THE CONNECTICUT AUXILIARE #2

 American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of Connecticut, Inc. October, 2016

PO Box 266, Rocky Hill, Ct. 06067-0266 PH: 860-616-2343 Fax: 860-616-2342

Email: ctaladept@gmail.com **Web Site: www.alactdept.weebly.net**

 **PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

“Joy to all the fishes in the deep blue sea, Joy to you and me!”

Happy Fall to all you fishes!

The Program Information Conference was a success! We heard from all of our Chairmen about their programs. Please make sure you read your information and get your reporting done. Remember, if you can’t do all the programs pick some and do them well. Get your name out in your community and please keep getting members!

To help promote the American Legion Auxiliary, we are asking each District to appoint a Public Relations person. Their job would be to keep Janice Sentivany updated on happenings, special events, help needed, etc. in the District and she will then post it to our web site. They should also send articles to local newspapers so everyone can see who we are, what we do and why we matter.

Halloween is right around the corner so be mindful of children’s safety. There is a lot of useful information on the National web site.

Keep the Christmas Shops in mind as well. They will be here before we know it! If you’ve never been to one before try and attend this year. Our veterans so love to see us and are very grateful for what we do.

Just a reminder, all members are allowed to attend our Department Executive meetings.

Each Unit is encouraged to attend their District meetings. If you don’t go as a rule, make it a point to attend and bring someone with you. We all need to find our replacements and what better way to learn more about the Auxiliary programs.

Remember: To foster a culture of good will in your Unit and District as discontent is a main reason for members to stay away.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, issues or comments please feel free to contact me.



**Marge Sunbury**

**Department President**

**860-621-2304**

**860-639-3011**

**margesun@yahoo.com**

**Chaplain**

As we enjoy the beautiful days of October, may we be ever so grateful for our veterans and remember all who are with us with gratitude.

October

By Robert Frost

O hushed October morning mild, Thy leaves have ripened to the fall: Tomorrow’s wind, if it be wild, Should waste them all.

The crows above the forest call, Tomorrow they may form and go. O hushed October morning mild, Begin the hours of this day slow.

Make the day seem to us less brief. Hearts not averse to being beguiled, Beguile us in the way you know. Release one leaf at break of day.

At noon release another leaf: One from our trees, one far away. Retard the sun: with gentle mist: Enchant the land amethyst. Slow, slow!

For the grapes’ sake, if they were all, whose leaves already are burnt with frost, Whose clustered fruit must else be lost- For the grapes’ sake along the wall.

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 Lorraine Dixon, Department Chaplain

(dixonlorraine@aol.com)

5 Hemlock Road, Prospect, CT 06712

203-758-5443

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**In Memoriam**

Unit 69 Joanna Formica Portland

Unit 83 Janice Cooke Branford

Unit 128 Patricia Palmer Niantic

**MEMBERSHIP**

Ladies, it was great to see some of you during our PIC event in September but I know there are many of you out there that didn’t attend. I hope you get your materials and read through them. Many of us put much effort into having materials for you to understand and refer back to so please keep them close to refer to throughout the year.

National’s theme is Raise the Praise. I wanted to put my spin on this so instead of praising the District with the highest percent of members, I want to help raise the District with the lowest membership. As of the September pink sheet (the senior membership sheet for the department) First District was the lowest and President Rosemarie received the “traveling trophy” … ask her to show it off! It wasn’t meant to be mean but it is a way to challenge us to pass it on. This trophy will be next awarded at our mid-winter conference.

This year we are trying something a little different. National is providing comparison reports weekly rather than percentage reports. Connecticut is currently behind last year’s numbers so I am asking each member of the Department of Connecticut to get out and help the Membership Committee. We have been asked to work closely with the Department Membership Task Force. If you are interested in volunteering or need their help, reach out to me and I can get you the schedule of meetings.

It should be practice to ask that each Officer and Chairman pay their dues early in the year, so they hold a current membership for the same year they are serving. (It is always easier to ask someone to pay when your dues are already paid.) The first round of renewal notices have been mailed but that doesn’t mean YOU can’t send out your own type of invoice. Personally contact those members that haven’t paid their 2016 dues (or 2015, 2014, etc.) – some members may think they paid their dues but when they actually look at their card they will see the incorrect year. We need to strive to get dues paid early so we can concentrate on programs. REMEMBER, membership dues help programs just as fundraising does. Think of offering payment plans or offer members to pay online with their credit cards.

