

**2024-2025
Book of Reports**



Kimberly A. Quick
Department President, Department of New York

The American Legion Family College Debby Herrmann - ALA Liaison

The 2025 session was held on June 6th thru June 8th at SUNY Morrisville. Staff arrived Thursday June 5th to prepare to welcome some **83** students who started to arrive on Friday, in the pouring rain just before 10:30. Unfortunately, there were cancellations for various reasons leaving us with **76** graduating members. Here are a few interesting facts, we had 9 Districts represented, the District with the most students was the 7th District with 27 attending, and the 5th District was second with 14, there were 17 registered Auxiliary but there was also 4 that I am sure of that were dual members, with Laura Moser the recipient of the Shelby Sobolewski Memorial Scholarship joining us. The 2025 session started at 2:00 that afternoon with Orientation for the students, after a short break the group attended four 20-minute sessions on the American Legion Riders / Adjutant & Secretary Role / Americanism / Children & Youth The traditional steak dinner was 5:00/6:00 returning back to Charlton Hall to attend two classes before calling it a night. Each group were handed a Case Study to work on during the weekend.

Saturday morning started @ 7:00 with breakfast at Seneca Hall. The remaining 8 classes started @ 8:00, each class being 50 minutes long. The classes were as follows Membership, Leadership, Constitution & By-Laws, Legislative/Resolutions, Marketing/Public Relations, Duties of Officers, Online Membership Tools, SAL Programs, ALA Programs, Service Officers/VA&R. After the last group class, we all got together again for the last class on Protocol. Dinner was at 6:00 and for those who wanted to attend there was a reception for some R&R at a local Post.

Sunday we were up bright and early again with breakfast. Joining us was the Legion Family leaders Legion Commander Keith Koster, the Department President Kim Quick and the SAL Commander Gaither Espey along with The Legion Historian. Photos were taken by Tim Van Paten II again this year as well as Chip Rayno which are available on the Legion Website. The morning session started with a Legion mock meeting illustrating what not to do, committee reports were the case studies by each of the 10 groups, and I have to say they did a great job. Each year the college staff comes up with the name for each year's students and this year it was **SHARERS**. **These** 76 students shared information all the time and came with a common goal which was to learn as much as they could so they could go back to the home Post or Units to support the members at large. The staff is fantastic, you couldn't ask for a better team, but we are always looking for new members to join the team, so if you are interested and have come to the college as a student, please consider joining our ranks next year. Graduation certificates were presented to each student by our Legion Commander Keith Koster, our Department President Kim Quick and SAL Commander Gaither Espey. I have to say each student was hungry to learn all that they could in just a short 2 days. Each student participated, asked lots of questions and were very attentive.

We will continue to make changes as need to improve but I can say without question this is an integrated American Legion Family College. For those who are still on the fence I encourage you to come and join us next year, you won't be disappointed.

I would like to personally thank to PDP Karen St. Hilaire PDP Nancy Babis. PDP Debbie Morris and Janice Gravely for also representing the American Legion Auxiliary as instructors.

Americanism

Gina Southcott, Chairman

Americanism is one of the foundations of the American Legion Auxiliary programs. Its purpose is to Foster patriotism and responsible citizenship.

The dictionary defines Americanism as an ideology or belief in devotion, loyalty or allegiance to the United States or respect for its flag, its Traditions, Customs, culture, symbols, and its form of government.

It's also the Goosebumps that appear on your forearm when you hear the POW/MIA remembrance ceremony recited. It's noticing that you stand a little straighter when you say the Pledge of Allegiance or the involuntary jump when you hear the 21-gun salute.

I am humbled at the way our Department of New York has shown their Americanism.

There were 112 Flags donated to the communities. 51 flag disposal ceremonies were conducted. Our auxiliary members drove 3,874 Miles. 1,311 members shared their time. 5,207 volunteer hours were served and 3,764 individuals received benefits. The total value of hours was \$174,382. with the value of goods donated at \$444,658.0.

I am proud to say that in New York the Pledge of Allegiance is still recited. The Constitution is still taught in our schools and when it comes to showing and promoting Americanism Nobody Does it Better than New York.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Carol Hassett, Chairman

Through the generosity of our American Legion Auxiliary members, the Department of New York has sent a check for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund in the amount of \$16,947.00. This was the amazing donations of our units in NY.

The best way to protect yourself and your loved ones is to prepare before disaster strikes. Creating a plan, assembling emergency supplies, staying informed, and understanding how to respond quickly and effectively in different scenarios will help you prepare for disasters in your area. Knowing evacuation routes, having emergency contacts, and understanding warning signs can help people act quickly and safely. Securing your home, backing up important documents, and understanding your insurance coverage can significantly reduce losses and make recovery easier.

Here are a few simple steps to get you prepared:

1. Identify risks in your area (floods, hurricanes, wildfires, etc.).
2. Set evacuation routes and shelter options.
3. Designate emergency contacts (including one out of town).
4. Plan for your pets and people with special needs.
5. Build an emergency kit that includes:
 - Water (1 gallon per person per day for at least three days)
 - Non-perishable food

- Flashlights, batteries, first-aid kit
 - Medications and hygiene supplies
 - Copies of vital documents
 - Cash, maps, phone chargers, and radios
6. Stay informed by signing up for local emergency alerts, use apps from FEMA, NOAA, or your state emergency agency, and monitor weather and news regularly during risk periods.
7. If you find yourself in need of disaster assistance, please apply for an Auxiliary Emergency Fund grant at www.ALAforVeterans.org/AEF. Grants are awarded up to \$3,000 to ALA members who have renewed their membership for three consecutive years.

Chaplain Sally Johnston, Chairman

Sadly, I must report to you that the Department of New York American Legion Auxiliary has received over 500 Senior death notices during this administration. We are blessed however as of this date; we have not received any death notices for our Junior members.

