

2025 - 2026 / JUNE EDITION

## DEPARTMENT BULLETIN

 AMERICAN  
LEGION

AUXILIARY

(802) 223-3141 / [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 2025 Department Convention will take place on June 19th - 21st at the Hampton Inn in Colchester. This will be an extra special convention so I hope you will make plans to join us. The convention agenda and additional information are included in this bulletin.

Please put the June Town Hall meeting on your schedule, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. This will be my final Town Hall meeting, and I would love to see you all there. An email with the zoom information will be sent out a few days before the meeting.

We held the first ever Unit Member of the Year Appreciation luncheon on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May in Middlebury. There were a total of 10 nominees this year, and six of them made it to the luncheon. It was a wonderful event that gave us the opportunity to acknowledge these dedicated auxiliary volunteers for their great service.

Well, this will be my last bulletin message as your Department President. I cannot tell you how much I have enjoyed my time as your Department President. I have travelled to all corners of our little Green Mountain State, attending more than 110 different events, dinners, shows, Unit meetings, conferences, zoom meetings, installations, and two visits from National Officers. I also made four trips out of state. It has been untold hours and thousands of miles, and I have absolutely loved every single minute of it. My favorite times during the past 12 months have been my visits to Unit meetings. It kind of took on the title of the "Small but Mighty" tour, which is very accurate. Some of the Unit meetings only had 3-4 attendees, but they all continue to do outstanding work, honoring and assisting our Veterans, the military, our communities, and our youth. Watching our Auxiliary members work our mission every day has been nothing short of inspiring.

I cannot thank each of you nearly enough for all of the support, guidance, and assistance that you have given me. The Department of Vermont is so fortunate to have each of you as an Auxiliary member as you all make a difference. All of your efforts, your continued dedication, and your determination to work on our mission is very appreciated, by me, and by our Veterans. Thank you.

I always end each of my bulletin articles with the same line. I am going to end with that same line, but it is bold because it is so important.

**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



ALA Dept. President J.R. Tester's testimonial being sworn in as **QUEEN** by the two ALA princesses

## VICE PRESIDENT

Hello Auxiliary Members,  
I want first to say thank you so much for voting me in as your 2024-2025 Vice-President I had a fantastic year. I look forward to being your President next year. As your incoming Department President, I had the honor of attending the ALA Department Leadership National Conference (DLNC) the first weekend of May. I had an amazing time seeing people I have seen at past National events, meeting new friends, and especially meeting the incoming Department Presidents for the other states. We learned about incoming National President Pam Ray's mission and membership theme for her year, public speaking, and so much more. But before we get ahead of ourselves lets finish out 2024-2025 and show our continued support to President Tester who has had a great year so far. Hope to see most if not all of you at the Department Convention in June.

Thanks,  
Tasha Bouvier  
Vice President

## NATIONAL EXEC. COMMITTEE

Greetings all!  
The time has come to bid you farewell as my term as your NEC is coming to a close. Although, someone else will fill these shoes, I remain your NEC thru National Convention in Tampa where it will officially end.  
I want to extend my thanks and support throughout this two-year journey. I learned more than I ever expected and had an amazing time doing it. The bonds I created with our national slate of officers and chairs has been a huge

blessing and I am grateful to have had this opportunity.

For now, keep up the amazing work you all do each and every day. I look forward to watching us all grow more together in the next year.

For God, Country, and Our Veterans,

Kelly  
Donaldson  
NEC  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Vermont  
[Presidentkelly1970@gmail.com](mailto:Presidentkelly1970@gmail.com)

<b>MEMORIAM</b>		
<b>In memory of our departed Auxiliary Members:</b>		
VT UNIT 0027	Kelly A. Krans	5/22/2025
VT UNIT 0036	Dianne G Bixby	5/2/2025
VT UNIT 0055	Shirley A Sidoti	5/13/2025

## CHAPLAIN

Hello everyone. I hope you all are well and I'm looking forward in seeing all of you for our ALA June Convention. I've received 32 chaplain year end reports so thank you for all that you do as our spiritual leaders of your units. I would like to take the time to thank you for allowing me to be your Department Chaplain for three years. It's been a very rewarding experience to be your spiritual leader of our ALA in Vermont.

Flag Day

O God, we thank thee for the flag of our country and for all that our flag represents. We thank Thee for giving the victory to the brave

and valiant men and women who have their last measure of strength in order that it may wave over the land of the free and the home of the brave. We thank Thee for giving us the ideals of faith and liberty, for preserving the sanctity of our homes, and freedom of worship. Conscious of our limitations and our deep unworthiness, we pray that our flag may bind together the many elements in our own dear country. Grant that this country may remain forever a free union flying the same flag. Amen.

American Legion Auxiliary Chaplains'  
Prayer Book P13

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

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

## **HISTORIAN**

Hello Everyone! This will be my final message as your Historian. I was honored to travel around with many of you this year and meet new members or ones that I just hadn't met yet. You are all so wonderful with all the hard work you do for our Veterans, Military and their families, as well as what you do for our communities. I want you all to know that your contributions to our organization and to your units do not go unrecognized and are so much appreciated. Congratulations to everyone on a successful year. I also want to take a second to recognize our Department President John Tester.

Congratulations to you on a successful year. Next stop is our Convention, and I hope to

see many of you there. I always get excited because I get to talk with many of you and make new memories at the Convention with you, especially

when many of us live so far away from each other. I value the time that we all spend together. With less than a month to go, let's finish this year strong and continue to make some more wonderful memories that can last a lifetime. Please make sure to send me any printed photos so that I can add them to our history book this year. Make sure to give them to me with a description of what they are of. You can absolutely bring them to Convention to give them to me instead of mailing them.

I would also like to thank the 28 units who sent in their year end reports! You all rock and I was happy to give you all a shout out on our Department Facebook page. Thank you to the units that sent in their history book to me. As you know, we changed the criteria for many awards, including the history book. I wanted to see you show creativity and allow you to really shine and you did not disappoint! They were so well done and very creative and I am excited to see who will win it!

I still have a lot to do even though my time as your Historian will come to an end. I will be working on our Department History book for National as well. I will also be working on the books for our Department President and for our Department Headquarters. I was honored to guide a unit member who will be running for Historian this June. I know you will all appreciate her and guide her as much as you have done for me. I know she will make a great Historian. Good luck to everyone running this year for a position!

Well, that's all from me! Thank you everyone for everything and see you at the Convention!

May you all find yourselves  
happy and healthy!

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! As we wind down the incredible year of service under our fearless leader John Tester it is with bittersweet anticipation I look forward to the future of our organization.

By now year end reports have been judged, and the trophies are out for engraving, who will be our winners at convention on Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> only one month from today! Thank you to all the Unit and Department chairs who worked hard to get these reports completed for the judging committee.

Year-end impact reports have started to trickle in, but more are needed. Please send these in as soon as possible so President Tester and I can complete the Department impact report by the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. These figures are so important as it provides strength as part of the American Legion family allowing us to advocate for our veterans with congress. We received four last year from 40+ units, this year I would love to see 100% reporting and we can do this!

Installation of officers are being completed as we speak and please be sure you're sending in your officer and chairman forms to department or providing these to your installing officer.

These are very important for Auxiliary officers to ensure Department email distribution lists are updated and for next year we will begin making them for Unit Chairman too to send out communications from our national organization pertaining to ALA programs.

