THE CONNECTICUT AUXILIARE #7 / March 2025
American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Connecticut, Inc.
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Department Office Hours: **Monday/Tuesday /Thursday 9:00-5:30**

Department President,

March Madness!

As we close out February, we had our Legion Family Mid-Winter Conference with a day of interactive learning and fun. Many thanks to the Chairmen who offered insight into some of our programs in an entertaining way. And diapers, have you ever seen so many piled up! Thank you for your generosity and the Diaper Bank certainly was overwhelmed at all that you collected. And who could forget Sunshine, our very own USO Mascot for the afternoon. My gratitude and heartfelt thanks to Mary Gulya who worked tirelessly behind the scenes with the Legion and the hotel to get it all set up for us.

And now the madness begins – we have so much ahead of us to still accomplish. And yes, we can get it all done, I know we can because we are a remarkable team and we know how to get the job done. Our membership goal of 85% by March 15 is almost in reach. As of this writing we are 56 members away. You all have worked so hard and we can get those last members. We want that medallion! Over the next few months, we have official visits to our Districts, our National President is coming, our Awareness Luncheon, our Past President Parley Luncheon, Laurel Girls State – yes, we are busy.

Save the Date – Our National President, Trish Ward, is coming April 4-6. The agenda, training sign up form and dinner form for her visit will be out soon. Activities and events are being planned for that weekend and I hope you will join us. Her Excellence Initiative Training Presentation, will be April 5, at Post 68 in Berlin at 3:30pm followed by a musical social hour and dinner. Please come and show President Trish how welcoming CT is and that you are eager to listen to all she has to tell us. She is a dynamic speaker and you will not be disappointed.

Scholarship forms are out, let's get the information into the school system so we can give out these grants and scholarships to deserving students. Information is on our website. Laurel Girl State forms will be coming out, can you sponsor a girl? Would you like to help during that week in some way? See the website for details.

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 making great progress toward our membership goal, and with your help, we can reach 85% by March 15! Your help can make a big impact! A personal call can make all the difference. Reach out and remind your members who have not paid their dues to renew their dues today. With their help, we can keep our mission going to continue helping veterans.

Also Remember to make sure to carry those membership applications on you! You never know when you will meet a potential new member. Having an application on hand makes signing up easy!

Your efforts keep our organization strong and growing. Let's push forward and hit our goal together! Thank you for your dedication. Let's make this happen!

Kristin Jones Dept Sr Vice/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
- "Remit to" forms for the 2026 membership year will be sent to the **Unit Presidents** soon. Please complete the form and send to the office by the deadline date of **May 1, 2025.**

Finance

Happy March! I hope the snow is done and we have flowers blooming soon!
Thank you to everyone who attended the Mid-Winter Conference and supported our many fundraising events.

We are still selling tickets to our March Calendar Raffle. If you would like to purchase one (or some) please contact Kristin Jones. (kristinjonesala@gmail.com or 203-671-7447). Kristin will be pulling one (1) ticket a day and if it's your ticket you win whatever wonderful prize is listed for that day! Please feel lucky and support this latest of fundraising adventures.

We still have Purple Up! shirts available. Remember, Purple Up! Day is April 15th!
Don't get caught with no time left to purchase one.

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

Americanism

Top o' the Mornin'! Hope you are keeping warm! We are on our way to warmer weather, keep the faith. HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY! Be safe and enjoy! An Irish Proverb I came across I want to share: Sometimes in the waves of change, we find our true direction.

 Dates TO REMEMBER:

o February 26 – 1st District Americanism Program/ District Mtg, Post 142, Hartford
o March 15th - 106th Birthday of The American Legion
o March 10th - Department Americanism Essay Contest Deadline
o March 17th - St. Patrick's Day (the most important day in my opinion)
o April 15th - Purple Up! Day for Military Children

 'Essay Contest- By now you should have a plan on how and when your committee will read and submit the Essay winners to Me- Dept. of CT Chairman by March 10th, 2025.

