THE CONNECTICUT AUXILIARE #10 / June 2025
American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Connecticut, Inc.
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Department Office Hours: **Monday/Tuesday /Thursday 9:00-5:30**

Department President,

Hello Members,

As we approach the end of our year, there is still important work to be done. Units and Districts will be electing new officers and this is always an exciting time. I hope that encouragement has been given to those who want to step up and lead. We need to be willing to let go and mentor and allow others to take on these leadership roles. That is the only way we will grow as an organization.

Laurel Girls State will be taking place at the end of this month and I look forward to meeting these young women and sharing their enthusiasm as they spend a week immersed in learning our government processes and work together to accomplish the goals they set. Thank you to all who are taking personal time to spend this week with these ladies as counselors and volunteers.

Our Department Convention will take place on July 11th and 12th in Trumbull at the Marriott. I hope to see many of you attend. This is where your voice needs be heard when we vote for our new officers and any changes to our governing documents. You and your Units have worked hard and there are many awards to be given out and I want to see you there to accept them. We have guests joining us and fun events planned too.

Thank you to our Past President Parley Chairman Sandy Cruz and her committee for our luncheon and the welcome given to Eastern Division National Vice President Lauren Lloyd who came to visit us that weekend. Lauren was very impressed with the amount of money raised to provide grants to our students. My thanks to Mary and Rita for spending the weekend with me and entertaining Lauren by taking her to Gold Star Memorial and the New England Air Museum. We had a great time!

Hard to believe this year is coming to an end. I cannot begin to express my thanks and heartfelt gratitude to each of you for all the memories you have given to me. The Units and members who welcomed me when I visited, the events I attended that touched my heart and will forever be remembered. Even when things got a bit tough, there were those of you who stood by me and I am grateful for your loyalty and support. I am proud that we were a Legion Family, the entire year, and could not have asked for a better teammate than Commander John. Thank you all!
Together we are One Team – One Mission!

Janice Sentivany
Department of CT
President
860.416.4572 1teuke@gmail.com

Membership

As the year is winding down, please don't let your membership! Every member that we sign up helps us to continue to further our mission of helping veterans, their families and the community. Our organization is only as strong as our membership, and without it, there would be much less advocacy for veterans. Our deadline to reach 95% was May 23, 2025 and the deadline to reach 100% is July 4, 2025. With a little hard work, I know that we can get there! If anyone needs any help at all or has any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at (203) 671-7447 or email me at kristinjonesala@gmail.com

Kristin Jones Dept Sr Vice/Membership Chairman

Notes From the Department Office

IMPORTANT- It's time to pay Unit Bonds – this bond covers the units from May 2025 to May 2028. Amount due from Each unit is $16. Please send it to the department office by July 31st . This is an obligation of each unit.

When mailing correspondence to the office, use PO Box 266, Rocky Hill, 06067-0266 only.
Email correspondence – aladeptct@gmail.com

Close of books for delegate strength to convention is June 11, 2025

Finance

Happiness is Sunshine!

May the sun shine on our Spring Raffle as we near the drawing date! Time is running out to get your tickets in before June 16 th !! When sending in your tickets please be sure to put the proper part of the ticket in the envelope along with your check.

Thank you for your support,

The Finance Committee

Marge Sunbury, Kim Post, Eileen D'Andrea, Nancy Hansen, Denise Surprenant

Community Service

And just like that it's June! This year flew by and all that Community Service we did all year helped to make our communities a nicer place to live. But we aren't finished yet! Summer is right on our heels and time for us to be outdoors – there are so many things we can do outdoors to help our communities and our neighbors. Here are just a few ideas to keep us busy over the summer: Host a lemonade stand and donate the proceeds to a charity – kids love doing this one – make them a part of it! Build a neighborhood library shelf and share the joy of reading with others – summer at the beach or the pool is better with a book! Organize a neighborhood yard sale and donate the proceeds to charity - summer is a great time to have the kids clean out all those toys they no longer use and make room for the new ones coming at Christmas or to clean out that garage that you have been trying to get to all winter! Clean up a park – the kids and the adults will enjoy that park even more without all the trash in it! These are just a few ways to help our communities during the summer months and get us outside! Have a wonderful safe, fun summer!

Gladys DiDia
Community Service Chairman: Cmeow26@sbcglobal.net

Education

Welcome June,
A great month for school children - SCHOOL'S OUT, Summer vacation is coming!

The Education Department is awarding 5 Education Grants this year. Hopefully we will see some of the recipients at Convention. We had 13 applications (the other 8 on the list got PPP grants). Let's hope for more next year, and more funds to support more students.

Amy Dognin of Terryville, Unit 20, is a recipient of the Spirit of Youth Department of CT Scholarship ($1000). Congratulations, Amy.

"Congratulations to all the 2024-2025 American Legion Auxiliary scholarship winners! The ALA is proud to support you in your educational endeavors, and we wish you the best in your future career path." - Trish Ward, 2024-2025 American Legion Auxiliary National President

Though it may be summer vacation for schools, supporting the Education Program doesn't take a vacation. I just uploaded a receipt to Box Top for Education. Have you done that?

Such a simple way to support schools with groceries you are already buying.
https://www.boxtops4education.com/s/
Enjoy the summer sun, but wear sunscreen!

