THE CONNECTICUT AUXILIARE #9 / May 2025
American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Connecticut, Inc.
P.O. Box 266, Rocky Hill, CT 06067-0266
Office: aladeptct@gmail.com
Phone #959-230-4168
Web Site: www.alactdept.weebly.com
Department Office Hours: **Monday/Tuesday /Thursday 9:00-5:30**

Department President,

Poppies are all around us!

May is the month that we are most seen out and about in our communities as our poppy distribution tables pop up in parking lots, store fronts, parade routes and every place in between. We visit our cemeteries and place our flags and honor our departed Veterans. We remember their sacrifices made for our freedom. Take time this month to truly reflect and remember that they are the reason many of us joined this organization to honor them, assist those veterans with us and those now serving in the military and all their families.

National President Trish Ward came to Connecticut last month and it was a wonderful visit. During her training session, she was straight forward and honest in her assessment of what needs to be done to help units which will ultimately keep our organization strong and growing nationwide. I thank the escort team, Mary and Rita, and everyone who was involved on the Friday and Saturday events that made her visit successful. You ladies rock with all the hard work you did!!

Thank you to our Judy and our National Security Program team for a great Awareness luncheon. Interesting speakers and I became aware of more ways we as Units can reach out and help our military families with resources available to them and new ways to donate to their events.

All Units I hope you sent into the office your consolidated report on all the great work you have done on our programs over the past year. This report is so important to our Department and to National. You have until May 5th , so if you have not yet, please get it in. We want to be able to hand out awards at Department Convention.

Are you ready for our Past President Parley lunch that is coming up, May10th, and a visit from our Eastern Division National Vice President Lauren Lloyd? Please consider a donation and sending it in to the office if you cannot attend, on behalf of someone you hold close to your heart, knowing that donation will help provide a scholarship to a worthy student.

One month till Laurel Girls State deadline in June, let's get those applications in. This is a great opportunity for those young ladies to have a once in a lifetime experience. They won't know about it unless we get out there and promote it.

Thanking you all for everything you do but especially during this month of May!

Together we are One Team – One Mission!

Janice Sentivany, President 860-416-4572 1teuke@gmail.com
Department of CT

Membership

We did it! Thank you to everyone who helped get that membership in to help us reach our goal of 85%! It was a team effort and hope you don't stop yet! Our next goal is to reach 95% by May 23, 2025. I know we can do it. Do not forget to carry those membership applications with you! Congratulations to the Second District for signing up the most new members this year. They signed up 45 new members this year so far. To date we have 169 new members in the Department of Connecticut. Keep that membership coming in!

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 have been sent to the Unit Presidents. If for any reason the unit president has not received the form please contact the office. Please complete the form and send to the office by the deadline date of **May 1, 2025**

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

Finance

Good day to you All!

The Finance Committee is working diligently to get the Spring raffle tickets in the mail to you. Please support the Department with this raffle. It is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we need the funds to come close to making our budget. If you would like more tickets, please give Karen a call and she will be happy to get them to you. The winners will be drawn on Monday, June 16th at 3:00 pm at the Department office! You can't win if you don't play!!

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

Children & Youth

On May 17th, we will be participating in a National project for Children and Youth. We will be filling bags for a local women's and children's homeless shelter in New Haven. We are in need of coloring books, crayons, books for children to read (all ages). Also, diapers as we will be filling 10 bags for infants. Small outdoor toys such as frisbees, small balls, sidewalk chalk too. If you are able to purchase items please deliver to the Department office or you can send a monetary contribution to the office and I will shop for the items.
We will be starting to fill the bags at 10:00am at the department office on May 17th. If you would like to join us, let me know. My number is 203-215-9236.

