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

It's hard to believe it's November already and we have done 34 visits to date. The traveling party is getting ready to start our next visitation in the 9th District, then we are off to New York City to march in the Veteran's Day Parade. Mission Training is going to be so exciting on Saturday, November 15, 2025. Many members have said they are going to be there when we were traveling through many of the Counties that we were visiting. It will be so exciting to see what we are going to learn and experience. Visitations have been so much fun, meeting members, getting to talk to new members that don't get the chance to get to Department Conventions, or Midwinter.

Please remember We are a volunteer organization. We are all here to serve our Veterans who need our help. Always remember that is why we are here to serve the Veterans who served our Country. So, on Veteran's Day let's honor and thank all who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, both living and deceased, especially those who are still alive. It is a day to recognize the sacrifices of all veterans, including those who served in times of war or peace, and to celebrate their patriotism, service, and willingness to serve the common good. Unlike Memorial Day, which honors those who died in service, Veterans Day is a day to give thanks to all who have served honorably. This November let us remember the Veterans that served our Country and thank them for their service. This is their day! Happy Veterans' Day!

Hopefully everyone has done their county reports and sent them to the Department Chairs. Everyone has a very Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays, Happy New Year.

See everyone at Midwinter on Friday, January 16, 2026, and Saturday, January 17, 2026.

Until then be safe and healthy.



## MEMBERSHIP LORA ROWE

You have all boarded Captain Maureen's ship and are all steering in the right direction!!!

A huge WOOHOO to New York membership! I am so excited to report to you that as of November 12, New York was in 3rd place in the Eastern Division with 57.07%. And, second in the nation behind Florida with an increase in membership from this time last year of 626 members. Let us keep those numbers rising!

Remember the Membership Theme for 2025-26 is "Happy Birthday America." In 2026, America will be 250 years old! Be sure that you have a lot of celebrations in your Unit and Counties. Celebrate YOU and celebrate America!

Thanks to all of you for your wonderful reports. So exciting to see all the inspiring ways that you are promoting membership. Remember to mentor our new members and make them feel welcome. Retaining our current membership is so especially important.

We do have donut hole units, which means that they are currently at 0 percent. I encourage Units to please get your membership turned into Department. At this point in the year, we should not have any donut hole units. A reminder that members must be paid by December 31 to be a voting member in 2026.

Unfortunately, New York did not meet the 60% goal by the American Legion Auxiliary Birthday, November 10. But I know we can reach the next award date of the American Legion Birthday, March 15, 2026, by reaching 85%. Oh yes.....WE CAN DO IT!!!

I encourage all of you to remember our veterans and members who are shut in during this upcoming holiday season. Let us all bring the holiday spirit to them.

I wish all of you a very happy Holiday Season.

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

First and foremost, I appreciate all of the reports that were sent in by the counties for VA&R. Our members are doing such incredible work.

- November reporting -Caregivers can report up to ten (10) hours per week for home care. If you are a caregiver for someone outside of your home and a non-professional; you can claim up to five (5) hours per week.
- Annual Joint Reviews (AJRs) – For all Representatives/Deputies at facilities, schedule and participate in the November Annual Joint Review. Along with the AJR report, send in the application form to receive the \$500.00 donation for the “Salute to Veterans,” week. This check is mailed to the Representative who will present it to the facility.
- Gift Shop - success starts with planning. The Gift Shop Chair and Co-Chair (where applicable) and the Service Specialist at the facility will coordinate the time/date of the event. Send out a letter of appeal for donations to support the program and for items selected for distribution by the veteran. If the Gift Shop program is mailing a large number of cards or bulky items send a letter out with location/date/time asking for ‘all hands-on deck,’ volunteers to assist with the wrapping and mailing. Keep a list of all volunteers in whatever capacity they assisted; before, during or after the event(s). A thank you letter of appreciation goes a long way. Always bring your warmest smile and good cheer.
- Veterans Day events have included parades, fundraisers, visits to homes and facilities. 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 those who sacrificed for them.
- December 13, 2025, is the annual ‘Wreaths Across America.’ Remember to contact the event coordinator to see if they need any assistance with set-up and clean-up.
- Midwinter is the third weekend in January 16th – 18th. This is an opportunity to meet and learn about our programs, ask questions and learn more about the Department President’s project.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Every day is a new opportunity to say thank you. Treat every day as veteran’s day.

