THE CONNECTICUT AUXILIARE #8 / April 2025
American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Connecticut, Inc.
P.O. Box 266, Rocky Hill, CT 06067-0266
Office: aladeptct@gmail.com
Phone #959-230-4168
Web Site: www.alactdept.weebly.com
Department Office Hours: **Monday/Tuesday /Thursday 9:00-5:30**

Department President,

Spring has Sprung!

It is so great to have more sunshine and longer days! Soon gardens will be in full bloom.
April starts with our National President Trish Ward coming to Connecticut to visit us, April 4-6, and to share her Excellence Initiative Training program with us. I am very excited to be able to have her join us. I hope to see many of you at this program, on April 5th and at her banquet that evening.
A huge shout out to all of you!!! With everyone working together we were able to surpass that goal of 85% membership by March 15th. Only 34 states achieved this goal so this is an accomplishment to be proud of. Thank you to Kristin for all her hard work and to everyone who stepped up and made those phone calls and got those renewals and new memberships into the office. Our Department will also receive $85 from National.
Our National Commander, Jim LaCoursiere, is coming back home to CT for his official visit and banquet to be held on April 2nd . Welcome back Jim! Thank you for all the great work that you have been doing for our Veterans thus far this year.
Units, the consolidated report has been sent out. Please take the time to compile your information on each Program and get this report submitted back to the office. And please add to each program, if it is appropriate, a narrative that you need to send directly to the Department Program Chairman. This greatly helps that Chairman decide on the winners of the awards that get handed out at Department Convention. You all do fantastic deeds and your Unit deserves to be recognized! I want to see lots of awards get handed out at Convention!!
Our National Security Awareness Luncheon is on April 12 and Judy has a great program for us, did you sign up? Laurel Girl State applications are out and time to focus on sending a girl to this week of learning, team building and comradery. The Kids' Walk is happening on April 26th at various District locations around the state, all to benefit our children so let's step up and step out to help raise money for them.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!

Together we are One Team – One Mission!.

For God and Country,
Janice Sentivany,
Dept of CT President
860-416-4572
1teuke@gmail.com

Membership

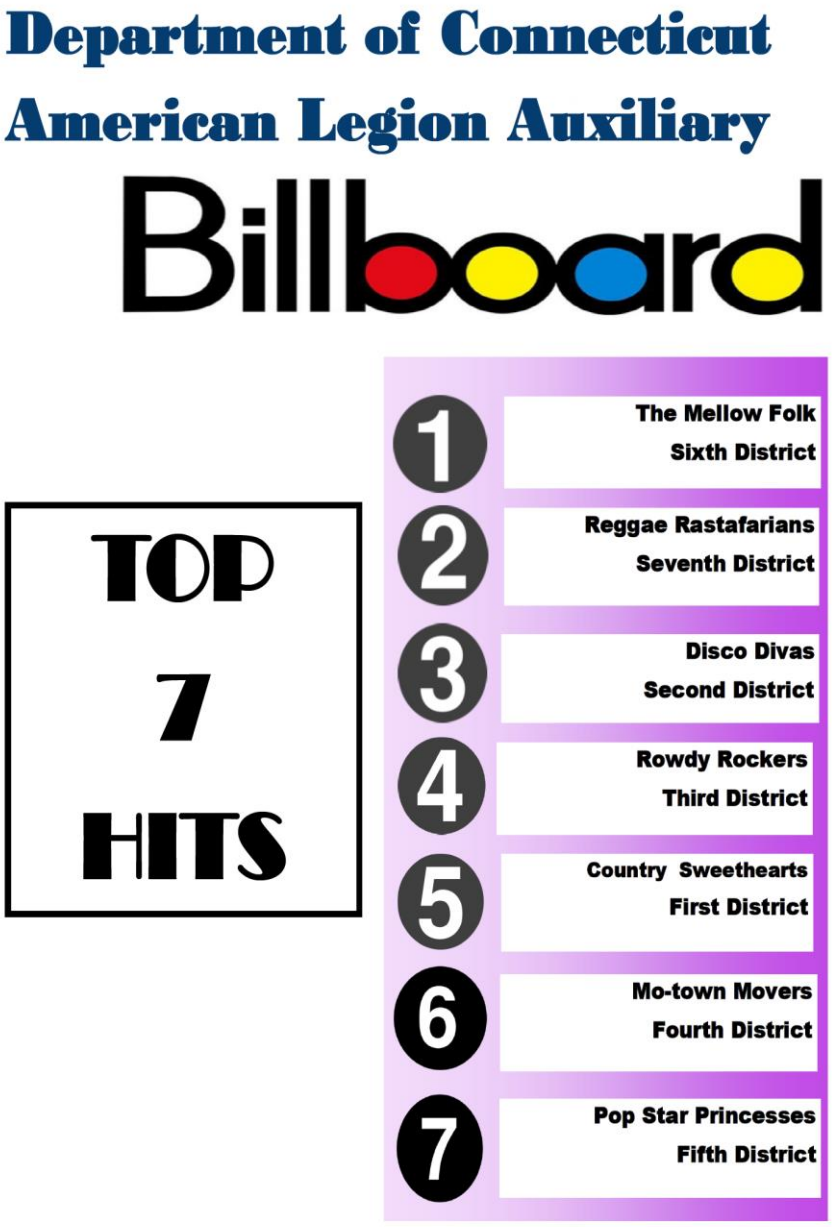
We did it! Thank you to everyone who helped get that membership in to help us reach our goal of 85%! It was a team effort but don't stop yet! Our next goal is to reach 95% by May 23, 2025. I know we can do it!!

