



THE CONNECTICUT AUXILIARE #7

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

“The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions of hope.”

John Buchanan

Depending on which groundhog you go by, Spring is right around the corner! I don't know about you, but I could do with no more snow! Soon the good weather will be upon us and the birds will be singing and our fishes will be swimming.

I'm not sure what happened to our membership from last year to this. Members are very important and we need to make sure we are getting the renewals in and seeking out new members to add to our fishbowls. Don't stress about goals so much as adding what we can. We can do it. If you need help in ways to get new members, please contact Laura, Nancy, me or anyone who you think might be able to help you. We need to get our numbers up there!

Our Juniors are having their Spring meeting on March 18th in Hamden at 10:30 am. They will be doing a “Socks of Love” for our homeless veterans, so bring a pair of socks and some toiletries to put in them. Please bring your juniors to this meeting so they can learn about our programs.

Official visits and testimonials are upon us. If you would like the Department Officers to visit your Unit or District, please contact the Department office for scheduling purposes.

Our Leadership team is waiting to visit you. If you would like the Team to help your District or your Unit please give Rita Barylski a call.

The Past President's Spring Parley will be on April 1, 2017 at The Waverly Inn in Cheshire. Our guest will be Eastern Division National Vice President Patti Lach from the Department of Maryland. Please plan on attending and give her a warm Connecticut welcome and bring your grant donations with you. All money raised goes to the grants for our young people.

Our next Department Executive Meeting will be on Monday March 13th in the Commissioner's Conference Room on the Rocky Hill campus at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Many of you attended the sendoff of the troops this past month. I would like to thank you for thinking of our service members. There are more send offs scheduled so please keep them all in your thoughts and prayers.

God Bless America and the American Legion Auxiliary!

Marge Sunbury
Department President
860-621-2304
860-639-3011
margesun@yahoo.com

In Memoriam



Mary Turner	Unit 17	Naugatuck	Sheila Clements	Unit 72	Southington
Elizabeth Perry	Unit 52	Coventry	Karin Steiner	Unit 165	Wolcott
JoAnn Majewski	Unit 68	Berlin	Anne H Kichar	Unit 174	Oxford
Eunice Przbysz	Unit 68	Berlin	Florence Klezovich	Unit 174	Oxford

Correction to last month In Memoriam:

Bernice Bergeron- Unit 56 is in Glastonbury not Manchester.

Chaplain

In the month of March, we welcome a new season (Spring) and we welcome longer days, as daylight savings time begins. This is a great time to look over your PIC materials and complete your Unit and Department Chaplain's Book of Prayers to meet the deadline of May 15th for submission of "the book" to me.

At convention, I will award the MARY E. HINDSLEY AWARD to the Unit presenting the best "Book of Prayers". I will award the BETTY JANE BERGSTROM AWARD to the District presenting the best "Book of Prayers".

"The splendor of the rose and the whiteness of the lily
do not rob the little violet of its scent
nor the daisy of its simple charm.
If every tiny flower wanted to be a rose,
SPRING would lose its loveliness"



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

MEMBERSHIP

Ladies,

We made such strides last month but we are slipping and rather fast. We should be over 80% but we are just over 70%. Please remember that Membership is a program every member should be working on – if memberships are not paid, ask the member why. Is there something the Unit can do to help? Did they just forget to return the payment? Was the payment sent to the wrong address? If we are not corresponding with members through face to face, phone calls, or even snail mail how do we know what we can do? There are members in each District as well as me and many other ladies who would be willing to help - we need to be asked as we can't help if we don't have information.

When was the last time you asked a Junior member to join? Did you hear that the Juniors are having a special challenge for members who bring in Junior Members? Have you heard of an **American Girl Doll**? ONE ticket for each Junior member brought in by a Senior Member and TWO tickets for each junior member brought in by a Junior Member. The more newJjniors, the more tickets earned! Drawing for this great item will be at our Department Convention.

Let's have some fun! Since the Juniors are doing a challenge how about me? YES! Let's have our own March Madness ... Since the cash incentives in January worked so well, I shall do it again for the Month of March! March 1 to March 31 ALL Units that bringing in the most membership will be eligible to earn CASH in the amounts: **Highest earns \$75; 2nd highest earns \$50; 3rd highest earns \$25.** March is the month where "it comes in like a lion" why not make some noise and bring in a lot of lionfish!

"Bite off more than you can chew, then chew it!" *Ella Williams*

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



HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY
WELCOME SPRING!

