THE CONNECTICUT AUXILIARE #6 / February 2025
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,

Welcome to February!

We begin this month with our Legion Family Mid-Winter Conference at the Trumbull Marriott. I am looking forward to sharing the day with you, our Auxiliary members, learning new ideas as we listen to our guest speakers and being together with our Legion family. We have others who will be attending the National Mission Training in Boston and hoping they come back with great information to share with all of us who were unable to attend this year.

Commander John and I were joined by a few of our fellow Legion and Auxiliary officers on January 25th as we distributed gifts to our Veterans in the West Haven VA Hospital. Again, such a rewarding experience. I want to thank everyone who came and helped to pack up the gifts at Department Headquarters for each of the distributions that took place in December and January.

February 1st marks the end of the membership grace period. If you have not paid your membership, you are delinquent and have lost voting privileges in your Unit. Auxiliary members please get those membership dues paid! Units, reach out to your members. Every penny raised helps us to support our veterans. Without these dues we have no Units, no Department, no way to help our veterans! Our goal of 85% membership by March 15th can be reached, one member at a time.

The Education Scholarship information is ready and available on our website or you can contact our Chairman Elaine for the details. Please continue to reach out to the high schools. This is a great opportunity to help our students with their college expenses.

I love seeing all the great events, activities, dinners, and such that are taking place at all the Units around the state. Keep an eye on Facebook, the handouts from Department and our website to get out, visit and support each other in the spirit of comradery and have fun!

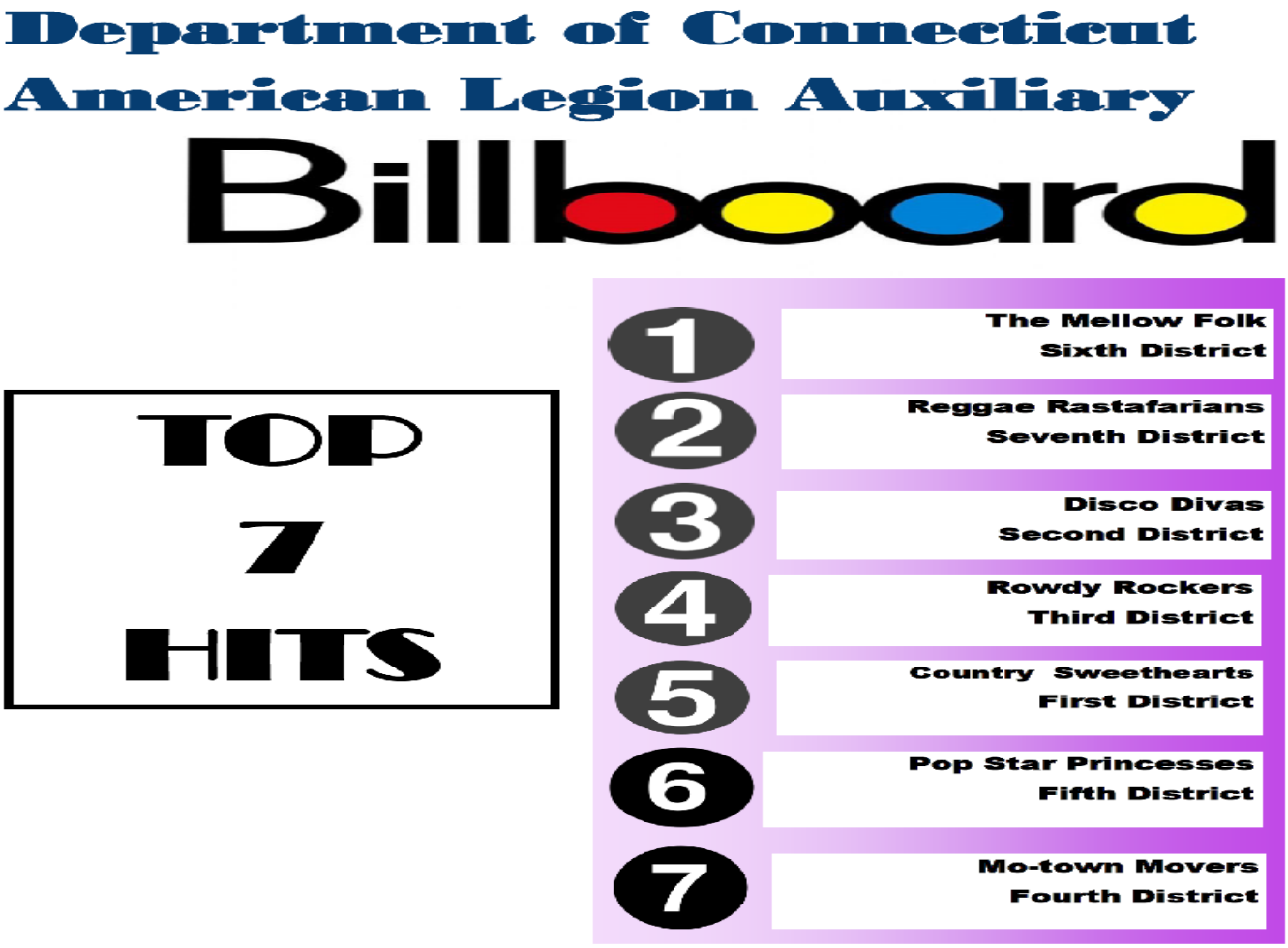
Please keep all our Legion Family members in California in your thoughts and prayers as they struggle with the fires that have destroyed so much.

