you all learned a lot about Honor Flight at the Mid-Winter Conference. The time slot I was in had a full room. I loved the stories about how the Honor Flight experience made our veterans feel loved, not just we appreciate their service. The veterans' families also learned more about their veterans service; things they weren't comfortable in discussing before.

Honor Flight is such a worthwhile project to contribute to. Please send your donations to the Department office using the Treasurer form on the Department website.

Have you experienced an Honor Flight? Did you have a fundraiser for Honor Flight? The President's Project Committee is not a reporting committee, but I would love to know how you support Honor Flight programs. Please email me at [nyalapresidentsproject@gmail.com](mailto:nyalapresidentsproject@gmail.com)

Thank you for all your support and hard work.

*Americanism.....Lucille Mozzillo, Chairperson*

The following is a recent release I recently received from our National Americanism Chairman. "Wearing an article of clothing does not count toward volunteer hours, much like hours spent flying a flag in your front yard doesn't count. Volunteer hours should reflect direct mission service and direct impact in your community. Wearing red on Fridays to show your support of our military and veterans is important and encouraged, but it ultimately has little to do with direct mission outreach. Volunteer hours are reported to Congress via The American Legion. Our impact numbers (aka your hours) need to reflect our actual hands-on mission outreach, as Congress uses those numbers when considering funding in the veterans' realm. So, by reporting non-service (i.e., wearing a shirt for 8 hours), it misrepresents the actual hours serving veterans' needs in your community and could ultimately hurt further federal funding as it looks like we are meeting the needs without that additional funding. Being branded or wearing red on Fridays is truly for awareness of veterans and the mission of the ALA, but it's just not something that should be reported in your volunteer hours."

Some dates coming up you can help promote Americanism include: February 20 Presidents Day, March 3 National anthem Day, March 13 National K9 Veterans Day, March 25 National Medal of Honor Day, March 29 National Vietnam War Veterans Day, April 5 Gold Star Spouses Day, April 9 National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day and May 29 Memorial Day

I hope that many units have been promoting the American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Essay contest. All submissions must be received by March 15, 2023 so that I have enough time for my judges to read all of the submissions, select the divisional winners, and forward them to the National Eastern division Chairman.

Please don't forget that the next reporting period is April 1st to your county chairman and April 10th to the department chairman. Also, please be sure to submit an entry towards any of the Americanism Awards. The deadline for receipt is May 1st. This may include any activities your unit and/or county has participated in, or events hosted from May 2022-April 2023.

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

The 2023 session is scheduled for June 2-4, 2023, at SUNY Morrisville. Both Tim Collmer and myself are anxiously awaiting your application for this year's session. It was so wonderful to see so many members interested in hearing more about the family collage at Mid-Winter on Friday night. I had 25 applications available and handed out each one of them. For those who took them I ask – Have you mailed it in yet? This year's session is filling up pretty quickly so don't hesitate; only 100 applications will be accepted. As a reminder the price for tuition is **\$250.00** The updated student applications are also available on the Legion Department Website just use the link on our own website @ [depty.org](http://depty.org)

Please consider joining us this year. Only as a united team can we ensure that our great organizations will continue to grow and support our veterans, their families, as well as our

children and the communities that we live in. Learning as well as teaching each other about our organizations will only make us stronger.

*Auxiliary Emergency Fund.....Evelyn Gerlett Chairperson*

*ALA Foundation.....Cathe MacInnes, President*

*Chaplain.....Linda Connell, Chairperson*

In the month of February, we remember the Four Chaplains who were on the Dorchester in 1943 when a torpedo struck the ship. Our National Chaplain, Karen Peel, has their story on the Reflections page of February's Auxiliary magazine. Please take a moment to read it and pray for those four chaplains who thought only of trying to save others.

I am receiving prayers for President Nancy's Prayer Book. Please keep them coming...!! You are welcome to include prayers from Auxiliary gatherings, meals, visitations, unit or county meetings, or your own prayers that are special to you. Maybe those you wrote, the ones that you read somewhere & used, and even those that your parent or grandparent may have said! Please remember to include Past Dept. President Diane Gerber in your thoughts and prayers. Diane passed away in December.

