

**2025-2026 American Legion Auxiliary
Department of New York
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation/Service to Veterans**

Department Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation/Service to Veterans Chairman

Yvonne Brunner

422 Baldwin Ave.

Baldwin, NY 11510

C: 516-351-0006

E-mail: nyalaVAandR@gmail.com

Purpose: The purpose of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee is to promote programs and services that assist and enhance the lives of veterans and their families, ensuring restoration and/or transition to normally functioning lives.

**Support the therapeutic rehabilitation and healing of veterans through arts, crafts, and hobbies.
Support veteran caregivers, family members, and survivors.**

- Volunteer at local VA facilities, including state VA facilities in your area.
- Collaborate with organizations that support veterans and their families, such as Wreaths Across America, Honor Flight Inc., and the Military and Veteran Caregiver Network.
- Look in your community for opportunities to support veterans, their caregivers, their families, and their survivors.

Outside Partnerships

Wreaths Across America

- Take part in local wreath placement at a national cemetery.
- Sponsor wreaths for placement through Wreaths Across America.

Honor Flight Inc.

- Volunteer with local hubs.
- Utilize your unit's poppy funds to support important aspects of Honor Flight activities. For more information, please see www.honorflight.org/donations.
- Participate in welcome-home events.
- Coordinate the creation and delivery of cards and letters to Honor Flight hubs for mail call.
- Consider volunteering as a guardian for an Honor Flight. Please note — there is an associated cost.

Military and Veteran Caregiver Network

- Learn who is considered a caregiver. This will help you identify caregivers in your community and maybe even as a caregiver yourself. If you identify as a caregiver, consider joining their online peer support community.
- Familiarize yourself with local caregiver resources found in the Hero Care Resource Directory
- Refer to the MVCN's community calendar for educational and volunteer opportunities

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

- Promote awareness of healing through arts, crafts, and hobbies.
- Donate to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival through the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.
- Donate to local Veterans Creative Arts Festivals (e.g., time, supplies, money).
- Identify arts, crafts, and hobby projects targeted to veterans (writing, oral history recording, visual and performing arts, quilting, and gardening).

- Donate art supplies to your local U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facilities including state veterans' homes, community living centers, and VA medical centers.
- Plan and organize a local Veterans Creative Arts Festival.
- Advocate for art therapy, music therapy, drama, and recreational therapy programs within the VA healthcare system.
- Apply to the ALA Foundation for Veterans Creative Arts Festival Grants to be used for local competitions and festivals in your community. For more information, please go to <https://alafoundation.org/vcaf-grants/>.

Center for Development and Community Engagement (CDCE, formerly known as VAVS)

- Recruit Auxiliary members as volunteers for the VA Center for Development and Community Engagement at VA healthcare facilities.
- If you see a need in your community that is not being addressed, contact your local VA.
- Familiarize yourself with the service of the VA caregiver support program
- Volunteer at your local VA facility for events such holiday gift shops, Bingo, baby showers, etc.
- Don't forget to include all American Legion Family members in your VA events.
- Coordinate a supply drive for the needs of hospitalized veterans by gathering items such as socks, underwear, toiletries, etc. Please contact your local VA facility or American Legion Auxiliary CDCE representative for needed items.
- Don't forget your state VA facilities, such as state veterans' homes. The veterans who reside there have needs that we may fill as well. For more information and local points of contact, please refer to <https://nasdva.us/resources/>.

Service to Veterans (Outside of VA Facilities)

- Take part in a veteran job fair by organizing or working at an informational table.
- Promote local veteran-centric job fairs in your community. Support The American Legion by helping host a local job fair at your post home or community center.
- Support veteran caregivers, family members, and survivors.
- Provide a spa day or caregiver day out for community veteran caregivers.
- Offer to sit with a veteran while the caregiver runs errands.
- Offer to run errands for a caregiver.
- Prepare information for units concerning the needs of caregiver support.
- Transportation of veterans to appointments or running errands.
- Contact an American Legion Service Officer at your post and offer to be on the list of people to call when a veteran's family needs help.
- Buy school supplies, host a baby shower, or send care packages to veterans' children who are headed to college.
- Become the catalyst to find needs and encourage members to help veterans in their community.
- Promote volunteer opportunities in community settings.
- Utilize websites, newsletters, and other media.
- Report your ALA Service to Veterans hours to your unit VA&R chair.

"Annual SAL & ALA Walk-A-Thon 2026" **"They Marched For Us, Let's Walk For Them" April 2026**

This year, donations will go to our **13 VA Hospitals and 5 Nursing Facilities** as well as our **Department President's Projects "The Military Women's Memorial" in Washington DC.** **Let us all work together this year to make our Walkathon the most successful ever!!! Stay tuned for more information on the Walk-A-Thon.**

How you can help:

-Organize a Walk, sponsor a Breakfast, Dinner, BBQ, Carnival, have a Raffle or Write a donation letter and mail or email, to your family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, Units, Squadrons and Legion Members.

