



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



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*2025 April 2025*

**As of April 16, 2025 the ALA Department of New York is only 555 members short of the 95% goal. All units, please reach out to all your unit members who did not renew their membership for 2025, former members who have slipped through the cracks and of course all new members. We can do this together to get the last 555 members before May 23, 2025 which is National Poppy Day!!! But in order to reach that goal, these members need to be paid into the ALAMIS system before 5/23/25. Don't delay, set your deadline of May 15<sup>th</sup> to ensure that your transmittal reaches the office in time. If you have ALAMIS Full, please make sure to submit it no later than the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There is one month left to reach the goal!! New York you can do this!!!**

### **2025 Convention NEWS!**

The American Legion Family Department of New York Convention will be held in Syracuse from July 16th through the 19th, 2025. Please see the website for complete details on housing.

2025 Department Convention Call will be emailed out and mailed via United States Postal Service mid-May 2025 to the current Unit and County Presidents. The Unit/County Officer form will also be in this envelope.

For Department Membership Awards the Department Close of Books is June 17, 2025.  
For National the Close of Books is July 26, 2025.

*Department President's Message.....Kimberly A. Quick*

This year has really flown by. We have visited all 62 counties and had visits from the national officers. I am looking forward to our homecoming celebration, Empire Girls State, and 2 conventions.

I would like to THANK ALL OF YOU for all the donations to Homeward Bound Adirondacks to help our veterans; this means so much to them. I would also like to THANK ALL OF YOU for your hospitality and gifts to me. So many special things given to me to remember you by. You are so generous.

I have enjoyed my time as your President; and seeing all you do for our veterans and your communities. You should all be proud members of the ALA.

I hope to see you again soon.

*From the Department Office - Barbara, Caitlin, and Tara*

- **The 2026 Unit Data form (BLUE FORM)** for renewal notices were mailed to Unit President on file the beginning of March 2025. It is available as a fillable PDF to download off of the Department website under the membership tab. **Make sure you are using the 2026 form only.** Please complete the entire form and do not leave anything blank. **This form is due back to the Department Office no later than May 1, 2025.** If your current rate is not sufficient, please make sure you bring it up at your unit meeting and vote on the increase prior to the deadline of May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **2026 Membership cards will be distributed at Department Convention in Syracuse, NY. If someone from your unit is present, please make sure they pick them up. If no one is present, contact your County President or District President for the membership package. They will be responsible to get them to you in a timely manner.**
- The 2026 per capita for Department and National for senior members is \$28; the junior per capita is \$6.25. If you do not submit your form by May 1, 2025, and your unit votes to raise the dues after the deadline, National will charge a processing fee to change the dues rate, no exceptions.
- National printed the **2026 Membership cards and rosters on April 1, 2025.** This means that any changes, new members, rejoins and transfers made after April 1, 2025 will not be reflected on the Unit's 2026 membership cards and rosters. ALL members who joined after April 1, 2025 will not be on the 2026 rosters and you will have to print a 2026 membership card for the members.
- Please remember that 2026 renewals will be available to pay in July 2025.
- **Please do not send DD214's/active-duty documentation into the office with applications. Once the Post Adjutant/Officer signs the application and the membership chair (ALA) verifies all supporting documents, return the supporting documents to the member.** The office only needs the completed – signed application with the dues and transmittal. Remember – if the veteran is living, he/she must be a current paid member in the American Legion with a nine-digit membership number. This also pertains to any Active-duty person, they must be a current paid member in The American Legion in order for a family member to join under their eligibility. Remember to check off which era the veteran served and the relationship of the veteran to the ALA applicant. Please circle the appropriate relationship. PLEASE make sure to get rid of all old applications and use the current applications to avoid mistakes.
- Applications need to be complete and legible otherwise they will be returned to the unit membership chair. New members address needs to be complete. No abbreviations on city/town. All membership applications must be presented to the unit membership

chairman with the proper documentation prior to being submitted to the office for processing.

