

2024 - 2025 JANUARY EDITION
DEPARTMENT BULLETIN

**AMERICAN
LEGION**
AUXILIARY

(802) 223-341 / vtalaux@talaofvt.com

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

PRESIDENT



John R. Tester
2024 -2025

Greetings American Legion Auxiliary,
I am writing this month on two topics: Mid-Winter Conference and Membership.
Our Mid-Winter Conference will take place on Friday, January 17th and Saturday, January 18th. The finance meeting will take place via zoom only on Thursday, January 16th at 7:00pm. If you would like to attend the finance meeting, please reach out to headquarters and they will send you the zoom link for the meeting,
Friday's session, which starts at 1:00pm, will be for a DEC meeting (open to all members), and a Past Department Presidents meeting. The Mid-Winter banquet will take place starting at 6:00pm. I hope that you can join us. Please call Melodie at the Legion headquarters for banquet tickets.
On Saturday, registration begins at 7:45am. Please note that the registration fee is \$10.00. The Legion family will have a joint session starting at 8:30am.

We will open our session at 9:45am. We have many speakers and reports at Mid-Winter, all of which are important and relate to the ongoing operation of our department. Your attendance at Mid-Winter is important so that we may get as much information out to as many of our Units and member as possible. Our presenters spend a lot of time and effort providing an accurate and informative report for you. I look forward to seeing you there.

We are almost halfway through our membership year, and most Units should be at least 75% by now. 2025 dues are due no later than January 1, so I am encouraging all Units to make a concerted effort to get your memberships in as quickly as possible. Now, I know that membership can be a challenge, and I appreciate that every Unit and their membership chairman is working as hard as they can to get in memberships. It can be frustrating and disheartening at times, but please know that your efforts are greatly appreciated. You have no bigger cheerleaders than me and Membership Chairman Danielle Jerry. Keep up the great work, make those phone calls and send out those emails. Working together, we can achieve our goal of 100% membership!

Remember that our Town Hall meeting in January will take place on the second Monday, January 13th. I hope you will all join us.

I would like to wish all our members and their families a very Happy New Year and the best wishes for a healthy, happy and successful 2025. Thank you all for what you do!

John R. Tester
Department President

VICE PRESIDENT

Hello Auxiliary Members,
I wanted to remind all about the Mission Training in Boston on February 1st. I hope to see you there. Beginning in the new year I will start thinking about 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. Reminder Mid-Winter Conference is coming up and you should have received the agenda from Department. Hope to see you there. I hope everyone has a Happy Holiday and "see you" in the new year.

Thanks
Tasha Bouvier
ALA Department of VT Vice-President

NATIONAL EXEC. COMMITTEE

As we wrap up the most joyous time the year, I hope you had a Merry Christmas & personally want to wish all of you an incredible New Year and thank you for all you do and continue to do for our Veterans and their families. May you all have a wonderful Holiday with your family and friends. Spread Joy and Kindness and let us remember those that are no longer with us and those serving. Much love to you all!

Kelly Donaldson, NEC
Past Department President
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Vermont
Presidentkelly1970@gmail.com
802-353-9470

CHAPLAIN

MEMORIAM

In memory of our departed Auxiliary members:

Unit 1 - Dianna N. Reed Unit 25 - JoAnne Davis
Unit 49 - Nancy A. Rooker Unit 25 - Andrea Becker
Unit 7 - Rachel Fletcher Unit 7 - Tonya Langdell

Hello everyone. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and a happy New Year 2025. I'm looking forward in seeing you at our Mid-Winter Conference and receiving prayers in person from your unit. Please bring a prayer so I can add it to our Department President John's Prayer book, thank you.

New Year

Lord, as we begin a new year, let us resolve to keep a promise, seek out a forgotten friend, listen, laugh,

brighten the heart of a child, encourage the young, appreciate our elders, express our gratitude, take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of life, and speak Your love to others. Dear Lord, guide us in the New Year to grow closer together in our families, in our units, in our world. Let us always strive to bring peace to the world. Let us live each day to the fullest. For all the blessings of the year, we give You thanks, O Lord. Amen.

American Legion Auxiliary Chaplains' Prayer Book
P. 12

For God and Country,

Heather Morris

Department Chaplain

American Legion Auxiliary

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heathermorris_workhard@yahoo.com

HISTORIAN

Hello everyone,

I pray you find yourselves happy, healthy, and having a sparkling time! We are just about to Mid-Winter Conference, and we are going strong. We have had a lot going on in the units with Christmas. I have seen posted pictures of members donating treats to our Veterans. Awesome video on Facebook from Rebecca Moricette letting everyone know she was delivering treats to multiple places. I am sure the Veterans loved them. I also love seeing all the photos of everyone's Christmas parties with the children. Great job everyone!

President John joined us at the Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery for Wreaths Across America this year. I attend every year and if you have not attended, please try next year. You will have a wonderful time and leave feeling blessed for being a part of laying the wreaths.





I also had the pleasure of meeting the Miss Military Star Green Mountain State Preteen 2025 Queen. Her name is Holden Elizabeth Latimer. She also participated in laying wreaths.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Greetings ALA Members,

The new year is upon us, and I am hoping you had a great Christmas with your family. Our ALA was certainly helping to spread some holiday cheer with all of the Christmas Parties held by Units, holiday dinners and other amazing things our members are doing to show love to our Veterans, Military, their families and the community during this joyous time of year.

Our department holiday gathering at Headquarters was a great success with many members of the Legion family stopping in to celebrate the season with us. In attendance were American Legion Commander Joe Zickmund, Vice Commander, Bill Brothers, as well as Brian Markwell the AL Adjutant, and many PDC's and members. Dave Hendee, AL Riders Director joined us as well a SAL Detachment Commander Brian Massey & SAL Finance Officer Lucas Herring plus several SAL members. The Auxiliary was well represented with President John Tester and several other ALA members including our incredible office staff joining me, like Treasurer Marilyn Davis, bookkeeper Marla Waggoner, and Patricia Bartlett. A special shout out to our AL Executive Secretary Melodie Ashford McGrath for helping organize this annual event and to all the Legion family members who traveled to attend. It was great to see everyone and enjoy some holiday cheer.