**SAL-ALA WALK-A-THON**

Before you know it Walkathon 2026 will be here !!!

Thank you to every Auxiliary member who spearheaded a walk or event, everyone who participated, wrote letters, donated.

Our Veterans Hospitals, Homes and Special Veterans Programs are better able to serve and assist because of your dedication and service.

Updates information will be available on our Website late January- early February.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH JULIANNE BARTON

I want to thank everyone for sending in such wonderful reports and pictures for the November reporting period. It is always so inspiring to read all the wonderful things that are happening around our great Department!! It is so much fun planning, shopping for and carrying out events that include young people. Halloween parties and Fall festivals were popular this year. I know that great plans have been made for the upcoming holiday season. I look forward to reading and seeing the pictures of all the parties and Santas. The wide variety of events will be amazing, I am sure! Please include a narrative on the second page of your report. Reading about the events makes them come to life!!

Thanksgiving is a great time to give thanks for our Children & Youth. They are the future. We need to remember to showcase their talents, abilities, and accomplishments. Please remember to always be on the lookout for eligible candidates for the Youth Hero/Good Deed Awards. It takes a village, and the more our villages are a part of our Children & Youth's lives, the stronger they will become. Wishing all of you a Joyous and Safe Holiday season. Spend it doing what you love, with who you love!

## AMERICANISM LOUANNA GILBERT

The purpose of the Americanism program is to promote patriotism and responsible citizenship. If you check your Plan of Action, I have taken this from the very first line on the Americanism page. We need to instill this in our young people and inspire action. Your actions as an auxiliary can inspire greatness and motivate those around you to follow your lead. Setting a positive example can lead to a more loyal and successful American Legion Auxiliary, the world's largest patriotic service organization.

Going forward these are some of the things I would like to see as the Americanism Chairman.

- 1) Working with the American Legion, Schools and the community to show respect for the American flag. Whether it be how to display your flag, knowing when and where you should put your hand over your heart. Example : Standing and with hand over your heart when first flag comes by in a parade or when the National Anthem is being sung or played.
- 2) Increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest. Topic for this year is "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans who fought for our Freedom." Again work with the schools guidance counselors (secretaries), english and history teachers and identify youth for participation. Provide packets explaining contest rules, deadlines and award opportunities.
- 3) 2025-2026 Department Americanism Awards Department Presidents Award, The Marie C. Mock Award, The Joan Caccamo Award, The Patricia M. Hennessy Award Entries must be received by May 1st unless a different date is specified. Check your Plan of Action for award rules.
- 4) 2025-2026 National Americanism Awards. Again check your plan of Action for specifics. National Awards Form Link :<https://www.legion-aux.orgNational-Awards-Form>

I'm looking forward to an awesome year as your Americanism Chairperson. Looking ahead to all the events, ideas and celebrations coming from the Units, County and Districts.

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY COLLEGE  
DEBBY HERRMANN

Stay tuned for future updates!

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND  
KAREN DRUCKER

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) had forty-two of sixty-two counties reporting for this period. Congratulations to the 5th and 10th Districts for having 100% reporting.

As of November 13, 2025, donations of \$5,371.70 were sent to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, and Auxiliary members volunteered thirty-two hours.

National is encouraging Units to hold fundraisers for AEF to increase donations. Fundraising ideas include:

1. Place a donation jar at your events with a poster explaining the AEF program.
2. Hold a bake sale.
3. Hold a raffle, or 50/50 to benefit AEF.
4. Pass a mason jar at your monthly meetings and send the contributions to AEF.

Please remember, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, is able to help Auxiliary members through the generosity of fellow members. Donations are easily made by texting "AEF" to 1-844-940-3450 or visit: <https://donate.legion-aux.org/CSiDonate/Give.aspx/QPOMDNR5#c> . When using the website, you may enter the information for your unit and/or department at the bottom of the page. This allows all donations to count towards the year-end AEF awards.

