



November 2023

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

Fall has arrived, days are short, darkness arrives early, temperatures are colder and some of us have already experienced snow. I encourage all members to think of our veterans who do not like to go out in cold weather or even drive at night. They need our assistance with snow removal, grocery shopping and other errands. Or simply provide them with warm clothing and/or meals. Especially with the holidays arriving.

The Department Leadership Team, Commander Tim, Detachment Peter, Commander's aide Chip (who keeps track of where we need to be) and myself have already visited thirty-seven counties and attended three National Commanders Dinners. We have visited many Legion Post and historic areas in New York . The best part of our travels is meeting so many members and discussing our mission and programs. It is such an amazing experience that no words can describe.

I hope many members have been able to attend "Late Night (or afternoon) Leadership" zoom sessions, organized by Chairman Carrie Davenport's. I really enjoyed the most recent one, where we had a panel of four Past National ALA Presidents. The questions asked were great and the panel shared their knowledge and words of wisdom. If you haven't attended any or wish to learn about future sessions, they will be posted on the Department Facebook page and website (deptny.org).

One of the areas brought up at the Leadership session is also a frequent subject brought up by Legion family members during the Department visitations. The question was what is the biggest obstacle we need to overcome in this organization? The answer was "bullying". If we stop all the bullying, we can increase our membership and accomplish more. We need to use our time to work together amongst the American Legion Family.

I am excited to announce National ALA President Lisa Williamson, from Fairbanks Alaska, will be attending our Mid-Winter Leadership Conference to be held January 19 through 21, 2024 in Albany. I hope to see many members attending.

I wish every member and their family a Wonderful Holiday Season and a Very Happy New Year!



Membership.....Kim Quick, Chairperson

I would like to thank you for all the reports I have received. I see it has been tough in these challenging economic times to not only collect dues, but fundraising in general.

THANK YOU for reaching out to your members and your communities in whichever way you could, to renew or recruit members. Some reports had the “great granddaughter” hurdle listed. Unfortunately, that was not a Legion Family decision. That decision, sent to us in October 2019, reads as follows:

The IRS regulation concerning auxiliaries to veteran service organizations states in part: “At least 75 percent of its members are veterans, spouses of veterans, or related to a veteran within two degrees of consanguinity (i.e., grandparent, brother, sister, grandchild represent the most distant allowable relationships).”

I know there are members who say their dues isn’t due until December 31 st , but remind them that it needs to be processed by then; not just given to you on that day; especially if they want to vote at meetings in 2024.

I also ask you to look at the weekly Membership reports (either by email or from the Department website) and concentrate on those Units which are ZERO paid Units. Please find out why they haven’t processed membership and work to correct it. Does hat Chairman need help?

Lastly, I have seen reports of some commenting on the dues increase. Please explain that we did not come to increasing the dues lightly – it was a tough decision. Costs go up everywhere these days, and we did try to cut costs before asking for the dues raise. Again, it was not an easy decision, but one we had to make. Thank you for all you do for the Legion Family. Keep up the good work.

Happy Holidays to all.

NEC.....Marie Mock

The Holidays are fast approaching. Don’t forget our veterans who may be having a difficult time right now. The National Organization has a number of resources to help. Sign on to legion-aux.org or alaforveterans.org. to see what’s available. Don’t forget to be kind to one another. When people get busy and stressed they do not always present their best sides and can get grumpy and difficult. Don’t let that deter you from being your best self.

The NEC is dealing with some issues that stem from not being kind to one another. Fortunately, New York is not part of those issues. Keep up the good work. Thank you, Karen, Barbara and Caitlin for steerin so well. Enjoy gathering with family and friends and put your best foot forward for ourselves, our communities, and our veterans and active duty military.





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

It's November and we are getting ready for Thanksgiving and the Holidays. Chair members are getting their reports into the Department Chairs. Reminder to all the VA&R Reps please make sure that you get your joint reviews done and into the VA&R Chair by November 30, 2023, also make sure that you fill out the form that the Department Secretary sent out, \$500 that the VA Hospitals can receive. Sit with your Directors and let's get 100%. Gift Shop reps as you are taking care of your Gift shop remember to have all your receipts ready to send in with your report by December 31, 2023. Get this all into your VA&R Chair.

