



THE CONNECTICUT AUXILIARE #8

American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of Connecticut, Inc. April 2017
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“In order to carry a positive action we must develop here a positive vision”

Dalai Lama

Happy Spring! If Mother Nature is so inclined we should start having warmer weather. Our favorite groundhog has been visible on the Rocky Hill campus.

April is Children & Youth Month and also the Month of The Military Child. There are many things you can do to celebrate. For example: give out a Josh Dog, present a Youth Hero Award, award a Good Deed Award, and participate in the Kid's Walk. Each district has their own date and place this year so contact your district to find yours.

It's never too late to make donations to our Educational Grants. Although the Past President's Parley took place on April 1st, donations are still accepted after that date. The Department Memorial Grants also need your help. All the monies raised goes to our children furthering their education.

Earth Day is April 22nd. Some activities around this are planting a tree, cleaning up your community, recycling and spending the day outdoors.

Holocaust Remembrance Day is April 23rd. Take a moment to honor those slain and to those who survived.

Year-end reports are approaching faster than you think! Please make sure your unit submits a report for every program even if you haven't done anything for that program. Our department chairmen have worked hard and need to be able to report to the National Organization everything that Connecticut has done! 100 % reporting is the goal.

Thank you to all that have turned in membership! We still have a long way to go to reach our ultimate goal for this year. If you need help in recruiting new members or getting members to renew, please contact Laura, the Department office or me and we will gladly assist you. Remember, membership is everyone's job.

Yours in the American Legion Auxiliary

Marge Sunbury

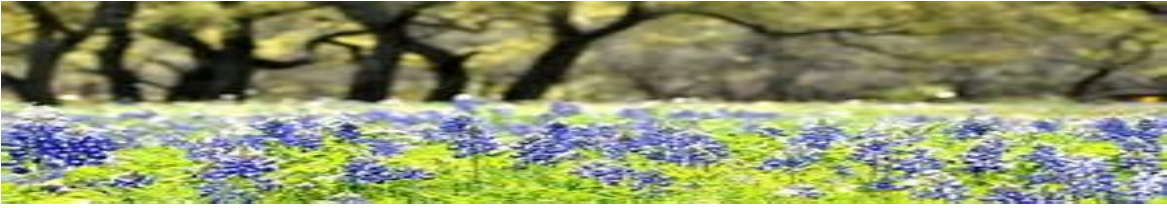
Department President

860-639-3011

margesun@yahoo.com



In Memoriam



Laurie J Dawkins	Unit 9	New London	Nancy Piantek	Unit 105	Cromwell
Dorothy Ahlberg	Unit 69	Portland	Loretta Hrynko	Unit 112	Montville
Helen Normandin	Unit 91	Moosup	Kathryn Clarke	Unit 112	Montville

Chaplain

April, the month of special “days”, including Earth, Arbor, Income Tax, and April Fool’s. April 6th is Army Day, April 9th is National Former POW Recognition Day (also Palm Sunday). April 11th was the Persian Gulf War Official Cease Fire (1991). April 10th Passover Begins, and April 16th is Easter Sunday. As we reflect on all the special “days” and important dates let us say the following which was written by Former President of the USA, Jimmy Carter:

A Prayer for a Meaningful Life

I would like to have my frequent prayer answered that God let my life be meaningful in the enhancement of His kingdom and that my life might be meaningful in the enhancement of the lives of my fellow human beings.

I call upon all the people of our Nation to give thanks on that day for the blessings Almighty God has bestowed upon us, and to join the fervent prayer of George Washington who as President asked God to “impart all the blessings we possess, or ask for ourselves to the whole family of mankind.”

Lorraine Dixon, Department Chaplain
(dixonlorraine@aol.com) 203-758-5443



MEMBERSHIP

All my Tang Fish,

Congratulations to the Units that put effort forward last month and helped up maintain our members but we all need to push ourselves more and more each day. There will be more incentives coming before Convention but I can’t emphasize enough that we all have to work harder and harder to get our membership numbers in. I hear all of you and I understand the issues we are facing with trying to get members to pay their dues. Do you want help making personal phone calls? Do you need more applications for asking new members to join? What about reaching out to the Post membership and asking if they have eligible members in their family? Each district has officers as well as the Department to help you but we can’t help unless you ask.

With the spring season upon us and the holidays around us, let’s remember that there are veterans that need our help and the easiest fundraising event we hold is for someone to pay for a membership. We all work hard on our programs but without the Membership, we have no programs. Instead of using Facebook to reach membership, let’s pick up a phone. Instead of a phone call, why not send a notecard? There is always another way to reach out!

