

FEBRUARY 2020 BULLETIN



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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Greetings Auxiliary members! By the time you are reading this Midwinter Conference will have taken place and I hope you enjoyed the agenda I had planned. It is strange to be writing this message prior to the conference with it only days away but I am sure the next bulletin will leave me plenty of topics to be discussed.

For this bulletin I would like to express how thankful I am to the Units who have invited me so far to visit them. It is my sincere intent to visit every Unit in the state even the smallest so please send me your invitations. I prefer to attend your events not meetings unless there is a need for me to attend as I find that events are where the most members attend and not just officers.

Lyndon Unit 30 invited me to their recent 100th Year Birthday potluck. Thank you, Lyndon for the opportunity to speak with the Caledonia Record about my President's project and for donating the 50/50 for this great cause as well.

My calendar is starting to fill up slowly for the spring with dates including an Honor Flight Guardian Training on February 1st I am participating in with two Legionnaires and two Auxiliary members in Nassau, NH. We plan to learn what it takes to accompany one of our Veterans on a flight to Washington DC! How exciting is that!

Also, on March 21st & 22nd Joe Byron from Honor Flight will be accompanying me to luncheons, we are calling dinner & a movie, at Bennington Post #13 and Castleton Post #50 with our WWII Veterans. The idea is to get as many VT WWII Veterans to attend the luncheon with a guest to watch a film about the HF & get them signed up to attend.

We are working with Michelle Burgess from the VVH to ensure those Veterans are included too. If you think your Post/Unit would be willing to host a luncheon, please let me know!

May is right around the corner and it appears our National President will indeed be here with us for 7 days, May 14-20th. If you would like a chance to host, her for a meal during her week; lunch or dinner including a National Presidents Banquet please get in touch with Trish at Department. We cannot guarantee your request will be chosen but we will need these in by the beginning of April so I can start putting together her itinerary, so get your dates in quickly. All Legion family members are invited to attend the fundraiser event for VT Adaptive Veterans Venture at the Statehouse on May 16 with National President, Nicole Clapp.

Again, I want to be sure to thank all our members for everything you do for our Veterans, Military and Community. Let's remember those who are deployed and keep them in our prayers during this unsettled time in our country and observe a moment of silence each day for those we have lost.

Your Centennial President,

Corrinna E. Colson
ALA Dept. of Vermont
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802-274-8333

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The American Legion Auxiliary has a new tag line "A community of volunteers serving veterans, military and their families".

The stocking project, led by Service to Veterans chairperson, Suzanne Auger was a huge success.

Coming up in February is District 4's Workshop on February 8, 2020 at Castleton Post #50.

Also, Salute to Veterans week is the week of February 14th, 2020.

For God, Country and our Veterans,

Sharon L. Corey

1353 Lamb Hill Rd, Wells, VT. 05774 802-325-3234

CHAPLAIN

Lord as we work in our great organization, help us look beyond outward appearances to the person underneath. Teach us to love and accept them. Forgive our critical thoughts and harsh words; replace our impatience with Your love and forgiveness.

Open our eyes to the needs of the world and fill our hearts with love. Make us sensitive to the issues of poverty, racial, sexual, and age discrimination, war and peace and pollution and environment. O God, help us to recognize and grasp the opportunities for service that each one of us might make a difference.

Let us reach out and touch someone with a helping hand. Help us to never lose sight of Your continual guidance in our lives as we work for our fellowman. Amen

State department chaplain

Anne Marie Maceachern

64 Bellwater Avenue

Barton, VT 05822

Anne.maceachern@mail.com

802-673-0781



IN MEMORY

Unit #10 ~~ Maria Bonacorsi-Booth

Unit #13 ~~ Joanne S. Leard

Unit #14 ~~ Linda L. Bushey

Norene E. Latrell

Unit #29 ~~ Leona Jones

Unit #30 ~~ Joanne Ashford

Priscilla Kleespies

Past Department President

Unit #63 ~~ Lillian King

Unit #67 ~~ Margaret Davis

Margaret Wareing

Unit #88 ~~ Rose Beulieu

PARLIAMENTARIAN

It is the Department President duties to preside at all meetings of the Department Convention assembled and the Department Executive Committee, to appoint members of the standing committees, and to create such other committees and appoint thereon as she or he deems advisable and to appoint all officers not otherwise provided for with the approval of the Department Executive Committee. He or She shall be ex-officio member of all committees and shall save five Chairmanships to be assigned to each District Executive Committeeperson. She or He shall be charged with the responsibility of executing mandates of the Department Convention and the Executive committee. The Department President shall not waive her or his rights to the Office Director or any other person, permitting the signing of her or his name to applications for charters issued by the National Headquarters, or any other legal documents pertaining to the Department. She or He shall have general supervision and advise the Department Chairpersons in the promotion of their programs Upon failure of any to function on her or his committee, the Department President shall be empowered to withdraw her or his appointments and appoint a new Chairperson.

