

# 2021 APRIL BULLETIN



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## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

Happy Spring Auxiliary Members and welcome to VT's 5<sup>th</sup> season ...Mud Season! I hope you are enjoying the beautiful sunny weather right now and getting out in the fresh air as we all need some of that after the long months of COVID isolation.

With the sunshine it appears our progress on the COVID -19 crisis also is trending towards brighter days with more Vermonters becoming vaccinated and our Governor allowing for the opening of our clubs at 50% capacity following restaurant guidelines. This is great news and just in time to allow Units to hold their annual elections of officers, however regular membership meetings are still not authorized yet see below:

*Corrinna Colson <ccolson.alavt@gmail.com> 4:50 PM (5 hours ago)*

*to Ted.brady*

*Ted,*

*Thank you for the guidance earlier and clarification about the opening of American Legion bars & social clubs as it pertains to the allowance of meetings.*

*Can you please just clarify for me the fact that IF the annual election of officers meetings cannot be held off until later in April when guidance may allow, due to our organizations Constitution & By Laws that the unit may conduct their Annual meeting to elect new officers only at this time?*

*This is not a social gathering, but a business meeting and members will wear masks, remain 6ft apart and disperse immediately after the meeting without celebrations of embracing. I cannot guarantee they will not visit the post bar for a celebratory drink but will do so under the current guidelines detailed in the latest guidance for the opening of these.*

*If a link is available for public meeting guidance please include that in your response so we can put this out to our members.*

*Thank you for working to keep us all safe in beautiful Vermont!*

*In the Spirit of Service Not Self,  
Corrinna E. Colson  
AL Auxiliary President  
Dept. of Vermont  
2019 - 2021*

*Brady, Ted 5:29 PM (4 hours ago)*

*to Nate, me*

*Corrinna*

*Thanks so much for the email follow up.*

*Multi-household social gathering restrictions remain in effect. Currently, only two unvaccinated households may gather for a social occasion.*

*Social clubs should not be hosting meetings that are social gatherings. For sake of clarity re: social clubs, I'd define a social gathering as any non-essential gathering of a social club (think a mixer, a party, a wedding, a funeral reception, a quarterly informational meeting, a weekly meeting of membership...etc.). Restaurant and bar activities are not considered multi-household social gatherings – as going to a restaurant does not inherently mean socializing with another table or diner. A membership election falls in the gray area. In general, an election would not be considered a multi-household social activity, but the ancillary activities that an election might provoke (sitting around and having a drink, catching up with a neighbor, socializing with other club members) would be multi-household activities. A club may be able to have an election or annual meeting called for in their bylaws etc, if such meetings are managed to prevent them from becoming social occasions where people mix between households, socialize, mingle etc. If a club can delay such meetings until later in the spring, we advise doing so. If they cannot – they must follow the existing capacity restrictions (50 percent capacity, one person per 100 square feet, or 75 – whichever is smaller). They must also maintain contact tracing logs. While it is not a perfect analogy, they may wish to consult section 13.1 of the Work Safe Memo (<https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-be-smart-stay-safe-order>) concerning meetings of public bodies.*

*I hope this helps. Going forward, please reach out to Nate Formalarie below.*

*TB*

I know many believed that the opening of the bars meant regular meetings could resume as did I but since that section of the Stay Safe Work guidelines was not highlighted as changed I reached out for clarification and was able to negotiate an agreement to hold our annual election meetings as outlined in each Units C&Bs. No additional regular membership in person meetings can be held until these are deemed safe by the Governor's guidelines, but we can at least get these elections completed. Remember to get your shot as soon as allowed

but still follow the CDC guidance of wearing masks and staying socially distanced as these are not 100% assurance that you will not get sick.

If our COVID status continues to trend brighter we will be able to have an in-person convention in June, although not at the Holiday Inn which is now being used as a vaccine site. We are working on several locations in the Rutland area and should have more answers soon. Even if we can only have the delegates for this convention in-person and live stream the event to others that would be better than nothing, which is how some states have held these. Likewise, I am increasingly excited to possibly host out National President, Nicole Clapp, the first week in May, if the stars align just right and the sun continues to shine brightly! Stay tuned for more details.

