

## JANUARY 2020 BULLETIN



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web-site: [vtalauxiliary.org](http://vtalauxiliary.org)

### Presidents Message

By the time you read this Christmas will be upon us and the New Year right around the corner...can you believe it? I want to send my sincerest gratitude and applause to all the Auxiliary and entire American Legion family for all the acts of kindness I have witnessed either in person or through Facebook this holiday season. What we do for our Veterans, Military and Community during this time of year is beyond comprehension and makes my heart swell with pride to be a part of it all...Thank you for all you do!

Both Veterans Gift Giving Events were extremely successful thanks to our VAVS, Veterans Rehab and Service to Veterans Team! Led by Judy Cenate these ladies put together two very successful events & provided not only gifts but a great deal of holiday cheer for many Veterans and their families with the help of other Legion family members...way to pull together everyone to get this done including adding an extra day at the VA to serve even more Veterans and organize everything for storage for the next year.



These ladies worked to expand their program this year to serve more Veterans not only by adding one day, but as previously mentioned will be providing additional gifts for homeless Veterans through transition & mission homes. This Saturday I will be accompanying Suzanne Auger and several other members delivering stockings to these Veterans that were made by VT Auxiliary Units...now that's soaring into the future!

Other Auxiliary members and Units got into the spirit too such as Fair Haven #49 who donated stockings to Veterans at VVH, or Pierce Lawton Unit #37 who wrapped over 100 gifts with students for a community service project. Lyndon Juniors & St. Johnsbury Units packed over 700 packages for military troops with VT Supports & many Units attended the "Wreaths Across America" ceremonies on December 14<sup>th</sup> at area Veterans

Cemeteries, just name a few. I know I have missed some holiday service projects from our members, but I must say you are all amazing & radiate the holiday Auxiliary spirit of SERVICE NOT SELF! Even Commander Ron Larose was feeling jolly to help give our Veterans a wonderful Christmas as he played Santa Claus at the VA Gift Giving Day!



A quick reminder about Mid-Winter Convention being held in Burlington January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Double Tree Hotel. Please find the agenda attached in this bulletin & I have confirmation of two guests so far including the Eastern Division National Vice President and our very own GMGS Governor! ***How Exciting!***

A little about my Presidents Project to keep my members informed as I raise money and work to get the rest of our WWII Veteran's signed up. My goal is to raise \$39,000 to send a plane filled with VT Veterans to Washington DC. Crazy I know but I am dedicated to making this happen and am seeking help from all of you.

Thank you to those who have already contributed. I have raised \$7,437.00 so far and that does not include my recent Christmas ornament sales. You can learn more about my project and track my fundraising donations by visiting the newly created page on our VT Auxiliary Department website for this at: <https://www.vtalauxiliary.org/department-president-project.html>.

After the holidays I will begin contacting our American Legion WWII Veterans and inviting them and their family members to be a guest at American Legion Family Post hosted dinners around the state. Working with Honor Flight New England founder Joe Byron, we will gather eligible Veterans together for dinner and a movie presentation about the honor flight and get them signed up to attend if possible.

Would your American Legion family be willing to sponsor an Honor Flight night to host the WWII Veterans to learn more about this incredible opportunity? Maybe you could make this part of your 100<sup>th</sup> year Celebration?

To learn more about hosting an Honor Flight Vermont dinner & movie night please contact me for more details. I am willing to come and speak about this with your American Legion family.

Again, I want to wish the entire American Legion family a safe and happy holiday filled with lots of family, friends and food. Please do not forget to include a space for a Veteran at your table and remember our troops who cannot be home with their family.

Your Centennial President,

Corrinna E. Colson  
ALA Dept. of Vermont  
[ccolson.alavt@gmail.com](mailto:ccolson.alavt@gmail.com)  
802-274-8333

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Auxiliary Members,

I personally wish each and everyone of you a very healthy and happy New Year. Hopefully 2020 brings the best for you.

Mid-Winter Conference will be held at Double Tree in Burlington on January 25, 2020. I am sure our Department President will have an exciting agenda for us.

4th District Workshop will be hosted by Castleton (Crippen Fellows) Unit #50 on Saturday, February 8th, 2020. Our District President will have speakers lined up for her workshop. Anyone may attend, you do not have to be in 4th District. I will be attending.

Please save the dates of May 14-20, 2020 for our National Presidents visit. This is tentatively scheduled - more information will be forthcoming from our Department President.

For God, Country and our Veterans,

Sharon L. Corey,

[1353 Lamb Hill Road, Wells, VT 05774](mailto:sharon@lambhillroad.com) 802-325-3234

## **CHAPLAIN**

Good day to everyone and happy holidays. Please say a prayer for all of our veterans and service men and women that are serving and not able to be with their families this holiday season. I'm sure everyone is busy with the holidays and Christmas parties. If you know a veteran that will be alone for the holidays please invite them so they know they are not alone. We are all a family and need to reach out to our family members that are in need. The holidays can be very depressing for many. God bless you all and Merry Christmas to everyone.