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 are starting off the New Year with a fight for the top of the charts! Congratulations to Second District for meeting the first goal of 75% by December 7th and Helen Scott of Unit 17 for winning the membership drawing, but we are not done yet! Which district will bring in the most members by March 7th? National has set a goal for each Department to be at 85% by that date as well. I know that we can do it! Please reach out to all the members that did not renew last year and explain how their membership is important and keeps us doing what we do- helping veterans and their families. Carry membership applications with you and sign-up new members who seem interested. You never know when and where you will meet them!



Kristin Jones, Sr V.P./Membership Chairman

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

Finance

Happy February to Everyone!
The Finance Committee is plodding along trying to make our yearly budget. Some things have worked and others not so much. However, nobody can say that we are not willing to tackle new projects along the way!

We are currently selling tickets to our calendar raffle going on for the entire month of March. Tickets are $10 each and with that ticket you have the opportunity to win on any of 31 days. Tickets are on sale now through February 28th. You can contact any member of the Finance Committee (Marge Sunbury, Kristin Jones, Eileen D'Andrea, Kim Post or Denise Surprenant) or the Department Office for tickets. A sample of the Calendar is attached for you to see.

Plan ahead! April is the Month of the Military Child with April 15th being Purple Up Day. We are selling purple up shirts so you can help celebrate! We have crew neck tee shirts for $15 and V-neck tee shirts for $17. The order form is attached. Shipping is available for $8.00 per shirt.

We still have our patriotic calendar available. Please contact the Department Office if you would like one. We're having a 50% off clearance sale so the price is $5.00 per calendar. Shipping is available for $3.00 more.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our raffles at mid-winter. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for supporting the ALA Dept. of CT.
Marge Sunbury
Finance Chairman
860-639-3011
Margesun1955@gmail.com

Americanism

Hello Everyone,
Trying to stay warm and healthy will be the goal for most of us this month!
☐I am sorry to say, the flag contest will be postponed until July Convention. There is only a small handful of photos submitted and I would really like to see a lot more participate! Please

“Send Me Pictures” of your favorite American Flag flying, or yard display, etc. NOT of people. The DISPLAY board will be at Convention to place your vote. So please EMAIL me your photo (texting me one from now on will no longer be used) It is far too much work to transfer all the photos to my computer. Please email pictures only. I will send a notice out early Feb. to everyone that has already submitted. If you do not get a verification by Feb 15th from me, then reach out to me.

☐Essay Contest- The time is NOW! Well? Who has sent these out? Please let me know if and where you are sending the essay notices. I would love to see what is and is not working and how many units are involved. It is difficult to get participation so maybe we need to reinvent our approach. Let’s get the notice out to your schools and town. It’s a great way to get kids involved. Call me if you need help getting started. Also, if you have suggestions for a better title next year. I would be happy to share that with National. Department Essay deadline for your winners is March 15, 2025. NO EXCEPTIONS!

☐Order your hand flags now for the upcoming months and patriotic holidays. Be prepared!

☐Challenge! National Americanism Chairman has issued a challenge to all Units. The best overall creative video, topic ‘You’re a Grand Old Flag’ due to Dept by March 15, 2025. See attachedfor details.

