THE CONNECTICUT AUXILIARE #10 / September 2023
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

Good Day Members,

I am happy to be writing as the newly elected President for the ALA. As Fall is approaching we have several things to keep in mind. PIC is earlier this year, it will be on 09/16/2023 at Post 102 in Manchester. I realize this is a change, however, due to schedules this is the one that worked the best.

Each year the President choses a project to focus on that is related to our mission. This year it is "Operation Comfort Warrior". OCW supplies veterans with items they need to enrich their mental and physical health. Generally speaking, they are nontraditional asks, an example is a canoe for balance and core training, backpacks and supplies for hiking and getting into nature. The American Legion manages this program and 100% of all money donated goes to the Veterans. This will tie nicely into the "Be The One" campaign. Be the one to reach out to a veteran and ask how they are doing. Oh, it is easy to talk to your spouse and ask how they are, find a new person and strike up a conversation. It might just make their day.

We have had a lot of talk about being nice and being kind. We do need to be mindful of that, but I think one of the best ways to do that is - Be Inclusive not Exclusive. You have new members, how are they? When did you speak to them last? Maybe they do not want to work an event just yet, invite them to come as a guest and see how the unit works together. I also feel like we need to mix it up. If you have had members doing the same thing for years, teach someone new to help and eventually take over as the need arises. We never know when someone will get sick or hurt. It is always good to have a back up.

Attend each other's events, if you see an event advertised, make a point to go. You do not have to attend everything, but pick a few and go have fun. I would really like for the units to start sending their fliers to the department to be included in the bulletin or so we can put them on a calendar.

I hope we have a very good year. I look forward to getting out to see as many people as possible. Let's have a great year and help as many Veterans as possible.

In the spirit of service not self,
Jennifer McLeod
Department President
jennmcleodala@gmail.com

Membership

Hello Racers!

Welcome to the 2024 Muscle Car Membership Rally! At Convention, the Department Vice Presidents for each District were given a muscle car and info on our year-long race to reach our goals. All this information and more will be presented and given to you at our PIC Conference by me. But I wanted you to know who you were assigned. District 1 – 1968 Oldsmobile 442; District 2 – 1969 Ford Mustang 429; District 3 – 1968 Chevy Chevelle SS396; District 4 – 1969 Dodge Charger R/T; District 5 – 1968 Chevy Camaro Z28; District 6 – 1957 Chevy Bel Air and District 7 – 1949 Mercury Coupe.
Now is the time to start working on those membership renewals. Please, should you need any help or have questions, do not hesitate to contact me. We are a team. I look forward to being able to attend one of your Unit meetings and get to know your Unit better. On a personal note, thank you so much for allowing me to be your Membership Chairman and Sr. Vice President this year, it is a privilege and an honor.
What do you say racers – let's start those engines and go after those goals!

For God and Country,
Janice Sentivany
Sr. VP / Membership Chairman
860-416-4572 cell and text
1teuke@gmail.com

N.E.C. Notes-

N.E. C. Notes-
Well, I'm off to North Carolina for the national convention and hope to have much to tell you when I return. I will be attending the pre and post NEC meetings as well as all the sessions at convention. I will give a full report on my return home.

UNITS- IMPORTANT!!
Please, file your 990 if you have not done so. It only takes about 10-15 minutes online and it is very easy to do. If you are having problems, contact department headquarters and I'm sure that they will help you or find someone to help you out. If your EIN has been revoked, please do not ignore this. Contact the IRS and see if you can work something out with them. If you must reapply it's going to cost you a lot of money. It is very important to file as we must be compliant with the IRS to continue our not-for-profit status, so please get this done, thank you.

I hope everyone has a safe trip to North Carolina and a fun time. Congratulations to our 2024-2025 National Commander Jim LaCoursiere who I am sure will be very busy at this convention. See you when I return. Enjoy the rest of the summer and stay safe and well.