ALA FOUNDATION  
CATHLEEN MACINNES & TERRI WALLACE

On behalf of the ALA Foundation Board of Directors, THANK YOU for joining us in truly serving those who served. THANK YOU to all members, Units, Counties, and Districts which have donated to the ALA Foundation during our recent "Veterans Day of Giving" fundraiser! We are proud to announce the campaign raised \$17,595.00. From funding adaptive equipment and technology for veterans to providing warmth, stability, and connection, these donations will help to meet the real and immediate needs of veterans.

The ALA Foundation positively impacts the lives of our veterans, military, and their families by funding programs of the American Legion Auxiliary today and for future generations. To assist ALA units, counties/districts, and departments in their efforts to support local veterans, military, and their families, the ALA Foundation offers three different grants. Grants are reviewed on a quarterly basis. **To be reviewed at the next board meeting, the next round of grant applications should be turned in no later than December 20, 2025.** Please consider submitting a grant application. The three categories of grants: Veteran Projects Fund, Veterans Creative Arts Festival, and Subgrants. Details on these grants and their applications can be found at: <https://alafoundation.org/grants>. Dean Sanders at National ALA Headquarters in Indianapolis can help guide you to a successful grant application. His direct line is (317) 569-4532.

Not sure how to donate? Simply go to [www.alafoundation.org](http://www.alafoundation.org) and click on the DONATE icon in the upper-right corner to donate online. One option is to become a monthly donor! Another option is to send a check to the ALA Foundation at 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

**CHAPLAIN  
MARIE SANTACROCE**

Thank you to all County Chaplains who sent your report. A reminder about reporting to your Department Chairmen- Unit reports should not be sent to Department Chairmen . Send Unit reports to your County Chairman only. County Chairs, please then consolidate all reports you receive into your County report which should then be forwarded to your Department Chairman.

All Death noticed should be sent directly to me, the Department Chaplain. Please use the current form found in this year's Plan of Action. A condolence card will be sent to the family member indicated on the form. The Member Data Form should be sent to the Department Office so that a deceased member's name can be removed from your membership roll.

Those of us who serve as Chaplain for our Unit, County or District, have the privilege of sharing spirituality, faith and comfort to our membership in a way respectful to all. We are grateful to serve.

To all Chaplains- please send me any special prayers, poems, spiritual messages that you use so they may be included in our Book of Prayers to be presented to President Maureen at Convention. Include your name, Unit, County with your submission.

**CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS  
PATRICIA HENNESSY N**

We are moving forward in assuring that all Units and Counties review their governing documents. Many have been updated and approved in the last year or so, however, I have found some with older or no documents at all. I am pleased that some County C&B Chairman have been in touch with their units insuring updates. Also, I have had the pleasure of corresponding or speaking with members in regards to questions regarding these documents.

Also, I hope you had a chance to look at the the Auxiliary magazine. Page 20 has a synopsis of the 15 Amendments voted on at the National Convention. The holidays are fast approaching and our lives will be busier, but keep up the great work you do for the good of our military, veterans, their families and the community. Safe and happy holiday to you all

## COMMUNITY SERVICE ARDELLA TURNER

Although Community Service has three (3) major events each year; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, (January 19th), the American Legion Family Day, (April 25th), and 9/11 National Day of Service. It is imperative that we remember that Community Service is a year round program. In my review of the reports that I have received so far, it became apparent to me that there are some very creative and thoughtful ideas (ways) to serve your community depending on the region. Some of the events we should consider, no matter what region are:

- Support for Veterans in shelters
- Support for Women & children in shelters or victims of domestic violence
- Participate in clothing, food and/or school supplies drives to benefit the less fortunate
- Participation in the beautification of the community.

In closing, I would like to inform you that our department president, Maureen Morgan has chosen Women Veterans as a project that is near and dear to her heart. Let's come up with ways that we can provide community service for our present and/or past female Veterans possibly during Women's History Month (March) or at other times. Looking forward to a very interesting upcoming year.

## EDUCATION PATRICIA GALLEY

The beautiful thing about learning is' that no one can take it away from you.

