THE CONNECTICUT AUXILIARE #1 / October 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,

Hello Members,

As the seasons change and autumn settles in, we are reminded of the beauty of working together—just as the leaves join in vibrant colors to create a stronger, brighter picture. In the American Legion Auxiliary, our mission thrives when we unite with that same spirit of teamwork and service.

Fall is a season of gathering—whether it's around the table with family, at community events, or in support of our veterans, military, and their families. It's also a time to renew our dedication, strengthen our bonds, and continue serving with purpose and pride.

Together, we make a difference. Together, we carry forward our mission. Let us embrace this fall season with gratitude, commitment, and the determination to serve those who have given so much. United in Service, Proud in Purpose—this is our season to shine.

Kristin Jones, Department President

Kristinjonesala@gmail.com 203-671-7447

Membership

Fall is here, and just like the changing leaves, our membership year is moving forward quickly. October is the perfect time to rally our "Midnight Riders" and keep the flames of membership burning bright!

We are gaining ground, but we cannot stop now. Each member we recruit, retain, and renew keeps our light shining stronger for our veterans, military, and their families. Remember: one rider may start the alarm, but together, we spread the call far and wide.

As we head toward our next Department goal, let's encourage each other and celebrate every success along the way. Whether it's signing up a new member, renewing a long-time supporter, or welcoming a junior into our family, every name matters.

October is also the month to double-check transmittals — please be sure you're using the current membership year's forms when sending them in. Together, we can avoid delays and keep the momentum strong. Let's make sure our Districts keep those flames climbing

higher. Share the mission, spread the word, and remind everyone that membership is the heartbeat of the Auxiliary. Keep riding strong — the midnight alarm has been sounded, and we are answering the call!

For Service Not Self
Lisa LaCoursiere
Department of CT
Senior Vice President
lisa.lacoursiere@yahoo.com

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 District – 10,50,187,196,204 3rd District-176,177 4th District- 14,19 5th District- 9,104,138 6th District- 22 7th District- 64,103,113

We are still missing Unit Officers/Chairmen lists from many 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

Happy Fall to you All!

Finances are a fickle thing. One day the money is flowing in and others there is not a drop to be found! Please consider purchasing a ticket to our Foxwoods raffle. Purchase a $10 ticket and give to a friend or relative as a gift.

The Department is looking to purchase a sound system that can be transported easily, is good quality and is durable. If you know anything about such things then please contact me for more information.

Happy Halloween,
Marge Sunbury
Finance Chairman 860-639-3011 margesun1955@gmail.com

Americanism

I would like to thank everyone who sent me cards and emails and best wishes throughout these last months. I appreciate each and every one of you. Thank you for your patience as well. Even though I am still mending, I will do my best to get back on track and to keep communication going. Feel free to contact me at any time.

It's time to get back on track and MAKE YOUR MARK in your town! Let them know who you are, what unit you are in, and what you do for our veterans and your community. Let's share our knowledge and innovative ideas to help each other along!

Congratulations to the Award-winning units. Your hard work has not gone unnoticed. All of you work very hard, and our Veterans and military appreciate it!
I hope you are all gearing up for fall and coming to your meetings with new ideas to promote Americanism. It's not too early to start planning for promoting the **essay contest.** If any unit or district would like me to come and share information and brainstorm, please let me know. Wear your auxiliary shirts to identify who you are. CONTINUE our **branding** by wearing your shirt everywhere. Let people know who we are. People will ask about your shirt. Get the word out. Fly your flag everyday! Together we can make it bigger and better! Get the word out for Americanism and Patriotism in YOUR town.

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

Community Service

Fall is here—the leaves are changing and it is the perfect season to come together and give back. Community service doesn't have to be big or complicated; it's about doing what we can, where we are, to make life a little brighter for others. Here are some fun and meaningful ways to serve this season:

- Food for the Holidays-Organize or join a food drive to help families stock up before Thanksgiving.
- Spread Warmth- Collect coats, hats, gloves, and socks for shelters—it makes a big difference as the weather cools.
- Show Veterans Some Love- Drop off care packages or handwritten notes to local veterans.
- School Spirit- Donate supplies to classrooms—teachers and students always appreciate a little extra support.
- Rake and Reach Out- Help a neighbor with yardwork, especially our seniors who may need a hand with leaves.

Big or small, every effort matters. When we work together, we not only strengthen our communities—we also strengthen the bonds we share with each other. Let's "fall" into service this season and keep the spirit of giving alive!
Cassidy Jones, Chairman

Education

Schools have started and Autumn is officially here. What else is officially here? ALA Scholarship information. National offers four scholarships:

- Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship
- Non-Traditional Student Scholarship
- Spirit of Youth Scholarship
- Member Loyalty Scholarship

Go to https://www.legion-aux.org/scholarships for more information. Deadlines are March 1, 2026 at 11:59 pm Eastern. No exceptions. Submissions go directly to National on their website.

The **Department of Connecticut Education Grant** is also available. The deadline is March 30, 2026. Applications go to me, ALA_CT_Education@yahoo.com,

Contact me at ALA_CT_Education@yahoo.com if you have questions, need ideas or want to share something unique your Unit is doing.

All my best,

Elaine Kotler, Education Chair

ALA_CT_Education@yahoo.com

Autumn teaches us the beauty of letting go. Growth requires release—it's what the trees do. - Ka'ala Byndon.

Leadership

The National Leadership Committee (1972 - 73) published a guide for Leadership Development. How appropriate even in our 2025 – 2026 year are some of the following they listed as the Role of the Leader:

The leader is the dynamic force that injects vitality and life into an organization.

