



September 2023

Department President's Message.....Karen St. Hilaire

I would like to Thank the American Legion Auxiliary members for electing me as your 2023-2024 Department President. I look forward to visiting each county with Department Commander Tim Collmer and Detachment Commander Peter DeAngelis, as we deliver our messages. I am also excited to see the programs you are providing for our Veterans. My theme this year is "Light the Way for Veterans". I have always admired the variations of Lighthouses throughout our state. Yet each one shines a light of hope. I want each of you to shine your light to guide our veterans and their families to a brighter future. Also remember to light the way for our members as you mentor them to become our future leaders, so they can also assist our veterans.

My project is Hope for The Warriors. Hope For the Warriors was founded in 2006 by military spouses and families, as they witnessed, firsthand, the effects war imparts on service members and their families. Today it is still managed by military spouses and veterans. Hope believes in family values; therefore, it includes programs for the entire family, including support for caregivers, such as scholarships for spouses and caregivers. "Hopes" main focus still remains with the veterans. Veterans may contact Hope online or by phone and each veteran is evaluated for suicide risk and has many programs to prevent veteran suicide. You may find videos and information on website, www.hopefortheveterans.org. Please send all donations to ALA Department of NY 1580 Columbia Turnpike, Bldg. 1, Suite 3, Castleton on Hudson, NY 12033. Make checks payable to ALA Dept of NY : on memo line: Presidents Project.

I would like to announce that all Department officers, Committee Chairs, District/County/Unit Presidents will receive one unbound 2023-2024 ALA Department of New York Plan of Action. The books will be mailed to District Presidents to be distributed at Fall Conference. Make sure to use the current 2023-2024 Unit and County report forms. As you heard from the previous leadership team, impact reports are extremely important for congress to pass bills to improve benefits for veterans. As we all know, those impact reports can be confusing. Therefore, we revised each committee report form to include the corresponding portion on the impact report. We have merged the National Plan as well as Department awards on each page. Extra copies of the Plan of Actions books may also be purchased from Department Office for \$25.00 (which includes postage). Please send photos of your committee-based events to the Department Chairman. As these are necessary.

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We have just returned from a great National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. Here is a few highlights: Eastern Division Mission Training will be held in Providence, Rhode Island on November 4, 2023. You can find registration information on the department website (deptny.org). You can also visit ALA Academy for free self-paced courses on many Auxiliary programs.

National President Lisa Williamsons project is “Be the One.” If you notice her pin in the left upper corner are the numbers 988. That is the Veteran Suicide and Prevention hot line, Veterans in crisis can call “988” when answered dial “1” . They will be connected to crisis specialists. Also please consider donating to the AEF (Auxiliary Emergency Fund) and CWF (Child Welfare Foundation). You may submit checks to ALA Department of NY Office place the project on memo line.

Karen St. Hilaire, President
ALA Department of NY



Membership.....Kim Quick, Chairperson

I was so glad to be at Fall Conferences in-person again this year. The comradery we share as members is awesome.

Membership 2024 has begun, and I know we will get 100% for our Department President Karen. I am encouraging everyone to get (or renew) your ALAMIS. The applications are on the Department website www.deptny.org. To pay dues online, you will need the Unit Full subscription, and have a Mastercard or Visa debit or credit card for your Unit. Many membership chairs have said they love using this tool; it is easy, and you have less errors.

Now I know you are all thinking about the dues increase this year. Here is how you “pay for the increase”. Go to our national website www.alaforveterans.org and take advantage of all the benefits and discounts you are eligible for just by being a member. Also, if a member does not have access to the website, please help them as well.

Do you know how to log in to the national website for members only information? You do if you have already created an account. If you don’t have one, please go to the national website and create one. You will have access to a lot of Member Only information. Thank you, Caitlin, for including the instructions to create a national website username and password on our department website www.deptny.org under the MEMBERSHIP tab (scroll down past the transmittal forms) under Helpful Resources.

Once you login to the national website, click on the word “RESOURCES”. On the right-side of the screen, you will see “Member Discounts”; then click on “All Member Discounts” just below that. The retail store discounts are located under Benefit Hub. Don’t forget to copy the code number. Click on Learn More just under the code number and you will be taken to the Benefit Hub website where you will find hundreds of discounts from movie tickets to travel to cars. Yes, it is a different username and password from your national website login. Many members have told me they didn’t even know about this benefit. Also, I have saved money at Sam’s Club and other chain stores by showing my CURRENT membership card. When I showed it at Sam’s Club, they automatically reduced my membership fee dramatically. By saving money on things you already buy, you can save enough to “pay your dues increase”.



VA&R.....Maureen Morgan, Chairperson

The Department of New York is off and running. Most of us are just getting back from the National Convention and we are excited and ready to start this year off with a bang. Let's start by supporting our Veterans in and out of VA facilities. There are many Veterans that need rides to and from their VA appointments or need to go food shopping or just need someone to talk to. Let's work on our programs that are in the plan of action. Some of the programs are the Wreaths Across America, and the National Creative Arts Festival. Plan parties for the Veterans that are in the nursing homes that can't get out. Donate to the VA Homes with art supplies, clothing, and baskets of goodies for their rooms. Then when reporting remember, pictures, pictures, and reporting helps us get noticed. Until next time.