Now let's talk about some less than exciting events that have been going on behind the scenes in our organization within our Department Executive Committee. In the spirit of transparency, they are ready to disclose to you some information that has taken a great deal of time away from our mission to serve Veterans, and has resulted in some difficult decisions by our DEC leading to disciplinary actions against several officers & chairpersons of this great organization.

As the President, I would be remiss in not fully disclosing that this started with several members of the DEC asking for my resignation from office for what they perceived as continued behavior & decisions that warranted removal from the Presidency. As the daughter of a Vietnam Navy Veteran who instilled in me integrity & a good amount of stubbornness, I was determined not to let my accusers take away my WHY, or my ability to serve as the leader of this organization I have come to love so dearly.

An investigative committee was selected by the DEC of volunteers last summer who worked tirelessly to sort through volumes of confidential evidence concerning this situation and all meetings of the DEC for this matter were held in executive session. The term executive session is defined in Robert's Rules of Order 12<sup>th</sup> edition as *"any meeting of a deliberative assembly, or portion of a meeting, at which the proceedings are secret."*

Unfortunately, the rules of executive session were not followed by all members and some of our members may be hearing inaccurate details of this process or reading comments of social media about DEC members and this President. Therefore, the DEC will be releasing the reports of these executive session proceedings to the ALA Unit Presidents for viewing by all ALA Unit members **ONLY**. A letter from the DEC regarding this follows this bulletin message.

While this was an unfortunate situation the ALA has strict guidelines for handling these circumstances that detract from our mission and attempt to tear our organization apart. Anyone who breaks executive session or is found guilty of actions against other members of our organization including bullying or defaming of their character or name, are subject to discipline including sanctioning from our Department Executive Committee per Robert's Rules of Order.

The ALA Department of Vermont takes these infractions very seriously as has been shown throughout this process. It is the duty and responsibility of this organizations Department Executive Committee to hold members accountable for their actions for the good of the entire organization!

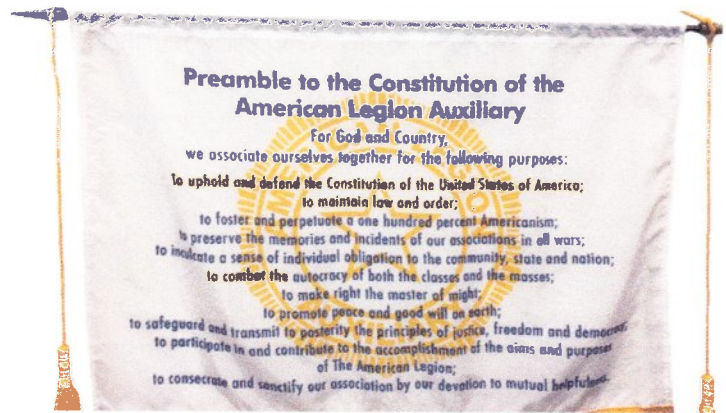
I ask our members to refrain from these actions and let's work to make our American Legion Auxiliary a kinder more inviting place in our Units & at the Department level. Remember we are all volunteers but together we represent the ALA and our actions should reflect the principles stated in our preamble as we are its representatives.

The proceedings of what our National organization has coined as “the dust up in Vermont” have concluded and my plan is to move forward for what remains of my year with positive energy, kindness and forgiveness & ask the rest of our members to do the same.

Let’s work the ALA mission with pride and not forget WHY you joined the ALA or the Veteran that served to make us eligible to serve others. Always remember we never know the internal battles other may be fighting and ensure your actions towards others as we work the mission would make your Veteran proud!

In the Spirit of Service not Self,

Corrinna E, Colson  
ALA President  
Department of Vermont  
2019-2021  
[ccolson.alavt@gmail.com](mailto:ccolson.alavt@gmail.com)  
802-274-8333



**The American Legion Family**



## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

### DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

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March 21, 2021

In July of last year complaints received against President Corrinna were put forward for the purpose of removing her from office. During the confidential investigation and report concerning these complaints, circumstances were discovered that resulted in the trial and conviction by the Department Executive Committee of three Past Department Presidents of actions detrimental to the welfare of the Auxiliary. These convictions were upheld by more than 2/3 vote of the DEC and penalties were imposed.

President Corrinna was exonerated of the accusations but had received a complaint against the Vice President in her former position as Treasurer of her unit that was entered into evidence for this investigation. After receiving DEC permission to further investigate this complaint, the DEC found that the Vice President was derelict in her duty as Treasurer and determined a letter of censure was appropriate.