Units have been sent the Unit Dues notification cards that are due back before this bulletin will be printed to let ALA National know Units dues rates for membership cards. Thank you if you were a unit that has already responded, and we did not have to call you to get this information. Units have also been sent their credential certificates to list their delegates for the Department Convention being held June 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>. Please know these need to be sent back in by June 12<sup>th</sup> to give us a count of voting members for the convention. If your unit does not get this form in by the deadline they will be unable to vote for the upcoming year's officers. Important Unit information will be available at convention for Units to pick up such as membership cards, member impact reports, for the upcoming year, Obligation & Contribution forms and many other documents needed to manage your units. If your Unit does not send at least one person to convention these will be mailed to Units at their expense, so it does pay to attend convention.

Let's see how many members we can get to attend, and you never know what you might win just for showing up. If you have never attended there is no time like the present. Let's see if we can pack the convention hall & support President Tester as he says farewell to his year, and welcome in our next ALA President for 2025-2026!

In the Spirit of Service Not Self,

Corrinna E. Colson

Executive Director

American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Vermont

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## PARLIAMENTARIAN

(Bulletin Message Remitted)

Candy Huseman,  
Parliamentarian,  
PDP PNEC  
224 Shattuck Hill Rd. Lot G1  
Newport, Vermont 05859  
Tel. 802-624-4183  
Swt1candy@yahoo.com

## POPPY

Poppy posters have been judged and sent out. Thank you to the units that participated and encouraged the schools to take part. All the posters were excellent, making it a challenging task to judge them. The posters that didn't place are at the department to be picked up. The year-end reports for poppy are due, and I thank the units that submitted theirs on time, allowing me to complete my year-end report. I will not be the poppy chair for another year. If interested contact Tasha.

In Service, not Self,  
Lillian Perry  
Poppy Chairman  
Tanbrett1@aol.com  
802-244-5004  
802-760-8112

We have finished the fiscal year ending 4/30/2025 well within the budget. It appears that we will be able to file a two-month tax return and change the fiscal year end to June 30, 2025. We have discovered that QuickBooks now has an online version that has an interface which is supposed to mimic the Desktop view. We have managed to get a trial version of that interface and will evaluate it soon. It is likely that we will be able to end up with our desktop version to be accessed on the web.

This will be much easier for the Treasurer who currently has to go into the office or bring the computer home in order to review the files.

Green Mountain Girls State finished the year almost exactly within their budget, but they had planned to use \$15,000 of their savings when it was created and that was necessary.

Suzette and I will get together and make sure that the transition of the office will be smooth and efficient.

We are still looking for one person to round out the audit committee and hope to have it ready to go for the new year. The job will be to do an internal audit of the books quarterly. Most of the work can be done through Zoom. Please think about stepping up.

This will be my last bulletin. It has been both difficult and a pleasure to get the books brought up to date to general accounting standards and easier to work with. There is a few tweaks to wrap up but we are good to go and that is worth celebrating.

I look forward to the convention and hope to see you there.

Marilyn Davis  
Treasurer



Talk about a swollen head for Mr. President,  
ALA PDP & Historian Fran Massey's  
testimonial gift was priceless!

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

Greetings All, hope all is well. I want to thank PDP

Pam Norton and PDP Deb Graziano for installing units for me! Also District 1 we still have time to reach out to your members about their dues, Lets get 100%! WE CAN DO IT! I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Convention!

For God & Country And Our Veterans

Rebecca Moricette

District #1 President

29 Griswold Dr.

Rutland, VT 05701

(802)-377-0231 - Cell

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

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

**(No Bulletin Message Remitted)**

For God and Country

Shori McKinnon,

District 2 Auxiliary President

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

603-331-5585

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

The units that haven't contacted me to install them, please get in touch with me to schedule a date.

Service Not Self

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

Greetings to all,

I can't believe it's almost June! A busy time for sure. Unit installations are in Progress.

Bennington unit 13 was installed on May 12th. Unit 50 in Castleton is being installed on June 1st, Unit 39 on June 3rd, June 5th is Installation in Fairhaven.

June 6th will be a busy day. Unit 50 will host its quarterly Free Veterans luncheon, then in the evening Pownal Unit 90 will have their installation. I look forward to Attending Convention June 19 through 21.

Please keep pushing for 100 percent Membership, perhaps check with some members who have not renewed to see if they are struggling. There may be "angels" out there who can help.

I will not be continuing in my role as District 4 President in the coming year, think about throwing your hat in the ring at convention!

It has been a pleasure being District 4 President for the last 2 years, I have met many dedicated American Legion family members. I will continue working for our veterans at my home Unit as president of ALA Unit 50.

In the spirit of service not self, Serving our Veterans with pride. Christine Pouliot

ALA District 4 President Phone:774-254-2091

[Email-horsewoman5454@yahoo.com](mailto:Email-horsewoman5454@yahoo.com)

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

Greetings Members of the 5<sup>th</sup> District,

I had the pleasure of visiting Unit 67 to install the Executive committee, which was not ready at the time of their installation. Great group of ladies, no gentlemen yet.

I will be installing Pierce Lawton Unit 37 on June 4<sup>th</sup>. I was sorry I could not install Brattleboro Unit 5, as I have a previous commitment.

I believe the following did not make it in the previous bulletin, but if it's a repeat, I apologize. Pierce Lawton, Unit 37 is in the process of selecting scholarship recipients. The unit will set up a mock cemetery in the local bookstore front window for Memorial Day. They will also be displaying students poppy art. The unit will assist the post with Memorial Day ceremonies.

I attended the Unit member of the year luncheon, which was well attended and very nicely presented. Congratulations to all the nominees, of which two were from 5th district.

## AMERICANISM

I am happy to announce 5<sup>th</sup> district is in first place with membership. Still a few units to achieve 100%. On a sadder note, I received a message from the President of Nelson Pickwell Unit 15, that they will be turning in their Charter. They have been struggling for a few years. I, personally, enjoyed visiting the Unit over the years. I wish them all well.

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

## AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

Although my term as Department AEF Chair will come to a close at our Convention in June, I will continue on as Eastern Division AEF Chair until National Convention in August in Tampa. And I will be happy to work with the new Department AEF Chair to get a head start on fund raising ideas for 2025-2026. A many of you know, there continue to be many weather disasters nationwide this year and it is important that we start our new fiscal year of Department fundraising as soon as possible. The need is great, and the grants have seriously exceeded the donations this year.

It is also important that we educate our members at the Unit and Department level on who is eligible for both the Hardship grants and the Disaster grants, how to access the application and what information to have to attach to the application to insure speedy consideration at National. I would like to thank each of the Units for helping the Department of Vermont to exceed our previous years' totals and to inform our members of this important benefit. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you and I hope to see many of you at Department Convention in June.

Jacqui C. Hood, Esq.  
Department of Vermont  
AEF Chair & Eastern Regional AEF Chair  
e-mail – [jacquih@comcast.net](mailto:jacquih@comcast.net)  
Phone – (802) 782-8766 and Cell – (949) 400-8714  
Mailing Address – PO BOX 1414, St. Albans, VT 05478

Greetings All, I hope you are enjoying the nice weather Keep your flag pictures coming for the flag contest at convention! You can email me them or mail them to me or bring them to convention and if you do print them 4 b 6.