☐Fly your Flag! Feb 17th – President’s Day

Eileen D’Andrea 203-621-4258 edandrea72@yahoo.com

Community Service

Acts of Love this month can also be some great Community Service ideas…. Here are just a couple ideas: Bring treats to your local Fire or Police Station – they will feel the love! Donate used books to a local school or library – make someone’s day by sharing the joy of reading! Pack small non- perishable snacks to hand out to those in need – A snack will make someone’s day! Leave a card and a bit of chocolate for your mail carrier – That’s a great “pick me up” towards the end of the day! Collect outgrown clothing items and bring to a local shelter – they may be old to you, but to someone in need they are new! Love your mother Earth, build a recycling bin for your local park – A great project to do with your Junior Members! Lastly – don’t forget those Pampers and other supplies for the CT Diaper Bank at Mid-Winter- Help to keep those bottoms dry and clean!

Happy Valentine’s Day!
Gladys DiDia
Community Service Chairman
Cmeow26@sbcglobal.net

Children & Youth

Thank you to the units who have done Good Deed Awards so far this year. Please keep looking for Good Deed Youth eligible for the award and Youth Hero Youth eligible for this award. **Reminder.**....We will be collecting diapers for the Diaper Bank of CT at Mid-Winter Conference Feb 1st. Let's fill the room with diapers to help our youth. They are our future. Monetary donations are also accepted – make checks out to ALA Dept of CT and bring to Mid-Winter or send to the office and we'll send one check to the Diaper Bank with a list of all units donating. Keep up the good work for the Kids

Ruth Morgan, Chairman

Education

ALA Scholarships deadlines are fast approaching. **MARCH 1, 2025.** This is the last announcement in an Auxiliare as a reminder to get the information out there!!!

Scholarships for 2025 are available on the ALA National Site (https://www.legion-aux.org/scholarships).

The Scholarships are:

1. Spirit of Youth Scholarship
2. Member Loyalty Scholarship
3. Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship
4. Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

Descriptions can be found on the website. All four are submitted directly on the ALA site and are due by 11:59 PM Eastern time, March 1, 2025 . Please reach out to your schools, secondary and college, to have them post the information on their school websites.

There is also a Department of Education Grant Application, attached. Deadline is **March 30, 2025.**

And, it is never to early to start thinking about End of the Year Reports. Did you Give 10 to Education? Box Tops for Education? Did you donate to a Scholarship? Offer a Scholarship? Did you participate in Teacher Appreciation Week? Education Appreciation Week? Did you volunteer at a school? Attend a conference or workshop? Oh, so many things you can do to promote Education? Keep track and report at the end of the year and share on Social Media, if you can.

I will be at Mid Winter to be available to answer any questions you may have.

Elaine Kotler elainekotler@yahoo.com

Leadership

The National Leadership Committee held their quarterly meeting on January 13. The Departments shared a lot of good information. However, many Departments had a concern with bullying and not following governing documents. Most of the bullying came from seasoned members, PDPs, and current Officers.

Think before opening your mouth. Plan your words carefully. Set your tone to encouragement rather than bullying.

Read your governing documents before offering your opinion.
Carry a copy of the National,Department, District and Unit Documents with you at all meetings. Not following the rules is a VIOLATION. A VIOLATION that should not be tolerated.

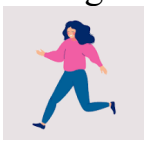
It was funny to see the expression on many faces when these concerns were brought up. This appears to be an issue in more than one Department.

Review your Documents. Update them ASAP and send a copy to your District and the Department. Be sure to report to the Constitution and Bylaws Chairman that you have done so.

Alcyne Welton alcynewelton@gmail.com

Legislative

We now have a new government administration and a new Congress. It is more important than ever to keep on top of our senators and representatives to make sure that they support our veterans' programs and bills in Congress. The main way to do this is to join the grassroots E-list @legion.org. you will get updates on upcoming legislation and alerts. If something is important that must be taken care of right away. You will get a bulletin every month with legislative news as to what is happening for our veterans. I know that many of you have already joined, but if you have not, please do so as soon as possible. We need every voice out there. At the midwinter conference, I will have a list of the Legion priorities that we will be addressing during our stay



in Washington and to our senators and representatives throughout the year.
Remember to: put some **P.E.P**. In your step when dealing with our legislators.
Thank you so much to the unit members who have sent me thank yous and replies to their letters they have sent, keep sending them. Happy Valentine's Day and don't forget that Valentine's week is a salute to our veterans, something nice for a veteran that week.