Mid-Winter Conference is coming right up on January 17th - 18th and we hope to see as many members there as possible, If you are listed on the agenda as a presenter please reach out to President Tester and myself if you cannot attend. A special note that registration is \$10.00 for this conference to help defray the costs paid for conference rooms covered for us by the American Legion.

Can you believe only 6 more months left for this administrative year? Look at all that we have accomplished so far. I think our ALA has a lot to celebrate and I am looking forward to seeing what the new year has in store for us.

President John has visited many more units during their meetings and at their Christmas parties. He has also attended the Gift Shops, breakfasts, and so many more places. He is continuing his Monthly Town Hall Meetings. Please see a list of his travel below:

- 11/22 Transported the Auxiliary trailer to the Vermont Veterans Home
- 11/22 Attended the turkey and ham raffle at St, Johnsbury Unit 58
- 11/23 Participated in the Christmas Gift Shop at the Vermont Veterans Home
- 12/7 Attended the Christmas with Elvis show at Bennington Unit 13
- 12/8 Helped with the Ballard Hobart Unit 36 Kids Christmas Party
- 12/9 Town Hall meeting
- 12/13 Attended the Pownal Unit 90 Christmas party
- 12/14 Laid wreaths at the Vermont Veterans Cemetery for Wreaths Across America
- 12/17 Finance Meeting
- 12/19 At Headquarters for the Annual Holiday Open House and party
- 12/29 Helped Post and Unit 50 with their Kids Bingo as the bingo caller.

Next time we all see each other will be Mid-Winter and I can't wait to see you there! Merry Christmas Everyone!

In the Spirit of Service, Not Self,

PDP Francisca Massey
Historian
franciscacech@yahoo.com
802-661-8690
15 Cotter Avenue Apt. 2
Northfield, VT. 05663

In the Spirit of Service Not Self,

Corrinna E. Colson, Executive Director
ALA Dept. of VT
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(802) 223-3141

TREASURER

We have a contract with our accountant prepare the fiscal year 2024 990EZ federal return and the necessary file has been sent to him. If this goes smoothly, me may be able to file the two month 990 so that we can finally transition to a fiscal year beginning July 1 rather than May 1.

We are 62 percent through our year and have received 65 percent of anticipated membership. Due to an underrun in payroll, it looks like we are going to end the year well within the budget. Let's hope no big unanticipated expenses show up. Please do work hard on membership and support the Finance committee raffles and other fundraisers. That is all we have to support the Department. The contributions are continuing on our usual pace, and Marla has sent out the payments to the charities you support during the last couple of weeks. I am sure they will all be very appreciative of help in these trying times.

I believe President John will be announcing someone who has expressed an interest in learning about the treasurer's job and will work with me to see if she is a good fit to ask for the position next year. That would be wonderful! It is a great position that I have been very happy in.

The committee and I plan on having a draft budget for the DEC to look at during Mid-Winter and be able to recommend a final one before the end of the fiscal year.

Hope to see you at mid-winter.

Happy Holidays,

Marilyn Davis
vermonter@charter.net

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Hope your Holidays are Joyful and Bright,
May Your New Year bring you much Happiness,
Prosperity and Joy!
May God Bless each and every one of you!
Will see you all at Mid-Winter

Candy Huseman, Parliamentarian, PDP PNEC
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802-624-4183

POPPY

Hi everyone,
Poppy Poster Contest
All units let get out and get into our schools.
Someone can go in and talk about poppies.
We could get new members and jr's
The Poppy poster needs to be in my hands April 1-2025
Let's get moving!
Don't forget the corsages/Artwork for midwinter.
Guides for both are in last month's bulletin.

In the Spirit of Service, not Self,

Lillian Perry
Poppy Chairman
Tanbrett1@aol.com
802-244-5004
802-760-8112

IST DISTRICT

Greetings All, I hope everyone enjoyed your Christmas and Rung in the New years.! Come on District 1 we can get 100% in Membership! Looking Forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter!
Bristol 19 - Hosted a Children's Christmas party, they had 37 kids. Each kid got a gift from Santa, made cookies and face tattoos. The High School came and sang to them. Bristol have three more Steak Shoots Left:
January 19th, February 16th & March 16th

In March they will have baskets of items the people put together. Also, they are raffling off a 3600 generator there will be only 100 tickets sold. \$10.00 a ticket.



Middlebury 27 -

Hosted a Children's Christmas party, they had 22 kids. Each child got a Gift from Santa, face painting coloring book and crayons. Christmas ornament kit snacks, cookies and juice. There was a Table of Warmth, so each family got to choose hats, mittens, gloves, scarves. Also put together 49 stockings out to Veterans in Nursing homes in their community.

A Member made over 30 dozen cookies and 10 loaves of bread they were donated to Camp Johnson, Josh's House, Army Flight Facility and Jericho Base! 10 wreathes were bought for Wreathes Across American. and Adopted a veteran Family in our community in need, we adopted two children for Tatum Totes.



Enosburgh 42 - January 26th, 2025, are hosting Breakfast Buffet from 8 am to 11 am \$12.00 adults, Children 12 and under \$5.00 each. Contact Jennifer Bryce 802-752-6586. On February 15th Annual

Prime Rib Dinner & Dance 5:30 pm doors open, 6 pm dinner, 7 pm DJ Steady Spin. \$25.00 each dinner and dance only 96 tickets are being sold. \$20.00 for takeout 20 tickets only being sold Contact Tina Hallock for tickets 802-582-8002 or purchase at the legion.



