THE CONNECTICUT AUXILIARE #3 / November 2023
American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Connecticut, Inc.
P.O. Box 266, Rocky Hill, CT 06067-0266
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Department Office Hours: **Monday/Tuesday /Thursday 9:00-5:30**

Department President

OMG it's November already!!

It is time to gear up for the holidays and cold weather. Just think about all the Veterans that will have warm hats on this winter from Standdown. I am thrilled that the Christmas shops are just around the corner and I am practicing my wrapping skills.

We are currently working on the National President's visit and Mid Winter Conference. If you have a topic that you would like to learn more about, please let me know. It would be nice to let you tell us what you would be interested in. We will be participating in a joint opening with the American Legion.

As an incentive to come to Mid Winter, there will be an attendance prize just for coming. A blackstone griddle, along with a few other things. The cost of the raffle ticket is your attendance, must be present to win.

I am also looking to visit some of the units and districts. It is nice to see everyone together.

In the month of October, I attended a luncheon and basket raffle at the invitation of the Vt Department President Deb Grazio. I also attended the Testimonial of the Massachusetts Department President Monique. What a nice way to see how other Departments operate.

To support our own units, Berlin Unit 68 had a pocket book bingo and raffles. I did not win anything but had a great time. I met their newest member and she was impressed at how well the unit worked together. They are planning another one for April, fingers crossed that I win something.

If your unit has an event planned, please make sure to advertise. Send in a flier to the department office and keep talking about it.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication, I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Gift Shops.

In the Spirit of Service not Self

Jennifer McLeod
President
Department of Ct
jennmecleodala@gmail.com
860-985-9310-leave a message or send a text during work hours

Membership

Hello Racers!

These past few weeks I have enjoyed driving around the state to visit with many of you. Truly appreciate the warm welcome at each Unit or District I visited. You are all doing a great job! As of the last report I have from National on 10/18/23 (to get into this edition) we are still ahead of last year with 244 more members and each week I see an increase in membership. But we know this will decline unless we get onto those phones and reach out to members who have not yet renewed. We still have too many zero Units! Now those D2 Mustangs took over the lead and have been keeping it for past couple weeks but D6 Bel Airs are not that far behind. Lots of back and forth passing for positions between the other District muscle cars so keep up the good work, every one, on moving forward in our road race. On the National level – Eastern Division is still last and CT is in fourth place. National sent out renewal emails on October 24th to all former members asking them to rejoin. So, we may be seeing some renewals from this eblast coming to us. I had my first National zoom meeting on 10/18 and it is amazing what is happening across the country with regards to various state themes and how other states go about renewing members and gaining new members.

I am back on the road this month and setting up more visits but if you need me sooner, I am just a call away.

For God and Country,

Janice Sentivany
Sr. VP / Membership Chairman
860-416-4572 cell and text
1teuke@gmail.com

N.E.C. Notes-

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There is still time to register for the Providence, Rhode Island National Mission Training on November 4. Just go to ALAforveterans.org or contact me and I will send you the link. It's a wonderful experience, especially for new members who want to learn more about the auxiliary and our programs. It is also a nice way to just get away for a little while and meet some new people and make new friends.

The holidays are coming up, and it's time to start thinking about those less fortunate than ourselves and especially our military families. Contribute to local food banks and local charities as well as donating to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation and using amazon.com/smile for all your shopping needs.

Hopefully all the units have filed their 990s and have raised their dues to compensate for the increase from department and national. Remember, if you're having trouble or need assistance our department and our officers are there for you. Give any one of us a call and we will be happy to help you out.

Debra Knickerbocker,
National Executive Committeewoman
860/9675367 tiggerhawk2004@cox.net

Historian

Hello members,

I hope everyone is doing well. As Historians of your Unit or District please make sure you are documenting all of your events and functions you might be having. Maybe keep a journal so you don't forget any important information. As the holidays approach us I am sure there will be a lot of great events happening and a lot of memories to be had. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out. Let us make this year a great one to remember.

Billie Springmann Historian Chair, Dept CT
jnbfusco@yahoo.com

National Security

In November we celebrate giving Thanks on Thanksgiving and to all Veterans (retired, non-active and Active). Please take the time to send cards and letters of thanks to all our deployed soldiers to let them know how much we appreciate their sacrifice. Adopt a military family this Thanksgiving to show support for all they are sacrificing.