Anne MacEachern

Department Chaplain



*In Memory*

Unit # 13 ~ Joan Knapp

Beatrice Lanfair

Unit # 21 ~ Ethel Wheeler

Unit # 35 ~ Lucille Day

Unit #47 ~ Louise Bissonnette

Virginia Carr

Unit #100 ~ Ruth S. Fifield

Agnes Farnum

**HISTORIAN**

Greetings Ladies,

Please see below for the History Award rules for submitting a Unit History book.

**HISTORY AWARD**

Introduction. POINTS 10

1. Title page

A. History of Unit \_\_\_\_\_

B. Name of Unit Historian for 2019-2020 \_\_\_\_\_

C. Date \_\_\_\_\_

2. Forward or Dedication

3. Photograph of Unit President

4. Prayer

5. Pledge of allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

6. First verse or "Star Spangled Banner"

7. Preamble to the Constitution of the American legion auxiliary

Historical Content. POINTS 70

**\*\*THIS IS WHERE YOU START NUMBERING YOUR PAGES\*\***

1. List of UNIT officers
2. List of UNIT chairman
3. List of elected Department officers from your UNIT
4. List of Department chairman from your UNIT
5. List of National officers and committee appointments from your UNIT
6. List of awards your UNIT received at 2019 Department Convention
7. List of awards your UNIT received at 2019 from National convention
8. The history shall be written as a factual narrative
9. The signature of the UNIT Historian is to immediately follow the final paragraph

Appearance. POINTS 10

1. Cover: Blue binder for loose-leaf paper, with 2x2 inch gold foil American Legion Auxiliary seal centered on the cover
2. Paper: Plain white bond
3. Page numbers should begin on the first page of the Historical Content. They should be centered at the bottom of the page.
4. All spacing shall be double-spaced, with the exception of the introductory pages (Title page through the Preamble of the Constitution), which shall be centered in the middle of the page.
5. Typing: Black ribbon only, Erasers are permissible. Standard typewriters, word processors or computers may be used.

Arrangement. POINTS 10

1. Written in third person
2. Clear, concise and correct spelling
3. NO decorations, special effect with typed method or newspaper clippings.

I hope you all have a Happy Holiday!  
Please reach out to me with any questions.

For God, Country and our Veterans,  
Jill Farringer  
Dept. Of Vermont- Historian  
[Jill.farringer@gmail.com](mailto:Jill.farringer@gmail.com)  
802-309-7767

## **PARLIAMENTARIAN**

A Point of Order: A point of order can correct a multitude of errors. If the chair does not correct a serious mistake in a meeting, a member can raise a point of order. Members should use this motion only when a serious mistake has been made in a meeting, for example, when a member's rights are taken away. The chair always rules on the point of order before proceeding with any further discussion or motions. If a member does not agree with the chair's ruling, he or she should appeal the decision of the chair.

This was the answer to the trivia question in last month's newsletter. Our Department President Corrinna answered the question first and correctly. She stated that WE have taught her so much this year.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Remember to help someone less fortunate than yourself and thank all Veterans.

If your mind can conceive it, and your heart can believe it, then YOU can achieve it.

For God, Country and Our Veterans  
Pat Sherman - Parliamentarian

## **CORPORATE TREASURER**

Just a couple of reminders:

1. If you have not yet sent your \$10.00 subscription for the American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System (ALAMIS) to manage unit membership, your subscription will expire on 12/31/19. Please send your payment to Department Headquarters as soon as possible, no later than January 25, 2020. If your check is not received by that date you will lose your access. Please send your payment in a separate check (do not combine with your membership remittance).
2. Please send a copy of your 990 filing to Department Headquarters.

I hope everyone has a wonderful and relaxing holiday season. I look forward to seeing everyone at mid-winter conference, 1/24-25/20.

Please contact me with questions, [elainemackenzie@comcast.net](mailto:elainemackenzie@comcast.net), 802-878-0726.

Elaine Mackenzie

## **CORPORATE SECRETARY**

Season's Greetings and Merry Christmas!

As you noticed by my salutation, I personally feel it would be politically incorrect if I didn't acknowledge both greetings. (I did it and I am not ashamed or will not apologize for it!)

It is yearend time and we are approaching the last months of this spectacular year. Unfortunately, with that being said, I am a little disappointed that more Units have not submitted a Midyear Report. The information headquarters has received from the Department Chairmen is not good. I know we are all busy this time of year with many other activities and it comes down to priorities as to what we can and cannot do (after all, we are volunteers). Perhaps next year they will allow me some time at Fall Conference to cover Midyear reports and their importance.

Now with some good news. The Units and Department Chairmen have out done themselves with the time, money and effort given to the two Gift Shops, the Tree of Warmth and to membership. I am very proud of all of you. My "retirement" job does not allow me to participate in all of these programs in person but I have not forgotten their importance and have participated in them in other ways. I do miss being there to brighten up the day of the veterans and seeing how much it means to them that we care and they are not forgotten.