Elaine
Education Chair

Girls State

Laurel Girls State is just around the corner!
Applications are due by **June 6th, 2025**, and we can't wait to welcome another group of outstanding students. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out!

Jessica Abel
ctgirlsstate@gmail.com

Leadership

Message from National - Inclusive Leadership,
Organizations are becoming more diverse, multicultural and multi-generational. As leaders in the American Legion Auxiliary, we need to learn how to navigate this rapidly changing world because inclusive leaders create inclusive environments. These environments produce higher performance, increase member engagement, fuel creativity, increase member retention and positively impact our mission.

A leader is someone who builds more leaders through vision, inspiration and inclusiveness. Becoming an inclusive leader is not as easy as it sounds. It requires a shift of thinking and openness to different ways of doing things. But when achieved, inclusive leadership does have great rewards and benefits for our organization.

Inclusion is not diversity, it is when all members are treated fairly and respectfully. Everyone has equal access to opportunities and can contribute fully to our organizations success.

Without inclusion, our environment can be toxic, rigid and untrusting. With inclusion, we will find that collaboration increases, trust is higher and new members are attracted to our organization and members are retained.

Minutes of a meeting:

Reminder: **Do not move** to accept minutes of a meeting. Per The ALA Guide Book and Robert's Rules, the chair declares the minutes are approved as read, mailed, e-mailed or corrected. By putting the minutes to a vote, you open the possibility that everyone could vote not to accept the minutes and then you would have no minutes for that meeting.

Alcyne Welton, Leadership Chairman

National Security

Greetings, *June days are made for sunshine smiles!*

A busy but productive calendar year is ending, we were thrilled to read about the events your units hosted and took part in over the last few months. We greatly appreciated everyone's support of our Department National Security Awareness Luncheon, participation in the National Security Program, and submission of your reports.

Even though the current Auxiliary calendar year is over, I encourage everyone to keep helping our active military members and their families by volunteering wherever you can. They are an incredibly committed group of people who embody our motto, "Service Not Self." Spend some time simply talking to them and expressing your gratitude for what they have given up and their dedication to our country. Everything you do, no matter how small you may think it is, has the potential to brighten someone else's day.

I would especially like to express my gratitude to my co-chair, Gladys DiDia, for her friendship and for volunteering through emails, phone calls, and even a zoom meeting, to help us make our National Security Program the best it could be.

Remember your motivations for joining the American Legion Auxiliary and keep them front and center as you navigate each day. Continue to support our Red,White and Blue Nation, as well as our National Security 2024-25 program quote:

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

Thank you, Judy Lehosky, Department of CT, National Security Program Chair

VA&R

The Blind unit at WHVA is receiving many new residents along with their service dogs. They are in need of dog beds for large dogs and noisy dog toys! If any unit can help with these items, let me know. The annual Baby Shower is currently scheduled for July but is awaiting approval. As soon as we receive the definite date, I'll let you know. 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! Don't forget the food pantry at Newington!

Now is the time to start preparing for Stand Down 2025 – to be held on September 19th in 6 places around Connecticut. Hats/scarves/gloves (neutral colors), white socks – (crew/over-the-calf/diabetic). If you are able to bag these items in gallon sized ziplock bags that would be wonderful! When bagging place hat/scarf/gloves in same bag, socks - place 4 pairs in each bag, label the women's socks please. If you aren't able to bag them – we'll take care of that at the office. Continue to do all you do for our veterans. Thank you.

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

Message from Past Department President Julie Carney
I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who called, sent cards, and emailed me a speedy recovery. Your prayers are appreciated because we all know that prayers do help. I know that with my family and everyone's prayers I will make it through my surgery and my treatment. Thank you again.

Chaplain

The month of June is busy with graduations, special day for fathers, flag day, and so many other reasons to be grateful and smile. It is healthy to smile, and everyone we meet deserves to be greeted with a smile. Be happy.

Prayer for Laughter
Bless me with laughter and an easy smile
May I put away cares more easily, and relax
May I see that laughter makes all things better
Bless me with laughter, now and always.
Amen

Lorraine Dixon, Chaplain

Dates to Remember

June	July
1-Global Day of Parents	4- Independence Day
6- D'Day Anniversary	4- Hall of Flags – State Capitol 9:00AM
6- Nathan Hale Day -State Capitol 12:00 PM	7- World Chocolate Day
11- **Close of Books**	10 – DEC 8:00PM Trumbull Marriott
14 - Flag Day	11-12 Department Convention
15 - Father's Day	13 – Post Convention DEC
19 – Juneteenth	20 – National Ice Cream Day
28-7/3 Laurel Girls State	

FUTURE DATES
National Convention August 22-28 – Tampa Bay, Florida

Past Department Presidents' Birthdays –June/July/August

June 15th Debra Knickerbocker
38A North Main St
Windsor Locks, CT 06096

July 14th Joyce Brinley
16 Pepperbush Drive
Clinton, CT 06413

Aug 9th Barbara McCarthy
15 Fair Haven Rd
Niantic, CT 06357

Aug 28th Marge Sunbury
2 Berkley Court
Southington, CT 06489

IN MEMORIAM

Cynthia Cooley Unit #26 Gladys Tartaris Unit #48
Christy McWilliams Unit # 63 Charlene Milia Unit #72
Christine Ragusa Unit #200

American Legion Auxiliary
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