



# THE CONNECTICUT AUXILIARE #9

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American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of Connecticut, Inc. May 2017  
PO Box 266, Rocky Hill, Ct. 06067-0266 PH: 860-616-2343 Fax: 860-616-2342  
Email: [ctaladept@gmail.com](mailto:ctaladept@gmail.com) Web Site: [www.alactdept.weebly.com](http://www.alactdept.weebly.com)

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**“You can't stay in your corner of the Forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes.”**

**A.A. Milne, Winnie the Pooh**

### Happy Mother's Day!!

If your Unit has any Gold Star Mothers now would be the time to recognize them. Invite them for breakfast, lunch or even a tea.

Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> is National Teacher's Day. Perhaps your Unit can honor teachers in one school with a snack basket for the teacher's room.

Memorial Day is a time of remembrance of all Veterans lost. It is also a time when most of us distribute our poppies. Ask veterans in your Post to help you.

The National President will be visiting us on Sunday July 2<sup>nd</sup> through Wednesday July 5<sup>th</sup>. On Monday July 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be visiting South Park Inn in Hartford and giving out “Socks of Love”. We will need new white socks and the items to put in them for this project. The items include: hotel size toiletries, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, sm. packs of gum, mints, etc. Following our tour in Hartford we will have a “Meet and Greet dinner at Post 72 in Southington. Come and meet our National President! On Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> we will be attending the Hall of Flags at the Capitol Building in Hartford. I am asking all Districts to have their colors there. This year the Legion is putting on the program and we need to show our support. After that we will be sponsoring a carnival at the Rocky Hill Home and Hospital. Many hands make light work, so if you have a few hours please come and join us.

All reports should be in, I am sure. Please take a moment and make sure you have filled out all the necessary paperwork that needs to go to the Department Office.

**Thank You for everything that you do,  
Marge Sunbury  
Department President  
860-639-3011  
[margesun@yahoo.com](mailto:margesun@yahoo.com)**



## In Memoriam



Paula Sommantico  
Mary D Dickinson

Unit 176     Monroe  
Unit 16       Shelton

## Chaplain

May is a month of honoring our Mothers, and celebrating Memorial Day whereby we keep the memories of our men and women who served our country alive. We remember and are grateful for their sacrifices.

We pray:

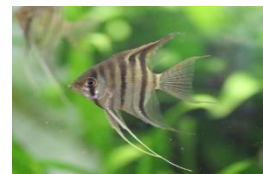
O Lord, our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served,  
but to serve: Bless, we beseech thee, all who, following in his steps,  
give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience,  
and courage, they may minister in his name to the suffering, the friendless,  
and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us.

Anonymous

Please submit a favorite poem, saying, inspirational thought that you have to me as I will be making a Prayer Book for our President, Marge to be presented at Convention. I know that she will cherish all that you contribute.

Also, for Districts and Units who wish to submit a prayer book, please do so before the end of May. We will honor the ones chosen with our awards at Convention. We will select a prayer book from District, and one from Units.

**Lorraine Dixon, Department Chaplain**  
[dixonlorraine@aol.com](mailto:dixonlorraine@aol.com) 203-758-5443  
5 Hemlock Rd., Prospect, CT 06712



## MEMBERSHIP

To all my little Shark Bites,

I need to begin this message by thanking those Units that have reached 100%: Units 4, 14, 20, 34, 66, 101, 133, 154, and 187. I am proud of those Units but I am also sad to report there are 10 Units in our Department that are BELOW 55%. We as a Department need to understand that Membership isn't just a job for a few but the job for ALL. In the next few weeks Units and Districts will be working with Nominating Committees to come up with officers for 2017-2018. REMEMBER that only members that have a paid 2017 membership will be able to vote during elections. Reach out to every member that hasn't paid their current dues and be certain they understand this before you try to hold an election. Delegation strength for our Department Convention will be set shortly – we have competition for some of our Department positions. Every vote counts! Let's work to make sure we have all in!

