THE CONNECTICUT AUXILIARE #3 / November 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,

I just want to take a moment to say thank you to everyone who will be attending the testimonial! Your support and friendship truly mean so much—it is wonderful to share time together and celebrate all that we've accomplished.

As we head into November, we have so much for which to be thankful. Veterans Day is right around the corner, and it's a perfect time to reflect on the sacrifices our veterans have made and to show our gratitude in any way we can—whether that's attending a ceremony, visiting a local VA, or simply saying "thank you" to a veteran.

With Thanksgiving coming up, I hope you all enjoy time with family and friends, and take a well-deserved moment to relax and recharge. Then, before we know it, it'll be time for the Christmas Shops! Please consider donating items and your time to this worthwhile program. Your time, donations, and smiles make the holidays a little brighter for so many.

Thank you again for all that you do and for the heart you put into every act of service. I wish you a wonderful Veterans Day, a warm Thanksgiving, and a joyful start to the holiday season!

For God and Country,
Kristin Jones
Department of Connecticut President

Membership

Dear Members,

Our mission doesn't end on December 31st — and neither should our membership! When you pay your dues now, you help keep our Units strong, active, and ready to serve our veterans, military, and their families.

Early renewals show strength, unity, and commitment. Every paid member today helps us reach our National goals faster, supports programs right away, and gives us more time to focus on serving — not paperwork.

Let's get it done early so we can celebrate success, not scramble at the deadline.

Renew now, keep your flame burning bright, and help our Units shine all the way into the new year! Thank you for your continued dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary — together, we make a difference.

With appreciation,
Lisa LaCoursiere, Dept Sr. Vice President

Notes From the Department Office

IMPORTANT- It's time to pay Unit Bonds – this bond covers the units from May 2025 to May 2028. The due date was 7/31/25. Amount due from each unit is $16. Please send it to the department office ASAP. This is an obligation of each unit. The following units need to send their payments to the office:

2nd Dist–10,50,187,204 3rd Dist-177 4th District- 19 5th District- 9,104,138 7th District- 103,113

We are still missing Unit Officers/Chairmen lists from several units. If your unit's list has not been sent, get it in **asap**. If you are full access on ALAMIS, we still need the form completed.

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

Finance

Fall has arrived!
Thank you to all who purchased items (shirts, cups, tickets) at PIC. The raffle went pretty well. Next up will be a calendar raffle. Keep your eyes peeled for more information!

The Purple Up tee shirts are going out of business soon, so if you'd like one, please let me know. Thank you for your support!

Marge Sunbury
Finance chairman
860-639-3011
Margesun1955@gmail.com

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

My name is Alicia Heaney, and I am the new Chair for our Department's Auxiliary Emergency Fund. For those of you who might not know what AEF is, it is a is a national grant initiative available to eligible ALA members who have endured a significant financial setback because of a natural disaster or other personal crisis. Grants are awarded up to $3,000.

This message is timely because, as you know, Alaska has recently suffered catastrophic flooding caused by Typhoon Halong. This area is in a remote area in western Alaska, making rescue operations and getting food and supplies to people even more difficult. As I write this, Jamaica is suffering from Hurricane Melissa. It remains to be seen if our eastern seaboard will be impacted. Natural disasters have been on the rise in recent years. With these disasters and the stress on our economy, the need is greater with each passing year. You can make your check payable to ALA, Dept of CT, PO Box 266, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 and clearly note

"AEF" in the memo. To donate directly, please visit: www.ALAforVeterans.org/donate. Any donations made directly to the national organization should also be reported to the Department so that your unit gets credit.
In grateful service,
Alicia Heaney, Chairman
Chairman

Education

I had my Quarterly Education Meeting with National recently. After all Departments went to breakout sessions in each Division, the Division Chair shared the one idea they liked the best. My idea of the letter to Superintendents was deemed the best! And, I was asked to share with National.
Letter to the Superintendent showing your support for the teachers, paras, counselors, and all support staff. And letter for Superintendents to send out. If you would like prepared letters, email me with your info. These letters are still timely.
In November, specifically the week before Thanksgiving (November 17-21), the ALA acknowledges American Education Week, a national observance held annually during this time. The purpose is "To honor all public school staff, from teachers to bus drivers and cafeteria workers."
Some suggested activities:
● Assemble and deliver Thank "You" baskets to schools. ● Provide gift cards, snacks, or classroom supplies ● Organize events like "Educator for a Day" or "Substitute Educators Day" ● Participate in school events ● Support local education initiatives like the ALA's own "Give 10 to Education" school supply drive.
Contact me at ALA_CT_Education@yahoo.com if you have questions, need ideas or want to share something unique your Unit is doing.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.
Elaine Kotler, Education Chair

Leadership

Northwest Division Chairman Amanda Washburn has written: "When most people hear the word LEADERSHIP they think that it isn't for them or that it is too overwhelming and scary. Some may have been thrown into a leadership role and aren't sure what they need to be doing or what they got themselves into".

There are many ways to overcome the fear of leadership, and they include seeking support, preparing and learning, embracing mistakes as growth, confidence through small wins, and shifting focus from self to service.

