

**2024 - 2025 / FEBRUARY EDITION**  
**DEPARTMENT BULLETIN**

**AMERICAN  
LEGION**

**AUXILIARY**

(802) 223-341 / [vtalaux@talaofvt.com](mailto:vtalaux@talaofvt.com)

ALA Dept. Website: <http://www.vtauxiliary.org/>

**PRESIDENT**



**John R. Tester**  
2024 -2025

Greetings American Legion Auxiliary,  
The Mid-Winter conference is in the books, and it was a smashing success. We had a highly informative and productive DEC meeting on Friday and a well-attended and successful conference on Saturday.

On Friday, the DEC voted overwhelmingly to transfer the administration of the Unit Member of the Year Award from the Past Presidents Parlay to the Leadership program. This decision was made for a couple of key reasons. First, the Past Presidents Parlay Chairmen are heavily tasked with managing multiple projects, scholarships, and awards, which has inadvertently affected the focus on the Unit Member of the Year Award. By moving the award to Leadership, the Leadership Chairman can dedicate their full attention to it after the Fall Conference forward to having all units nominate one member of their unit for the Unit Member of the Year award.

Second, the National website places the Unit Member of the Year Award under the Leadership program, and most Departments across the country also include this award under Leadership. This change aligns our approach with both National and the majority of other Departments. Importantly, the DEC ensured that the Past Presidents Parlay would still have the opportunity to honor the Unit Member of the Year at their tea in June, where the Department winner will be announced and presented with a corsage and plaque. I am very excited for Leadership Chairman Krista Chadwick as she promotes the Unit Member of the Year award this year. We are looking forward to having all units nominate one member of their unit for the Unit Member of the Year award. On April 26, we will be hosting all of the nominees from around the state for a lunch at Middlebury Unit 27 along with their guests. Please see Krista's article in this month's bulletin for more information.

I would like to thank all of our speakers and presenters at the Mid-Winter Conference on Saturday. You all did a spectacular job and brought a wealth of information to our membership. Our District Presidents did an outstanding job of giving updates on all of the Units in their Districts. Thank you! A special shout out to our guest speakers, 2024 ALAGMGS Governor Vincey Chan and George L. Fox's granddaughter Lisa MurrayHirbour. We very much appreciate you taking the time to speak at our Conference. Lastly, I want to thank Sgt-at-Arms PDC Cathy Tester, Krista Chadwick and Suzette Greaves for all of the work in putting together and selling our bag lunches. We netted a wonderful \$307.00 for my Presidents Project! Thank you for all you do every day as an Auxiliary member. You make a difference, and it is appreciated.

John R. Tester  
Department President

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Hello Auxiliary Members,  
I want to say great job to Mr. President Tester on a great Mid-Winter Conference. I always enjoy when we have a joint session with as an American Legion Family. I loved hearing all of the reports from our District Presidents and Chairman.

I hope those that were able to attend learned so much and are able to share with your Unit members. I am starting to work on filling Chairmanships when I become President (fingers crossed because I don't like to jinx myself). So if you are interested in holding a chairmanship please let me know and what you are interested in. Be on the lookout in future Bulletins (maybe even this one) itineraries for when Lauren Lloyd (ALA Eastern Division National Vice-President) comes to visit in March and Trish Ward (ALA National President) comes to visit in April.

Thanks  
Tasha Bouvier  
ALA Department of VT Vice-President

## **NATIONAL EXEC. COMMITTEE**

*(No Bulletin Message Remitted)*

Kelly Donaldson

## **CHAPLAIN**

Happy February everyone. It was nice to see you all at the Mid-Winter Conference. Please remember to send me a prayer and or inspirational thought from anyone in your unit for our Department President John's Prayer Book. Thank you and be well.

## **A NEW YEAR**

Another year is dawning  
With the chance to start anew.  
May I be kinder, wiser, Lord.  
In all I say and do.  
Not so caught up in selfish gain  
That I would fail to see  
The things in that mean the most  
Cost not a fancy fee.  
The warm, kind word that I can give,  
The outstretched hand to help,  
The prayers I pray for those in need—  
More precious these than wealth.  
I know not what may lie ahead  
Of laughter or of tears;

I only need to know each day  
That You are walking near.  
I'm thankful for this brand-new year  
As now I humbly pray,  
My hand secure in Yours, dear Lord.  
Each step along the way.  
Amen.

American Legion Auxiliary Chaplains' Prayer Book  
pp 26-27

For God and Country,  
Heather Morris  
Department Chaplain  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Vermont  
(802) 487-7153

[heathermorris\\_workhard@yahoo.com](mailto:heathermorris_workhard@yahoo.com)

## **HISTORIAN**

Hello everyone,  
Hope everyone had a wonderful New Years! We are 6 months through our administration year and are having a wonderful time in our units! We just had Mid-Winter Conference and have a lot to report back to our units about.



I will be reporting from National in this message. If you look at your unit charter, you will see that it is signed by a National President. Trish Ward, our current National President, is asking units to take a picture of their charter and send them to either [historian@legion-aux.org](mailto:historian@legion-aux.org) or [ctaylor@legion-aux.org](mailto:ctaylor@legion-aux.org) so that she can collect a charter signed by every past national president. Her goal is to get them all

and have them displayed at the National Convention. So, please take a picture of your charter and send it to one of those emails.

Our National Historian Dara Oliver would like to have every department send in a report of their history, both seniors and juniors. If you have any Juniors in your unit that would be interested in teaming up with me to do a history report, please let me know. Thank you.

National President Trish Ward will be visiting in April. Please send me the list of places with dates, a list of any gifts that you gave her, and please send me printed photographs to my mailing address. Thank you.

So fun fact! We stayed at Hampton Inn by Hilton for Mid-Winter and found that the Hilton was founded in 1919! The same as our American Legion Auxiliary!! Cool fact huh!

Please make sure to send me printed photographs to my mailing address of any events your units are participating in for our history book. Let's make sure that our history is saved for our future generations to look back on and see all the wonderful things that we have done in this great organization. Let's show them what they can do to help our Veterans, military and their families, as well as our community, children & youth, and so much more! Please write on the back of the photographs your unit number, date, place and event it was taken so that I have descriptions for the book as well. I appreciate that from you all. President John will be continuing to visit your units in the next 5 months. He has been staying busy and having fun while doing it!

Events President John has attended for January:

1/8 Attended Unit meeting at Ballard Hobart #36 IN Ludlow

1/10 Walkthrough at the Hampton Inn in Colchester in preparation for Mid-Winter Conference.

1/12 Attended the Celebration of Life for Unit 49 member Dottie Brothers

1/13 Town Hall Meeting

1/16 Finance Meeting

1/17 Mid-Winter Conference

1/18 Mid-Winter Conference

1/25 Attended the Board Meeting of the Fox Memorial Chapel in Gilman

I hope you all have a Happy Valentine's Day and next stop..... CONVENTION!

In the Spirit of Service, Not Self,

PDP Francisca Massey

Historian

[franciscacech@yahoo.com](mailto:franciscacech@yahoo.com)

802-661-8690

15 Cotter Avenue Apt. 2

Northfield, VT. 05663

## **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Greetings ALA Members,

Wow what a great Mid-Winter Conference with 57 members in attendance. All of the presenters were fabulous and if you have not given me your reports for the Mid-Winter report please get it to me as soon as possible.

I am busy working on the minutes from our DEC meeting where we made some changes to our standing rules. These will make us hold onto our Standing Rules longer and once Pam Norton completes them, we can get the reviewed and posted to the website, Packets have been mailed to Units who did not attend Mid-Winter that contain the revised Trophies & Awards Booklet, Scholarships & Awards, & Year End Book of Reports, plus the Challenge Cards designed by our National President, If you attended conference, you were given these and anyone who did not will have them mailed and the Unit will be billed for postage.

I have had some questions about the YE Book of Reports from chairs who changes to their reports may have, so please know these may change and the latest version will be sent by email once this is done. Either way these are not due until May, but I wanted all to have them for reference,

We will be hosting Eastern Division National Vice President Lauren Lloyd in March so please see her tentative travel agenda in this bulletin and plan to come meet her at one of the many stops along the way. Lauren comes to us from the Department of

District Columbia and is excited to come to Vermont for her first time and tour the Rev. George L. Fox Memorial Chapel.