Have a very Happy Thanksgiving.



Department Presidents Project.....Maureen Morgan, Chairperson

Department President Karen's project is Hope For the Warriors. Hope was established in 2006 by spouses of veterans who witnessed, firsthand, the effects war imparts on service members and their families. Many returned with physical injuries and mental distress.

Hope For The Warriors is now a national nonprofit dedicated to restoring stability, strength, and community to military families. For over 17 years, HOPE has served the post-9/11 military community; including, service members, veterans, military families, caregivers, and families of the fallen across the country in all branches of service. Since its inception, HOPE has served over 159,000 service members, veterans, and military families through its programs.

Stability Programs and Services: focuses on financial wellness and career & educational support for service members and their family.

Strength Programs and Services: emphasizes physical and emotional wellness through clinical support services and sports and recreation opportunities.

Community Programs and Services: builds communities through connection and belonging with peer-to-peer (veteran-to-veteran or veteran-to-service member) engagement and mentorship. In 2022, they also established suicide risk screening for every veteran who contacts them.

Hope For The Warriors® has received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for 12 consecutive years, an honor earned by only 1% of rated charities.

All donations will be used for programs in New York State. Make checks payable to:
ALA Department of NY, on memo line write: Dept President Project mail to: 1580
Columbia Turnpike Bldg#1 Suite #3, Castleton on Hudson, NY 12033.





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

What wonderful reports I received and how exciting for me to hear about all the fabulous activities and events we are doing for our Children and Youth! Keep up the good work!

We have received two Good Deed Award Nominations. It is so heartwarming to see these youths recognized for their generous hearts. Educate your schools and communities on both the Good Deed Award and the Youth Hero Award.

Holiday time is here! As this committee emphasizes protecting, caring for and supporting children and youth, particularly children of veterans and military families, please keep this is the forefront of your mind as we enter the holiday season. If you know of children needing support, please reach out. Make a difference – Be the One!

I remind you to keep feeding the pig that was provided to you at fall conference to help raise monies for the Child Welfare Foundation. Please donate!

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.

I wish all of you a very blessed holiday season.

Americanism.....Judy Wallace, Chairperson

It's okay if you get teary eyed when you hear our national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner". It's okay if, when you are singing, you feel a frog in your throat and you lose your voice when you get to the part "O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave"? It happens to me all of the time and I push forward because it's the pride of being American. An American who truly believes we live in the land of the free and the home of the brave!

By the time you have read this, Veteran's Day will have passed. I would like to encourage you to remember our history so that we can move the next generation forward with a strong sense of American pride. We must teach our youth the reason why we get teary eyed when we hear patriotic songs. We also need to instill in them the answers to many questions they may have: Why do we lower the flag to half-mast? Why do we stand when the American flag enters the room? Why do we take our hats off? Why do people cheer when they see F-16's flyover? "We must say this is our way to recognize and show our gratitude to the men and women who faithfully served our nation. Let's not forget to pass on the Americanism Essay to our students. The essay is open to student grades 3to 12. Yes, home-schooled children qualify to enter the contest. "What does Freedom mean to me?" How about you talk with Scout leaders at your local post. Talk with school counselors and/or talk with your friend who knows a friend who is a teacher. Let's get this Red, White, and Blue started. Let's make history in getting our youth involved.

Flag Etiquette Question:

When the National Anthem is played, who is allowed, and not allowed, to sing?

Active Military personnel and Veterans shall render a salute at the first note of the National Anthem maintain that position until the last note. You may sing if you remove your cap with the right hand a hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Civilian personnel may sing as long as thei hand is over their heart.



American Legion Family College .. Debby Herrmann, ALFC Liaison

The 2024 session is beginning to take shape. The team of instructors for this year has been completed and what their class will be. I am happy to say Janice Gravely and I will be once again teamed up to present the ALA programs. We have a new instructor this year, Ken Secor who is an accredited Service Officer from Albany County and will be teamed up with Eileen Fisher. We have a couple extra instructors so we will be able to rotate "seasoned" instructors to audit the College courses. This also gives them the opportunity to see what new curriculum is being shared.

