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## **2025-2026 ALA MISSION TRAINING & NATIONAL JUNIOR MEETINGS**

Albany, New York: Saturday, November 15, 2025  
Marriott Albany, 189 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205  
Albany Registration [Click Here](#) Registration Fee: \$70

Your registration fee includes materials for the conference, 1 continental breakfast, and 1 lunch. Space is limited. Those who register after the deadline or on-site may not be guaranteed all of the materials during the conference. If space allows, credit cards only will be accepted for payment on-site.

Please note that you are only able to sign up for one meeting location via the website. If you would like to attend more than one conference, please contact [meetings@alaforveterans.org](mailto:meetings@alaforveterans.org). Registration fees will increase to an on-site rate approximately 2 weeks prior to the start date.

### **Albany, NY - November 15, 2025:**

- Registration fee is \$80 after November 1.
- No refunds will be issued after November 1. If you request a refund before November 1, a \$5 processing fee will be charged.
- Registration will close on November 10.
- There may be on-site registration on a space available basis.

### **Agenda**

#### **2025-2026 ALA Mission Training**

Making the most of your volunteer experience for the greatest impact on our mission.

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
9:00 AM	ALA MISSION TRAINING SESSION PART I: Welcome and Opening
12:15 PM – 1:15 PM	LUNCH
1:15 PM	ALA MISSION TRAINING SESSION PART II
4:15 PM	WRAP-UP
4:30 PM	ADJOURN

Make a Reservation: Marriott Albany Room rate: \$129 + 14.5% Tax  
Parking: Free Parking Hotel Phone: 1 (518) 458-8444  
Check-in: 4:00 PM Check-out: 12:00 PM

To make a reservation: Reserve a room by completing your conference registration by the housing deadline (October 31). During your registration process, you will be prompted with a question if you would like to make a housing reservation. After the deadline, housing requests should be sent to [meetings@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:meetings@ALAforVeterans.org) and will be subject to availability.

### **Mission Training**

Are you passionate about the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary? Want to connect with national leaders and like-minded American Legion Auxiliary members from all over the country who share your enthusiasm for serving our veterans? Join us for a 1-day conference that's both inspiring and educational. You'll dive deep into the ALA's core programs through interactive and engaging sessions, ensuring you leave with new insights and renewed energy. This conference covers many of the American Legion Auxiliary Mission Outreach programs, all presented in a fun and supportive environment.

#### **Is Mission Training Right for You?**

- Yes - If you're eager to connect with members and national leaders beyond your local area who share your commitment to helping veterans!
- Yes - If you want to exchange great ideas with members from across the country and reignite your passion for our mission!
- Yes - If you're getting more involved and need guidance, or if you're seeking fresh approaches to long-standing activities!

### **National Junior Meeting**

Junior members aged 8 and older are invited to attend our National Junior Meetings. These sessions are packed with fun, interactive activities designed to engage and inspire. By bringing the meeting closer to our Juniors and holding it on a weekend, we hope to make it more accessible for everyone.

#### **Is the Junior Meeting Right for Your Junior?**

- Yes - If they're excited to meet other Junior members and national leaders from outside their local area who share their dedication to helping veterans!
- Yes - If they want to connect with other Juniors from across the country and learn more about what it means to be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary!

**Website:** [American Legion Auxiliary Mission Training Information](#)



**DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -  
MAUREEN F. MORGAN**

Its September Labor Day is over, school is back in session, and the Department of New York is off and running with the start of the first Fall Conferences 1st & 9th and 2nd & 10th Districts. What a great day we had on Friday, September 5th.

The Department Officers started out at Mt. Kisco delivering their messages to the membership for this coming year. Then we moved on to the 2nd & 10th District Islip, Long Island, to their Fall Conference. With four Fall Conferences down the Department Leadership started visiting the 10th District.

During our visitation there was a detour to the hospital for Ike to deal with a kidney stone. He is doing a lot better, and all is going well. The 5th & 6th, 7th & 8th are now completed 3rd & 4th will be done on the 15th of September. All Fall Conferences will be completed.

Thank you to all the District Presidents for working so hard to get these conferences completed in a timely manner so that the Department Officers can be present and give their message to the membership.

The President theme this year is Mentoring and not Bullying. As we move forward through this year let's remember that if we want to keep our members from walking out the back door, we must learn how to talk to them and mentor them. Show them the ropes. Guide them through our programs. Don't talk at them, talk to them, don't just do the paperwork work with the members so that they can learn at the same time. The more we mentor the more we retain our members and grow our organization.