DID YOU SEND IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICE TO THE DEPARTMENT? 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](mailto:ala2@laurasantino.com)



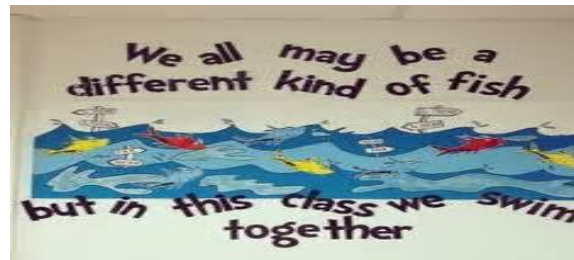
"MARCH MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE: I want to personally thank the members of these Units

1st Place (\$75 each) 11 members: Units 45 and 165

2nd Place (\$50 each) 10 members: Units 12, 46 and 112

3rd Place (\$25 each) 7 members: Units 80, 140 and 174

for taking that little extra time during the month of March and pushing to get those renewals, rejoins and new members into Department in a prompt manner. We should be proud that during the past month these 8 units brought in a total of 73 members - that's close to 1 member for every Unit in the Department. And the Department brought in over 152 memberships in March. EVERYONE should be working to bring someone back into our organization through the rejoin system or call that member that may have forgotten to send her membership in for the year, and never forget to ask that person next to you if she would like to join. You would be surprised how many of our members don't even consider signing up their daughters or granddaughters because they are young - OUR MEMBERSHIP BEGINS AT BIRTH!"



*Happy Birthday*

**May 9**  
**Ruth Morgan**  
**8 Norwell St**  
**West Haven, CT**  
**06516**

**May 11**  
**Alice Saxton**  
**95 Lakeview Ter.**  
**Sandy Hook, CT**  
**06482**

**May 12**  
**Irene Morris**  
**21 Rice Ter. Apt 111**  
**Branford, CT**  
**06405**

**May 17**  
**C Joan Tarrant**  
**16 Hickok Ave**  
**Bethel, CT**  
**06801**

## 2017-2018 Department Chairman/Department Committee Members

“The Department of CT is always looking for members that want to do put the effort into growing our Organization and the best way to start is working directly on our programs. If you can give time to our Department we are looking for you. Contact Laura Santino, Candidate for Department President 2017/2018 if you are interested in volunteering on a Department Committee. Any member in good standing is eligible to participate and we all know there are many of our members that have great ideas to bring to our programs. We need you. Our Department needs you

### Juniors

Reports for Juniors are due May 1. Thank you to those who have sent in a report, even if you had nothing to report. National loves hearing all the great things that the juniors are doing in Connecticut.

The Junior Convention will be held Saturday June 3, 2017, at the Commissioner’s Conference Room in Rocky Hill at 10:00 am. The doors will open at 10:00 and the meeting will start at 10:30. Election of officers for 2017-2018 will be held and a cookout will follow the meeting.

The following girls were endorsed for office at the last meeting:

Unit 48, Cassidy Jones, Honorary Junior Department President

Unit 48, Amanda Hopkins, Honorary Junior Chaplain.

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

Donations of salads, desserts and watermelon are needed. Please let me know what you are bringing so we have a variety. Bring play clothes for outdoor activities. Pre-registration is requested so we have a count for the food. Registration fee is \$1.00 for Seniors and Juniors.

Any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at [caseyj1@aol.com](mailto:caseyj1@aol.com) or [\(203\) 671-7447](tel:2036717447).

**Kristin Jones, Junior Activities Chairmen**



### Legislative

Where to go if you are looking for:

- **Legislative Updates**
- **Legislative Action Alerts**
- **Action Alerts**
- The American Legion Auxiliary [website](#), where you can read and download the Legislative Advocacy Guide. This Guide gives you resources such as sample letters to send to your representatives.
- The American Legion [website](#), where you will find Legislative testimony information, point papers, priority sheets (also called drop sheets), letters of support, and the congressional contact report form.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has resources to help transitioning service members, veterans, and their families navigate the benefits available to them via its [website](#), such as education, vocational rehab,

employment, home loan assistance, and other services that can coach a veteran through difficulties they may be experiencing. The responsibility for assisting veterans experiencing transition is not only on the VA — we all have an obligation to serve those who served our country. We can fulfill our duty to them by working with The American Legion in addressing its legislative priorities.

**Lisa LaCoursiere**  
**Legislative Chairman**

### **Special Message from PDP Alice Saxton**

Hello my Legion family,

Most of you know my Mom and many of you are considered her adopted daughters and sons. This year is a special milestone for her, as she is turning 95 years young and I know that getting birthday cards from her Legion family would make this milestone that much more special!

She is doing great and except for dialysis three days a week is feeling chipper. She keeps her mind sharp by doing crosswords and playing Scrabble or rummy 500 every day. She is always willing to go out and if we are not able to take her out for a few days, we hear "I am bored" when we ask how she is doing, talk about things coming back to haunt you! I am loving having the opportunity of spending all this time with my Mom.