I would like to thank all the chaplains for their emails, calls & notes of communication. Your kindness and words of encouragement are appreciated.

In your prayers, please remember those who are less fortunate or have troubles, and especially our veterans and active military. And always -- Be Kind to Each Other...!!

*Community Service.....Shirley Ellis, Chairperson*

*Constitution and Bylaws/Resolutions.....Sally Johnston, Chairperson*

Since our last Newsletter, I have received several Constitution & Bylaws (C&B) along with Standing Rules to be reviewed. However, I need your help. It's apparent that there is still some question as to what needs to be forwarded to me as your C&B Chairman for review.

Standing Rules seem to be the biggest issue. Remember that Standing Rules are those events/items in which your Unit / County / District vote on at the beginning of an administrative year to be followed throughout the year. They are Rules that state a "specific" content, such as "the unit will pay up to \$150.00 for 3 members to attend Mid-winter Conference, funds to come from the General Fund."

I have received several Standing Rules that do not begin with #3 following the Department Standing Rules, #1 and #2, Senior and Junior dues, respectively. Many have forwarded a separate document on the Unit's letterhead. Simply begin your Units Standing Rules with #3. Beware not to repeat items that are already in the Constitution & Bylaws.

(Meeting is the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 7pm). That is already covered in the Bylaws.

Standing Rules are intended to simplify and save time at a Unit meeting. Several Units have forwarded as many as 40 Standing Rules. Many of those where duplication of the C&B.



Additionally, we must remember we cannot make a Standing Rules that states a member “WILL OR IS REQUIRED” to do thus or so. We are all volunteers and though we would like to see someone “pay” “X” for a phone going off during a meeting, we really can’t enforce it.

Also, “gender” terminology is missing. I realize that we are used to a “female” population but remember we may have “male members” in our Units and need to be addressed accordingly.

We got off to a slow start this year with this committee. However, there is still plenty of time to make your submissions for my review. I have had to send several back, which is not cost effective for all involved. My plea is that you review and review again before you send anything to me. The Postal Service is very slow, only open 4 hours a day.

When you are filling out your Transmittal Sheet which needs to be included with your submission, please be sure that the contact information is correct, especially the email address. I’ve had some emails returned.

I have received notification from the National Organization that I will have to provide a “Year End Report.” Please provide me with any activities that you may have regarding the C&B Committee. Maybe you had or will have a workshop. Maybe you provided a skit to practice parliamentary procedure. Maybe you held “mock” elections skit. Let me know. Thank you in advance and I look forward to submitting a unique report from the state of New York.

*Education.....AnneBaglio, Chairperson*

*ALA Empire Girls State.....Kris Dziduch, Chairperson  
.....Members Terri D. Wallace and Claire Herrman*

It’s February, and time to check the ALA EGS timeline and deadlines!

Remember, your interviews and selection of your citizen(s) and alternate(s) should be made by March 1st! Don't forget that many schools have a winter break in February, and you will need to factor that into your interview timeline. Units should have all materials to the County ALA EGS Chairman by March 15th and the County ALA EGS Chairman should have all materials to our ALA EGS Registrar, Claire, by March 31st!

Remember, additional copies of the mailed materials can also be downloaded from the ALA EGS website: [empiregirlsstate.org](http://empiregirlsstate.org) under the ALA Resources Tab. Password: GirlsState

Please select Alternate Candidates! Even though your quota may have been reduced in 2023, it does not mean that you shouldn't select Alternates! So many of our Alternates move up to Citizens before ALA EGS begins! So if you have more High Schools in your County or more Units in your County than slots, select candidates from each Unit and/or High School. Make a decision on who is a Citizen and who is an Alternate. Remember....Alternates most often become Citizens.

Orientation Information will be sent to the email addresses the candidates provide in their application in early May.

Are you, or someone you know, interested in joining the 2023 ALA EGS Team? Complete your online application! <https://alaempiregirlsstate.wufoo.com/forms/z1j78o8h1iyxfgi/> We are still looking for staff members to attend this year's session. In particular, we are striving to add

diversity to our staff, and are still in need of a mental health professional and an EMT or nurse for our health center in addition to counselors. Don't miss out on the opportunity to be part of a week you will never forget!!!