DO NOT FORGET to send your transmittals in to Department when members are paid. There is no reason to hold a transmittal. If you need help, I will make myself available and there are many other “fish” that can assist.

Should you have any questions or issues, please reach out to me. Let’s get swimming!



Laura Santino

Dept. Senior Vice President

860.573.5028

ala2@laurasantino.com

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**October 3rd October 13th  October 16th**

Rita BarylskiMary Guyla Doris LaFontaine

31 Breault St 13 Trading Cove Cir 29 Valley Rd

Putman, CT 06260 Norwich, CT 06360 N. Grosvenordale, CT 00255

**Historian**

Hello Historians,

I hope you enjoyed the PIC and have read the Program Action Plan that was in the packet given to your President and Secretary. If there are any questions my information is in the Plan, but I will also give it today. Looking forward to a great year.

Department Historian

Karen Franzese

203-632-8695 home or 203-512-0026 cell

20 Washington St. Fl.1

Naugatuck, CT 06770

karenfranzese@gmail.com

**Americanism**

Happy Fall, Ladies!

In another month we will have two important days coming up, Election Day and Veterans Day! Let’s promote our civic duty by going out to the polls and voting. There might even be a veteran or neighbor that you can offer a ride to the polls. On Veterans Day and other patriotic holidays, let’s honor our veterans and show respect for our country by flying our nation’s flag! Our units can also purchase the pocket flags to send to our troops overseas. By promoting Americanism to our youth, we can instill these ideals of honoring our flag and of patriotism that will last a life time.

By Karen Sheffield- Committee Member

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Keep our children safe this Halloween. Distribute The American Legion Halloween flyer to the schools in your community. Sponsor a “Trick or Trunk “program at your post. Host a costume party at your post home.

Youth Hero/Good Deed Awards: This is an ALA program to recognize youth who demonstrate a heroic act of physical valor or who exemplify community service in action. Start looking for entries now. Rules are in the PIC packet. Monitor newspapers, TV and neighborhoods for children who have performed such deeds as CPR, helping evacuate in the event of a fire, calling 911 for an emergency, etc.

Contact local schools, churches and youth groups to make them aware of the Youth Hero/Good Deed Award. Keep me informed about your entries.

Alcyne Welton

Children & Youth Chairman

**Juniors**

Honorary Junior President Felicia Cruz has chosen Creative Arts in Connecticut as her project this year.  Units with or without juniors may make a donation which can come from either personal donations or from Junior Fundraisers.  All donations are to be sent to the Department office marked Honorary Junior President Project in the memo line.  Thank you!



Kristin Jones, Junior Activities Chairmen

caseyj1@aol.com or 203-671-7447.

Junior Activities Committee members are:

Julia Carney and Rhonda Bergeron

**History Committee**

**(Cavalcade of Memories)**

We should get started doing are History. Ask these questions:

\*When was our unit chartered?

\*Who was the first President?

\*How did we start?

\*How did we get our name?

Lillian Beardsley

History Committee Chairman

**Leadership**

National Unit Award: A citation: one in each division (5). Presented to one unit leadership chairman who best demonstrates innovative methods to help members develop the leader within themselves.

 Materials and guidelines:

* Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.
* Pictures and examples are encouraged.
* Types of training provided.
* Number of members attending leadership skills workshop/trainings.

Attach an award cover sheet, including the name of the award, as well as the name and contact information for the department and unit Leadership chairman. Send entries to the Department Leadership chairman by **MAY 1, 2017.**

Please utilize the Member Data Survey form we put in the Program Action Plan in order to see what talents and strengths the member has that will enhance your unit. Designate members to contact unit members who do not attend meetings to explain and complete the form. This is another way to introduce your unit to those members and make them feel like they belong. A certificate will be given to units that have 100% of their membership complete the survey and return it to the unit president.

Rita M. Barylski

Dept. Leadership Chairman

** Poppy**

Hello ladies,

This month’s poppy message is about what poppy funds can and cannot be used for.