As of today, the plan is to have it at SUNY Morrisville during the first weekend in June which is May 31, 2024 through June 2, 2024. Dean David Riley informed us that the new application and information will be updated soon and should be on the Legion Department Website in short order. You can just use the link on our own website @ deptny.org. Get your application in as soon as possible. It is a first come, first serve policy. Last year was the first year in the college history we had a full college of 100 plus by April 1 st . We are hoping to be able to repeat this again in 2024.

There is a correction in the Plan of Action regarding tuition which is **\$300.00 NOT \$250.00** Please consider joining us in 2024. I ask for those who have attended early on in the development of the Legion Family College to consider coming again as things have changed and continue to change. It is truly a family experience.



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

Special thanks to all who donated to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation (ALA Foundation) during Veterans Day – your support is very much appreciated!

Founded in 2007, the purpose of the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation is to raise funds for, assist in conduct of, and provide support to the Auxiliary programs. ALA entities (unit, county, district, and department) can apply for grants from the ALA Foundation to secure financial support for their veteran projects.

WHY DONATE: The ALA Foundation provides a way for Auxiliary members, the community, and corporations that share our patriotic values to enhance the quality of life for veterans, military, and their families, both today and for future generations. ALA entities (unit, county, district, and department) can apply for grants from the ALA Foundation to secure financial support for their veteran projects. Donations may be made in honor of a special person, in memory of a loved one, and to support the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. In addition to donations honoring or remembering individuals, there is also the opportunity for members to show their support of the organization by making personal donations periodically or monthly.

HOW TO DONATE: Donations to the ALA Foundation can be made online(www.alafoundation.org). or by mail. To donate by mail, make your check payable to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation and mail it to the ALA Foundation at National Headquarters (3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis IN 46268-1334).





Auxiliary Emergency FundGeraldine Klussman, Chairperson

- AEF funds may be used to provide emergency assistance to eligible Auxiliary members whose primary residence has been devastated by disaster, including flood, hurricane, tornado, earthquake, fire, or another catastrophic event. Reimbursable expenses with receipts will be considered for essential emergency expenditures up to three weeks after incident/disaster.
 - Share the correct AEF disaster application with unit members linked above. No other AEF application will be accepted.
- ALA member donor recognition:
 - An individual who gives an AEF donation of \$100 or more directly to the ALA National Headquarters within the current fiscal year (October 1 – September 30) will receive an AEF donation pin.

AEF pins are distributed quarterly directly to the individual meeting the eligible donation level of \$100 or more



Chaplin...Pattie Galley, Chairperson

With the holiday season approaching, please remember to check in with our veterans, gold star mothers, or the shut in.

As the chaplain, many death notices have been coming in. I appreciate some of the notes added to them. But I'm asking a favor, fill them out correctly. Don't forget to put your county phone number, district, and a correct address to the family. It's very important in case I have a question to ask. Also remember to send the prayers in for department Karen's book. It's greatly appreciated!

Please do the honor to give our deceased member a final farewell by draping the charter memorial service at your post or funeral home. Remember to include your juniors too. "As we work to demonstrate God's love, may we always be one nation under God"

Lastly, keep our Military in your prayers as well as the less fortunate too. God bless you and Happy Holidays.





Community Service.....Vickie Lennox, Chairperson

First, I would like to Thank all the Counties that have reported by the November due date. There have been a lot of great things that have been reported. With the Holidays upon us let us remember that there are people that could use our help. Donate to local food cupboards and food pantries. Adopt a family or 2 in need; purchase and supply them with food and gifts for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Help your neighbors by checking in on them, take them grocery shopping or to doctor appointments. Shovel sidewalks, driveways with the winter months upon us. Keep collecting winter clothes for homeless shelters. Remember some of the people who are in these shelters have fallen on hard times and could really use your help to keep their faith. Also make calls or send cards to Hospitals, Nursing Homes to people who might not have anybody to celebrate with, a little note goes a long way. Keep up the good work and service to your communities, through- out the year! Remember to REPORT everything. Happy Thanksgiving – Merry Christmas – Happy Holidays – and a very Happy & safe New Year