Stacey has now left her position as Administrative Assistant and moving on to her new life and adventure. I know all of us wish her well and safe travels to California. She will be missed by all. As of now we do have an acting admin and her name is Trish St. John. I believe she will be accepting the job as a fulltime employee in the near future. Please show her our "Department of Vermont" support and encourage her to stay with us. Trish brings a great deal of knowledge about the American Legion Auxiliary and is experienced in all aspects of administrative work. Please wish her well and help her during her training period. Have you ever worked where you have 6000 plus bosses? (The total of our membership.) A special thanks to Marla for helping us out with the training of Trish. She is always there when we need her.

This is her first time publishing the monthly bulletin. I hope every Chairman and Officer got their message into department on time. Getting this mailed out will be another challenge as the Holiday Season takes up

space in the postal service. Let us know if you don't receive the bulletin within the next six months (just kidding) ...within the next week or two and we will check out to see what the problem is.

Regarding the bulletin, the Unit receives a free copy of the bulletin to share with its' membership. Please post these on a bulletin board or someplace appropriate so your members can read it. (This is the purpose of receiving hard copies.) Please share.

During this holiday season don't forget about our military families and veterans. Make a special effort to visit a veteran who is alone. A gift is nice BUT just a visit sometimes is a gift enough. Happy and safe holidays.

Terri Ann Christie,

Phone 802-578-6622 Email [terriannchristie@outlook.com](mailto:terriannchristie@outlook.com)

### **ALTERNATE NEC**

Happy Holidays from the National American Legion Auxiliary Officers, Chair people and staff. If you haven't been following the travels of National President Nicole Clapp please be sure to add her on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/alanationalpresident/>

As most of you know NEC woman Priscilla Kleespies continues to struggle with health issues and as the Alternate NEC, I will be attending the National Executive Committee meeting in Indianapolis on February 22<sup>nd</sup> for her. I hope to bring back some great information to share with you all and am honored to be able to do this for this wonderful Auxiliary woman and PDP!

Let's please keep her in our thoughts and healing prayers and continue to shower her with cards to lift her spirits and let her know we care at 1348 Cold Hill Rd. Lyndonville, VT 05851.

Your Centennial President,

Corrinna E. Colson  
Alt. National Executive Committee  
Department of Vermont

### **DISTRICT PRESIDENTS**



## **First District:**

Happy Holidays to all our members!

I see every Unit has been very busy with Children's and Veterans Christmas Parties! Great job making smiles happen! I am happy to report that we had a very successful Gift Giving Program at both the Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington and followed with the Gift Giving Event at the White River Junction Veterans Hospital! It was an extremely heartwarming time and we truly saw the Christmas Spirit in the eyes of the Veterans and how grateful they all were to be able to shop for not just themselves, but their loved ones! Next year I hope more members get the chance to come to these events!

I have delivered some of the Christmas Stockings requested for Homeless Veterans and want to Thank Green Mountain Unit #1, Colchester Unit #91 and Bristol Unit #19 for making their stockings and delivering them to Headquarters! Great Job Ladies & Gents! Also, I'd like to Thank Vergennes Unit #14 for making Christmas cards for the Veterans at Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington! Please do not forget your Mid-Year Reports, get them in ASAP please!

I am so very proud of the work everyone has been doing on getting in Memberships for next year! Go NAVY! Keep up the great job and remember, as Deb Tiernan keeps saying PYDD...Let's see who gets to 100% first in District #1...

Just a reminder if your Units are doing special events, please email me the details so we can put it in the bulletin, ring your Bells and let everyone know what our Units are doing!

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Service, Not Self  
Debi Graziano/District #1 President  
[debispot@gardener.com](mailto:debispot@gardener.com)  
802-868-7920

## **Second District:**

In December we had our regular meat raffle on the 3rd Friday of the month, our barn yard bingo and karaoke and was well attended by all even though it is the holiday season. We donated our Christmas stocking for the Veteran. I appreciated Corrinna putting in the extra money to buy small stocking so that each Veteran could have his own. Thank you Miss President, that is what is called going the extra mile. We had our Christmas party at the Post today, the with a Yankee swap which will be fun.

I am now back into the swing of things if my husband will behave himself and do what he is told. In January we are planning on having our 100 birthday celebration with lots of fun, speakers and a pot luck with some music and prizes and other surprises. It is going to be Jan 19,2020 at starting at around 2 pm. We hope you will

all join us in our celebration of our 100 years. Then we will be getting ready for convention in Burlington. Hope to have more news from the other units in district 2 for our February news letter. Everyone has been so busy this month, it was nice of our President to give us a couple of extra days to get our letters. Hope every one had a wonderful Christmas with their families and here is to a Happy and Healthy New Year to everyone and hoping that our service men get to come home soon.

Remember that I am always here if anyone needs any help with anything.

