THE CONNECTICUT AUXILIARE #2 / October 2023
American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Connecticut, Inc.
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Department Office Hours: **Monday/Tuesday /Thursday 9:00-5:30**

Department President

Happy Fall!

I am sad summer is over but let's get the flannel out and the bone fires burning.

We had a very good turnout for PIC, a lot of good information was shared. This year was different in the fact that the Packet was only printed and handed out to those who attended. A digital copy was sent to other members. The positive point of this is there are a lot of hyperlinks in the information that can be clicked on and saved. It also allows us to be more environmentally friendly.

Biggest news of the month was that the American Legion and the Auxiliary, Department of Connecticut, **have mutually decided to resume Joint events**. A small committee from both sides met and discussed moving forward. At the 9/11/2023 Legion DEC they discussed and voted to end the division. This information helps us both. In the past few years, attendance has been down at events from both organizations. The hope is that being at the same location will increase attendance. That being said, if anyone can not put their personal feelings aside and attend a joint event, please feel free to not come. I do want people to attend, I would like to see new faces.

Our first joint event will be the Midwinter Conference and I am so invested in getting members to come, we will have a special raffle for attendance. Look out for the sign up for Midwinter, there will be more information on it. Let's just say that it may be January but we will be thinking summer.

Mark your calendars, the National President will be visiting Connecticut January 11-14th. Dinner and hotel accommodation information will be coming out soon. Any gift your unit would normally give she wants us to donate to the Spirit of Youth scholarship.

My travels for the month of September, PIC at Manchester 102, Breakfast at Clinton 66, Dec meeting in Rocky Hill, Operation Stand Down and a wonderful Pig roast at Manchester 102, if you didn't attend you missed a great time. Installation of officers at Hartford 142.

If you have an event coming up, let me know so I can plan to attend.

"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!

Great seeing you all at PIC and thanks for providing me with your Unit information. We have seen some activity in the past couple of weeks on the Rally road course! And others are dragging a bit so perhaps a quick pitstop is in order. Our 6th District Bel Airs are on the move, increasing their lead and remaining in first place. But watch out because the 2nd District Mustangs are catching up fast! The first renewal letters from National were sent out on September 15th so hopefully that will bring in more memberships. PUFL members should be showing paid for your Units.

Update from National (9/20/23) – we are in third place in the Eastern Division with 604 members at 16.15%, which is 111 members more now than at this time last year. Let's keep that first goal of 75% by December 7th in sight. Who wants that medal and $25?? Make that first call and check on your members and welcome them back to your Units. I will be out on the road to visit and help with whatever you need. 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-

Well, I am home from North Carolina and nothing bad happened except for everyone got Covid except me, guess I was just lucky. I am so sorry for everyone else that got sick. The trip was great, the weather hot, the buildings freezing, but we got a lot of information and exciting speakers.

At the pre-convention NEC meeting, charter cancellations were accepted, including units #28, 67, and 87. The only other item on the consent agenda was housekeeping changes to a few of the policies. National officers gave their reports and our National President, Vicki Koutz, talked about all her visits around the country. It was announced that there would be no discussion or questions about the upcoming amendments as they would be addressed at the constitution and bylaws pre-committee meeting. The meeting was short and afterwards we went into executive session for some important issues. At the post-convention meeting, national appointments were ratified for the coming year. A list of all appointments will be in the office if

anyone wants to see it. The budget for the American Legion Auxiliary and the foundation, were presented and accepted, voted on, and passed. Those will be on file in the department office for anyone to see. As the amendment passed on the floor at the convention, the NEC board moved to delete section lX of the standing rules, as it was said, to be redundant to the passed amendment. Motion was passed. After the meeting we again had to go into executive session. The complete proceedings will be on the ALAforveterans.org website within a few months. Speaking of the website, do not forget to check it out for all the unit resources that are available. There is a multitude of information, forms, brochures, hints, and tips for your programs.

This year, the National President, Lisa Williamson, and the Commanders of The American Legion and Sons of the American Legion, have joined forces and all agreed to make their project **"Be The One."** This is an awareness of the rising suicides within our veteran population. We need to check on our veterans (Buddy checks) often, talk to them, listen to them, help in any way we can, and let them know that we are there and we **care**. The National Presidents pin contains the numbers 988, which is the suicide hotline. Please promote **"Be The One"** in your unit and district. Produce some interesting ways to get to those veterans that need our help.
I wish all the new leadership of the units a highly successful year, and please know that I will be here if anyone needs any help, or has any questions about the programs, the organization, or just wants to talk.

Debra Knickerbocker, National Executive Committeewoman
Tiggerhawk2004@cox.net

National Security

October brings thoughts of colder weather, falling leaves, pumpkins and Halloween. It also brings National Hero Day on Oct 8th and the Navy's Birthday on Oct 13th. Many of us know about the Gold Star Mothers but do we really know much about Blue Star families.

A Blue Star Family consists of the immediate family member(s) of a service member during a time of conflict.

Now a Little shared history:
The Blue Star service banner originated in 1917 during World War I, when a U.S. Army captain designed and patented it to honor his sons who were serving on the front lines of the war. The banner features blue stars on a white background for each active duty service member in the family. There can be, at most, five stars.
The Blue Star service banner quickly became popular amongst other parents whose children were also serving in WWI, and in September of its origin year, an Ohio congressman declared it an official service flag, stating: "The world should know of those who give so much for liberty. The dearest thing in all the world to a father and mother: their children."