I did send cards of condolences to families of the deceased members as received by each of the 62 county Chaplains who reported to me throughout the year. It's unfortunate however that I did not receive requests for all of the 500 plus members who passed.

As your Chaplain, I provided the required prayers for Executive meetings, Homecoming, Newsletters, and reports for Department Executive Committee meetings.

A short re-cap of the Chaplain committee work as reported to me:

649 Invocations and 635 Benedictions were offered. 101 Memorial Services were attended. 64 Charters were draped. Courtesies to Gold Star Mothers; 4 dues were paid, and 498 cards were sent.

Since the "Year End Impact Report" is reported under Community Service, I reported that collectivity members volunteered 6387.50 hrs. at the rate of \$33.49 /hr. equaling \$213,917.38. Total donations expended \$20,167.01. Therefore, the total value of the Chaplain's Committee reported \$234,084.39.

Children & Youth Yvonne Brunner, Chairman

It is hard to believe that another auxiliary year is passing into our history books. The members of the Department of New York have had quite a busy year. Although there are many worthy activities which include fundraising and dedicated events, I will attempt to highlight some unit/county activities.

Over last summer, children participated in marching in 4th of July parades, assisted during picnics: food/beverage servers and participated in shopping/distribution of school supplies.

Units were creative by adding a "wish list," for school supplies to different fundraising events, while others distributed flyers to local business.' One unit hosted a Dude Ranch Day; horseback riding and visiting farm animals.

During Halloween, events included trunk or treat, costume parties, pumpkin express rides, face painting and bouncy houses. Tables were set up for children to do crafts or color in the ALA Halloween books.

Many veteran events were supported throughout the year. Children donated their time and services helping mow lawns, picking up groceries, making and distributing birthday/thank you for your service and thinking of you cards. One youth orchestra played for veterans at a luncheon.

During the holiday season, units hosted holiday gift shopping & wrapping parties, distribution of National Guard gifts, and Toys for Tots gifts were collected from the community. During holiday parties, youth choirs sang for veterans at facilities, made and distributed holiday cards with special notes inside. Donations of candy canes to elementary schools, cookie decorating parties, making ginger houses, breakfast with Santa dressed as Elves and units hosted Secret Santa events.

During the Department of New York Midwinter Conference in January 17-18, 2025, we were honored to have National President Trish Ward as one of the presenters. She was delightful and presented with enthusiasm. Her shared knowledge of our programs and its potential was outstanding. Several committees presented including the Children & Youth committee. Brief highlights include promoting April as the Month of the Military Child, reporting; why it's important, childhood learning, the ALA impact of the programs beyond the organization, award information and a resource guide.

As the new year got under way, the colder weather months did not deter our children from joining in the fun. They remained busy with matinee movie afternoons, assisting at baby showers, attending classes on learning to knit (made newborn hats), helped in the collection of thirty-one pounds of aluminum tabs for the Shriner's Hospital in Boston and learned poppy making.

As April approached, units were busy participating in Military Child Ceremonies throughout the month. Some units had a special ceremony during the meeting, participating in the Military Child Table Ceremony and having Proclamations presented by local government officials. One unit hosted a Children & Youth Day. Many community services participated including the Fire Department, NYS Police and the NYS Forest Rangers. During Easter, several units hosted parties. Baskets were distributed for the egg hunts, children had fun bobbing for apples and smiling faces peeked out of chicken/duck cut-outs for photos, along with photos taken with the Easter Bunny.

The Child Well-Being Foundation (formerly the Child Welfare Foundation) through your generous donations has collected \$4,728.25 to date.

For the Youth Hero/Good Deed Awards – national has received one Youth Hero submission and 6 Good Deed Award submissions.

The year-end totals for 2024-2025 are: Total hours of Youth activities: 4,661, Dollars spent on goods for youth activities: 51,123.36, Total Unit expenses: 10,212.29, Total number of children/youth served: 5,562, Donations to child service charities: 19,465.17, Dollars in direct aid to needy children: 7,307.96, Total hours members volunteered: 7,316, Value: 245,012.84, CWF Child Well Being Foundation: 4,728.25

Over the past year, serving as your Children & Youth Chair has been a truly rewarding experience. I have had the opportunity to meet so many of you, and it has been an absolute pleasure. The insights and perspectives you have shared with me have deepened my understanding and commitment to our mission.

Most importantly, I would like to thank all our members for their continued dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary Children & Youth program. All of you are at the heart of the mission. It is only through your efforts that make this possible. *Remember all of you are the auxiliary's most valued resource.*

Community Service
Lori McFarland, Chairman

The Department of New York came through for our veterans and their families as well as for their communities.

The evidence of this is in their reporting: There were 1365 volunteers, 5,650 miles driven and 2,234,220.75 hours of volunteering for a value of \$725,328,490.22, and 42,779.52 in donations. Some of the highlighted things we did were, working Legion Activities, assisting Scout Troops, participating with food banks, clothing drives, Christmas Parties, Honor Flight, donations to Hurricane Relief, Memorials.

Our Auxilliary members volunteer in many areas, we are a diverse group who try to fulfill the needs of our veterans and their families, in addition to their communities.

Please continue to remain active in your community and always remember that we are all about "Service, Not Self"

Constitution and Bylaws/Resolutions **Deborah Morris, Chairman**

As we all know that the Constitution & Bylaws are the governing documents of our American Legion Auxilliary, each at their own level. As of June 13th 2025, there has been 77 Units and 33 County Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules that were submitted, reviewed, and signed by this chairman, with more in the "Q". I am proud to announce the postage savings of over \$450. all because of our Units, Counties, and Districts C & B chairs and Presidents using the electronic methods of emails and texting.