Americanism

Hello Members,

Now is the time to watch for torn flags and let the owner know that it needs replacing, don't forget that our veterans fought under that flag and that it is part of our history. It's also time for the Americanism Essay Contest, go to your schools with the essay information and get everyone involved. I'm looking forward to receiving many essays. Please send to Chairman Janet L. Young at 88 Viens St. Putnam, CT. 06260-1119 by April 7, 2017. Thank a veteran for their service. Please put pocket flags in the care packages to our troops. Show your colors America.

For God and Country
Americanism Chairman,
Janet L. Young



Children and Youth

How to conduct a "Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2" program. Make preparations for a supply of "recognition buttons" for distribution. 1. Visit the Children and Youth page of the member's only

section at www.ALAforveterans.org for more information. 2. Call a planning meeting, include the Legion Family. 3. Decide the best location for recognition of military kids. Coordinate with family readiness groups for button distribution. Coordinate with Legion family members for local community days/fairs etc. Consider having an activity day/dinner for military families at your post home. If your unit is in close vicinity to a military installation, contact morale, welfare, and recreation (MWR) for a listing of activities in which you might have a concession or table. Make buttons available for ALA Girls State and TAL Boys State programs and Junior members. Consider suggestions from Junior members for school activities and locations. Get your hero award nominations in to Department asap. Start planning your Children and Youth programs for April. Start compiling your report for May 1st.

Alcyne Welton, Chairman

Constitution and By-Laws

I have not received any district or unit constitution and bylaws to date. Sadly I had to report that to national. Department needs this information for our files. The committee has to review them to be sure they are not in violation to National's C&B. Please email them to me asap to kristensmom4@yahoo.com or mail to: Jane Wright 28 Seneca Road, Bristol, 06010. Thank you

**Jane Wright
Chairman**

Finance

In today's world, I know the economy is hard on many of us. But even though, our members still came through for our wonderful organization.

From the bottom of my heart I say thank you to one and all for helping make our 'Door Prize Raffle' a success, we could not have done it without you!

I would also like to extend an extra special thanks to Lydia Degumbia and Joyce Brinkley for their help at the raffle table. Also, I would like to thank Janet Jefford for the beautiful items she donated for the 'Make an Offer' table.

Just a reminder, that we also have a raffle for a beautiful oversized Queen quilt, which Lydia Degumbia handmade and donated. Her talent and love really shows in her workmanship. This raffle will be going on up through our July Department Convention, where we will draw the lucky winner. Ticket are \$5.00 each or three tickets for \$10.00.

I would like to extend congratulation to our door prize winners which were drawn at Midwinter Convention. The winners are listed below:

1 st Prize	Karen Thompson	5 th Prize	Rhonda Bergeron
2 nd Prize	Janet Jefford	6 th Prize	Jackie Barnett
3 rd Prize	Lenore Scott	7 th Prize	Ann McLaughlin
4 th Prize	Barbara Cheney	8 th Prize	Sharon Criscuolo

Again, many thanks for helping to support our good works, together we make it possible.

**For God and country,
Barbara Pasha
Finance Chairman**

Girls State

Happy March from the ALALGS Commission. On Feb. 1, 2017, we opened up applications for our program to be held June 25-30, 2017 at Post University in Waterbury. Applications are available at www.alalgs.org. There

are two ways a girl can apply. 1. they can fill out their portion of the application online using the wufoo form (link on website) and we will send to the applicable Unit/or Post for them to touch base with the student directly (for interview or however you typically choose your students and have them responsible for getting the appropriate signatures from their principal and parent) or 2. Units/Posts can print a paper copy of the application (available off the homepage in a white box) and have the student complete the application that way. Should a student choose to complete the online portion, we will be sure to send to the appropriate sponsor by the following Friday. Sue Larsen is responsible for contacting the units when we receive online submissions. I'm happy to report that as of penning this update, we have 7 girls who have filled out online forms (only 13 days after opening applications) -- all of which have been sent to the appropriate sponsor. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me via email: rebeccaterricciano@gmail.com or via phone [860-538-1435](tel:860-538-1435).

**On behalf of the ALALGS Commission,
Rebecca Terricciano
Chairman/Director**

Historian

Hello everyone just letting you all know that final reports are due in May.

In Service Not Self

Karen Franzese

Dept. Historian

20 Washington Street

Naugatuck, Ct 06770

Email: karenfranzese@gmail.com

(203) 632-8695 h.