I'm looking forward to receiving your Memorial Day pictures and putting up a flag at the gravesites for our veterans.

What does your unit do for Memorial Day.

Dates that are coming up:

Thursday, May 1, 2025 - Military Appreciation Month

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 - National Teachers Appreciation Day

Friday, May 9, 2025 - Military Spouse Appreciation Day

Sunday, May 11, 2025 - Mother's Day Sunday, May 17, 2025 -

Armed Forces Day Monday, May 26, 2025 - Memorial Day

For God & Country and Our Veterans

Rebecca Moricette

Americanism Chairman

29 Griswold Dr.

Rutland, VT 05701

(802)-377-0231 - Cell

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

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

(No Bulletin Message Remitted)

For God, Country, and our Veterans,

Sharon L. Corey

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

802-325-3234

**The secrets out....**

**CONGRATUALTIONS**

**John R. Tester**

**on your appointment to...**

**NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**CHAIRMAN**

**2025 - 2026**

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

Greetings Auxiliary Family!

Another year is in the books, and it was an amazing success! Thank you for all your dedication to the Children and Youth program. I was beyond proud to highlight everything you did in my year-end report submitted to the Eastern Division and to National! Your love and support of the Children and Youth in your Units and Communities is nothing short of awe inspiring.

I'd like to talk about the June Convention for a moment. It's so important for every Unit to send delegates to Convention for the purpose of voting on governing rules and to vote for next year's Department Officers. Members make our Units strong; Units make our department strong; and Department makes National strong. Every single member is valuable, every single member has a "why" that should be shared, and every single member's idea and dedication help to build the strong foundation necessary to carry us forward in meeting the goals and aims of The American Legion Auxiliary.

I hope to see you at the June Convention!

For God, Country and our Veterans,

Charith Zickmund  
Department Children & Youth Chair  
Harry N. Cutting Unit #59  
[Cez913@gmail.com](mailto:Cez913@gmail.com)

## CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS STANDING RULES

Thank you to all who have worked diligently on their Constitution and Bylaws this year. Thank you to those who have forwarded yours on to Department so there is a copy for "safekeeping." Thank you to all who noted in their Year End report the discrepancy between what was asked and what is required. I'll be sure to notify next year's Chairman so that doesn't end up on next year's report.

Pam Norton  
C& B Chair  
[norton@middlebury.edu](mailto:norton@middlebury.edu)  
[prjtk@comcast.net](mailto:prjtk@comcast.net)  
802.349.6866

## EDUCATION

" And I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free. And I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me." ~ Lee Greenwood

Hello American Legion Dept. of VT Auxiliary Members,

→\*END-OF-YEAR EDUCATION REPORTS

THANK YOU to the 22 ALA VT Units who sent me their End-Of-Year Education Report.

That's 54% of the ALA VT Units reporting. I have sent the top 2 ALA VT Unit Education Reports to our Trophy and Awards Chairperson. Recognition to show appreciation is very important.

These annual reports reflect the program work of ALA VT units and they help me write my E-O-Y Narrative Education Report to ALA Eastern Division Education Chairman, Marie Mock and to the ALA National Education Chairman. The E-O-Y report I submitted to them on May 15, 2025 may result in a national award for us! I recently received a very positive email reply about excellent reporting and photos! I ask that all ALA VT Units set a goal to have an Education Committee Chairperson and discuss the ALA VT Education programs to report on for your Unit's End of Year Report for 2026.

GO ALA VT EDUCATION!

At the beginning of each new fiscal year, review the questions on the education report form and start gathering the information to answer each question. Please contact me should you need help filling out the ALA VT End of Year EDUCATION REPORT Form. In 2026, let's get 100% of us ALA VT UNITS to file their End-Of-Year Education Report to me!

→\*ALA ACADEMY

The Auxiliary has many tools that aid members in learning about our ALA programs. Here is the \*ALA Academy web site address:

[www.alaforveterans.org/ALA-Academy/](http://www.alaforveterans.org/ALA-Academy/)

With the POPPY being in the spotlight these past few weeks, I took a 45-minute course titled "The Meaning of the POPPY" and printed my certificate. It was very informative!

REMINDER: Here are a few samples of ALA ACADEMY SELF- PACED COURSES:

ALA 101 ALA Communication Methods ALA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

ALA Leadership: Living Our Motto of Service Not Self  
You may choose to also complete an ALA Academy  
Live Virtual Webinar. For further information and to  
register go to <https://member.legion-aux.org/meetings>  
→\*SCHOLARSHIPS

It's that time of year to award scholarships to  
graduating High School Seniors. Hopefully, your Unit  
has received Scholarship applications. ALA VT Unit  
13 will award a  
\$1,000 Scholarship to a Mount Anthony Union High  
School Senior at the school's Senior Awards'  
Ceremony. I have also submitted applications for the  
Spirit of Youth Scholarship and the ALA VT \$1,000  
Scholarship. Fingers crossed!  
See you at our ALA VT June 2025 Convention!

For God and Country,  
Donna Stone  
234 Simeon Dean Road  
Shaftsbury, VT 05262  
802-442-4314  
dlstone764@gmail.com

## FINANCE

Greetings,  
Finance Committee is wrapping up this year and well on  
the way to being ready for the new year. A thank you to  
all of the Committee members for the great work this  
year.

Thank you,  
Christine Brown  
Finance Committee chairman  
[christine.brown1069@gmail.com](mailto:christine.brown1069@gmail.com)

To President John Tester and the ALA Department Executive Committee, ,

As of June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 at midnight, I resign from the Finance Committee to explore new  
endeavors for the 2025-2026 administrative year.

Sincerely,

Suzette Greaves

## GREEN MOUNTAIN GIRLS STATE (ALAGMGS)

Hello Auxiliary Members,

As I am writing this bulletin, we are 32 days from Girls  
State. I want to thank all of the units that were able to  
contribute this year to sponsoring delegates for Girls State.  
Our staff is ready to welcome each of them and here's  
hoping to a fantastic week and the weather being nice to us.  
We welcome Auxiliary Members to attend the following  
two events. If you plan to attend, please let me know that  
way if times change, I can advise accordingly and I can plan  
on my part.

Event #1 - Memorial Service on Sunday June 22nd at 7pm at  
the Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery at 487 Furnace  
Rd, Randolph Center, VT. We hold a candle vigil to honor  
our Veterans.

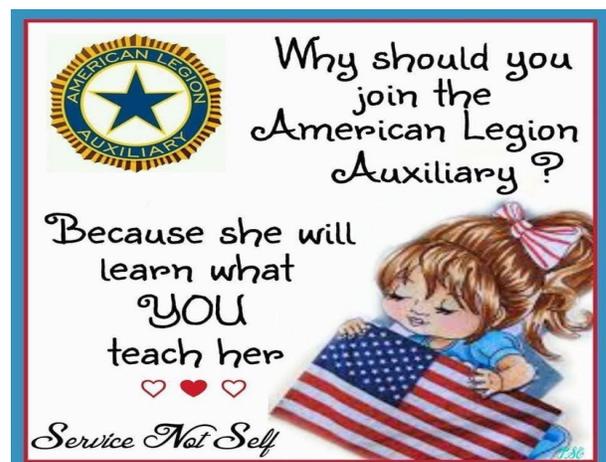
Event #2 - Inauguration on Wednesday June 25th at 7:30pm  
at Judd Hall on the VTSU - Randolph Campus, 113 Judd Dr,  
Randolph Center, VT. Our constitutional officers are  
installed, and parents of the delegates are invited as well.  
Any questions please reach out to me directly 802- 989-8312.  
Thanks

Tasha Bouvier  
ALAGMGS Chairperson

## JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

(No Bulletin Message Remitted)

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



## LEADERSHIP

## LEGISLATIVE

### BE THE LEADER YOU WOULD FOLLOW

Leadership begins with who you are, not just what you do.