Ruth Morgan, Chairman

Community Service

April cried and stepped aside and along came pretty little May! The weather is finally getting warm and there are so many opportunities to participate in Community Service in May - this article will just cover some of the untraditional days. May 1st is May Day - May Day ushers in a traditional celebration of flowers and spring. Here are a few ideas to share some old traditions of May Day, make someone smile and beautify the landscapes too: Plant flowers – make a point of planting wildflowers and you will attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies, fill a

basket with flowers, deliver it to your neighbor, ring the bell and run! Deliver flower bulbs to your friends and neighbors to plant in their yard.
May 1st is also Silver Star Banner Day – this day is for Americans to remember service members who have been wounded in combat, are sick and those who are dying. To honor these men and women we can attend a local veteran organization or military base event honoring Silver Star personnel and families or volunteer to help at these events.
May 9, 2025 is School Lunch Hero Day (usually the first Friday in May) dedicated to those men and women who make cafeterias and schools a better place to be! What was your favorite school lunch? We can help our community to honor the School Lunch Hero by making a card or bringing them a flower, decorate a banner telling these heroes all the way they are super! Tell these heroes, Thank you! And just for fun May 3rd is National Raspberry Popover Day - purchase them or better yet, bake them at home and share with neighbors, friends and co-workers. A yummy treat and a fun way to brighten someone's day. Happy May!

Gladys DiDia Community Service Chairman: Cmeow26@sbcglobal.net

Constitution And Bylaws

Bylaws contain the basic rules of the organization and are the fundamental rules of an organization that outline the authority of committees, voting rights and membership termination procedures. Bylaws cannot be suspended.

Standing rules relate to the details of the administration of the organization that outlines the procedures and operating policies. Standing rules are adopted individually when needed and can be amended or rescinded. They are adopted to supplement and interpret the bylaws. Standing rules can be suspended by a majority vote for the duration of the session but not for longer.

What to do if a copy of your Constitution and Bylaws cannot be found among the Unit Members? Contact the department office to see if there is a copy on file (a revised copy should be sent to the department as well as to all your members). Go to the unit handbook (pg. 100 in the 2024 version online) for a sample. Once adopted by a 2/3 vote of your members, your unit will have to follow the procedures stated. Just remember that your unit's constitution and bylaws cannot be in conflict with the Department or National Constitution & Bylaws.

The Department Committee is getting ready to review the Department Constitution & Bylaws, so if any member has suggested changes or updates, please let me know ASAP as any suggested changes or updates must be out to the units 60 days prior to the Department Convention.
Rita M Barylski 860-208-3923
C&BL Chair ritambarylski@gmail.com Marge Sunbury, member Kim Post, member

Education

Spring is in full bloom and the school year is winding down. Many teachers probably have a Countdown Calendar until the Last Day of School. So, now is a great time to continue to show support to our educators. May 5 to May 9, 2025 is ***Teacher Appreciation Week***. To celebrate, consider practical gifts like classroom supplies or gift cards, along with heartfelt gestures like gratitude letters or a break from meetings. You can also organize a special lunch, decorate teacher doors, or create an appreciation video. Be sure to share anything you do on social media.

Elaine Kotler

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

Reminder: Unit member of the year entries are due ASAP.

As a leader, you should never be too busy to listen because it's the ultimate form of respect any leader can give to their team. (Gifford Thomas)

Alcyne Welton, Chairman

National Security

Daffodils signal spring, emerging after winter, to mark a fresh start.

Greetings,

April was busy, but it was great to see many members at the events. The National President's visit inspired us with her encouraging attitude. I look forward to our next National President's visit next year.

The National Security Awareness Luncheon was successful, thanks to guest speakers and the musician. Gladys and I appreciate the members' support and feedback. For those interested in the POW/MIA KIA Wounded Warriors flag displayed at the event, it is available on Amazon for $12.88: 3x5 Polyester Nylon, 2 grommets, double-sided. It represents our commitment to remembering those who served and sacrificed.

Thank you for submitting your reports. Your efforts are appreciated, and units should be recognized for their hard work. The end-of-year reports will be reviewed, and a summary of the CT National Security Program will be sent to the Eastern Division Chair and then to the National Security Chair.

This year has been dynamic, offering numerous opportunities for learning and growth. Supporting military deployments and their families is crucial for national security. It is essential to continue daily activities that contribute to the well-being of all Americans.