I'll sign off with this quote:

**"If you change your mind, you can change your life."**



## MEMBERSHIP LORA ROW

As we begin a new membership year, I am excited to serve as your membership chairman. The Department of New York has a membership goal of 35,918 for 2025-26. Last year, we achieved an impressive 97.58 percent, and I am confident that by working together, we can exceed this percentage and achieve 100 percent in support of President Maureen. WE CAN DO IT!!!

What fun it was to see everyone at the fall conferences!  
Thank you all for your enthusiastic welcome.

New York membership is off to a FABULOUS start with over 1,000 paid members from this time last year! Woohoo!!!!!! Keep up the good work! I know we are going to continue to climb to our 100 percent goal.

The Membership Theme for 2025-26 is "Happy Birthday America." In 2026, America will be 250 years old! Let us celebrate your milestones with birthday parties. Please share with me pictures and stories from all the parties I know you are going to have this year.

Be sure to read your Plan of Action. Look at the 2026 Membership Awards. There are five Milestone awards for both Units and Counties and there are five Sailing awards. Both Counties and Units try to set your goal for each of the Milestone Awards.

A new award this year is the Family 3 Award. Members who recruit 3 new Legion Members, 3 New Auxiliary members, and 3 new SAL members please submit the form which is in your POA to Department by May 29, 2026. Each respective Post, Unit, and Squadron officer must sign this form to verify the membership.

President Maureen's theme is "All Aboard for Veterans." Let us all get aboard the Captain Maureen Morgan ship and keep navigating toward 100 percent!

**VA&R / SERVICE TO VETERANS  
YVONNE BRUNNER**

Welcome back, I hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer. Now that September is here, our attention is focused on welcoming in the crisp autumnal weather and dedicated events featuring our veterans, our military and their families. But before we turn the page, I would like to share the awards presented to the Department of New York at the national convention.

The "Volunteer Recruitment & Service Award," for a VAVS Representative that shows an increase in both volunteers and volunteer hours at their VA Facility from April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025, was presented to Anne Greaney, Jean Ross and Marie SantaCroce; congratulations!

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation presented the "Veterans Champion Award," for securing the most ALA grants to support veterans and military families in their state to Sheila Holman; congratulations! During the convention, Sheila was featured during a short video of her special project, the "For Everly House," which she helped found in the 4th District. This home provides housing for female veterans with children.

The year started with Fall Conference visitations. Thank you to all our District Presidents and members who came out, making us feel welcomed with laughter and camaraderie. The focus this year is to utilize social media to bring VA&R questions and answers directly to our members. If you thought of a question, its more than likely that someone else is thinking about the same thing. If you have any questions, please email: [nyalavaandr@gmail.com](mailto:nyalavaandr@gmail.com).

On the department Facebook page, you will see the year-long series of, "Why We Do What We Do," "A Hero Tribute." Everyone has a reason for being in the auxiliary, this is your opportunity to send in a photo(s) of your veteran while in service and other photos. A narrative should include a biography. Posthumous tributes are welcomed.

This year is going by incredibly quickly. Soon enough Halloween will be here, with November right behind that. Please remember that the first reporting is due in November for our members. And, for the Reps/Depts the reporting for the Annual Joint Review (AJR) is due.

November will be incredibly busy with Veterans Day events including parades, fundraisers, visits to home and facilities that

**VA&R / SERVICE TO VETERANS  
(CONTINUED)**

November will be incredibly busy with Veterans Day events including parades, fundraisers, visits to home and facilities that care for our veterans. Remember to include the Juniors in all activities. The greatest teacher in life is through watching others do good; our children need to see and experience firsthand the lives of others who sacrificed for them.

**Every day is a new opportunity to say thank you.  
Every day is veteran's day.**

**SAL-ALA WALK-A-THON  
MARIE SANTACROCE**

Thank you, Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2025 Walkathon !!

With each year we see more and more support from our very own Auxiliary members for this outstanding program which is sponsored by both The Sons of the American Legion AND 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.

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

We are pleased and grateful to announce that this past Walkathon raised \$62,341.

Half of all donations raised was presented to the Department President's Project and the other half divided evenly between our 13 VA Hospitals and 5 Nursing Homes throughout New York State.

Let us show our Veterans our love and gratitude and get excited about Walkathon 2026 by planning early, encouraging more participation by walking/ writing/ barbecuing, etc.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH JULIANNE BARTON

Improving the quality of life for America's youth is the central focus of this committee. Helping Kids be kids again is certain to improve their lives. September is the beginning of the best time of the year for Children and Youth!! All the possibilities for celebrations and activities make this committee so fun. Plan Fall festivals, hay rides, Trunk or Treat events, and Halloween parties to celebrate the Autumn season. There are many ideas on the web and a Halloween coloring book that can be duplicated on the Department website.