- Units with Unit FULL and Unit WRITE ALAMIS access must send the completed membership applications signed by the Post Adjutant or Post officer to the department office once you enter and pay it. Please include the Unit number and new ID# on the application. Keep a copy for the unit file. Failure to adhere to the directions will result in your ALAMIS being terminated immediately.
- All transfers need to be sent to the department office as well as all data forms for deceased members.
- Membership chairs – if your unit members move, change any contact information, phone numbers, emails, etc., please send the change to the Department office so the information is updated in a timely manner. If your unit has ALAMIS Full or Write this should be done as soon as the member notifies you of their change. This also pertains to unit President, Membership Chair and Unit Treasurer.
- Newsletters – E-mail copies of the Newsletter are available to any member wanting a free copy. Please e-mail either one of us at the office with a valid email and we will get you on the list. The Newsletter is emailed to all Unit/County Presidents if we have your email address. If you do not have email and someone in the unit/county would like to receive it on your behalf, please let us know so we can add them to the list. If you do not have anyone in the unit and/or county with an email to receive the email newsletter for you, please contact the Department Secretary for a copy.
- Mailed copies of the Newsletters are available at the cost of \$15.00 per year.
- All Department checks issued 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 from.
- All donations which are sent by the County will be acknowledged to the County that issues the donation check.

### *Membership.....Maureen Morgan, Chairperson*

Happy Easter and Passover!!! It's hard to believe that it is April already. The year is going by too quickly. Membership Chairs are doing a great job, there are so many units that are over 100%.

The DEC meeting at the beginning of April was amazing. We got a lot accomplished and learned a lot. The drawing was done for Milestone # 4, for the County drawing there were 5 Counties that were at 95%, and there were 82 Units over 95%.

Milestone # 4 95% Goal as of March 17, 2025, \$50.00 to (1) County and \$50.00 to 5 Unit Winners:

County Winner: District 8, County Orleans at 95.56%

Unit Winners:

District 3, County Greene, Unit 1327, Prattville, 100%

District 3, County Rensselaer, Unit 0040, Hoosick Falls, 116.67%

District 5, County Jefferson, Unit 0821, Clayton, 102.74%

District 10, County Nassau, Unit 1033, Elmont, 106.06%

District 10, County Suffolk, Unit 0924, Hampton Bays, 100.00%

For Milestone # 5 drawing there was only 1 County that 100% for Milestone # 5 and 114 Units with over 100% goal for the drawing.

Milestone # 5 100% goal as of April 14, 2025, \$25.00 to (1) County and \$25.00 to (5) Unit Winners:  
County Winner: District 6, County Schuyler, 103.92%

Unit Winners:

District 7, County Monroe, Unit 0330, Spencerport, 102.29%

District 8, County Erie, Unit 1041, Buffalo, 106.52%

District 9, County Rockland, Unit 0199, Spring Valley, 141.67%

District 10, County Nassau, Unit 0958, East Rockaway, 112.24%

District, 10, County Suffolk, Unit 0651, Sayville, 103.85

Congratulations to everyone for doing such a great job with membership. The Department of New York can be very proud. We are working the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. "Don't follow your dreams, Chase them!"

*VA&R / Service to Veterans.....Lora Rowe, Chairperson*

Thank you for your wonderful reports! I would like to receive more pictures, and I ask if your Unit has taken pictures at an event that would be reportable under VA&R, please send me those pictures. I would like to include as many pictures as I can for my department award submission. When sending me the pictures, please include a brief description of the event.

I have been asked several times about the maximum number of reportable hours for a family member caring for a veteran. To help clarify, if the family caregiver lives with the veteran, that caregiver can report 10 hours a week. If the family caregiver does not live with the veteran, that caregiver can report 5 hours a week.

Please remember to apply for Department and National awards. You do so much throughout the year, please apply for an award!

- Department award submissions must be received by me, the Department VA&R Chairman, by May 1. Please follow the award rules that are in your Plan of Action and also located on the Department website.
- The deadline for national award submissions is June 1. For a national award, you will find the form on the American Legion Auxiliary National website. You will click on Forms, and then click on the National Awards Form. Units can apply for a National Award....so please get in those submissions!

I have had several reach out to me asking what CDCE is. VAVS (Veterans Affair Volunteer Services) is now referred to as CDCE (Center for Development and Community Engagement). We all get so used to the acronyms so when you hear CDCE, I want you to be aware that it is the same as VAVS.