 April is Purple Up! Month - get ready- How will you get the word out? Will you hold an event? Please share your ideas.

 Be prepared: Star Spangled Kids is not recognized until September, but you might want to think about it now. See attachment from national on how to promote 'Star Spangled Kids'.

Units that attended the Mid-Winter conference received a sample SSK kit. Those that were not there, will receive it in the mail sometime in the next couple of weeks. Please send me your Americanism chairman name and address.

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

 Fly your flag everyday.

 The flag photo contest is still moving along. I have a handful of photos. Keep sending those pics. All will be on display at the 2025 Convention in July.

The message for the Month: Plan ahead! "It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark!"

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

 Calling me is the fastest way to get a response. Emails get buried too fast.

Community Service

In the blink of an eye, March has arrived! So, what Community Service projects can we think of this month? Community Service ideas are abundant and only limited by your own creativity. The absolute best community service ideas for you are the ones where your passions meet your talents. No matter what your age, you and those you love will benefit when you volunteer for community service.

Parents set a good example when they think of the needs of others. Students learn responsibility and gain a sense of accomplishment when they help their communities. Community service creates fun and brings fulfillment – helping others can make us happy. Community service helps us meet and connect with others – it's an opportunity to make new friends and feel a part of the community in which we live. Community service helps your body and mind –many community service opportunities involve physical exercise that helps our bodies stay active and healthy. So, while we are waiting for those violets and crocuses to finally arrive let's get our families together and volunteer to do some community service projects!

Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

Gladys DiDia Community Service Chairman Cmeow26@sbcglobal.net

Children & Youth

To all the members of American Legion Auxiliary, Dept of Ct, Thank you for all you did for the Diaper Drive for Mid-Winter Conference. Thank you, thank you - our hard work gave us a total of 8885 diapers and 1675 wipes including monetary donations, to help our little ones and seniors too. Please give yourself a big pat on the back. We will be doing a packing party at the Diaper Bank of CT, 370 State St North Haven on **March 8th** from10am to 12pm. If you would like to participate, please call me or email me your name and email to be put on a list for Diaper Bank of CT for participants as we can have 15 people to do packing. Hope to hear from you soon and see you there. Any questions, call me 203-215-9236/email morgan71676@gmail.com

Ruth Morgan C&Y Chairman

Education

So, as you read this, March 1st has passed and the deadline for ALA National Scholarships has passed. I hope you had some entries from your town. However, there is still time for students to apply for the $500.00 Department of Education Grant offered by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Connecticut. Attached is a copy. The deadline is **March 30, 2025.**

Meanwhile, support Education anyway possible. I just bought some items that earned my local school cash through Box Tops for Education! It's so easy. If you don't have an account, go to https://www.boxtops4education.com/s/
"I am always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught."-- Winston Churchill
Elaine Kotler elainekotler@yahoo.com

Junior Activities

See attached newsletters from the Junior Activities Committee

Laurel Girls State

Hello Everyone! Happy March!
Applications for Girls State 2025 are now open and must be submitted by June 6th, 2025. However, it's best to submit them as soon as possible! Our website (alalgs.org) has an application template available for Units/Posts to use if needed.

Additionally, we're holding a booster book fundraiser with Boys State. Please refer to the attached documents for more details. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at ctgirlsstate@gmail.com.

Thank you!
Jessica Abel

Leadership

At mid-winter I conducted a Leadership workshop. I provided eight problems to solve. Each group worked on one problem. They then had one person read the problem and how their group solved the problem. The reward was Valentine candy for everyone in their group. President Janice agreed to share these problems and their solutions with those who might not have been at mid-winter. The workshop promoted problem solving, communication and confidence in those who participated. Use these or similar ones in your units to enforce leadership. Attached to the Auxilaire find the example problems and suggested solutions.
Why "This is How We've Always Done it" can hold us back.
In organizations like the American Legion Auxiliary, tradition is a cornerstone of our identity and mission. However, clinging too tightly to the phrase, " this is how we've always done it" can be detrimental to our growth and impact.