“If we wipe out the fish, the oceans are going to die. If the oceans die, we die.
We can’t live on this planet with a dead ocean.” *Paul Watson*

DO NOT Forget that this is the time when you make changes to your membership dues notices AND forward them to the Department OFFICE. See last Auxiliare. National is recommending that they increase their portion of our membership dues in the future. NOW is the time to talk to your Unit and decide if you wish to increase your dues! Once you make the decision GET IT BACK TO DEPARTMENT. Our 2018 Membership packets will be here sooner than you think and we want to make sure that National has the correct information.

Laura Santino
Dept. Senior Vice President/Membership Chairman
860.573.5028 cell/text
ala2@laurasantino.com



Happy Birthday



April 17
Joan Schaffer Poach
301 Julianna Rd
Cheyenne, WY
52007

April 23
Raelene Miller
460 Cannon Dr
Stratford, CT
06614

April 24
JoeAnne Jackson
110 Turnbull Rd
New Hartford, CT
06057

April 26
Janet Jefford
19 Leo J Lane
Manchester, CT
06040

Americanism

Hello Members,

Yes, spring is on its way so please watch for torn flag and make the owner of the flag aware of it. When reviewing the essays make sure the students have included the Americanism Essay coversheet with their signature and that it is also signed off by the Unit President. Only send me the winning essay from your unit by April 7, 2017 otherwise it will be disqualified. Show your colors America! We should be proud that we are living in America and that others are not fortunate like we are. Let's keep in mind we need to help our veterans and also include your juniors in helping, for they are the future. What better time is there to teach them than while they are still young?

For God and Country
Americanism Chairman,
Janet L. Young



Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Hello ladies!

I hope that each of you is well and getting ready for the official change to spring. As the weather (hopefully) begins to swing into blossom, let's continue to work to support our fellow Auxiliary members in need.

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund is a way that each of us can help a member in their time of extreme need. Remember that this fund was set up to do just that and continues to this day to help many that have come across extremely difficult times. This is a members helping members opportunity.

If you have been considering which program to contribute to, I encourage you to consider the AEF. Donations have been low this year and I ask everyone to consider even a small contribution.

Let us continue to raise funds as we are a family that cares for each member.

Thank you,
Pamela Thompson, Chairman

Children and Youth

April is Children and Youth month

Purchase Josh Dogs and have your juniors take them to the children's ward at local hospitals. If there are military children of deployed, include the GI Josh Dogs.

West Haven V.A. is still looking for coloring books and crayons for the woman's clinic for their children. Involve your juniors with this program.

Plan Easter events for military families and their children at your post home or other locations.

Participate in the Kids Walk.

Donate to the Child Welfare Foundation.

Complete nomination forms for the Youth Hero/Good Deed Awards and send to the Department Office ASAP.

Most important, report everything you do for children and take pictures. You do the work, blow your own horn.

Refer to the National website for more details on these programs.

www.alaforveterans.org

All reports must be to me by April 25, 2017 as I will be in California from April 29, 2017 to May 31, 2017.

Alcyne Welton, Chairman

Education

It is time to begin thinking about your year-end report for Education. There are members who do not realize that their few hours spent at the local school or the library can and should be included in the report. Sometimes a phone call will reveal more information regarding a person's involvement in their local school or library. We need to "brag" about ourselves more than we have. Also, the National Commander uses our volunteering hours in his/her report each year when he testifies before Congress.

Summer Vacation will be here before we know it, Education does not take a vacation. Normally, school age children in the first and second grades do not have a library reading program during the school year. Volunteer to read to these students. The students can often help by reading to each other with an adult sitting in to assist when necessary. As a teacher once told me "students cannot learn until they learn how to read. Having a reading program once a week maintains continuity and can be fun for the children, especially when they assist in the selection of what is to be read.

Joe Anne Jackson, Education Chairman

Girls State

Greetings from the ALA Girls State Commission. We have been very busy confirming speakers and accepting applications. As of penning (Snowy March 14), we have 15 students who have applied and have confirmed the Attorney General, Comptroller, and Mayor Erin Stewart's visit to LGS. We are looking to expand the delegate's knowledge and investment in various Auxiliary programs by having hands-on activities explaining the multiple programs the Auxiliary undertakes throughout the year. We're looking to teach the girls to crochet so they can make scarves for stand down; bingo; poppy making; Flag folding (pocket flags); and scholarships. If you're interested in attending one of the program segments and help with any of the above, or are interested in volunteering throughout the week, please feel free to reach out to me any time! Deadline for applications is June 1st. Wishing you and your families a very joyous spring and looking forward to 2017 LGS,

Rebecca Terricciano
Chairman/Director
860-538-1435

Juniors

The Juniors had a great Spring Conference meeting. They want to thank the Senior Officers and Department Chairmen that attended the meeting and let them know that they are grateful for your support and

knowledge. They completed 77 "Socks of Love", the National Junior project this year, to be donated to homeless veterans in Connecticut. Great job girls!