If you wouldn't follow yourself... why should anyone else?

Ask Yourself: Am I leading with integrity, humility, and courage?

Because true leaders GO FIRST. Let's raise the bar!

Be the kind of leader you would willingly follow. Thank you to all Units who submitted their end-of-year Leadership Reports.

We achieved a 66% reporting rate, and your submissions provided a valuable opportunity to showcase the many initiatives and accomplishments that have supported and promoted leadership throughout the year.

### This month's highlight:

We are proud to recognize the ten Unit Member of the Year nominees who were honored for their outstanding dedication to Veterans. A celebratory luncheon was held in their honor at Post 27 on Sunday, May 18. Congratulations to each of them for their exceptional service and commitment to Veterans. The Department of Vermont Unit Member of the Year who will represent us at the National Convention will be announced at our Convention in June. All of the nominees will be wearing a red corsage at the Convention so please make sure you go up and congratulate them.

Krista Chadwick  
Leadership Chairman  
kristachadwick577@gmail.com



There is so much to learn about legislation for our veterans and so much that Department of Vermont ALA members can do to help advocate.

I am going to begin with a couple of definitions:

“Political”: of or relating to government, a government, or the conduct of government. In its simplest form, politics is about how groups of people make decisions together. It is the process of influencing and making choices that affect a community or society, often involving debates, compromises, and sometimes power struggles.

“Advocate”: a person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy.

I am recommending that the Department of Vermont ALA members go to the following website:

<https://www.legion.org/advocacy/legislative>

You will find information on the following:

The American Legion Legislative Division

Legislative Agenda and Point Papers

Legislative Testimony

Advocacy Toolkit

Grassroots Action Center – this is where you can sign up.

Congressional Contact Report – if you have an in-person meeting.

You may have a family member who is a veteran, you may know one or more veterans who need help, maybe you have a Representative in your community you can invite to a Unit meeting

to speak about ongoing veterans' issues in Vermont and/or Washington.

Our veterans need us to speak to our Legislators for them – in some cases they are unable to.

Please sign up at the Grassroots Action Center for alerts that the AL sends out, you can receive them by email or text message. They do the work for you; all you have to do is fill in some information and press the send button.

It has been my pleasure to service as the Legislative Chair on President John's team. Best wishes, John, in your future endeavors.

Denise (Dee)Colety

-ALA Department Legislative Chair

-President, Green Mountain Hometown Heroes

greemountainhometownheroes@gmail.com

-Member of ALA Unit 13, Bennington, Vermont

-Member of ALR, Chapter 13, Bennington, Vermont

-4th District Rep, ALR, Department of Vermont

## MEMBERSHIP

95% Membership Milestone was May 23rd, which means our next milestone for ALA 2025 Membership is 100%!!! Each Unit that can achieve this by Department Convention in June will be awarded a 3x5' American Flag! Congrats to Lyndon 30 for joining our 100% units this past month. National has provided the milestone date of July 4th for 100%, and 102% by July 26th, 2025.

Are you holding any community events, advertising volunteer opportunities, inviting the public to a meal? Be sure to have applications available and share with others what the American Legion Auxiliary can do and why we matter! New members are out there, every district from all corners of Vermont had new members this year! Thank you for actively working the mission and protecting our organizations longevity!

~Danielle Jerry  
ALA Colchester Unit 91 Member  
ALA Dept of VT Membership Chair  
(802) 989-1816  
DanielleMany3@gmail.com

## SERVICE TO VETERANS

Summer begins with the solstice on Friday, June 20, 2025, marking the astronomical first day of summer in the Northern Hemisphere. I am ready!!!

I want to share with you all my summary for Year-End 2024-2025. I was so proud as I read all the wonderful ways, we show a veteran how much we care. Keep up the excellent work. I know there is so much more that can be reported, and so much that more we can add to what we do report. We are, In the Spirit of Service, Not Self.

Year-End "Service to Veterans" Summary 2024-2025  
It is obvious Vermont ALA Units love their Veterans. Unit members - drive veterans for appointments, banking, shopping, voting, members cook meals, give computer help, shovel snow, yard work, clothing, pay a veteran dues, work with their Legion Family and another ALA unit and find affordable housing for a homeless veteran.

Unit members visit veterans in Hospitals, they go to the VA Hospital, Vermont Veterans Home, Nursing Homes, Dodge House, Open Door Mission, Veterans Home in Northfield.

Unit members - Actively support "Wreaths Across America." They donate, purchase and lay wreaths throughout our State of Vermont.

Unit member with her unit presents to her post with a "Proclamation" signed by Governor Phil Scott declaring Aug 7, 2024, a "Purple Heart Day" in the State of Vermont.

Units celebrate the American Legion birthday with dinners and gifts to their posts.

Chairman's Summary of Year-End Reports - 41 Units, 32-unit reports received  
Hours: 40,876 Mileage: 14,813 Spend: \$45,454

In the Spirit of Service, Not Self  
Darlene Cumm  
ALA Dept. of VT Service to Veterans Chair  
Bennington Unit 13, President

## NATIONAL SECURITY (No Bulletin Message Remitted)

Christine Bousquet  
bousquetc879@gmail.com  
603-333-7248

## PUBLIC RELATIONS (No Bulletin Message Remitted)

Melodie Ashford - McGrath  
Public Relations Chair melodielynn@gmail.com

## PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

Spring Greetings Members,  
A big THANKS to all Units who sent in their End of Year Reports!!! I am looking forward to seeing you all at our Past Presidents Parley Tea...Study Up everyone on President John's Year of ALA adventures as we will be having a few trivia questions!!! The right answers will win prizes! We will also have a door prize for the most patriotic hat worn at the Tea! Come and have an enjoyable afternoon tea with our Unit and Dept Presidents both past and present! Until then, keep on with our mission to help our Veterans, Military and their families



In the Spirit of Service, Not Self...  
Debi Graziano  
Past President's Parlay Chairman 2024-2025  
debisport@gardener.com/802-868-7920  
4253 VT RTE 78 Highgate Center, VT 05459

TROPHIES & AWARDS

Spring Greetings,

By now we should have received all the top 3 End of Year Reports for 2024-2025 Judging. As you know we have changed the way the chairman picks the judges. We are now choosing one Unit President and two PDP 's. The 3 of them are the only ones present during judging; I will not be there either as to not influence them. And then...We get to honor the winning Units/people who win! Good Luck everyone!

In the Spirit of Service, Not Self...