*Finance Committee/Audit..... Violet Brosart, Chairperson  
..... Members Mary Anne Casadei and Patricia Hennessy*

We have just passed the midway point in our administrative year which is August 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Remember that there is a dues increase which takes effect starting with the 2024 membership year. Has your unit increased their dues to cover unit expenses? Now is the time to discuss this at your unit meeting and raise it accordingly to cover your unit budgeted items. Please make sure that you discuss this and notify all your unit members that you will be voting on a dues increase if need be. Senior per capita to department will be \$28.00 and Junior per capita will remain the same at \$6.25 starting with the 2024 membership renewals in July 2023.

Please keep in mind that some of your members are on fixed incomes, therefore, maybe the unit can hold a special fundraiser to offset dues. Think outside the box and be creative.

Finally, if your unit has not submitted their Unit Audit form which was due December 2022, please do so now. The form is located on the department website under the Finance Committee.

If you have any questions, please contact any one of us on the Finance Committee

*Historian..... Bonnie St. Hilaire, Chairperson*

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays together, as we are in the New Year. Our counties in the department of New York should by now be making history. Our veterans are always a part of our history in the American Legion Auxiliary.

Our plan of action gives us a format, your history should reflect on what your units have accomplished as a whole. It's never too early or too late to start a history book. Please visit our plan of action to see the awards that are available.

All history should be submitted to the department chairpersons by May 1st, 2023.

Looking forward to hearing from all 62 counties in the department of New York with pictures of all visitations to be placed in our department President Nancy's history book this year.

Also please remember that March is woman's history month. I will need you to include in your report, the number of volunteers, the hours and mileage.

*Junior Activities..... Dianne Mosher, Chairperson*

We are beginning a new year with renewed hope and impressive leadership for our Junior members! We were able to hold Mid-Winter in-person and I am excited and proud to announce the Honorary Department Junior Officers that were elected:



President - Faithanne Nashton, 5<sup>th</sup> District.  
Vice President - Jay Strack, 4<sup>th</sup> District.  
Secretary/Treasurer - Isabelle Shanno, 3<sup>rd</sup> District.  
Chaplain - Peyton Burdick, 5<sup>th</sup> District.  
Historian - Kalynn Stern, 8<sup>th</sup> District.  
Sgt. At Arms - Brielle Barney, 4<sup>th</sup> District.

Mid-Winter activities began Friday evening with successful fundraising events for Department President Nancy's project. The Juniors also assisted Department Nancy with signing thank you cards for veterans. Discussion was held during a brief meeting with regard to the Honorary Department Junior Officer elections which were held on Saturday.

Early Saturday morning, the Juniors assisted Senior members with carrying their plates and coffee from the buffet to their seats. At 9:00 a.m., Honorary Junior President McKenna Donlon opened the meeting. Under new business, Eastern Division Honorary Vice President MacKenzie McDaniels gave a brief report about her year followed by the election of new officers, who were subsequently installed by Department President Nancy. McKenna then closed the meeting in proper format. Following the close of the meeting, the Juniors worked diligently on no-sew travel pillows made from t-shirts, which will be donated to area airport military courtesy rooms. They did a great job!

After lunch break, the Juniors created handmade valentines for veterans. They made approximately 30 works of art!!! The valentines were given to President Nancy so she could distribute them to veterans of her choosing. After that project was completed, the Juniors discussed flag etiquette. Those in attendance were very already well versed in flag etiquette and this discussion concluded the Juniors' Mid-Winter meeting. Congratulations to Co-Chairs Julianne Barton and Judy Wallace, and the parent(s) for their assistance on a successful conference!

Did you know ALA Juniors can have their own access to the MyAuxiliary Member Portal? All they need to do is access a browser and have their member number to set up their username at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org). This would enable them to access ALA Academy courses, download the Junior Patch Program and ALA coloring books and so much more!

The American Legion Auxiliary encourages young women to lead the way in continuing its legacy of serving veterans, the military, and their families. Please remember, you are a mentor, and Juniors are our future as they hopefully continue their ALA membership into adulthood! Wishing you continued success for a great year!