“Great leaders don’t set out to be a leader, they set out to make a difference.” “It is never about the role — always about the goal.” Unknown

Lorraine Dixon, Chair dixonlorraine@aol.com

National Security

Members,

Do you know your military service banners? Let’s take a brief look at the three most popular, the Blue Star, The Gold Star and the Silver Star Banners. Our nation’s service members put their lives on the line every day for all of us, and one of the ways we thank them is by flying service banners in their honor. Each banner has a specific meaning and is flown at a specific time. The Blue Star Banner (first flown in 1917) is the most widely known of the service banners. It has one blue star on a white background; it is edged on all four sides with a red border. The star of this flag represents a loved one in service, either at home or overseas. It is usually displayed in the window of your house indicating that this home has a member serving our country. There can be up to five stars on this banner. The Gold Star Banner is used in much the same way as the Blue Star Banner. When the unfortunate news of a family member’s death is delivered, the blue star is replaced by a gold star. A Gold Star Banner means the family has a loved one who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Sometimes a service banner might have a mix of blue and gold stars. That means that only some of their loved ones came home safely. The Silver Star Banner allows a silver star to represent service members who have been discharged due to wounding. What you may notice about these banners, is that all originate with the blue star banner. Take a look at the houses on your street, you may see one of these banners proudly hung in the front window of a neighbor’s home. Behind every service banner is an incredible story of bravery, service and sacrifice. Take the time to thank your community members who have given so much for our freedoms. Maybe, you might even be able to have one of them as a guest speaker at a unit meeting to learn about the person behind the banner.

Gladys DiDia, National Security Chair cmeow26@sbcglobal.net

Poppies

Happy Thanksgiving!

A time for family gatherings, seeing friends and being thankful for all we have and to share that with our Veterans and our Military families. Veteran’s day and the weekend surrounding it is a wonderful opportunity to go out and distribute our poppies. Take your Juniors, invite your Post Veterans to join you, set up an inviting and colorful table display with poppies and coloring books or book marks or stickers or all of them! Put out that donation can and experience just how generous people can be. Remind them what the poppy stands for by having copies of the Flanders Field poem to hand out. Let them know all the donation money goes directly to our Veterans, many don’t realize that. Maybe make up a poster board to let them know where it

goes. And then at your next meeting consider what monies you can give back to our Veterans through our VA&R program whether it is the programs of the month, Christmas shops, the bingos, helping with other needs that get requested, or our President's project – Honor Flight.

If you have not sent in your poppy order form, time is running out, the deadline again is December 31, 2025. We appreciate everyone who did so already because it helps us to know how many poppies we need to make and the dates they are needed by. Loved seeing everyone at PIC and it was a fun day. Questions or help, just give me a call, text, or email. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and see you at Christmas Shops!

Janice Sentivany, Dept Poppy Chairman 1teuke@gmail.com

VA&R

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

The Christmas Gift Shops are right around the corner!!

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. Call me at 203-233-0956 or email me at kari2001ala@gmail.com to let me know when you would like to volunteer.

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 28th**. We will start at 9:30 and work until everything is set to go! Many hands help complete the job quicker.
Levitow Gift Shop will be open on Saturday, **November 29th** with ribbon cutting at 9:00am and continue until 4:00pm. **Sunday, November 30th** from 9:00am – 12:00pm. After closing we will be packing everything up and taking it back to the office.

The auditorium will be open on Sunday, **November 30th** with ribbon cutting at 9:00am and continue until 5:00pm. **Monday, December 1ST** from 9:00am – 5:00pm. After closing we will be packing everything up and taking it back to the office.

WHVA – set up **Saturday, December 6th** starting at 9:30am and continuing until finished. Ribbon cutting **Sunday, December 7th** at 9:00am and continue until 5:00pm. **Monday, December 8th** – 9:00am- 5:00pm, **Tuesday December 9th** – 9:00am- 3:00pm. After closing we will pack up and load the truck to return everything to the office.

Please consider volunteering for this endeavor.

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

Chaplain

Let us give thanks this November for: the beautiful Fall foliage even as it disappears as we ready for winter, the 106th birthday of ALA, the AL Family Baby Shower (World Kindness Day), and so much more this month.
Let us remember: Veterans Day 11/11 honoring those who have "hung up their uniforms". As always, we remember all POWs and MIAs, and hope for their return to their families.
May everyone enjoy a blessed, happy Thanksgiving. Amen

Lorraine Dixon, Chaplain dixonlorraine@aol.com

Dates to Remember

November 2025	December 2025
2 Daylight Savings Time ends	6-9 WHVA Christmas Gift Shop
4 Election Day	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
9 Department Testimonial	14- 22 Hannukah
10 Department Raffle Drawing	25 Christmas Day
10 Marine Corps Birthday	26 – Jan 1 Kwanzaa
11 Veterans Day	31 New Year's Eve
15 Mission Training Albany, NY	
27 Thanksgiving Day	
Nov 28 – Dec 1 Rocky Hill Gift Shops	

FUTURE DATES

Jan 30 – 31, 2026 Mid-Winter Conference

Past Department Presidents' Birthdays – November

NONE

IN MEMORIAM

Unit #2 Deborah Paruske
Unit #2 Carol Mullins
Unit #26 Maureen Dobrindt
Unit #71 Frances Bourneuf

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