Trivia question this month is: Can an ex-officious member make motions and vote in a finance meeting?

There is no challenge so big that we can't handle it together.

For God, Country and Our Veterans
Pat Sherman Parliamentarian

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

First District:

Greetings & Happy New Year to All,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season and everyone was able to get their Mid-Year Reports done and into Dept. on time! A big Thank You to all the Units who worked so hard getting them done! I hope we got a 100% on Reporting!

We are coming into the time we start Installing our Units New Officers...Please contact me as soon as possible to get your Unit on my calendar for Installation. I look forward to meeting your Unit Members and Installing your Officers.

I'd like to mention that District #1 has been doing a wonderful job getting their memberships paid! It's hard work and you are all appreciated. Don't forget, when having your Centennial Celebrations, you can use that as a time for a Membership Drive too! Set a table out with the information to join and ask your Members to each try and bring a new person in to check us out! It's a good time to see what we do and if they'd like to join! And don't forget the husbands of our Deployed Female Veterans and Veterans alike, can join now too!

Our Centennial President Corrinna is planning an exceptional Mid-Winter Conference and I hope to see representatives from ALL Units! These Conferences are so important...This is where we learn new information and share experiences, we have with everyone...You can take these ideas and information back to your Units to share and make better experiences while advocating and making our Veterans lives better!

Please, email me your upcoming events...No email? Then call me with them...This way we can let others know what's happening in your neck of the woods! Also, you may give other Units ideas to do within their Units! It's a great way to represent your Units achievements and "Ring Your Bell"...!

Debi Graziano/District #1 President
debispot@gardener.com/802-868-7920
4253 Vermont Route 78
Highgate Center, VT 05459

Second District:

We had our 100th celebration with a fairly good turn our fairly Our President came along and also Commander LaRose which was very nice visiting with him. I want to thank Corrinna and the Commander for coming. I would also like to thank every that made a dish and a special shout out to Gail Paquette for making our beautiful cake. The newspaper did a beautiful article on our function and the fire department displayed a 40 ft. US Flag in front of our Post.

Post 58, St. Johnsbury had their 100th on Sept. 21 with a great turnout. On the 1st. of March they are having a 25-year pin ceremony with a pot luck to follow.

On the 1st Friday we have karaoke, on the 2nd Friday we have barnyard bingo and the 3rd Friday of each month the Post has a meat raffle. (Lyndon)

A special Prayer goes out to all our Active Military men and women, also, a BIG thank you to our older Veterans, you will never be forgotten.

Gail Bonnell

District 2 President

Third District:

Hello Everyone,

Well, things have been interesting as of late. I hope all of you are doing well. I want to start this message with membership. We have been pushed back to 5th place again and this makes me sad. I have sent messages to all presidents in all District 3 units, yet no one has answered me. Please reach out to me so that we can work better to increase membership. I know we can be out of 5th place because we finally had done it this past year. So, please get those memberships paid. If there is any issue, please reach out to me so that I can help you come up with a solution. Thank you for those who have been working hard to bring their membership up.

I have not received any emails from any units about any upcoming events. I will have attended the Auxiliary 100th birthday celebration at Unit 30 by invitation, and I want to take a second to thank you for inviting me. Unit 3 is working on their 100th birthday celebration as well. More details will be available as they come in.

My next thing to talk about is respect. There are a lot of units who are going through issues where members are not respecting other members. Name calling and flat out disrespect is uncalled for and very hurtful. Please think about what you say to others before saying it. Stop talking about others behind their backs, as this is not what we are about. I constantly hear the excuse "oh that happens everywhere." As if that is considered acceptable. Well, we are all adults and need to act as such. We are here to serve our Veteran's and we need to think about that first. By disrespecting each other, we disrespect the Veterans that we joined under. I myself have been treated poorly and so I can tell you that this needs to stop. Treat others how you would want us to treat you.

On another note, I was saddened to learn of the passing of Priscilla Kleespies, our Past Department President and National Executive Committee woman. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family, friends, and her fellow auxiliary members. Rest in Peace Priscilla.

Mid-Winter is upon us. I hope to see everyone there, especially members in District 3. I ask that every unit sends someone from their unit. We want all of the district to be represented. Thanks so much.

Now on to my monthly fun Army facts:

- Before World War II, the Army's 45th Infantry Division wore a swastika patch on their left shoulders in honor of Native Americans. They changed it to a thunderbird in the late 1930s.
- Before the Air Force became its own branch of the military, it was a part of the Army. On Aug. 1, 1907, the U.S. Army Signal Corps formed the Aeronautical Division, which later evolved into the Air Force.
- The Army was tasked with mapping America. The scope of this exploration and mapping task included the Lewis and Clark expedition. Army officers were some of the first American citizens to see Pike's Peak and the Grand Canyon.