Make sure to carry those membership applications with you- you never know when you will meet your newest member.

The last day to submit changes in ALAMIS to be reflected on the 2026 membership cards and rosters is April 1, 2025.

Thank you again to everyone who made the March 15, 2025 goal happen!

Kristin Jones Dept Sr Vice/Membership Chairman



National Executive Committeeperson

NEC report from February 23, 2023 meeting. Consent Agenda

New Charters = 13; Reinstated units =10; Cancelled Charters = 37 leaving 7,319 active units.

ALA Foundation Articles of Incorporation were revised and accepted.

National Policies with changes:

The investment policy was deleted from the list (Finance Committee is still under review.

Reserve Funds Policy added to #3. Includes Electronic Disbursements; Incorporates Executive Director and Director of Finance and parameters of signatures; finance controls for electronic Disbursements with a level of approval.

It now reads:

The ALA National Finance Committee shall authorize disbursements of reserves in accordance with NEC actions. The use of these funds is set aside for the entity to address future expenses, unforeseen events or to provide a financial cushion if needed. An example would be the professional services category could be utilized as the organization had cyber breach and needed to rapidly spend funds in conjunction with utilization of the cyber insurance policy to protect members employees, vendors, reputation of the organization, etc. The purpose of the Reserves in this example is to move rapidly in an emergency to protect the organization when an immediate response is needed. Other examples could be an issue related to the building, or a software issue to maintain the business needs of the organization and remain competitive. In situations where time allows, these would be brought to the NEC, but something like a Cyber breach requires immediate action.

Accounting Principles Generally Accepted Policy: Name changed to Generally AcceptedAccounting Principles. The 501©19 definition and official fiscal year. (Oct. 1 to September 30).

Confidentiality Policy: added a #5, which reads: A pre-requisite for volunteer and staff reimbursement is the submission of required paperwork to national headquarters. Staff and volunteers without the proper paperwork on file at National headquarters will not receive reimbursement for authorized travel until the required paperwork is received by and on file with national headquarters.

This same statement is added to #3 e of the Conflict of Interest Policy. Employee and Volunteer Background Checks Policy. There was a description revision.

National President Trish Ward presented a new Executive Director's Review Policy. Many questions came up and this policy was defeated.

Executive Director is working on reviewing the operations guide.

The ALA and ALAF FY 2024 consolidated External Auditor's Report by Blue & Co. LLC was adopted as presented. Our financial position is very strong due to the dues increase.Finance Chair, Janet Jefford, reported on the FY2025 Q1 report. AEF to increases the funding budget of $250,000.00 was adopted. This committee is rewriting the National President's Fundraising Policy. Direct Mail solicitation has been done away with. It will be done internally by a Development Department.

Norma Tramm, CBL Chair presented an educational session of standing rules amendments. The NEC had a debriefing meeting on March 6th for any questions they had on what happened atthe NEC Mid-Year meeting.