Children and Youth.....Laura Rowe, Chairperson

We are off and running on another exciting year for the American Legion Auxiliary. Let's make this a memorable year for the Children and Youth!
This committee emphasizes protecting, caring for and supporting children and youth, particularly children of veterans and military families.
Remember April is the month of the Military Child and April 15 is Purple Up! Day for Military Children. Let us all plan a special celebration in April in honor of Children and Youth Month and the month of the Military Child.
Please keep in mind throughout the year the two special national awards, the Youth Hero Award, and the Good Deed Award. Educate your schools and communities on these awards and let us recognize our youth. Be sure to use the online form to submit your nomination. Do you know of military children who may be experiencing a separation from one or both parents due to deployment? Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 honors these military children. Think of ways to let these children know that they are also heroes.
Please give to the Child Welfare Foundation. Your donation to this Foundation will contribute to the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual welfare of children and youth. At your fall conference, a pig will be provided to each county. County Presidents please oversee that these pigs are filled at both the Unit and County meetings each month. I encourage all to donate to the Child Welfare Foundation to help in the welfare of our youth.
Halloween is right around the corner, export the Have a Safe Halloween Coloring Book from the National Website and along with Halloween treats, hand out this coloring book to all your little ghosts and goblins.
I look forward to receiving your reports!



NEC.....Marie Mock

Welcome to a new Auxiliary year. I hope you are all excited to make NY stand out as the awesome organization that we are.

At the National Convention, the National Executive Committee approved both the National Budget and the Foundation budget as proposed. We also ratified the list of National appointments. Linda Tome will be Leadership Chairman with Sheila Holman as Eastern Division Chair. Deb Morris will be Eastern Division Jr. Activities Chair. I'm sure they will lead us well. The budgets and Chairs are available on the National website. We then went into executive session to discuss some concerns. I am happy to report that NY was not on that agenda. Keep up the good work. Thank you for trusting me to represent you again this year. I will do my best to do that well.

American Legion Family College .. Debby Herrmann, ALFC Liaison

The 2023 session was a big success and I couldn't have been happier with the whole experience. But now it's time to see if we can top it with the 2024 session scheduled for the first weekend in June which is May 31 - June 2, 2024. As of today, the plan is to have it at SUNY Morrisville.

With Tim as our new Commander, Past Commander David Riley has step in as Dean and we will be preparing for the 2024 session which we hope will be another full class of 100 students. I have been informed by David that tuition cost for 2024 will be \$300.00 The updated student application is currently being updated and should be available soon on the Legion Department Website just use the link on our own website @ deptny.org

Please consider joining us in 2024. 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.

American Legion Auxiliary Foundation-Cathleen MacInnes, ALA Foundation Board of Directors President, Terri Wallace, ALA Foundation Board of Directors Treasurer, Carrie Davenport, ALA Foundation Board of Directors Risk Compliance officer

Does your Unit or County have a special project to benefit veterans? Now is the time to plan one – and to apply for an ALA Foundation Veteran Projects Fund grant to support your funding!

Do you want to furnish one of the rooms in the new cottages at the Canandaigua VAMC? Provide appliances or furniture for the Foreverly House in Ballston Spa? New appliances for Basilone Manor or Bowen Manor in Buffalo? Furniture for the lounge for the on-campus veterans group meetings at a college or university near you? Shelving or a walk-in refrigerator for Feed Our Vets food pantry in Watertown? Room refurbishment at the Commonwealth Residence or East 119 th Street SRO in New York City?

So many opportunities for your Unit to make a meaningful contribution to the veterans in your community at very little cost to you! Veteran Projects Fund grants can cover 80% of the costs, up to a maximum of \$10,000 per grant. For example, furnishing a bedroom at a transitional housing facility costs approximately \$500. Your Unit could raise \$100, apply for a Veteran Projects Fund grant, and furnish a room!

Envision your project – then go to <https://alafoundation.org/veteran-projects-fund-grants/> to apply for a grant, make your plans, and make the plans into reality! Check out the Leadership session on ALA Foundation Grants that's described in this month's Leadership Committee news for more information about the process – attend the session and apply for a grant!