Here's to a quick return for our Servicemen and women

God Bless to all of them

Gail Bonnell

District 2

[gailbonnell04@gmail.com](mailto:gailbonnell04@gmail.com)

### **Third District:**

Hello All,

I am hoping that everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. I know I am excited for the year coming up! I really hope that 2020 brings all of you nothing but happiness. So, what has been happening as of late. Many units have had Christmas parties and gift exchanges. Yay!! Also, many units, squadrons, and posts have taken part in a wonderful thing called Wreaths Across America. My other half was honored to place a wreath at his grandfather's grave as he is a Veteran. I am so happy to see all the photos on Facebook of all the wreaths that had been placed on the graves of all the Veterans, and I am proud of all who participated.

I would also like to remind all the units to get their mid-year reports in. This is for Chairpeople as well, and make sure they are sent to Department.

I have not heard from any units this time, except from Unit 59 who informed me that they were hosting a children's Christmas Party. They also said that they were doing a food donation to the local food shelf or Duxbury Elf Shelf. That is so wonderful! In January the unit will be making a basket for Mid-Winter Conference.

Speaking of Mid-Winter Conference, that will be taking place at the end of January. January 25<sup>th</sup> and I look forward to seeing all of you there. I am hoping that we will have more members from District 3 attend, as that has not always been the case. I enjoy seeing all of you and it is a great time to come and learn new things and share. So, please make sure that at your meeting you discuss someone from your unit attending.

I also want to take this opportunity to again tell all of you in District 3 that I am so very proud of you when it comes to membership. As we may not be in first place anymore, I am so proud of you to be out of fifth place and staying out of it. You are doing a wonderful job and I really want us to hit first again. I know we can do it! So please make sure to get those memberships paid. I am here if you need help with anything and all you need to do is reach out. I want to be an active district President.

Make sure all Units in District 3 emails me by the 12<sup>th</sup> of each month with all events coming up so that I can put them in this bulletin message each month. This will allow us all to know what each of you has going on. Thank you.

Now some fun ARMY Facts!!!

- The ARMY has a special unit of skeptics - Graduates from Fort Leavenworth's University of Foreign Military and Cultural Studies have been trained to play devil's advocates to avoid the pitfalls of groupthink that were happening in the military. Graduates of the program are called Red Teamers.
- A third of Union ARMY Soldiers were immigrants - The Union would have had a tough time during the Civil War if it weren't for immigrants, who made up a third of the army, and African-Americans, who were one-tenth of soldiers. In fact, in a quarter of all regiments, the majority was made up of foreigners.
- Coca-Cola had engineers in the ARMY in WWII - Coca-Cola president Robert Woodruff said that any servicemen in World War II should be able to get a bottle of Coke for a nickel, anywhere in the world, so Coca-Cola created the Technical Observer program to make it happen. There were 148 Technical Observers, who supervised the shipment and operation of 64 bottling plants. Technical Observers had an Army officer's rank and pay, as well as uniforms with a special patch to identify them. They distributed more than 5 billion bottles of Coke to soldiers.

Well, that is all from me. I hope you enjoyed my fun facts. Again, have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Francisca Cech  
District 3 President  
Department of Vermont  
franciscacech@yahoo.com

## Fourth District:

United States Coast Guard [U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#)



January 2020 - Greetings District 4! - **"Semper Paratus" ("always ready")**

As I write, Christmas is in 5 days. Another year is almost gone, and we are looking at 2020 a new year, a new beginning.

**Did you know!!** Women have been performing Coast Guard duties longer than there has been a Coast Guard. At least one professional ancestor of the modern female Coast Guardsman predated the federal government itself. In

1776, John Thomas joined the Army to fight in the Revolutionary War. His wife, Hannah, took over his job as keeper of Gurnet Point Light, near Plymouth, Mass. T

**Membership:**

For the week of December 18<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> District is in 4<sup>th</sup> place in membership standings. Do you need help with membership? Do you all have a Membership Chair and if so, is that Chair mentoring someone? If only one person is able to perform this very important job and that person becomes ill, moves, etc. – what is the coverage plan? 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!**

I want to say thank you to every person in D4. You all do such good deeds for Veterans and their families, i.e. Gift Giving Shop, Wreaths Across America, children's parties, etc. You volunteer your precious time, make donations with hard earned money and help those who may be less fortunate. Focus on the positive! Thank you, thank you, thank you – your efforts continue to be appreciated.

**Communications with Units:**

Each month I will continue to e-mail the Unit Presidents and Secretaries in D4 and ask that you let me know what you have 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 -** Drawings began on December 10<sup>th</sup> for their 12 Days of Christmas raffle, see updates on their Facebook page, some familiar names have won prizes.

Follow Unit 13 on Facebook: American Legion Bennington Unit 13 Auxiliary

**Unit 49 –** Follow Unit 49 on Facebook: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 49

**Unit 50 –** In January will be collecting items for ditty bags. Third and fourth graders have decorated 125 Lunch bags that will be sent along to Janet Osmer at the VA Hospital. Post 50's Assistant Post Manager, Sylvia, is retiring after 25 years; she will continue to be Unit 50's Membership Chair. There will be a retirement party in her honor on the 17th of January.