Even if you don't know my Mom but would like to send her a card, it would be very much appreciated. Her birthday is May 29th and cards can be sent to: Marjorie Woods 1059 Webster Ave NW Port Charlotte, FL 33948.

Thank you and God Bless you and your families.

Alice Saxton PDP Unit 202 Newtown

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

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	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dist. Mtg. Post 165, Wolcott, 7pm Dinner, 8pm Meeting
May 11	7 <sup>th</sup> Dist. Mtg. Post 66, Clinton 7pm
May 13	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> District Leadership & Learning Roundtable, Post 16, Shelton 10am
May 14	Mother's Day
May 17	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dist. Mtg. Post 140, Bridgeport 7:30pm
May 18	5 <sup>th</sup> Dist. Mtg. Post 180, Lebanon, 7pm
May 20	Touch a Truck Unit 72 Southington, Southington Drive Inn, 10am-3pm
May 21	4 <sup>th</sup> Dist. Mtg. Post 14, Rockville 2pm
May 21	2 <sup>nd</sup> District Tea Party, Post 196 Milford
May 21	5 <sup>th</sup> District, Potato Bar and Cake Auction, Post 4 Norwich 2pm-6pm
May 24	1 <sup>st</sup> Dist. Mtg. Post 80, Enfield, 6:30 Dinner, 7:30 Meeting
May 25	6 <sup>th</sup> Dist. Mtg. Post 137, Harwinton, 6pm
May 29	Memorial Day Office Closed
June 3	Dept. Junior Convention, Commission's Conference Room, Rocky Hill VA grounds
June 4	Basket Raffle & Bake Sale, American Legion Post 9, 1pm-4pm
June 5	Nathan Hale Day-State Capitol

June 8 7<sup>th</sup> Dist. Mtg. Post 156 East Haddam 7pm  
 June 9, 10, 11 Special Olympics Connecticut  
 June 11 1<sup>st</sup> Dist. Mtg. Post TBA 1pm  
 June 11 4<sup>th</sup> Dist. Mtg. Post 26 Stafford Springs, 2pm  
 June 14 2<sup>nd</sup> Dist. Mtg. Post 50, Ansonia, 5 State St. Ansonia 7pm  
 June 15 5<sup>th</sup> Dist. Mtg. Post 128, Niantic, 7pm  
 June 18 Father's Day  
 June 21 3<sup>rd</sup> Dist. Mtg. Post 16, Shelton, 7:30pm  
 June 22 6<sup>th</sup> Dist. Mtg. Post 22, Thomaston, 6pm  
 June 24-29 Boys' State, ECSU  
 June 25-30 Laurel Girls' State, Post University, Waterbury, CT  
 July 3-5 National President Mary Davis' Visit to CT  
 July 4 Hall of Flags, Capitol Building, Hartford, Starts at 10am. Please arrive no later than 9:30 am  
 July 4 4<sup>th</sup> 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*

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

**Touch a Truck: Sponsored by** Unit 72 Southington, May 20, 2017, Southington Drive Inn. 10am-3pm. Contact Cindy at 860-582-4813 for more information.

**Potato Bar and Cake Auction: Sponsored by** the 5<sup>th</sup> District Auxiliary, Post 4 Norwich, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2pm-6pm

**Basket Raffle& Bake Sale: Sponsored by** Unit 9, New London, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1pm to 4pm, 74 Garfield Ave, New London

**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**

- **Department close of books is June 6<sup>th</sup>. Your delegate count at Department Convention is based on your membership into department and processed to National. Don't lose your voting strength. Get your membership in now.**

- **Unit Bonds: Unit Bond Payments are Now Due. All Units must submit payment of \$15.50 to the Department Office. Only 4 Units are still unpaid. Thank you to all that have paid already.**
- **Please make sure to get all your year-end forms into the department office, this includes: Unit President, Secretary and Membership Chairman Form and Unit Officer and Chairman List. District Secretaries please make sure to submit the District Officers and Chairman Forms as well. These forms are really important to keep updated so that we can get information in a timely manner to the correct person.**
- **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.

## **Mission Statement**

- **“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.**

**“You must strive to find your own voice because the longer you wait to begin, the less likely you are to find it at all”** **Robin Williams**





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

**DATED MATERIAL**