Americanism.....Judy Wallace, Chairperson

I am so excited for this year and what your unit, can bring forth in your submissions for the Americanism Committee. If you know of some home-schooled students, they are most welcomed to apply for the Americanism Essay Contest to include students with special needs. This year's theme for the Americanism Essay Contest is "What does freedom mean to me"? Did you know this essay contest is open to students in grades 3 to 12. For example, you can reach out to your local library and ask to distribute the essay contest. You can make it a social hour where unit juniors come together and write about "What does Freedom mean to me". We all know of a teacher or two. Talk with them and see if they would be interested in hosting an Americanism Essay Contest either at the school or your local unit. What a great idea right! The best essay would be forwarded to Department in hopes of winning. Each grade level is divided into six classes. To get started, go to <https://www.legion-aux.org/>. Put your mouse on "How We Serve", click on the third description, Americanism Essay Contest, on the far left of your screen under "Patriotic Youth Programs" to see the rules and ideas for you to bring forth to your units. Going forward with the theme of being Patriotic. How about your unit coming together and purchasing some Flag of the United States Fold-Outs which illustrates and describes, in detail, the correct way to display and respect the American Flag. Since your already there, how about you purchase the Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette. Purchase of these two items can be found on the Flag and Emblem Website. Another awesome idea, once you have received your books you can teach older students like your Junior High School Students who in turn can teach the young unit Junior Members. You can make it an ice cream social and have fun at the same time. Let's not forget to take pictures and send them in with your reports. Hey but wait! Oratorical is another contest that's been around since 1938 and is a great opportunity for young high school students to enter. This contest theme focusses on the U. S. Constitution. The student should be very knowledgeable about the topic and be able to speak freely and clearly. I would recommend that you type in "American Legion Oratorical" in your favorite search engine and hit enter. Look for "Oratorical Contest | The American Legion", click on the link, and whala! American Legion Oratorical Contest pops up. Once you are there, you can watch YouTube videos of the recent Oratorical Finalists. I must admit, I have watched the YouTube videos to get a better understanding of the students in how they speak and how they are passionate in what the subject matter is. I get goose bumps and excited because this is what our future leaders look like. What an awesome way to promote Americanism. The children of now are the future of tomorrow. Did you know that Americanism has a Facebook page at the ALA National Level. They sure do! So how about you sign in on Facebook and send your photos and let everybody know what you're doing as a unit. It's a Red White and Blue Parade!



Corker & Keaveny's Corner.....Department Office



Per capita for senior members for the 2024 membership dues is now \$28.00 and the junior per capita is \$6.25.



Units with Full User ALAMIS access must send the completed membership application signed by the Post Adjutant or Post officer to the department office once you enter it. Please include the new ID# on the application. Keep a copy for the unit file.



All transfers need to be sent to the department office as well as all data forms for deceased members.



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.



Poppy orders – Please use the new poppy order form in the Plan of Action for 2023-2024 as the price has changed.

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



Auxiliary Emergency Fund
Geraldine Klussman, Chairperson

This is the start of a new year. The Auxiliary Emergency Fund provides temporary financial assistance to eligible members during times of financial crisis, weather related emergencies and national disasters. These funds are to be used for shelter/utilities only.

With the generosity of unit members and individuals the grant amount is now up to \$3,000.00 that our members may be eligible for.

The AEF is now able to continue to grant assistance through voluntary contributions. The Auxiliary promotes awareness of the fund for members in order to continue its availability as a resource to help members in certain dire states. A national AEF grant review committee awards AEF grants to applicants based on certain membership and fund availability.

Let us save our pennies to help those that are in need.



Chaplin...Pattie Galley, Chairperson

Welcome back!

As a chaplain the most important thing for you to remember is that the American Legion Auxiliary does not promote any one religion. Remember to be kind to everyone we meet, because we don't know what they are going through. Kindness or a smile will do!

In addition, please use the Chaplin forms, in the plan of action. Unit membership chairperson, please fill out the forms with the correct information about the family. I as a chairperson for Department sends sympathy cards to the family, so they know that we are thinking about them.

I will be making a book of prayer for President Karen so I would like to ask to everyone to send me one of your favorite prayers or one that was used in your unit or county. Please don't forget to send your name and any extra information about the prayer you sent.

Thank You

Community Service.....Vickie Lennon, Chairperson

It's the beginning of the school year and the Holiday season. So now we really need to help the community more. Collect school items for the students in need. There are students that go to school unprepared because they can't afford what they need. They are so appreciative when they receive these supplies.

Help out at one of the many food cupboards in your community. Hold food drive to help build up the inventory. Also with the cold months approaching quickly collect clothes at your Posts and take to the homeless shelters. Don't forget there are a lot of homeless Veterans that could really use our help.


At some point all of us help the community in one way or another. Let's remember what we do and report everything! It's very important to report!!

Let's have a great year helping our Veterans and community.

Constitution & Bylaws.....Deborah Morris, Chairperson

Attention: All Unit, County, and District *Constitution & Bylaws* Chairpersons and Presidents: My name is Deborah Morris and I'm excited to inform you that I am your new Dept. Constitution & Bylaws Chair, for convenience of space referred as **(C&B)**.

My email is nyalacontitution@gmail.com. This is not a "reporting" committee, but if you do a review of your docs with no changes still, please let me know. I will be compiling your activities as I review and forward your auxiliaries completed governing documents.

So, let me ask you; **"Think for a moment**  **"** when was the last time your members reviewed or updated their Unit, County or District **(C&B)**?

- 1) Have you checked your **(C&B)** documents date, been awhile?
- 2) Your **(C&B)** should be reviewed once a year, for needed changes.
- 3) It's also an excellent learning tool for your members.

Now I'm going to offer you step by step instructions of how to ready your documents to be sent to this chairperson.