Debi Graziano

Trophy & Awards Chairman

4253 VT RTE 78

Highgate Center, VT 05459

debispot@gardener.com

802-868-7920

Vermont Paws & Boots Rebuilding Heroes One Paw Print at a Time

Veterans ★ First Responders ★ Rescue Dogs

Excerpts from the Vermont Paws & Boots Website:

Vermont Paws & Boots has proven itself invaluable in "saving" the lives of veterans and first responders traumatized by one or more incidents associated with their service. Traditionally, these folks hesitate to ask for help for their post-traumatic stress or other behavioral health challenges. Even those who appear to be functioning choose negative habits such as drugs or alcohol or isolate themselves as a means

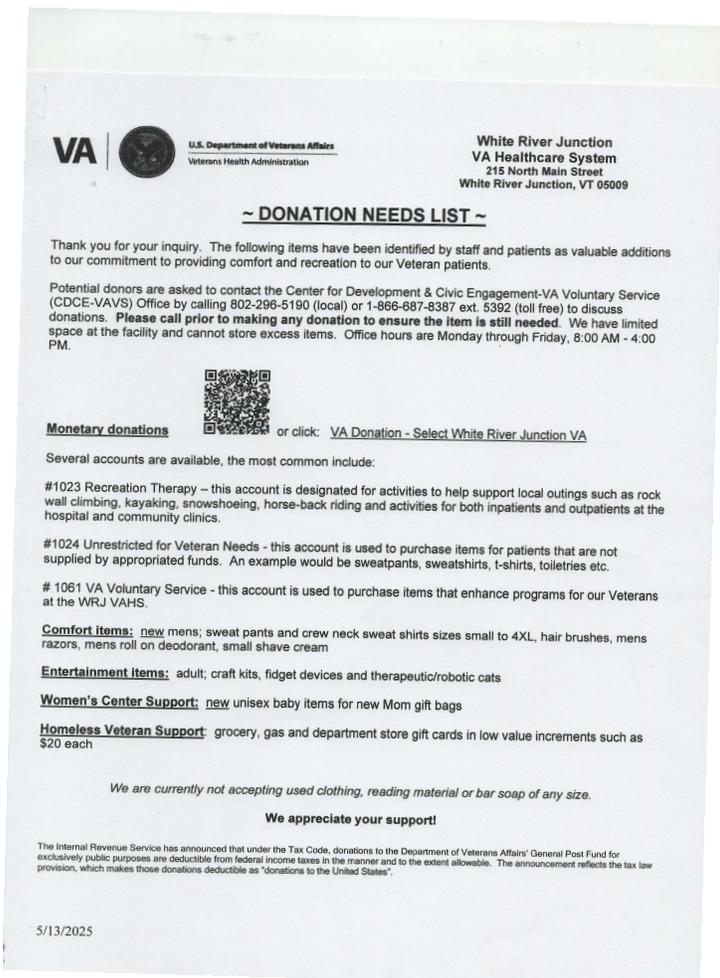
to cope. Vermont Paws & Boots is reaching these survivors and helping them get their lives back on track. This happens through a program of pairing and training a rescue dog and handler to become a "Service dog team". They literally save each other.

The magic of the program is that those who take part learn how to work as a team with their dog under the guidance of military veteran and Retired Vermont State Trooper / K9 handler, Michelle LeBlanc. The program is rigorous and requires real commitment. In part, that commitment and follow-through help restore the self-confidence, purpose, and self-worth of the participants.

VA Rehabilitation Chair Cindy Ell (Unit 50 member / firefighter) and 2-year-old Rhodesian Ridgeback "Rambo's Blaze of Glory" are members of the current Class 11 as "Team

Blaze." The class boasts 6 members of which 5 are Veterans of military service. The canines in the program range from 5 months to 2 years of age and are a variety of breeds in their 12th week of training together. While the challenges of each human / canine team are uniquely their own, the group has become a congruent unit of support on tough days and celebrate achievements on the good ones.

In May, American Legion Auxiliary National President, Trish Ward visited Paws and Boots in Bennington. She enjoyed a facility tour and presentation of Class 11 team skills. She received an abundant dose of canine love and listened intently to veteran experiences. This special visit included moments of joy, tears and hugs of comfort. Instructor LeBlanc continues to advance and refine the training adjunct offerings provided. Many of these training stations are constructed by Paws & Boots students and graduates.



More volunteer labor is welcome, as the facility goals are tremendous yet achievable.

Vermont Paws & Boots is a non-profit Vermont resource that needs funding to keep the doors open. Please consider referring any Vermont business that offers a "Donation Match Program" or may be willing to become a sustaining donor. Do you have a fundraising idea? Recent events included an antiques sale, silent auction and Veterans Motorcycle Run, Refer any suggestions to:

Cindy Ell  
Email: CindyEllalavt@gmail.com  
Direct cell: (302) 420-8348

### **VAVS**

Greetings everyone

I really don't have any updates for you, our next regularly scheduled meeting at the VA hospital on May 21st. I will try to get updates to department before the bulletin goes to print.

Thanks to all the units who sent me end of year reports, you have done amazing work for our Veterans.

In the Spirit of Service, not Self

Patricia A Tompkins Chair VAVS riley917@myfairpoint.net  
802-525-6565

1229 May Pond Road Barton Vt 05822

### **UD&R**

(No Bulletin Message Remitted)

Anne Marie MacEachern  
UD&R chairman  
Anne.maceachern@mail.com

### **WAYS & MEANS**

(No Bulletin Message Remitted)

Sarah Touchette  
Dept. Ways N Means

For further information about volunteering or participating at Vermont Paws & Boots, contact Instructor Michelle LeBlanc at [vermontpaws257@gmail.com](mailto:vermontpaws257@gmail.com).



### **POLICY & PROCEDURES**

Hello everyone! The Policy & Procedures committee has been working on a couple of things, and we will discuss them at the Convention. I look forward to seeing everyone there. I want to thank the committee again for choosing me to chair the Policy & Procedures and I also want to thank you for being a part of the committee. I think we got a great start, and we have some things that will need some working on in the next year. I want to let the units know that if there is something in our policies or procedures that you would like to see clarified or something added, please reach out to me or the committee for next year, so that the committee can work on it. Thank you to everyone who has reached out to ask questions, as that is how we all work together for a brighter future and a well- organized and smoother administrative year!

Again, thank you and see you all at the Convention. May you all find yourselves happy and healthy.

In the Spirit of Service, Not Self....

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



# 2025 ALA Membership

(As of May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025)