DEPARTMENT VETERANS' AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION
SERVICE TO VETERANS' AWARDS

Department Award Rules

- Entries must be typed, double spaced, not to exceed 1,000 words.
- Word count in lower left corner of cover sheet unless otherwise noted under award instructions.
- Entries must be in narrative form and placed in a folder.
- Pictures, newspaper clippings and other materials and/or documents may be included.
- All entries must include a cover sheet with the name of the award entry, name of the Unit/County/District, name, and address of the Unit/County/Chairman.
- Entries must be received by the Department Chairman no later than MAY 1st unless a different date is specified.

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S AWARD: To the Unit that submits the best program supporting our Veterans and their caregivers and family members. Write-up cannot exceed 1,000 words, may include photos, PR clippings, printout of social media posts, etc. All entries are to be mailed to the Department President at her home no later than May 1, 2026. Email entries will not be accepted or considered.

THE LINDA TOME AWARD: To the unit and County who submits the best report on their year-round VA&R/Service to Veterans Program.

THE BETTY JANE LIGHT AWARD- to the Unit chairman who initiates and completes the most outstanding program for assisting & caring of women veterans.

Department Award: To the Junior Group reporting the most outstanding service benefiting our hospitalized veterans.

2025-2026 NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION VA&R AWARDS

Deadlines and Submission Requirements

All award submissions must include a narrative (either a PDF or Microsoft Word document) explaining why the department or unit you're nominating should receive the award. You may also upload other supporting documentation that will give the committee a full picture of the important mission work your department, or unit has accomplished this year. These files can be photos (JPG, JPEG or TIFs -- no larger than 14MB) or PDF documents. If you have more than three supporting files, please email the committee email address listed in the form.

National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

Unit Award: Most Outstanding VA&R Program (per division)

All unit entries must be submitted via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.

Note: You will receive confirmation when your award is submitted.

Department Award: Best Department VA&R Program (per division)

All department entries must be submitted via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.

Note: You will receive confirmation when your award is submitted.

VA Medical Center Appointments Representative and Deputies
2025-2026

Albany Stratton VAMC, 113 Holland Ave., Albany, NY 12208
3rd District

Representative: Marie Mock
168 Dunsbach Ferry Rd.
Cohoes, NY 12047
518-783-5316
mcmock@hotmail.com

Deputy: Judy Benner
13 Broderick St.
Albany, NY 12205
518-869-8668
judybenner13@gmail.com

Western NY (Batavia) VAMC, 222 Richmond Ave, Batavia, NY 14020
8th District

Representative: Valerie D. Wells
22 Church St.
Lyndonville, NY 14098
585-339-8500
Vdwells63@gmail.com

Bath VAMC, 76 Veterans Ave., Bath, NY 14810
6th and 7th Districts

Representative: Jacqueline Williams
60 Bissell Ave.
Corning, NY 14830
© 607-368-2140
Jacquelinekanerwilliams@gmail.com

Deputy: Suzanne Moore
5 Lake Ave.
Binghamton, NY 13905
(H) 607-760-5658

James J. Peters (Bronx) VAMC, 130 West Kingsbridge Rd., Bronx, NY 10468
1st District

Representative: Ann Greaney
530 Ellsworth Ave. #E1
Bronx, NY 10465
H- 718-931-1050
C-917-797-6231
agreaney@verizon.net

Deputy: Kathleen Devine
1 Beech Place
Bronx, NY 10465
C: 646-732-3781
katedevine606@optonline.net

New York Harbor (Brooklyn) VAMC, 800 Poly Place, Brooklyn, NY 11209
2nd District

Representative: Marie SantaCrocce
25 East 4th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11218
C-718- 436-6303
re507@aol.com

Deputy: Dorothy Scheuring
19 Bills Place
Brooklyn, NY 11218
C- 347-403-4756
d_scheuring@yahoo.com

Western NY (Buffalo) VAMC, 3495 Bailey Ave., Buffalo, NY 14215

8th District

Representative: Carol Puckett
57 Harwood Rd.
West Seneca, NY 14224
C-716-998-2022
capuck47@verizon.net

Deputy: Elizabeth Bruce
114 Mang Ave.
Kenmore, NY 14217
C 716-876-8022
Highpocket6@aol.com

Canandaigua VAMC, 400 Fort Hill Ave., Canandaigua, NY 14424

7th District

Representative: Sandy Coryer
4497 Cty. Rt 33
Honeoye, NY 14471
585-410-3106
scoryer1@yahoo.com

Deputy: Bernice Sank
24 Narry Lane
Mt. Morris, NY 14510
585-658-4115
beesank@gmail.com