- 1) You will need a *1 copy* of your last **(C&B)**, can't find it, contact me.
- 2) You will also need *2 copies* of your new **(C&B)**, find on deptny.org fill out **all** the blank, (*please print clearly*) 1 copy to Dept HQ and 1 copy returned.
- 3) Please remember the front cover form (Page 1) of **(C&B)** please print clearly your unit/county/district name, the date of members approved, and signatures of President and Secretary. The 2 Lines below are for "*Dept. use only*".
- 4) FYI, last page of **(C&B)** "*Standing Rules*" *there is already a 1 & 2 rules line. So, that means when you have **additional** "*Standing Rules*" the numbers will follow as 3, 4 and so on. Please do not start with the #1.*
- 5) You will need the **(C&B)** review form, found on Dept. website deptny.org, under programs, scroll down to form and print off. Please make sure you have the contact information on the review form print clearly name, email, and cell number.
- 6) Send to Deborah Morris, Dept. C&B 7826 State Rt. 13, Blossvale, NY 13308

For any questions, or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me through the **(C&B)** email, I will respond to you within 24 hours. It's important to share all information with your officers and members. To our Units & Counties Chairs each month maybe read sections of your **(C&B)** to your members at meetings for discussions. We need to build confidence in our leaders of today with a better understanding of you governing docs. It's a very useful tool for the leaders of tomorrow. Thank you in advance, for accepting the **(C&B)** committee in your Unit and County, may God Bless you all with strength and a great sense of humor.



Education.....Lucille Mozzillo, Chairperson

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year and ALA Administrative Year. My name is Lucille Mozzillo, and I am very excited to be serving as the Department of New York Education Chairman this year. The purpose of the Education committee is to promote quality education for children, especially military children, and adults; to encourage schools to invite veterans to speak in their classrooms; to provide scholarships for students who desire a college education; to support legislation that establishes new scholarship opportunities and to support the Education program and scholarship opportunities of The American Legion.

The Department of New York and the National Organization are continuing to offer several different scholarship opportunities. Please reach out to your local schools now with copies of these various scholarships or provide the website information where students can download the information themselves. Units are also encouraged to participate in the Give 10 to Education Program in order to support students and teachers.

Consider making plans to honor all staff that work with our children during American Education Week November 13-17, 2023. Some suggestions of things you can do include thank you cards to bus drivers, clerical, custodial, teacher aides and assistants as well as the teachers. You can also offer to provide snacks, lunch, or maybe adopt a classroom.

Some important dates to remember: November 13-17, 2023, is American Education Week; March 1, 2024 National Scholarship Applications are due; April 15, 2024 Purple Up! Day for Military Children; May 6-10, 2024, Teacher Appreciation Week



Empire Girls State.....Terri Wallace, Chairmen,
Claire Herrman 1st Vice & Kaylee Mathews 2nd Vice/Registrar

We want to kick off our new year with a big thank you to everyone for all their hard work and support for a successful 2023 ALA Empire Girls State Session. We cannot provide the program without you!

We are looking ahead already to our 2024 ALA Empire Girls State Session. Our Team will attend the annual Girls State Conference in Indianapolis September 22-24, 2023. During the weekend we work on our planning, receive the latest updates from National Headquarters and network with other Girls State Teams from other Departments and the Girls Nation Team.

Last year we offered an Overview for Unit and County ALA EGS Chairman via Zoom and will do the same again this year. This is especially important for those chairmen who were new to their position. For our seasoned chairman, it is a chance to share Tips and Tricks with the new chairman and be sure you get the latest updates. Yes, sometimes things change! So, mark your calendars! We will offer two sessions: Sunday, November 5th, 2023 from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm and Wednesday, November 15th, 2023 from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Details will go out via email in October and will be on our website (www.empiregirlsstate.org). Feel free to email empiregirlsstate@gmail.com with your information if you would like to be included. The presentation is designed for Unit and County ALA EGS Chairman, but any ALA member may join us to learn more about the ALA EGS Program.

So, what are the details for 2024?

- ALA Empire Girls State will take place at SUNY Brockport June 30th - July 6th, 2024.
- Our quota for the state will be 300 Citizens from our 62 Counties.
- Tuition for the sponsoring Unit or Post is **\$370.00** per citizen.
- Each Citizen (not Alternate) will pay a \$50.00 Non-Refundable Registration fee. We ask that the Unit or Post not pay that fee except when a family has a financial hardship. Girls compare notes after they arrive and they don't understand why some Citizens attended "free" and some had to "pay" \$50.00. We suggest that the Unit could consider returning the \$50.00 Application to the family after they attended if they feel strongly about covering the fee. Contact us if you have questions!
- Interviews should take place In January and February, with all Citizens and Alternates being selected by March 1st. Your plan should NOT be to start your interviews in March. (If you have any problems connecting with the schools, please contact us).
- ALA Empire Girls State utilizes an online Registration Form and has the Candidates upload many of the necessary documents. The Candidates should complete all paperwork by March 31st.
- All paperwork and payment must be received at the Department level by March 31st.
- All Citizens and Alternates are required to attend a virtual ALA EGS Orientation via Zoom in May/June. Parents, sponsoring ALA Units and TAL Posts are encouraged to attend the virtual meeting.
- Parents, Units and Posts are encouraged to attend our State of the State Ceremony (Culmination of the Program) on Friday, July 5th at 7:00 PM at SUNY Brockport.
- All Citizens may not leave on Friday night with their parents after the ceremony. Check out is Saturday morning from 6 am - 9 am.
- Citizens that finish the week-long program are eligible for the Samsung Scholarship. Consider helping your Candidates with the process starting in March!
- Citizens that finish the week-long program are also eligible to enroll in a Leadership Course for College Credit from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs for college credit at a greatly reduced tuition price.
- If any American Legion Family group would like to support the program, other than by sponsoring a Citizen (\$370), consider paying for a Booster Ad or as a Booster Supporter in our State of the State Program (\$1 - \$50). We also have an ALA EGS Store. Consider providing them with some money to buy a t-shirt or Sweatshirt or some snacks during the week.
- Please check the 2023-2024 Plan of Action. Share those pages with your Unit and County ALA EGS Teams.
- All of our information is on our ALA EGS Website: <https://www.empiregirlsstate.org>
- There is a tab, "ALA Resources". The password is: GirlsState You will be able to access resources and copies of any forms