For God & Country And Our Veterans

Rebecca Moricette

District 1 President

29 Griswold Dr

Rutland, Vt 05701

802-377-0231

rebeccamoricette@yahoo.com

2ND DISTRICT

Hello Ladies, I hope all is well with you and you are enjoying this festive season. I am here to remind you of membership. Please have your unit get them in by the end of this week or before the first of January. If not paid, they will not be able to attend meetings. Also, we have the challenge with the other four districts to see who has the most membership. Let's show them what we see made of. As always, I am here to help you with anything you need.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

For God and Country
Shori McKinnon,
District 2 Auxiliary President
mckinnonshori@gmail.com
603-331-5585

3RD DISTRICT

I will start with our units that had Christmas Parties for children, veterans, and the community. Thank You, Third District Vermont gathers to see the Statehouse Tree lit up. This year tree has grown for decades in front of the American Legion Post # 10. The purpose of this tree is to remember our Veterans. Shannon Capon is the Barre Unit #10 President. Shannon said she was proud they had chosen our tree of 24 years! Good Job Shannon! Don't forget MEMBERSHIP!!!!!! All units in my district, kindly send me the membership percentage as I will have this information for midwinter.

In the Spirit of Service, not Self
Lillian Perry
Third District President
Tanbrett1@aol.com
802-760-8112
802-244-5004

4TH DISTRICT

Holiday greetings,
Darlene Cumm from Unit 13 and her members have had a busy month. They shopped, wrapped, sang, and had a wonderful Children's Christmas party. They shopped, wrapped, and helped deliver gifts for 50 children for Bennington's Sheriff's Dept. "Secret Santa" program. At their annual Christmas cookie sharing they put together 300 bags of cookies for the VVH staff thanking them for the skilled loving care they give our beloved veterans. Members helped at the VVH with their pictures with Mr. & Mrs. Santa. They did "Winter Warmth" donations at the VVH, schools and throughout our community. Christmas stockings for Veterans were

given. I don't know how they did so much! Unit 90 in Pownal had a Christmas package auction and Christmas Potluck dinner John Tester Dept President attended and enjoyed the evening immensely.

Unit 49 had their annual children's Christmas party on December 15th, and everyone had a bouncing good time, they even had a bouncy house.

Unit 50 shopped, stuffed and delivered 40 stockings to the Rutland Open Door Mission for our Veterans. On December 17th Unit 50 hosted a Breakfast with Santa, Mrs. Claus and the Elves for our Community at the regular monthly Legion Breakfast. All children under 12 had free breakfast and received gifts and a gift certificate.

On December 29th Unit 50 will help our Legion with kids Bingo starting at 3pm its free for children 6 to 14 years old. Prizes and snacks provided to all who attend.

On January 3rd unit 50 in Castleton will provide a free lunch for area Veterans.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Winter conference on January 17th and 18th. I wish all of you Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Yours in the spirit of Service not self,
Christine Pouliot
ALA District 4 President
Phone: 774-254-2091
E-mail: horsewoman5454@yahoo.com

5TH DISTRICT

Greetings members of the 5th District
All the news I have is old news. I have had a good response from the Units in the District enlightening me on what they have been doing. I will use this information for my mid-winter report. Unfortunately, I will not be at Mid-Winter conference, but trust it will be fun and informative. I do not know where 5th district is with Membership. Keep up the good work, it would be nice to reach 1st place.

Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year to All!

For Our Veterans,
Sandra Brown
5TH District President
802-478-4704
sb1122id@gmail.com

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

Greetings to all our Unit Presidents, AEF Chairs and Members:
I would like to ask each Unit to do one fundraiser this year to raise money for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. I have written about this in past Newsletters and am attaching a label that can be printed out and attached to a Pringles "Super Stack" can. These labels can be printed on 8 ½ x 11 white paper. I am asking you to pass the donation can at your monthly meetings and if you have a canteen, place them in your canteen during our holiday giving season. Please contact me at the below phone numbers or e-mail when you are ready to submit your donation so that we can make sure that each Unit as well as the Department of Vermont gets credit for their donations. We are trying hard to make sure each Unit in Vermont makes some type of a donation to the AEF Fund. Thank you for your assistance in reaching this goal.

Happy Holidays!
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



To learn more about how the ALA Foundation grants can help work your mission [CLICK HERE](#)

AMERICANISM

Greetings All, I hope everyone rang in the New Years. Just A Reminder Mid-Winter Conf. is January 17 & 18 2025. I will need your photos for the Americanism Flag Contest by Jan 14th, 2025, so I can go to staples on Wednesday January 15th to print them off. Three pictures per person. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone soon!
For God & Country And Our Veterans

Rebecca Moricette
Americanism Chairman
29 Griswold Dr
Rutland, Vt 05701
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CHILDREN & YOUTH

Happy New Year Auxiliary members,
I've never been one to jump on the New Year's Resolution bandwagon, perhaps because to me it feels forced, and I know I personally don't do well in those situations. Instead, I prefer to reflect on the past and strive to make the coming year just a little bit better. As I reflect on our Children and Youth program, I'm reminded that this is a very important part of what we do, so much so that it is one of our four Pillars.

I remember some of the many people who have been influential in my life. Some made major contributions, while others gave small pieces that helped to make up the whole of who I am today. I'm reminded of an elementary English teacher who taught me to believe in myself and set goals, even if they felt unattainable. Of the ex-boss who taught me the importance of being a person of integrity and strength, no matter what happens, while leading by example. Of the Korean War Veteran who was a sole survivor of his massacred Unit, of his fight with "survivor's guilt", and how his unique perspective and advice taught

me not to be afraid to "take the bull by the horns".

This month, the half-way point in our Auxiliary year, I humbly ask that you reflect on the people who made the biggest impacts in your own lives. I ask that you look at the children in your Units, Post Homes, communities and families and find ways to teach them the importance of Americanism. By example, teach them to honor those who served to safeguard the democracy of freedom. Help instill in them pride of our Great Nation. Help them find their own "Why" so they can stand and carry on the service that is so very, very personal and important to each and every one of us.

I wish you a blessed New Year.

For God, Country and Our Veterans
Charith Zickmund
Barre Unit #10
cez913@gmail.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE

With a New Year starting very soon - I encourage your Unit to challenge your Posts and SAL's 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
802-325-3234

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS & STANDING RULES

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. The updated Constitution and Bylaws will soon be on the site at: <http://www.vtauxiliary.org/>

Thank you to all the hard work for those who spent the last year working on them. It truly has been a team effort.