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY		20 May 2025			2025 Membership				
Dept. of Vermont	Numeric Objective	Actual	%	# to 100%	Dept. of Vermont	Numeric Objective	Actual	%	# to 100%
<b>FIRST DISTRICT</b>					<b>FOURTH DISTRICT</b>				
		FIRST DISTRICT							
GREEN MOUNTAIN #1	425	377	88.71%	48	BENNINGTON # 13	247	205	83.00%	42
RICHFORD #12	67	58	86.57%	9	WALTER CASE #29	80	71	88.75%	9
VERGENNES #14	261	224	85.82%	37	RUTLAND #31	273	162	59.34%	111
BRISTOL #19	217	199	91.71%	18	J. CLAIRE CARMODY #39	81	63	77.78%	18
MIDDLEBURY #27	173	144	83.24%	29	FAIR HAVEN #49	113	105	92.92%	8
ENOSBURG #42	121	95	78.51%	26	CRIPPEN FELLOWS #50	209	197	94.26%	12
CRELLER LANDON #60	79	60	75.95%	19	BRANDON #55	108	95	87.96%	13
COLCHESTER #91	324	306	94.44%	18	ARLINGTON # 69	88	72	81.82%	16
<b>TOTAL 1ST DISTRICT</b>	<b>1667</b>	<b>1463</b>	<b>87.76%</b>	<b>204</b>	WEST RUTLAND #87	125	141	112.80%	-16
					POWNA #90	32	29	90.63%	3
					<b>TOTAL 4TH DISTRICT</b>	<b>1356</b>	<b>1140</b>	<b>84.07%</b>	<b>216</b>
<b>SECOND DISTRICT</b>					<b>FIFTH DISTRICT</b>				
		SECOND DISTRICT							
HARDWICK #7	259	261	100.77%	-2	BRATTLEBORO #5	256	220	85.94%	36
NEWPORT #21	97	77	79.38%	20	NELSON E. PICKWELL #15	15	12	80.00%	3
ORLEANS #23	97	80	82.47%	17	CECIL A. DAVIS #17	20	15	75.00%	5
JAY PEAK #28	92	77	83.70%	15	WINDSOR #25	191	191	100.00%	0
LYNDON #30	93	93	100.00%	0	BALLARD HOBART #36	247	249	100.81%	-2
NORTHLAND #47	68	74	108.82%	-6	PIERCE LAWTON #37	197	204	103.55%	-7
ST. JOHNSBURY #58	86	86	100.00%	0	CHESTER #67	213	191	89.67%	22
BARTON # 76	26	24	92.31%	2	<b>TOTAL 5TH DISTRICT</b>	<b>1139</b>	<b>1082</b>	<b>95.00%</b>	<b>57</b>
BRIGHTON #80	93	83	89.25%	10					
<b>TOTAL 2ND DISTRICT</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>93.85%</b>	<b>56</b>	GILMAN #41		11		
					HEADQUARTERS #100	83	65	78.31%	
<b>THIRD DISTRICT</b>					<b>Vermont Total</b>	<b>5717</b>	<b>5178</b>	<b>90.57%</b>	<b>539</b>
		THIRD DISTRICT							
MONTPELIER #3	90	75	83.33%	15	1ST PLACE	District 5	95.00%		
BARRE #10	166	130	78.31%	36	2ND PLACE	District 2	93.85%		
MORRISTOWN #33	52	45	86.54%	7	3RD PLACE	District 3	88.78%		
HARRY N. CUTTING #59	170	169	99.41%	1	4TH PLACE	District 1	87.76%		
SORRELL MAYNARD #63	133	125	93.98%	8	5TH PLACE	District 4	84.07%		
DONALD MCMAHON #64	22	18	81.82%	4					
<b>TOTAL 3RD DISTRICT</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>88.78%</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>Next Milestone 95% by May 23rd, 2025</b>				
					14 Units made 85% milestone!!!				
					Congrats to; 12, 91, 7, 30, 47, 58, 76, 59, 49, 50, 87, 25, 36, 37, and 67!				
					100% 2025 membership Achievers 🏆 11 Units,				
					Lyndon 30, Hardwick 7, Windsor 25, Ballard Hobart 36, Pierce Lawton 37, Northland 47 and West Rutland 87!!				

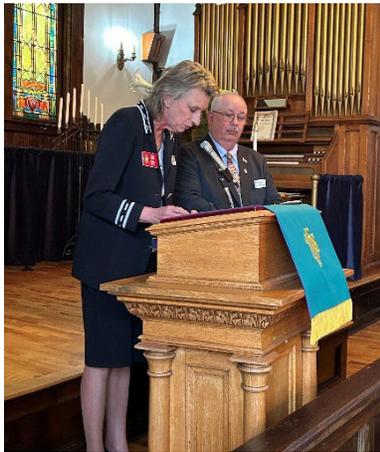
# *Moore Fox Unit 41*

## *Chartering a brand-new Unit for the Department of Vermont*

*April 19, 2025*

On Saturday, April 19, 2025, after months and months of hard work by Executive Secretary Corrinna Colson, the Department of Vermont achieved a goal that it had not seen since 2009, it chartered a brand-new Auxiliary Unit.

Moore Fox Unit 41, located in Gilman, Vermont, received its charter while National President Trish Ward was visiting the state. She, along with Department President John Tester and Executive Secretary Corrinna Colson, signed the charter while visiting the George Fox Memorial Chapel in Gilman. The charter members of Moore Fox Unit 41 were duly installed by National President Trish Ward.



National President Trish Ward signing the new Charter



Department President John R. Tester signing the new Charter



Department Executive Secretary Corrinna Colson signing the new Charter

Officers for Moore Fox Unit

A brand new Unit!





# 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**

**June 9, 2025**

**7:00PM**

Zoom information:

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 851 8295 1873

Passcode: 474566

# **AGENDA**

**Thursday**

**June 19, 2025**

## **McDonough Meeting Room**

- 1:00pm Policy & Procedures Meeting
- 1:30pm DEC Meeting
- Resolution for National
  - Cancellation of Nelson E. Pickwell Unit 15 Charter
  - Exempt employees for Workers Compensation
- 2:30pm Past Department Presidents Meeting
- 6:00pm Past Department Commanders and Past Department Presidents Dinner  
Lighthouse Restaurant

**Subject to Change at Any Time**

# AGENDA

**Friday**

**June 20, 2025**

## **Champlain Ballroom**

**Registration will take place on Saturday Morning**

9:00am	Call to Order	Tasha Bouvier	Vice President
	Parade of Officers	Tasha Bouvier	Vice President
	Invocation	Heather Morris	Department Chaplain
	Pledge of Allegiance	Rebecca Moricette	Americanism Chairman
	National Anthem	Andrea Tester	Social Media Chairman
	Preamble to the Constitution	PDP Pam Norton	C & B Chairman
9:30am	Greetings from the Units	Danielle Jerry	Membership Chairman
	Greetings from Department	Darlene Cumm	Service to Veterans Chairman
	Greetings from National	PDP Kelly Donaldson	NEC
9:45am	Roll Call	PDP Corrinna Colson	Executive Secretary
	Minutes from 2024 Convention		
	Correspondence		
10:00am	Reading of Convention Rules	PDP Candace Huseman	Parliamentarian
10:10am	Trophy and Awards Presentations	PDP Debi Graziano	Trophy & Awards Chairman
10:40am	Children and Youth Awards	Charith Zickmund	C&Y Chairman
10:50am	VAVS Report	Patsy Tomkins	VAVS Chairman
11:00am	Reading of proposed Resolution	PDP Pam Norton	C&B Chairman
11:15am	Memorial Service	Heather Morris	Department Chaplain

### **Convention at Recess**

12:00pm	American Legion Riders Procession		
2:00pm	Past President's Parley Tea	McDonough Meeting Room	
6:00pm	American Legion Family Banquet	Champlain Ballroom	