That is all for this month! See you next time ☺

Francisca Cech

District 3 President

franciscacech@yahoo.com

802-661-8690

Fourth District:

United States Coast Guard U.S. Department of Homeland Security



February 2020 - Greetings District 4! - **“Semper Paratus” (“always ready”)**

As I write, Mid-Winter is in one week, our 2019-2020 year will be at an end soon. It is frigid outside, and we are due for snow after the beautiful January thaw we experienced.

Did you know!! The United States Coast Guard, one of the country's five armed services, is a unique agency of the federal government. They trace their history to 4 August 1790, when the first Congress authorized the construction of ten vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws and to prevent smuggling. Known variously through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as the Revenue Marine and the Revenue Cutter Service, they expanded in size and responsibilities as the nation grew.

Membership:

For the week of January 15th, 4th District is in 3rd place in membership standings. Do you need help with membership? If you are attending District 4 Workshop on 2/8 at the Castleton Post, I will show you how to access membership information on the National website through ALA MIS-American Legion Auxiliary Management Information Systems. Is there someone in your Unit who has access to ALA MIS? Please get in touch with me with any questions you may have.

Reminder - Challenge On! This challenge is still going on, has your Unit recruited at least two new members? The first ALA member in District 4 to recruit or rejoin two new members and lets me know, will receive one of President Corrinna's pins from me, email, call or message.

Thank You!

As some of you may already know, I love saying “thank you”. It seems like such a small thing to say, only two words, but I do believe we all like to hear it, so again this month I want to say thank you to every person in D4. I understand your time is precious, you donate to many causes with your hard-earned money and are always willing to help those who may be less fortunate. Thank you, thank you, thank you – your efforts continue to be appreciated.

Communications with Units:

I have continued with my e-mail project to the Unit Presidents and Secretaries in D4 and am asking that you let me know what your Unit has going on. If you have something you'd like mentioned in this bulletin, email, text or call with details. I searched the internet and found the following information.

- Unit 13 -** Tickets on sale now: Unit 13 Auxiliary members will have tickets, connect with a Unit 13 member if you would like to purchase a ticket - \$5.00each. Your support of our fundraisers helps us with our commitment to support Veterans, Children and Youth.
Working with Bennington Schools regarding the Americanism contest.
- Unit 31 -** Having a "Winter Holiday Party" for their members in January.
- Unit 39 -** Unit 39 has 10 Blue Star Flags, if you need one, please connect with Joyce H.
- Unit 50 -** In the process of collecting items for ditty bags.
Hosting 4th District Workshop on February 8th beginning at 9:45 a.m. Thank you to Cathy and John T. for the use of the projector and screen. You will have a "live" session on how to log on to the ALA National website and how ALA MIS might help your Unit with membership.
- Unit 69 -** The American Legion in Arlington has changed their name and received a new charter from National. Going forward they are now known as "Paul Lafountain Post 69", this includes the SAL and Unit 69 is in the process of working with Department and National to receive an updated Unit Charter with the name change.
Unit 69 was chartered on 1/12/1953 – congratulations!

Upcoming events:

- 1/24-25 - Mid-Winter Convention, Burlington. I look forward to seeing you. There is a DEC meeting on Friday beginning at 1 p.m.
- 2/8/2020 - District 4 Workshop will be hosted by Castleton Unit 50, with lunch for a donation, Valentine's desserts will be provided by me and there will be door prizes. Agenda is attached. Please message me to let me know if you are attending so we can order food. The gift card received at Fall Conference will be used for door prizes.
- 2/8/2020 – Afternoon tea at the Vermont Veterans Home – 1:30 p.m.
- 3/14 Unit 69 St. Patrick's Party – all proceeds go to the AMHS scholarship fund. 7-11 lottery tree, 50/50, dress in green and be entered for a prize, Julie Shea Band will provide music. See attached.
- 5/14-20, 2020 - National President's visit tentatively scheduled, more information will be forthcoming from President Corrinna.
- 6/17-19, 2020 Annual Convention Double Tree Hotel, Burlington

Installations: No updates for this month.

What I have been or will be doing:

- 1/4/2020 - Attended a Board of Directors /Staff health center gathering at the West Mountain Inn.
- 1/8/2020 - Attended Unit 69 monthly meeting.
- 1/9/2020 - Attended a Community Relations Development Committee meeting at BVHC.
- 1/16/2020 - Was scheduled to attend a meeting in Montpelier, due to weather it was cancelled.
- 1/21/2020 - Meeting with Martha J. Unit 29 for coffee in Bennington.
- 1/21/2020 - Attending Unit 87's monthly meeting – thank you Melissa S. for the invite.
- 1/24/2020 - Attending DEC meeting in Burlington.
- 1/25/2020 - Attending Mid-Winter Convention – "Coastguard", in Burlington.
- 2/8/2020 - District 4 Workshop – please try to attend (another reminder)!