Pam Norton
C& B Chair

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802.349.6866

EDUCATION

Hello American Legion Dept. of VT Auxiliary Members,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we begin the new year of 2025, we look ahead to the second half of the 2024-2025 ALA VT **EDUCATION Program** Year. We have done so much as an ALA VT organization since this time last year, and because our commitment to veterans is never-ending, there is still so much more that we can do. Our ALA members have spent countless hours working on our **EDUCATION PROJECTS**. **THANK YOU** for being there as we continue to make plans for GIVE 10, Scholarships, Winter Warmth, Food Donations, Flag Etiquette lessons, the POW-MIA White Table lessons and more. We will pick up new projects and share our plans as we move forward. **THANK YOU** to all ALA VT UNITS for all you have done in 2024 and all you will continue to do as we begin the 2025 New Year.

This is a reminder about our **AMERICA'S WHITE TABLE EDUCATION PROJECT** that I shared at our District 4 workshop last Fall. In 2025, I hope you will take this information and run into the schools with it! The table honors the men and women who served in America's Armed Forces. The table is for the more than 80,000 Veterans still missing in action or listed as prisoners of war. Here is a website with even more details about America's White Table.

<https://www.veteranscaucus.org/america-s-white-table>

Did your ALA Unit participate in our **WINTER WARMTH** Project? Did you deliver hats, mittens, gloves, winter coats, snow pants, boots etc, to local schools and day care programs in your area? Please look on the ALA VT Unit 13 Facebook page and you will see a photo of a Mitten Tree and a photo of learners and their teacher wearing hand knit hats that were gifted to them! You will see big smiles on their faces. ALA VT Unit 13 made them warm and happy! **Thank You** to all ALA VT Units that participated in this much appreciated project.

Please share with me the **EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS** that your UNIT is working on and I

will include your project notes and photos in my monthly ALA VT Education Report. THANKS!

Let's keep in touch! See you in a couple weeks at our ALA VT Mid-Winter Conference.

For God and Country,

Donna Stone

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dlstone764@gmail.com

FINANCE

Finance Committee

The Committee finds the Department within the budget for the year. Committee is preparing for an Open Zoom meeting before the Mid-Winter Conference. If you wish to attend, watch for the Zoom link in January. Finance will be holding another Scratch Off Ticket Raffle. Sales of tickets will start at Mid-Winter.

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 next month, 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).

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

Hello Girls, At mid-Winter President John has asked me to get as many Junior Girls together to do the Military Children's Table. Ceremony If you are interested in doing this with us, please let me know so I can set it up and know how many can help out. We are still looking for Juniors for Saturday January 18 at 8:30.

Happy New Year

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

Another Reminder this Month!

UNIT MEMBER OF THE YEAR CHALLENGE

President John and I are excited to challenge each Unit to submit the name of a member who embodies the American Legion Auxiliary Mission. Each Unit Member of the Year recipient will be honored at a special luncheon on Saturday, April 26, 2025. Additionally, all Unit Member of the Year honorees will be considered for the prestigious title of the 2025 Department of Vermont Unit Member of the Year. The winner of this title will be given the opportunity to be recognized at the National American Legion Auxiliary Convention.

To assist you in identifying potential nominees, I am providing a list of the key criteria to consider when selecting your Unit Member of the Year.

Further information, including copies of the official nomination form, will be shared at the Mid-Winter Conference in January.

Here are some things to keep in mind as you begin to think about your unit's nomination. Keep in

mind the nominee's accomplishments, activities, etc. for the current administrative year.

1. **Only senior members in good standing and have their current membership dues paid are eligible** – Keep those memberships updated!
2. **Exemplifies the Values of the American Legion Auxiliary** – The nominee should consistently demonstrate a strong commitment to the mission and values of the American Legion Auxiliary, including support for veterans, military families, and community service.
3. **Active Participation** – The individual should be an active member of the Unit, regularly attending meetings and contributing to its programs and activities.
4. **Leadership and Initiative** – Look for a member who has shown leadership, either formally or informally, and has taken initiative to improve the Unit and further its mission.
5. **Community Impact** – The nominee should have made a positive and meaningful impact on the community through volunteer work, service to veterans, or other charitable endeavors aligned with the Auxiliary's goals.
6. **Positive Attitude and Role Model** – Consider members who inspire others through their positive attitude, dedication, and work ethic. This person should be seen as a role model within the Unit.
7. **Service** – The member cannot have obtained an elected or appointed leadership role higher than the Unit President. Long-standing or new members' involvement in the Auxiliary's mission is a valuable factor to consider.

President John and I strongly encourage you to start thinking about your nominations now! Further details and the nomination form will be available at the Mid-Winter Conference in January. We look forward to celebrating the outstanding contributions of our members!

Lets get nominating these members who embody the characteristic outlined & see if we can get one from each Unit!

Krista Chadwick

Leadership Chairman

kristachadwick577@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE

Winter greetings Department of Vermont ALA,

Did you know that the 119th Congress will meet beginning January 3, 2025, and will be the next two-year term of the legislative branch of the United States federal government, composed of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives.

If you follow this link, it will take you to the Vermont General Assembly website where you can research what is happening.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/>

If you follow this link, it will take you to the page of Bill, Act and Resolution search regarding Veterans in Vermont

Do you know how a bill becomes a law? Follow this link and it will give you step by step instructions.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzOXKhQTGjklLffFfGDsDLFFZxnD>

Following is some information you may not be aware of, this information is available at the following link: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/>

About Legislative Committees

Much of the work of the Legislature is carried out in committees, where issues are studied, policy is formed, and legislation is crafted. There are different kinds of committees.

House and Senate Standing Committees
Standing committees generally meet Tuesday through Friday when the Legislature is in session. There are 14 House standing committees and 11 Senate standing committees. The House standing committees meet all day, and each Representative serves on one committee. The Senate committees meet for half a day, and each Senator serves on both a morning and an afternoon committee.