Our Unit, County and District Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules are not only guides, but they are also teaching tools for our future leaders. We should be encouraging our Units to discuss the articles and sections in these documents. Remember all Unit, County and District members are allowed to have these documents, may it be in an email or hard copy. Take the time to read a section at a meeting and have a discussion each month. If you are looking to increase membership share these governing documents with the younger, new and those who have renewed their interest in our American Legion Auxilliary. The Constitution & Bylaws are not just for the Presidents' use it's for everyone's use. We absolutely encourage the sharing governing documents with your members. If you have questions or concerns, you can always contact your Dept. Constitution & Bylaws.

Please remember your Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules should be reviewed at least once a year and updated with all changes immediately. Remember to make sure ALL changes are voted upon and must be recorded in the Secretary's minutes. Thank you, to all C&B Chairmen for all your hard work and what you have accomplished this past year.

Education **Mary Ann Calbo, Chairman**

It has been my honor serving as Education Chair of this rewarding program.

The promotion of Department, National and unit scholarships was very prevalent throughout our State. My committee had the privilege of reading the Department applicants essays which was the experience of a lifetime. Our units were very busy meeting and distributing scholarship information to Educators and posting on social media. This resulted in 154 Department applications, of which 15 Department scholarships are awarded every year for a total of \$15,000.00. 47 National electronic scholarship applications were submitted this year, and I am thrilled to announce that three of our National applicants were scholarship winners! Congratulations to all!

Teacher's appreciation week was celebrated in numerous ways to give thanks to our educators who inspire their students to excel to their highest potential. Units have celebrated our educators with homemade baked goods, cards of appreciation, gift cards and chocolates for their unwavering dedication. Certainly, every one of us remembers a teacher who made an impact on our lives.

125 Veteran Legionnaires scheduled presentations alongside Auxiliary members in local schools throughout the year during school assemblies. Veterans told their stories, taught flag etiquette, and explained the significance and difference of Veteran's Day and Memorial Day.

Leonard Curtain Unit # 927 donated \$4,350.00 for "tools for schools". A school partnering with Unit #161 welcomed 5 Shriners to a 5th grade class. 1,000 bags of goodies and thousands of pull tabs were donated to Shriner's Children's Hospital to help the hospital patients to address their needs. This is a heartwarming example of children helping Children.

In celebrating April, the month of the military child, many units promoted "Purple Up Day" in local schools. Auxiliary members partnered with their local schools, filling numerous backpacks with supplies and snacks for many military children to acknowledge their sacrifices. Unit #798, Philadelphia, NY distributed purple bracelets throughout the school and held a raffle distributing gift bags filled with purple items in honor of our military children.

Donations of \$34,275.00 to schools for supplies, clothing and food was outstanding. Total volunteer hours, donations and scholarships was a whopping \$971,302.00. I am so honored to report these figures. When our members work collectively, great feats of accomplishment are attainable for our Organization's mission and our children.

Thank you for your passionate work.

Department Scholarship - Riley Hall, District 9, Dutchess County, Arlington unit #1302

Department District Scholarships *Districts 1, 2, 6 and 8 -no submittals**

District 3- Christopher Mozzillo, Greene County, Greenville unit #291

District 4- Emma Riley Franklin County, Malone unit #219

District 5- Ellie Hite - Oneida County, Clark Mills unit #26

District 7- Kathryn Shauber - Monroe County, Chili unit #1830

District 9- Riley Hall - Dutchess County, Arlington unit 1302

District 10- Annmaire Jones - Nassau County, Floral Park unit #334

Raymond T. Wellington Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Cole Schiefelbein, District 10, Nassau County, Floral Park unit# 334

Past President Parley Scholarship in Medical Field

Molly Bowers, District 8, Cattaraugus County, Gowanda unit #409

Helen Klimek Student Scholarship

Annemarie Jones, District 10, Nassau County, Floral Park unit #334

Mary Ann K. Murtha Memorial Scholarship

Jade Barringer, District 5, Oneida County, Oriskany unit #144

ALA Empire Girls State

Claire Herrman-Moran - Chairman

Steph Fallon -1st Vice Chairman

Megan Hockaway 2nd Vice Chairman/Registrar

The 84th Empire Girls State session took place June 30-July 6, 2025 at SUNY Brockport. 299 citizens from all 10 Districts joined together to create the 51st state.

June 30 – Arrival of citizens under hot and rainy conditions. Thank you to all volunteers who helped with registration. County meetings began and Parli Pro workshops featuring ice cream and popsicles followed.

July 1 – Political instructors spoke about bill writing and platforms. Committee meetings with election of chairman and vice chairman, Party caucus- election of Party leaders. POW/MIA ceremony, Dept. President Kim Quick presented on What is the ALA. Guest speaker presentations by Monroe County Legislature President Yversha Roman and Rachael Gatling. Spectrum News interview Chairman Claire and citizens.

July 2 – Committee meetings, County meetings and nominees to run for Girls Nation selected. Band and Chorus rehearsals, Party Caucus, and selection of party nominations for State office. Guest speaker presentation by Dr. Mari Valez De Brown, Monroe County Commissioner of Public Health Presentation by President Kim on Programs in the ALA. Gina Southcott's Americanism presentation with citizen participation for Retirement of Unserviceable Flags. Local Rochester Channel 8 interviews Chairman Claire and local citizens.

July 3 – RALLY DAY – County court; County Executives announced their appointments. Gina and Holly's Americanism presentation on Poppies. President Kim, Chair Claire, and Vice Chair Steph present on ALA membership and EGS Alumni Association. Town Hall debate of candidates. State official winners announced.