When we resist change, we risk becoming stagnant and disconnected from the evolving needs of our veterans and communities. Embracing new ideas and innovative approaches can lead to greater engagement, fresh perspectives and enhance support for those we serve.

Let's challenge ourselves to think outside the box. By fostering a culture of adaptability and open-mindedness, we can honor our rich history while also paving the way for a brighter future. Together, we can ensure that our organization continues to thrive and make a meaningful difference.

Reminder: Unit member of the year award and unit narratives are due May 1st. Information on Unit Member of the Year is attached to this Auxilaire.
Alcyne Welton alcynewelton@gmail.com

National Security

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

Are you excited for National K-9 Veterans Day this March 13, or are we barking up the wrong tree?

The month of March is to honor those who truly know and live the very meaning of selfless service! Our heroic K-9 dogs are trained to serve our nation. Since 1942, when Dogs for Defense was formed to train canines to serve as supply depot sentries, K-9 dogs have existed. The rest is history. The U.S. Army approved the program in March 1942, and on March 13, 1942, the U.S. Army K-9 Corps was created.
Interesting Fact: 1) They are super sniffers, K-9s have an exceptional sense of smell, about 100,000+ better than that of the average human. 2) Every K-9 has a rank, like their human counterparts, every K-9 officer has a military rank; usually, this rank is higher than its handlers to ensure the dogs get treated with the proper care and respect they deserve. 3) One K-9 saves hundreds of man-hours, one well-trained K-9 officer cuts back on 600 to 1,000 man-hours each year, saving military and police units' valuable time. 4) Every K-9 has a specialty, each K-9 dog is trained to an expert level in a precise skill set; this could be sniffing out narcotics or explosives, tracking human scents, detecting accelerants in suspected arson cases — and recently, finding concealed electronic devices such as thumb drives. 5) Most working dogs come from Europe, around 85% of working dogs in the U.S. military come from special-purpose breeders in Germany and the Netherlands.
ALA National Security Awareness Luncheon, AL Post 104, 22 Merchants Avenue, Taftville, CT. Saturday, April 12, 2025, A detailed flyer will be sent from the Dept with reservation information.
Judy Lehosky ~ lehoskyj.ala@gmail.com – 860-235-9586 (text or leave voice message)

VA&R

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

Chaplain

Bless this day with chances to grow
with friendship and sense of community,
with work to do and leisure to enjoy.

Lord, let me be a positive influence on those I meet,
may I act with integrity and truth in all things,
giving the very best of myself, in all I do while
living in appreciation of the gift of today. Amen
I've learned that love, not time, heals all wounds.

Lorraine Dixon dixonlorraine@aol.com

Dates to Remember

March 2025
1 – Dept Oratorical Contest
1 – Women's History Month
2 – Read Across America Day
4 – Mardi Gras
9 – Daylight Savings Time begins
13 –Dept Official Visit to 7th District
14 – National Pi Day
15 – 85% Dept Membership Goal
15 – Dept Official Visit to 4th District
17- St. Patrick's Day
19 – St Joseph's Day
20 – SPRING ARRIVES

April 2025
1-4 National Commander's Visit
2 National Commander's Dinner flyer attached
4-6 National President's Visit- more info to come
12 – National Security Luncheon – flyer attached
15 – Purple Up Day
20 – Easter

26 – Kids Walk – 1st and 2nd Districts
27 – Legion Family Bowling Tournament – flyer attached

FUTURE DATES
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 – March

NONE

IN MEMORIAM

Dolores Kuczo Unit 12 Lillian Beardsley Unit 61 Emily Bykowski Unit 88
Ruth Flaherty Unit 165 Lillie Bennett Unit 200

American Legion Auxiliary
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DATED MATERIAL