Unit 50 is having a potluck lunch on New Year's Day; members will share some of their best recipes!!

**Unit 55 -** Follow Unit 55 on Facebook: Brandon American Legion Auxiliary Unit 55

**Unit 69 -** Follow Unit 69 on Facebook: American Legion Family, Post 69, Arlington, Vermont

Put together and in process of delivering Holiday food baskets for elderly and shut-in members.

**Unit 87 -** Follow Unit 87 on Facebook: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 87 West Rutland VT

**Unit 90 -** Follow Unit 90 on Facebook: American Legion Post 90 Pownal Vermont

**Upcoming events:**

- 1/23-25 - Mid-Winter Convention, Burlington – reservations can now be made. If you need information, please let me know. I look forward to seeing you.
- 2/8/2020 - District 4 Workshop will be hosted by Castleton Unit 50, with lunch, Valentine's desserts will be provided by me and there will be door prizes – please save the date and plan to attend, more detailed information will be available as guests confirm their attendance. The gift card received at Fall Conference will be used for door prizes.

- 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:***

- 11/21 Attended a health Center Board meeting
- 11/22 Vermont Veterans Home gift shop set-up, dinner at Post 13 – Thank you to the Chef Steve Greenslet.
- 11/23 Vermont Veterans Home gift shop
- 11/28 Had a long weekend with a houseful over Thanksgiving
- 12/4 Attended the Tree Lighting with caroling and Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Vermont Veterans Home with Unit 13 and Unit 69 members.
- 12/5 Helped decorate the Christmas tree at Post 69, donated by Unit 13 and SAL 13 members Clyde and Melisa S. Thank you so much for the tree.
- 12/8 Attended SAL 69's monthly breakfast
- 12/10 Due to the weather the dinner in Readsboro was cancelled but I am looking forward to meeting up with them.
- 12/12 Attended a Community Relations Development Committee meeting at the health center.
- 12/14 Attended Wreaths Across America at the Vermont Veterans Home with SAL Detachment Adjutant Marc Colety. Such a beautiful ceremony. I saw Auxiliary members from Units 13, 49, 69, apologies if I missed others.
- 12/14 Attended Christmas dinner at Poultney Unit 39 with my husband, thank you for the invite Joyce H. Was a pleasure to visit with and meet several Unit 39 Auxiliary members and catch up with VP Sharon C. and Bonnie B.
- 12/21 Meeting President Corrinna and Suzanne A. in Rutland to deliver filled stockings to shelters. I have 5 stockings from District 4, two from Unit 13, two from Unit 69 and one from D4 President. Thank you to all of you who have contributed.
- 12/21 Attending Post 13 dinner and Elvis impersonator.
- 12/28 Will have visitors from Barre - PDC Steve E. and his wife Lisa will be spending the weekend with us as we will be attending a Celebration of Life in Arlington.
- 1/4/20 Will be attending a Board/Staff health center gathering.

***Community Connections:***

Christmas is in less than a week. Again, some of us will stay home, some will volunteer for the day or perform acts of kindness so as not to be alone. I wish each of you the blessings of a joyous time of visiting with family and friends and eating all those goodies. Remember to take time to care for yourself too. Please thank a Veteran for their service whenever the opportunity presents itself. May we keep our military personnel stationed far from home in our thoughts and prayers - May God bless and keep them safe!

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](mailto:dee.colety@gmail.com) Cell: 603-477-5484 You can also look me up on Facebook and see pictures of my family and the grands. 😊

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 Aces of the Flying 5<sup>th</sup>,

The 5<sup>th</sup> District is still stuck in 5<sup>th</sup> place with membership. I sure hope we can get our engines warmed up so we can get into the sky. I was very pleased to see Unit 15 has sent in membership dues and is up to 80% and Unit 17 is at 100%. Congratulations!

When I talked with Suzanne Auger, Service to Veterans Chairman, she said most of the units in 5<sup>th</sup> district donated filled Christmas stockings to her project for homeless veterans in transitional housing. I saw on face book that it was a great success and a very worthwhile project.

I hope to see many of you a mid- winter convention. It would certainly be worth your while to attend.

Now for a bit of Air Force trivia:

Air Force One is not the name of a plane. "Air Force One" is the air traffic control designation for any plane on which the President of the United States is a passenger. Air Force One is considered a "protection level one" asset, the security equivalent of a nuclear weapon, and airmen are permitted to use deadly force on unauthorized personnel. "So don't try to charge it."

Have a lovely holiday and a happy peaceful new year.

For God, Country and our Veterans,

Sandra Brown

5<sup>th</sup> District President

[sanbro@wildblue.net](mailto:sanbro@wildblue.net)

802-369-6772

### **AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND**

If anyone needs or knows of anyone who may be eligible & needs help from AEF please feel free to contact myself or your Auxiliary president.

Also, if your Unit would like to donate or do a fundraiser for AEF, please let me know if I can be of assistance. There is always a need to raise money for this program.