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

First, I want to acknowledge and thank the Units and Counties that have updated their governing documents. Continue on following the steps that can be found in the September Newsletter or contact me and I will forward them to you. I really appreciate your patience as there has been an influx of Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules. Remember you are never alone, I’m only an email or call away. Shout out on the awesome jobs our Constitution & Bylaws Chairs are doing, thank you. I do want to address a little bit of housekeeping that needs to be done. In the Unit C & B docs, page 9, Article V, Section 7, and the County C & B docs, page 7, Article 5, Section 8. reads as follows: Finance/Audit: The Finance/Audit Committee. As of the September 2023 National Convention, this committee will now be known as: The Finance/Risk & Compliance Committee. The change will be entered on the Dept website as soon as possible and you will be able to print the updated docs. You do not have to update your C & B again, contact me and I will assist you with this change. I want to remind C & B Chairs, please take the time to share the article below make copies and pass out at your next meeting, have Q & A period.

ARTICLE II /OBJECTS
SECTION 1.

To serve The American Legion in all its activities, to support it in all its interests, and to promote its welfare; to hold in sacred remembrance the names of all who gave their lives in defense of civilization in all Wars; to lend its united efforts to the task of impressing the minds of the youth of our land, and through them the generations to come, with the necessity of a staunch and steadfast support of the Constitution of the United States, with a deep, abiding love and reverence for our Flag and all that it represents, so that the noble sacrifice and service to the whole world, by those who are now forming The American Legion, may not have been rendered in vain.

For Service not Self, and God Bless America



Education.....Lucille Mozzillo, Chairperson

At this time, I am in the middle of reading all of the reports that are coming in from the counties. I am enjoying reading all your activities surrounding Veterans in the Classroom. I also hope that units were able to participate in American Education Week and honor all of the staff that is responsible for the education of our students every day. With the upcoming holiday season, you can continue to assist our schools and families by adopting a family and/or adopting a classroom.

Please be sure to share the scholarship information with your local schools. You can also reach out to Home School Families by submitting the information in your local newspapers. I would like to bring to your attention a change to some dates that were submitted in the Plan of Action.

On page 77 under National Scholarships, the deadline dates for submission to me for each of the scholarships should be March 15, 2024, coinciding with the same date as the Department of New York Scholarships. Also, I would like to remind you that the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship is an online application and must be completed and submitted online. The deadline for that is March 1, 2024.

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

I would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Holiday season.

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

Last time we talked about preparing a budget. This time we are going to talk about planning for your Audit.

First, is your Unit/County keeping proper records of all Transactions? Are all accounts approved by the Exec. Committee and or voting body?

Hopefully you have prepared your annual budget and it was approved by your voting body to cover both income and expenditures.

Postal Receipts: It is recommended all mail be opened in the presence of 2 people. Checks and cash should be recorded immediately. All entries should be verified by someone other than the person making the entry.

Banking: Make sure receipts are banked promptly and regularly, at least weekly. All incoming money should be banked and not held over for petty cash. All accounts should be in the Unit/County name not in an individual's name. Receipts should be issued for all money collected.

Expenditures: All expenditures should be properly authorized. Supporting documentation (receipts, etc.) should be required and maintained for all expenditures. Check books should be kept in a secure, safe place.

Purchases: Invoices should be checked against orders. An inventory of stock should be taken regularly.

Payment should be made promptly, and match the original invoice. Orders should be placed by the properly authorized person.

Checks: There should be 2 signatures need for the checks. Only those authorized should be signing checks. All check expenditures should be recorded in the check book ledger and noted with the corresponding check number. Checks should not be signed in advance, and no one should be given a signed blank check.

Bank accounts: Secure records should be kept on all accounts. Regular bank reconciliations should be carried out. Each account's activity should be checked to make sure no accounts are dormant. Bank statements should be reviewed regularly by officers other than the treasurer.