Help your Posts and Schools plan for Veterans' Day activities. November will be right around the corner and will sneak up before we know it. There is an "America the Beautiful" coloring book that is also available on the Department website.

The Youth Hero Award and Good Deeds Award are the perfect way to recognize the outstanding youth in your community. The Youth Hero is for someone who has demonstrated an physical act of valor and is an inspirational role model in their community. The Good Deed Award can be awarded to an individual who has completed a project that demonstrates leadership in their community. All the information about these awards is available on the Department website. If you do nominate a deserving individual, please be sure to forward a copy of the form to this Department Chairman.

The Child Well-being Foundation awarded over \$850,000 in grants last year and \$74,000 came from the American Legion Auxiliary. Miss Penelope and her piglets should be collecting donations at all your events. The Foundation is sponsoring the banner program again this year. Any Unit that donates \$1 per member can submit the paperwork and receive a banner. It must be done by May 31, 2026. The information for this program can be found on the National website.

If you need help finding any of the things I have mentioned, do not hesitate to contact me. Together we will navigate our way. Children and Youth is a committee that offers many, many opportunities to have FUN!!! Be sure to take lots of pictures, keep track of all the members, hours, and miles, and REPORT! REPORT! REPORT! I can't wait until November to read all the fantastic things you did between now and then....

**AMERICANISM  
LOUANNA GILBERT**

Stay Tuned for Future Updates!

**AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY COLLEGE  
DEBBY HERRMANN**

Stay Tuned for Future Updates!

**AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND  
KAREN DRUCKER**

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) grants up to \$3,000 to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have experienced significant financial difficulty due to an act of nature or a personal crisis.

Current ALA members who have maintained annual consecutive membership for the current year, in which application was made, and the previous two years are considered to have met the eligibility requirement. New or rejoining ALA members must have maintained continuous membership for at least 36 consecutive months, based on their initial or rejoin date recorded by ALA National Headquarters.

AEF applications may be obtained online only at [www.ALAforVeterans.org/AEF](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/AEF). Applications previously available through ALA departments and units will no longer be accepted. In addition, the applicant's unit no longer needs to approve the application.

For more information, on eligibility requirements and ways to donate, please visit the following website, [www.ALAforVeterans.org/AEF](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/AEF).

**Check out the Plan of Action or the ALA Dept of NY webpage for information about the Awards given within this program!**

**ALA FOUNDATION  
CATHLEEN MACINNES & TERRI WALLACE**

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation provides financial support to the programs and projects of the American Legion Auxiliary. The Foundation supports American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation, the Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund, and the National Organization's co-presentership, with the Veterans Administration, of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

The benefits of the ALA Foundation extend to Units and Departments as well by

- Providing up to \$10,000 for Units to help them establish new programs or projects benefiting veterans. Previously funded projects included:
  - adaptive sports equipment for teams of veterans;
  - furniture and appliances for homeless shelters, transitional housing, and supportive apartments serving veterans; and
  - sensory rooms for veterans suffering from PTSD or dementia - or both.
- Providing up to \$2,500 for Units working with their local VA Medical Centers in conducting local Veterans Creative Arts Festivals - these grants can be used for art supplies, sheet music, instruments, and awards for the veterans. Wayne County Units provided an e-piano for the Community Living Center Complex on the grounds of Canandaigua VAMC.

ALA Foundation grants allow Units to have a greater impact on their veteran communities, afford Units increased opportunities for positive public relations, and help with membership drives. When people see what the ALA does, they want to join!

Congratulations to the Department of New York for winning the inaugural ALA Foundation Veterans' Champion Award by having the largest number of approved ALA Foundation grants during the 2024-2025 year. Great work, New York - keep it going! If your Unit has a project you believe might be grant-eligible, please consider applying! A great place to start is with the ALA Academy video presentation about ALA Foundation applications. Dean Sanders at National ALA Headquarters in Indianapolis can help guide you to a successful grant application. His direct line is (317) 569-4532.

No discussion of the ALA Foundation would be complete without a request for donations, which are vital to our ability to provide meaningful grants. Donating is easy - you can do it online at [www.alafoundation.org/donate](http://www.alafoundation.org/donate) or you can send a check to the ALA Foundation at 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

CHAPLAIN  
MARIE SANTACROCE

We all pray in our own way. At our Auxiliary meetings and functions we have the opportunity to raise our hearts in prayer for our Veterans, communities, families and friends.