At this time, I'm finishing up on my reports that are coming in from the counties. "If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you. "Whether it's Veterans in classrooms, promoting Give 10, Box Tops or Parents as Reading Partners. Please Remember November 17-21st is American Education Week. So, keep up the good work and spread the word of knowledge where One teaches, two learn.

Please make sure to share the scholarship information with your local schools. Also remember to include the Homeschool Families by getting the information to them. The deadline for these scholarships is March 1st, 2025. Time is approaching faster than we think so let's keep up with the schools and keep them on track.

Some other important dates are as follows:

April 15- Purple Up- Day for Military Children

May 3-9- Teacher Appreciation Week

I would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Holiday Season too!

Lastly, "Education is not the learning of the facts, but the training of the mind to think."

**ALA EMPIRE GIRLS STATE**  
**STEPH FALLON, MEGAN WALDEN, MOLLY MCLAUGHLIN**

The 2025-2026 ALA EGS leadership and staff are hard at work on the plans for ALA Empire Girls State 2026 being held June 30th - July 6th, 2026 at SUNY Brockport! Megan has been compiling the county quota responses, so if you have not submitted your county's quota form, please do so ASAP. ALA EGS County and Unit Chairman Fall Mailing materials were mailed in October. County Chairmen, please distribute to your Unit Chairman ASAP if you have not done so already! Reminder that all materials and step by step directions are also available on <https://empiregirlsstate.org/ala-resources/>. (See the ALA Resources tab, password GirlsState).

We are sending correspondence to the County Chairmen via email, so if you are not receiving those updates, please let Steph know ([empiregirlsstate@gmail.com](mailto:empiregirlsstate@gmail.com)), and she will add you to the email list! We hope this provides an additional layer of support and communication with our program. Did you catch our EGS Unit/County Chair Overview and Informational Zoom meeting on November 13th? If you missed it, you will be able to view the recording from our website under the ALA Resources tab. Please contact us with any questions!

Molly is eagerly awaiting the online applications from our Citizens and Alternates and receiving the Transmittal forms from each ALA EGS County Chairman. The 2026 online Candidate Registration form is ready and will be open from November 20, 2025 to February 28, 2026 at 11:59pm. There is ONE online registration form (not a separate one for citizens and alternates) and all of the documents requiring Parent and Candidate signature and other required forms will be uploaded in the online application. Note: All Units must complete their interviews and select their Citizen(s) and Alternate(s) by February 1st! This will allow Units to collect the \$50.00 registration from all Citizen candidates (not Alternates) and have their paperwork to the County ALA EGS Chairman by February 15th. This also will give the candidates the month of February to complete all of their online tasks. If you haven't already started your interviews, now is the time!

The following documents must be sent to the Registrar (Molly) as soon as you have the names of your citizens and alternates: 1) Citizen Transmittal Form, 2) Alternate Transmittal Form, 3) Check from each County made payable to ALA Dept of New York for \$500.00 per Citizen (not Alternates). You can email the information to [egsregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:egsregistrar@gmail.com) or send it to Molly at the address below. The online registration form for all Candidates (Citizens + Alternates) will also close on February 28th. No other paperwork should be sent!

We are committed to building and diversifying our 2026 staff and would love your assistance with this endeavor. If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining the 2026 ALA EGS Team, please visit <https://empiregirlsstate.org/join-the-team/> to complete the online staff application. The needed availability dates for our staff are June 27th - July 6th, 2026. Thank you for your continued support and for all that you do at a Unit, County, and District Level! Every one of you is why this program can be a success each and every year! THANK YOU!

**FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE****MARIE MOCK, MARYLOU PLATT, JOAN CACCAMO**

We are now well into our Auxiliary year, and it's time to think ahead with our finances. Your budget should be in place, and your initial audit should be completed. Look to make sure that you have included everything in your budget and adjust anything you have forgotten. You should budget two and a half times your yearly disbursements as a reserve against future setbacks. If you don't already have enough in your treasury, it's time to think about fund raising. Remember that you cannot spend money that you don't have.