July 4 – RED, WHITE, and BLUE Day! Legislative Session Day – 11 Bills heard total. 6 passed both the Senate and Assembly. Nationalist – Health and Education/Tech (Health Education Reform Act - Joint), Criminal Justice (Reinforce the Safety Protocols for the Ownership of Firearms), Housing and Community Development (A Bill to Implement the Infrastructure Deployment Funds Programs); Federalist - Education and Technology (Education Bill and Computer Access Bill), Health and Health (Federalist Health Committee Bill). Service, Sweets, and Social Networking events. Gina's Americanism presentation on Pocket Flags. After a presentation by President Kim on her service project, Homeward Bound, counties visited tables where they made fleece blankets, signed cards for veterans – visited tables staffed by Brockport and George Washington University admissions teams, Brockport ROTC, and enjoyed sweet treats.

July 5 – Appellate Court, Gubernatorial appointments announced, and Bills signed into law. A Special Legislative session was called by the Governor who vetoed the Computer Access Bill, and two additional bills were passed: Nationalist Education and Technology (Internet and Technology Access Bill) and Federalist Environmental Conservation (Water We Doing About Toxic Waste: Addressing the LAMere's Drinking Water Crisis). Guest speaker presentation by Carrie Davenport on leadership and citizenship. Gina and President Kim presented Blue Star Banners to citizens. STATE of the STATE – Citizens transformed from Girls State uniforms into beautiful suits, dresses, and gowns. The governor was presented with an American Flag that was used during 2025 ALA Empire Girls State and gave a State of the State address to citizens and guests. Families showed up in droves to see the meaningful ceremony and congratulate their daughters on a job well done.

July 6 – Packing up – Checking out – Home! Now to catch up on some sleep...and lots of paperwork! Thank you to our volunteer staff, without whom the week would not be possible!

Position	First	Last
Angelou Counselors	Tammy	Hartnagel
	Claire	Wagner

Anthony Counselors	Wendy	Moran
	Rita	Keyes
Chisholm Counselors	Brenda	Mendez
	Gina	Southcott
Ginsburg Counselors	Eille	Strade
	Holly	Ruggiero
Mink Counselors	Molly	McLaughlin
	Samantha	Dorminey
Parks Counselors	Donna	Dorminey
	Sophie	Kephart
Picotte Counselors	Norah	Caher
	Lindsay	Moran
Rankin Counselors	Luanna	Gilbert
	Maureen	Morgan
Ride Counselors	Mackenzie	McDaniels
	Lora	Rowe
Tubman Counselors	Sarah	Murphy
	Nicole	Robinson
Political Instructor	Cathleen	MacInnes
Political Instructor	Xamayla	Rose
Academic Affairs	Janice	Gravely
ALA EGS Secretary	Kris	Dziduch
Merchandise	Alizee	Dziduch
Media/PR	Cesidia	Carosa
Media/PR	Kaylee	Mathews
Nurse	Lisa	Chaplin
Wellness Coordinator	Sophie	Kephart
DEI consultant	Kate	Klatber

Citizen activity reports will be distributed, but we would like to announce the following positions for everyone to congratulate.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Citizen</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Citizen</u>	<u>County</u>
2025 Governor	Yashica Balausbramanian	Westchester	Chief Justice Court of Appeals	Juliet Thomas	Orange
Lt. Governor	Clara Bartholomew	Erie	Secretary of State	Shalom James	Nassau
Comptroller	Teleah Angus	Suffolk	Majority Leader	Abigail Millien	Suffolk
Attorney General	Olivia Wilson	New York	Minority Leader	Malunga Kinzonzi	Orange

Girls Nation Senators:

Malunga Kinzonzi	Orange County	and	Maya Barmecha	Westchester County
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Samsung Scholarship Recipient:

Katherine Mazaroski	Nassau County
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Wendy Privitera Spirit of Girls State Award:

Sandra Ferlo	Herkimer County
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Finance Committee
Patricia Hennessy, Chairman
Marie Mock, Mary Lou Platt Members

What a year this has been! With the assistance and dedication of our staff, Barbara, Caitlin, and Tara, as well as the Macaluso Wealth Management Group, our Investment Team and Bonadio & Co., the Accountant Firm, we have done well. Many of our budgeted items for the 2024-2025 administrative year are in line or below. The Macaluso Group continues to actively watch our investments while the current market has fluctuated constantly.

The office has been busy in securing supplies as needed at the best pricing. This year we are purchasing a much-needed high-definition projector to be used at meetings and of course Convention. Also, the office desk printers were replaced.

I can honestly say I have enjoyed my three years on this Committee. Thank you, President Kim, for your confidence in appointing me. I wish continued success to Marie, Marylou, and Joan. Confidence. In you all.

Historian
Patricia Galley, Chairman

The Historian is responsible for all the levels in our Auxiliary to maintain them. It's important so everyone knows why we matter. Whether it's our records, minutes, Facebook, newspaper, or documents through photos. It's our way to snap, caption it and present it. Yes, some of our choices have to be revised but that gets us to think outside the box.

We have to encourage members to continue our history or it's going to be a lost art. It's for our next generation to continue with their expectations!

I would like to Thank our units, counties, and districts for sharing what they have accomplished this year. Be proud of what you did. I know you made me proud of what you did and how you gave ideas for the future.

Please continue with the History patch program, Veteran History Project, National Women's History Month and for the Member's Remember Project. They are very educated.

So, as I turn over the next Chapter, let us remember that the history of the American Legion Auxiliary begins with your story.

Junior Activities **Judy Wallace, Chairman**

Junior members have managed to overcome challenges and give positive feedback in the way to bringing new members within the auxiliary units, to adding ideas in promoting veteran programs. Juniors volunteered wherever and whenever there was a need. Juniors realize they can have fun with their friends if given the empowerment of the seniors who are mentoring them.