Thank you for all you do in making a difference in veterans lives.

*President's Project.....Lora Rowe*

President Kim's project is Homeward Bound Adirondacks, which is a New York based program located in Saranac Lake.

There are still a few months left for fund raising events to be held and donations to be made, so please continue to think of ideas on how your Unit and County can contribute to this wonderful project. What a powerful impact your donations will have on many veterans' lives.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE donate to President Kim's project. Send your donation to the Department office and earmark your check "President's Project."

*Children and Youth.....Yvonne Brunner Chairperson*

**Happy Spring!** A gentle reminder that the second report for Children & Youth was due on April 10, 2025. If your county has not yet submitted its report, please contact me directly. The inclusion of all our county reports is crucial for the year-end Impact Report. Your cooperation ensures that our collective efforts are accurately represented.

A special thank you to all the members, units, and counties for their generous donations to the Child Well-Being Foundation (formerly the Child Welfare Foundation). To date, the Department of New York has collected an impressive \$4,728.25. Your contributions make a significant difference in enhancing the lives of many children and are deeply appreciated.

Exciting news! Our Kids Kitchen cookbook will be available at the end of the month. Kudos to all the members who contributed their time and recipes to make this project a reality. It's a delightful collection that promises to inspire and nourish.

April is dedicated to celebrating our military children. Whenever possible, invite them to join your junior activities. If there's a military base or reserve center nearby, seek permission to post flyers inviting military children to a fun-filled day of activities. Let's show our support and appreciation for their unique experiences and contributions.

Reading about our unit's Children & Youth activities has been a pleasure. I encourage all units to consider applying for a Department Award. Detailed information is available in the Plan of Action, accessible online at the Department's website: <http://deptny.org>.

As this is the final newsletter of the year, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude. Thank you for the kindness, laughter, and camaraderie shared throughout the year. It's been a joy and an honor to serve alongside such dedicated members.

Remember, be well, be kind, and know that you are appreciated. Your efforts and dedication make a meaningful impact in our community. Here's to a wonderful spring and a successful year ahead!

*Americanism.....Gina Southcott, Chairperson*

I have had the year to pass on all the wonderful things that our units have done in the name of Americanism. For instance, fill the hill, where a person places a flag in honor of a veteran on the hillside. Many units did special handouts for the holidays including placing pocket flags in Christmas stockings or pictures of flags for coloring in Halloween goodie bags. Some units went into the schools and explained flag etiquette to the classes while at the same time letting them know about the many awards to be given. The public was invited to one unit's Flag Day. While another invited their community to the Flag Disposal ceremony. Many miles were driven to take people to vote, to take members to the unit's meetings and watch the people taking the pledge

of citizenship . And a lot of our units took great care of the ones that went before us by placing wreaths and flowers and markers upon their final resting place.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as this year's Americanism chair and to be witness to all the wonderful things that this state has done in the name of Americanism.

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

The 2025 session is coming together for June 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> , 2025 at SUNY Morrisville. Tim Collmer and I held a training session this past weekend for 5 potential new instructors. They did very well, both Tim and I were impressed. As of today, April 7<sup>th</sup> we have 78 applications with more coming in. Our goal is 100 students, so we aren't that far off. Have you gotten yours in yet? It isn't too late. The tuition is \$300.00.

I would like to announce the winner of the Shelby Sobolowski Scholarship to the American Legion Family College is Laura Moser, Unit President of Wolcott Unit 881, Wayne County, 7<sup>th</sup> District. CONGRATULATIONS! And after successfully completing the 2025 session she will be awarded the \$300.00 to reimburse her for the tuition. The updated student applications are available on the Legion Department Website just use the link on our own website @ deptny.org

### *Auxiliary Emergency Fund.....Carol Hassett, Chairperson*

*ALA Foundation.....Cathe MacInnes, ALA Foundation Board President*  
*Terri Wallace, ALA Foundation Board Treasurer*  
*Carrie Davenport, ALA Foundation Risk & Compliance Committee Liaison*

The ALA Foundation exists to support the educational, charitable, and other exempt purposes of the American Legion Auxiliary by raising funds for and providing financial support to Auxiliary programs.