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

Beverly Flint

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

802-522-8786

## CHILDREN & YOUTH



Happy Holiday,

Just a Gentle Reminder, the Children & Youth Mid-Year Reports are due at the end of this month (December 30 2019).

Mid-Year reports reflect the program work of units in the department and are intended as an opportunity for mid-year correction.

If you haven't forwarded your report to me please do so at: [Smileface277@aol.com](mailto:Smileface277@aol.com).

During the convention it was nice to witness members of the auxiliary recognized for all the great work they do with their children and families. I know our auxiliary women and men of Vermont are working within our communities and are having an impact on our children, however nationally no one else does.

I know we are not in this for recognition but remember taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. This comes directly from National.

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 May.

Please note that in our Unit and Department narrative reports, the questions regarding Star Spangled Kids has been replaced with following qualifying question:

1. How did your units and department demonstrate "Celebrating a Century of Service," with the focus centering on "The Health and Well-Being of our Veterans, Military, and Their Families"?
2. How did your units and department promote the Youth Hero/Good Deed Award?
3. What success stories do you have regarding support for military or homeless veterans' children?

Unit Awards – Most outstanding Unit Children & Youth Program (per division)

- Deadline: May 15, 2020
- Send to national division chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m.
- EST on the deadline listed above. Department Awards – Best Department Children & Youth Program (per division)

- Deadline: May 15, 2020
- Send to national division chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m.
- EST on the deadline listed above. \*More information regarding Unit and Department Awards and instructions on how to file can be found on the national website, [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).

Happy New Year!

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

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Hope all of your Holidays are wonderful!

Remember to always support the Community Service projects of the American Legion, as it is a first responsibility of the Auxiliary unit. In just about all American Legion projects there should be Phases where the post, unit and squadron can work together as the American Legion Family.

You may also work with other organizations on practical, worthwhile projects for improving the community and you may also involve them in ALA projects.

The biggest achievement is made when the interest and efforts of the entire community is joined together to support a project,

To Service and Self

Patsy Tompkins  
Community Service Chair  
1229 May Pond Road  
802-525-6565  
[riley917@myfairpoint.net](mailto:riley917@myfairpoint.net)





## CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Just a reminder to ALL Units. As Constitution and By-Laws Chairperson I should receive three copies of your C&B's & S.R. this year!! These have got to be done by every unit as the changes affect every unit in the state. I have received one unit's documents. If you are having a problem please call on me to help you, I am here for you all. These should all be done by the end of May. Please do not wait until the last minute, they do take some time to complete.

With that said, I wish each and everyone a very Merry Christmas and A Happy and Healthy New Year. May God Bless our Veterans, Active Duty & their families. May God Bless our Members who work so hard to accomplish our mission, they are truly a Blessing to our Veterans, Active Duty Military, and their Families.

For God, Country & Our Veterans

Candy Huseman, Chairperson

224 Shattuck Hill Rd. Lot A8

Newport, Vermont 05855

[Sw1candy@yahoo.com](mailto:Sw1candy@yahoo.com)

802-624-4183

## EDUCATION

Auxiliary Members:

This month's message will focus on the National Scholarships available.

All ALA scholarships should be submitted by March 1 to a local American Legion Auxiliary unit. Scholarship applications are available for download on the national website, [www.ALAforVeterans.org/scholarships](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/scholarships).

### A. CHILDREN OF WARRIORS NATIONAL PRESIDENTS' SCHOLARSHIP -

Awarded to children of veterans who served in the armed forces during the eligibility dates for The American Legion.

Three \$5,000 scholarships will be awarded in each division.

Fifteen outstanding students will be awarded a total of \$75,000 to further their higher education.

The applicant must complete 50 hours of community service during his/her high school years to be eligible for one of these scholarships.

### B. THE NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP -

One scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded in each American Legion Auxiliary division.

Applicant must be a member of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion and shall have paid dues for the two preceding years and for the calendar year in which the application is made.

### C. SPIRIT OF YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

One Junior member in each division will receive a \$5,000 scholarship.

Applicant must have held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the immediate past three years, hold a current membership card and continue her membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during the four-year scholarship period.

### D. AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY JUNIOR MEMBER LOYALTY SCHOLARSHIP 2020 APPLICATION

Ten scholarships, in the amount of \$2,500 each, will be awarded to a current college student for 2020. Two scholarships will be awarded in each division of the American Legion Auxiliary. The scholarship is a GRANT; and not a loan.

## RULES

1. Candidates for this award shall have been Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary, held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the past three consecutive years (2017, 2018, and 2019) and must be a paid member for the current (2020) membership year. Applicant must continue her membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during the scholarship period. \*

\*Scholarship period is defined as the time from when scholarship is awarded until funds are fully dispersed or the scholarship expires, whichever comes first.

2. This scholarship is intended for the traditional student with no interruption in her education, who is at least in her first semester of college or technical.

school but not yet attained a bachelor's degree. Any member who is non-traditional student (a student returning to the classroom after some time away from college) is welcome to apply for the American Legion Auxiliary Non-Traditional Scholarship.