Juniors

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Juniors used clothes fundraiser. The total weight donated was 1,294 pounds and earned the juniors \$259! Also congratulations go to Melissa Castagna from Thomaston Unit #22 for winning the Junior member incentive prize of tickets for 4 to Ct's Beardsley Zoo at Mid-Winter. Junior Honorary Senior Vice President Cassidy Jones also announced that from mid-winter to the close of books every Senior who signs up a new junior will get one entry, every Junior who signs up a new Junior will have 2 entries into another incentive drawing. The prize will be an American Girl Doll and the winner will be announced at Convention. To be placed in the drawing, the incentive form included in this Auxiliare needs to be filled out and sent to the address on the sheet.

The next Junior meeting will be held on Saturday March 18 at 10:30 at Hamden Post #88, 3005 Dixwell Avenue. All Juniors and seniors are welcome and will be assembling Socks of Love for the

Homeless. Registration is \$1.00 per person and there will be a raffle.

Please bring a bag lunch.

Kristin Jones, Junior Activities Chairmen

caseyj1@aol.com or [203-671-7447](tel:203-671-7447)

Past President's

The Past President's Spring Parley will be held on April 1, 2017 at the Waverly Inn in Cheshire. Please see the attached flyer and get your reservations in by the deadline. You may send your Education Grant donations to the Department or bring them with you. Please also send into department your Past President dues.

Helen Goewey

Past Presidents' Parley Chairman

Policy

Dear Ladies,

I have a request to make to everyone – please look over your Department Policy dated 2014 -2015 which is the most recent one. If you feel anything needs to be added, deleted, changed - which ever – let me know. You can send the information to me via email (karit1957@yahoo.com), snail mail (1081 New Haven Rd, Unit 2D, Naugatuck 06770) or by calling (203-233-0956) and leaving a message on my voicemail. I have heard that some members feel some things need to be updated. However, up until now I have not heard from anyone with suggestions and/or comments. If you want your voice heard you need to let me know so I can bring it to the committee. Please send comments etc to me by 3/31/17. Thank you for your assistance. I'm looking forward to hearing from those with ideas soon.

Karen L. Thompson
Policy Chairman

Poppy

Hello Ladies,

I enjoyed meeting and talking to so many members at the Mid-Winter conference regarding the poppy program. Reminder: the poppy poster contest rules were in last month's Auxiliare- Get your Junior's and young Sons of the Legion to participate. Start thinking about holding a Little Miss Poppy and Miss Poppy contest. Maybe the winners and her court can participate in Memorial Day and Fourth of July activities. Thank you certificates to give to your local businesses who allow you to distribute poppies at their establishment can be downloaded off the national poppy program or official colored certificates can be purchased from Emblem Sales. Please thank the businesses that support this wonderful program. Finally, in years past we had a poppy corsage contest. At this year's department convention I will be bringing back this tradition. Awards will be given for the best poppy corsage made by a Senior member and one by a Junior member based on votes cast at convention. Be as creative as you like. Have fun with it. More information will follow in the coming months, but it is never too early to start. As always, encourage your friends and family to wear a poppy and to take and share pictures.

Happy St. Patrick's Day

Marie Delaney Poppy Chairman



Public Relations

Hello Dolphins,

Social Media is the “in” communication tool. Does your Unit have a Facebook page? It is a great way to communicate with your members and share information on upcoming meetings, fundraisers and photos of activities. Did you know that National has a Facebook page? There are lots of great stories from Units across the country on what they are doing – good to get ideas for your Unit. National posts great ideas to help you promote your Unit to women in your area.

Go to www.facebook.com/groups/537512876301895/ and it will bring you right to their page. Why not post some of your activities and photos and show what CT is doing!! What a fun way to “brand” for your Unit. But

remember once you put it on social media it is there for all to see so be respectful of what you put onto any site. This is for sharing of ideas and not a soapbox.

Janice “Flipper” Sentivany
Public Relations Chairman
1teuke@gmail.com, 860-742-6355



Veteran’s Affairs and Rehabilitation

I want to thank everyone who was at Midwinter. Hope you learned the need to support our programs for our Veterans.

We have been contacted by National to send pictures from our Units showing our members doing a project for our Veterans. Please send pictures as soon as you take them to rae45mil@gmail.com so Connecticut can be recognized.

Kindly get your donations in for projects of the month, even if you are a small unit and can only donate a \$1.00 for each month.

MARK your calendars for the Giant Steps Creative Arts program, March 21 & 22 at West Haven VA. Items will be judged to go to The National Creative Arts Festival. Refreshments will be served by the ALA. Time 1pm-3pm on 21st and 8am-3pm on the 22nd, Awards program from 1-3.