Prayers can be traditional or original, your words of thanks and gratitude.

Please send me copies of prayers you have used or will be using at meetings or events so that they can be included in the Chaplain's Prayer Book to be presented to President Maureen at the 2026 Department Convention.

When we lose a cherished member, please do the following:

1. use the 2025-26 Chaplain's Death Notice Form found in your Plan Of Action and mail it to me at:

Marie SantaCroce

25 East 4 Street

Brooklyn, New York 11218

or email it to me at: [nyalachaplain@gmail.com](mailto:nyalachaplain@gmail.com)

Whenever a member is lost, the Department will reach out to the family with a message of condolence on behalf of our entire Auxiliary Family.

2-send the Unit Member Data Form to the Department Office so that membership records can be updated.

This Form was included in your Membership Chairman's packet distributed at the Department Convention.

And finally, please remember to report. Even if you didn't have any activity, send in the report with "No Activity" written and it will count/ reflect that we heard from you.

Thanking you for all you do for our organization,

Marie SantaCroce

2025-26 Department Chaplain

## CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS PATRICIA HENNESSY N

AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THIS COMMITTEE HAS BEEN WORKING TO INSURE THAT ALL UNITS, COUNTIES UPDATE THEIR FILED CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS TO REFLECT CURRENT MEETING TIMES, WHEN THEY MEET, DUES, ETC. MANY HAVE COMPLIED AND ARE UP TO DATE.

HOWEVER, THERE ARE A FEW STRAGGLERS. WHY ARE WE REQUESTING THIS ACTION. ALL MEMBERS ARE ENTITLED TO A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT. THEY SEE DUES ARE LISTED AT \$12, THE MEMBER MAY JUST PAY THE \$12. THE UNIT MUST PAY ADDITIONAL FUNDS. THE UNIT CHANGES THEIR MEETING TIME/DAY, THIS NEEDS TO BE SENT TO THE C&B CHAIRMAN.

FOR THESE CHANGES, THERE IS A SINGLE PAGE FORM WE CAN ATTACH TO CURRENT DOCUMENTS. DON'T TRY TO REWRITE THE DOCUMENT INCORPORATING SUCH ITEMS AS STANDING RULES. WE MUST COMPLY WITH NATIONAL AND DEPARTMENT C&B.

AT NATIONAL CONVENTION, THE AMENDMENTS WERE MOSTLY TO REWORD OR TO DELETE REDUNDANCIES. TWO RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED..

1. POPPY FUNDS MAY NOW USED TO ASSIST NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVES WHO ARE DEPLOYED. THIS RESOLUTION PASSED.
2. THERE WAS AN ASK RESOLUTION THAT WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE AMERICAN LEGION. THIS WOULD CHANGE ELIGIBILITY TO INCLUDE NON-ELIGIBLE GRANDPARENTS , PARENTS, SIBLINGS, SPOUSE, NATURAL AND ADOPTED DESCENDANTS REGARDLESS OF GENDER RELATED TO THE AMERICAN LEGION ELIGIBLE MEMBER WITHIN TWO DEGREES OF CONSANGUINITY. THIS RESOLUTION DID NOT PASS.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE  
ARDELLA TURNER**

I am looking forward to the fascinating and different ways that all Units will be able to serve and assist our veterans, families, and members of our communities in the many and diverse ways that would be beneficial and rewarding to the folks that we serve.

Keep in mind that there are many ways to promote community service, i.e., Food Pantries, Flea Markets, aiding Girl/Boy Scout Troops, providing school supply drives and toy drives, and many more creative ideas that you may think of.

There are many other ways we can serve our communities, such as providing assistance with blood drives, first aid training, CPR training, child safety programs clothing for homeless veterans or shelters, or placing wreaths and/or as well as, placing flowers at the gravesites of our fallen veterans. Please consider holding fundraisers for suicide prevention for veterans and many other possibilities that may be considered. I welcome all suggestions that can be shared to broaden our horizons in our endeavors.

**EDUCATION  
PATRICIA GALLEY**

Education is a process of receiving or giving instructions at any level of the mind. It's a theory and practice of teaching whether in school, college or in the world. As an education committee, promoting quality education for children, especially to the military children or adults. One way is to encourage schools to invite the veterans, military children to the classrooms to express their journey or stories. They also provide different scholarships for students for those who desire to go to college for an education. They also offer education programs and scholarship opportunities for the American Legion Family too. So, let's ask the schools to have a bulletin board ready so the kids get the information they need. Then we can do our buddy check to keep them informed. Units are also encouraged to participate in the Give 10 to education Program in order to support students and teachers. Planning and making a program are a way to feed the minds with good opportunities and possibilities.