Poppy funds can be used for:.

* The rehabilitation for veterans honorably discharged.
* For the welfare of the families of veterans of the above mentioned.
* For the welfare of veterans, active military personnel, and the families of the above where financial and medical need is evident.
* For the purpose of poppy kits and supplies used to make symbolic poppies and poppy items that will be distributed for donations to the Poppy Fund.
* For scholarships which restrict eligibility solely to military service-members or their children where the financial need is evident.
* For care packages only when it is for a welfare need, as opposed to a comfort need, such as first aid topical treatment (ie: lip balm, eye drops Refresh), or vital hygiene items. They cannot be used for comfort items/leisure items such as baked goods or books.
* For community service projects that strictly benefits the welfare of an individual veteran/military service member or the welfare of his or her family.

Remember poppy orders will be taken to the end of the year,

Marie Delaney

Dept. Poppy chairman

**Public Relations**

Happy Autumn! A most beautiful time of year! You should be gearing up and thinking public relations these next few months with so many events and activities happening within Units, Districts and the Department. Watch those special dates to get your letters to the editor in on time. Make sure you log it all on your incentive tracking form. District PR Chairs follow-up with your Units and as always if anyone needs any help I am just an email or phone call away. If you have events you want posted on the website please email them to me in document or pdf format.

See you soon.

Janice” Flipper” Sentivany

Department of CT Public Relations Chairman

**Veteran’s Affairs and Rehabilitation**

Connecticut will have a Gold winner performing at the National Creative Arts –

Jackie Williams Vocal Inspirational” He Ain’t Heavy.” This is his third Gold Medal. He performed for us at the CT Creative Arts on Sept 14, 2016 at the West Haven VA. The Dept. provided refreshments for the 2 day event .The veterans were very appreciated for this.

Please get your paper work in for Bingos at West Haven and Rocky Hill, also your donations for Newington Field Trips and Food Bank.

Paper work was in the PIC papers.

The suggestion for Christmas gifts and the paper work for your Unit to put on your boxes were also in the PIC papers. You may start sending packages to the Dept. Office 287 West Street, Building 51 Unit 1, Rocky Hill, CT 06716. November 1, 2016.

Please keep track of your hours as they have a value of $27.03 per hour as a volunteer. I know there is someone in each Unit that could receive an hour bar.

I want to thank everyone who knitted and crocheted hats and scarves or found people who made them for us for Stand Down. Also, a big thank you to those who were attended Stand Down at the Rocky Hill VA Grounds and helped to pass out the items on Sept. 23, 2016.

Raelene Miller

VA&R Chairman

203-378-4016 Home

203-212-4212 Cell

rae45mil@gmail.com

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Sept 30 Phil Haddad Memorial Golf Tournament, Noon, Lyman Orchards Middlefield

Oct 2nd - 5th National Commander’s Visit to Connecticut

Oct 5th National Commander’s Dinner, Post 142

Oct 9 4th Dist. Mtg., Post 101 Somers, K of C 2pm Legionnaires only

Oct 12 2nd Dist. Mtg. Post 88 Hamden, 7pm refreshments and 8pm meeting

Oct. 13 7th Dist. Mtg. Post 75 Middletown, 7PM

Oct 19 3rd Dist. Mtg. Post 176, Monroe, 7pm

Oct 19 5th Dist. Mtg. Post 104 Taftville, 7pm

Oct 26 1St Dist. Mtg. Post 2 Bristol, 6:30 pm refreshments, meeting at 7:30 pm

Oct 29 Mission Training Hartford, CT

Oct 29 National Juniors Division Meeting, Hartford, CT

**Future Events**

Nov 5 Department Testimonial Chowder Pot, Hartford

Nov 9 2nd Dist. Mtg. TBA

Nov 10 7th Dist. Mgt. Post 66 Clinton, 7 pm

Nov 10 Veteran’s Day Luminary Hosted by Unit 2, Post 2 Bristol

Nov 12 Department Leadership Conference, Post 165 Wolcott, 8 am-2:30 pm

Nov 16 1st Dist. Mgt. Post 72 Southington, 6:30 pm Social, 7;30 pm meeting

Nov 16 3rd Dist. Mgt. Post 12 Norwalk, 7 pm

Nov 17 5th Dist. Mgt. Post 112 Montville, 7 pm

Nov 20 4th Dist. Mgt. Post 14 Rockville, 2 pm Department officers invited for visit.