Joint Committees

Senators and Representatives comprise joint committees, which are often, but not always, co-chaired by one member from each Chamber.

Committees of Conference

Committees of Conference, composed of three

Representatives and three Senators, are convened toward the end of the session. The goal is for the members to discuss their differences and to agree on a bill that will be presented to both Chambers for a vote.

Study Committees and Commissions

Study committees are created to examine an issue when the Legislature is not in session. Study committees often issue a report and, in many cases, cease to exist after the report is issued. Like study committees, commissions are enabled through legislation to study an issue. However, unlike committees, commissions often meet year-round and may have members who are not legislators.

I am honored to tell you that every **Department Legislative Chair** has been invited by National ALA to visit Washington, DC in February, details follow:

DC Conference: February 23 - 26, 2025
Washington Hilton
1919 Connecticut Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20009

Members authorized to attend the meeting at the expense of the National Organization are expected to attend all sessions of the meeting you are assigned to, including the following:

Pre-Conference Information Meeting (Zoom)
Thursday, January 30 (Zoom – 7:00 PM EST)
Assigned Commission Meeting/Committee Meetings
Monday, February 24 (Washington Hilton Hotel)

ALA Meeting 7:30 am -
Tentative
Monday, February 24 (Washington Hilton Hotel)
Know before you Go
Monday, February 24 (Washington Hilton Hotel)
Hill Walk (Meetings with your Legislators)
Tuesday, February 25
Legislative Training Session
Tuesday, February 25 (afternoon) – *subject to change*

I am looking forward to this wonderful opportunity, will be reaching out to Vermont legislators and will also research their voting records for our veterans.

I wish you, your family, friends and our Veterans a wonderful winter season and a blessed 2025

Respectfully submitted,
Denise (Dee) Colety
Department of Vermont Legislative Chair
President, Green MT Hometown Heroes Board
greemountainhometownheroes@gmail.com
-Member of ALA Unit 13, Bennington, Vermont
-Member of ALR, Chapter 13, Bennington, VT
-4th District Rep, ALR, Department of Vermont
-Past District 4 President
-Past Unit President

MEMBERSHIP

With the start of the New Year, comes much of our membership renewals for 2025. Please do not delay in sending in these dues so that we can work to 100% with accurate numbers.

Congratulations to our first 2025 Vermont Auxiliary 100% Unit Northland 47! All Units that reach this milestone by January 31st this month will receive an award and ribbon from National to celebrate. Water 💧 you waiting for?

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

NATIONAL SECURITY

November we had a Veterans Day service with a small luncheon and then I collected donations with poppies, raffle tickets, small bottle can drive, bracelets to help raise money for our Veterans On December 8th we had a Children's Christmas Party and then our Auxiliary Christmas Party on the 18th. Now i will be getting ready for our mid-winter conference with my poppy poster and the American Flag. I don't think I will be able to do the National Security Committee zoom because of the bad service and that will be a while before that can get straightened out.

Many members of the 2nd district participate in the packing of care packages with the organization VT Supports. If you have any loved ones deployed next holiday season please contact them so they can be included in next years care packages.

<https://www.facebook.com/VTSUPPORTS>

December 18, 2024—JOURNAL OPINION—Page A5



VT SUPPORTS held its annual packaging event on Dec. 7, an event that sends nearly 600 packages to Frontline soldiers that are unable to return home for the holidays. There were over 100 volunteers from the community who packaged care packages.

Thank you so very much.

Christine Bousquet

National Security Chair

bousquetc879@gmail.com

603-333-7248

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

Greetings Everyone,

Well, it's been six months into our year and Christmas is around the corner. I hope all our Unit Presidents and our Past Department Presidents are leading the way through the Holidays on how to best serve our Veterans and how to best help our homeless veterans. The Holiday Season brings hardship and depression to some, so doing Buddy Checks are very important during these times.

Let's try to be kind and open hearted throughout the Holidays and I wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a better New Year! See you all at Mid-Year Conference!

In the Spirit of Service, Not Self...

Debi Graziano

Past President's Parlay

debispot@gardener.com/802-868-7920

4253 VT RTE 78 Highgate Center, VT 05459

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Emailing 101:

It's important that we get our messaging across clearly and effectively in our emails.

Try using these tips:

1. Keep the subject line concise/relevant.
2. Open with a clear statement about the purpose of the email.
3. Clearly state your main point(s). Be direct but polite.
4. End with a clear call to action or the next steps you desire.
5. Conclude with a courteous statement.
6. Include your contact information.

Extra email tips:

With the new AI technology, your writing can be improved by a few clicks. Check out the following websites:

- Chat GPT (free)
- flodesk
- ninjachat AI
- gemini (Google AI)

***Please note: AI is great for ideas, but always make sure to write your email, story, article, or submission

in your own words. ALA National Headquarters' PR team does not rely on AI for messaging because of potential legal and copyright issues, as AI often pulls from uncredited sources.***

Try signing up for Grammarly — it's a free online grammar checker. You can also set up your email with your own

personal signature. Select 'Signature' on your email tab. It will walk you through the process of adding it to your emails automatically.

You can direct your email recipient to a website, article, social post, etc. by including the link in the body of your message,

i.e., www.ALAforVeterans.org Just copy and paste the link in your text. You can include a picture in the body of your email message or attach the image by selecting the paperclip icon. The paperclip icon will ask what you want to attach. If you do have an attachment, refer to it and explain it

in your paragraph text.

As we gather together over the next few weeks, with family and loved ones for the holidays, please remember and include our Veterans in your festivities. Without them we may not be gathering at our homes with our loved ones. We owe them a magnitude of respect and gratitude. Merry Christmas!

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

SERVICE TO VETERANS

Here we are 2025 🎉 Happy New Year 🎊 ``

Year #5 working our “Christmas Stockings for Veterans” program, I want to say “Thank You” to all the units who filled Christmas stockings and delivered them within their community. I have already had some units report to me, and I am hoping you will all send me your units, time preparing, count, and \$ spent. I hope to send a detailed report in February’s bulletin.