The ALA Foundation offers grant programs to help your Unit to directly benefit veterans:

- Veteran Projects Fund – this grant provides up to \$10,000 for new projects which benefit veterans. The Unit must provide 20% of the project cost (but can solicit donations from your Post, other service organizations, and the community in order to reach the 20%). More information, details, and applications can be found at: <https://alafoundation.org/veteran-projects-fund-grants/>
- Veterans Creative Arts Festival Fund – this grant provides up to \$2,500 for art supplies, awards, and other items needed to help make the local Festival at your VAMC more successful. There is no matching funds requirement for the Unit. More information, details, and applications can be found at: <https://alafoundation.org/vcaf-grants/>

Where does the ALA Foundation obtain funds to award all these grants to Units, Departments, and the National Organization?? The ALA Foundation happily accepts donations from members, Units, Counties, Districts, Departments, and the public.

- Do you have “extra” poppy funds left over from the 2024 drive? Poppy funds may be used to donate to the ALA Foundation Veteran Projects Fund. Bonus: if you donate \$35 before July 31, 2025, you will receive an American Legion Auxiliary Challenge Card



Deck as a gift! Follow this link to donate:

<https://donate.legionaux.org/CSiDonate/Give.aspx/S9FGOOG7#c>

- Want to ensure that the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary continue for years to come? Donate to the Mission Endowment Fund, which supports educational and veteran-centric programs. Poppy funds may not be used to donate to the Mission Endowment Fund, because some of the supported programs – such as Girls Nation – are beyond the scope of poppy fund use. Follow this link to donate: <https://donate.legionaux.org/CSiDonate/Give.aspx/BSGV4IKL#c> Thank you, New York!

### *Chaplain.....Sally Johnston, Chairperson*

As a result of attending our last Department Executive Committee meeting, we had a session on “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.” During this session we learned by example what this was all about and how each of us as a member needs to be aware of our individual conduct and how it may affect others.

In the case of the “Chaplain,” it is important to remember when we are offering invocations, benedictions, grace, holiday prayers and gravesite ceremonies, that we are aware that we are not providing prayers that reflect our own “personal” beliefs. The God you may serve may not be the God or Higher Power of others.

The National Organization has provided “Chaplains Prayer book” as a guideline for you to use.

When preparing for your Unit / County / District Memorial Services, please keep this information in mind. Remember as Chaplains we are the “Spiritual Leaders” and need to keep all faiths in mind.

This is the last chance I will have to remind you that Prayers are still needed for President Kim’s Prayer book. I still only have a very few prayers as of this writing.

Also, if the Member Data form is not filled out and sent into department office with notification of a deceased member(s), there is no way that member can be included in the Memorial Service held at Department Convention. Please be sure to include me as the Chaplain of such notification.

With this administration coming to an end shortly, let us continue pray for our Department President and her staff as they prepare for Department Convention.

We are thankful of the many answered prayers for the travel safety of our Department President Kim. I would ask that you continue to pray for her travel safety and guidance as she finishes out her year, working hard for our Veterans with her theme: “Action For Our Veterans.”

### *Community Service.....Lori McFarland, Chairperson*

### *Constitution and Bylaws/Resolutions.....Deborah Morris, Chairperson*

According to the calendar Spring is here! Guess what that also means to all of us? Yep, Spring-Cleaning of your Unit, and County Constitution & Bylaws and for some the Standing Rules. So, I suggest you get your work gloves out and start weeding thru those nonessential and repetitive Standing Rules that are still in your docs that may be outdated. There are some Unit’s with

standing rules that I have had to the pleasure to review remember not to repeat rules that are already addressed in sections of your Unit and County Constitution & Bylaws.