All activities and meetings concerning these actions were held in confidential Executive Session as required by Robert's Rules of Order. Some of the circumstances of the reports have been leaked beyond the limits of the confidentiality of Executive Session and are causing confusion about the DEC's actions.

The DEC feels that it has become essential for members to have the information on which the DEC based their decisions. The DEC will provide the investigative committee reports to the Unit Presidents and unit members may contact their President if they wish to acquaint themselves with the information.

It is disappointing that such actions were necessary, however responsible governance sometimes requires disciplining members for actions injurious to our organization, as unpleasant as this duty may be.

**All the information in the reports is confidential to American Legion Auxiliary members and may not be released to persons who are not members of the Auxiliary.**

Sincerely  
The Department Executive Committee

## VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings:

Happy Spring! Finally, the weather is changing for the good I hope.

If you have any interest in being a chairperson, serving on a committee, taking an appointed position, etc. please get in touch with me. I do not know your wishes if you do not communicate with me. Thank you.

A note on Department Convention in June, please consider being a delegate for your Unit as there will be changes brought upon the floor to Department's Constitution and Bylaws. Also, delegates will be voting on Department Officers and each Unit delegate has a vote!!!

For God, Country, and our Veterans,

Sharon L. Corey

1353 Lamb Hill Road

Wells, VT 05774 802-325-3234 [scorey.aiavt@gmail.com](mailto:scorey.aiavt@gmail.com)

## CHAPLAIN

Good day Auxiliary members, I hope that everyone is doing well and healthy. Spring is finally here and new growth is sprouting. Let this be a new year of growth among us. A new fresh start. Pray for us dear Lord, help me remember what a difference it makes when I make the time with You a priority. Awaken me in body and spirit each day with a desire to meet with You and to hear You speak words of affirmation, assurances and wisdom over us. In Jesus's name Amen

Department chaplain  
Anne Marie Maceachern

## IN MEMORIAM

Unit #13

Cherie M. Guile (02/23/21)

Unit #27

Shirley Kitchell

Unit #42

Antoinette P. Kennison (2/16/21)

Unit #49

Debi J. Bailey (02/23/21)

## HISTORIAN

Hello,

I wanted to share the National contest information regarding the American Legion Auxiliary National History contest rules for senior members. I unfortunately wasn't able to just paste the forms after my information here, so I have asked Trish to attach the document. The first page is for me to fill out, but feel free to read it over. This report is for 2019-2021 year per National. This isn't a requirement however it is encouraged.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Tasha Bouvier  
72 School St  
Vergennes, VT 05491>  
(802) 989-8312  
[tabouvier@yahoo.com](mailto:tabouvier@yahoo.com)

## PARLIAMENTARIAN

All members whose current membership dues are paid are considered members in good standing and are entitled to all the rights and privileges of membership, including those aspiring to and holding office and voting in the American Legion Auxiliary.

Rise and address the chair if you want to discuss the motion under consideration or to offer another motion. Wait to be recognized by the presiding officer before beginning to talk after addressing the chair. Say, " I move to ... " or "I move that ...". Make a motion in an affirmative form, never in the negative. Always address your remarks to the chair, never to another member. Speak of another member by some expression other than her name, such as, "the member on my left...", or "the member who moved...".

Remain silent if you ready to vote and the presiding officer says, "Are you ready for the question?" Assist the presiding officer promptly by giving your name.

Use the correct terminology. State facts rather than beliefs.

Understand the types of votes:

Majority: the number greater than half the votes cast.

Plurality: issue or person receiving most votes, may be less than a majority, as in an election with three or more candidates.

Two-thirds vote: To determine a 2/3 vote quickly, double the negative votes cast and if it is equal to or less than the affirmative votes cast, a 2/3 vote has been attained.

Members should speak up while a motion is pending, NOT after the vote has been taken OR after the meeting is over.

Happy Easter

For God, Country and all Veterans  
Pat Sherman Parliamentarian



## American Legion Auxiliary National History

### Contest Rules – Senior Member

The American Legion Auxiliary is extending its administrative year through our 2021 National Convention due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the National Historian contest will follow this decision. Please continue your department history through the 2021 administrative year

The recording of the American Legion Auxiliary's history at all levels (unit, department, and national) is important so that everyone will know who we are, what we do, and why we matter. To emphasize this point, the ALA National organization annually conducts a National History Contest, one for senior (adult) members and a separate contest for Junior members. The purpose is to encourage departments to preserve their history at both membership levels.