3. This is a scholarship to attend an accredited institution of higher education. Applicants must have completed at least one semester with grades which meet continuation requirements at the institution of their choice. Applicants must have at least a 3.0 GPA using a 4.0 base.

All of these scholarships along with the Department Scholarships should be found (in the President's Packet that was handed out at Fall Conference), in the 2019-2020 Year End Reports. Hopefully every Unit President has given this education information to their unit education chairperson.

Any questions on education, please let me know.

For God, Country and our Veterans,

Sharon L. Corey

[1353 Lamb Hill Road, Wells, VT 05774](mailto:sharon@americanlegionvt.org) 802-325-3234

## **FINANCE**

The Finance Committee met on December 13, 2019. We are again well within our projected income and expense projections. Payroll will be slightly higher as we cover the secretarial position and training for a replacement upon Stacey's leaving. President Corinna has started a new fundraising initiative for her project on Facebook with specially decorated Christmas ornaments. The National President's visit has been confirmed and arrangements are being made for hosting her.

The next meeting will be 10:00 am January 18, 2020 at Headquarters. It is on a Saturday due to the lack of parking during the legislative session.

Marilyn Davis

Chair

## **JUNIOR ACTIVITY**

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at midwinter conference and hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday. See you soon.

Karen Degreenia

## **LEADERSHIP**

As we complete our Mid-Year reports, now might be a good time to review Department and National Awards your Unit would like to apply for. Are you completing the required tasks to qualify? Do you have documentation to aide in your application? A list of Department Awards can be found on our website [vtalauxiliary.org](http://vtalauxiliary.org) under Documents, 'Trophies and Awards'. As it was just updated for 2019, please be sure to have the current copy!

I hope to see many applications for the Verna Duprey Leadership Department Award. Is your Unit reading the Dept. Bulletin message at meetings from your Leadership chair (this article right here!)? Did your Unit hold a Leadership workshop OR have members attend a Leadership workshop this current year? If so, your Unit is ready to qualify! See the complete rules on Department Website.

A list of ALA National Awards can be found by logging onto [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org) and includes Salute to Servicewomen, National President's Award for Excellence, Public Spirit Award, Youth Hero/Good Deed Awards and the Goodwill Ambassador Award to name a few. By promoting our award program, we honor outstanding accomplishments amongst our fellow members. Not only is it good for moral, it is a great opportunity to announce to the world what it is we do and why we matter.

I sure hope everyone is tracking their individual volunteer time, monetary donations and mileage. Your Unit, Department, Nation and most certainly your Leadership Chair, Thank you!

Best wishes for the New Year as we continue to celebrate the ALA Centennial Celebration.

Danielle Many, Leadership Chair

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

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Greetings All and Happy New Year,

Thank you to all membership chairpersons who sent in their mid-year reports! It's great seeing all the wonderful things you are doing to help our organization renew, recruit and rejoin our members!! As a membership driven organization, I am so happy to see the numbers rising! WE ARE VERMONT STRONG!!

As we start a new decade let us never forget why we joined and why we are still members. 100 years ago, a group of women started the American Legion Auxiliary as a way of advocating for our Veterans. This is still our focus so let's keep the numbers going up until we reach or exceed 100%!! I know many of you personally so I know this goal can be reached!

Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy, let's get'r done!! Vermont wants to be able to say, "Mission accomplished"!

In the spirit of service, not self,  
Deb Tiernan, Membership Chairperson  
American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Vermont  
[Dtiernanunit36@gmail.com](mailto:Dtiernanunit36@gmail.com)  
401-846-6454

## **NATIONAL SECURITY**

Happy Holidays!!

I hope this message finds you all well and warm.

We are in the cold months of the year and I want to remind you to reach out to your neighbors and shut ins. As well as our soldiers, veterans, and their families. This can be a trying time for many and we want them to know we are here and we need them. Depression sets in so take them for coffee, have a nice chat on the phone, invite shut ins or ones who are alone to spend the holidays with you. Remember to send cards to our troops and care packages to bring them a little bit of home during the Holiday season. Our troops need this and look forward to these at any time of the year. And you can count this in your reporting!! I would love to see some photos and let me know what's happening in your units.

A reminder that I should have all mid year reports in! At this time, I only have 3. A bit disappointing. I will not take any reports after January 1!!! I need my report to national by the 5th of January so it's cutting it close. These are done every year so there is no reason why this year is any different.

I hope you all have a safe and happy holiday season.

For God, Country, and Our Veterans,

Kelly Donaldson

National Security Chair

[802-353-9470](tel:802-353-9470)

[Kellysboys2014@gmail.com](mailto:Kellysboys2014@gmail.com)

## **PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY**

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at midwinter conference and hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday. See you soon.

Karen Degreenia

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Past Department President's Message:

I have had several members ask me "how is the Putting Green" coming along. In answer to your questions, I have asked Al Faxon of the Vermont Veterans' Home to respond. His response, "the Putting Green Request for Proposal (RFP) went out this past summer. It received no bids for construction. I believe we sent it too late and companies had their projects already scheduled. We will release the RFP again after Christmas; in addition, we will provide some companies advanced notice of the project. I am confident we will obtain bidders this time around!"