I'm offering these handy dandy Spring-Cleaning tips:

- 1) "Yearly Spring-Cleaning" of your Standing Rules during the month of May.
- 2) Keep it fresh and precise do not bogged down with a lot of extra rules and words. Make them easy to understand, remember that adage "Out with the old and in with the new."
- 3) Your Standing Rules need to be read, discussed, and prepared at a regular meeting and voted upon at the next regular meeting.
- 4) There should be an announcement to all members of the pending vote of the Standing Rules at the next regular meeting and approved by the members with a 2/3rd vote in the affirmative, signed and dated.
- 5) Copies of your Unit or County Constitution Bylaws and Standing Rules should be distributed to all members, especially in a welcome packet for the new members.
- 6) The more information your members have before them; the more interest and participation you will generate from them. Always let your members feel welcome.
- 7) Please remember your (additional) Standing Rules number will start as line (3)
- 8) **Informed members are our future leaders, Be A MENTOR Today.**

*Education.....MaryAnn Calbo, Chairperson*

Thank you for your reporting, I thoroughly enjoyed reading all of your contributions, they were amazing.

Teachers Appreciation week is May 5<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup>. Plan an activity in your local schools, include notes of appreciation. Teachers all deserve recognition for their dedication. Each of us have fond memories of an educator who inspired us.

I received 154 Department scholarship applications and 47 National Scholarships via electronic transmittal for. It was a daunting task in the selection process from my team. These applicant's GPA's, their sense of civic duty and volunteer work was much more than we could have ever anticipated. Thank you for your support and promotion of the Education Program. It was my honor serving as Chair, I don't say it lightly, this was an extremely rewarding experience. I have great expectations that all of the applicants have a bright future ahead of them, their accomplishments will be limitless.

I will announce Scholarship winners in my platform remarks at the New York Department Convention in Syracuse scheduled for July 17th -19th. Unit hours, donations and unit scholarships combined for 2024-2025 year, was an incredible \$971,302.00. Thank you for all you do in support of the Education Program.

*ALA Empire Girls State.....Claire Moran Herrman Chairperson*  
*.....Members Steph Fallon, Megan Hockaday*

**It is April and time to check in on the timeline again! County Chairman:** make sure your Citizen and Alternate Transmittals were mailed or emailed to Megan. Make sure for every citizen listed on the transmittal, a check was sent for the number of citizens x \$450.00 each. We do not want a county to lose their slots because the ALA EGS Chairman did not turn in paperwork or



send the funds. Contact Megan if you know of a hold up. Communication is the key. Decisions for alternates are being made NOW, if paperwork is missing, participants will forfeit their slots!

**We are very excited about the 2025 session of ALA Empire Girls State.** We are finalizing some staff this week. We would still like to have **one wellness counselor**. If you could be free June 28th - July 6th, we would love to have you apply on our website: [empiregirlsstate.org](http://empiregirlsstate.org). Click on Join Our Team! We have instituted a pre-session training schedule using zoom. Staff is meeting via zoom to conduct training sessions leading up to our in-person staff training.

Megan and Steph are busy processing applications and following up with unit and county ALA Girls State Chairmen and families regarding missing information. **Extra T-shirt order forms** and payment are to be sent to Claire by **June 1st**.

Now is a good time for your Unit and County to consider supporting the ALA EGS program as a Booster Supporter, with a Booster Ad or by purchasing an item from our Amazon Wish List (search wishlist: **ALA EGS 2025 Wish List**). All these funds help offset the expenses of the program. Also promote with parents and grandparents or your Units and Counties the **Survival Kit** program. Survival Kit orders are due to Steph by **June 15th**. Links are available on our website.

We will be conducting **Virtual ALA EGS Orientations in May and June**. All information will be emailed directly to citizens, alternates, their parents, and chairmen soon. Unit and county chairmen are welcome to attend as well.

### **Orientation dates will be:**

**May 4th and 21st at 730pm**

**June 3rd and 8th at 730pm**

As a reminder, **citizens arrive on Monday, June 30th and depart on Sunday, July 6th**. Please ensure that any citizens departing by bus have contact information for the bus chaperone and know their pickup time. The **State of the State ceremony will be held on Saturday July 5th at 8:00pm** at the SERC Field house on the Brockport campus. Everyone is invited to attend.

We would like to thank President Kim for her abundant support, recruiting, and guidance during this time of preparation.