*Leadership.....Carrie Davenport, Chairperson*

"Morale Reflects Leadership."  
-Dr. Brad Johnson

The 2023 ALA Mid-Winter Conference was different and provided many different opportunities for many of our members. As with any change, there were some areas to improve upon and grow in, but overall, members were enthusiastic about the learning that occurred, the opportunities to collaborate they had, and the interactive workshops that left them inspired to continue the work of the ALA. Whether it was through a workshop, time collaborating with new

friends, or the Picasso-like art created at the Paint n Sip fundraiser, the 2023 ALA Mid-Winter Conference had a positive impact on the morale of the 225+ members in attendance.

Every time members of the American Legion Auxiliary organization come together for a meeting; we recite the preamble as a group. In it, we express our “devotion to mutual helpfulness.” Still, we have all had moments in our ALA journey that haven’t always felt as if others were devoted to the members and the mission, and other times that it most certainly did not feel like people were being helpful. So how do we overcome that? By looking at our leadership at the local, county, district, and state level. The quote above by Dr. Brad Johnson reflects just how vital those leaders are in impacting morale. Each one of us has an obligation to each other to lead in a way that promotes and fosters positive morale. We can do that in a few important ways.

1. **Encourage Understanding.** Take 5 minutes before jumping into the pomp and circumstance of the formal meeting structures to do some get-to-know-you activities. Gauge how your members feel about life and the work you are doing within the ALA to know how to proceed with the meeting. Knowing each other more personally and taking the time to learn about each other will help people work through disagreements and conflicts as they arise during meeting discussions.
2. **Encourage Education.** American Legion Auxiliary Senior Auxiliary Basics is a course on the leadership section of [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org) that is free to all senior members that focus on the organization’s history and legacy. Learn more below!
  - a. What: The Senior Auxiliary Basics Course teaches members about our organization, history, basic protocol, and basic conduct of business through a self-paced study course.
  - b. Who: Every member is encouraged to enhance her membership by expanding her knowledge of the organization. The Auxiliary Basics Course is designed and available for any member in good standing.
  - c. Why: A good strong organization is comprised of knowledgeable members. The more you know, the more informed you are concerning the mission of our organization, how best to accomplish our tasks, and how you are an integral part in the success of the organization.
  - d. Where: Take the course in the comfort of your home, with your Auxiliary sisters, at a meeting, or in a classroom session.
  - e. How: There are two methods to participate in this course. You may choose to read the material, then answer the test questions, or you may wish to follow along with the PowerPoint presentation, reading the text as you go and answering the test questions after each section. Whichever method you choose, print the answer and cover sheets before starting. When you have completed the answer sheet, send it to your current Department Leadership Chairman.
3. **Encourage Action.** Think about how you feel after you have done a good deed. Remember that feeling after spending time helping someone with a problem? These emotional “highs” help keep people feeling good about investing their time, resources, and efforts with the American Legion Auxiliary. Finding ways, both big and small, that members can support the mission of the ALA will capitalize on the excitement felt, which will positively impact a member’s morale.

Hopefully, these three items, it will help you be strong leaders within the organization while growing future leaders!

Remember to submit your reports and start working on your end-of-year award entries!

*Legislative.....Karen Chan, Chairperson*

*National Executive Committee.....Marie Mock*

The National Executive Committee is working hard to make sure that the states are in compliance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the organization by appointing committees that are looking into the complaints that have been brought before us. It is always difficult to determine how to solve disputes that can't be settled at lower levels, but the committee members are doing a superior job.

We will be meeting by Zoom this month so, if you have concerns, please let me know. I would be happy to move your questions up the chain of command as needed.

*National Security.....Suzanne Williams, Chairperson*

Now is the time of the year we need to be thinking about the several awards available for National Security. Begin by choosing and completing the Award Applications.

**NATIONAL AWARD  
MOST OUTSTANDING UNIT NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAM**

If you know of an outstanding program by a **Unit** – please send your entry **no later than May 1, 2023**. For more information refer to your POA pg 161-162.

**NATIONAL AWARD  
SALUTE TO SERVICEWOMEN**

There are several areas that must be met for this award. Refer to your POA pg 163-164 for the criteria. Please submit your entry no later than May 1, 2023.