In addition to all of the great information, there are also links to join our awesome ALA Empire Girls State team! Please review the job descriptions and requirements and consider joining our team! Applications are due January 1, 2024, so that we can begin working through them and selecting the staff! Once selected, our Team meets via Zoom approximately 4 times throughout the Spring to get to know each other and to cover some initial training. In-person Orientation Training takes place at SUNY Brockport Friday, June 28th - Sunday June 30th, 2024, prior

to our 2024 ALA EGS Session. It is such a rewarding experience; we know that if you join us one year, you too, will catch the “girls state bug” like each of us have! Don't forget to review your 2024 ALA EGS County Quota form! This information is in the Plan of Action and requires your county's immediate attention! The Quota form needs to be returned to Claire Herrman, ALA EGS 1st Vice Chairman by November 1, 2023, so that plans can be made to accommodate each and every county! Happy Planning and let us know if we can help



Finance..... Mary Anne Casadei, Chairperson. Members Patricia Hennessy & Marie Mock

It is not too late to prepare a budget for your Unit or County. It is best to have it ready for your first meeting in September, but if it has not been done, do it now. Have all the info you will need ready so it will make it easier to prepare your budget. Know your membership goal, Junior members as well as Senior members. Anticipated income and expenses, make sure you include donations, secretary expenses ,committee expenses, and all other income and expenses your Unit/County has.

Make your Budget as detailed as possible. Keep track of when you anticipate receiving revenues and will be making expenditures. Consider operating reserves. Operating reserves are unencumbered funds, they can be used for operating as well as program expenses when there is a crisis or unanticipated shortfalls in revenues and budgeted expenses cannot be met. They are often referred to as a “Rainy Day Fund” to use for unanticipated or out- of- the -ordinary expenses.

Operating Reserves Funds serve as a critical component of your budget planning process for financial security and sustainability of your Unit/County. Follow a proper budgetary process concluding with the executive committee voting to approve the annual budget. Review actual to budgeted financial reports monthly to monitor that your Unit/County is operating within the framework of the budget.

Remember When preparing a budget, try to create a positive bottom line. Remember a budget is just a guide. The finance committee will need to approve the budget and forward it to the Unit/County Executive Committee for their approval then on to a regular meeting where the membership will vote to approve the annual budget. Once you've finalized your budget, set it—but don't forget it. Life happens. Emergencies arise, tragedies happen and we need to be able to step up to the plate. That's why it's important to track your expenses monthly and adjust your budget along the way, so you'll be in a better place to reach your goals.

Make sure your budget is prepared well in advance of your meeting. Give yourselves enough time so that you are not feeling rushed or stressed. Mistakes are made when we are in a hurry. Giving yourself ample time to create your budget will ensure that you have all your bases covered. Make sure any estimates you make are reasonable. Do not shoot for the stars when estimating your revenues. We all have high hopes, but too high can lead to difficulty when everything pans out. Remember, Units and counties are a clearing house. Money comes in and goes out. We are not supposed to have a large amount of money in reserve.



Historian..... Sheila Holman, Chairperson

Welcome to a new year and a journey into the history of the American Legion Auxiliary in the Department of New York. I was installed as the Fourth District President at our Department convention in July at the Westchester Convention center. I was given the Honor by our Department President Karen St. Hilaire to chair and record the history of our department and of our Auxiliaries.

The theme that has been chosen by President Karen is, “ Light the Way for Veterans “ for the year 2023-2024. What a wonderful thing to start our year in History. President Karen’s project this year Is “Hope For the Warriors”.

The greatest understanding of the past is one of the most powerful tools we have for shaping the Future and preserving the memories of our organization. Let’s start by recording the time we spend with our Veterans and their Families in throughout the Community with photos and articles. There Are so many wonderful programs held throughout the year that never get reported. How sad, that the history of a unit or county or district goes untold. Please Let’s change all of that! We have only two reporting times this year, I hope to hear from all 62 counties on the history that you all are meeting in your units.

Remember, we



Junior Activities.....Julianne Barton, Chairperson

Happy Fall Junior Activities Advisors!!!