Juniors were informed they can receive a patch for the different activities they already volunteer for. Imagine the excitement how easy it was to accomplish and receive the patch. Unit members had an orientation about the patch program, and it basically took off from there. Parents and Junior members were spreading the news to anybody who would listen. Juniors volunteered in so many ways already presented in the report form. Which included helping the legion family post with fish fry, setting up and breaking down tables. Marching in Memorial Day Parades. Shopping for gifts and wrapping the gifts, Signing thank you cards to pass on to the veterans in various VA facilities within their community. Juniors across the state filled goody bags not only for veterans, but for elementary school children of military active-duty soldiers, and homeless veterans who had children. Juniors implemented Christmas in August instead of the December because of the impending weather. Juniors are actively involved with the American Legion Post family to include trunk and treats where they passed out candy and or help decorate trunks. Juniors offered up a hand to serve members meals, grocery shopping, shoveling snow, and or cutting the grass.

Juniors attended Mid-Winter Conference, and all positions were filled for the incoming year. The honorary president keeps contact and knows what the Juniors are doing within their perspective units. Juniors are actively engaged with their president which says a lot about the future of our organization. It is very inspiring and gratifying to know the Juniors are the future and we can be so proud of the accomplishments they have overcome.

Junior members are given the opportunity to attend any and all senior member meetings. They are empowered to ask questions during a meeting if they don't understand something that is presented. Juniors are actively seeking answers, and it doesn't matter their age all are welcomed. Junior members are welcomed into the schools where they may read a book or tell the story of the Poppy.

Juniors are so involved within the Department of New York. I can go on but would like to highlight Juniors learned and displayed in sign language the Pledge of Allegiance for an American Legion Post Family event. I thought it couldn't get better. But it does, Junior member saw a unit who lacked a chaplain for their unit. Yelp, she stepped in as the Chaplain for that unit and has been attending meetings ever since then.

I would like to congratulate the Juniors who applied for National Awards to include JMOY award and Historian award. The winners will be announced at the National Convention to be held in

Tampa Bay, Florida. I am bursting with excitement because your already winners in the hearts of New York! Let's Go New York!

Leadership Sheila Holman, Chairman

Leadership is one of the backbone of the American Legion auxiliary organization. With good leadership, we enhance and guide. Our members gather more confidence in the knowledge they have learned. This enables them possess a better understanding of the roles they hold in their units, counties, and districts.

With leadership, we encourage members to have open communication and listen to ideas, which enhances the morale of the members and the drive to want to take on committees. The support we give to all our members encourages them to carry out our common goals of helping our active military, veterans, and the families in our communities.

When using leadership encourage our members to sign into the national website, we ask them to read about all the different program lessons that are available on the ALA Academy. This helps them to register for some of the classes, especially ALA 101 in the 2024 2025 year I had 15 members that reported that they had taken classes on the ALA Academy. This enabled them to learn about the core vision in mission of this organization, and the true value each program holds.

I received many reports on holding leadership workshops in different districts and units and counties. Having good leadership also supported people in the community to see exactly what our units and counties do for our military and our veterans and our families. This increased Membership in units. Community members stated they wanted to be a part of thanking are active military veterans, and their families.

Thank you to President and Kim Quick for giving me this leadership committee for the 2425 year. It has been a learning experience and is leaving me with wonderful memories.

Legislative Lynn Visconti, Chairman

Our New York State Legislative Committee showed improvement in action from the Fall reporting period to the end of the year reporting period.

I receive 100% reporting with 38 counties reported activities and 25 counties reporting no activity.

With this being an important election year, there were 501 emails and letters sent to elected National, state, and local officials as well as 188 calls and 94 visits made.

45 responses were received back from many officials, including K. Gillibrand, Mr. Molinaro, Mr. Schumer, Rep. Goldman, Mr. Williams, and many more government officials understanding the importance of our concerns for veterans, military, and their families.

Counties reviewed the Legion's National Legislative Division Weekly and passed on the information to their units.

330 members signed up for the Auxiliary Legislative e-newsletter,

11 subscriptions to American Legion e-newsletter

12 subscriptions to www.capwiz.com/legion.

27 elective officials attended post family events.

Legislative issues were discussed at unit and county levels.

431.5 hours were donated to the legislative program

\$716.65 was spent to promote the legislative program.
13 members attended The Meet the Candidate event.
9 attended Town Hall events.
15 attended a Legislative Reception,
1 attended "Hill Day" in Albany, NY
15 attended the Washington DC Conference.

Focused issues of concern reported were Major Richard Star Act, Loves Lives On, Veteran suicide, Veteran homelessness, Veteran benefits, Affordable housing, VA benefits and funding to support them, Arlington Cemetery Expansion, Vet-Tec Authorization Act, Afghan Adjustment Act, and Rosie the Riveter Coin Act, Women Veterans Services, Housing the Unhoused Disabled Veteran Act, and Improved Veteran Community Care Services.

There were 431.5 volunteer hours reported for legislative activity
Volunteer hours value at \$33.49 /hour for total of \$14,450.94.
3 Veterans in the Community Schools presentations were completed.
Value of in-kind donations received for the legislative programs was \$2,090.

Grassroots activity

- \$21 Billion + Record amount in VA disability benefits secured for veterans, free of charge, by accredited American Legion service officers in the 2023-24 fiscal year.
- 44, 586 Messages sent through the American Legion Grassroots Advocacy Center in less than a month.

Membership Maureen Morgan, Chairman

Here we are in July at the Department Convention. What a year the Department of New York has had with membership. The whole Department has worked so hard on membership, and we did an amazing job on President Kim's movie.

The movie is completed, and we have done an excellent job. The Executive Producers (Vice Presidents) did a great job with mentoring and encouraging the Associate Producers (District Presidents). The Associate Producers have been great keeping the reports and programs going in their Districts. The Directors (District Vice Presidents) were amazing directing the cast and moving the membership to where we are today. The Assistant Directors (County Membership Chairs) got working on moving membership forward into a new era. While our Cast (members) are showing what they can do. The best is our Casting Directors (Past Department Presidents) did an excellent job of showing the cast that they can do this role and get the movie done while looking good at doing the job.