The Junior Convention will be held Saturday June 3, 2017, Commissioner's Conference Room on the Rocky Hill VA grounds. Election of officers for 2017-2018 will be held and a cookout will follow the meeting.

The following girls were endorsed at the last meeting:

Unit 48, Cassidy Jones, Honorary Department Junior President

Unit 48, Amanda Hopkins, Honorary Department Junior Chaplain.

The following offices are open: Honorary Department Junior Sr. Vice President, Honorary Department Jr. Vice President, Honorary Department Junior Treasurer and Honorary Department Junior Historian. If any Junior would like to run for an office, please have someone prepared to nominate her.

If any Junior has been working on their patches, please have the completed sheets back to me by May 1, so that patches can be ordered. Also, please remember your year- end reports. They are due May 1st and I am looking forward to hearing what all Juniors have been doing.

Any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at caseyj1@aol.com or (203) 671-7447.

Kristin Jones, Junior Activities Chairmen

Legislative

Here's a very informative fact, of which I believe you should be made aware.

When you are contacting your legislative representatives, in their Washington, DC offices, please either phone call or e-mail them directly, opposed to mailing them through the USPS. The reasoning behind this is the fact that mail takes approximately 2 weeks to reach their office, due to the numerous screening avenues the mail must go through. Here's a listing with their contact information in their Washington offices, for your use:

House of Representatives

John Larson

1501 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC20515
Phone: [\(202\) 225-2265](tel:(202)225-2265)
Fax: [\(202\) 225-1031](tel:(202)225-1031)

Rosa DeLauro

2413 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC20515
Phone: [\(202\) 225-3661](tel:(202)225-3661)
Fax: [\(202\) 225-4890](tel:(202)225-4890)

Elizabeth Esty

221 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC20515
Phone: [\(202\) 225-4476](tel:(202)225-4476)
Fax: [\(202\) 225-7289](tel:(202)225-7289)

Joe Courtney

2348 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC20515
Phone: [\(202\) 225-2076](tel:(202)225-2076)
Fax: [\(202\) 225-4977](tel:(202)225-4977)

Jim Himes

1227 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC20515
Phone: [\(202\) 225-5541](tel:(202)225-5541)
Fax: [\(202\) 225-9629](tel:(202)225-9629)

Senators

Richard Blumenthal

702 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
[202.224.2823](tel:202.224.2823)
[202.224.9673](tel:202.224.9673) (fax)

Chris Murphy

B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
[202.224.4041](tel:202.224.4041)
[202.228.9604](tel:202.228.9604) (fax)

Public Relations

Happy Spring Dolphins,

How quickly time goes by! This is a busy time for Public Relations. You have two "letter to editor" samples in your PIC packet – one for Memorial Day and one for Flag Day. These and more samples can also be found on the National Website under Public Relations Media. You also have the opportunity to get a press release/article into the newspapers on any Memorial Day activities your Units are participating in or where you will be to distribute poppies or how about a picture in the paper of your Poppy Queen!! Great opportunities for PR branding by wearing your shirts, hats, pins to all these activities. Also, great way to get new members so bring those application forms with you. Last but not least - I need your final report and tracking form to me by May 1st so I can do my job and report to National for our Department. Your year runs May 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017 for this report so remember to include what you did back then. Need help call or email me. Thanks for all you do to promote our mission

Janice "Flipper" Sentivany

Public Relations Chairman

1teuke@gmail.com, 860-742-6355



Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation

Creative Arts was well attended, thank you to all Auxiliary and Legion members who were able to join us. Do not forget to get your reports in, deadline is May 1st.

We need to get size G crochet hook and size 8 knitting needles for Girl State. They are going to show the girls how to make scarves for Stand Down 2017. Please bring hooks/needles to your next district meetings.

Continue making scarves, winter hats, and lap robes for Stand Down 2017

Raelene Miller, VA&R Chairman, email rae45mil@gmail.com

Phone 203-378-4016(h), 203-212-4212(cell)

DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 1 Past President's Spring Parley, Waverly Inn, Cheshire
- April 3 Department Officers and Chairman Official Visit to Unit 165, Wolcott 6:30 pm
- April 6 7th Dist. Mtg. Post 156 East Haddam, Official Visit Dept. Officers 7 pm
- April 8 Kids Walk Districts 7, 6 5 and 1. Please check with your district for time & locations
- April 9 4th Dist. Mtg. Post 95 Hebron 2pm
- April 12 2nd Dist. Mtg. Post 17 Naugatuck, Official Visit Dept. Officers 7pm Dinner 8 pm Mtg.
- April 14 Good Friday, Office closed
- April 16 Easter
- April 19 3rd Dist. Mtg. Post 60 Danbury, 7:30pm
- April 20 5th Dist. Mtg. Post 15 Jewett City, 7pm
- April 21-23 National Oratorical Contest, Indianapolis, IN
- April 26 1st Dist. Mtg. Post 36 Windsor Locks, 6:30pm
- April 27 6th Dist. Mtg. Post 173 Morris, 6:00pm
- April 29 Kids Walk Districts 2 and 3. Please check with your district for time and location
- April 29 4th District Bingo, Post 26 Stafford Springs, Doors open at 5pm games begin at 7pm
- April 30 American Legion vs. VFW Bowling Tournament, 2PM
- May 2 DEC meeting Commissioner's Conference Room, Rocky Hill VA, 7pm
- May 6-9 Department Leadership National Conference, Indianapolis IN

May 10 2nd Dist. Mtg. Post 165, Wolcott, 7pm Dinner, 8pm Meeting
 May 11 7th Dist. Mtg. Post 66, Clinton 7pm
 May 13 2nd & 3rd District Leadership & Learning Roundtable, Post 16, Shelton 10am
 May 17 3rd Dist. Mtg. Post 140, Bridgeport 7:30pm
 May 18 5th Dist. Mtg. Post 180, Lebanon, 7pm
 May 21 4th Dist. Mtg. Post 14, Rockville 2pm
 May 21 2nd District Tea Party, Post 196 Milford
 May 24 1st Dist. Mtg. Post 80, Enfield, 6:30 Dinner, 7:30 Meeting
 May 25 6th Dist. Mtg. Post 137, Harwington, 6pm
 May 29 Memorial Day Office Closed

 June 3 Dept. Junior Convention, Commission's Conference Room, Rocky Hill VA grounds
 June 5 Nathan Hale Day-State Capitol
 June 9, 10, 11 Special Olympics Connecticut
 June 24-29 Boys' State, ECSU
 June 25-30 Laurel Girls' State, Post College, Waterbury, CT
 July 4 Hall of Flags Starts at 10am Please be there no later than 9:30 am
 July 4 National President's Visit to CT, 4th of July Celebration on the Rocky Hill VA grounds
 July 6-9 Department Convention, Trumbull Marriott, Trumbull, CT
 July 19-23 Junior Shooting Sports, Colorado Springs, CO
 July 22-29 Girls' Nation, Washington, DC
 Aug 18-24 National Convention, Reno, Nevada

Unit and Post Happenings

Monthly Breakfast: April 5th, Post 36 Windsor Locks, 8:30-11:00 am \$4.00 adults, \$3.00 kids 12 and under.

Karaoke: April 7th, Post 12 Norwalk, 8:30 pm no cover charges.

Fish Fry: April 17th, Post 52 Coventry, 6 pm \$10.00, Call 860-541-1840 for more information

Pasta Dinner: All you can eat, Post 68 April 14th, \$8.00, Doors open at 5:30 pm

Wednesday Night Dinner: Post 113, Old Saybrook, \$9.00 Doors open at 5:30pm Call 860-38-9-5482 for reservations.

Spaghetti Dinner: Every Thursday Post 4, Norwich, \$5.00, 4-7pm

Bingo: Wolcott Post 165, Every Friday and Saturday Night, Doors open at 5 games begin at 7pm. Kitchen open, Smoke Free, Plenty of Parking. Proceeds benefit Auxiliary and Legion Programs

Bingo: Norwalk Unit 12, Every Monday night, Doors open 5 Games Begin 7pm, Kitchen Open Smoke Free.

Messages from the Department Office

- **Unit Bonds: Unit Bond Payments are Now Due. All Units must submit payment of \$15.50 to the Department Office. Only 6 Units are still unpaid. Thank you to all that have paid already.**
- **Please fill out and return all Membership Renewal and Remit to forms to the Department Office by the Due Date. This will ensure that the proper information is inputted into the**

National data base for each unit's dues and where to send the renewals for the 2018 membership year. Even if nothing has changed these forms need to be completed and returned.

- **Checks:** When sending checks into the department please send separate checks for VA&R programs and general programs. VA&R has its own account and when membership dues, general programs and VA&R are all on the same check it makes it difficult to deposit in the correct accounts. Thank You.
- **National Website:** sign up today to the member's only portal on the National website. While you are there sign up for the e-news, keep up on what's happening at the National level, in other departments and units. There is a wealth of information just waiting for you to access.
- **“In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.**

We are told to let our light shine, and told if it does, we won't need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shine- they just shine.

Dwight L Moody





**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Connecticut
PO Box 266
Rocky Hill, CT 06067-0266**

DATED MATERIAL