Please let me know if you need anything & also in Unit packets is the order form for brochures & publications from ALA National including membership applications. Units should review this and order stock to have on hand for their Units. Back to writing the minutes from DEC and off to the Boston training this weekend. I hope to see many of you there!

*Being the ONE for our Veterans,*  
Corrinna E. Colson  
Executive Director  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Vermont  
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(802)274-8333

## **TREASURER**

Greetings,

The Mid-winter conference attendees received the Budget vs actuals for fiscal year 2025 and a proposed budget for review for fiscal year 2026. The current budget shows that we have about \$12,000 profit to date although some major bills are not yet paid. We have 50% membership received and usually have 85% received by the end of the fiscal year. Right now, it looks like we will end the year within budget.

The budget for next year is being formatted to ensure that everyone who is required to attend a conference, convention or other official event such as the National President's visit will have their lodging paid for. We will update the budget in early April and request the DEC to approve it before the end of the fiscal year, April 30.

Our accountant is ill and will not be returning to work. His partner cannot pick up all his clients. We explained to the conference that we would not be able to find a new accountant before the filing date for the IRS return of March 15. The finance committee with the Treasurer will prepare and file the 990. With luck we would then file the short 990 for May and June and change the fiscal year to end

June 30. During the summer we will try to find a new accountant. In the meantime, the finance committee has three people interested in being on the internal audit team and will be getting that functional.

Suzette Greaves has expressed an interest in becoming Treasurer and I am working with her so she can become familiar with the work and be ready to hit the ground running if she is appointed. She has considerable accounting experience.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Davis  
[vermonter@charter.net](mailto:vermonter@charter.net)

Help me to fling my life like a flaming firebrand into the gathering darkness of the world. -Albert Schweitzer

## **PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Election of Unit Officers

The time is coming soon when the units will be electing officers for the new year. Unit elections and all unit business must be conducted following the unit's bylaws and State non-profit laws. All members are entitled to have a copy of the units Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules.

Remember the units Bylaws can not conflict with Federal, State or Local Laws or regulations as well as Department and ALA National Constitution and Bylaws.

I would encourage each one to think about running for an office in your unit. If you want to learn how Units and Department run, getting involved in your unit is the first step. If you have never held an office I would encourage you to start at Sgt at Arms, then Chaplain, then Secretary or Treasure on up to Vice President, and then President. Doing each Office will give you new things to learn every year. You can also hold a unit Chairmanship along with those Offices. This will give you the opportunity to move on to District President and then get involved in the Department. Each step is a learning opportunity for members. Make your desire to hold an office to the nomination committee in your unit. If your unit

does not have  
a nomination committee, stand up and state that  
you would like to hold an office.

I wish the best for all unit's elections, let's move up  
the ladder and give others a chance to hold an  
office.

Candy Huseman, Parliamentarian, PDP PNEC  
224 Shattuck Hill Rd. Lot G1  
Newport, Vermont 05859  
Tel. 802-624-4183  
[Sw1candy@yahoo.com](mailto:Sw1candy@yahoo.com)

## POPPY

Hi everyone,  
I hope you all enjoyed the Midwinter conference. I  
encourage the PDPs to let me know if I do or say  
something incorrectly or if there are ways I can  
improve. We should utilize our PDPs for our  
benefit, as we have some great leaders among us.  
Please remember that the Poppy posters are due to  
me no later than April 1, 2025. I will have three past  
department presidents judging the submissions.  
Regarding the Corsage/Artwork competition held  
at Midwinter, I noticed that very few people voted  
when the results were being counted. If I hold this  
chairmanship again, I will select three past  
department or district presidents to judge the  
Corsages and Artwork. I will bring this up at the  
Dec meeting if a vote is necessary. We have many  
talented members in our organization, and their  
contributions deserve recognition.

Thank you!  
Lillian Perry  
Poppy Chairmanship  
[Tanbrett1@aol.com](mailto:Tanbrett1@aol.com)  
802-760-8112  
802-244-5004

## 1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT

Greetings All, Hope all is well with everyone. Mid-  
Winter was a Successful Conference it was great  
seeing everyone.  
Hope to see who can make it to Mission Training in  
Boston Mass February 1 2025.

Bristol #19 - Steak Shoots Wednesday, February 19,  
2025. They will be having a basket raffle.  
Enosburgh # 42 - Annual Valentines Prime Rib  
Dinner & Dance Monday, February 10, 2025, 6 pm -  
10 pm \$25.00 per person.  
Middlebury #27 - Wednesday Nights Bingo  
Unit 1 is preparing Valentine cards with a gift card  
for our local Veterans. We are also preparing for a  
Basket Party and the flyer is attached.

For God & Country And Our Veterans  
Rebecca Moricette  
District 1 President  
29 Griswold Dr  
Rutland, Vt 05701  
802-377-0231  
[rebeccamoricette@yahoo.com](mailto:rebeccamoricette@yahoo.com)

## 2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT

Hello, I want to take time to thank the units in my  
District that attended our Mid-Winter Conference.  
As you can see, membership wise we are doing  
well. Just keep up the good work. Keeping this  
short and brief due to recovering from Covid, there  
is one issue, I want to raise communication. I  
started calling and emailing my unit presidents for  
details on what has been happening within your  
units for my mid-winter report and I only received  
responses from 4 units. If we are to be successful  
communication is needed for us to strive. Keep on  
working on membership and always remember I  
am here to support you. Thank you.

For God and our Veterans,  
Shori McKinnon,  
District 2 Auxiliary President  
[mckinnonshori@gmail.com](mailto:mckinnonshori@gmail.com)  
603-331-5585

## 3<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT

Hello everyone  
Barre Unit#10  
Visiting the schools for the Poppy Poster Contest.  
Shannon thank you for keeping me updated.

Northfield Unit# 63  
Friday night dinners  
Waterbury Unit 59  
Line dancing Sundays 3:00-5:00  
20.00 per class.  
Units sell food when the Riders have their monthly  
bingo. Come join in the fun!  
All units are working diligently on our mission.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

We all know how important membership is. We  
have goals and in District Three, we want to be in  
the first place.

In the Spirit, of Service, not self,  
Lillian Perry  
Third District President  
[Tanbrett1@aol.com](mailto:Tanbrett1@aol.com)  
802-244-5004  
802-760-8112

### **4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT**

Hello folks,  
Fresh from Midwinter conference, I send greetings.  
Here is what is going on in District 4.  
On March 16th Unit 49 in Fair Haven will hold  
their Birthday Dinner.  
Unit 55 in Brandon is Planning a Valentines Dance  
and Basket raffle in conjunction with SAL  
Squadron 55 mid-February. Call Jeanne Lamarre  
regarding tickets.  
Unit 29 in Readsboro will be helping with a Pitch  
Tournament on February 9th at their Post.  
Crippen Fellows Unit 50 in Castleton will host a  
Corned Beef dinner at their Post on March 14th  
please join us for good food and Fellowship. Unit  
50 is also going to have a third Veterans Luncheon  
in April details to come.  
Lauren Lloyd the Eastern Division Vice President  
of the Auxiliary will be visiting in March and West  
Rutland Unit 87 will host a Luncheon for her on  
Sunday March 23rd.  
The National Auxiliary President is coming to visit  
Vermont in April Details to come.  
To all of our District Units please keep pushing to  
get memberships in, the sooner the better! It was so  
nice to see so many District 4 members at  
Midwinter Conference.

Yours in the Spirit of Service not self,  
Christine Pouliot  
ALA District 4 President  
Ph: 774-254-2091  
Email: [horsewoman5454@yahoo.com](mailto:horsewoman5454@yahoo.com)

### **5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT**

**(No Bulletin Message omitted)**

For Our Veterans,  
Sandra Brown  
5<sup>TH</sup> District President  
802-478-4704  
[sb1122id@gmail.com](mailto:sb1122id@gmail.com)

### **AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND**

Dear Unit Presidents & Unit AEF Chairs:  
Attached please find a fundraising template in  
Word that you can modify to change the name of  
the person and address where you want the funds  
to be sent for record keeping purposes.  
This is a simple fundraiser where you print the  
page out on card stock after you have made your  
changes and ask Unit members to "sell" each date  
until the calendar is full. For example, if someone  
chooses the 5th, they will pay \$5.00 and put an "x"  
through the box for the 5th. More than one person  
can share the larger boxes so that you can fill all of  
them. Once you have sold all of the boxes you will  
have raised \$496.00 for the AEF on behalf of your  
Unit!  
I would recommend that you print out a sample  
application for both the disaster and hardship  
funds so that you can educate your members and  
any others who are willing to donate on what the  
fund covers and how to apply. Please emphasize  
that all applications can be made directly to  
National online in order to protect the privacy of  
the applicants. In addition, please make sure you  
educate your donors on what information must be  
provided in order to submit a complete application  
and receive a determination as quickly as possible.  
Please contact me if you have any questions or if I  
can help in any way and thank you for your  
continued hard work on behalf of the National

Auxiliary Emergency Fund!