This year’s “Gift Shop” 1st since Covid (or now by some called ‘Gift Giving) was a memorable event. We worked; the VVH staff worked and when it all come together it was nothing by smiles thank you and Merry Christmas’s exchanged. If our veteran could not come to us, we had their list and we shopped for them. We have little left for next year. I will be giving a more detailed report at Mid-Winter.

After Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Years, January comes in, 31 quiet days, and in New England they can be gloomy and depressing. What can you do for our veterans? Calls, visits, it only takes a few minutes of our time to make special minutes in their time. I will be hosting a pitch league at Post 13, starting Wednesday Jan 8th. We have 16 regular teams and welcome more. We have so much fun and look forward to Wednesday nights. I know some of your units do or help with breakfasts and dinners. There are lots of things we can do to stay connected with

our veterans, send me your plans and I will share in my bulletin messages.

Holidays and Observances - January 2025

- January 1st – New Year 2025
- January 20th – Martin Luther King Day

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

Looking forward to seeing you at Mid-Winter!

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

TROPHIES & AWARDS

Happy Holidays Everyone,

We are still working on updating the trophy & awards but hope to have everything in order for our Mid-Winter Conference! I'd like to Thank PDP Francesca Massey for all her hard work in helping to complete this task! We want to make the application process easier for all to apply and achieve a trophy or award! Thank You All for your understanding and patience!

I'd like to wish everyone a wonderful New Year and I hope to see all of you at Mid-Year Conference!

Debi Graziano/Trophy & Award Chairman
debispot@gardener.com
802-868-7920

VETERANS REHAB

(No Bulletin Message Submitted)

Liz Young,
Veterans rehab chair

VAVS

Happy New Year to everybody. I hope to see a lot of you at Mid-Winter. My unit hopes to have a first-time attendee join us.

The committees, after speaking with Stacey at

WRJ, has purchased gift cards for the Veteran's. They can get something that they want or need.

I am still hearing great things about our Tree of Warmth, and I am looking forward to next year's event. As discussed before, we will be doing a coat drive for this event. More information to follow.

If you have an outreach officer in your area, please get in touch with him or her, they are a great source of information on Veteran's needs. If you can't locate one let me know and I will research and find one for your unit. This is also a great way to reach out to families.

If you are interested in making hats, gloves, mittens, fingerless gloves, scarves or lap blankets, contact with myself or Janet Osmer to sign up.

Patsy Tompkins
1-802-525-6565
riley917@myfairpoint.net

UD&R

Do you have a unit that's struggling? Need a mentor to help with getting your unit motivated? Please reach out, sometimes a simple chat can make a world of difference.

Anne Marie MacEachern
Anne.maceachern@mail.com



WAYS & MEANS

Wishing you a Happy New Year! Ways N Means is excited to connect with everyone at the midwinter conference, showcasing innovative new items, Don't forget to bring your Unit Basket for a chance to win in our raffle!

See you soon,
Sarah Touchette
Dept. Ways N Means

POLICY & PROCEDURES

Hello everyone! The Policy & Procedures committee has been working on some things. We have another meeting coming up and hopefully can get some of them polished. We would like to hear any suggestions from you all as to what you would like to see. Please reach out to me if you have anything you would like to discuss. Hope you all have a Happy, healthy, and Merry Christmas. In the Spirit of Service, Not Self....

PDP Francisca Massey
802-661-8690
franciscacech@yahoo.com

[Summary](#) [Fees](#) [Mission Training Agenda](#) [Housing](#) [Contact Us](#)

2024-2025

The American Legion Regional
Information Conference

American Legion Auxiliary Mission
Training and National Junior Meetings

Sons of the American Legion
Conference

Boston, MA

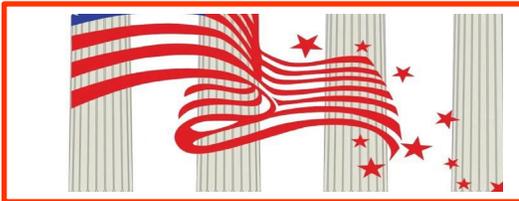
American Legion Auxiliary Mission Training and National Junior Meeting

The American Legion Regional Information Conference

Sons of the American Legion Conference

Saturday, February 1, 2025

Click here to Register for any of the Eastern Division Meetings in Boston



2024 ALA Membership

(As of December 20th, 2024)