Honorary Representative: Virginia Robbins
245 East St., #709
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472
585-624-1441

Hudson Valley (Castlepoint) VAMC, 41 Castle Point Rd., Wappinger Falls, NY 12590

9th District

Representative: Helen Reynolds
17 Overlook Ave
Beacon, NY 12508
845-831-6748/c.845-401-4725
hellbelle52347@gmail.com

Deputy: Mary Ellen McCue
6 Aspen Ct.
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
845-518-6437
25ladyjasper@gmail.com

Hudson Valley (Montrose) VAMC, 2094 Albany Post Rd., Montrose, NY 10548

9th District

Representative: Mary Ann Calbo
61 Hemlock Circle
Peekskill, NY 10566
(H) 914-736-0885
© 917-689-8305
Maryann3354@aol.com

Deputy: Patrice Cortelli
17 Crescent Court
Peekskill, NY 10566
C 914-806-8531
mortcort@juno.com

Deputy: Roseanna Santangelo
125 Fields Lane
Peekskill, NY 10566
C: 914-589-3517
rxyl996@gmail.com

**New York Harbor (Manhattan), 423 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010
1st District**

Representative: Rose Anne Bartolino
1950 Hutchinson River, Apt. 10E
Bronx, NY 10461
(H) 718-892-1898
© 646-725-2008
RABC67@hotmail.com

Deputy: Kwanyee Francis Wong
204 Federal City Rd.
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
(H) 609-895-7179

**Northport VAMC, 79 Middleville Rd., Bldg. 200, Northport, NY 11768
10th District**

Representative: Patricia Rama
1528 6th Street
West Babylon, NY 11704
C: 631-524-9892
pattirama@aol.com

Deputy: Susan Neville
245 Pond View Drive
Port Washington, NY 11050
C: 516-424-2822
suephd@aol.com

**St. Albans Community Living Center, 179-00 Linden Blvd, Jamaica, NY 11425
10th District**

Representative: Jean Ross
394 S 1st St.
Lindenhurst, NY 11757
C: 631-805-3677
rjeanr26@aol.com

Deputy: Nicole Ross
394 S. 1st St.
Lindenhurst, NY 11757
C: 631-703-6353

Syracuse VAMC, 800 Irving Ave., Syracuse, NY 13210 - 5th District

Representative: Patricia Murphy
104 Dolores Terrace N.
N. Syracuse, NY 13212
315-427-7578
Pmurphy6851@yahoo.com

Deputy: Rita Keys
1010 Jewett Rd.
Skaneateles, NY 13152
315-563-3143
keyerita@gmail.com

NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HOMES

New York State Veterans' Homes Oxford NYS Veterans Home - 6th District

Tami Zebrowski-Darrow
6 Lillian Dr
Binghamton, NY 13905
607-759-6891
tzebrowski@stny.rr.com

Montrose NYS Veterans' Home - 9th District

Mary Ann Calbo
61 Hemlock Circle
Peekskill, NY 10566
914-736-0885
Maryann3354@aol.com

Batavia NYS Veterans' Home - 8th District

Stony Brook NYS Veterans' Home - 10th District

Patricia Bergin
126 LaBonne Vie Dr., Apt D
E. Patchogue, NY 11772
(H) 631-207-5899
© 631-875-4708
Ptberg63@aol.com

St Albans NYS Veterans' Home - 10th District

Jean Ross and Nicole Ross
394 S 1st St.
Lindenhurst, NY 11757
C: 631-805-3677
rjeanr26@aol.com

2025-2026
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of New York
VAVS RULES

On a yearly basis the Department President will appoint one VAVS (Veteran Administration Voluntary Services) Representative and up to three Deputies. This appointment may continue from year to year if the VAVS Rep/Dep and the Veterans facility agree to continue the program. The Department Secretary will prepare and submit Certification forms for a new appointment, or as required by the National American Legion Auxiliary.

1. Regardless of any changes to a District's particular program, there will be no deviation to the rules as contained without consent of the Department Executive Committee.
2. The VAVS Representative will work closely with the CDCE (Center for Development and Community Engagement) director, to discuss the current needs for veterans served by their respective VA Facility.
3. The VAVS will inform the American Legion Auxiliary members in their respective district as to the needs of the VA facility. This may include soliciting volunteers, donations of supplies, food or the funds needed to meet the need of assigned facility. It is recommended to give a summarized report on all activities held at the respective District Fall or Spring conference.
4. While the VAMC will keep electronic attendance records for VAVS representatives, deputies, regular scheduled and occasional Auxiliary members who serve veterans at a VAMC facility or in the community shall keep track of their hours and report them to the Department VA&R committee chairperson.
5. The VAVS Representative as well as the Deputies, should attend quarterly meetings schedule by their respective CDCE.
6. The VAVS Representative is responsible for scheduling an annual appointment with the CDCE director for the purpose of receiving an Annual Joint Review (AJR). This must be completed and submitted to the Department Secretary by December 30th of each year. The VAVS Representative shall reconcile the hours shown on the ALR, with your records for all volunteers for accuracy.
7. All funds are accountable through the VAVS Representative's Unit bank account to comply with bonding requirements. Accounts must have two or more authorized signatures, one of those signatures being the unit treasurer. A debit card associated with said account may be authorized by the unit, to be used by the VAVS Representative.