**DEPARTMENT AWARD  
THE SUSAN M. BRITTON AWARD**

To the **Unit** and **County** National Security Chairman who submits the most outstanding report of overall National Security activities. Submit this entry no later than May 1, 2023.

Additional Programs to support military families, especially newer families to the military who are usually younger and could be the lower ranked military service members. Such as:

**Operation Homefront –**

**Home on the Front** – helps military families locate homes, usually they are first time buyers.

**Back to School Brigade** - helps partner with Dollar Tree to gather backpacks and supplies for school-age children.

**Holiday Meals for the Military** – this program works to provide holiday meals during Thanksgiving or Christmas.

**Holiday Toy Drive** – this program partners with Dollar Tree to provide gifts for military families and offers the ALA an opportunity to assist.

**Star Spangled Baby Showers** – these showers are for military families to help with the birth of a new baby and to provide supplies for both baby and mother.

For additional information on any and all of the above programs, please visit “Operation Homefront” <https://opereationhomefront.org> .

**ALSO**, please send me pictures of your Unit activities that include wearing RED on Fridays! These pictures will be shared with the National Chairman and will be displayed during our quarterly zoom meetings.

*Parliamentarian.....Marie Mocké*

As we approach springtime, it is a good time to plan for our elections of officers. Our parliamentarian should check the governing documents to see what offices need to be filled with new people, what timelines are prescribed, and the processes our units and counties use. A smoothly run election season will make everyone more comfortable. Pay attention to the rules and have documentation available to back up your plans.

There should be a nominating committee. The parliamentarian may or may not be part of the committee. Check your local rules. They probably say who needs to be on the committee and when the committee will present the slate. When choosing the committee, think about representing all of the various factions in your group. If everyone feels represented, they will be more willing to accept the slate and to accept the elections.

Once the slate is presented, pay attention to how you are to conduct the elections. Ballot results should not be reported to the body in detail. There is no need to make the people who were willing to run but who lose feel embarrassed. Your goal is to get the best officers with the least amount of resentment. An election where everyone feels that they were heard and will be represented is the ideal.

Spring is a time of renewal. Let’s work to make our units and counties welcoming to all. Membership is everyone’s responsibility.

*Poppy.....Sherry Wilson, Chairperson*

*Public Relations.....Joelle Cartier, Chairperson*

The POW/MIA poster contest had two entries at midwinter this year and the winning poster was from Sgt. John Sardiello Unit 1634 in the 10th district, Suffolk County. This Unit won a \$25.00 gift card to the Hobby Lobby. Congratulations to this Unit and beautiful work! The National Public Relations Committee has been checking out Facebook pages throughout the nation and has reported that some of the pages are excellent and are monitored consistently. However, there are some pages that have not been updated in quite some time. This is a huge problem. Facebook was encouraged as a great tool to share information with our members and the public. Some of these Facebook pages are like ghost towns and have not been updated in years so please update your pages if possible. The American Legion Auxiliary prides itself in being the “Go To” organization for information and outdated information is a detriment rather than a benefit to the ALA. Please check for these outdated pages and encourage others to either find suitable administrators or remove the page. These words are directly from the National Public Relations chairperson.

*Warrior Family Assistance..... Charlene Mayville, Chairperson*

What a great Mid-Winter Conference! Many of you stopped by the WFA vendor booth to pick up newly revised Guidelines and brochures for the Warriors Family Assistance Program. As you know, in December, it was approved to expand the eligibility criteria to ALL veterans (rather than the ten-year limit)! WFA was also highlighted at the Conference in the Workshop session entitled "A Sea of Funding" However, it was a little disheartening to learn that only about one third of the audience for the workshop was familiar with the Warriors Family Assistance Program. We really do need to do a better job of letting our unit members and veterans know about this great financial assistance opportunity.

I am happy to say that we did have our first grant awarded to a veteran living within the 7<sup>th</sup> District! After speaking with several of you at the Conference, I am assured we will be getting more applicants! I am looking forward to the April reports and hope to see that there is a lot of activity on publicizing the program. There are revised brochures and a Fact Sheet that you can use to get the word out. You can contact the Department Office or [nyalawfa@gmail.com](mailto:nyalawfa@gmail.com) for more information.

**The Department office is here to help you and we are only a phone call or email away.**  
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