Every leader must have a sound and practical working knowledge of their organization.

The leader is responsible for achieving proper organizational results.

Every leader must be three persons at once: a “doer”, a learner and a teacher.

Lorraine Dixon, Leadership Chair

dixonlorraine@aol.com

National Security

A Calming presence is sometimes all you need to feel better when you're going through a hard time. The military community knows this well – and they know some of the best comfort-givers come in the form of four-legged, furry friends. The USO Canine Program understands the strong bond between humans and dogs, particularly in the military community. It aims to address the mental, emotional, and physical needs of service members and their families by incorporating therapy dogs, family pets, and military working dogs into various activities. Bringing a slice of home to the men and women wearing the cloth of our nation is what the USO does best. The program includes: Certified Therapy Dogs Visit the USO centers to provide comfort and companionship to service members – helping to reduce stress and improve morale after long days in the field; Community Engagement – the program encourages families to participate in USO activities, fostering a sense of belonging and support with the military community; Special events – Therapy dogs participate in events such as "Pup Stop Fridays" and "Power Hour" lunches, where service members can interact with the dogs, providing a calming influence and emotional support. The presence of therapy dogs has been shown to significantly uplift the spirits of military personnel. A wagging tail, and enthusiastic bark, a napping buddy, a furry whirlwind of affection are just a few examples of what therapy dogs bring to service members in USO centers.

Gladys DiDia National Security Chairman Cmeow26@sbcglobal.net

Poppies

Happy Fall!

Such vibrant colors just like our Poppies! If you need to order poppies for distribution the order form was in your PIC packet or you can contact me for another form but please get them in as soon as you can. We have busy poppy makers but knowing quantities in advance helps us plan accordingly to meet your needs. That deadline is a firm so get your orders in. We are planning our first "Poppy Party"! We will have poppy making, a trivia game, some crafting, music, some program training, and other fun activities planned. It will be for all Unit members so please get those juniors to come too. Date, time and location to come soon. We are also planning a Poppy Painting event, details to follow. Now is the time to get into the schools and make your contacts for the Poppy Poster contest and get the school children involved. We loved seeing everyone at PIC and hope you had a good time. If you want us to come to your Unit or District for any training on this wonderful program, please let me know, we are ready to assist.

Janice Sentivany 860-416-4572
ALA Dept Poppy Chairman

1teuke@gmail.com

VA&R

Big shoutout to all the units who donated to Stand Down and to all the volunteers who spent the day at the 6 sites interacting with the veterans and distributing all the items that were donated!!

Our next event will be the Christmas Gift Shops starting with Rocky Hill on Thanksgiving weekend and continuing the following weekend at West Haven VA.
Rocky Hill – set-up for Levitow Health Care Center and the Auditorium on Friday 11/28/25.
Levitow set-up will begin at (9:30 am until completed) Auditorium (10:00 am – completed)
Levitow will be open on Sat 11/29 **(9:00am to 4:00pm)** and Sun 11/30 (**9:00am-12:00)**
Auditorium will be open Sunday 11/30/25 and Monday 12/1/25 **(9:00am – 5:00pm both days)**

West Haven VA – set up will be Sat. 12/6 at 10:00 am until completed. Gift Shop will be open Sun 12/7 and Mon 12/8 – 9:00am – 5:00pm. Tuesday open from 9:00 – 4:00pm.

Volunteers will be needed for all the times listed. Any time you could give would be greatly appreciated.

Attached to the bulletin find the gift lists along with which Districts are asked to donate which gifts. Please get the items to the office by Tuesday November 19th to enable us to have everything ready to go on the 28th! You **do not** need to separate items into the 3 sites. Please remove all price tags. Include a note indicating the value and the actual cost of all the items together. You do not need to list all the items just the totals.

Looking forward to another successful year making the holiday season a happy time for our veterans and their families!

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

Avery McLeod, a Junior from Unit 96, wishes to thank everyone who sent cards, gifts and books to her during her recent surgery. See picture from Avery attached to this Auxiliare.

Chaplain

In this beautiful season of Autumn let us take delight in the beauty of nature that surrounds us. Let us bask in our own beauty and bring that to our meetings as we work for our Veterans and their families and for our communities.
Always remember that peace and harmony accomplish more than strife and indifference. May blessings abound and smiles be in abundance. We can accomplish great things together.

Lorraine Dixon, Chaplain dixonlorraine@aol.com

Dates to Remember

October 2025	November 2025
1 Breast Cancer Awareness Month	Nov 4 Election Day
3 World Smile Day	Nov 9 Department Testimonial
13 Columbus Day/Native American's Day	Nov 10 Department Raffle Drawing
16 Boss' Day	Nov 10 Marine Corps Birthday
24 United Nations Day	Nov 15 Mission Training Albany, NY
26 National Pumpkin Day	Nov 28 – Dec 1 Rocky Hill Gift Shops
31 Happy Halloween	

FUTURE DATES

Dec 6 – Dec 9 WHVA Gift Shop
Jan 30 – 31, 2026 Mid-Winter Conference

Past Department Presidents' Birthdays – October

3rd – Rita Barylski
31 Breault St.
Putnam, CT 06260-1211

13th – Mary Gulya
13 Trading Cove Circle
Norwich, CT 06360

14th – Jennifer McLeod
47 Steele St
Bristol, CT 06010

16th – Doris Lafontaine
29 Valley Rd
North Grosvernordale, CT 06255

21st – Laura Santino
42 Robin Hill Lane
Hamden, CT 06518-1900

IN MEMORIAM

Unit #69 Virginia O'Brien

American Legion Auxiliary
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