Following are the rules regarding formatting and content along with information as to how the entries are scored. Department histories are to be sent to and judged by the respective national division vice president. The winning entry for each division will be submitted to the national historian who determines the overall winner of the annual history contest. The winner in the senior category is the recipient of the ALA Toomey Award. This award came at the behest of the Department of Georgia in 1924, named in honor of one of their distinguished members, Maude Lynch Toomey.

Each department is encouraged to submit an entry for the National History Contest and should include the following information:

Division \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_

Department Historian's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last

Department Historian's Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street  
City State Zip

#### Department History Contest Deadline:

A department history **MUST BE RECEIVED** by the appropriate national division vice president **NO LATER than July 10, 2021** to be eligible for judging.

Historian



## Department History Contest Content and Scoring

The entries will be judged and scored according to the following criteria:

**Score:**

**I. Introduction, Inclusions** (10 scoring points) \_\_\_\_\_ points

1. Title Page
  - a. American Legion Auxiliary Department of \_\_\_\_\_ History
  - b. ALA department administrative year mo/yr to mo/yr
  - c. Name of department historian
2. Foreword or dedication
3. A prayer
4. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
5. First verse of "The Star Spangled Banner"
6. Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary

**II. Department Information** (10 scoring points) \_\_\_\_\_ points

1. List of elected and/or appointed department officers for the current administrative year
2. Photograph of department president (optional, black & white or color, not to exceed 5 x 7 in.)
3. List of department chairmen or committee appointments for current administrative year
4. List of national officers and appointed committee members from your department for current administrative year
5. List of department or national awards received at the previous National Convention
6. The typed name/title and written signature (typed signature if submitting it electronically) of the department historian should immediately follow the final paragraph of the history.
7. Index (optional)

**III. Appearance - Formatting** (10 scoring points) \_\_\_\_\_ points

Department histories should be submitted electronically according to the following specifications:

1. For electronic submissions, be sure to use letter size document. If a mailed entry, use plain, white paper, 8 1/2 x 11 in.\*
2. Page Setup:
  - a. Margins - Left and right margin should be 1.25 in.; top and bottom margins should be 1 in.
  - b. Pagination – Page numbers should begin on the first page of the historical content. They should be centered and placed 0.5 in. from the bottom of the page.

3. Spacing: Double-spaced with the exception of the Introductory pages (i.e. title page, foreword or dedication, photograph of the department president, prayer, Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, first verse of “The Star Spangled Banner” and Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary), which shall be centered in the middle of the page. Paragraphs may be indented or in block form.
4. Text: 12 point font, Times New Roman or Arial style font

*\*Note: The National organization prefers electronic submissions. A history may be submitted via postal mail only if the department historian has discussed this form of entry submission with the national historian at least 30 days prior to the deadline. If a department history is submitted for the contest via postal mail, that entry will not be mailed back to the department unless the department has included a pre-paid return mailing label and return packing material along with the department’s mailed entry. Any approved mailed entry must be in a soft cover binder for loose-leaf paper, preferably blue with 2.5 inch gold foil American Legion Auxiliary seal centered on the cover or a regulation binder with imprinted seal.*

**IV. Content** (70 scoring points) \_\_\_\_\_ **points**

1. The ALA department annual history shall be written as a factual narrative beginning with the installation of department officers at department convention, and ending with the summary of end-of-year reports and closing events for that ALA administrative year.
2. The history shall be written in third person. Please refer to “How to Record Your Department’s History” page in the National Historian Programs Action Plan.
3. Use clear, concise language with correct spelling.
4. Do not include or use computer graphics, pen or ink drawings, illustrations, extra material, or newspaper clippings, or other embellishments.
5. You may include up to five (5) photo images placed throughout the history. (optional)
6. Be sure the department annual history truly represents a historical account of the department – what the department accomplished. A department history lists those who served as leaders and mentions notable awards or individual achievements. It is not a travelogue or diary of any officer or individual’s itineraries. The content is about the department and its collective members mission achievements.

**Total Points** \_\_\_\_\_