Nov 20 Cookie Pack Unit 45, Meriden

Nov 26-28 Christmas Shops Rocky Hill Veteran’s Home and Hospital

Dec 3-5 Christmas Shops West Haven VA

Jan 27-29 Mid-Winter, Trumbull Marriott, Trumbull

March 4 Department Oratorical Contest

2/26-3/1 Washington DC Conference

March 25 1st District Testimonial Place TBA

***Unit and Post Happenings***

**Support our Veterans Fundraiser:** Hosted by Post 12 Norwalk, Oct 16th at Partner’s Café and Pizzeria, 1 ½ Cove Ave, Norwalk, 12pm – 4pm. $20.00 Adults, $10 Kids 12 and under.

**Second annual Veteran’s Day Luminary**. Hosted by Unit 2 November 10th 6pm at Post 2 Bristol. Luminaire are $5.00 each. Contact Rosemarie at 860-508-7868 for more information.

**Annual Luminary Service:** Hosted by Unit 112 at The American Legion Post 112, 89 Pink Row, Uncasville, CT. To be held at 6:30pm, on Friday, November 11, 2016. For more information please contact Lisa LaCoursiere @ 860-848-8745

**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.

**Bingo:** American Legion Post 195, every Monday night62 Bunker Hill Rd. Watertown.

Doors open at 5pm Bingo stats at 7pm. Free coffee and pastry. Drinks and food available.

**Post 113**: The Post is now a smoke free post.

**"The Benders"** :The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 195 will be hosting the band on Saturday October 29th Doors open at 6pm, the band will play from 7-11pm. Bring snacks to share with your table. Cash bar will be available. Tickets are $10 each; tables of 10 may be reserved. All proceeds to benefit local veterans in need during the holiday season. For more information please call Nicole at203-560-7412.

**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.**
* **Auxiliare Messages:** All information, messages or announcements that you would like in the Auxiliare must be submitted to the Department Office no later than the 21st of the Month in order for the Auxiliare to be out on time.
* **Free Smoke Detectors:** the American Red Cross is giving away free smoke detectors, Contact Joan Miller at 203-257-8111 for more information. First come first serve basis.
* **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.
* **Officer and Chairman Forms for 2017:** The Officers’ and Chairman’s List needs to be filled out and sent to Dept. asap. This is for both the Units and Districts. It is important to update yearly even if there are no changes. The information that goes out can only make it to the proper place if we have current names and position
* **Mission Training/National Junior’s Meeting:** Oct. 29, 2016. This year the National Leadership will be holding the Eastern Division Mission Training and National Junior’s Meeting in Hartford. Sign up online at [www.alaforveteran.org](http://www.alaforveteran.org)
* **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.
* **Cookie Pack for the Troops:** Meriden Unit 45 is looking for names and addresses for our troops serving away from home for their Christmas Cookie Pack for the troops on Nov. 20th at the Post home. Please contact Becky Fede with addresses and names. Becky.fede@cga.ct.gov. Donations of homemade cookies are always welcome too.
* **“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**

**EMAILING BULLETINS**

The Department office is continuing its efforts to send the monthly bulletin via email in the effort to save time, money, and paper. Unit Presidents, Unit Secretaries, District Presidents, and District Secretaries are asked to please make sure that your Unit/District Officers and Chairman’s lists are filled out and returned to the office asap. Those above who have email can just email the office a message with their name, Unit number, and email address.

If you do not have email or a computer, you can set up a free email account with Yahoo or Gmail at your local library or senior center OR you can designate someone from your unit who has email to receive your copy. It will be sent out as a “blind copy” so no one will see the email address. Of course it will be sent snail mail if no e-mail is available. All members are encouraged to send in their emails and can receive the Auxiliare emailed to them at no cost.

**AUXILIARE ORDER BLANK**

Department Officers, Past Department Presidents, District Secretaries, Unit Presidents, Unit Secretaries will receive a copy of the Department Bulletin.