*Finance Committee/Audit.....Patricia Hennessy, Chairperson  
.....Members Marie Mock and Mary Lou Platt*

Investments are doing well, and we continue to be well within our approved budget for 2024 2025 administrative year. While the market has been up and down, our investment firm continues to watch and protect our funds.

It certainly has been a wonderful experience being involved in preparing our annual budget, overseeing our expenses in order to ensure all is good. I can assure you that our office staff, Barbara, Caitlin, and Tara have done a great job in keeping us on track.

## *Historian.....Patricia Galley, Chairperson*

Well History is like a time capsule. The next generation will get to look back on what we did and maybe accomplish from where we left off.

I enjoyed reading the April Reports and seeing what other Auxiliary members have done since the last reports. Remember our history starts with your story and captions. We work as a family to succeed. in our mission.

We are still working on President Kim's History Book. If each county sends in a few pictures and captions about the events from the unit, county, and district, it will be AWESOME!!!!

Please don't forget to look into the Historian Programs Awards. For the Seniors and Junior History or The Department Senior History Competition or any of the rest of them. It will be fun to see all the submissions. Wish everyone good Luck too!!!

Thanks again Kim for giving me this opportunity for this committee. The year went fast.

## *Junior Activities.....Judy Wallace, Chairperson*

Did you make plans for "PURPLE UP"! Day? Did you plan an activity and convince your friends to wear purple on April 15. Send your photos... I would love to see those purple smiles! WOW this year is about over can't believe how time flies when you're having fun. Thank you to Nassau County who has sent some lovely pictures of juniors involved in activities within their community. Reminder: Junior Member of the Year (JMOY) applications are due June 1. Must be submitted online. Juniors may be nominated by any member, unit, or department. Check the Plan of Action- for criteria online. I am still going through your reports and if you still have not submitted them, please do so. Did your juniors attend any eLearning courses, National Mission Training, Department Mid-Winter, District conferences? Tell me your story in the report.

## *Leadership.....Sheila Holman, Chairperson*

I can't believe that the year is quickly coming to end. We have only 3 months till our Department Convention. Wow

The Auxiliary Member of The Year Award is part of my duty as Leadership Chair. I want to remind everyone that nominees cannot have held any higher than the elected position of Unit President. All Applications need to be sent to me by May.1st. The Applications can be emailed to me at [nyalaleadership@gmail.com](mailto:nyalaleadership@gmail.com) or sent by mail to my home address with a post mark no later than date above.

Please remember to look through your Plan of Action or on the Department website to apply for any of the available awards.

Have a Great Rest of this Administrative Year. I hope to see you all in Syracuse in July.

## *Legislative.....Lynn Visconti, Chairperson*

## *National Executive Committeeperson.....Linda Tome*

## *National Security.....Sandie Baker, Chairperson*

The past five years has given ALA members the opportunity of knowing, that regardless of circumstances faced by the Organization, it is always possible to show appreciation to those who serve in any branch of the United States Armed Forces. The purpose of the National Security Program is to assist in promoting a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families. As we continue to traverse unprecedented times together, we must all work diligently to support our veterans, military, and their families.

Armed Forces Day is on Saturday, May 17th. Perhaps host a community event that day? Offer a handshake or a smile to a resident in a VA Hospital? A knock on the door of a young parent whose spouse is deployed to inquire if they might need assistance of some type? There are as many or as few ways to lend support as our creativity allows for.

Reminder: Salute to Servicemember Award can be submitted NOW. Do not wait until the deadline, go ahead and do it now. Directions are in the POA National Security tab. The service member of the year must be at the pay level of E1-E9 and presently serving in the United States Armed Forces. Departments that submit a candidate will receive recognition at the National Convention.

## *Parliamentarian.....Joan Caccamo, Chairperson*

As this Auxiliary year winds down, we need to ensure a smooth transition to the next Auxiliary year.

This is the time that parliamentary procedures generally involve finalizing outstanding business, reviewing accomplishments, and preparing for the next year. This includes approving final minutes, reviewing reports, handling unfinished business, and potentially making changes to policies and bylaws.