Sincerely,

Jacqui Hood, Department of Vermont AEF Chair &  
Eastern Region AEF Chair

Phone – (802) 782-8766 and Cell – (949) 400-8714

E-mail – [jacquih@comcast.net](mailto:jacquih@comcast.net)

## AMERICANISM

Greetings All, I hope you're all staying warm.

National has an Americanism challenge out- You're

A Grand Old Flag Challenge!

We are going to Continuing Our Americanism Flag

Picture Challenge! Please text, email or print

pictures 4 by 6 inches. 3 pictures per person!

Mid-Winter Conference Americanism Flag Contest

Winners were:

First Place- Green Mountain #1    Second Place-

Middlebury #27    Third Place- Bennington #13

Awesome Job everyone, We had a lot of Great

Pictures!

For God & Country And Our Veterans

Rebecca Moricette

Americanism Chairman

29 Griswold Dr

Rutland, Vt 05701

802-377-0231

[rebeccamoricette@yahoo.com](mailto:rebeccamoricette@yahoo.com)

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

Hello Auxiliary Members!

I hope you are well and staying warm as this cold front is moving in on us. We won't let that slow us down though!

At my last National Zoom meeting, Chair Lisa Chaplin announced they would be sending out 50 branded sacks to the first 10 Units to respond to an email she would be sending out at a later date. These branded sacks are to be used for the "Stuff a Sack" Program that National is promoting. The basic idea is we are to fill these sacks with whatever items we want which will benefit the Children & Youth in our communities

and States, and then decide where to donate them.

When the email came out, I thought I was doing well to have responded within 20 minutes. A few days later I received an email from Lisa thanking me and informing me I was the 11th Department to respond. How sad that I missed it by 1.

A couple weeks later, she emailed me again to let me know one of the first 10 responders had backed out and Vermont was now eligible to receive the 50 branded sacks! I'm so excited we are able to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity! I've not received them yet, but am told they will be sent soon. So, while we wait, I wanted to present this opportunity to you. If your Unit is interested in receiving some of these branded sacks, please email me, and I will put your Unit on the list! All I ask is that you submit pictures and tell me where your Unit is donating these sacks.

I am also pleased to announce that many of our Units have submitted (and received) the Good Deed or Hero Awards for the youth in our area. If you have someone you would like to nominate for the award, please log onto the National American Legion Auxiliary website and fill out the online application. Here is the link ([Youth Hero/Good Deed Award Nomination - Formstack](#)).

Looking forward, remember April is the month of the Military Child. We've been asked to work with our local governments to have either the month or the day officially declared as Military Child Month/Day. It's not too soon or too late to contact your mayor or city council to honor our Military Children.

Has your Unit risen to the Quarter Challenge to help fund the Child Well-Being Foundation? Remember to send in one quarter per Unit member (please send to Department and list Quarter Challenge on your Memo line)! This will also help you in your goal to meeting the Vermont Loves Children and Youth requirements. You all are doing amazing work, and we ARE making an impact and a difference.

For God, Country and Our Veterans

Charith Zickmund

Barre Unit #10

[cez913@gmail.com](mailto:cez913@gmail.com)

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

With a New Year starting very soon - I encourage your Unit to challenge your Posts and Sals with a community service project. You can make it simple or as hard as you wish.

Please keep good records of hours and activity for year-end reporting.

For God, Country, and our Veterans,

Sharon L. Corey

[Vtlambhill@vermontel.net](mailto:Vtlambhill@vermontel.net)

802-325-3234

## CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS & STANDING RULES

Hi, this is a rehash of my mid-winter presentation. Some basics...every member is entitled to have easy access to their Unit's Constitution and Bylaws and Standing Rules and that applies to any organization you are a member of.

Every member is entitled to know of and be able to vote on changes to these documents.

If your Unit doesn't have a constitution and bylaws chair, the secretary would incorporate changes once they are properly warned to all members and approved by the membership present.

### **What are and what's in your Constitution and Bylaws**

I'm giving these examples and using the Unit, but the principles are the same for a department and national organization.

The Constitution is the written document outlining the fundamental principles, structure, and operational guidelines of the unit, including its mission, goals, membership rules, board structure, decision-making processes, and procedures for amending the constitution itself; essentially serving as the foundational legal document for the organization's operations and governance. As such, your constitution seldom changes. If you find you are frequently changing your constitution, then perhaps you have items that belong in your bylaws or standing rules instead. Changes must be properly warned and voted on at your annual meeting.

Example your new member is reading the Constitution, and it states that the Unit shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, Edition 10. Roberts Rules of Order's most current edition is edition 12. That member brings up at the meeting that that section of the constitution needs updating and recommends that the wording be changed to Roberts Rules of Order Current edition. The group discusses and agrees to warn the membership of the current wording, what the change is, and how the proposed change would read if accepted. Also included in the notice should be the date, time and place of where the vote is being held. The Chair/secretary goes to the Constitution to verify how to warn the membership...is it by letter or newsletter notification (only if every member receives one) and how much notice needs to be given (typically two weeks to one month from the vote). So...notice is sent out, voting day arrives. At the meeting the chair/secretary reads the current way it is written, reads it with changes and reads how the change will read if passes the vote. You must have an approval of two-thirds of the members present to change the constitution. Bylaws contain the basic rules of the unit and outline the authority of committees, voting rights, and membership termination procedures. Changes to your bylaws are probably more frequent and should also be properly warned and voted on following the same process of the Constitution...properly warned, presented at the meeting and requires a two-thirds majority. Standing rules relate to the details of the administration of the unit outlining procedures and operating policies. Their purpose is to supplement and interpret the bylaws. They would be where it is more likely to put funding dollar amounts, as Standing Rules are more flexible than bylaws and can be presented and voted on at a regular meeting with the proper quorum. So proper quorum. Do you know what your unit's quorum is? Any business conducted at a meeting without a proper quorum is a discussion. Business can't be voted on. Also, minutes to a meeting that have not been voted upon at the next meeting means your meeting didn't happen. Basically, what you had was an informal discussion. Your minutes are part

of your unit's legal documents stating at a minimum the question and result of the vote.

### **Things to think about...**

Do your bylaws have a process for disciplinary proceedings? Do they state what the proper notice for discipline is and an opportunity for those involved to be heard?

"Should" and "may" have no place in your governing documents. If the word "should" is anywhere in your governing documents, you need to take it out of your C&B. Remember: Your governing documents state the fundamentals of your unit. These rules and procedures should be as clear as possible, and the words "should" and "may" leave far too much room for interpretation. Consider swapping those words with "must" or "shall."

Organizational governing documents are so important because they state the fundamental purpose, structure, and limits of an organization, as well as containing the procedures the organization must follow to conduct business effectively and efficiently. Up to date, well-written, clear, and concise governing documents help to clarify authorities, outline responsibilities, and can ultimately serve to solve issues before they become problems. Your governing documents matter, and they should be looked at in depth at least once a year.

What happens if your Constitution and your Bylaws contradict each other...which do you use? (According to Robert Rules of Order the Constitution supersedes Bylaws.)

When do you use Roberts Rules of Order? They are used for parliamentary procedure and for any question in which the process is not laid out in your governing documents.

Can you transact business between meetings? (If your bylaws have a provision for such...such as the executive committee can transact a specific item and, if monetary, an amount so noted in your standing rules.)

If National makes changes to their governing documents, Units mirror those changes such as membership criteria, those can automatically be updated in your unit documents without going to the floor for a vote. However, you should explain to your unit members what changed and why.

### **Housekeeping:**

All Units, please ensure that a copy of your C/B & SR are sent to department to be stored. Our Bylaws require it and the Department frequently gets calls when officers change as things get lost.