Don't forget your reports are due to me by April 20th. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Raelene Miller, VA&R Chairman, email rae45mil@gmail.com
Phone 203-378-4016(h), 203-212-4212(cell)

DATES TO REMEMBER

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| March 4 | Department’s Oratorical Contest, Goodwin College |
| March 8 | 2 nd Dist. Mtg. Post 17 Naugatuck, 7pm |
| March 9 | 7 th Dist. Mtg. Post 75 Middletown, 7 pm |
| March 11 | 2 nd Annual Department Bowling Tournament. Flyer in December Auxiliare |
| March 12 | 4 th Dist. Mtg. Post 52, 1 st Congregational Church of Coventry, 2pm |
| March 13 | DEC Meeting, Commissioner’s Conference Room, Rocky Hill Campus, 7pm |
| March 15 | 3 rd Dist. Mtg. Post 207 Trumbull, (Assisted Living) 7:30 pm |
| March 16 | 5 th Dist. Mtg. Post 161 Waterford, 7 pm |
| March 18 | Department Juniors Meeting, Post 88 Hamden, 10 am |
| March 21-22 | Creative Arts, West Haven VA |
| March 22 | 1 st Dist. Mtg. Post 102 Manchester, 6:30 pm Social, 7:30 pm Meeting |
| March 23 | 6 th Dist. Mtg. Post 27 Litchfield, 6 pm Social, 7 pm Meeting |
| March 25 | 1 st District Testimonial, Nuchies Restaurant. Flyer in November Auxiliare |
| 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 | 7 th Dist. Mtg. Post 156 East Haddam, Official Visit Dept. Officers 7 pm |
| April 12 | 2 nd Dist. Mtg. TBA Official Visit Department Officers 7pm refreshments 8 pm Mtg. |
| April 14 | Good Friday, Office closed |
| April 16 | Easter |
| April 19 | 3 rd Dist. Mtg. Post 60 Danbury, 7:30pm |
| April 20 | 1 st Day of Spring |
| April 20 | 5 th Dist. Mtg. Post 15 Jewitt City, 7pm |
| April 21-23 | National Oratorical Contest, Indianapolis, IN |
| April 26 | 1 st Dist. Mtg. Post 36 Windsor Locks, Official Visit Department Officers 6:30pm |

April 27 6th Dist. Mtg. Post 173 Morris, 6:00pm
 April 30 American Legion vs. VFW Bowling Tournament, 2PM
 May 6-9 Department Leadership National Conference, Indianapolis IN
 May 21 2nd District Tea Party, Post 196 Milford
 June 9, 10, 11 Special Olympics Connecticut
 June 25-30 Laurel Girls' State, Post College, Waterbury, CT
 July 4 Hall of Flags
 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

American Legion's 98th Birthday Breakfast: American Legion Post 26, Stafford Springs, Sunday March 11th, 8 am-11am. Adults \$10.00, Children \$5.00

Corned Beef Dinner: Sponsored by American Legion Post 20 Terryville, Saturday March 18th, 4:30-7:30 pm. Tickets are \$12.00 ea. Stay around for some fun, starting at 8pm DJ & Karaoke

Love our Heroes Spring Fling: Sponsored by Unit 72 Southington, Proceeds benefit House of Heroes, Saturday March 18, 2017 at Testa's Banquet Facility, 26 South Center St, Southington. Contact Sherri Valentin 860-655-7210 for more information. Tickets are \$35.00 per person.

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. This payment covers your unit for 3 years. There are still units that have not sent in your payment. Please send it in today. Thank You to those that have already sent your payments in.**
- **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.
- Messages for the Auxiliare must be submitted to the Department Office no later than the 20th of the Month in order for the Auxiliare to be out on time.
- **Membership Transmitting:** When processing membership you must submit a transmittal form. A transmittal must also be submitted with new membership applications. Copies were in

the PIC packets and you can make as many copies as needed. Please do not hold membership, mail it in as soon as you receive the renewals, members are not considered paid until they have been processed through to National.

- **Sample Letter to Legionnaires:** A sample letter that your unit can use to contact female relatives of the Post's membership is available at the Dept. Office. If you would like an electronic copy that you can customize for your unit contact the department office at ctaladept@gmail.com or call 860-616-2343. Ask your Post for a copy of their Membership Roster.
- **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.**

”People have been known to achieve more as a result of working with others than against them.”

Dr. Allan Fromme





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

DATED MATERIAL