Debra Knickerbocker (Rodger Dodger 2.0)
National Executive Committeewoman

National Security

Greetings to all Members,

National Security is a program many of us do not fully understand. So, this year we will delve in and explain more of what this program is all about.
POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday of September. The terms POW and MIA mean prisoner of war and military personnel who went missing in action. This recognition day is observed to recommit to full accountability to the families of the more than 80,000 veterans captured or still missing from wars in which the United States has participated. The day was first observed in 1979 after Congress and the President passed a resolution to make it official following the demands of the families of 2,500 Vietnam war POW/MIAs who asked for accountability in finding their loved ones. According to accounts, during the first ceremony of POW/MIA Day at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., fighter airplanes from the military base in Virginia flew in the "missing man formation" to honor their missing comrades. Since then, the official observance has been held at the Pentagon, with other celebrations happening at military bases and elsewhere around the country.
Wearing RED on Fridays to Remember Everyone Deployed is a small way we all can show Deployed Men and Women our support.

Rosemarie LaBossiere
National Security Chairman
roelaboss@gmail.com
860-508-7868

Community Service

Dear Members,

Let's get started for a new year. I would like for everyone to get involved in community service, because we can make a difference across the state of Connecticut. Have a fund raiser to raise funds for school supplies. Make hat and scarves for the children in your local school or childcare facility. Collect food for the soup kitchen and your churches.

Janet L. Young
Community Service Chairman

Education

I am Elaine Kotler of Hayes-Velhage Unit 96 of West Hartford. I have been appointed as the Education Chair. I am a teacher of 20+ years in secondary schools, both middle school and high school and adjunct faculty at Manchester Community College (now CT Community College). I look forward to an exciting year sharing ideas, both give and take, reflecting on what we did last year and towards future activities this year.

Let's spread the word that the American Legion Auxiliary supports Education and all those involved. Let's foster a culture of collaboration as education is a collective effort, and collaboration among teachers, students, parents, and administrators is crucial for success. Encourage open communication within your institution.

Some ideas to keep in mind from the ALA National Site, Education Committee Key Program Statements

- To promote quality education for children, especially for military children, and adults
- To encourage schools to invite veterans to speak in their classrooms
- To provide scholarships for students who desire a college education
- To Support legislation that establishes new scholarship opportunities
- To support the Education program and scholarship opportunities of The American Legion

  There is always the ongoing ***Give 10 to Education.*** Looking to the horizon, American Education Week is November 13-17, 2023.

Please feel free to contact me at elainekotler@yahoo.com with any questions, comments or concerns.
Regards,

Elaine Kotler
Education Chair

Finance

Welcome back from our hiatus!!

The Finance Committee has been very busy over the summer months.
Keep a look out in your mail for raffles tickets! We also have added a white polo shirt for sale so now there is red, blue or white. To show support for our Military Kids, we have a Purple Up! tee shirt available for purchase. You can find the flyers and order forms attached to this bulletin.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. If you have an idea for raising money, please share.

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

Laurel Girls State

We had a very successful 2023 Laurel Girls State. Our program was held semi-jointly with Boys State. This proved to be beneficial and educational for both programs. We were proud to send Margot & Sasha to Girls Nation where they represented Connecticut very well!

Moving forward we are excited to continue to rebuild this program. It is one of my priorities this year to keep units informed and up to date on Girls State. We are in the process of updating our website which will have resources for units to use for recruitment and marketing,

This year we had around 60 girls attend our program. Next year it is our hope to have around 100 girls! We are looking at a cost of around $400 per delegate for the 2024 session. This upcoming year we will seek support from our Posts/Units both in recruitment efforts and in fundraising to support this incredible program.

I look forward to serving as LGS Chairman. If you have questions, ideas or concerns please reach out to me directly.

Jessica Abel ctgirlsstate@gmail.com

Personnel

Members,
As you know, the Department office has been without a permanent employee since March. Karen Thompson has been filling in and upon recommendation of the personnel committee has been hired as the Office Assistant/Bookkeeper as of July 31, 2023.

The office will continue to be open on Monday-Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 am – 5:30 pm. Office phone number is 959-230-4168. Email address aladeptct@gmail.com. If you will be going to the office, please call ahead to make sure Karen will be there when you arrive.

Nancy Hansen
Personnel Chairman

VA&R

Members,

Welcome to a new year of service to our veterans and their families. I would like to start by extending my deepest gratitude to our previous chairman, Ruth Morgan, for leading the VA&R program over the last several years. I look forward to her continued support in our efforts to meet our veterans' needs.

As we move into this new program year, I would like to let you know there will be some changes to our programs and 'Projects of the Month'. Detailed information will be forthcoming in my PIC paper. I encourage you to review the information and let me know if you have any questions.