Pam Norton

C& B Chair

[norton@middlebury.edu](mailto:norton@middlebury.edu)

802.349.6866

## **EDUCATION**

**Hello American Legion Dept. of VT Auxiliary Members,**

My February Education Report is about **Scholarships, Winter Warmth, and Friendship Day.**

→ *The Education Program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's role in providing quality education for children and adults through classroom activities, literacy programs, scholarship promotion and support of education beyond high school, especially for military children.*

**The 2024-2025 Scholarship information was placed in the packets that were given to Unit Presidents at the ALA VT January Mid-Winter Conference. Scholarships have MARCH, APRIL and MAY, 2025 deadlines, so it is important to get these Scholarship Applications into the hands of high school Seniors right now.**

You can contact your local high school's Guidance Department to discuss the best way to get these Scholarship Applications information into the hands of learners. You could set up a meeting with a Guidance Counselor and bring the Scholarship Applications to the school. You could send the Scholarship Applications to the high school's Guidance Department as an email attachment. You could share the Scholarship Applications at your ALA Membership meeting and members could share them relatives and with friends. **Please note that most Scholarship applications are submitted online and the instructions for submitting the application are written on the application.** Please read this information so it is clear to you should your help be needed. If the Scholarship Application states for you to submit the application to the ALA VT Department Education Chairperson,

that's me! You can scan and submit the Scholarship to my email address as an attachment. Once you have handed out the ALA Scholarship Applications and information please send the **due date reminders** to the schools. In January I had an ALA National Education Zoom Meeting and all ALA Education Committee Chairpersons on Zoom were looking for more ideas to get the Scholarship information into the hands of students. The American Legion Auxiliary believes that the more knowledge our young people gain, the better citizens they will become.

Does your ALA Unit have a Scholarship? Does your ALA unit want to offer a Scholarship?

**For more information about each of these Scholarship points you can visit:**

<https://www.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Education/How-to-Create-a-Unit-Scholarship-Fund>

The **ALA VT WINTER WARMTH Project** was very successful. Several ALA VT Units participated in their community **WINTER WARMTH Project**. Many hats, mittens, scarves, jackets, boots, lap blankets and more were delivered to area schools, Veterans, homeless shelters and Nursing Home facilities. This **WINTER WARMTH Project is so appreciated by all who receive the donations and it is also a great opportunity to MARKET ALA VT! We are here to SERVE.**

 What will your ALA VT UNIT do to spread **FRIENDSHIP** to Veterans on **VALENTINE'S DAY?** At January 2025 Mid-Winter Conference, ALA VT Members attending created Valentine's Day cards for Veterans. You could ask school children to make Valentine's Day Cards or Posters for Veterans. What they create for a Veteran makes the learners smile and will also put a smile on the faces of Veterans. You could also bring Valentine coloring pages and activity pages to the Veterans to have for their Activity Time. **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!**

For God and Country,

Donna Stone

234 Simeon Dean Road Shaftsbury, VT 05262

802-442-4314

[dlstone764@gmail.com](mailto:dlstone764@gmail.com)

## FINANCE

We are working on the budget for the 2025-2026 year and a fundraising Scratch off Ticket Board raffle to be drawn at the Department Convention. Each Auxiliary was given 10 tickets to sell or purchase at \$10 per ticket. The prize is \$200 worth of scratch off tickets and a \$100 bill. Please sell or purchase the tickets given to your auxiliary, if you need more, please contact the Department. Your sold ticket and the money should be sent to the Department Headquarters.

Christine Brown,  
Finance Committee chairman

## GREEN MOUNTAIN GIRLS STATE (ALAGMGS)

Hello Auxiliary Members,  
ALAGMGS 2025 Session will be June 22-27, 2025. Staff Arrives on June 21/22 (depending on your schedule). We will have both Staff and Delegate applications available by the end of January, but in the meantime if you are interested in being a staff member, please let me know. I understand taking off a full week of work may be tough, so if you can only commit a couple of days that is great too. We just need you to fill out the application and commit to being there on the days you say you are available (pending any emergency heaven forbid might happen). We rely on staff to be there because otherwise we are unable to hold our session since we need staff (aka chaperones). We require a background check and Sexual & Molestation (SAMs) training as well. Moving forward we will not be handing out physical copies of packets that typically get sent out at Mid-Winter Conference. Instead, we will be emailing them to everyone, so please be sure to send in your officer sheets and list your Chairperson for Girls State. We will send them out to the President and Girls State Chair.

Thanks  
Tasha Bouvier  
ALAGMGS Chairperson

## JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

I would like to start by saying thank you. For the awesome job at the White Table Ceremony, we put on at mid-winter. Zoie and Savannah Hardwick JR Unit 7 and Louis and Damian Vergennes Squadron 14. Here are some pictures



### 2024-2025 ALA Mission Training & National Junior Meetings Boston – February 1

If you are going, can you please send me pictures and report of what you learned. I would love to hear all about it. I would like to put it in my March Bulletin

Thank you  
Deborah (Debbie) Gilmond  
ALA Dept. Junior Activities Chairperson  
cell phone 802-578-5995  
911 Georgia Mtn Rd, Fairfax, VT 05454  
email; [mimi2ninedg@gmail.com](mailto:mimi2ninedg@gmail.com)



## LEADERSHIP

**“Leadership by example is one of the most powerful ways to inspire others. Whether through your actions, words, or attitude, showing others what is possible can have a profound impact.”**

— Ginny Chaput, Eastern Division Leadership Chairman

I hope that all of you had a wonderful and meaningful time during the mid-winter conference! There were two leadership committee items to share.

First, as previously voted upon by the DEC members, some of the leadership funds were used to purchase a set of the ALA challenge deck cards for each unit in Vermont. We are the only state where all of our units purchased them! The 46-card deck includes descriptions and links to additional resources for all ALA’s programs, including the Veteran Projects Fund the ALA’s national focus for the 2024-2025 administrative year. Each card includes examples of how Auxiliary members can engage with a particular program and a QR code that links to the website or the National Program Engagement Plan.

Second, the Department of Vermont has reassigned responsibility for choosing the Vermont Unit Member of the Year and presenting the individual and Unit awards to the Department Leadership Chairman. This was done officially at the Executive Committee meeting at our mid-winter conference. All of the units in Vermont are strongly encouraged to nominate one of their unit members.

Before the mid-winter conference, one of the units asked me for further clarification on one of the application criteria, which I will answer below for everyone’s information. Specifically, they wanted to know if a unit member who is also a department chairman is eligible to be nominated for Unit Member of the Year.

Application criterion in question:

7. **Service** – *The member cannot have obtained an elected or appointed leadership role higher than the Unit President.*

**Answer from Barb Washburn from Nationals:** Per the rules on the unit member of the year

nomination page, the following *requirements when applying to this award:* It is *Open to senior members who are not currently, nor have ever been, in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than the unit president.* Therefore, department chairmen are ***not*** eligible to be nominated for this award.

**Deadlines/Important Dates:**

- April 15: Unit Report due to Department Chair
- April 26: Unit Member of the Year recipient’s luncheon
- May 15: Department Chairman Report due to the National Committee

Krista Chadwick

Leadership Chairman

[kristachadwick577@gmail.com](mailto:kristachadwick577@gmail.com)

## LEGISLATIVE

Happy February Auxiliary Members,

This message contains a lot of information, especially if you are interested in any of American Legion's legislative activities. Copy and paste the links in your browser to become informed.

\*Voter Voice Campaigns have been suspended in order to gather statistics from the closing of the 118th Congress. New Campaigns will be published to align with the legislative priorities set for the 119th Congress.

Have you had a recent meeting or phone call with your member of Congress? Report your contact today! Click [here](#) to register your Congressional contact and demonstrate the power of The American Legion advocacy in action.

GRASSROOTS INFORMATION

Interested in what the Legion is advocating for in Congress on *The Veteran's Role in Supporting the Military*? Check out [our information paper](#) in the [Legislative Toolkit](#). This is a great starting point for a conversation with your elected officials!

As part of our ongoing Grassroots efforts, LegDiv staff is available to provide **Grassroots**

**Training** tailored to the hosting Department’s needs. If you are interested in hosting a Grassroots training event, please

contact [grassroots@legion.org](mailto:grassroots@legion.org) or [ejohnson@legion.org](mailto:ejohnson@legion.org).

Register for Action Alerts today at <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Re-gister>

You can find relevant legislation and the Legion's stance on them in the [legislation section of VoterVoice!](#)

**February 22-26, 2025** – The American Legion's 65th Annual Washington Conference will be held at the Washington Hilton Hotel. This conference provides an opportunity for Legionnaires to meet with their respective lawmakers and hear from members of Congress and VA leadership. The National Commander will also address attendees on legislative priorities during the National Commander's Rally. More details, such as agendas and schedules, will be updated [here](#).