Rita M. Barylski, National Executive Committeeperson

Notes From the Department Office

- When mailing correspondence to the office, use PO Box 266, Rocky Hill, 06067-0266 only. Email correspondence – aladeptct@gmail.com
- "Remit to" forms for the 2026 membership year have been sent to the Unit Presidents. Please complete the form and send to the office by the deadline date of **May 1, 2025.**

Finance

Happy Spring!
The Finance committee is working on getting the Spring Raffle together. Your tickets will be in the mail by May 1st so keep a look out for yours! Please support us if you can.

Thank you to all who took part in our March Calendar Raffle. It was refreshing to try something different. We did quite well with this endeavor!

The day of the Military Child is fast approaching! April 15th is the day to celebrate by wearing your Purple Up shirt. If you still want to purchase one, we have plenty in stock. You can send a check with an order form to the Department Office at:
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of CT
PO Box 26
Rocky Hill, CT 06067-0266

Round neck shirts are $15 and V-neck shirts are $17. Add an additional $6.00 per shirt for shipping and we will gladly put it in the mail for you!

Thank you all for your support. I hope you can continue to do so.
Marge Sunbury
Finance Chairman 860-639-3011 Margesun1955@gmail.com

Community Service

And just like that daffodils and tulips have sprung up reminding us that Spring is finally here! April is National Volunteer Month and Earth Day is on April 22nd. Both remind us that there are so many opportunities to be outside in the warm sunshine and participate in some Community Service projects! What are some ideas? Park Clean up ….Grab some bags and invite your friends to spend a few hours on trash duty at your favorite green space. Lemonade Stand …. Perfect for kids of all ages, set up a stand and kids choose a favorite cause or organization to donate their earnings. CPR Training…The opportunity to save a life is the ultimate act of community service. Take a class with family or with a group of friends and recertify every year. Start those gardens... If you have a green thumb, plant extra fruits and veggies during the growing season and give produce away for free to people or organizations in need of fresh food. Snack Baskets … fill a basket with bottles of water and snacks to keep by your front door for mail and delivery persons. Water Health… after a big storm walk the neighborhood and clear drains of debris. This small act helps to keep roads clear for neighbors and clean streams flowing. And lastly – Plant a tree… the simple and beautiful act of planting a tree curbs erosion, creates habitats for furry and winged creatures and makes Mother Nature happy! These are just a few ideas of Spring community service projects – find some that you enjoy and have some fun outdoors – enjoy Mother Nature's beauty and helping her out a bit! Happy Spring!

Gladys DiDia Community Service Chairman Cmeow26@sbcglobal.net

Legislative

I'm back! Washington DC was fabulous. Seeing the sites and the capital and meetings with our senators and representatives was an excellent opportunity for me. Hopefully, you have seen the pictures on Facebook of my trip. Many of you have sent me thank you and responses from your legislators. please continue to do this. You can also go to legion.org and go to the legislative grassroots action center and get a complete history of all your alerts and responses. I am hoping that many of you will do this and send them to me before the end of the year speaking of that, I hope that you have noticed that the narratives or any of the chairman chips should be sent to the department chairman. Awards for these narratives will be given up at the national convention and many of you have done such good work. It would be great if you could summarize it and send it to me with a cover letter.

A CHALLENGE FOR YOU

On the next few months, the Legion national team will be adding the number of American Legion family members that have signed up for the grassroots legislative center online to receive alerts. Each state will be recorded electronically so if you have not signed up, please do. Check with your region and essay members also to make sure that they have signed up too. Wouldn't it be great to see Connecticut's name up there as the winner?

I know that many of you are frustrated and upset about the new administration and what is going on, especially with our veterans. Please remember that we are a non-partisan organization and any comments relating to political topics need to be pro veteran only. If you are not sure what to say, don't say anything. I hope everyone has a blessed Easter and Happy Mother's Day. Take care and God bless.

Debra Knickerbocker, Chairman
860/9675367 Tiggerhawk2004@cox.net

Past President's Parley

Hello Ladies,
"Spring is Here" and The Past Presidents Parley Luncheon will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2025, at 11:00am. It will be held at the Hamden Town House Restaurant (also known as the Hamden Diner), 2256 Whitney Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. Everyone is welcome to attend. Flyer attached.
Our Eastern Division National Vice President Lauren Lloyd will be joining us as the guest of our Department.
It is time is time to send in donations for our PPP Education Grants. If you are joining us, we will be having a parade of checks to collect the donations. If you are not able to be with us and you, your unit or district would like to donate, please send donations to the department office by May 8th and the donation will be announced at Parley.