During World War II, the Department of War - the predecessor to the Department of Defense (DoD) - formally specified measurements of the flag so that it could be manufactured and distributed to military families. It also identified when the flag could be flown and who could fly it.

Later, on Dec. 1, 1967, the Department of Defense officially authorized the Blue Star service flag and the corresponding service lapel. (sourced from USO website)

Please take the time to encourage families with members serving our country to proudly display a Blue Star banner.

Don't forget to wear red on Fridays.

For God and Country,

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

Children and Youth

Members,
You can purchase Halloween Safety Coloring Books from Emblem Sales. You can find Emblem Sales on the American Legion National Website. The cost is 25cents per book for 50 books or more plus shipping. **Order now**, as it takes 7 to 10 business days for your order to ship. Or you can print out the book by downloading it from the National website -alaforveterans.org. You can find it under Children & Youth.
Also keep looking for Good Deed and Youth Hero Award children.

Ruth Morgan
Chairman

Community Service

Dear Members,
Yes, it's that time of year when we are getting ready to collect food for the soup kitchen. So, let's get the out there to help out in the community to feed people who are in need. Also please keep in mind to check in on your elderly neighbors to see if they are all right or need anything at the store. Get a group of people to help rake leaves for people unable to. Happy Halloween.
Janet L. Young
Community Service Chairman

Americanism

Happy Fall everyone! I hope you all have had a chance to look over the information in the PIC packet. It's time to look at the calendar I supplied to see the upcoming holidays and dates of importance. You can plan an event around these dates. It's time ***now*** to put together your **essay contest papers**. Get them out to your board of education to distribute to your schools, and reach out to clubs, libraries, churches. etc. Set your unit deadline so you have enough time to read and judge the essays to determine which ones you will be sending to me. Department deadline is **March 15, 2024**. Please, before then, send me an email with your Unit chairman or President's- Name, address, email and phone. I want to be able to communicate with everyone directly. There is a lot of information I want to share! I am excited to be chairman and hope to get your units excited, as well. This month I am attaching the rules and guidelines of **Pocket Flags**. If you want to order I will send you that information as well. If you would like me or my committee to 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 a great year!!

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

Finance

Happy Halloween!

The Finance Committee would like to thank all that purchased a Purple Up! shirt or put in an order for a polo shirt at PIC. We need 10 more white shirts polo shirts ordered before we can put our order in. We also need a combination of 3 red or blue polos to complete that order. Consider purchasing a shirt to give it to someone as a Christmas or Chanukah gift.

The raffle is going well. Just a reminder; ALL tickets must be returned by October 8th to ensure inclusion in the drawing. Please make sure the stubs are completely filled out.

Thank you for your support,

Marge Sunbury 860-639-3011

Finance Chairman margesun1955@gmail.com

VA&R

Members,

Thank you, thank you to all who donated items, gave financial support or volunteered at the 5 sites for Stand Down!! The CT Department of Veterans Affairs also thanks everyone for making the event a success. Between the sites, over 1200 veterans received services and needed items. As I know those who graciously give of their time to make the hats and scarves we distribute, have already started for next year – I'd like to pass on a request we received from several male veterans - that we have more hats in navy, black, brown. Please keep that in mind as you knit or crochet.

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.

Our next big project is our Christmas Gift Shops. As I indicated in my September message, we are not asking for any donations (monetary or gift items) toward our gift shops. We are, however, in need of **volunteers**!!!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.

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. Levitow Gift Shop will be open on Saturday and Sunday (25th/26th). The auditorium will be

open on Sunday and Monday (26th/27th). WHVA may allow us to do an in-person Shop but they aren't able to confirm as of this writing. Please consider volunteering for this endeavor. Contact me and let me know what you would like to help us with.

If you have any donations for Rocky Hill, Newington or West Haven – you can bring them to the office and I will get them to their destination. If you are unable to get them to the office, call me and we'll figure out a way for me to get them.

Thank you for all that you do for our veterans. Have a spooky, fun-filled Halloween!

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

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, 142, 197,
  2nd District – 24, 45, 50, 71, 73, 79, 88, 89, 127, 174, 194, 196, 204
  3rd District – 63, 74, 100, 177
  4th District – 13, 14, 19, 91, 95, 101
  5th District – 4, 9, 138
  6th District – 195
  7th District – 61, 64, 69, 103, 113, 156,

Chaplain

As autumn approaches, let us take delight in the beauty of nature that surrounds us. Let us bask in our own beauty and bring that to our own meetings as we work for our veterans and their families and for our communities. Always remember that peace and harmony accomplish more than strife and indifference. Many blessings abound and smiles be in abundance. We can accomplish great things together and togetherness starts with YOU.

Lorraine Dixon, Chaplain Dept. of CT

dixonlorraine@aol.com

Dates to Remember

October 2023

9 Columbus Day
31 Happy Halloween

November 2023

4 ALA Mission Training, Providence RI
5 The American Legion Testimonial
18 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 – October

3 – Rita Barylski
31 Breault St
Putnam, CT 06260

13- Mary Gulya
13 Trading Cove Circle
Norwich, CT 06360

16 – Doris Lafontaine
29 Valley Rd
N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255

IN MEMORIAM

Gloria Hollo	Seymour Unit 10
Helen Thibeault	Seymour Unit 10
Mildred McDermott	Norwalk Unit 12
Angelina Caivano	Meriden Unit 45
Barbara J. Buonanni	Meriden Unit 45
Jacqueline M Mitchell	Southington Unit 72
Sandra Rickey	Dept. Unit 200

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DATED MATERIAL