You have a budget so take advantage of it. You do not have to vote on expenditures that are already allocated in the budget which was voted on already. Your treasurer will want to announce that the money is being spent when the monthly finance statement is read at the meeting, but no vote is needed. You can, however, choose to vote on motions that are brought to the floor that are not in the budget.

Speaking of finance statements, this should be an itemized account of income and disbursements which is available to all members. Our finances are not a secret from our membership. However, we should not be discussing our financial statements with nonmembers even if they are part of our Legion family. Unit finances should stay within the unit.

Keep track of your finances and be fiscally responsible.

**CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATE**

Past Department President and Finance Committee Member Joan Caccamo's email address has changed! Please update here PDP information and use her personal email as to be [jec22661@gmail.com](mailto:jec22661@gmail.com) (please note that she no longer has access to her Juno account).

**HISTORIAN  
SUZANNE WILLIAMS**

Now that we have submitted the History County Report for the first Reporting Period, Right?? We can turn our attention to completing a report for the Veteran's Day Ceremony and Activities that we attended. Don't forget to include pictures and newspaper clippings of your Events! Keep a log of your activities and volunteers to report by March 1 st . Are you planning Thanksgiving dinner for your Veterans? Do you participate in Winter Activities at your Club? Do you hold a Children's Christmas Party? All of these should be documented for your History! Historians should be reviewing the criteria for Awards – see POA. Available are the “Sally A. Johnston Award” for the best County Pictorial History Book; and the Department Award for Unit and County History – as well as Junior best History! Begin now to assemble your Scrap Books and Pictorial History! Units should be creating a History book for your Unit President! County Historians should creating a History book for your County President. These can be placed in Archive and kept for years to come!

See you at MidWinter Leadership Conference in January!

**JUNIOR ACTIVITIES  
CATHY YERDON**

It is so amazing how fast time is going. It seemed like yesterday I was being installed as 4th District President and was given the Committee of Junior Activities Chairperson for the Administrative Year 2025-2026. As I am just learning what has been done in the past, it is interesting and amazing to read what the Juniors of the Units/Districts have been working on. Unfortunately, we only received about 70% of the County reports. One District we received 100% - Go 5th District. I am hoping in the next reporting period, we can reach 100%.

I have been reading through the reports sent in by the Counties (some by Units) and am amazed at the amount of activities that our Juniors are participating in: from attending and assisting with Memorial Day Celebrations by handing out flags to children watching the parade as well as many other activities to assisting with distributing Flags on graves and flag ceremonies. Juniors assisted with luncheons and dinners at their post by setting up, helping with cooking, and cleaning up after. Many of our Juniors have been promoting Americanism, assisting in the Senior Projects, attending Senior Meetings and have been involved with Service to Veteran's. Many Juniors have participated in Halloween activities for the community and for the Veteran's in their area. Senior members are inviting the Juniors to their meetings so the Juniors can see and learn how a meeting is run. Ontario County had asked the girls how they grow from the activities and why they would recommend the activities to someone else – the response is that “learning how kind the community is in helping others and the interaction with others can be fun and rewarding”. They felt that the interaction with the community is a fun environment to enjoy and understand the people living in the area. I really liked this response.

It is important to include the Juniors in most if not all of our activities so they can continue into Adulthood as Senior Members. I wish a safe and Happy upcoming Holiday Season to all!

## LEADERSHIP LUCILLE MOZZILLO

Happy November and welcome to the busy holiday season! I would like to congratulate the Department of New York on an excellent showing at the recent ALA National Mission Training held in Albany. We had 74 senior and 9 junior members in attendance. That is amazing. I hope that those who attended will share that information within their local units, counties and districts.

We are busy preparing for the Mid-Winter Conference. The Conference will be held at the Albany Marriott on Wolf Road, Friday, January 16-17, 2026. We will be honored to have our National President Pam Ray in attendance with us throughout the conference. Final preparations are being made and will be decided at our upcoming Department Executive Committee meeting. Please be on the lookout for price and times in early December and on the Department website.