Important Dates to Remember:

Nov. 16-22-	American Education week
Mid February	National Scholarship Awards due-
April 15th-	Military Purple Up Day- for military children
May 5th-9th-	Teacher Appreciation Week

## ALA EMPIRE GIRLS STATE

STEPH FALLON, MEGAN WALDEN, MOLLY MCLAUGHLIN

I Thank you to everyone for all their hard work in pulling off another successful ALA Empire Girls State Session this past July. We can't do it without all the unit and county chairs, volunteers, donations, staff and supporters. We appreciate you!

With 2025 in the books, it is time to kick off our 2026 ALA Empire Girls State Session! To begin, our team will attend the annual Girls State Conference in Indianapolis September 26-28, 2025. This conference allows us to begin planning, receive the latest updates from National Headquarters and network with other Girls State Teams from other Departments and the Girls Nation Team.

Last year we held an Overview for Unit and County ALA EGS Chairman Meeting via Zoom and we will do the same again this year. This is especially important for those chairmen who are new to their position. For our seasoned chairman, it is a chance to share tips and tricks, but also to be sure you get the latest updates! Yes, things are always changing and improving! So mark your calendars! We will offer one live virtual session on Thursday, November 13th at 7pm. This will be recorded for those who cannot attend live. Details will be sent via email in October and will be on our website ([www.empiregirlsstate.org](http://www.empiregirlsstate.org)). Feel free to email [empiregirlsstate@gmail.com](mailto:empiregirlsstate@gmail.com) with your information if you would like to be included. The presentation is designed for Unit and County ALA EGS Chairman, but any ALA member may join to learn more about the ALA EGS Program.

### Here's some details for the 2026 ALA EGS Session:

- ALA Empire Girls State will take place at **SUNY Brockport Tuesday June 30th - Monday July 6th, 2026.**
- Tuition for the sponsoring Unit or Post is **\$450.00 per citizen.**
- Each Citizen (not Alternate) will pay a **\$50.00 Non-Refundable Registration fee. We ask that the Unit or Post not pay that fee except when a family has a financial hardship.** Girls compare notes after they arrive and they don't understand why some Citizens attended "free" and some had to "pay" \$50.00. We suggest that the Unit could consider returning the \$50.00 Application to the family after they attended if they feel strongly about covering the fee. Contact us if you have questions!
- Interviews should take place as soon as you can schedule them but no later than early January. Citizens and Alternates must be selected by February 1st.
- Do NOT start your interviews at the end of January. (Contact us if you have any problems connecting with schools).

## ALA EMPIRE GIRLS STATE (CONTINUED)

Here's some details for the 2026 ALA EGS Session: (Continued)

- ALA Empire Girls State utilizes an online Registration Form and will upload all necessary forms. **Candidates will complete all paperwork by February 28th.**
- **All paperwork and payment must be received at the Department level by February 28th.** Due to time constraints, we will no longer be accepting late submissions.
- All Citizens and Alternates are required to attend a virtual **ALA EGS Orientation via Zoom in May/June.** Parents, sponsoring ALA Units and TAL Posts are encouraged to attend the virtual meeting.
- Parents, Units and Posts are encouraged to attend our State of the **State Ceremony (culmination of the program) on Sunday, July 5th at 8:00 PM** at SUNY Brockport (tentative, pending program date confirmation with the college).
- Citizens may not leave on Sunday night with their parents after the ceremony. **Check out is Monday morning (7/6) from 6 am - 9 am.**
- Citizens that finish the program are eligible for the Samsung Scholarship. Consider helping your candidates with the process starting in March!
- Citizens that finish the program are also eligible to enroll in a Leadership Course for College Credit from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs for college credit at a greatly reduced tuition price.
- If any American Legion Family group would like to support the program, other than by sponsoring a Citizen (\$450), consider paying for a Booster Ad or as a Booster Supporter in our State of the State Program (\$1 - \$50). We also have an ALA EGS Store. Consider providing citizens with money to buy apparel, stickers, and other merchandise throughout the week!
- Please check the 2025-2026 Plan of Action. Share those pages with your Unit and County ALA EGS Teams.
- All of our information is on our ALA EGS Website:  
<https://www.empiregirlsstate.org>.

There is a tab, "ALA Resources". The password is: GirlsState You will be able to access resources and copies of any forms.