Judy Lehosky ~ lehoskyj.ala@gmail.com – 7 Noble Hill Rd, Bozrah, CT 06334-1511

Past President's Parley

Ladies,

Good Afternoon, With Spring and Warmer Weather in the Air it is time for Our Past Presidents' Parley Spring Luncheon!!!

All Past Unit, District and Department Presidents are invited to our Spring Parley Luncheon to be held on Saturday, May 10th, 2025 at 11:00am. All ALA members and Guests are also invited to attend.

A Special Guest of our Department President is planning to attend. Please welcome and get to know our Eastern Division National Vice President from Washington DC - Lauren Lloyd.

*** All PPP Dues sent to the office must include the names of the Members you or your Unit are paying for. Membership cards will be sent or given to you at the Parley if you attend with a Member's name on it. No blank cards will be sent to Units. If you have sent in money but no names please forward the names for the amount of money sent. Members will need to show their card or be on our list to receive a paddle to vote.

Guidelines will be sent to all paid members after our deadline for the Luncheon May 1, 2025 and at the Parley for those that pay their dues that day. We will be voting on them at the Luncheon meeting.

Come join us for our Parade of Checks for Our Past Presidents Parley Grant Fund. We had several applications come in and we are in need of donations for these Grants.

If you are unable to attend and you, your Unit or, District would like to donate, please send your donation to the Department.

We are attaching a form for all that plan to attend with the Luncheon Menu to pick from, location, time and other information needed for our records. The cost is twenty-eight dollars ($28.00) per member or guest. Membership dues are $2.00 ($2.00) and can be sent in with your filled form or the Dues can be paid when you attend the Parley. Only paid members will be able to Vote.

We will have a Tea Cup Auction. All PDPs please remember to bring unwrapped prizes.

We will also be collecting food for a Food Bank in need. Please donate non -perishable food in original packaging and dry goods. A separate Drawing will be held for all donating 2 or more items.

Remember your Spring decorated Hats for all to see. Judging will be done by everyone.

The Committee is working hard to bring you a Fun Filled Day by all with some business as well. Please plan to join us and invite a member or guest.

PDP Sandra Cruz
PPP Chairman

VA&R

Welcome to Spring -finally!
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. 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

Chaplain

Memorial Day Prayer

Father in Heaven: This day we pause to reflect on the sacrifice made by those who paid the ultimate price on behalf of our country. We pray that their sacrifices are never forgotten, nor is the pain carried by their families.

We acknowledge that freedom comes at a heavy cost and pray that we will pursue peace. We ask that, someday, we will celebrate Memorial Day as just a memory of the time before we started living the peaceful existence You intended for us since the beginning of creation.

This Memorial Day, we pray for peace and for those who gave all. Lead us toward a world where no one must give their lives in pursuit of freedom. May we be receptive to Your guidance, and may we never forget that our freedoms are a gift through sacrifice.

Amen

Lorraine Dixon dixonlorraine@aol.com

Dates to Remember

May	June
1 May Day	1 National Red Rose Day
4 Star Wars Day	6 D'Day Anniversary
5 Cinco de Mayo	6 Nathan Hale Day – State Capitol 12:00 PM
10 Past Presidents Parley	**11 Close of Books**
11 Mother's Day	14 Flag Day
15 National Peace Officers Memorial Day	15 Father's Day
17 Armed Forces Day	19 Juneteenth
23 National Poppy Day	20 American Eagle Day
26 Memorial Day	

FUTURE DATES

July 11-12 Department Convention
July 13 Postconvention DEC
National Convention August 22-28 – Tampa Bay, Florida

Past Department Presidents' Birthdays – May

4 – Rosemarie LaBossiere
49 Chestnut Street
Bristol, CT 06010

7 – Lydia DeGumbia
88 Church Street
Plantsville,CT 06479

9 – Ruth Morgan
7 Ash Street
North Haven, CT 06473

11 – Alice Saxton
116 Crooked Island Circle
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

17 – C. Joan Tarrant
16 Hickok Avenue
Bethel, CT 06801

IN MEMORIAM

91 – Carolyn Langlais

American Legion Auxiliary
PO Box 266
Rocky Hill, CT 06067-0266