All Past Unit, District and Department Presidents are asked to please join the Past Presidents Parley. Dues are $2.00 a year, payable before or at the Spring Parley to be able to be a voting member at the Parley. We will be voting on new guidelines at the Parley, they will then be sent to the DEC for approval. The proposed guidelines will be mailed to you after May 1st which is the deadline for Parley reservations. Only members that have paid their dues will get them emailed, if you pay them at the Parley you will get a copy that day.

Our Vice Chairman,Rosemarie LaBossiere has been working on entertainment and has a surprise for us all. There will be a raffle held. We're going to have some fun – we are asking everyone to wear a spring-themed hat. It can be new, used handmade or decorated!! Looking forward to seeing you in your spring-themed hats!

Sandra Cruz, Chairman

VA&R

Reminders - the Food Pantry at Newington VA is always in need of items. West Haven VA and Newington VA are always in need of toiletries, tee shirts, underwear, sweat pants, socks.
You can drop items off at the office and I will make sure they get to the VA or you can take them to either facility. If you are unable to shop for the items, you can send a monetary donation and I will be more than happy to go shopping!

Thank you for all you do for our veterans.

Message from our VAVS Representative at Newington VA – Debra Knickerbocker

Newington VA has given us every Thursday of the month to hold a coffee hour for the veterans in the lobby. For the past year or so we have been doing a coffee hour every month with help from Ruth and Wayne Morgan for a second one sometimes. I think it would be great if we could get **six** more people (TWO A WEEK) to volunteer on **Thursdays between 830 and noon** and serve coffee to our veterans. They make the coffee for us so we do not have to do anything except maybe bring snacks paid for by our department VA&R budget. Many of you wanted to volunteer and couldn't because of Covid and the hospital was not letting us in, but that has changed now, they really need us. Newington is in the middle of the state so it shouldn't be far for pretty much anyone, if you can give me three hours, please contact me. I would really like to give the veterans more than just one week in the month. Tiggerhawk2004@cox.net 860-967-5367

Karen L Thompson, VA&R Chairman

kari2001ala@gmail.com

Chaplain

Our National Chaplain, Monique, in her message for April has offered the following prayer: "We are thankful for new beginnings—another chance to be great, to do good works, to be a better me."

Let us look back and remember what Easter meant when we were very young. Our religion was important to our family for sure, and we were well aware of the sacred importance, yet, when we look back we can remember what made us feel good—-possibly some new outfits, and the hope that the Easter Bunny stopped by our home. The wonderful and pure thoughts of being very young. Bless the children of the Earth…
may they have the blessings of food and health, may their homes be peaceful, their world safe may we adults, work to make these blessings real by our actions, attention, and giving, we make it so. Amen

Lorraine Dixon dixonlorraine@aol.com

Dates to Remember

April	May
1 April Fools Day	5 Cinco de Mayo
1-4 National Commander's Visit	10 Past Presidents Parley
4-6 National President's Visit	11 Mother's Day
12 Awareness Luncheon	17 Armed Services Day
15 Purple Up Day	23 National Poppy Day
20 Easter	26 Memorial
26 Kids' Walk for CMC – all districts	
27 Legion Family Bowling Tournament	

FUTURE DATES
July 11-12 Department Convention
July 13 Postconvention DEC July 13
National Convention August 22-28 – Tampa Bay, Florida

Past Department Presidents' Birthdays – April

17- Joan Schaefer Poach
301 Julianne Rd
Cheyenne, WY 82007

23- Raelene Miller
4222 Ashlar Village
Wallingford, CT 06492-3084

24 – JoAnne Jackson
110 Turnbull Rd
New Hartford, CT 06057

26 – Janet Jefford
8360 E Club Rd
Boca Raton, FL 33433-1579

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Clark Unit 26
Lori Crowley Unit 128
Sally Hungerford Unit 156
Joan Bengston Unit 128
Mary Jane Boyce Unit 156
Kathryn Shumbo Unit 156

American Legion Auxiliary
PO Box 266
Rocky Hill, CT 06067-0266

DATED MATERIAL