The Marine Corps' Birthday is on 11/10…done forget to share picture of how your Legion Family celebrates!! Email me pictures of anything you do supporting the National Security program. Our Department President and National would love to see what Connecticut is up to.

This year we are having an Awareness luncheon in February at Post 17 in Naugatuck so watch out for a flyer coming very soon.

I want to wish all of you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving!!

For God and Country,

Rosemarie LaBossiere, National Security Chairman roelaboss@gmail.com 860-508-7868

Community Service

Hello Members,

I hope you all are working on community service. This is the time of year when others need our help. The Holidays are just around the corner. Hold a food drive for the soup kitchen, food pantries; and our neighbors in need. Don't forget the upcoming toy drives for the children. We need to help families for the holiday season. There are many that have no one that they can turn to. What a nice way to get into the Holiday spirt. Hope you all have a nice Holiday Season. For God and country.

Janet L. Young

Community Service Chairman

Americanism

Hello All! I hope you all are enjoying this fall weather and having a productive and successful month of October. What did your unit do this month for **Americanism**? Did you get the info to your schools for the **Americanism Essay Contest**? Please, take a look at the calendar to see what dates of significance are coming up. Do you have plans for **Veterans Day**? Hang your flag, plan an event, or work with the legionnaires to recognize our veterans on **Nov 11**. This year, I am asking units to have **members take pictures of American Flags hanging in their community**. I would love to put together a collage of photos from around our state. If you label your photos with your town name, that would be even better. I will share our collection with Dept and National! Let's put CT on the map for PATRIOTISM!!

Reminder! If you haven't done it yet, ***now*** is the time to finish putting together your **essay contest papers**. Essay form for students was in the PIC papers. If you did not get the form, I

would be happy to send a copy to you. I also have sample letters available for you to write to your Board of Education and ask them to share with teachers.
I HAVE ALSO ATTACHED: 5 WAYS TO REMEMBER VETERANS ON VETERANS DAY and PATRIOTIC CALENDAR DATES.
I am still missing many email addresses for unit chairman or president. PLEASE, I want to be able to communicate with everyone directly.

If you would like me or my committee to come and visit your meetings, please reach out. When emailing me please be sure to mark the subject line *Americanism* so it doesn't get buried. Thank you and looking forward to working with you!

Eileen D'Andrea, Americanism Chairman, Dept of CT.
Cell: 203-621-4258, email: edandrea72@yahoo.com, address: 11 W. Center St., Southington, CT 06489

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

We must plan toward the future!!!!

With our weather getting robust, we never know what is in store, with hurricanes, floods, fires or other acts of nature, along with personal crisis.

The American Legion Auxiliary provides temporary emergency help to members who have suffered a financial setback due to nature or personal reasons.

Maybe you are a new widow or lost your job and need to get back into the work force but need to brush up on your skills to obtain a new position.

Funds are raised across the nation by Units like yours and mine, a true member helping members. Let's do our part to help our members.

Every donation makes a difference.

Please put yourself in their place. Where would you go if you didn't have the funds to support yourself?

Has your Unit donated to the American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund yet? Please send it in to the Department knowing you are helping a fellow member.

Barbara McCarthy

Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman

Finance

Solicitations one and all! We had a pretty successful raffle making about 1/3 of the amount needed to make our budget. Thank you to everyone who participated!

The polo shirts seem to be tapering off quite a bit so if you want one, you'll have to place your order prior to Dec 31st. We still need 8 more white shirts before we can place that order. If we don't have the 8 more orders by November 1st we will have to cancel the orders we do have and issue a refund. We just placed the 3rd order for the red and blue shirts. They should be in by October 30th. The purple up shirts are still doing ok. We have placed an order for the v necks to increase our inventory. These shirts would make great holiday gifts!

We have the Super Bowl Sunday Bingo coming up on February 11th. We are looking for donations of food items and raffle gifts. Please contact Kitchen Chairman Janice Sentivany for the list of food items we need. For the raffles, please contact Raffle Chairman Jenn McLeod. We are also looking for volunteers to sell the Bingo tickets and call back the Bingo winner's numbers. Please contact me for that.

If you have any questions or have an idea for a fundraiser, please feel free to reach out to me.

Thank you,
Marge Sunbury
Finance Chairman
860-639-3011
margesun1955@gmail.com

VA&R

Members,

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!
The Christmas Gift Shops are right around the corner!!