Helping our Juniors learn about our great organization is an important part of our job. Mission Training this year is being held at the Marriot Providence Downtown, in Providence Rhode Island. Any Junior, 8 years old or older, is welcome and encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity for our Juniors to meet girls from all around our division and share what they are doing in their state. Our division includes the Northeastern states. It is also an opportunity for the Advisors to share ideas and get new thoughts on how to keep things fresh and exciting. Something we must do to keep our Junior excited about our program. Without participation, National is considering discontinuing Mission Training for the Juniors and that would be a shame. PLEASE consider bringing a Junior or 2 from your area, (carpooling with another Advisor would make it more fun and cost effective). It would also give your Junior the opportunity attend a valuable training session. These are memories they will have for a lifetime!!!

Registration can be completed on the National website under the Junior Activities Program.

The patch program is a great way to have fun and educate Juniors about many different aspects of the American Legion Auxiliary. It helps give you a guideline of activities that you can plan a meeting around. It also allows you to have Juniors of all ages working on projects at the same time. The activities are stimulating and open conversations to make for great “teachable moments.” You can find all the information on the Department website.

As Junior Activities Advisors, we are responsible for possibly the American Legion Auxiliary’s greatest asset, THE FUTURE!!!! We must nurture it, educate it, and allow it to grow. Have fun with the Juniors, include them in Senior activities (they love to help, contrary to popular belief) and if we could bottle their energy and enthusiasm, we would all be rich and dancing up a storm!!!!

So, round up your Juniors, their friends, and their friends’ friends, your granddaughters, and their friends, maybe even a new Junior or 2 and hold a meeting. Do something FUN!!! Give it a try and you might just find that it is a lot of fun and being around the Juniors does make you feel young again!!!

If you have any questions about anything Juniors, please feel free to contact me anytime!!!!

Leadership.....Carrie Davenport, Chairperson

Leadership within any organization touches and impacts all aspects of it from the members, programs, and other affiliated organizations. This year, we will be holding leadership workshops using Zoom. “Leadership over Lunch” will be held during the day, and “Late Night Leadership” will be held in the evening as an attempt to accommodate members and their busy lifestyles. When possible, the same workshop will be held at two different times to provide members flexibility to choose sessions that meet their needs.

September

Have you considered applying for a grant from the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation? Cathe MacInnes, what really happens when you fill out an application? Join us to learn from the ALA Development Team at ALA NHQ about the process and answer questions!

September 27th at 12pm

September 27th at 7pm



ALA DEPT OF NY
LEADERSHIP
OVER
Lunch
SEPTEMBER 27, 2023
12:00 PM

SCAN ME

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION

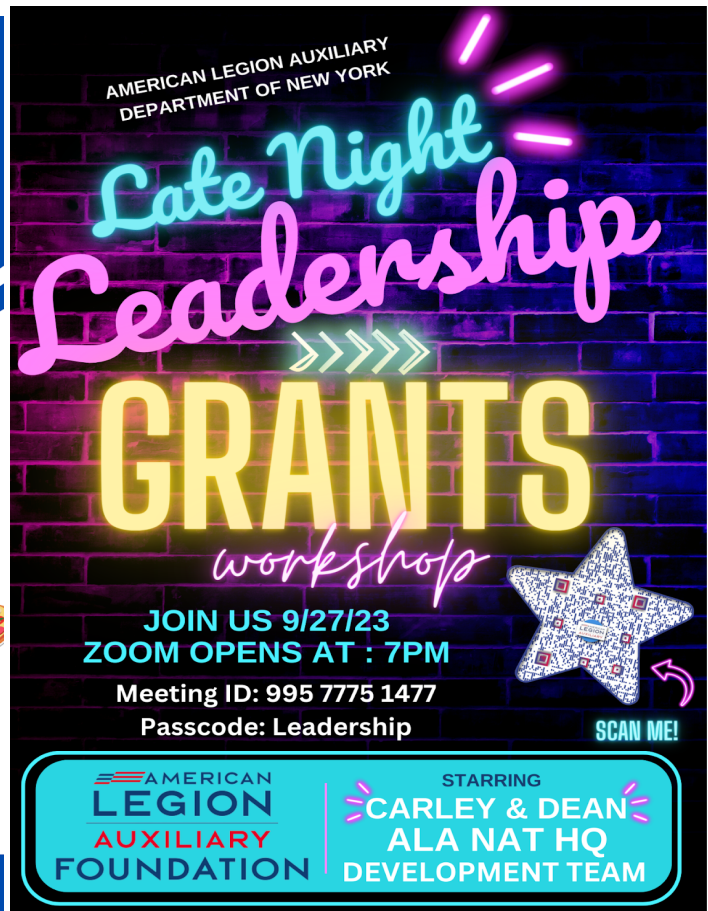
Menu

- GRANT CATEGORIES
- APPLICATION TIPS
- YOU'VE APPLIED NOW WHAT?
- SHOW ME THE MONEY?
- SERVING UP A LOT OF HELP!

You're Invited!

COME MEET CARLEY AND DEAN FROM THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM AT NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS!