Our movie is now completed, and it shows what our units, counties, and districts have done with raining in new members, rejoining our current members, and helping mentor the existing members. Units had creative ways to get new members into their Units by having happy hours on Friday afternoons, dinners, baroques, and craft parties. As for getting the younger members to join units held game day, Halloween Trunk, or Treat Day, painting your face parties and involved the whole community.

The membership chair has kept everyone informed by sending out weekly emails and newsletters on how well our movie was progressing, which helped us achieve our goals throughout this year. We achieved our goal of 95% before the May 23rd deadline for Poppy Day. We are so close to the 100% Award before July 4th. We've been celebrating and dancing like movie stars, let's keep up

this great work. With all our hard work, as of June 11, 2025, we are ranked in 14th place with 34,769 members paid: 96.50% our goal is 36,030.

There have been 4 quarterly National Membership zoom meetings that this membership chair has attended and proudly represented our department.

We will continue to reach our goal of 102% for the National Convention in Tampa, Florida this August.

AWARDS FOR UNITS

Units must have 12 members to be eligible for awards. Membership awards are determined by the date received at the Department office, not the postmark date.

Milestone #1 for Units 75% by October 15, 2024

- (5-\$100)
1. Unit 1146
 2. Unit 532
 3. Unit 954
 4. Unit 676
 5. Unit 774

Milestone#2 for Units 85% by November 11, 2024

- (5-\$100)
1. Unit 1634
 2. Unit 1928
 3. Unit 958
 4. Unit 213
 5. Unit 346

Milestone #3 for Units 100% by January 13, 2025

- (5-\$75)
1. Unit 1327
 2. Unit 731
 3. Unit 333
 4. Unit 463
 5. Unit 979

Milestone#4 for Units 100% by March 17, 2025

- (5-\$50)
1. Unit 40
 2. Unit 821
 3. Unit 1327
 4. Unit 1033
 5. Unit 924

Milestone #5 for Units 100% by April 14, 2025

- (5-\$25)
1. Unit 199
 2. Unit 330
 3. Unit 651
 4. Unit 958
 5. Unit 1041

AWARDS FOR COUNTIES

- Milestone # 1 50% by October 15, 2024 (1) \$100 Drawing- Schuyler County
Milestone # 2 60% by November 11, 2024 (1) \$100 Drawing- Niagara County
Milestone # 3 75% by January 13, 2025 (1) \$75 Drawing- Nassau County
Milestone # 5 100 % by April 14, 2025 (1) \$25 Drawing- Schuyler County

**National Security
Sandie Baker, Chairman**

I would like to thank the Department of NY President Kimberly Quick for assigning me the committee for National Security for the 2024-2025 administrative year.

This report includes totals received from both the November 2024 and April 2025 reporting year. Many of the counties in the state lack a committee chair for the National Security Program. Due to the lack of reports from many individuals, it is challenging to ascertain whether there is no chairperson or simply no activity to report at this time.

Total Hours Members Volunteered	1058
Total Number Served	19,331
Value of Volunteer Hours x \$33.49	\$34,658
Value of Goods & Materials	\$19,388
Number of Miles Traveled	594
Coupon Values	8,653
Total Number of Veterans Assisted	64
Total No of Veterans in Community/Schools Presentations	1
Value of In-Kind Donations Received	\$23,633
Total Number of Military Families Served	255

There was much activity reported amongst those who did report. Some of the items reported that deserve special mention are:

- Six cell phones were sent out to troops to use.
- Birthday and Christmas cards were sent to platoons overseas, as well as to those stationed here in the USA.
- ALA members assisted with providing housing for an active duty servicemember for 53 days while home from duty.
- Donations to the USO for active-duty service members to make calls back home.
- Phone calls made on a regular basis to do Buddy-Checks with active-duty service members.
- One Unit sent a package of donated items to a military platoon; the only costs being for postage.
- One member bought an active-duty service member a new furnace for \$360 to install in the service member's home.
- A unit purchased commissary cards and mailed them all within a Christmas card to the active duty servicemembers living in their home community. The Unit then purchased Christmas gifts for the active duty servicemembers immediate family members in tandem with the local church to create gift baskets for each.
- A county supplied the National Guard with food, drink, and blankets when the NYS prison guards went out on strike and the National Guard was sent in to assist.
- A county gathered together with other Legion Family members to hold a community Military Christmas tree ceremony. The units made ornaments for the tree and members decorated it; the event provided an opportunity to show who we are as ALA and the important work the organization does in the community.
- County quilters participated in Quilts of Valor, spending 57 hours, 200 miles for sessions in making quilts for veterans and active-duty personnel.
- Coupons sent to overseas commissaries, with a \$8,653 value sent to Yokosuka Japan.
- One District, with the help of county and units as well as SAL squadrons gathered \$4000 in school supplies and sent to the military children in Guam's Air Force and Naval bases.
- Other places services were rendered to active-duty service members included:
 - Operation Comfort Warriors
 - National Military Appreciation Month
 - Blood Banks
 - ROTC/Jr ROTC helped with supporting a POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony
 - Wreaths Across America and Trees for Troops

- o Welcome Home honor events
- o Families of POW/MIA were notified of remains
- o Citizen Corp in the Community
- o Active-Duty females served by local business donations for platoons overseas
- o Donations to benefit the Service Dog program
- o Luncheon Meet & Greet at a variety of Legion Posts on Veteran's Day

I would like to thank the American Legion Auxiliary Department of NY for the opportunity to serve as the committee chair for the National Security Program. I have learned how the reporting system works and what services we offer to active-duty service members.