## ALA EMPIRE GIRLS STATE (CONTINUED)

Within the website, there is also a link to join our ALA Empire Girls State team! Please review the job descriptions and requirements and consider joining our team! Applications are due January 1, 2026! Once selected, our Team meets via Zoom approximately 4 times throughout the Spring to get to know each other and to cover some initial training. **In-person Staff Orientation/Training takes place at SUNY Brockport Sunday, June 28th - Monday June 29th, 2026**, prior to our 2026 ALA EGS Session. It is such a rewarding experience, we know that if you join us one year, you too, will catch the "Girls State bug" like each of us have!

Don't forget to review your 2026 ALA EGS County Quota form! This information is in the Plan of Action and requires your county's immediate attention! **The Quota Form needs to be returned to Megan Hockaday, ALA EGS 1st Vice Chairman by November 1, 2025**, so that plans can be made to accommodate each and every county! Get started planning right away and let us know if we can help in any way! Thank you!

### FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE

MARIE MOCK, MARYLOU PLATT, JOAN CACCAMO

Welcome back to our new Auxiliary year. Most of us are starting our new year of meetings, and that makes it the perfect time to make sure our financial house is in order. First, you should have an audit by at least three people who are not related to the treasurer. This is not a sign of distrust but simply protects everyone involved. This audit should look at each entry in the ledger, the checkbook and the bank statements, not just the bottom line. Remember that there should be at least two people with access to the accounts in case the primary person is unavailable.

This finance committee may or may not be the group that makes the budget. Yes, you do need a budget. This is a clear shot of what you expect your finances to be during the year. Expenses should not exceed income and recurring expenses can be put in the budget to avoid needing to vote on every expenditure. The President or the Treasurer cannot spend any money that is not budgeted or voted on by the whole voting body. Just a reminder that the Day Fund cost is \$14 and the Bonding cost is \$6 per unit. This should go to the county treasurer to send to Department.

**FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE  
(CONTINUED)**

Once you have your audit and your budget, you are ready to work our programs to support our veterans and our community. A complete financial statement for the month should be available at each meeting. Good financial information and transparency make for a solid base and trust.

Have a wonderful year and feel free to contact me if you have any questions. It is way better to ask someone than to get mired in mistakes that are difficult to unravel.

**HISTORIAN  
SUZANNE WILLIAMS**

I know that each Unit President will be receiving their new POA, if you haven't already perused it like a Sears Christmas Catalog, but please take time to page through the Programs and view the new changes.

Such as: Reporting dates have changed! November 1st and, March 1st, and May 1st! Don't be late!

It would seem to me, that there is no other program that is so important to a Unit - County - and Department as to record your History in every manner. Following every meeting - an activity report should be completed and filed so that the Quarterly Report can be completed containing all of the activities. Every Unit keeps a copy of their Minutes! Check Mark !

Don't forget to document with Pictures and News - whether it be a newspaper, flyer or social media print. Create a ring-binder that is kept for years to come!

**JUNIOR ACTIVITIES  
SUZANNE WILLIAMS**

I am looking forward to a most rewarding year. Our Juniors are the future of our American Legion Auxiliary. We need to involve and inspire them to continue as Juniors so that they can move forward as Senior American Legion Auxiliary members.

Our Mission Training this year is being held at the Marriott on Wolf Rd., Albany, NY on November 15, 2025. Juniors aged 8-17 are invited to attend. This training will be a very informative meeting for the Juniors (and for Senior members) to meet others and to acquire ideas. Registration for the Mission Training is on the National Website ([deptny.org](http://deptny.org)), click on Events, and click on 2025-2026 Mission Training.

Being a Junior member will give these young ladies an opportunity to support the American Legion Auxiliary and to learn about Leadership as well as to earn badges by activities of the American Legion Auxiliary Program. There is a patch (Spirit of Youth or SOY) that the Juniors can work towards. Any Junior can earn this patch if they raise at least \$5 for each year old they are (example: 13 yrs old will raise \$65 (13 X \$5 = 65). They can put in the money or raise by asking family members and/or friends.

It seems there is a diminishing membership. Smaller communities are able to create a Junior group. There are phases to go through and the information can be found in the American Legion Auxiliary Junior Activities Handbook. The handbook has much information that would be beneficial. The information, to name a few are: Flag Etiquette, Parliamentary Procedure, Standard Order of Business, How to make a motion and many more. The handbook can be downloaded and printed or you can purchase one, for a minimal cost, in the American Legion Auxiliary website; [Deptny.org](http://Deptny.org); under Programs; Junior Activities. Scroll down until you get to the Junior Activities Key Resources and click on Junior Activities Handbook to save to your computer or click on "Order Junior Activities Handbook" and follow the prompts.

