THE CONNECTICUT AUXILIARE #1 / September 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 we step into September, I want to begin by extending my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for electing me as your Department President. It is truly an honor to serve, and I look forward to working with all of you throughout the year as we carry out the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

This year's theme is "United in Service, Proud in Purpose" — a reminder of the strength we find in unity and the pride we carry in supporting our veterans, military, and their families. Together, we will continue to make a difference in our communities and uphold the values that define our organization. This is more than a motto—it's a call to action for all of us to stand strong together and continue our vital work serving veterans, military, and their families with pride and purpose.

Looking ahead, Stand Down will be held on September19th. As always, we are proud to support this important event. We are collecting hats and scarves for our veterans—new or handmade items are appreciated and will go a long way in providing warmth and care this winter. Please look for more information regarding this event from our VA&R chair Karen Thompson.

Our Program Information Conference (PIC) is scheduled for September 27th. We are asking each unit to send at least one representative to attend and learn more about our Auxiliary programs. This is a great opportunity to bring new energy and understanding back to your unit—don't miss it! If your unit or district would like to schedule a visitation, please feel free to reach out to me directly. I would love the opportunity to connect, share updates, and support your work on the ground. Thank you again for your trust and commitment. Let's make this a strong, united year of purpose-driven service.

Kristin Jones, Department President

Kristinjonesala@gmail.com 203-671-7447

Membership

Answering the call -Revere ride continues with us from town to town growing our Auxiliary family. One if by land, two if by sea - all in for ALA membership!

Like Paul Revere we have a message to deliver, our mission and our members matter more than ever. As your senior vice president of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of CT., I will ride with purpose to grow our membership, strengthen our units and light the way for new generations of service. It's time to spread the word that the Auxiliary is here! It's

strong and we're calling all hands to join the cause. Riding For Membership - Be the Voice to Spread the Word

1. Paul Revere didn't wait for the message to spread. He was the messenger that's the spirit we need in membership today. Just like Revere lit the spark of action, we must ignite enthusiasm in every unit and community.

2.The Importance of Membership

Membership is the heartbeat of the Auxiliary, without it our mission slows and our outreach weakens. Every member gained means more support for veterans, military families, our children and our communities. We're not just signing up members- we are building a stronger, louder voice for good.

National Goals for all departments:
25% Award Deadline: SAL Birthday Sept 15,2025
60% Award Deadline: ALA Birthday Nov. 10,2025
85% Award Deadline: TAL Birthday March 25,2026
95% Award Deadline: Female Veterans' Day June 12 2026
100% Award Deadline: Independence Day July 4 2026
102% Award Deadline: 30 Days Prior to National Convention, August ,2026

We Ride with purpose but we also pause to appreciate how the National Eastern Division rose, and our Auxiliary continues to bloom year after year. Let's ride with Revere, plant the rose of service and celebrate every birthday with a bigger, stronger, more Beautiful Auxiliary

For Service Not Self

Lisa LaCoursiere lisa.lacoursiere@yahoo.com
Department of CT
Senior 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 District – 10,50,165,187,196,204 3rd District- 60,140,176,177 4th District- 13,14,19,91,111 5th District- 9,104,138 6th District- 22 7th District- 64,69,103,113,156

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

Children and Youth

Our new year in the ALA has begun. I know many units give out the Halloween Safety Coloring Books, they are available from Emblem Sales at emblem.legion.org. but you need to get your order in soon as they go very quickly. You can also download them from the ALA national website and print your copies. Suggestions to give to your local schools or citywide recreation centers. They also have patriotic comic books.

Ruth Morgan morgan71676@gmail.com

Finance

Happy New Auxiliary Year!
The Finance Committee worked hard on our budget and it was accepted on August 9th.