I hope this makes preparing for your audit easier for you. If you keep good records of all your account activity your Audit should be easy peasy.



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

The 2023-2024 ALA EGS leadership and staff are hard at work on the plans for ALA Empire Girls State 2024 being held June 30th - July 6th, 2024 at SUNY Brockport! Claire has been compiling the county quota responses, so if you have not submitted your county's quota form, please do so ASAP. You can find the form in the Plan of Action on page 107. ALA EGS County and Unit Chairman Fall Mailing materials were mailed in early November. County Chairman, please distribute to your Unit Chairman ASAP! Reminder that all materials and step by step directions are also available on <https://empiregirlsstate.org/>. No more looking for extra copies! (See the ALA Resources tab, password GirlsState). We are sending correspondence to the Unit and County Chairman via email, so if you are not receiving those updates, please let Terri know (empiregirlsstate@gmail.com), and she will add you to the email list! We hope this provides an additional layer of support and communication with our program. Did you see our ALA EGS Unit and County Chairman Newsletter? Check it out at this link: <https://www.smore.com/d986k3>. In addition, we held an Overview and Informational Zoom meeting for all ALA EGS County and Unit Chairmen on November 5th and 15th. If you missed it, you will be able to view the recording from our website under the ALA Resources tab. Please contact us with any questions! Kaylee is eagerly awaiting the online applications from our Citizens and Alternates and receiving the Transmittal forms from each ALA EGS County Chairman. The 2024 online Candidate Registration form is ready and will be open January 10 - March 31, 2024. There is ONE online registration form (not a separate one for citizens and alternates) and all of the documents requiring Parent and Candidate signature and other required forms will be uploaded in the online application. Note: All Units must complete their interviews and select their Citizen(s) and Alternate(s) by March 1st! This will allow Units to collect the \$50.00 registration from all Citizen candidates and have their paperwork to the County ALA EGS Chairman by March 15th. This will give the candidates the month of March to complete all of their online tasks. Please do not plan to start your interviews in March or April.

The following documents must be sent to the registrar by March 31st by the County ALA EGS Chairman: 1) Citizen Transmittal Form, 2) Alternate Transmittal Form, 3) Check from each County made payable to ALA Dept of New York for \$420.00 per Citizen. The online registration form for Candidates will also close on March 31st. No other paperwork should be mailed!

We are committed to building and diversifying our 2024 staff and would love your assistance with this endeavor. If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining the 2024 ALA EGS Team, please visit <https://empiregirlsstate.org/join-the-team/> to complete the online staff application. The needed availability dates for our Staff are Friday, June 28th - Saturday, July 6th, 2024. Thank you for your continued support and for all that you do at a Unit, County, and District Level! Every one of you is why this program can be a success each and every year!

THANK YOU!

Terri Wallace
ALA EGS Chairman
2278 Olmstead Rd
Bloomfield, NY 14469
call/text: 716 413-2604
EmpireGirlsState@gmail.com

Claire Herrman -Moran
1 st Vice-Chairman
19 Loderdale Rd
Rochester, NY 14624
call/text: 716 575-5090
EGSViceChair@gmail.com

Kaylee Mathews
2 nd Vice-Chair/Registrar
8 Maplewood Drive
Pawtucket, RI 02861
call/text: 585 484-0462
EGSRegistrar@gmail.com





Historian..... Sheila Holman, Chairperson

During the first reporting period, I am pleased to report so many counties, Sending in History reports. All the counties are reporting the retaining of records, and are documenting events. These counties are documenting through photos, newspaper articles, and one has created a beautiful history book for the past few months of their Activities . Thank you all. I am hoping our next reporting period I will see all our counties Reporting. The History of your Districts, Counties and Units is so important. Without The documentation of your history remembering all the wonderful things you have accomplished, Will be lost for our future generations to look back on.