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY				20 December 2024				2024 Membership 🐝			
Dept. of Vermont		Numeric Objective	Actual	%	# to 100%	Dept. of Vermont		Numeric Objective	Actual	%	# to 100%
FIRST DISTRICT					FORTH DISTRICT						
FIRST DISTRICT					# to 100%						
GREEN MOUNTAIN #1	424	397	93.63%	27	BENNINGTON # 13	246	223	90.65%	23		
RICHFORD #12	66	65	98.48%	1	WALTER CASE #29	79	73	92.41%	6		
VERGENNES #14	260	235	90.38%	25	RUTLAND #31	272	242	88.97%	30		
BRISTOL #19	216	215	99.54%	1	J. CLAIRE CARMODY #39	80	79	98.75%	1		
MIDDLEBURY #27	172	157	91.28%	15	FAIR HAVEN #49	112	103	91.96%	9		
ENOSBURG #42	120	97	80.83%	23	CRIPPEN FELLOWS #50	195	210	107.69%	-15		
CRELLER LONDON #60	78	69	88.46%	9	BRANDON #55	107	101	94.39%	6		
COLCHESTER #91	323	325	100.62%	-2	ARLINGTON # 69	87	80	91.95%	7		
TOTAL 1ST DISTRICT	1659	1560	94.03%	99	WEST RUTLAND #87	124	134	108.06%	-10		
					POWNAW #90	31	27	87.10%	4		
					TOTAL 4TH DISTRICT	1333	1272	95.42%	61		
SECOND DISTRICT					FIFTH DISTRICT						
SECOND DISTRICT					# to 100%						
HARDWICK #7	258	260	100.78%	-2	BRATTLEBORO #5	255	236	92.55%	19		
NEWPORT #21	96	79	82.29%	17	NELSON E. PICKWELL #15	14	13	92.86%	1		
ORLEANS #23	96	85	88.54%	11	CECIL A. DAVIS #17	19	15	78.95%	4		
JAY PEAK #28	91	90	98.90%	1	WINDSOR #25	190	184	96.84%	6		
LYNDON #30	92	89	96.74%	3	BALLARD HOBART #36	246	246	100.00%	0		
NORTHLAND #47	67	73	108.96%	-6	PIERCE LAWTON #37	196	198	101.02%	-2		
ST. JOHNSBURY #58	85	88	103.53%	-3	CHESTER #67	198	215	108.59%	-17		
BARTON # 76	17	25	147.06%	-8	TOTAL 5TH DISTRICT	1118	1107	99.02%	11		
BRIGHTON #80	92	85	92.39%	7							
TOTAL 2ND DISTRICT	894	874	97.76%	20	HEADQUARTERS #100	82	73	89.02%			
					Vermont Total	5713	5492	96.13%	221		
THIRD DISTRICT					1ST PLACE District 5 99.02%						
THIRD DISTRICT					2ND PLACE District 2 97.76%						
MONTPELIER #3	89	89	100.00%	0	3RD PLACE District 3 96.65%						
BARRE #10	165	148	89.70%	17	4TH PLACE District 4 95.42%						
MORRISTOWN #33	51	47	92.16%	4	5TH PLACE District 1 94.03%						
HARRY N. CUTTING #59	169	176	104.14%	-7							
SORRELL MAYNARD #63	132	127	96.21%	5							
DONALD MCMAHON #64	21	19	90.48%	2	1ST MILESTONE DATE 75%-12/7/23 100% by 31 Jan 2024 earns a Ribbon! Congrats Unit 47!						
TOTAL 3RD DISTRICT	627	606	96.65%	21	2ND MILESTONE DATE 85%-3/15/24						
					3RD MILESTONE DATE 95%-5/24/24						
					4TH MILESTONE DATE 100%-7/4/24						
					5TH MILESTONE DATE 102%-7/24/24						
Congratulations to our 100% Units! 🐝											



2025 ALA Membership

(As of December 20th, 2024)

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY		20 December 2024			2025 Membership				
Dept. of Vermont	Numeric Objective	Actual	%	# to 100%	Dept. of Vermont	Numeric Objective	Actual	%	# to 100%
FIRST DISTRICT					FOURTH DISTRICT				
FIRST DISTRICT					FOURTH DISTRICT				
GREEN MOUNTAIN #1	425	279	65.65%	146	BENNINGTON # 13	247	139	56.28%	108
RICHFORD #12	67	44	65.67%	23	WALTER CASE #29	80	45	56.25%	35
VERGENNES #14	261	160	61.30%	101	RUTLAND #31	273	120	43.96%	153
BRISTOL #19	217	111	51.15%	106	J. CLAIRE CARMODY #39	81	50	61.73%	31
MIDDLEBURY #27	173	72	41.62%	101	FAIR HAVEN #49	113	74	65.49%	39
ENOSBURG #42	121	30	24.79%	91	CRIPPEN FELLOWS #50	209	154	73.68%	55
CRELLER LANDON #60	79	36	45.57%	43	BRANDON #55	108	82	75.93%	26
COLCHESTER #91	324	222	68.52%	102	ARLINGTON # 69	88	55	62.50%	33
TOTAL 1ST DISTRICT	1667	954	57.23%	713	WEST RUTLAND #87	125	86	68.80%	39
					POWNAW #90	32	12	37.50%	20
					TOTAL 4TH DISTRICT	1356	817	60.25%	539
SECOND DISTRICT					FIFTH DISTRICT				
SECOND DISTRICT					FIFTH DISTRICT				
HARDWICK #7	259	208	80.31%	51	BRATTLEBORO #5	256	168	65.63%	88
NEWPORT #21	97	61	62.89%	36	NELSON E. PICKWELL #15	15	11	73.33%	4
ORLEANS #23	97	56	57.73%	41	CECIL A. DAVIS #17	20	14	70.00%	6
JAY PEAK #28	92	44	47.83%	48	WINDSOR #25	191	134	70.16%	57
LYNDON #30	93	57	61.29%	36	BALLARD HOBART #36	247	190	76.92%	57
NORTHLAND #47	68	73	107.35%	-5	PIERCE LAWTON #37	197	115	58.38%	82
ST. JOHNSBURY #58	86	39	45.35%	47	CHESTER #67	213	131	61.50%	82
BARTON # 76	26	24	92.31%	2	TOTAL 5TH DISTRICT	1139	763	66.99%	376
BRIGHTON #80	93	45	48.39%	48	HEADQUARTERS #100	83	60	72.29%	
TOTAL 2ND DISTRICT	911	607	66.63%	304	Vermont Total	5789	3577	61.79%	5789
THIRD DISTRICT					THIRD DISTRICT				
THIRD DISTRICT					THIRD DISTRICT				
MONTPELIER #3	90	39	43.33%	51	1ST PLACE	District 5	66.99%		
BARRE #10	166	93	56.02%	73	2ND PLACE	District 2	66.63%		
MORRISTOWN #33	52	45	86.54%	7	3RD PLACE	District 4	60.25%		
HARRY N. CUTTING #59	170	94	55.29%	76	4TH PLACE	District 3	59.40%		
SORRELL MAYNARD #63	133	87	65.41%	46	5TH PLACE	District 1	57.23%		
DONALD MCMAHON #64	22	18	81.82%	4					
TOTAL 3RD DISTRICT	633	376	59.40%	257					
					First Milestone is 75% for 2025 Membership due by Dec 7, 2024				
					Next Milestone is 100% by January 31				
					Congrats to our First 100% 2025 Membership Achiever Northland Unit 47!				

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.