Community Connections:

A couple of weeks ago it was in the 60's, now it is frigid and we have snow. Please check on your neighbors to be sure they are safe and warm. Remember to thank a Veteran for their service whenever the opportunity presents itself. Keep our military personnel stationed far from home in your thoughts and prayers - May God bless and keep them safe until they are back home.

Thank you so very much to those Units who have reached out with questions, concerns and about upcoming events, I am trying to attend as many as possible.

If you have something I can help with, please let me know. I can be contacted by the following: Email: dee.colety@gmail.com Cell: 603-477-5484 You can also look me up on Facebook, I love posting pictures of my family and the grands – all 9 of them. 😊

Thank you for everything you do, I look forward to hearing from you.

For God, Country and our Veterans Past, Present and Future.

Dee - **District 4 President**

Fifth District:

Greetings members of the flying 5th,

The 5th district has finally gotten their plane repaired, refueled and is soaring into the clouds. Great job Air Force! I was happy to see you in first place, so let's stay up there.

I have not gotten reports on unit activity from all the units in District 5. For those of you I have not heard from I would appreciate your contacting me.

Just a couple of facts about the Air Force you may not know, or maybe you do.

Every year, in March, Airmen grow mustaches throughout the month to honor Air Force legend, WWII and Vietnam veteran, and triple ace Brigadier General Robin Olds. An "ace" is a pilot who has shot down five or more enemy aircraft. The top jet ace in US Air Force history is Joseph C. McConnell. He is a triple ace who shot down 16 MiG fighters during the Korean War over a four-month period. He bagged three on his last combat mission of the war. His record still stands.

For God Country and our Veterans,

Sandra Brown, 5th District President

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AMERICANISM

Americanism Bulletin #6 2019-2020



I would like to thank the very few Units & Chairman who took the time to send me a Mid-Year report. It was very disappointing to receive the number of reports I could count on one hand. Reporting is a very big component of every Committee. It is also very important to President Corrinna for her year. Let's start the New Year by doing a better job at reporting.

At this time of year, Units should be working on the Americanism Essay contest. I have attached a flow chart to hopefully explain questions I have received about the program.

February is Americanism month. Now would be a good time to start your planning for any activities that month. There are so many activities that can be done for Americanism such as "Star Spangled Kids". Attached is information regarding the program.

If you are doing something for Christmas, why not hand out small flags or put flag stickers on cards, napkins, or even in centerpieces. It all counts, if you report it.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Nancy Buckley-Howard
3674 Bonnyvale Road #1
Guilford, VT 05301-8193
vtmabuck@yahoo.com

Department Chairperson
(802) 490-2393

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

As we come to the end of January, I would like to let you know that Barre Auxiliary Unit 10 will be doing a Scratch ticket board which I will post pics of as soon as we begin to sell tickets in February, if anyone would like to purchase tickets they will be available at Barre Post 10 or any of our Auxiliary members..

Also Barre Post 10 will hosting Mark Sheldon for another great Elvis show, tickets are on sale now the show will take place on March 22 , tickets are \$10.00 each.

I am always available & have forms if you or anyone you know is in need & qualifies for AEF funds.

Thank you

Beverly Flint

bdarmanagementllc@yahoo.com

802-522-8786

CHILDREN & YOUTH



Auxiliary family,

The bitter cold has finally arrived I hope everyone is keeping warm.

Mid-year reports were due on January 5th and I heard from four units, which is unfortunate because I know there are a lot

of activities that have not been reported.

Thank you to **Unit #10, Unit #25, Unit #28 and Unit #59** for submitting your reports to me in a timely manner. I am hoping to have more to share from all our units with National at the end of the year.

This month I would like to share information about the Junior Activities Patch Program; this year we have a special patch offered by our National President, Nicole.

Junior Activities Patch Program

American Legion Auxiliary Junior members can be active participants of the organization with the Patch Program. Regardless of where one lives, and whether she belongs to an active Junior group, Junior Auxiliary members can serve their communities, veterans and learn about patriotism, health, fitness and leadership through this program.

There are certain criteria that a junior member must accomplish in order to earn a specific patch. When the activities are completed, an adult or senior member must sign a form to verify that the junior has met the patch criteria.

There are three levels of patch criteria:

- Red-Level 1: Kindergarten through 3rd grade
- Gold-Level 2: 4th grade through 8th grade
- Blue-Level 3: 9th grade through 11th grade (or 18 years old)

National President Scholarship Special Junior Patch

A special junior patch has been created for our junior members to be involved in raising money for the National Presidents' Scholarship Fund.