I am sure I will have information to share when I am back from this trip.

Please take care.

For God and Country

Denise Colety, Legislative Chair, Department of Vermont

Denise M. Colety (Dee)

-President, Green Mountain Hometown Heroes Board

[greemountainhometownheroes@gmail.com](mailto:greemountainhometownheroes@gmail.com)

-Member of ALA Unit 13, Bennington, Vermont

-Member of ALR, Chapter 13, Bennington, Vermont

-4th District Rep, ALR, Department of Vermont

-Past District 4 President

-Past Unit President

## MEMBERSHIP

One Hundred Percent Membership, that is of course our goal. To meet or exceed 100% Auxiliary Members for every Unit. Every District. Every Department. 100 Percent. Top of the flagpole! This year our Dept President has raised the rope offering every VT Unit that achieves 100% 2025 Aux Membership by Convention to receive a free 3x5 Outdoor American Flag. It was an honor to present Northland Unit 47 of District 2 with the first Unit Award achievement at our Midwinter Conference.

We have Four Units within 6 members to achieve 100%: Barton 76, Donald McMahon 64, Nelson

Pickwell 15, and Cecil A Davis 17!

I continue to wave attention to the ALA MIS program, encouraging any unit interested in online access to update or process dues. Currently we have 24 units registered with Full Access in VT proving this a game changing option.

Websites your Dept Chair suggests you have bookmarked.

[VTAuxiliary.org](http://VTAuxiliary.org)

[ALAGMGS.com](http://ALAGMGS.com)

[Legion-Aux.org](http://Legion-Aux.org)

National logins are individual, any member can pay their own dues online, print their membership card, print off applications, and view all the benefits of ALA Membership with scholarships, grants, and opportunities. Check it out and share with others.

💧 Water you waiting for?

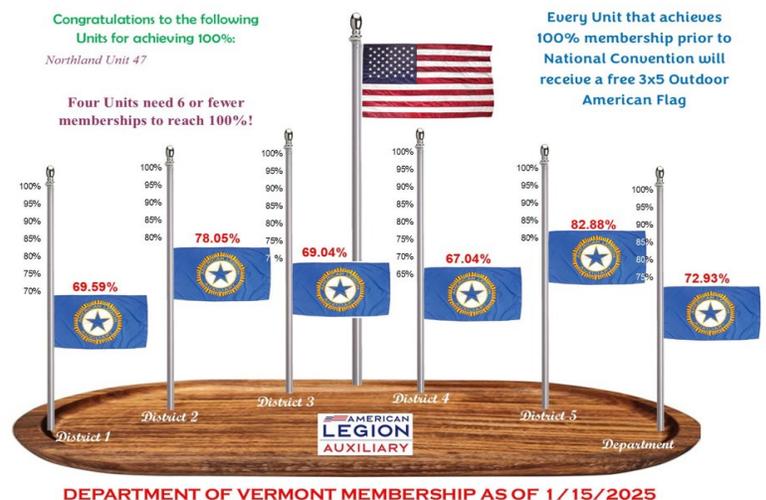
~Danielle Many

(802)989-1816

[DanielleMany3@gmail.com](mailto:DanielleMany3@gmail.com)

ALA Colchester Unit 91 Historian

ALA Dept of VT Membership Chair



## NATIONAL SECURITY (No Bulletin Message omitted)

Christine Bousquet

[bousquetc879@gmail.com](mailto:bousquetc879@gmail.com)

603-333-7248

## PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

Greetings Members,

I am looking forward to our Past President's Parlay Tea coming up in June. So, I'd like to remind everyone to get those Member of the Year applications to our Leadership Chairman as this award has been transferred to them. This Department Program also sponsors an annual Nursing Scholarship for a high school student attending college for Nursing or another closely related healthcare field.

I also would love to receive more Unit's honor their Unit Presidents and their achievements this past year. Please send me an email explaining why your Unit President is the Best Ever...I would love to see every Unit send me their Unit President's bio! The winner will get a special prize at the Tea in June!

In the Spirit of Service, Not Self...

Debi Graziano

Past President's Parlay

[debispot@gardener.com/802-868-7920](mailto:debispot@gardener.com/802-868-7920)

4253 VT RTE 78 Highgate Center, VT 05459

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

While a focus on goodwill in the American Legion Auxiliary generally relates to civility, being respectful of fellow members' opinions and ideas, and just plain being nice, also has a strong connection to membership.

With 22 million veterans currently living in the U.S., recruiting new members into the ALA is a sense of obligation for all of us. When we meet prospective members eligible to join our wonderful organization, we paint a bright picture of the ALA with hopes of these interested folks submitting an application to join. And what about membership retention? What is your unit doing to engage its current members?

Consider these tips when it comes to making membership meaningful in the spirit of goodwill, for both current members and those considering joining:

**Have a return policy.** Consider delegating two people from your unit as the points of contact for

all things membership. And return those phone calls, emails, and social media messages from people interested in your local ALA! It's crucial to respond to inquiries from the public. A phone call that's left ignored or a voice mailbox that's full and won't accept new messages, for example, can turn a prospective member off immediately. These people may justifiably wonder: *Why would I join an organization that doesn't care enough to tell me more about themselves or how I can make a difference?* Returning messages in a timely manner shows you care and value that person's interest in joining the ALA.

**Get serious – with email, that is.** As American Legion Auxiliary members, we witness firsthand the sad situations that may befall some of the veterans, servicemembers, and families we serve. We know it's important to have fun when we can. But it's equally essential to take ourselves seriously so the public will too. Consider how it looks when the unit president's email account or social media handle is grandmagiggles88 vs.

ALAUnitPresident235.

**Be a (membership) card shark.** A large problem in the ALA is dues being paid by members at the unit level and not reaching National Headquarters for a variety of reasons. Units not cashing membership checks or submitting them in a timely manner to the department open the ALA organization to financial risk. And membership numbers could be a lot higher than they appear, solely due to remittance issues. The quickest way to avoid this problem? Pay online or by phone. The benefits include convenience, instantaneous acknowledgement that the member's dues have been received, and it allows a member to immediately self-print her valid membership card. Paying online is secure and takes only a couple of minutes.

**Breakdown at the bartender.** This individual is often the point person for phone calls and visitors coming to your Legion post home social club activities. In some cases, the bartender is not a member of The American Legion Family. This person should, however, be welcoming and have a certain knowledge of how Legion Family membership is processed. Consider keeping a laminated card containing post/unit/squadron leader contact information, scholarships if

applicable, and other vital membership information at the bar for quick reference.

**Promote events and activities creatively.** The post home is not the bar, but if that's where a lot of your members go, have you made an outreach effort to promote upcoming mission-related service projects or events? What about having membership applications displayed prominently at the entrance? Make sure your post home has a significant amount of American Legion Family applications (you can order them through your department) displayed in a high-traffic area. Go behind closed doors to promote activities – affix clear plastic frames to bathroom stalls. No one will miss your messaging!

Melodie Ashford – McGrath  
Public Relations Chair  
[melodielynn@gmail.com](mailto:melodielynn@gmail.com)

## SERVICE TO VETERANS

Service to Veterans  
Mid-Winter was a good one. It was nice to see you all. John Tester, you rock as our ALA President 2024 “Christmas Stockings for Veterans” program update; reported to me = 250 filled stockings + 129 mini filled stocking ornaments. I will report 379 stockings delivered throughout our state. Thank you to all our units and unit members who supported this project. I estimate \$25 for regular size filled stocking, and \$10 a mini stocking ornament. The value of our program I have estimated \$8,540.00. ALA Vermont Way to Go! Be sure to add your unit's information on our ALA Tracking Worksheet.

I want to again thank everyone who helped making our VVH 2024 “Gift Shop” a memorable event. I estimate we gifted over \$5000.00 to our veterans and their families.

Suggestions for Items needed for our VVH 2025 “Gift Shop”, Ball caps, Red Sox, Yankee, etc. Suspenders, Watches, Electric Razors, Socks, Mittens, Gloves, Hats for both men and women. They loved the boxes of

Whitman Samplers, for themselves and as gifts for their families along with the Christmas Amaryllis bulbs. I hope this helps.