Our 1st fundraiser has already started! We are selling tickets for a "One Night Deluxe Overnight Accommodations and Dinner for 2 at any Foxwoods Restaurant (up to $100.00)"! We are delighted to tell you that the tickets are only $10 each and can be purchased from your District President or any Department Officer. You may also call the Office to get tickets and make arrangements with Karen as to when you can pick them up. This package is valued at $400.00. So don't delay! The drawing will be held on Monday November 10 at 12:00 noon. Thank you in advance for your support!!

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

Education

Welcome all to a new ALA year. As we start a new year, so do schools. As you read this, most schools have started the 2025-26 school year. Here are some great things you can do:

1. Give 10 to Education. Many schools and students need supplies. **Give 10 to Education** is a great way to support schools. Contact the school or Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)/Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) to find out how you can assist. One way is to set up a collection box and display it during Open Houses. Most schools have an Open House in the first few weeks of school.
2. Box Tops for Education: Register yourself, your Unit members, and anyone you know with **Box Tops for Education**. Select a school in your community to benefit from the program. It is simple, easy, and very profitable for the schools.
3. Collaborate with Schools: Send a letter to the Superintendent showing your support for the teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors, and all support staff. If you would like a prepared letter, email me at ALA_CT_Education@yahoo.com.

4. Post on social media anything you do to support education, and get the word out on how fantastic your Unit is. Join the ALA Education Facebook Page.

Contact me at ALA_CT_Education@yahoo.com if you need more ideas or want to share something unique your Unit is doing. I look forward to another year as your Education Chair.

All my best,

Elaine Kotler, Education Chair

ALA_CT_Education@yahoo.com

Leadership

Welcome to President Kristin, the Department Officers and Committee Chairs amd members. Together, we will all strive to have a great 2025-2026 Auxiliary year. I'd like to announce that I will be joined on the Leadership Committee by 2 great members – Ann Penington and Alicia Heaney. Both have had success on other programs and I know we will work beautifully as a team.

Lorraine Dixon, Leadership Chair

National Security

Members,

This year we will look at various programs within the National Security Program. This committee will work to have as many of our units and districts participate in many if not all of these programs. We will focus on a different program each month so we can share this information with our units and our districts. September 19, 2025 is National POW/MIA Recognition Day. It serves as a day of remembrance for those who were prisoners of war and those that are still missing in action, reflecting on their sacrifices and ensuring accountability for their families. The day was established in 1979 after the families of over 2,500 Vietnam War POW/MIAs pushed for full accountability of their loved ones. There are many ways we can all honor POWs and those who want MIA during service: Fly the POW/MIA flag to show support; Include the POW/MIA chair flag at all meetings including a recognition of POW/MIA after the unit prayer; Reach out to those in your community affected by war and missing a loved one; Give back to military charities by donating money, time or both; Learn more about the histories of POWs and those missing by visiting local military museums, reading a book, or watching a documentary. National POW/MIA Recognition Day is a time of self-reflection, support and honor. Be sure to mark your calendars to be supportive on September 19, 2025 and all year round!

Gladys DiDia National Security Chair/ cmeow26@sbcglobal.net

Poppies

Hello Units!

Welcome to the wonderful world of Poppies! As we begin our new Department year, we hope to share lots of information to get you excited about our favorite Legion Family flower, the beautiful red poppy. A symbol that has so much meaning to every one of us and especially our

Veterans. You will be receiving a PIC packet soon and I hope to see many of you at this year's conference. Think about some of these ideas – poppy poster contests in our schools, creating poppy corsages, making poppy cards for our home bound Veterans or those in nursing homes or the VA hospitals, handing out the poppy coloring book and that is just a few. Would you like to help us make poppies because we need to make a bunch, no pun intended! Let me know and we will come to you and have a poppy party! I want to introduce the other Poppy Queens who are working with me this year – Erin Maloney and Cheryl Samborski – and we plan on having lots of fun! We hope you will join us as we ride across the state talking all things poppies.