Due to the fact that there aren't often military bases in close proximity to the particular counties in one district as opposed to another, perhaps having a shared program mission to have each unit and county contribute to a location that currently may have only the counties in that particular district supporting our active service members.

Parliamentarian Joan Caccamo, Chairman

Parliamentarian is not a reporting committee however members often reach out with questions, concerns, and requests. I can tell you that those who did reach out I was more than happy to help. In fact, sometimes I learned a thing or two.

The Roberts' Rule of Procedures book is long and often leaves one thinking about what they have read. Please remember that there are many wonderful members of the Auxiliary who you can reach out to for clarification. I know that they would love to help you. Roberts' Rule of order is there to protect the voices of the minorities and ensure that even those who do not actively participate in the group always have an open door. Also remember that common sense is a great tool!

This past January I had the privilege to address our auxiliary members on parliamentary procedures at the Mid-Winter Conference. It was a wonderful time which I hope you learned something because I certainly did.

At this time, I want to thank every member for keeping me on my toes. I also want to thank Madame President Kim for giving me the opportunity to serve our members as well as having the confidence in appointing me to this position.

Poppy-Poppy Poster Laura Booth, Chairman

Wow, where did this year go! Our units and members have done an amazing job this year.

- American Legion Post and Auxiliary Units have ordered 170,500 poppies
- volunteered 3591.88 hours
- valued at \$120,292.06 this year
- 78,595 poppies and items have been distributed.

Monies raised from the poppies have been used for many different programs. Donations to Honor Flight and My Brother Vinny have been amazing. Many units donated to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival and of course, many units gave to President Kim's Project-Homeward Bound Adirondacks. One unit gave DAV Hurricane drive & Christmas boxes to active-duty soldiers. Our units do an amazing job taken care of our Veteran's.

- This year I received 24 poppy posters for the contest. My team had a hard job judging them since they were all amazing.
- All 7 categories were forwarded to the Poppy Eastern Division Chair for judging on a National level.
- The remaining posters will be on display at the Dept. Convention in Syracuse.

What a great year it's been and a wonderful experience for me.

Public Relations, Julianne Barton, Chairman

Public relations is the window into the day-to-day happenings of our organization. We use public relations to increase visibility, encourage membership, promote events, celebrate happenings, and invite the general population to join in festivities. The methods we use to spread the news include newspapers, radio, television, newsletters, and social media outlets.

Reporting the varied methods was accomplished by dedicated chairmen. They reported over 695 minutes of radio time and over 600 minutes of television time dedicated to the various activities that Auxiliary members were involved in. 519 newspaper articles were published promoting the achievements of the members of the Department of New York. Letter writing is also a form of public relations and over 400 letters were written on our behalf.

Electronic methods are the most common form of communication used. **24,412** minutes were reported but this is certainly an under-reported method because it is hard to track. 101 Facebook pages were reported, and most are utilized to promote upcoming events and to celebrate events that have taken place. These pages are public and are shared, so they are a GREAT way to promote all the activities that the Auxiliaries are doing.

Newsletters are the most popular method of communication in the Department. Over 135 newsletters are being distributed among Units, Counties, and Districts. Some are dedicated to Auxiliary only and some include the whole Legion family. Most are e-newsletters, saving money on postage. It was reported that over **25,000** people receive the newsletters, not only in New York, but across the United States.

The Department of New York publishes a quarterly newsletter. It is an e-newsletter but can be mailed also. At this time, there are approximately 560 recipients. Combining the four newsletters, there were **3,508,120** square inches of information distributed. This figure does not include all the times the newsletter was read at meetings or "shared" with other people!

Branding is the best way to introduce our organization to others. Promoting our organization is vital to our continued success and a necessity to be able to support our Veterans, Military, and their families. Our communities must be aware of our activities to support them.

Members are the representation and what people see, hear, or sense will form their attitude and opinion of this organization. Public relations goes hand in hand with membership. When good things are promoted, it could reinvigorate an older member to become involved again, or it could spark a prospective member to fill out an application.

Public relations in the Department of New York is hard at work. The Auxiliary members are busy letting the world know who and what we stand for and what we do. **Let's wallpaper the world with the greatness of the American Legion Auxiliary.**

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation **Lora Rowe, Chairman**

New York started out strong and continued strong during the year, striving to promote programs and services that assist and enhance the lives of veterans and their families.

Numerous events were held in the VA facilities and Veterans Homes across New York. A carnival was held, and breakfast was served, and then veterans enjoyed games such as corn hole, darts, horse racing games, and blackjack – blackjack was the favorite! A baby shower was held at the Syracuse VA, and over \$3,000 worth of merchandise was donated to the women's floor at the VA. Volunteers at the Oxford Veterans Home celebrated the female veteran residents with each receiving an outfit, a stuffed animal, candy, and a comb - the stuffed dogs were the highlight! The ladies shared stories about their time in the service. Members joined veterans on various outings visiting museums and points of interest. Some activities included Veteran yoga classes, Christmas gift shopping days, Christmas and Valentine's Day card making, and Christmas in July to just name a few.

Sweats for Vets was a huge and remarkably successful program this year which included providing for veterans at the Batavia VAMC and area facilities. Veterans were given a red long-sleeved t-shirt and a pair of navy athletic pants. Some were provided with a warm navy fleece full zip jacket. And some were provided with blankets. Such a heart-warming project!

Other events include an Army/Navy game buffet was held and what fun the veterans had with wonderful food and bantering on who was going to win the game. A two-day Veteran Fest was held. This celebration consisted of food, drinks, motorcycle rides, bonfires, a flag burning ceremony, a parade of veterans, and their Veteran of the Year was honored.