Help get the word out to all our junior members! We hope every junior will be involved in some activity to raise money for scholarships, which are funded by the Educating Children of Warriors Fund.

Most juniors will become eligible for this scholarship, so they may be personally impacted by their fundraising efforts. Any junior can earn this patch if she raises at least \$5 for each year she is old. For example, a 17-year-old would raise a minimum of $17 \times \$5 = \85 .

Patch Sheets are available at: www.ALAforVeterans.org

For questions and comments, please contact the National Junior Activities Committee at junioractivities@ALAforVeterans.org or 317-569-4500

*All of this information and more can be found on the Children & Youth Website.

ALAforVeterans.org/Programs/Children-and-Youth

Annual reports

It is important to work on annual reports. Annual reports reflect the program work of units in the department and may result in a national award for participants if award requirements are met and these reports are due in April.

- Deadline: April 30, 2020
- Send to Department Chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m.
-

Shari August
Children & Youth Chair
(518) 488-4917
Smileface277@aol.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Hope all of your Holidays were great!

A reminder that Mid-Winter Conference is fast approaching. I hope to see many of you there. If you have any questions about Community Service, please see me there. I will try to answer as many as I can, and if I don't know, I will find the answers out and relay them to you.

I was disappointed that I only received two Mid -Year reports by the dead line and 1 that came in late. These reports are very important. As a Department Chairperson I have to send in a report to the Eastern Division chair and the National chair. I certainly hope I get more information from your units for Year End reports. By taking the time to do these two reports, we can share our positive impacts that we have on our mission. Through these, we can tell the world what we do, who we are and why we matter.

To Service and Self

Patsy Tompkins
Community Service Chair
1229 May Pond Road
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riley 917@myfairpoint.net

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

We are getting the normal January weather, oh so snowy and cold.

The Mid-Winter Conference is just around the corner and I hope to see you all there.

The new Constitution & By-Laws and Standing Rules are now on the website. All units should receive a copy in the mid-winter packets as well.

I hope you find that you can now work on your unit Constitution & By-Laws and Standing Rules, you will at least have something to go by. All units must re-do their documents as things have changed. Three copies are to be sent to me to be certified. I will send one copy to Department, one copy back to your unit, and I will keep one copy. I am in hopes that units will complete them as soon as possible, I would like them all by March 30th to give me time to get them all certified and back to you.

I am home most of the time. If anyone needs assistance, please feel free to call on me. I am here for you!

See you soon!

For God, Country and Our Veterans,
Candy Huseman, C&B& SR Chairperson/ PDP

EDUCATION

Hello Auxiliary Members,

Thank you to the four Education Chairpersons from their respective Units who sent me info for my Mid-Year report. My report was compiled and sent to both Division and National on time. Just to let you know - Eastern Division had 100% Mid-Year reporting!!

ALA Department of Vermont has several Education Awards available:

1. ALA 2019-2020 Educator of the Year:

Info on this award can be found in the 2019-2020 year end Reports packet that was given out at Fall Conference to the Unit Presidents. If you are your Unit education Chairperson and do not have this information ask your Unit President for it. This information is to be shared with the respective chairpersons and not kept by the President! Deadline for this award to me is NO later than April 10, 2020. Only one entry per unit may be submitted to me.

2. Non-traditional Education
Award:

Info here again on this award is in the 2019-2020 year end Reports. Deadline for this award to me is NO later than May 1st, 2020. Only one application per unit may be submitted to me.

3. ALA Department of Vermont Award:

Information once again in the Packet. Only one application per unit.

Last month's bulletin I covered the National Scholarships which have a March 1st, 2020 deadline to their local Unit, then a March 15th, 2020 deadline to our Department Secretary. Again, remember for all 4 National Education Awards - only 1 entry per unit.

National Scholarships are:

1. ALA Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship for 2020
2. ALA Non-Traditional Student Scholarship for 2020
3. ALA Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members for 2020 (new this year)

More info next month.

Sharon L. Corey
Department Education Chairperson
1353 Lamb Hill Road, Wells, VT 05774 802-325-3234

GREEN MOUNTAIN GIRLS STATE

Greetings

It is time to start talking in your units about setting up a date to call or meet with your schools about ALA Green Mountain Girls State (ALAGMGS). If you have someone who can meet with the guidance department and/or meet with the junior girls in the school.

Some units hold an informational evening at the Auxiliary to share the information with families and girls. Applications and Unit information will be sent out soon. The first week of April is when the applications will be due back to the department.

Again, this year the applications will be sent electronically so if you have an email for your unit, I would like to make sure the president and the chair of Girls state both have the documents electronically.

Also, if anyone is interested in volunteering to help us the week of ALAGMGS we would love to hear from you! We are looking to fill a few roles that week.