If you would be able to give some time to assist with setting up the Gift Shops, helping veterans shop, wrapping gifts – we would appreciate it very much. Call me at the office 959-230-4168 or email me at aladeptct@gmail to let me know when you would like to volunteer.

We will be setting up both Gift Shops at Rocky Hill (Levitow Health Care Center and in the Auditorium [for the Veterans' Residence and Newington VA]) on **Friday November 24th**. We will start at 9:30 and work until everything is set to go! Many hands help complete the job quicker.

Levitow Gift Shop will be open on Saturday, **November 25th** with ribbon cutting at 10:00am and continue until 4:00pm. Sunday, November 26th from 9:00am – 1:00pm. Ribbon cutting at 10:00am Saturday.

The auditorium will be open on Sunday, **November 26th** with ribbon cutting at 9:00am and continue until 5:00pm. Monday, November 27th from 9:00am – 5:00pm.

WHVA may allow us to do an in-person Shop but they aren't able to confirm until November 2nd. If we are unable to set up at West Haven VA, we will serve the veterans from there by asking them to complete a form with family names and what they may like as gifts. We will fill the orders, wrap the gifts and get them to the veterans in WHVA.

Please consider volunteering for this endeavor.

The CT Department of Veterans Affairs has asked for our help with their Wreaths Across America initiative. Their mission is to participate in the annual wreath laying at the CT DVA Cemetery in Middletown. The ceremony will be held on Saturday, December 16th at noon. They are seeking partners to assist them with reaching their goal of 13,000 wreaths so there will be one at every headstone. Their new link is www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/CT0164. Attached to this Auxilaire find a flyer and an order form to assist with the program.

Newington VA and West Haven VA are always seeking volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering at Newington contact Debbie Knickerbocker – (860) 967-5367 or tiggerhawk2004@cox.net. For West Haven contact Ruth Morgan (203)215-9236 or morgan71676@gmail.com. They will be able to give information about volunteering at those facilities. There are going to be coat drives at each of those sites soon – when I receive the information I will send it out to everyone. See following message from Debbie concerning Newington VA volunteers

Thank you for all that you do for our veterans. Happy Thanksgiving!

Karen L Thompson, VA&R Chairman
kari2001ala@gmail.com 203-233-0956

Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS)

WE NEED YOU!

Many of our members have said that they want to volunteer in the veteran's hospital but were not sure what you could do. I need your help**! Thursdays and Fridays** have been designated for the American Legion Auxiliary to volunteer at Newington to give out coffee and hot

chocolate. November is pretty much taken care of, but we are looking for a few days in December between **8:30 AM and 10 AM**, if anyone can help or any of the days in December, or even going further into January, please contact me as soon as possible. Especially with the holidays, it is important to give our veterans something to **smile** about. Hope you can help, thank you.

Debra Knickerbocker, VAVS representative, Newington VA Hospital
860/9675367 OR Tiggerhawk2004@cox.net

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
  *** **2023-2024 Unit Officers/Chairmen Lists** are still needed from the following units. Please send asap even if nothing has changed from last year. Without updated information we can not be sure the information is being received by the current officers/chairmen.

  1st District – 33, 80, 133, 197,
  2nd District – 24, 45, 50, 71, 73, 79, 88, 89, 174, 196, 204
  3rd District – 63, 74, 100, 177
  4th District – 13, f19, 91, 95, 101
  5th District – 4, 9, 138
  6th District –
  7th District – 61, 64, 69, 103, 113, 156,

Chaplain

This November (and every day), let us be thankful, thankful for the bounty of food on our tables, the shelter of our homes, the daily lives we live and the friends and family who have touched our lives to make us whole.
Let us help all those who are less fortunate than ourselves, be it by lending a hand, or giving a smile. It is the little things that make our lives beautiful.
Blessings of love, health and happiness to one and all. May you have all that you need and be happy with what you have. As always, we are thankful for our veterans.

Lorraine Dixon, Chaplain Dept. of CT
dixonlorraine@aol.com

Dates to Remember

November 2023

4 ALA Mission Training, Providence RI
5 The American Legion Testimonial
13 DEC meeting
23 Happy Thanksgiving
24 Gift Shop Set Up – Levitow & Auditorium
25 Levitow Gift Shop
26 Levitow & Auditorium Gift Shops
27 Auditorium Gift Shop

Past Department Presidents' Birthdays – November

NONE

IN MEMORIAM

NONE

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Connecticut
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DATED MATERIAL