MEETING ID: 995 7775 1477 PASSWORD: Leadership



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Late Night Leadership

GRANTS

workshop

JOIN US 9/27/23
ZOOM OPENS AT : 7PM

Meeting ID: 995 7775 1477
Passcode: Leadership

SCAN ME!

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION

STARRING
CARLEY & DEAN
ALA NAT HQ
DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Cont. next page

October

There were many requests for additional information and tips on using ALAMIS as a result of the 2023 ALA MidWinter Conference as well as from our online feedback form. Because of this, Debbie Morris has agreed to lead a workshop 2 different times.

October 10th at 12pm

ALA DEPT OF NY
LEADERSHIP
OVER
Lunch
OCTOBER 10, 2023
12:00 PM

SCAN ME

Menu

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

- ALAMIS
- Laughter
- Leadership

Debbie Morris will be serving up info and tips for this month's session!

MEETING ID: 995 7775 1477 PASSWORD: Leadership

October 11th at 7pm

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Late Night Leadership

ALAMIS
workshop

JOIN US 10/11/23
ZOOM OPENS AT : 7PM

Meeting ID: 995 7775 1477
Passcode: Leadership

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

STARRING
DEBBIE MORRIS

SCAN ME!

November

The Department of New York was awarded coaching workshops with 4 Past National Presidents at the ALA Foundation Auction. Stay tuned for details coming about our November Leadership workshop featuring these 4 awesome female leaders!



• P N P P A N E L 2 •

LINDA NEWSOME, KATHY DAUDISTEL,
CARLENE ASHWORTH, AND KRISTINE WEST

Leadership Workshop Ideas!

Do you have ideas for future leadership workshops? Consider filling out our feedback form so that we can help meet your needs!

Use this link:

<https://forms.gle/qQJFX9pJqifThjsdA>

or scan the QR code below!

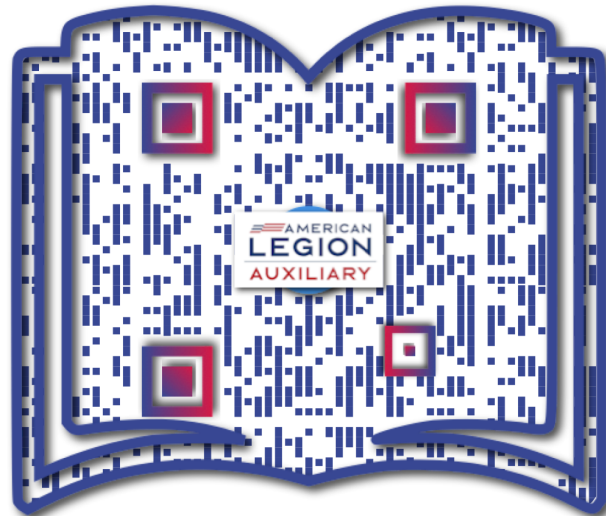
Join the 2024 ALA MidWinter Team!

The 2024 ALA MidWinter Conference will be here before you know it! We will be building upon last year's format based on your feedback and we are excited to offer a variety of opportunities. Have an idea for a workshop? Submit it here! Want to be a presenter? Sign up here!

Use this link:

<https://forms.gle/TiWMEUGrFjy93j3NA>

or scan the QR Code below!



Legislative.....Mary Ann Calbo, Chairperson

As we enter a new year of Service not Self , I would like to thank all of you for your support of our legislative initiatives. Our voices must be heard and heard loud to advocate for our Veterans, our communities, and our safety.

Last year, Congress passed the most comprehensive health care bill for Veterans who suffered toxic exposure while serving our country. This year, the biggest legislative push on veterans' issues could be making sure those veterans and others hurt on duty get all the money they're owed . Since 2004, veterans who have a disability rating of at least 50% have received their full military retirement pay and disability benefits. For those veterans who have a disability rating of less than 50%, they are subject to dollar for-dollar offsets under federal rules which impacts their monthly income at a loss of several hundred dollars month.

Veteran's advocate groups are already pressing lawmakers on the passage of the Major Richard Star Act to fix the payouts problem. Retired Army Maj. Richard Star, 51, passed away due to toxic exposure while serving as a combat engineer with multiple overseas tours. Star spent the last months of his life advocating for disabled and medically retired veterans.

It is our duty as members of the largest veteran's advocacy group in the United States, to contact our representatives to make our voices heard. Remember, our politicians vote on the will of their constituents, us, who put them in office.

Please sign on to the American Legion Auxiliary website to receive updates.

Go to www.dept.ny.org

Click: programs

Click: the legislative action center

Click: sign up for alerts

Thank you for your participation! EVERY voice counts!



National Security.....Janet Elston, Chairperson

The National Security program is to support a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families.

As we begin this Auxiliary year, think about ways we can support the emotional and social needs of active, reserve and transitioning military and their families. Besides shipping care packages to our active military overseas which many units do already, we can shop and prepare care packages for National Guard send offs and welcome home events.

Remember your Pow & MIA, with events held at your post. Marathon Unit 617 is hosting a Thank You to those that are "Proudly Serving Every day" and remembering our POW & MIA, November 4th at Noon everyone is invited. In hopes to show the families and friends what the American Legion and Auxiliary can do for our active military service members and their families.