Valentine's Day, another day to show how much we love our veterans. I understand Unit 1 is making “Goodie Bags” great idea! We made Valentines for our veterans at Mid-Winter. Feb 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> is “National Salute to our Veteran Patients”, perfect timing for Valentine sending. I am going to make chocolate hearts, a tray full of cookies left at you post with a valentine signed by your unit is a thought.

Holidays and Observances February 2025:

Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Four Chaplains Day – A Day to remember the four U.S. Army chaplains who made the ultimate sacrifice when the USAT Dorchester sank during World War II.  
Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> – USO Birthday  
Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup> – National Salute to Veteran Patients  
Feb.14 – Valentine's Day  
Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> - Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

Tax time! Check to see where taxes are prepared for our veterans and spread the word.

Flu and Covid are roaring through again. Speak with our veterans, see if they need help getting their boosters. Help keeping them safe by getting yours.

Depression is constant for many of our beloved Veterans.' **BE THE ONE**, “Awareness matters” **VETERANS CRISIS LINE - DIAL 988 then PRESS 1**

In the Spirit of Service, Not Self  
Darlene Cumm, Service to Veterans Chair  
Bennington Unit 13 President  
(802) 442-8680  
[darlencumm@gmail.com](mailto:darlencumm@gmail.com)

## TROPHIES & AWARDS

Greetings Members...

We are finally ready for Trophy & Awards

applications as our Past Presidents had PDP Fran Massey help out with having all awards revamped, making it easier to understand the verbiage and requirements. The decision was made by our PDPs to remove any award or trophy from a Past President after 5 years of their passing. These awards or trophy's will be retired to the Unit of the PDP and/or their family. Remember that all trophy's and/or awards have a specific person/place to send it to. Unit chairs must send their end of year reports to the correct chairman or to Department Directly. The Department chairs will send the top 3 reports to Department, where 2 Past Department Presidents and 1 Unit President (Chosen by the T&A Chair) will judge all entries in private. The Trophy & Award Chair will not be part of this judging. If there are any questions on the end of year report that is not pertaining to your Units achievements will be written in as N/A. Please read directions carefully!

The Leadership Chairman now has the application for Unit Member of the Year. We would like to see every Unit apply for this award! Let's celebrate our members by every Unit recognizing that special member who goes above and beyond!

If your Unit has a Trophy, they should have been turned in at Mid-Winter Conference. If you still have one, please bring it to the Department ASAP. Thank You all for everything you do to further our mission! Any questions, please contact me...

Debi Graziano/Trophy & Award Chairman  
[debispot@gardener.com](mailto:debispot@gardener.com)  
802-868-7920

## **VETERANS REHAB**

**(No Bulletin Message omitted)**

Liz Young,  
Veterans rehab chair

## **VAVS**

Greeting to all of the members of the American Legion auxiliary.

Thank you to everybody who helped make the Mid-Winter Conference a successful event.

42 Gift cards were given out to Veterans at the VA

Hospital in White River Junction, instead of the annual gift shop. We hope to be able to have our gift shop in 2025. More info to follow on this. Also, we will be adding coats and jackets to the Tree of Warmth event and the gift shop. I would ask that each unit do a coat drive for this purpose. New items are needed for the VA Hospital. But new or gently used can be donated for shelters and homeless veterans. You can email me or call me and we can arrange to get them from you.. Thank you again for your continued support of our programs to benefit our Veterans and their families.

For Service not Self  
Patsy Tompkins  
VAVS  
[riley917@myfairpoint.net](mailto:riley917@myfairpoint.net)  
1-802-525-6565

## **POLICY & PROCEDURES**

Policy & Procedures

Hello everyone! The Policy & Procedures committee has met a couple of times to discuss clearing up some of our Policy & Procedures. If anyone has any suggestions for what they would like in our Policy & Procedures, please feel free to reach out to me and I will be glad to bring it to the committee. All department Chairmen, please feel free to reach out and give me a description of any tasks you must complete during your year as chair. For example, any contest you hold, scholarships you give out, etc. This will help us for future chairmen to know what will be expected of them as a chairman. I appreciate any help you can give to make things smoother for all future volunteers. In the Spirit of Service, Not Self....

PDP Francisca Massey  
802-661-8690  
[franciscacech@yahoo.com](mailto:franciscacech@yahoo.com)

## UD&R

Here's some tips

Give your full attention to the other person, acknowledge what they're saying and respond thoughtfully. Be willing to try different solutions if the first ones don't work. Work together to find creative solutions that benefit everyone.

Communicate with others without upsetting them or yourself. If you can't find a win win solution, try to reach a compromise. Check in with the people involved to make sure the resolution is working. Make sure everyone has a chance to share their concerns and preferences.

Anne Marie MacEachern  
UD&R chairman  
[Anne.maceachern@mail.com](mailto:Anne.maceachern@mail.com)

## WAYS & MEANS

Hello everyone, Like to start out by saying how nice it was to see everyone, and all the hard work and the talent used to create baskets and items for the Way n Means raffle table. Congratulations to all the lucky winners. The Ways n Means did very well between the raffle, the 50 / 50 plus the NEW and exciting Items that were purchased. I want to apologies that I did not make of a copy of the totals before packing up. I will get the grand total for next month Bulletin.

Thank you,  
Sarah Touchette  
Dept. Ways N Means

## MEMORIAM

**In memory of our departed Auxiliary members:**

**UNIT 64 Barbara Scribner**

**UNIT 25 Kathy L Smith**

**UNIT 05 Thelma N. Underwood**

**UNIT 49 Dorothy E Brothers**





## Department of Vermont

### SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Event	Who	Time	Where
2/1-2	Sat. & Sun.	Mission Training	All members	TBD	Boston, MA
2/3	Monday	Four Chaplains Day			
2/10	Monday	Town Hall Meeting	District Presidents, Unit Officers, all members	7:00pm	Zoom
2/17	Monday	Presidents Day			
2/18	Tuesday	Finance Meeting	Finance Committee	7:00pm	Zoom
3/10	Monday	Town Hall Meeting	Dept. Officers, Chairman	7:00pm	Zoom
3/17	Monday	St. Patrick's Day			
3/18	Tuesday	Finance Meeting	Finance Committee	7:00pm	Zoom
3/21-23	Fri-Sun	EDNVP Visit	All Members		
4/14	Monday	Town Hall Meeting	District Presidents, Unit Officers, all members	7:00pm	Zoom
4/15	Tuesday	Finance Meeting	Finance Committee	7:00pm	Zoom
4/16-20	Wed-Sun	National Presidents Visit	All Members		
4/20	Sunday	Easter	Unit Easter Egg Hunts!		
5/11	Sunday	Happy Mother's Day!			
5/12	Monday	Town Hall Meeting	Dept. Officers, Chairman	7:00pm	Zoom
5/20	Tuesday	Finance Meeting	Finance Committee	7:00pm	Zoom
5/26	Monday	Memorial Day			
6/9	Monday	Town Hall Meeting	District Presidents, Unit Officers, all members	7:00pm	Zoom

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Where</u>
6/14	Saturday	Flag Day			
6/17	Tuesday	Finance Meeting	Finance Committee	7:00pm	Zoom
6/19	Thursday	Auxiliary Convention	All Members	TBD	Hampton Inn
6/20	Friday	Auxiliary Convention	All Members	TBD	Hampton Inn
6/21	Saturday	Auxiliary Convention	All Members	TBD	Hampton Inn
6/22 – 6/27		Girls State			

Updated 1/27/2025

Schedule subject to change at any time.



# Department of Vermont Monthly Town Hall Meetings

The Town Hall meetings will take place on the second Monday of every month, except November, where it will take place on the third Monday (Veterans Day is the second Monday). They will start at **7:00pm**.

These meetings will be 100 percent virtual (Zoom). Zoom information will be emailed the first week of each month for each group attending their Town Hall meeting and will also be published monthly in the Department bulletin.

On even numbered months (August, October, December, February, April and June) the attendees will be all Unit Officers, District Presidents and any member who would like to attend.

During odd numbered months (September, November, January, March, and May), the attendees will be all Department Chairman, Department Officers and any member who would like to attend

During these meetings, we will ask each Chairman to give an update on their program, and talk about any issues, concerns, or seek advice from the President or Department Officers.