Mentoring is a very important aspect of leadership. It helps to grow our organization. Mentoring is the art of teaching, counseling, listening to, and advising others so they can be successful. A mentor is a knowledgeable person who is willing to give their time to explain the programs of the Auxiliary and provide encouragement and guidance, and is enthusiastic about teaching others, is patient, and understands that a new member may be hesitant and unsure of themselves. How do you mentor a new member or a member wishing to become active in the Unit?

- Sit with the Unit member during meetings and get to know them and Introduce them to others, particularly to the chairmen of any committees they have an interest in.
- Offer to carpool together to meetings and volunteer events
- Encourage them to participate in Unit activities and projects.
- Answer questions about procedures, the Auxiliary mission, programs, and volunteer opportunities.
- Follow up if they miss a meeting or volunteer event. Let them know that they were missed, send them any handouts or notes from the meeting, and remind them of future volunteer events. Remember - some members may not enjoy meetings but would love to use their time and talent to serve veterans and their families.
- Stay in touch. Call them and send birthday, get-well cards, etc.
- Invite them to attend Department, District, and County meetings, and other Auxiliary events. Share what you know—Be a mentor! Please take note of what your Units and members are doing to promote mentoring!

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the midwinter conference and wish everyone a safe and wonderful holiday season!

## LEGISLATIVE DENA RESTAINO

### Current Legislative Initiatives

Welcome to the November 2025 Legislative Newsletter! 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. If you haven't yet done so, please log on to make your advocacy voice heard. It takes less than thirty seconds to send a letter to your local lawmaker! The following campaigns are in need of your support:

1. The American Legion proudly endorses the Pay Our Troops Act of 2026 to ensure that members of the Armed Services will be paid in the event of a government shutdown. When Congress fails to pass a funding bill, like they did on October 1, members of the Armed Services will not be paid despite being expected to continue performing their duties. This bipartisan legislation ensures that the men and women who put their lives on the line to protect our country will never go without a paycheck.
2. The American Legion urges Congress to adopt Representative Bill Keating's amendment in the fiscal year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act H.R. 3838 to update and preserve the Chaplains Hill Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. The Chaplains Hill memorial at Arlington National Cemetery honors military chaplains who have died while serving their country. Due to unclear language in past, Arlington National Cemetery officials have delayed updates and preservation efforts of the memorial. The NCMAF is urging Congress to allow them to continue to care for the memorial at ANC and include the additional names. The delay of this work is particularly egregious given that the sacrifice of fallen chaplains from recent conflicts remains unrecognized.
3. The American Legion recognizes the profound impact service dogs have on veterans' lives. These dogs assist their companions with much-needed daily tasks, such as retrieving items, opening doors, and providing balance support, which are invaluable for veterans with mobility challenges. The American Legion supports H.R. 2605 and S. 1441, the Service Dogs Assisting Veterans (SAVES) Act, based on Resolution No. 134: Service Dogs for Injured Service Personnel and Veterans with Mental Health Conditions.
4. The American Legion endorses the Shipbuilding and Harbor Infrastructure for Prosperity and Security (SHIPS) for America Act to improve the maritime security of the United States. Our members are clear in their belief that the US needs sustained investment in our national security to reduce the chances of armed conflict. America's maritime infrastructure is plagued by aging military and commercial vessels, dropping shipbuilding capacity, billions in maintenance backlogs for ports and waterways, a shortage of qualified mariners, and a plummeting sealift capacity. I would like to personally thank all New York Auxiliary members for achieving **FIRST PLACE** in the Eastern Division and **TOP 10** in the Nation! The following excerpt was gleaned from the Eastern Division Legislative Chair's newsletter.

## LEGISLATIVE (CONTINUED)

New York:

Each department has truly stepped forward to pull the advocacy line and demonstrate the collective strength of the American Legion Auxiliary's legislative mission in action. Your ongoing efforts continue to inspire and make a measurable difference for our veterans, military families, and communities.

Department members are actively promoting voter engagement by assisting those unable to travel to polling locations, serving as poll workers at local election centers, and hosting town hall meetings. They are also communicating with Senators and Representatives to advocate for reopening the government and ensuring military pay. New York Advocacy Spotlight (October 2025) Department legislative superstars demonstrated the power of American Legion Auxiliary advocacy by contacting their Congressional representatives. Total Touchpoints: 1,259 – TOP 10! Congrats New York!