Each unit or member can support military service members and families and report to the department their activity.

Some ideas in the Plan of Action:

*Raise awareness of POW/MIA and sharing ways in which we can spotlight this with members.

* Support the emotional and social needs of active, reserve and transitioning military service members and their families.

Parliamentarian.....Ann Geer

Do you know the parliamentary procedure. Below is a short quiz to test your knowledge. The answers follow the questions. Try not to look at the answers until you are finished. Have fun with it. Mark a T (true) or F (false) in the blank preceding each statement.

- ___ 1. The president of a group should be in charge of the meeting.
- ___ 2. In presenting motions, members should rise and address the presiding officer.
- ___ 3. Motions should be introduced by saying, "I make a motion."
- ___ 4. You should not second a motion unless you rise, address the "chair," and are recognized.
- ___ 5. Committee reports which include recommendations need to be approved by the group through a motion, second, and a favorable vote.
- ___ 6. Nominations made from the floor should always be seconded.

- 1. True. The chairman would be in charge of those meetings.
- 2. True. In business meetings, it is only after a member has addressed the presiding officer as "Mr./Madam President" or "Mr./Madam Chairman" and has been recognized that the member is privileged to speak and to present the proposal.
- 3. False. It is better form to say "I move that ... " instead of "I make a motion that..."
- 4. False. Only in the larger and more formal meetings is it necessary for one who seconds a motion to be "recognized."
- 5. True. All reports where a committee makes recommendations need to be approved by the group.
- 6. False. Nominations made from the floor do not need to be seconded. When it is moved that the report of a nomination committee be accepted or that nominations cease, this is a main motion. These situations do require a second followed by discussion and a vote.

**This quiz was taken from the Kansas State Research and Cooperative Extension. It is used by 4H.



Poppy/Poppy Poster.....Laura Booth, Chairperson

Let the Poppy Year begin!!!!

I would like to congratulate Elle DiPaolo of the Valhalla AL Post 1038 for winning the National ALA Poppy poster contest Class I. This time of the year many functions are being held. Why not have a poppy table to show your support. There are many different ideas on how to do this. Ideas can be found on the Legion-aux.org website. There you can also download the ALA_Poppy_Guide.pdf. Poppy committee chairs, please be aware that changes have been made to the poppy rules. Please refer to the POA. The POA is also available on the Dept. website.

Any units needing to order poppies, please submit your request by December 1st . Any orders after that date are not a guarantee.

Public Relations.....Sue Williams, Chairperson

Public Relations is not just about printing articles in the newspaper, it is how we interact with the general public and how they perceive the American Legion Auxiliary. Public Relations is everything from Branding: wearing Auxiliary clothing, name tags, and pins, so that the public is aware of our events; to our Facebook Pages; to the Sign outside of our local Post Homes; and to using Decals on our vehicles; just to name a few.

Everything you do in the name of the Auxiliary reflects on you, your Unit, and your Post! Make it a good image! Every Unit and County should have a Facebook Page! This enables your Unit to “post” its current events, upcoming meetings, and to display your accomplishments. Your County Page should also “share” posts about other Units in your region so that more people know what’s happening – share Events such as dinners and fund raisers – it’s not a competition between Units, but a Support System to help each other, and to gain ideas about events and fund raisers that might work for your own Unit. Facebook is not the only outlet for social media – make sure that you also take advantage of Twitter and Instagram.

Public Relations is also Business Cards for your American Legion Family at your local Post – include all of your entities on the same card. Create a Brochure about who your local Auxiliary is and why you do what you do in your region, something that you can hand out during the various functions that your Unit attends.

Speaking of Public Relations – be sure to create a Press Release and send it to your local newspaper for publishing prior to your Fund Raiser or dinner Event; and then follow-up with an Article AND PICTURES about all that your Unit did during that event.

Also use the “Out and About” section of your local newspaper to include upcoming Meeting dates and times! Don’t forget to count the number of volunteers who assisted with the Event and Activity, their hours and mileage, and REPORT! The first Department Reporting Period is November 1st so keep track of your activities. Units report to County; County reports to Department Program Chairmen.



Warriors Family Assistance.....Marie SantaCroce, Chairperson

The Warrior Family Assistance Program provides financial assistance and support to honorably discharged Veterans and currently serving Servicemen & Servicewomen living in New York State. Grants, up to \$1,200, can be requested for cost-of-living expenses, including payments in arrears for rent, utilities, medical care, car repairs/payments, etc. Please consider a donation to the WFA Program. All donations to WFA will ensure our Veterans and Active Servicemen and Women are given financial support in times of great need.

Donations from Units, Unit members, friends and family should be sent to your County Treasurer and one check sent to the Department Office. Check should be made out to Department Treasurer and WFA placed in the memo. Thank you for any support you can give. Applications can be obtained by calling the Department Office.

Please be sure to get all 9 pages, which includes the application and detailed instructions for your WFA County (or District) Committee. Once your committee has reviewed the application and interviewed the applicant, please send completed application and all required supporting documents and your recommendations to the Department WFA Chairman Marie SantaCroce at: nyalawfa@gmail.com