ALAGMGS Chair Aly Duncanson
aly.duncanson@gmail.com 802 289-1396

JUNIOR ACTIVITY

I thought in this message, I would bring you up to speed on what our honorary junior department officers have been doing. The girls decided to run in a color run to help raise money for a nonprofit H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Everyday). They convinced me to walk the course. Our entry fees were our donation to the event. They also had a successful 2nd Annual Duck Race, as you already know. They decided to take the funds from this event and travel to Baltimore, Maryland. This was to enable them to attend the Nation Junior Mission Training, meet our National ALA President Nicole Clapp and see their own Honorary Junior President sworn in as the next Honorary Eastern Division Junior Vice President. The girls represented our state well. They did not hesitate to assist and visit with veterans they encountered during their trip. The Department of Vermont also had the highest number of juniors in attendance from a department. This trip was open to all juniors state-wide, as well as our officers. We were also glad that President Corrinna was able to fit this trip into her agenda and travel with us.

The holidays gave several officers additional chances to show support for our veterans and active military. Hon. Jr. Paige assisted her unit bringing gifts to a female veteran and her family. Hon. Jr. Sarg-At-Arms Madison was busying helping at the Vermont Veterans Home. She assisted with the annual department gift shop. Hon. Jr. Chaplain Elizabeth Leonard helped pack over 700 boxes for our troops serving in the “green zones” with VT S.U.P.P.O.R.T.S.

The honorary officers are busy with our juniors state wide at the local unit level. They are busy helping with Bingo, assisting senior members in the post kitchen, with events, fundraisers and benefits. They have also participated in bake sales, food drives and poppy distribution with their unit members and their schools.

I hope you will be joining us at Mid Winter Conference. The honorary officers have been asked to do the Military Child Ceremony at the joint opening. They are very excited and proud to do so, as they should be. They are also acting as pages and other positions, at the request of President Corrinna. If you are in attendance, be sure to encourage our future senior members.

The officers have expressed the hopes of doing a Junior Conference. As of today, we have been unsuccessful finding a date that works. I hope we can find both a date and a central location to hold the conference. Those that attended the national training would like to share what they learned with their fellow juniors.

Do you know of a junior that would like to go to the VAMC in White River Jct. during the week of Valentine's Day? Please let me know, our juniors will be bringing handmade cards to our hospitalized veterans. We would love to meet and have other juniors join us. Does a junior you know have an idea that we can help make happen? Please contact me ... the honorary officers and myself want as many juniors, in our department, to participate that desire to.

KAREN DEGREENIA - PDP / JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

LEADERSHIP

A huge part of being a great leader is having the ability to Mentor. There is a lot of knowledge that goes along with any position within the ALA, so ask yourself are you doing everything you can to help train or advise others? Especially for those Officers and Chairs that have great lengths of experience within a position. Here are a few things to consider and help boost your leadership skills:

Be approachable

Advocate for growth within

Take an Optimistic approach

Try a new (to you) role

Inspire and Encourage

Listen to Others

Ever heard the expression you were given one mouth and two ears to listen twice as much as you speak? I challenge you in your next conversation with anyone to listen twice as much. Listen to understand, not just to respond. There are Leaders among us, help us awaken their interest and step forth.

Danielle Many, Leadership Chair

DanielleMany3@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Greetings to all!

Membership is doing great! We had a slow start but everyone is kicking it up a notch and working to get the plane filled and into the air!! Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy keep on doing what you are doing!! It's working!!

Our membership song has been a big hit on Facebook. Please, always remember, THE ALA IS YOUR PLACE, THE ALA IS MY PLACE!! Let's spread the word and get some new members because Vermont cares and it shows!!

Thank you to the Unit membership chairs. Your hard work is very much appreciated. Your midyear reports reflected on how you much you work to keep us headed in the right direction. Thank you again!

In the spirit of service not self

Deb Tiernan
Membership Chairperson
ALA, Department of Vermont
Dtiernanunit36@gmail.com

NATIONAL SECURITY

"Beyond the Yellow Ribbon"

As I write this, our military in our area are deploying. More this summer, then again in September and next January.

I would like you all to please keep an eye on the families. Please watch for updates from me as we will soon be gathering things for our care packages to send. I am currently working on a list to send in the next bulletin.

As always, if you have questions or know of military that needs our assistance please call or email or text me.

For God, Country, and Our Veterans,

Kelly Donaldson
Kellysboys2014@gmail.com

802-353-9470

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Kelly Donaldson
National Security Chair
Dept of Vermont

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

I want to thank all the units that have sent in their Past Presidents Parley Dues. Please remember to also send myself an email. The dues are sent to the department and the names should be sent to me. I need to know the names in order to fill out the cards. Patricia has done a great job forwarding the names to me but your unit should be sending them directly to me. I am hoping to have the PPP cards available for pick up at Mid Winter Conference. If your unit is attending, please see me to get your cards.