With the arrival of November, we are reminded that Veterans Day and the holiday season is right around the corner and the year is coming to an end. With these things in mind, it is a perfect time to think about all the blessings we have to be thankful for. We must never forget those who gave so much so that we might enjoy all those blessings, we owe the brave men and women who served our country a debt. That can never be repaid. We want them to know how grateful we are for all that they have done for this great country we all call home. So long as there are veterans, we will never forget them. As an auxiliary, we spend our time helping our active military and our veterans and their families and our communities. We need to document all these memories. We need to show future generations, how we have used our mission to help others. On Thanksgiving Day and Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or what Holiday you celebrate with your family when you all sit at your table, remember all those men and women who cannot sit at a table they are serving to keep us safe, and the men and women who gave the supreme sacrifice so we can celebrate the holidays. Please keep them all in your thoughts and prayers.

Happy Holidays

ALA Department Convention

Marigail Sondel, ALA 2024 Department Convention Chair and her committee are working diligently preparing for a great convention in Niagara Falls, NY. Save the date: July 16 – 19, 2024. Convention 2024 registration will be held on Tuesday from 2 to 6 pm. The general sessions session will start on Wednesday morning and end on Friday afternoon. The Executive Committee will meet on Friday morning. Please note all meetings must be concluded by noon on Friday July 19.

The schedule has not been completed, but it will look a little different next year. The Auxiliary will be staying at the Hyatt, rooms are \$169.00 per night. This includes parking and breakfast (I hear there is an omelet station). More details will be available later. I know many members do not like to change the way things are done, our hope is the changes being made next year will result is a better way of doing things.





Junior Activities.....Julianne Barton, Chairperson

Happy Cold Weather!!!!

Our Juniors are awesome and deserve recognition for all they do. That recognition comes from the semi-annual reports that are submitted to the Department Chairman. The reporting period just ended, and I received just over HALF of the County reports. That is AWFUI!!! This reporting period included April-installations, May-poppies and Memorial Day, June-Flag Day, July-4 th , Summer Events like Legion Family Picnics, Parades, and other Legion functions, and September and October would have included any Fall or Halloween preparations. There should have been so much to report it would have taken pages to tell me all about what our Junior have accomplished. I am sure Juniors helped decorate, set up, serve, clean up, marched in, participated in, worked at, or just attended many, many events across this great State. We need to lift up our Juniors and celebrate their hard work. Seniors like to receive pats on the back, and so do the Juniors!!!! PLEASE, PLEASE remember what they do does count, and you need to report your juniors' activities.

The Department of New York did have 3 Juniors attend the Eastern Divisional National Junior Meeting in Providence, RI. Our own, Deborah Morris, is the Eastern Divisional Junior Advisor and she also attended. There were 22 Juniors in attendance from the Northeast (PA, RI, NH, VT CT, NY,). They held a very informative meeting and had some fun. They worked on a Veterans project and painted friendship rocks. They had relay races, sang songs, rocked some chants, made some new friends, and had a great time overall. It is a shame more of the Juniors from NY could not have attended. Hopefully, next year we can have a better showing. The Juniors had a great time!!!!

Midwinter Conference is just around the corner. I hope you all are making plans to bring your Juniors with you to Albany on January 19 &20, 2024. The Honorary Department elections will be held for the Junior Offices and officers will be installed. There will be learning and crafts, fun and friendship. A good time will be had by all that attend. More information will follow.

Please remember to involve your Juniors In your Christmas parties. Let them help you with your Committees. They are excellent partners and remember to take a look at the patch program. It is a great way to plan activities if you need some ideas about what to do with Juniors. I just got to send out my first batch of completed patches and I would love to be able to order more!!!

Here's wishing you the happiest of Holiday Seasons!!!!





Leadership.....Carrie Davenport, Chairperson

Part of belonging to the American Legion Auxiliary is working together towards a common goal. In the ALA it is to support veterans, active military members, children and youth in addition to our communities. In order to grow and evolve as leaders and to continue to work the mission. One thing that you can do to grow this team mentality is to consider how different people function to help better understand how we can work together to work the mission. Great teams of people often have the following things in common: Team members can name and understand the **individual talents** of everyone on the team.

Team members can see a clear connection between each other's strengths and behavior. They can see the link between **strengths** and **success**.