Thank you for supporting our Legislative initiatives.

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NANCY BABIS

The new executive Director of the American Legion Auxiliary Ben Hendricks has begun to send newsletters to NEC representatives. Below are a few snippets from his October newsletter.

- Spent meaningful time this month strengthening our collaboration with The American Legion.
- We now have regular joint meetings on the calendar, and the ALA communications team is participating in TAL's weekly communications and content meetings. Together, we are focused on telling the Legion Family's shared story, and I'm excited about the opportunities ahead.
- None of this happens without dedicated volunteers and staff. I'm proud of the teamwork, creativity, and commitment our members and staff continue to show every day.
- Three new units chartered; nearly 3,000 renewals processed by phone; and 496 North Dakota State Life Members converted to Paid Up For Life.
- Online applications opened for ALAGN staff positions.
- Welcomed new Membership Coordinator, Janella Watford.
- The board-approved \$5 million transfer from the ALA general investment account to a separate investment account to generate income for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund is now complete. I attended two short zoom meetings called by National President Pam Ray. There is nothing of substance to report from these meetings.

## NATIONAL SECURITY PATTY RAMA

Of the 35 reports (56.4%) received: 6 -No county chair & 15- no activity reported.

**Remember - Honor – Teach Wreaths Across America (WAA)** will take place on Saturday, December 13, 2025. Over 2 million volunteers and supporters are expected to participate in more than 5,200 cemeteries across all 50 states. This year, wreaths cost \$17 each and can be purchased through their website: <http://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org>. The deadline for orders is December 2, 2025.

**Shipping to military installations requires additional details.** Regulation overview effective Sept. 1: U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) now require HS codes for all overseas military shipping to APO, FPO, and DPO addresses. In order to compile a list of HS Codes for items sent, please send a list of the items you ship overseas to: [nyalanationalsec@gmail.com](mailto:nyalanationalsec@gmail.com).

A website for looking up HS Codes: <https://www.goglobalpost.com/hs-code-lookup-tool/>.

Most hand sanitizers, including wipes, contain alcohol and are flammable in nature and are therefore handled and shipped as hazardous matter (HAZMAT) in the U.S. Mail. As flammable materials, these products are limited to surface transportation-only in domestic mail. **It is prohibited to send these materials by International Mail including APO/FPO/DPO (military) destinations.**

## PARLIAMENTARIAN LINDA TOME

How did you do on the last issue of Empire State News Parliamentary Procedure Qs & As? I know I learned a few new things!! So, this month I thought I'd provide you with the "Basics" of parliamentary procedure and how to make a motion. We really need to run our meetings based on parliamentary procedure as it allows our organization's meetings to run smoothly and have everyone's voices heard. Although these rules may seem simple, not all meetings follow these rules – however a formal meeting always should!! Here are the basics on how to follow parliamentary procedure:

### Five Steps for Parliamentary Procedure

1. Be recognized
2. Make a motion
3. Get a second
4. Discussion
5. Vote

### How to Make a Motion

1. Get recognized: Raise your hand or go to the microphone so the chair will call on you.
2. State your name: Stand and state your name and position, using the microphone if applicable.
3. Address the Chair: Use the person's position rather than name (Madam President).
4. State your motion: Say "I move that..." followed by your motion. Your motion must be seconded.
5. Debate your case: You will be given the floor as the first person to debate your motion.

**PARLIAMENTARIAN  
(CONTINUED)**

**Important Motions**

	<b>Previous Question</b>	<b>Lay on the Table</b>	<b>Point of Order</b>	<b>Appeal the Chair</b>	<b>Question of Privilege</b>
<b>2nd required?</b>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Debate?</b>	No	No	No	Yes	No
<b>Can you interrupt? *</b>	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Vote needed</b>	2/3	Majority	N/A	Majority	N/A

\*Can you interrupt someone else who is talking/has the floor

**POPPY  
KATHY SOULE**

It's 32 degrees. Fall is still here, but Winter is on its way at 1700ft. Brrrrr.

“Poppies get ready to bloom by hibernating at this time of year, but we get busier by getting busier.”