Janice Sentivany Poppy Chairman 1teuke@gmail.com 860-416-4572

VA&R

Welcome to a new auxiliary year of serving our veterans, military members and their families. Our first event for VA&R is going to be here very soon – Stand Down will be held on Friday September 19th from 9:00am – 2:00pm in Rocky Hill, Norwich, Southington, Bridgeport, Danbury and Stamford. All members are welcome to volunteer at any site- please let me know at which site you would like to volunteer. Donations of hats/scarves/gloves/socks would be appreciated.

The second event follows right away – the Annual Baby Shower at West Haven VA is being held on Monday, September 22 in the Donaldson Room from 11:00am-2:00pm. Items needed are diapers/onesies in newborn and next size up along with baby wipes. If you are interested in attending or donating items contact Ruth Morgan at morgan71676agmail.com.

More information on VA&R will be given at PIC on September 27th- hope to see many of you there! Continue to do all you do for our veterans. Thank you.

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

2025-2026 Department Officers Elected and Appointed

President Kristin Jones Unit 48
Jr Past President Janice Sentivany Unit 52
NEC Rita M Barylski Unit 13
Senior Vice-President Lisa LaCoursiere Unit 91
VP 1st District Elaine Kotler Unit 36
VP 2nd District Karen L Thompson Unit 17
VP 3rd District Barbara Carlson Unit 176
VP 4th District Taylor Paquin Unit 26
VP 5th District Denise Surprenant Unit 4
VP 7th District Barbara White Unit 206
Secretary Kim Post Unit 26
Treasurer Margery Sunbury Unit 72
Chaplain Lorraine Dixon Unit 194
Historian Billie Springman Unit 102
Sgt-at-Arms Julie Carney Unit 48
Assistant Sgt-at Arms Kate Salerno Unit 72

2025 Department Education Grant Recipients

Christopher Teator
Naugatuck

Cassidy Jones
Guilford

Karissa Bishop
Cromwell

John DeBisschop
Naugatuck

Matthew Morris
Hebron

2025 Past Presidents' Parley Grant Recipients

Victoria Mitchell
Vernon

Liam O'Sullivan
Harwinton

Colleen Malo
Litchfield

Patrick O'Sullivan
Harwinton

Timothy O'Sullivan
Harwinton

Jack DeBisschop
Naugatuck

Kaitlyn Bialy
Newington

Jolie McTamney
Goshen

Arianna Bishop
Cromwell

Edward Carney IV
Ruth Glen, VA

Maya Teator
Naugatuck

Grace Toro
Milldale

Chaplain

Heavenly Father: Bless and guide our President, Kristin, as she begins her 2025 - 2026 year. Be with our servicemen and women, and keep them safe in Your care. May all our decisions praise Your name. Amen.

The best way to predict the future is to create it. (Abe Lincoln)

Lorraine Dixon, Chaplain

Dates to Remember

September 2025

1 Labor Day
7 Grandparents Day
8 DEC Meeting
17 Constitution Day
19 National POW/MIA Day
19 Stand Down
22 1st Day of Fall
27 PIC – East Haven Senior Center (flyer attached)

October 2025

1 Breast Cancer Awareness Month
3 World Smile Day
13 Columbus Day/Native American's Day
16 Boss' Day
24 United Nations Day
26 National Pumpkin Day
31 Happy Halloween

FUTURE DATES

Nov 9 Department Testimonial
Nov 10 Department Raffle Drawing
Nov 15 Mission Training Albany, NY
Nov 28-Dec 1 Rocky Hill Gift Shops
Dec 6 – Dec 9 WHVA Gift Shop
Jan 30 – 31, 2026 Mid Winter Conference

Past Department Presidents' Birthdays – September

September 23rd – Julie Carney
260 West Lake Avenue
Guilford, CT 06437

IN MEMORIAM

Helen Phalen Unit 12 Anita DeSantis Unit 72 Elizabeth Anhalt Unit 128
Frances Hill Unit 176 Marsha Reilly Unit 197
Past Department President C. Joan Tarrant Unit 100

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

Welcome Autumn