**Subject to Change at Any Time**

# AGENDA

**Saturday June 21, 2025**

## Champlain Ballroom

<b>REGISTRATION: 7:45am</b>	<b>All Five District Presidents</b>	<b>\$10.00 per person</b>
8:30am	Call to Order	John R. Tester      Department President
	Invocation	Heather Morris      Department Chaplain
	Pledge of Allegiance	Rebecca Moricette      Americanism Chairman
	Reading of Convention Rules	PDP Candace Huseman      Parliamentarian
8:50am	Roll Call	PDP Corrinna Colson      Executive Director
9:00am	Credentials Report	PDP Debra Tiernan
9:10am	Juniors Candle Ceremony	Juniors
9:25am	Nomination of Department Officers	
	<i>Candidates of contested races will each have 3 minutes to give a speech</i>	
	Election of Department Officers	
	<i>No one may leave or enter the convention room until all voting has been completed</i>	
10:15am	Break	
10:45am	District Caucuses	20 minutes
	- Nominations and elections of District Presidents	
	- Election of District Executive Committee member	
	- Election of Delegates to National Convention	
11:05am	Membership Awards	Danielle Jerry      Membership Chairman
11:20am	AEF Presentation	Jacqui Hood      AEF Chairman
11:30am	Historians Report	PDP Fran Massey      Department Historian
11:40am	Trophies and Awards	PDP Debi Graziano      Trophies and Awards Chairman
	(Present trophies and awards to units/members not at Friday's meeting)	
12:00pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
1:00pm	Vote on Department Proposed Budget	Marilyn Davis      Department Treasurer
1:15pm	Vote on proposed Resolution	PDP Pam Norton      C&B Chairman
1:30pm	Unfinished Business	
1:45pm	Farewell Address	President John Tester
2:15pm	Ways & Means and Door Prizes	Sarah Touchette      Ways & Means Chairman

**Subject to Change at Any Time**

**3:30pm**      **Installation of new Department Officers**      *All members are encouraged to attend*

Closing Prayer      Heather Moris      Department Chaplain

Close of the 104th Annual Department Convention

DEC Meeting

All newly elected Department officers and National Delegates please remain in the room after installation for a brief Department Executive Committee Meeting

**Subject to Change at Any Time**

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
RESOLUTION

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SUBMITTED BY: Hardwick American Legion Auxiliary Unit #7

SUBJECT: Resolution for The American Legion to change eligibility requirements for the ALA

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

---

RESOLUTION NO. One

*(Assigned by Resolutions Committee)*

*Whereas*, The American Legion Auxiliary mission promotes service and support to veterans, military, and their families; and

*Whereas*, The American Legion Auxiliary is a diverse and inclusive organization; and

*Whereas*, The American Legion Auxiliary seeks to be an organization inclusive of anyone who supports veterans, military, and their families; and

*Whereas*, Eligibility for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is determined by The American Legion ; and

*Whereas*, The American Legion changed their governing documents to allow all spouses to become members of the American Legion Auxiliary in 2019; and

*Whereas*, The American Legion Auxiliary changed its Constitution in 2019 to update without American Legion Auxiliary governing board action should The American Legion further change its Constitution regarding eligibility for the American Legion Auxiliary; and

*Whereas*, the most recently revised IRS regulation for 501(c)(19) organizations states <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/other-non-profits/veterans-organizations>: **A veterans' post or organization must meet the following requirements to be exempt under section 501(c)(19):**

1. It must be organized in the United States or any of its possessions
2. At least 75 percent of its members must be past or present members of the United States Armed Forces
3. At least 97.5 percent of its members must be:
  - present or former members of the United States Armed Forces,
  - cadets (including only students in college or university ROTC programs or at Armed Services academies) or
  - spouses, widows, widowers, ancestors, or lineal descendants of individuals referred to in the first or second bullet
4. It must be operated exclusively for one or more of the following purposes:
  - to promote the social welfare of the community (e.g., to promote the common good and general welfare of the people of the community)
  - to assist disabled and needy war veterans and members of the United States Armed Forces and their dependents - and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans
  - to provide entertainment, care, and assistance to hospitalized veterans or members of the United States Armed Forces
  - to carry on programs to perpetuate the memory of deceased veterans and members of the United States Armed Forces and comfort their survivors
  - to conduct programs for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes
  - to sponsor or participate in activities of a patriotic nature
  - to provide insurance benefits for members or their dependents or
  - to provide social and recreational activities for members

5. No part of its net earnings may inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual; and

Whereas, the most recently revised IRS regulation for 501 (c) (19) organizations states <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/other-non-profits/veterans-organizations>: An organization may be exempt under section 501(c)(19) as an auxiliary unit or society of a veterans' post or organization if it meets the following requirements:

1. It is affiliated with, and organized in accordance with the bylaws and regulations of, a veterans' post or organization described above
2. At least 75 percent of its members are veterans, spouses of veterans, or related to a veteran within two degrees of consanguinity (i.e., grandparent, brother, sister, grandchild represent the most distant allowable relationships)
3. All members are either members of a veterans' post or organizations described above, or spouses of a member of such post or organization, or are related to a member of such post or organization within two degrees of consanguinity
4. No part of its net earning inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual; and

now therefore, be it

**Resolved**, The American Legion Auxiliary requests The American Legion change its governing documents to allow membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for all **currently, non-eligible** grandparents, parents, siblings, spouse, natural and adopted descendants, regardless of gender, related to The American Legion eligible member within two degrees of consanguinity; and be it finally

**Resolved**, Should The American Legion change its governing documents to allow membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for all **currently non-eligible** grandparents, parents, siblings, spouse, natural and adopted descendants, regardless of gender, related to a The American Legion eligible member, the American Legion Auxiliary shall immediately allow into American Legion Auxiliary membership grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, natural and adopted descendants to The American Legion eligible member within two degrees of consanguinity.

**Rationale: The 2019 change to the American Legion Auxiliary's Constitution to be inclusive and diversify our organization, providing eligibility to the spouses of Veterans has proven to be a positive decision. It has however, left a portion of the family & descendants of the Veterans who would like eligibility to support their Veterans ineligible due to gender, for any of our American Legion family organizations (i.e., a Veterans brother, father, or grandfather). While the sister, mother and grandmother of a Veteran have eligibility with the American Legion Auxiliary these male relatives remain ineligible for any American Legion organization. Changing the ALA's Constitution to allow for the inclusion of these male relatives would grow our membership and strengthen our organization to support our Veterans for the future.**

There has been much confusion with membership eligibility and IRS regulations, especially in the last decade as the IRS has continually amended regulations and conducted more audits of non-profit organizations. Previously, protecting traditions and the non-profit status of our organization, the American Legion Family membership chose to maintain strict eligibility rules above the minimum requirements of the IRS regulations. While this adherence to strict enforcement of the regulations remains an important priority, creating an inclusive and diverse environment to execute our mission is significant to increasing our membership. Following the IRS regulations and expanding the eligibility of our membership eliminates previously identified barriers that will make our organization better and stronger to ultimately enhance our support for our veterans, the military, and their families.

**Routing:**

Committee Chairman Name and Signature

Recommend  Not Recommend  Recommend with Amendment

Recommend  Not Recommend  Recommend with Amendment

Recommend  Not Recommend  Recommend with Amendment

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 19 Bristol  
PO BOX292  
Bristol, VT 05443

To Whom It May Concern,

Bristol Unit 19 is resoundingly pleased to endorse Tasha Bouvier for the position of Department President for the upcoming 2025- 2026 year.

Sincerely,

Tina Cota,  
Secretary Bristol  
Unit 19

American Legion Auxiliary Barre, VT Unit 10 proudly endorses Shannon R. Capron  
For Department Historian for the year 2025/2026.