I also believe that for the communities who have few Juniors, maybe we could combine activities to make sure the Juniors are involved with projects (we, at Montgomery County, only have one (1) Junior and it is difficult to keep her interested). When there are functions in other Units, it may be a good idea to post and invite other Juniors to participate.

**LEADERSHIP  
LUCILLE MOZZILLO**

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of units, counties, districts and the Department of New York. It is hard to believe that the summer is over, and we are moving into the beautiful Fall season here in New York. It is the time of year when everyone is beginning their planning for the 2025-2026 administrative year. We are all leaders within the American Legion Auxiliary and our leadership shines through in a variety of ways.

The Department Officers have traveled to meet with members from all 10 Districts during their recent Fall tour. For those that were able to attend, please be sure to take the information that you learned from the conference and share it with your local units. I would like to encourage and invite members of the Department of New York to attend the National Mission Training that is going to be held in New York this year on November 15, 2025, at the Marriott on Wolf Road in Albany. The cost is \$70. I would encourage you to register early so that it doesn't sell out. You can get more information at: [www.deptny.org/?page\\_id=925](http://www.deptny.org/?page_id=925)

I would like to remind everyone that the National Website is an excellent place where you can find a number of resources for all committees, as well as access to the ALA Academy. There are several classes that you can take at your own pace within the ALA Academy. More information can be found at: <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/online-training>. If anyone completes an ALA Academy training, please be sure to report that.

Midwinter planning is in its beginning stages. We will be sure to share more details as they become available. In the meantime, please save the dates: January 16-17, 2026. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions on topics that you would like to learn more about at midwinter. Email me at: [nyalaleadership@gmail.com](mailto:nyalaleadership@gmail.com)

In conclusion, I'd like to highlight a few quotes. "Leadership is action, not position." - Edwin Louis Cole and "The function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers." - Ralph Nader.

**LEGISLATIVE  
DENA RESTAINO**

**PURPOSE:** The American Legion Auxiliary works along with the American Legion to ensure that favorable issues presented to our Legislative bodies are enacted. Members are encouraged to write or call their elected representatives in support of the legislation and urge their support also. Many laws have been passed by our support and encouragement, as well as undesirable ones defeated. Each Unit and County Legislative Chairman should be provided with a subscription to the Legislative Bulletin. Furthermore, the Legislative program provides information and assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion. The purpose of the national Legislative Committee is to train and inform our members to become grassroots advocates for veterans and their families with local, state, and national elected officials, supporting the legislative agenda, priorities, and initiatives of The American Legion. The American Legion's Grassroots Action Center offers information to stay informed on the issues and tools to communicate online with lawmakers and the media about the organization's priorities. All members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Grassroots Action Center which makes direct contact with lawmakers to advance American Legion Family priorities

**Please check out the awards for this committee by reviewing the plan of action or the department website!**

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
NANCY BABIS**

Stay Tuned for Future Updates!

**NATIONAL SECURITY  
PATTY RAMA**

The American Legion Family is dedicated to ensuring that America's POW/MIAs be honored and recognized, not just memorialized. Legion efforts focus on the need to account as fully as possible for those still missing, alive or dead. An important way all Legion Family members create awareness and remembrance for this initiative is through conducting POW/MIA remembrance services at unit meetings and public events. Strong, united support by all Legion Family members is crucial to bringing all of our heroes home.

## NATIONAL SECURITY (CONTINUED)

POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday of September. This recognition day is observed to recommit to full accountability to the families of the more than 80,000 veterans captured or still missing from wars in which the United States has participated. The day was first observed in 1979 after Congress and the President passed a resolution to make it official following the demands of the families of 2,500 Vietnam war POW/MIAs who asked for accountability in finding their loved ones.

On Aug. 26 at the ALA's 104th National Convention in Tampa, The American Legion Auxiliary and Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to expand collaboration and strengthen support for the families of America's fallen servicemembers, veterans, and active duty servicemembers. The MOU formalizes a shared commitment to work together in honoring and assisting military families through coordinated outreach, advocacy, and community-based initiatives.

The Department website: [deptny.org](http://deptny.org) (Programs - National Security) has links to National Security Key Resources including How to Collaborate with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, Planning a Powerful POW/MIA Remembrance Service, and the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

## PARLIAMENTARIAN LINDA TOME

How well do you know parliamentary procedure? Here are some fun questions and answers about parliamentary procedure:

Q1: What is a gavel, and why does a chairman tap it?