Stand Down will be held September 22, 2023 in five (5) locations around the state (Danbury, Bridgeport, Bristol, Norwich and Rocky Hill). If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me as soon as possible. Thank you for showing up and assisting in making the day a success!

Lastly, as COVID-19 has disrupted our ability to hold Gift Shops in the typical manner since 2019, **FOR THIS YEAR ONLY**, we are requesting **no donations** (monetary or gift items) toward our Gift Shops. Thanks to your immense generosity over the past few years, we have all we will need to hold robust experiences this coming holiday season.

In response, we respectfully request any donations that would have been to the Gift Shops be *redirected* to our other programs (bingos, transitional housing, etc). A full list of other programs can be found on the attached donation form. We thank each of you for your continued support in making the holiday season joyful and year round programming a reality for our veterans!

As you know, if your Unit makes donations to all ten (10) 'Projects of the Month', a certificate is presented at our annual convention. As we are requesting no donations to the Gift Shops this year, contributions to the other nine (9) projects will earn your Unit recognition.

I am looking forward to a magnificent year providing foundational programming for veterans and their families, as we continue to work on our mission of 'Service not Self'.

Karen L Thompson, VA&R Chairman
Kari2001ala@gmail.com

Notes From the Department Office

- Dues for 2024 membership must be on a 2024 transmittal to ensure proper payment. Previous year's dues are paid using back dues transmittal.
- When filling out the transmittals, make sure to complete everything required. If using credits, remember to attach the memo to the transmittal so proper credit will be given. If there is no credit memo – no credit given.
- Do not attach checks to any paperwork with staples.

- One check may be written for **all** general program donations. One check may be written for **all** VA&R programs. **Do not combine** general program donations and VA&R donations on the same check.
- When mailing correspondence to the office, use PO Box 266, Rocky Hill, 06067-0266 only.
- Email correspondence – aladeptct@gmail.com
  *** **2023-2024 Unit Officers/Chairmen Lists** are still needed from the following units. Please send asap even if nothing has changed from last year. Without updated information we can not be sure the information is being received by the current officers/chairmen.

  1st District – 23, 33, 56, 80, 96, 133, 142, 154, 197, 209
  2nd District – 24, 45, 50, 71, 73, 79, 88, 89, 127, 174, 194, 196, 204
  3rd District – 63, 74, 100, 140, 177
  4th District – 13, 14, 19, 91, 95, 101
  5th District – 4, 9, 138
  6th District – 27, 195
  7th District – 61, 64, 69, 103, 113, 156, 206

Message from Unit #96

Attention Auxiliary members and your families, there is a West Hartford World War II veteran, Ben Cooper, looking for company. His is very acute mentally and does not require care, just some companionship so that his daughter can leave the house. She does not like him to be home alone. Any time you can volunteer would be greatly appreciated. You do not have to commit to weekly visits. Tuesday visits are a preferred day of the week. Please contact **ALAUnit96CT@gmail.com** for more info or contact Elaine (860) 232-9965. We are sure you will enjoy his company and stories. Thank you. Hayes-Velhage Unit 96.

Chaplain

September begins a new year for ALA. A big warm welcome to President Jenn. May she and all the officers and chairmen have an outstanding year. Heavenly Father, we ask that you bless Madam President Jenn, her committees and officers and wish them great success in this coming year.

Lorraine Dixon, Chaplain Dept. of CT
dixonlorraine@aol.com

Dates to Remember

September 2023

4 Labor Day
10 National Grandparents Day
11 Patriot Day
16 PIC at Post 102 Manchester (Flyer attached)
18 DEC Meeting Rocky Hill
22 Stand Down
23 Autumn begins

Future Dates

October 9 Columbus Day
October 31 Happy Halloween

November 4 Mission Training
Providence, Rhode Island
November 5 The American Legion
Department Testimonial (Flyer attached)

Past Department Presidents' Birthdays – September

September 23 – Julie Carney
260 West Lake Ave
Guilford, CT 06437-1308

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Anne B Euell	Norwich Unit 4
Virginia Slavin	West Haven Unit 71
Gail T Judson	Fairfield Unit 74
Lucille Finkle	East Haven Unit 89
Margaret Dopirak	South Windsor Unit 133
Elizabeth A Chaison	Forestville Unit 209

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Connecticut
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Rocky Hill, CT 06067-0266

DATED MATERIAL