Please remember I need nominations for the Salute to Women Veterans Award, the Unit Member of the Year Award and the Nursing Scholarship. I hope 100% of our units will be submitting a nomination for each award.

Remember to host an event that honors your female veterans and also an event to honor your past unit presidents.

KAREN DEGREENIA - PDP / PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

VA & R

Hello Ladies,

Well Mid Winter is over, what a group of singers. Ha Ha, we should make National TV. President ran a very good meeting thank you.

Creative Arts is next at the VA, spoke with Brooke this morning and we are off and running. Date is March 6, 2020 time is 10-2. We will start our shopping right off, she has people bringing in items as we speak. I will write more if need be next month.

Again, thanks to all you people who make our programs work at the VA, means, donations, time, and thoughtfulness.

Salute to Veterans Week is from February 9-15, this chairperson will hand out something from us everyday. If you want to make a visit, please let me know. Ground East will be having Pizza and Grinders two of those days.

Birthday dinners coming up, please remember to answer these invites, so many don't do this, and yes time does slip by.

65 State St
Apt. 404 F
Windsor, 05089
1-802-738-6132

Smile and Dream
Janet

REHABILITATION

Thank you to members and volunteers providing the hours to setup our annual gift giving program, time to inventory and take items back to storage. Thank you to Commander Ron LaRose, ALA President Corrinna Colson, AL Sgt. At Arms Fred Stebbins and SAL PDC / Detachment Chaplain Steve England who were on hand to visit and thank veterans for their service. This program takes many hands to be meaningful to veterans and their families.

Thank you to SAL NEC John Waite, SAL Southern Area Commander Bill Brothers and AL 2nd District Commander Mark Cloutier who generously transferred gift bins to and from storage. Our VA-R committee is grateful to the Mark Cloutier and Darrell Degreenia for moving the stored bins from Morrisville to the current storage facility in White River, back in July.

Thank you to SAL Commander David Hendee, SAL Adjutant Marc Colety and AL District 4 Commander Christina Moore, PDC David Woodard and PDC Donald Teterault for taking time to ensure the many priority packages at Vermont Veterans Home would reach veteran family members before Christmas. If I missed someone, please know you are appreciated. American Legion Family getting things done together. Thank you for all you do for veterans, and their families.

This committee is suggesting extending the hours of the WRJVA gift program. By starting the program at 10am on Friday morning, we are allowed on the floor at 11am, close for a break at 2pm. Reopen at 4pm to 6:30pm to be accessible for working veterans who qualify for the program.

Judy Cenate, Rehab Chair 802-289-9025 or valview@comcast.net

SERVICE TO VETERANS

We are at mid-year and Service to Veterans is Shinning.

Between accumulating great stories from veterans, being present at every event, and the GREAT response from most of our Units for the Christmas Stocking, 56 in all delivered between The Open-Door Mission, The Dodge House and The Phoenix House.

We have one more activity planned for February 08 at the Bennington Home.

A Tea Party for the Ladies and a Poker Game for the Gents.

If you would like to participate in the fabulous event please e-mail me or feel free to call.

Together we can do great things.

Suzanne Auger

Service to Veterans

Sauger58@comcast.net

802-342-7489

WAYS & MEANS

Hi Ladies,

Congratulations President Corrinna on a successful Mid-Winter Conference.

“Thank You!!!” Ways and Means earned \$1,153.00 at Mid-Winter Conference! The breakdown as follows: Jewelry/misc. Sales-- \$68.00, 50/50 raffle-- \$140.00 and Basket Sales-- \$805; the winner of the 50/50 raffle, Kathy Estep, donated her \$140.00 back. Thank You!!! The following donated to the Ways and Means: Sharon Corey, Dept. Vice-President, Units #7,10,13,14,19,23,28,30,31,39,49,55,67,69,76,87(cash) and 91. Hope we have not missed anyone if so please let us know, again “Thank You” for all donations including everyone who purchased tickets, etc.

All went pretty good but there was a lesson to be learned, DO NOT HAVE A GLASS OF WATER ANYWHERE NEAR ANY PAPERS!!! My notes are a little difficult to read now.

Ways and Means Chairpersons,

Linda Saulters	and	Lynn Brown
71 Douglas Rd.		56 Joseph St. Apt. 3
North Troy, VT 05859		Derby, Vt. 05829
802-988-2248		561-329-1662
Saulters.linda@yahoo.com		

A MESSAGE FROM PDP ANN BERRIO

I am taking this way to say "thank you" to everyone who sent me get well wishes due to my fall. I fractured two places on my humerus (shoulder) bone and it is supposed to heal itself. I don't know why they call it that, because there is no "humor" to it!! I am doing well for my age (91 this month) and still here, though sometimes I'm not sure of all there! I'm not complaining though God has been good to me. I just guess that my "get up and go, got up and went", as the expression goes. Good luck to everyone, have great years ahead, I miss you all. Thanks again.