Guidance and support for caregivers was provided through phone calls and cards. Caregivers were informed about available programs within the VA network and were provided home-cooked meals.

Two American Legion Auxiliary Foundation grants were reported. The grants combined with funding support by Units purchased an electronic piano for the new housing facilities' community room at Canandaigua VA and two blanket warmers for the Oxford Veterans Home.

Veterans and their spouses were adopted, and meals were provided for them, and their membership was paid. Platoons were adopted and packages were mailed out recognizing birthdays, holidays, and supplies with everyday needs. A Veteran of the Year was selected, in which that Veteran was showered each month with gifts from the members and was recognized on the veteran's birthday and Christmas.

At the New York State Fair, Auxiliary members volunteered at the American Legion booth in which various resources are provided to help veterans.

Numerous units assisted veterans by explaining available benefits and helping them with the application process.

Monetary donations were made to the Bath Gift Shop, the Oxford Veterans Home, VA facilities, Boots on the Ground Program, Tunnel to Towers, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Wreaths Across America, Honor Flight, Paws of Honor, Trees for Troops, Stop Soldier Suicide, Wounded Warrior's Project, Fisher House, Clear Path for Veterans Center, Paws of Wars, Hungry Hero Help Program, Sitrin Military Warrior Retreat, Feed Our Vets, AMVETS for Crisis Hotline, Stop Soldier Suicide, and Homeward Bound Adirondacks just to name a few.

American Legion Auxiliary Foundation 2024-2025

In 2007, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation was created to support the programs and mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. After building greater awareness of its mission and goals, the Foundation began awarding grants to American Legion Auxiliary entities, enabling them to launch new projects, initiatives, and programs aligned with the American Legion Auxiliary's mission. During this administrative year, the Foundation has provided \$32,939 in grants to Units, \$30,000 in financial support for the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation program, and \$65,000 towards the costs of the American Legion Auxiliary's co-presentership of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

National President Trish Ward prioritized the Veteran Projects Fund, emphasizing both fundraising and utilization. To inspire engagement and education, she introduced the *American Legion Auxiliary Challenge Card Deck*—a unique set of cards featuring detailed information about the Auxiliary's various programs. These decks, designed for use as educational tools, reference materials, and even creative games, were given to donors who contributed \$35 or more to the Veteran Projects Fund. Ninety of these decks were distributed to contributors within the Department of New York.

The Veteran Projects Fund provides targeted financial assistance to units and departments for veteran-focused projects. Two Veteran Projects Fund grants were awarded to the Department of New York: blanket warming cabinets for the New York State Veterans Home at Oxford and furnishings for a transitional housing facility for homeless women veterans with children in Ballston Spa.

In addition to the Veteran Projects Fund, the ALA Foundation Veterans Creative Arts Festival Fund supports creative art festivals at local VA Medical Centers. Grants of up to \$2,500 are awarded to units and departments for the support of local festivals. We encourage Units in New York to work with your local VA Medical Center therapy staff to develop grant applications under this program – most VAMCs within New York currently have creative arts programs for the veterans they serve.

New York is well-represented on the ALA Foundation Board of Directors, with Cathleen MacInnes, President; Terri Wallace, Treasurer; and Carrie Davenport, Risk & Compliance Committee Liaison.

Thank you, Department of New York, for your generous contributions totaling \$11,024! In addition to \$500 from the Department, donations were received from Units, Posts, Squadrons, and individuals. Thank you, most of all, for using the ALA Foundation grants to enhance your programs of service to America's veterans, military, and their families.

At New York's Department Convention, 400 "We Care" bags were put together and were hand delivered to all New York VA facilities.

Many donations and volunteer hours were provided for the Creative Arts. Members greeted the veterans, registered the items, served refreshments, and judged the entries.

Honor Flight "Welcome Home" celebrations were held. Units across New York prepared sendoff breakfasts and prepared lunches along with snacks and water for the trips.

Veterans were assisted throughout the year with daily inside and outside chores. Members also volunteered transporting veterans to appointments, grocery shopping, and helping with errands.

The following values were reported for VA facilities. Members volunteered 12,212 hours in VA facilities for a dollar value of \$408,979.88. Members drove 23,407 miles, serving 389,797 veterans. The total dollars spent reported was \$127,517.44 and In-Kind Donations totaled \$39,441.

The following values were reported for service to our veterans outside of VA facilities. Members volunteered 31,604 hours for a dollar value of \$1,058,417.96. There were 91,061 veterans who served, \$124,760 dollars spent, and 26,319 miles driven. In-Kind Donations totaled \$36,195.25.

What a wonderful year this was for me learning about all that New York does for veterans!

Warrior Family Assistance Marie SantaCroce, Chairman

The Warriors Family Assistance Program is unique to New York State. How blessed we are to have this wonderful opportunity to reach out to our Veterans and Active-Duty Service Members when they need us the most.

(So far) this year, through your efforts in your own communities, WFA supported 23 Veterans/ Service Members with grants of up to \$1,500 each.

Thank you to everyone who participated in and supported this program. If you do not have a WFA Committee in place already, we encourage every Unit, County and District to form a WFA Committee now so that you are ready to offer assistance as soon as a need is identified.

Donations to WFA are also appreciated.

On a personal note, I would like to thank President Kim and Past President Karen for entrusting me with this committee. It has been my privilege to serve our Veterans/ Currently Serving Military Members and their families over the past two years.

2025 Walkathon "They Fought For Us, Let's Walk For Them"

With each year we see more and more support for this outstanding program sponsored by The Sons of the American Legion in partnership with the American Legion Auxiliary.

Every dollar raised is an investment in the lives of our Veterans through hospital services and special projects like our Department President's Project, "Welcome Home Adirondack."

We thank everyone who participated in a Walk, wrote letters and/ or promoted the program this year.