This is also the time where we vote in a new administration. You should have a nominating committee where a new slate of candidates will be presented. Nominations from the floor are opened after the nomination committee presents its report. It is important to ensure that all nominees are willing to stand for election. Now is the time for voting for the candidates. You should follow your bylaws as to the voting method. Following the parliamentary procedures will ensure your Unit will have a productive year ahead.

Remember, if you do not meet during the summer months, that you do need a motion to adjourn for those months.

## *Poppy.....Laura Booth, Chairperson*

Poppy season is on its way!

Many units are now planning events for National Poppy Day and Memorial Day.

Units, please keep track of all hours and donations for reporting in November.

Reporting is very important since it is sent to Congress for Veteran funding. Units & Counties have you judged your poppy posters yet? The deadline for me to receive them is May 1st. This also includes and Miss Poppy and Most outstanding unit. Rules are located in the Plan of Action under Poppy section.

Remember to attach the National coversheet. Each poster will be judged according to each class. The winner of each class will be forwarded to the Eastern Division Chair for National judging.

Anyone that is entering centerpieces, wreaths, and non-traditional items to bring them to the Department convention in Syracuse. Judging will be held there.

Happy Poppy Day & Memorial Day to all!!! Have a safe spring and summer.

### *Public Relations.....Julianne Barton, Chairperson*

Public Relations is the committee that spreads the word about how great the American Legion Auxiliary is and the wonderful things that the members do. Publicity helps increase membership by recruiting new members and reinvigorating old members by piquing their interest in the wide variety of activities that Units and Counties are participating in. The advertising, using whatever media works best to reach your members, is necessary to promote the American Legion Auxiliary. Just be sure that advertising is always positive and encouraging.

The Department of New York is doing a phenomenal job at getting the word out. April reports have been pouring in and are truly outstanding. The pictures, newspaper articles, bulletins, and Facebook posts are nothing short of amazing. We have graphic artists and computer techs that missed their calling because the work is that good!!!!

PLEASE continue to send me any flyers or bulletins that should be included in President Kim's Public Relations book. The book will be presented at the Department Convention in Syracuse, so there is still time to get your Unit or County included in it. PLEASE review the awards that are available for this. There is an award for one County and two for Units based on size. There is also a National award. REMEMBER, YOU HAVE TO BE IN, TO WIN!!!!

I would like to thank everyone who works so hard to promote the American Legion Auxiliary, all the Unit and County Chairmen who made sure I had lots of work to do, and President Kim for giving me this most eye-opening and rewarding committee.

WALLPAPER THE WORLD WITH THE GREATNESS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY!!!

### *Warrior Family Assistance.....Maire SantaCroce, Chairperson*

Nineteen (19) Veterans have been awarded WFA Grants thus far this year.

We are so grateful to all who have formed local WFA committees sharing their support to and compassion for our Veterans throughout the application process.

We are reaching out to all ALA members to help organize a WFA committee right now, whether in your Unit, County and/ or District, so that when a Veteran in need is identified, your committee is already in place with all committee members familiar with the Guidelines.

We have been working diligently to revise the current WFA Guidelines and Application for next year to ensure that it is more user friendly for both the Veteran and our Unit/ County/ District WFA Committees.

Thank you to all at our April DEC Meeting for your invaluable input.

***SAL-ALA Walk-a-thon.....Maire SantaCroce, Co-Chairperson***

“They Marched for Us, Let’s Walk for Them” WALKATHON 2025 Goal: \$70,000. Last year, through your efforts and the generosity of so many, our Walkathon raised \$66,481. All money raised was donated to the support of our Veterans throughout New York State.

This year, donations will go to our 13 VA Hospitals and 5 Nursing Facilities as well as our Department President’s Project “Homeward Bound Adirondack,” a facility of tranquility, comfort and assistance for our Veterans experiencing crisis in their lives.

Let us all work together this year to make our Walkathon the most successful ever!!! No donation is too small and, keep in mind, those individual donations add up to more support for our Veterans. All donations should be submitted no later than July 1, 2025

All checks should be made payable to: Detachment of New York with WALKATHON 2025 in the memo line. Please mail all donations to: Detachment of New York c/o Walkathon 2025, 1304 Park Blvd., Troy, NY 12180.  
Thank you for your support.

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Legion Auxiliary**

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