Ann K Berrio, PDP

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY		Jan. 22, 2020		2020 Membership			
	Numeric Objective	Actual	%		Numeric Objective	Actual	%
FIRST DISTRICT Debi Graziano				FOURTH DISTRICT Dee Colety			
GREEN MOUNTAIN #1	455	360	79.12%	BENNINGTON # 13	243	190	78.19%
RICHFORD #12	82	53	64.63%	WALTER CASE #29	98	63	64.29%
VERGENNES #14	295	213	72.20%	RUTLAND #31	263	198	75.29%
BRISTOL #19	200	163	81.50%	J. CLAIRE CARMODY #39	87	69	79.31%
MIDDLEBURY #27	184	148	80.43%	FAIR HAVEN #49	133	111	83.46%
ENOSBURG #42	147	123	83.67%	CRIPPEN FELLOWS #50	186	169	90.86%
MILTON #57	12	4	33.33%	BRANDON #55	116	89	76.72%
CRELLER LANDON #60	84	67	79.76%	ARLINGTON # 69	111	90	81.08%
SHELDON SPRINGS #88	27	26	96.30%	WEST RUTLAND #87	137	66	48.18%
COLCHESTER #91	335	294	87.76%	POWNLAL #90	32	21	65.63%
TOTAL 1ST DISTRICT	1821	1451	79.68%	TOTAL 4TH DISTRICT	1406	1066	75.82%
SECOND DISTRICT Gail Bonnell				FIFTH DISTRICT Sandra Brown			
HARDWICK #7	237	173	73.00%	BRATTLEBORO #5	317	267	84.23%
NEWPORT #21	114	103	90.35%	NELSON E. PICKWELL #15	15	12	80.00%
ORLEANS #23	114	92	80.70%	CECIL A. DAVIS #17	18	18	100.00%
JAY PEAK #28	111	89	80.18%	WINDSOR #25	201	182	90.55%
LYNDON #30	138	122	88.41%	BALLARD HOBART #36	244	217	88.93%
NORTHLAND #47	83	55	66.27%	PIERCE LAWTON #37	221	194	87.78%
ST. JOHNSBURY #58	76	60	78.95%	CHESTER #67	275	204	74.18%
BARTON # 76	44	34	77.27%	TOTAL 5TH DISTRICT	1291	1094	84.74%
BRIGHTON #80	112	80	71.43%	HEADQUARTERS #100	102	93	91.18%
TOTAL 2ND DISTRICT	1029	808	78.52%	Vermont Total	6401	5083	79.41%
THIRD DISTRICT Francisca Cech				1ST PLACE 5th District 84.74%			
MONTPELIER #3	106	82	77.36%	2ND PLACE 1st District 79.68%			
BARRE #10	208	163	78.37%	3RD PLACE 2nd District 78.52%			
MORRISTOWN #33	73	57	78.08%	4TH PLACE 3rd District 75.93%			
HARRY N. CUTTING #59	221	154	69.68%	5TH PLACE 4th District 75.82%			
SORRELL MAYNARD #63	119	91	76.47%	1ST MILESTONE DATE 50% 10/17/2019			
DONALD MCMAHON #64	25	24	96.00%	2ND MILESTONE DATE 60% 12/19/2019			
TOTAL 3RD DISTRICT	752	571	75.93%	3RD MILESTONE DATE 75% 2/14/2020			
				4TH MILESTONE DATE 85% 5/15/2020			
				5TH MILESTONE DATE 100% 7/24/2020			

UPCOMING EVENTS 2020

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Place / Time</u>
Feb. 1, 2020	National Freedom Day	*
Feb. 9-15, 2020	Salute to Veterans Week	*
Feb. 14, 2020	75% Membership Target Date	(Happy Valentine's Day!!!)
Feb. 17, 2020	Presidents' Day	Office Closed
Mar. 6, 2020	Creative Arts Festival	VA, White River Jct.
Mar. 7, 2020	8th Annual Veterans Summit NVU	Davis Center, UVM Burlington, VT
Mar. 2, 2020	Town Meeting Day	Office Closed
Mar. 8-11, 2020	TAL Washington Conference	Washington, D.C.
Mar. 29, 2020	National Vietnam War Veterans Day	*
May 15, 2020	85% Membership Target Date	*
May 16, 2020	Armed Forces Day	*
May 24, 2020	National Poppy Day	*
June 14, 2020	Flag Day	*
June 15-20, 2020	ALAGMGS Session	Vermont Technical College (VTC)
Nov. 7, 2020	Boys' Scout Salute to Veterans Parade	Ludlow, VT

Department Office Hours; Monday through Friday 8:30a.m.-3:00p.m.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

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