Reports came in slowly as it took an extra to get to my little Post office.

Although I did give extra time, reports were late, and some never made it up the hill!

Reporting is so important. We want to know the good, the bad, and the no activity.

Orders for Poppies are coming in and being filled.

Our Supervisors are keeping our members very busy with “Poppy Parties” and other such gatherings.

Remember to own your work as well. Contact information helps me so much. You do want credit for taking the time to send me a report of any kind.

Take the time to finish reading the “Plan of Action” and prepare for the New Year!

Keep up the Great work!

**PUBLIC RELATIONS  
PATRICIA MURPHY**

The activities reported across the ten districts highlight a multifaceted approach to public relations that blends traditional methods with modern techniques. From engaging local communities utilizing social media, newspaper, TV and radio. As these districts continue to innovate and adapt, they set a strong foundation for future PR activities that resonate with their audiences and drive meaningful change.

I attended the first quarter meeting of the National PR committee. The areas that are important across the organization are utilizing all methods of PR. Department of New York you are doing it. Continue with your posts, articles and wearing your branded attire at functions.

Happy Holidays to all. I look forward to seeing everyone at Mid-winter.

**WARRIOR FAMILY ASSISTANCE  
LAURA BOOTH**

The Warrior Family Assistance program was started to help Veterans in need. Since September 2025, we have awarded two Veterans with one application pending, due to the government shutdown. Start spreading the word within your units as well as your counties. Brochures are available. Please contact me or the Dept. office. Please refer to the Plan of Action or login to the Dept of NY website for the complete rules and guidelines. Keep in mind when filing an application, all questions are to be answered and documentation attached. The applicant needs to be interviewed by three members and then forwarded to myself 2nd and 3rd Dept Vice Presidents as well a 2nd and 3rd Finance chairs. Remember, these Veterans are in need.

Please contact me if you have any questions ([nyalawfa@gmail.com](mailto:nyalawfa@gmail.com))

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

- 2026 Membership is due now! If you have not paid your 2026 membership already, please do so immediately. You can call National Headquarters at 317-569-4570. Please have your unit number and name ready or you can log on to the national website and pay your dues.
- Remember that if you do not pay your 2026 dues prior to December 31st you will be delinquent and can not attend unit or county meetings and do not have the right to vote.
- ALL CHECKS must be made payable to the AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY Department of NY. Please pay attention to the line where you write the amount, if written incorrectly the bank will not take the check and we have to return the check to you to resubmit it correctly. This is costly and it will delay the membership being processed.
- 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.

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

- Please do not send DD214's/active-duty documentation into the office with applications. Once the Post Adjutant/Officer signs the application and the membership chair (ALA) verifies all supporting documents, return the supporting documents to the member. The office only needs the completed – signed application with the dues and transmittal. Remember – if the veteran is living, he/she must be a current paid member in the American Legion with a nine-digit membership number. This also pertains to any Active-duty person, they must be a current paid member in The American Legion in order for a family member to join under their eligibility. Remember to check off which era the veteran served and the relationship of the veteran to the ALA applicant. Please circle the appropriate relationship. PLEASE make sure to get rid of all old applications and use the current applications to avoid mistakes.
- Applications need to be complete and legible otherwise they will be returned to the unit membership chair. New members address needs to be complete. No abbreviations on city/town. All membership applications must be presented to the unit membership chairman with the proper documentation prior to being submitted to the office for processing.
- Units with Unit FULL and Unit WRITE ALAMIS access must send the completed membership applications signed by the Post Adjutant or Post officer to the department office once you enter and pay it. Please include the Unit number and new ID# on the application. Keep a copy for the unit file. Failure to adhere to the directions will result in your ALAMIS being terminated immediately.
- All transfers need to be sent to the department office as well as all data forms for deceased members.
- Membership chairs – if your unit members move, change any contact information, phone numbers, emails, etc., please send the change to the Department office so the information is updated in a timely manner. If your unit has ALAMIS Full or Write this should be done as soon as the member notifies you of their change. This also pertains to unit President, Membership Chair and Unit Treasurer.
- 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.