Signature  
President

*Shannon R. Capron*

05/15/2025

Signature  
Secretary

*Holly Peake*

5/19/2025



Waterbury Unit 59  
16 Stowe Street  
Waterbury, VT 05676

April 11, 2025

**RE: Endorsement for Charith Zickmund for 2025-2026 Department Vice President**

At Unit 59's monthly meeting held on April 9, 2025, members voted unanimously to endorse Charith Zickmund for 2025-2026 Department Vice President. Charith has held many positions throughout her years of service, and it is our honor as a unit to recommend her.

For God and Country,

Signed by:

*Sarah Touchette*

BBC80E1D4460469  
Sarah Touchette, President  
Unit 59, Waterbury, Vermont  
(802) 793-1029



Montpelier Unit 3

21 Main Street

Montpelier, VT 05602

802-229-9043

March 1, 2025

Re: Nomination of PDP Francisca Massey

To whom it may concern:

At Montpelier Unit 3's regular meeting on Sunday, February 23, 2025, it was discussed and voted to nominate Francisca Massey, a Past Department President and a Honorary member of Montpelier Unit 3 for the high office of National Executive Committee person for Vermont.

---

For God and Country,

  
Melodie Ashford-McGrath, Pres.

Montpelier Unit 3



# American Legion Auxiliary Department of Vermont

126 State Street, P.O. Box 192  
Montpelier, Vermont 05601-0192

(802) 223-3141

[VTalaux@talaofvt.com](mailto:VTalaux@talaofvt.com)

American Legion Department of Vermont  
Executive Secretaryj

Green Mountain Unit I is proud to endorse PDP Debi Graziano for the position of NEC in the Department of Vermont American Legion Auxiliary. Debi is a member through her father, Robert Carl Lavee SR. She is a Past Dept President and continues to be active in our Unit serving Veterans, the Military and their families.

Sincerely

Christine Brown  
President, Green Mountain Unit I

802-309-3801

---



Green Mountain Unit No. 1  
P.O. Box 63  
St. Albans, VT 05478

April 2025

American Legion Department of Vermont  
Executive Secretary

Green Mountain Unit One is proud to endorse Jacqui Hood for the position of Alternate NEC in the Department of Vermont American Legion Auxiliary. Jacqui was District 1 President for several years and has held various committee positions within Department. She continues to be active serving our Veterans and their families. Unit One fully supports her.

/ s /

Christine Brown, President  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Green Mountain Unit #1

Cheryl Cote  
Corrinna Colson  
Shori Mckinnon  
Tuesday, April 1, 2025 2:30:55 PM

We the auxiliary post #47 of Canaan, Vermont would like to nominate Shori Mckinnon as Auxiliary District #2 President. . When asked if she would be willing to continue as District #2 President, if asked, she agreed. We feel she has experience and will do a good job for the state. Sincerely  
Cheryl Cote  
Secretary Post 47



Waterbury Unit 59  
16 Stowe Street  
Waterbury, VT 05676

April 11, 2025

**RE: Endorsement for Lillian Perry for 2025-2026 3<sup>rd</sup> District President**

At Unit 59's monthly meeting held on April 9, 2025, members voted to endorse Lillian Perry for 2025-2026 3<sup>rd</sup> District President.

For God and Country,

Signed by:  
*Sarah Touchette*

BBC80C1D4160489...  
Sarah Touchette, President  
Unit 59, Waterbury, Vermont  
(802) 793-1029

To whom it may concern:

We, the members of the American Legion Auxiliary #76, would like to nominate Heather Morris for Department Chaplain 2025-2026.

Heather has been our Department Chaplain for the past three years and would to continue as such for the upcoming year. She has been an excellent Chaplain, taking her duties very seriously, and we know she will continue doing so.

Sincerely,  
Anne Marie MacEachern - President  
Patsy Tompkins - Treasurer

# AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY 2025 Convention



**BE  
THE  
ONE**

## DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT



Hello there!

We're glad you can join us for The AMERICAN LEGION 2025 Convention.

We have a room block reserved at Hampton Inn by Hilton Colchester Vermont for Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, June 21, 2025. Booking your room is simple, just call **802-655-6177**

**Ask Registration for: American Legion Convention – Code: AME**

We're looking forward to seeing you in June! We hope you enjoy your stay and your group's event!

**Book by:** May 30, 2025

### **Hampton Inn by Hilton Colchester Vermont**

42 Lower Mountain View Dr, Colchester, VT 05446

1 802-655-6177

**Room Rates/King or Double** \$189.99+Tax – Breakfast Included, Wi-Fi, Indoor Pool, Exercise Room, pets additional fee...

Nearby: The Light House Restaurant, COSTCO, Starbucks and more...

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

**2025 STATE CONVENTION BANQUET**

Hampton Inn Colchester, 42 Lower Mountain View Dr., Colchester VT

**Friday, June 20, 2025**

**SOCIAL – 5:30 P.M**

**DINNER – 6:15 P.M.**



Balsamic Grilled Chicken & Roasted Pork Loin & Pasta Primavera

The above will be served with Fresh Tossed Garden Salad, Rolls and Butter,  
Roasted Red Potatoes, Seasonal Roasted Vegetables,  
Chef's Choice Assorted Dessert Table – Coffee & Tea

**\$40 Per Person**

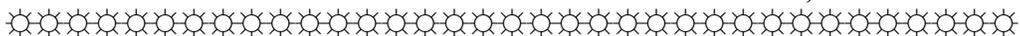
**Entertainment to Follow: C.A.T. DJ Services**

**Make Checks Payable to American Legion Department of Vermont and**

**SEND CHECKS TO:**

**Dept. HQ, P.O. Box 396, Montpelier, VT 05601-0396**

**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS: June 13, 2025**



**PLEASE RESERVE: \_\_\_\_\_ Banquet Tickets**

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Squadron/Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

(Circle Legion Sons of the American Legion Auxiliary)

# Dottie Brothers Memorial Fundraiser

## Who



Dottie was an amazing inspiration for the American Legion Family. She used her talents to crochet Flag Afghans, which she donated for raffles or auctions to raise funds in support of Veteran's Programs.

## Causes



### American Legion - Vermont Leadership Projects

- Department Commander Joe Zickmund - American Legion Children & Youth Programs
- Detachment Commander Brian Massey - The Mt. Norris Scout Reservation
- Department President John Tester - The Rev. George L. Fox Museum

## Help



We are asking all members of the American Legion Family to donate your handmade items to this fundraiser. We all have talents, please share yours with us to raise funds for our Leadership Projects. If you have any questions or would like to donate, please contact Charith Zickmund, Catherine Tester or Francisca Massey.

## How



Anything you make would be very much appreciated.

Ideas include (but not limited to):

Crochet or knitting, leatherworking, jewelry, home decor, macramé, food, sewing, paintings, wood working, candles, ceramics, needlework, metal craft, handmade cards, soaps, tatting, weaving, wreathmaking, etc.

## When



Items need to be completed and submitted before June 14.

They will be displayed and then either live auctioned, silent auctioned or raffled on June 20<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion Convention Banquet.

Each of our Department Leader's projects will receive 30% and a 10% memorial donation in Dottie's name will be made to The Dementia Society.

Charith - [cez913@gmail.com](mailto:cez913@gmail.com) Cathy - [ctester2663@gmail.com](mailto:ctester2663@gmail.com)

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

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