Everyone on the team has partnerships that encourage their strengths development.

Team members use their knowledge of each other's strengths to plan, strategize, analyze and direct their **actions**.

Do you want your unit or county ALA team to be a great team? Is your unit / County already a great team and do you want to take them to the next level? I would encourage you to learn more about your team's individual strengths, personality attributes, and how they can help your team function in a more cohesive manner. There are several research-based resources that can help you know your team's strengths and weaknesses in a way that can help you support one another when executing events and pursuing opportunities.

Option 1: High Five Test

Leverage what is unique about you to achieve greater results in your professional and personal lives. Then compare these results with those in your team to learn and grow. Take a 120-question test to then get a summary of your results. The basic report is free, but there are options that require a payment if you are interested in getting more detail.

Check it out by visiting the following link: <https://high5test.com/>

Option 2: The Big 5 Personality Test

The Big Five test is one of the most studied personality tests in psychology. It is the result of many psychologists trying to determine how many "traits" define a person's personality. The "Big Five" stand for Openness, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism. Like the Myers Briggs test, each trait has an "opposite" trait. A person may display high agreeableness, for example, and low extraversion.

Check it out by visiting the following link: <https://practicalpie.com/the-big-5-personality/>

Cont Next Page....



Option 3: 16 Personalities Quiz

Be yourself and answer honestly to find out your personality type. Learn how your personality type influences many areas of your life. Have everyone in your unit take the assessment in under 10 minutes and then share the information to learn how this information can help you work more efficiently as an ALA unit.

Check it out by visiting the following link: <https://www.16personalities.com/free-personality-test>

Consider using one of the above-mentioned resources, but don't get overwhelmed. Focus on one piece at a time. There is a zero percent chance that every team will go about improving teamwork in the same way, so recall that first, you should establish goals and then consider how teamwork helps achieve those goals for your unit.

Decide what it is you're trying to achieve. Learn your strengths. Get to work.

Please stay tuned for more information.

The 2024 Mid-Winter Conference will take place on January 19th and 20th, 2024 in Albany, NY.

More information will be available soon!

Consider calling the Albany Marriott to book your stay today!

+1 518-458-8444 ALBANY MARRIOTT 189 WOLF RD



Legislative.....Mary Ann Calbo, Chairperson

If you haven't yet, please log on to www.legion.org/legislative and join www.facebook.com/groups/ALALegislative for legislative bulletins along with urgent action requests. Just imagine the power of our member's voices to advocate for our veterans, military, and their families. This is a critical time in our history to ensure that our voices are heard, give your support for the following: The PACT Act which the American Legion was instrumental in its passage, was legislation to guarantee health care and benefits for the millions of veterans who developed serious illnesses after being exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances while serving overseas. So far, more than 500,000 vets have had their PACT Act claims approved. I am encouraging others to reapply even if their claim was previously denied - at www.va.gov .

We are urging you to pass S. 2327 and H.R. 4637 to grant our allies permanent residency. Over 2 years ago, our soldiers and Marines assisted in the evacuation tens of thousands of Afghan allies who fought with us against the Taliban. At present, there is more than 70,000 Afghans who have been relocated to the U.S. they do not have any pathway to permanent residency. We are urging you to pass S. 2327 and H.R. 4637 to grant our allies permanent residency.

Cont Next Page...



Urge your members of Congress to pass the LOVE LIVES ON ACT OF 2023. Our Gold Star spouses, the surviving spouses of our fallen heroes have earned benefits through their service and sacrifice. They lose their benefits if they marry before the age of 55.

The Coast Guards mission is essential to national security, and its personnel should never go without pay. H.R.2693 - the Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2023. Our Coast Guard should be provided the same protection for personnel as the other U.S. Armed Forces branches have. "Guard VA Benefits Act. Organizations like the American Legion provides veterans with assistance in filing disability through VA-accredited service officers, free of charge. The VA and other agencies have limited statutory authority to clamp down on abuse, un-accredited claims representatives have scammed veterans for millions of dollars by promising better disability benefits while charging outlandish fees.