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

January 13, 2025

7:00PM

Zoom information:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88005521455?pwd=Nca7vbf8YGbQBrOhLpCS19qL2qb55i.1>

Meeting ID: 880 0552 1455

Passcode: 441029



Department of Vermont

SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Event	Who	Time	Where
1/1	Wednesday	Happy New Year!			
1/13	Monday	Town Hall Meeting	Dept. Officers, Chairman	7:00pm	Zoom
1/16	Thursday	Finance Meeting	Finance Committee	7:00pm	Zoom
1/17	Friday	Mid-Winter Conf.	All members	1:00pm	Hampton Inn
1/18	Saturday	Mid-Winter Conf.	All members	8:30am	Hampton Inn
1/20	Monday	MLK Day and Inauguration Day			
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		

Date	Day	Event	Who	Time	Where
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
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 12/26/24

Schedule subject to change at any time.



DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE



January 17 & 18, 2025

Hampton Inn and Suites
42 Lower Mountain View Road
Colchester, Vermont

Thursday, January 16

7:00pm

Finance Meeting

Zoom only

Friday, January 17

1:00pm	Department Executive Committee Meeting	Conference Room (1 st floor)
2:00pm	Past Department Presidents Meeting	Conference Room (1 st floor)
4:00pm	Riders Meeting	Conference Room (1 st floor)
6:00pm	Social Hour	Banquet Hall
7:00pm	Banquet	

Saturday, January 18

7:45am	Registration Opens	Auxiliary Registration Fee - \$10.00	<i>(District Presidents assigned to registration tables)</i>
8:30am	Joint session with American Legion Family - Military Childs Table Presentation		
9:45am	Call to Order Opening Prayer Pledge of Allegiance Preamble to the Constitution	President John Tester Department Chaplin Heather Morris Americanism Chairman Rebecca Moricette C&B Chairman PDP Pam Norton	
10:00am	Welcome Message Response for Units Response for Department Greetings from National	District 2 President Shori McKinnon President Unit 7 Ishanna Smith Leadership Chairman Krista Chadwick NEC PDP Kelly Donaldson	
10:15am	Roll Call of Units Correspondence & Announcements Presentation of History book to PDP Graziano	Exec. Secretary PDP Corrinna Colson Exec. Secretary PDP Corrinna Colson Exec. Secretary PDP Corrinna Colson	
10:30am	Break		
10:45am	ALA Green Mountain Girls State Presentation - Chairman Remarks - Directors Presentation - 2024 Governors Address	ALAGMGS Chairman Tasha Bouvier ALAGMGS Director Audrey Grant 2024 ALAGMGS Governor Vincey Chan	

- 11:15am District Presidents Mid-Year Addresses
- District 1 Rebecca Moricette
 - District 2 Shori McKinnon
 - District 3 Lillian Dow-Perry
 - District 4 Christine Pouliot
 - District 5 Sandra Brown



11:40am Old Business / New Business

12:00pm Lunch

1:00pm Trophies and Awards Report

PDP Fran Massey & PDP Debi Graziano

1:15pm Finance Report

Department Treasurer Marilyn Davis
Finance Chairman Christine Brown

1:30pm Constitution and Bylaws Report

C & B Chairman PDP Pam Norton

1:45pm Membership Report

Membership Chairman Danielle Jerry

2:00pm Tree of Warmth Report

PDP Janet Osmer

2:10pm Vermont Veterans Home Gift Shop Report

Service to Veterans Chairman Darlene Cumm

2:20pm George Fox Chapel and Museum

Lisa Hirbour, Rev. George & Isadore Fox Family

2:35pm Mid-Winter Address

President John Tester

2:45pm American Flag Contest Winners

Americanism Chairman Rebecca Moricette

2:50pm Poppy Corsage & Poppy Poster Winners

Poppy Chairman Lillian Dow-Perry

3:00pm Ways and Means drawings

Ways and Means Chairman Sarah Touchette

3:25pm Benediction

Department Chaplain Heather Morris

3:30pm Adjourn Mid-Winter Conference

President John Tester

This agenda is subject to change prior to the conference



Mission

Membership

Communication

Patriotism



American Legion Mid-Winter Conference

**Friday & Saturday
January 17 & 18, 2025**

The room rate is \$119 per night, plus tax and includes a daily full hot buffet breakfast.

To reserve, call 802-655-6177 to speak with reservations - refer to American Legion 2025 or code "JAN" for group rate!

Hampton by Hilton Burlington Colchester

42 Lower Mountain View Drive
Colchester VT 05446



THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

2025 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE BANQUET

HAMPTON BY HILTON, 42 Lower Mtn View Dr., Colchester, VT

Friday, January 17, 2025

COCKTAILS – 6:00 P.M

DINNER – 6:30 P.M.



Chicken Cordon Bleu & Roasted Pork Loin

The above will be served with Herb Roasted Red Potatoes, Pasta Primavera, Seasonal Roasted Vegetables,
Dinner Rolls, Tossed Salad & Chef's Choice Dessert

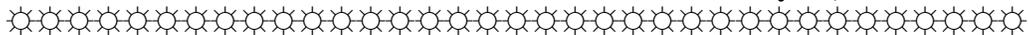
\$40.00 per person – All Inclusive

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: January 10, 2025



PLEASE RESERVE: _____ Banquet Tickets

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$_____

NAME: _____ Post/Squadron/Unit: _____

(Circle Legion Sons of the American Legion Auxiliary)



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 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: _____

To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:

Student Name: _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____

School Name: _____

City/State of School: _____

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: _____ Department: _____

Signature of Department Chairman: _____

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.

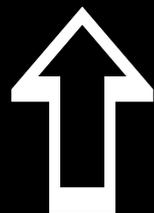
Contest Classes

- 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.

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
	% Daily Value
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.

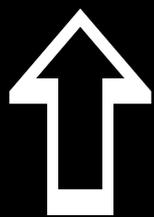
Since its establishment in 1969, the AEF has been available to members experiencing radically life-changing events whether from personal crisis to acts of nature.

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.

Made with
Your Donations

Help \$upport ALA members
in crisis with your donations



Auxiliary
Emergency Fund

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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 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

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

 alagmgs.com

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

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

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

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