Adopted: April 6, 2025, by Department Executive Committee

Christmas Gift Shop Chairman 2025-2026

Bath VAMC 6th-7th District

Adelaide Butler
289 Flint Rd. B
Binghamton, NY 13905
(H) 607-798-9711

Suzanne Moore
5 Lake Avenue
Binghamton, NY 13905
(H) 607-724-9706

James J. Peters (Bronx) VAMC

1st District

Laura Booth
571 Minnieford Ave.
Bronx, NY 10464
917-337-3326
Lame2051@verizon.net

New York Harbor (Brooklyn) VAMC

2nd District

Dorothy Scheuring
19 Bills Place 212-675-1841
Brooklyn, NY 11218
H)718- 438-6579
©347-403-4756
D_scheuring@yahoo.com

Western NY (Buffalo) VAMC

8th District

Suzanne Williams
3 Monroe Street
Salamanca, NY 14779
H 716-945-0039
C 716-378-5216
Wms0339@localnet.com

Canandaigua VAMC

7th District

Sandy Coryer
4497 Cty. Rt 33
Honeoye, NY 14471
C 585-410-3106
scoyer1@yahoo.com

Hudson Valley (Castle Point) VAMC

9th District

Helen Reynolds
17 Overlook Ave
Beacon, NY 12508
C: 845-401-4725
hellbelle52347@gmail.com

New York Harbor (Manhattan) VAMC

1st District

Fanny Hom
420 W. 19th St., apt. 9
New York, NY 10011
212-675-1841

Syracuse VAMC

5th District

Karen St. Hilaire
122 Campbell Rd.
Mattydale, NY 13211
C: 315-748-4481
sthkaren6@gmail.com

Albany Stratton VAMC

3rd & 4th District

Western NY (Batavia) VAMC

8th District

Hudson Valley (Montrose) VAMC

9th District

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK GIFT SHOP RULES

The Gift Shop Chairman is appointed by the Department President yearly. Gift shops are typically hosted at a VAMC, or in a facility treating a large number of veterans. Each Chairman is responsible for all the funds, purchases, coordinating/instructions for the volunteers and reports for the program. Many Chairmen appoint a co-chairman which is generally approved by the District President. The program is a District event whereas the Units, Counties, Post and Squadrons contribute to the fund to purchase the gifts, which are selected by the facility's veteran to send to their next of kin and others as deemed appropriate. All costs including postage, refreshments, etc., are at the expense of the gift shop funds. 1.

1.Regardless of any changes to a District's particular program, the Gift Shop Chairman must read the rules and report any program changes and justification for the change at the Fall Conference. Any program changes should be presented in the form of a motion and voted on by the voting members assembled. There will be no deviation from the rules as contained without consent of the Department Executive Committee.

2.The Gift Shop Chairman will provide receipts of all contributions and expenses with the gift shop report as attachments. This report is to be completed no later than December 31st and distributed to all contributing Counties within the American Legion Family, noting Unit, Post and Squadron contributions. Send a copy of report to the District President including copies of receipts, original report and receipts to the Department VA&R Chairman.

3.The Gift Shop Chairman will work with their Voluntary Service Programs Director and/or designee to arrange a date and time for the Gift Shop. The VAVS Representative and Deputies as assigned will be privy to the plans and assist as needed.

4. All gift shop funds are accountable through the Gift Shop Chairman's Unit bank accounts to comply with our bonding requirements. Accounts must have two or more authorized signatures, one of those signatures being the unit treasurer.

5. The Gift Shop Chairman is to disperse with any gifts left over from the Gift Shop. Any proceeds from the sale of these gifts are to be returned to the Gift Shop fund, with a receipt of sale. All such receipts must be submitted with the gift shop report. Any clothing appropriate for the Veterans is donated to the facility for their use. Items appropriate for prizes should be donated to the facility for recreational events. Donation forms should be completed, and a copy attached to the report.

6.Funds exceeding \$4,000.00 are to be disbursed in accordance with the wishes of the district. A motion as to the donation of funds should be made at the Spring Conference or next meeting following the close of the gift shop books. \$4,000.00 may be placed in a six-month interest-bearing account in the name of the Unit, American Legion Auxiliary in which the Chairman is a member.

Adopted: December 5, 2021, by Department Executive Committee