Q2: What does a single tap of the gavel signify?

Q3: Who was the creator of Robert's Rules of Order?

Q4: What is the purpose of parliamentary procedure?

Q5: What is the official name for a group's rulebook?

Q6: In parliamentary procedure, what is another name for discussion?

Q7: If a motion receives a tie vote, what is the outcome?

Q8: What is the vote requirement to change a previously adopted motion without prior notice?

Q9: In informal meetings with fewer than 12 members, what is one key procedural difference?

Q: True or False: If you second a motion, it means you support it.

## PARLIAMENTARIAN (CONTINUED)

And the answers are:

A1: A gavel is a small hammer used by the presiding officer. Tapping it symbolizes the completion of an action, brings the meeting to order, or helps to restore order if the room gets noisy.

A2: A single tap is used to announce the end of a vote and signal members to be seated.

A3: Henry Martyn Robert, an American military officer who was embarrassed by his poor performance chairing a meeting.

A4: Its core purpose is to ensure that meetings are run fairly and efficiently. It protects the rights of all members—the majority, the minority, and even those who are absent.

A5: The "bylaws".

A6: Debate.

A7: The motion is lost. A tie vote is not a majority, so the motion fails.

A8: A two-thirds vote. This high threshold protects members from surprise reversals of past decisions.

A9: The chairperson is allowed to participate in debates and vote.

A10: False. Seconding a motion does not indicate that you agree with it. It only shows that you support bringing the topic up for discussion.

How did you do? Stay tuned for more Q & As on Parliamentary Procedure!!

**POPPY  
KATHY SOULE**

The Poppy- so hard to establish, but once cultivated, fed and nurtured, they return each year! Here WE are once again to put Love of the Handmade Poppy back in Action!!!! To help OUR Veterans and US to actively engage with them. The Plan of Action (POA) has been handed out. Read! Read! Read! All 6 pages! Order! Order! Order! Poppy Supervisors are ready to help and fill your orders Report! Report! Report! We are back to 3 Reporting Periods this year: November 1, 2025, March 1, 2025, and May 1, 2025

Reading the whole POA on THE POPPY will give you great ideas on how to accomplish this. Go to the National Website under Poppy- <https://www.legion-aux.org> There are many topics to ponder. The Department Website is also a useful tool. <https://www.deptny.org> Have a Fun Fall!

**Remember it's all about... "We Our Us!"  
"All aboard for Vets"**

**PUBLIC RELATIONS  
PATRICIA MURPHY**

With this appointment I have become the town crier for the Department of New York that is going to be shared from sea to shining shore.

How is that going to happen well of course with help from all of you. How to help:

- Share any media coverage of events
- Pictures of activities
- Recruitment stories with photos
- Share social media posts
- Share newsletters, blogs, ALA social media sites with your unit, county and department with reporting and sharing with Your town crier.

I look forward to seeing, and hearing about all that is being done around the department for veterans, children and youth and in your communities.

**WARRIOR FAMILY ASSISTANCE  
LAURA BOOTH**

The Warrior Family Assistance Program provides financial assistance and support to honorably discharged Veterans and currently serving Serviceman & Servicewoman living in New York State.

Grants up to \$1,500.00 can be requested for cost-of-living expenses, including payments in arrears for rent, utilities, medical care, car repairs, etc.

Applications can be obtained by e-mailing me at [nyalawfa@gmail.com](mailto:nyalawfa@gmail.com).

Please follow all instructions and complete all the application for your WFA County (or) District Committee.

Once your committee has reviewed the application and interviewed the applicant, please send completed application and all supporting documents and recommendations to me at: [nyalawfa@gmail.com](mailto:nyalawfa@gmail.com).

**DEPARTMENT OFFICE  
BARBARA, CAITLIN, & TARA**

- 2026 Membership cards were distributed at Department Convention in Syracuse, NY. If you did not receive them by now, please contact your County President and or District President as soon as possible.
- 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 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.

## DEPARTMENT OFFICE BARBARA, CAITLIN, & TARA

- 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.

## NATIONAL SECURITY- DID YOU KNOW?

September is National Preparedness Month  
The New York State Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services offers Citizen Preparedness Corps Training. Its purpose is to teach people how to prepare for disaster or emergency situations. The course includes information about the types of risks and hazards people face. It teaches how to develop individual and household plans. Go to NYS Citizen Preparedness Training Calendar to sign up for a 90 minutes training course near you. <https://www.dhSES.ny.gov/citizen-preparedness-training-calendar>