Debra Knickerbocker 860/9675367 tiggerhawk2004@cox.net

National Security

'Ask Not What Your Country Can Do For You, Ask What You Can Do For Your Country'

"Brr!" Even though February is all about "cozy sweaters and hot cocoa moments," remember that spring is just around the corner!
Recently, I was asked why I joined the auxiliary, and my dad's WWII service was the obvious answer. Do you know how honored and privileged we are to be a part of one of the biggest veterans' support groups? I joined in remembrance of my father, as well as other family members and classmates who served in the military. I still feel the same sense of pride years later when I give my military and veteran friends support for all that they have fought for and continue to fight for. Being part of the National Security Program gives me the greatest opportunity to participate in and contribute to any aspect of our military and their families in a multitude of ways. Programs attached.

Each quarter, the ALA National Chair meets via Zoom with representatives from each National Security Division Chair and Department Chair across the United States. Events in our state that benefit our program must be reported by me during the meeting. I need your input for my report, which is based on the data that our

districts and units have provided to me. I will get in touch with your District VP soon to find out how your American Legion Family and/or unit have supported and honored the National Security Program.

For your reference, I have attached information from the CT.gov website that lists the closest Connecticut Army National Guard locations, which have about 5,000 soldiers. They can offer ideas for how your unit can interact with the soldiers and their families, or your unit can work with them to offer support. Additionally, they offer programs that you can participate in or support as part of our National Security Program.

The "Salute to Service Members Award" is now open for nominations of that exceptional service member. Each Department is being asked by the National Security Team to submit a service member for recognition from any branch. To sweeten the deal, all departments that do have a nominee will be recognized at the National Convention. Salute To Servicemembers Award https://www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers-Award-Form

Please put our ALA National Security Luncheon on your calendar,
Eastern CT, Saturday, April 12, 2025, program will be provided later. Thank you.
Judy Lehosky ~ lehoskyj.ala@gmail.com – 860-235-9586 (text or leave voice message)

VA&R

The National Salute to Veteran Patients is February 10-16, 2025. This also is the week of Valentine's Day. The patients enjoy receiving valentine's cards. If you would like to send cards to veterans in Newington or West Haven see the following addresses. If you would like to send them to Rocky Hill – address them to our office and we'll get them to the veterans.

VA CTHCS
ATTN: Voluntary Service/CDCE
555 Willard Ave
Newington, CT 06111

VA CTHCS
ATTN: Voluntary Service/CDCE
950 Campbell Ave
West Haven, CT 06516

Reminders - the Food Pantry at Newington VA is always in need of items. West Haven VA is always in need of toiletries, tee shirts, underwear, sweat pants.
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. Thank you for all you do for our veterans.

Karen L Thompson, VA&R Chairman kari2001ala@gmail.com

Historian

Dear Member,
Please send me all information on what you done so far this year. I would like to start writing the History report for the year. National would like a copy of your charter. Take a picture of it and send it to me at this E-mail address youngjanet05@gmail.com. I will send it to Trish Ward and Dare Oliver. There is also a patch award for Juniors under the ALAforveterans.org under Historian. Please let all recipients about these awards for historian reports.
I hope I will hear from all the units. For God and Country

Janet L. Young, Historian

Chaplain

Prayer for Understanding Others

Make me willing and able to understand the many complex differences in people, differences forged in the fires of our experiences, beliefs born of culture, faith education and circumstances

Make me willing and able to understand that our hearts hunger for similar things, that our hopes and fears mirror our life experiences, possibilities sought after, with our strength and resolve.

Celebrate February – Black History Month and American Heart Month

Lorraine Dixon dixonlorraine@aol.com

Dates to Remember

February 2025

1 – Mid-Winter Conference
2 - Groundhog Day
4 - Thank your Mail Carrier Day
12 – Lincoln's Birthday
14 - Valentine's Day
17 - President's Day
22 - Washington's Birthday

March 2025

1 – Department Oratorical Contest
2 - National Read Across AmericaDay
4 – Mardi Gras
9- Daylight Savings Time begins
17 - St. Patrick's Day
19 – St. Joseph's Day
20 – SPRING arrives

FUTURE DATES

April 12th – National Security Luncheon
May 10th -Past Presidents' Parley
July 11-12 Department Convention
July 13 Postconvention DEC July 13
National Convention August 22-28 – Tampa Bay, Florida

Past Department Presidents' Birthdays – February

Feb 12 – Karen L Thompson
1081 New Haven Rd #2D
Naugatuck, CT 06770

Feb 16 – Karen L Sheffield
41 Oslo St.
Mystic, CT 06355-1309

IN MEMORIAM

Karen Pesilli Unit 20 Ana May Pieger Unit 127 Rose Pastula Unit 154

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Connecticut
PO Box 266
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DATED MATERIAL