Rules for the Town Hall meetings:

1. All attendees will be put on mute by the meeting administrator.
2. If you would like to speak, please raise your hand using the Zoom function. If you are attending via phone only, the administrator will unmute you when we ask if anyone else has anything they would like to say.
3. The Town Hall meetings are not debates, nor will any motions or votes take place. They are designed for the sharing of positive information only.
4. If there are a lot of people attending the Town Hall meeting, please be respectful of their time by keeping your comments to under three minutes.
5. Ridiculing, complaining about, or demeaning any one individual or Unit will not be permitted. These types of conversations should be held privately with the appropriate parties. Town Hall meetings should **ALWAYS** be positive.
6. When it comes to talking about events, programs, or activities that are taking place, BRAG, yell from the rooftops. We want to know what's happening!

**MONDAY**

**February 10, 2025**

**7:00PM**

Zoom information:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85182951873?pwd=IRYT6LbSGf0EZU4Lrk49jgyWWNgSYa.1>

Meeting ID: 851 8295 1873

Passcode: 474566



# Eastern Division Vice President

## Lauren Lloyd Visit

Friday – Sunday March 21 - 23, 2025

### Friday, March 21

- Arrive BTV 11:58am
- Visit Unit 3 - Montpelier – **Lunch** 1:30pm
- Visit Department Headquarters (Montpelier) 3:00pm (Depart 3:45pm)
- Visit Unit 91 – Colchester 4:30pm (Depart 5:15pm)
- Visit Unit 14 – Vergennes 6:00pm (Depart 6:30pm)
- Visit Unit 19 – Bristol - **Dinner** 6:45pm

Will be staying at the home of President John Tester (Orwell, VT)

### Saturday, March 22

- Depart for **Breakfast** 7:00am
- Breakfast at Sugar and Spice, Rutland 8:00am (Depart 9:00)
- George Fox Memorial Chapel 11:30am
- **Lunch** at the Chapel 12:00pm (Depart 1:30)
- Visit Unit 30 - Lyndon (light snacks) 2:15pm (Depart 3:15)
- Visit Unit 7 - Hardwick 4:00pm (Depart 5:00)
- Visit Unit 59 – Waterbury - **Dinner** 6:00pm
- Return to President Testers Home

## **Sunday, March 23**

---

- Depart for Breakfast 7:45am
- **Breakfast** at Wheel Inn, Benson 8:00am
- Visit sugar maple operation, Benson 9:00am (Depart 11:00)
- Visit the Dodge House 11:30am (Depart 11:45)
- Visit Unit 87 – West Rutland - **Lunch** 12:00pm (Depart 1:10pm)
- Visit Maple Museum, Pittsford 1:30pm (Depart 2:30pm)
- Visit Unit 49 – Fair Haven (light snacks) 3:15pm (Depart 4:00pm)
- **Dinner** at President Tester’s Residence 4:30pm

## **Monday, March 24**

---

- Depart for breakfast 9:00am
- Breakfast at Birds Eye Diner – Castleton 9:30am
- Arrive at Rutland Regional Airport 11:00am
- Depart Rutland 12:00pm

**THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT  
ALA EASTERN DIVISION NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT DINNER**

Where: American Legion Post 19 Bristol  
56 Airport Dr  
Bristol, VT 05443

When: Friday March 21, 2025

Cocktails: 6:30 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

\$15 per person. Make checks payable to: ALA Unit 19

Mail check to:

Tasha Bouvier  
65 Pine St  
Bristol, VT 05443

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS: February 28, 2025

\*\*\*\*\*

PLEASE RESERVE:

\_\_\_\_\_ HAM or \_\_\_\_\_ TURKEY

Only one meat choice per person

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Squadron/Unit: \_\_\_\_\_



# President John Tester's Department of Vermont Presidents Project

## The Rev. George L. and Rev. Isadore H. Fox Museum



One of the immortal Four Chaplains, Rev. George L. Fox, was a resident of Vermont, and preached at a church in Gilman, Vermont. He also served as the American Legion Department of Vermont Chaplain. His wife, Isadore, was also a minister and served as the Department of Vermont Auxiliary President from 1960 to 1961 and as the ALA National Chaplain from 1970-1971.

In 2022-23, many, many organizations donated money to purchase the church that George and Isadore preached in, successfully completing the purchase in 2023. Since then, the church has been making renovations, just completing a new roof, and is planning to add a lift to reach the main floor. Part of the church building has been set aside to house the Rev. George and Rev. Isadore Fox Memorial Museum, but to date, they have no funds to remodel that museum space or to preserve the many articles that will be in it.

President Tester's project is to raise money to be used to obtain, restore, and preserve the documents and artifacts of George and Isadore Fox, to ready the dozens of pieces of memorabilia, and to physically remodel and customize the museum space located at the George L. Fox Memorial Chapel in Gilman.

There are three rooms and one common area just off the main chapel that will be used for the museum. The common area can be used as a meeting space and may house a slide show of the many pictures of George and Isadore Fox.

Some of the remodel work that will take place include fixing the walls (they are currently lath and plaster and are in pretty bad shape), installing a security system and upgrading some of the infrastructure to help keep the museum space cool and dry.

As you know, preserving history is incredibly important and with Vermont being the home of one of the most famous sailors and chaplains in American Legion lore, it is very important we help build a museum in his and his wife's honor.







## POPPY POSTER CONTEST COVER SHEET

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors a Poppy Poster Contest for students in grades 2-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into seven classes. One award in each of the seven classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund. National winners will be posted at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) after national convention.

### Poster Classes:

Class	Grade Level
I	2 and 3
II	4 and 5
III	6 and 7
IV	8 and 9
V	10 and 11
VI	12
VII	Students with special needs

Class Competing in: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring ALA unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Due date for student to return to ALA unit: April 1, 2025

### To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Teacher Name and Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.):** Sponsoring Unit Name/  
Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Unit Poppy Chairman/President: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit winner due to Department on: May 1, 2025 Department: Vermont

Signature of Department Chairman: Lillian Perry

*Department winner due to National Poppy Division Chairman by June 1*

## Poppy Poster Contest Rules

Units shall sponsor contests in local schools. When schools do not conduct activities, other youth groups — including Junior members — may participate under direct supervision of the unit.

### Contest Classes

- Class I: Grades 2 and 3
- Class II: Grades 4 and 5
- Class III: Grades 6 and 7
- Class IV: Grades 8 and 9
- Class V: Grades 10 and 11
- Class VI: Grade 12
- Class VII: Students with special needs defined as:
  - a. Those in special education classes.
  - b. A student recommended for special education classes but who has not been admitted due to a waiting list or various other factors.
  - c. A child identified as having a disability, but not in a special education class due to lack of facilities; identification contingent upon discretion of school officials.

### Poppy Poster Requirements

1. Each poster shall have a fitting slogan not to exceed 10 words. Articles “a”, “and,” “an”, “the” are not to be counted as words. The words “buddy” and “buy” cannot be used.
2. The words “American Legion Auxiliary” must be used in the design of the poster and will not be counted in the 10-word count.
3. Each poster must include a red poppy.
4. The department shall determine the closing date of the unit contest. The poster shall be on 11x14” poster board. (Drawing paper will not be accepted).
5. The United States flag may be used as long as there are no infractions of the flag code.
6. Posters will be judged using the following criteria:
  - 50% - poster appeal (layout, message, originality)
  - 40% - artistic ability (design and color)
  - 10% - neatness
7. Media used shall be watercolors, crayons, powder or oil paint, handmade paper cutouts, ink or textures, acrylics, pencils, and markers.
8. Written in ink on the back of the poster (not attached) shall be the class in which the entry is submitted, the name, address, age, and grade of the contestant and the name of the department.
9. Submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary. Through submission of artwork, contestants and their legal guardians grant non-exclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted and agree to have their names and artwork published for commercial use without additional compensation or permission.
10. The poster shall be the work of only one individual.
11. The label “In Memoriam” from the veteran-made poppy may not be used.



**AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST  
2025 Cover Sheet**

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into six classes. One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund.

**Essay Title:** *"What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?"*

**Essay Classes:**

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement*
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level.

**THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.**

**Essay Checklist:**

- Class competing in \_\_\_\_\_
- Sponsoring ALA unit \_\_\_\_\_
- Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- Completed essay coversheet as first page of essay
- Word count of essay \_\_\_\_\_
- Due date for student to return to ALA unit \_\_\_\_\_

**To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name and Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.):**

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit winner due to Department on: April 1, 2025 Department: Vermont

Signature of Department Chairman: Rebecca Moricette

*Department winner due to National Americanism Division Chairman by April 15, 2025*



## **You're a Grand Old Flag Challenge**

**February 06, 1906 You're a Grand Old Flag was written by George Cohan, one of the most popular patriotic song.**

### **Here is your "CHALLENGE"**

**The best overall creative video will receive a certificate from your National Americanism Committee Team and a special gift from your Chairman.**

**One winner from each Division**

**Include your - Name, Unit Number, Division, Department**

**All videos will be posted when received**

**Divisional Chairman will pick the "Best Overall Video" in their Division.**

**Winners will be announced March 30, 2025**

#### **Visual quality**

**"Make sure your video is clean" means to ensure that your video footage is visually clear, with no unnecessary distractions or blemishes, including things like background clutter, shaky camera movements, poor lighting, audio noise, or any visual elements that might detract from the main focus of the video**

**Sharp focus: Ensure your subject is in focus throughout the video.**

**Proper lighting: Use adequate lighting to avoid excessive shadows or blown-out highlights.**

**Steady camera: Minimize camera shake by using a tripod or stabilization techniques.**

**Clean background: Keep the background clutter-free and relevant to the content.**

#### **Audio quality**

**Clear sound: Record audio with minimal background noise.**

**Proper microphone placement: Position the microphone close to the sound source for optimal audio capture.**

#### **Examples**

**Involve your Unit, District, Division, County, Department, The American Legion, SAL, Juniors, your local elementary (make sure you get permission from the parents to share the video) "Think out of the box".**

#### **Be Creative**

**2024 - 2025**

**Americanism Committee**



*A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families*

January 19, 2025

Dear Unit Presidents & Unit AEF Chairs:

Attached please find a fundraising template in Word that you can modify to change out the name of the person and address where you want the funds to be sent for record keeping purposes.

This is a simple fundraiser where you print the page out on card stock after you have made your changes and ask Unit members to "sell" each date until the calendar is full. For example, if someone chooses the 5th, they would pay \$5.00 and put an "x" through the box for the 5th. More than one person can share the larger boxes so that you can fill all of them. Once you have sold all of the boxes you will have raised \$496.00 for the AEF on behalf of your Unit!

I would recommend that you print out a sample application for both the disaster and hardship funds so that you can educate your members and any others who are willing to donate on what the fund covers and how to apply. Please emphasize that all applications can be made directly to National on line in order to protect the privacy of the applicants. In addition, please make sure you educate your donors on what information must be provided in order to submit a complete application and receive a determination as quickly as possible.

Please contact me if you have any questions or if I can help in any way and thank you for your continued hard work on behalf of the National Auxiliary Emergency Fund!

Sincerely,

*Jacqui C. Hood*

Eastern Division AEF Chair & Department of Vermont AEF Chair

**Jacqui C. Hood, Esq. ALA Eastern Division AEF Chair**

**Department of Vermont AEF Chair**

**PO BOX 1414, St. Albans, VT 05478**

**Phone – (802) 782-8766; Cell – (949) 400-8714. E-mail – [jacquih@comcast.net](mailto:jacquih@comcast.net)**



# AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND FUNDRAISER

*Department of Vermont*

Pick a Date to Donate

HOW IT WORKS: Pick the date and pay that amount; i.e., 1<sup>st</sup> = \$1 24<sup>th</sup> = \$24

1 \$1	2 \$2	3 \$3	4 \$4	5 \$5	6 \$6	7 \$7
8 \$8	9 \$9	10 \$10	11 \$11	12 \$12	13 \$13	14 \$14
15 \$15	16 \$16	17 \$17	18 \$18	19 \$19	20 \$20	21 \$21
22 \$22	23 \$23	24 \$24	25 \$25	26 \$26	27 \$27	28 \$28
29 \$29	30 \$30	31 \$31				

100% of the proceeds will be donated to the American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund to assist Auxiliary members who are fire, flood and disaster victims or hardship applicants.

**DONATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 1, 2025**

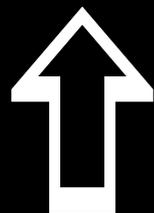
Make check payable to American Legion Auxiliary AEF Fund and mail to Department Executive Secretary Corrinna Colson, ALA Department HQ, 126 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602

Department AEF Chairman: Jacqui Hood, PO BOX 1414, St. Albans, VT 05478  
(802) 782-8766 Cell (949) 400-8714 e-mail – [jacquih@comcast.net](mailto:jacquih@comcast.net)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Help \$upport ALA members  
in crisis with your donations



Auxiliary  
Emergency Fund  
**MEMBERS  
IN CRISIS  
NEED YOUR  
HELP!**



**AEF Facts**

Serving Size: Large Portion of Love  
Servings Per Can: Unlimited Donations

Amount/Serving	What U Can
Benefits from Donation	Limitless
	<b>% Daily Value</b>
Saturated Smiles	100%
Generous Contributions	100%
Providing A Helping Hand	100%
Heartwarming Support	100%
Improving Members' Lives	100%

**CONTRIBUTE AFTER OPENING**

**INGREDIENTS:** American Legion Auxiliary members selflessly serve veterans and military families in need. But when need strikes home, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund is available to members for temporary emergency assistance.

Since its establishment in 1969, the AEF has been available to members experiencing radically life-changing events whether from personal crisis to acts of nature.

The AEF is here to help thanks to your generous contributions — members helping members in the truest form. But, it will only be here with your continued assistance. Any amount helps.

For more information, visit us online at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).

Made with  
Your Donations

# Green Mountain Girls State

June 22 - 27, 2025

Leadership and civic-  
education summer  
program for rising  
high school seniors  
across Vermont



Students will meet  
Vermont leaders, learn  
how government  
works, and make  
lifelong friends!



For more info:

[alagmgs.com](http://alagmgs.com) [director@alagmgs.com](mailto:director@alagmgs.com)



@American Legion Auxiliary  
Green Mountain Girls State



@alagmgs



Two students from every Girls State in the country are chosen to participate in Girls Nation in Washington, D.C.

For seven days, ALA Girls Nation senators hold mock Senate sessions which require them to write, caucus, and debate bills; campaign for elected office; elect an ALA Girls Nation President and Vice President; and work together to pass legislation.



## Samsung Scholarship

The Samsung Scholarship is awarded to one participant of Girls State to compete regionally, and nationally for a \$10,000 scholarship.

**You must be a direct descendant of a wartime veteran and demonstrate volunteer activity and financial need.**

You can find out more information at:

[legion.org/scholarships/samsung](https://legion.org/scholarships/samsung)

**SAMSUNG**



**June 22 - 27, 2025**

Leadership and civic-education summer program for students entering their senior year of high school!



# At Green Mountain Girls State, students



become civically-engaged



learn leadership skills



and make life long connections!

## Frequently Asked Questions



### Who can apply?

High school **juniors** interested in government, leadership, and civic engagement may apply.

### How can I apply?

Students can apply on our website, at their high school, or their local American Legion Auxiliary Unit. **Applications open in January.**

### How much does it cost?

For students, **it is \$30**, ALA units sponsor \$400 per student.

Student applications are due **by Friday, April 4.**



"I loved learning about Vermont's Government and running campaigns; I even wrote my college essay, for every single school, about ALAGMGS and ALA Girls Nation, because it marked a turning point in my life that gave me a new passion. It taught me that I belong anywhere that I believe I belong, and nobody can take away my confidence."

**Lindsay Bernard**  
ALAGMGS Lt. Governor and  
Girls Nation Senator 2021

## Connect with us!

 [director@alagmgs.com](mailto:director@alagmgs.com)

 [alagmgs.com](http://alagmgs.com)

 [@alagmgs](https://www.tiktok.com/@alagmgs)

 [@alagmgs](https://www.instagram.com/alagmgs)

 [@American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionAuxiliaryGreenMountainGirlsState)

 [@ALAGMGGirlsState](https://twitter.com/ALAGMGGirlsState)

# **BASKET RAFFLE**

**and**

# **Mini-Bingo**

**At American Legion Post 1**

**100 Parah Dr St Albans**

April 6. 2025 1PM –2PM

Bingo 1:15

Raffle Drawings at 2pm

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**Tickets for Basket Raffle are available**

**at American Legion Post 1**

**Tickets are \$10 for 20 chances**

**You don't need to be present to win**

For more information contact

Christine Brown 802-309-3801

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT  
PO BOX 192 MONTPELIER, VT 05601-0192**