Any member who wishes to receive a hard copy of the Bulletin the cost is **$20.00.** The subscription runs from October 2016 through September 2017 and includes a list of Officers and Chairmen and the Call to Convention. Please send your check with this order blank by October 1, 2016.

Mail to: American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of CT.

 PO Box 266

 Rocky Hill, CT 06067-0266

NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_UNIT#\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Membership Challenges**

Department President Marge challenged Department Commander Lou to the highest total membership by the Legion close of books. Loser to donate $10 to the winner’s project.

Department Commander Lou challenged Department President Marge to the highest percentage of new members by May 19, 2017. Loser to buy the winner a case of coke or O’Doul’s.

Department President Marge challenged Honorary Jr President Felicia to the highest percentage of membership by Memorial Day. Loser to donate $10 to the winner’s project.

Department Honorary Junior President Felicia challenged Department President Marge to the highest percentage of membership by Mid-Winter. Loser to donate $10 to the winner’s project.

Department Sr Vice President Laura challenged Honorary Department Junior Sr Vice President Cassidy to the most new members recruited to the American Legion Family by Memorial Day. Loser to donate $5 to the Child Welfare Foundation.

Honorary Department Junior Sr Vice President Cassidy challenged Department Sr Vice President Laura to the highest percentage of new members by Mid-Winter. Loser to donate $5 to the Giant Steps program.

VP from the 1st District Rosemarie challenged VP from the 3rd District Irene to the highest percentage of paid dual membership by Mid-Winter. Loser to dress as a crab, dance down the aisle at convention to “under the Sea” from the Little Mermaid throwing Swedish Fish.

VP from the 1st District Rosemarie challenged VP from the 2nd District Karen to the highest percentage of paid Juniors by Mid-Winter. Loser to donate $10 to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

VP from the 2nd District Karen challenged VP from the 4th District Rita to the highest percentage of membership into department by Memorial Day (5/29/17). Loser to dress as favorite sea creature, come up the aisle at convention while “Under the Sea” is playing and blowing bubbles and present the winner with a beverage of her choice and a bag of Swedish fish.

VP from the 2nd District Karen challenged VP from the 4th District Rita to the highest percentage of membership into department by Feb, 12, 2017. Loser to donate $10 to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

VP from the 3rd District Irene challenged VP from the 6th District Sandra to the highest percentage of membership by Jan, 27, 2017. Loser to donate $5 to Madam Department’s Presidents project.

VP from the 3rd District Irene challenged VP from the 1st District Rosemarie to the most new members by March 17, 2017. Loser to sing the song: Under the Boardwalk” and give a large package of Swedish Fish at Convention.

VP from the 4th District Rita challenged VP from the 1st District Rosemarie to the highest percentage of membership into department by April 25, 2017. Loser to donate $10 to the Department President’s Project.

VP from the 4th District Rita challenged VP from the 2nd District Karen to the highest percentage of renewals into Department by Jan. 24, 2017. Loser to walk down the aisle at State Convention like a swimming fish and present the winner with Gold Fish Crackers.

VP from the 5th District Denise challenged VP from the 1st District Rosemarie to the highest percentage of membership into department by Jan. 8, 2017. Loser to dress as a fish and toss bubble gum as they swim down the aisle at convention.

VP from the 5th District Denise challenged VP from the 3rd District Irene to create or revitalize 1 new unit in their district by April 2, 2017. Loser to donate $10 to the President’s Project.

VP from the 6th District Sandy challenged VP from the 7th District Kathy to the highest percentage of membership by Mid-Winter. Loser to donate $10 to the Vice President project of the year.

VP from the 6th District Sandy challenged the VP of the 1st District Rosemarie to the highest membership by Mid-Winter. The loser to dress up in the color of your fish, make a hat with your fish and walk up the convention floor throwing candy fish.

VP from the 7th District Kathy challenged VP from the 3rd District Irene to the highest percentage of new membership by Mid-Winter. Loser to sing Yellow Submarine.

VP from the 7th District Kathy challenged VP from the 5th District Denise to the highest percentage of Junior membership by Mid-Winter. Loser to contribute $10 to Madame President’s project.

**American Legion Auxiliary**

**Department of Connecticut**

**PO Box 266**

**Rocky Hill, CT 06067-0266**

**DATED MATERIAL**