Thank you for supporting our Legislative initiatives.



National Security.....Janet Elston, Chairperson

The Department President's Theme is "Light the Way for Veterans". This will guide our service people home, as well as our POW & MIA.

At present, the security of America is not a certainty, we must never relax our efforts in being prepared for the forces that may threaten our democracy. Assisting victims of natural disasters, and awareness of our POW/MIA issues are both part of this program.

The National Security program maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families.

As the holidays are approaching, let us not forget our service people domestic and on foreign soil. Cards and gift boxes..... make sure you include items that they can share. Deployed service women are often in need of care packages specific for them. Just a card would mean a lot. Have cards out for guests at your Legion to sign, pass around at your meetings. This will let them know you are thinking about them.

Please do not forget our POW & MIA. This is a hard time for their families, as there are still more than 83,000 American troops missing in action.

The American Legion Auxiliary is well - positioned to support servicemembers and military families separated from military service. Auxiliary members understand through experience the importance of preparation and peer networks at every stage of the department cycle, including the return to civilian life. Of course, the Legion Family has practical, social, and recreational support to offer. This is where our department president project can help "Hope for the Warriors"

Continue to log activities and donations for the next reporting period. No amount of donations or tin too small.



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

Happy Fall!!!!

Please be aware of the important information and changes:

-Unit and County Poppy chairs, please add a line to the poppy report of how much is raised by donations (do not include the poppy cans-it has a separate line).

-As we are starting to promote the poppy contest, please make sure that the winning poster has the name, address and grade written on the back. Also, please include the County and Unit of each winner.

I am still missing reports, PLEASE SUBMIT! Even if there is no activity. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Happy Holiday Season!!!

Public Relations.....Sue Williams, Chairperson

Hello! I hope everyone was able to participate in their local Veterans Day Ceremony – I'm sure that you flooded Facebook and Instagram with videos and pictures! I did!

Did you also invite your local newspaper to attend your Ceremony? Or in the least, you've sent pictures to the newspaper to be included in upcoming editions with an article. Newspapers in all communities are working with fewer and fewer staff writers. They rely on articles you submit. You should work with your local reporters to meet their needs so we can Get the word out about how much we appreciate our Veterans!

Let's turn our attention to Mid-Winter! Yes, I know, it's months away – but you need to be making your Public Relations Poster now and bring it with you to Mid-Winter in January. This year's theme is POW/MIA's what and who they are and how can we honor them? Refer to your POA Public Relations, pg. 199. While you are reading through the POA, also look at the types of Awards that are available at the end of the year (pg. 200). There are a couple Narrative submissions, but also the best Publicity Book – is your County putting a Publicity Book together? There are also Unit Press Book submissions! Read your POA and be sure to meet all of the requirements!

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

I am pleased to report that two Veteran families have been awarded \$1,200 grants thanks to your generosity to the Warrior Family Assistance Program.

How this works:

Please be sure that you have a County or Unit WFA Committee in place before giving a WFA application to a Veteran or Active Military Serviceperson. The County/Unit WFA Committee will assist the applicant with the application, if necessary, be sure that all parts are completed and collect all supporting documents called for. Application and documentation are then sent to the Department WFA Chairman.

*Be sure that the Veteran's DD214 is sent as well. The Department Chairman, along with her/his Committee Members, will review application and documents submitted. Once approved, paperwork and amount of grant (up to \$1,200) is submitted to the Department Office so that a check can be dispensed. I would like to say a special "Thank You" to all Unit & County WFA Committees for your dedication and incredible efforts in service to our Veterans and Active-Duty Military Families.

Please continue to support WFA through your donations!! Any questions, need an application.....please feel free to contact me:

Marie SantaCroce, Department WFA Chairman

nyalawfa@gmail.com

or you can call or text me at 718-938-5952





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

The last day to make changes for your dues remit to person is December 27th. Also, the last day to pay 2024 dues is December 27th otherwise, members will receive a renewal notice from National. Please DO NOT HOLD ON TO ANY 2024 dues. Send it in now.

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.

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