Thank you, Al.,

Lynda Farmer

Past Department President 2017-2018

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Greetings ALA! Hope you all are having a great Holiday Season. Not much to report this month other than please get your Mid-Year Reports in ASAP. Please also continue to send me your event posters and info, I get your event info out to lots of places. I received an email (below) from our Eastern Div. PR Chairwoman. It is quite the interesting memo from TAL National Adjutant – Dan Wheeler. Please review and pass on the info to whom ever you deem appropriate. Until next month, stay warm and enjoy the holidays! See you at Mid-Winter in the New Year!

*"Please see the attachment issued via ALA National Headquarters from The American Legion. There are many members in the ALA that have been/are members of NALPA/NALMA and need to be*

*aware of these changes. Please forward this to all your department unit's." - National Press Association... Via Eastern Div. PR Chairwoman - Cathleen Camire*

Melodie Ashford, PR CH  
[melodielynn@gmail.com](mailto:melodielynn@gmail.com)  
802-461-5346

**TO: American Legion Leadership**  
**FROM: Daniel S. Wheeler, National Adjutant**  
**RE: National Press Association – Past, Present & Future**

It is critical for The American Legion to effectively communicate its messaging, priorities and other relevant information to our nearly 2 million members. As a grassroots organization, we count on our members to not only shape The American Legion but to promote the amazing community service activities they perform in their communities across this great nation of ours.

For many years, the National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) has been a group that has attempted to provide the resources and support of its members who are American Legion Family members charged with promoting their post at the local level.

However, last summer it was discovered that NALPA had been operating without proper financial accountability. There were issues with their State of New York based bank that NALPA had been using as NALPA did not have an EIN on file, nor was there any method to add or remove signatories on their banking account.

Following this year's National Convention, additional research determined that there was no resolution binding The American Legion to NALPA nor any other similar press association. A National Executive Committee resolution, No. 44, dated May 3-4, 1961, rescinded a prior relationship with NALPA and no additional resolution was ever pursued seeking to overturn this resolution.

Due to this banking situation, no supporting resolution and the subsequent trademark issues The American Legion immediately ceased involvement with NALPA.

As NALPA was being shuttered, a new organization arose named the National American Legion Media Association (NALMA), which purported to be a replacement for NALPA, but with new leadership.

After a brief NALMA operating period it was determined that it was in the best interest of all parties involved that The American Legion is not going to pursue a relationship with any current or former organizations along these lines. Instead, The American Legion is going to lead these efforts.

After studying the issue carefully, I have asked Media & Communications Chairman Walter Ivie for his commission to work with the Media & Communications Division on creating a modern approach that would enable American Legion Family members to effectively promote their posts. Chairman Ivie will be coordinating these efforts promptly and will be communicating next steps with American Legion leadership, former NALPA members, department press associations and others. The new approach will

also be open for and communicated with American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion members, who were eligible under the NALPA guidelines.

Details are still being worked out, but all Legion Family members will be eligible to join the new group. They will continue to receive membership benefits including a press card, a reformatted annual contest, training, resources and more.

Thank you for your continued patience, understanding and support of American Legion programs.

## VA & R

Hello Ladies,

Sorry about no message last month, but time just ran away. Want to refresh some peoples mind on a few things.

When your Veteran comes into the VA and signs up for services they have a social worker right then, just ask Dr. and they will tell you and might even set a date at that time to see them. Have put this in before but will again.

I have information going in with this bulletin PLEASE READ IMPORTANT. New rules at the VA. Only 4 in a room, which means half may go on one floor and then switch if you like. Patients been saying too much noise.

Tree of Warmth was a huge success this year again, and want to thank all who helped make it this, we receive so much praise for you all. We served over 600 Veterans and families. Need more workers for the days we do this, to make this a success. Total dollars for Tree of Warmth was \$38,000.

For those who sent a mid year report thanks. You ladies have done a lot of different things so if it doesn't get reported now please do on end year reports, need help let me know will help with where you hours, dollars, miles go. Time we did it all for National. We are a great state at giving, doing and have fun at the same time, so lets show the country what we are about.

Gift shops were a success also and all who worked hard at making this, thank you. Salute to Veterans week is coming any on who wants to come and visit let me know. You man bring something or will have for you or just yourself. Right now my cat wants to help me ha ha.

Time for visits to units dinners etc. coming up., please answer yes or no, this is being polite.

Am going to write an article in the National Magazine and hoping they print it so keep your eyes open.

Starting January 2020, all honorably discharged Veterans keep their lifelong online military exchange tax-free shopping benefits.

Janet  
65 State Street



Apt F 404  
Windsor 05089  
1-802-738-6132

## WHITE RIVER VA VISITOR/DONATION GUIDELINES

All visitors must check in at each nurse's station before proceeding to patient areas/rooms.

Maximum # visitors at Psychiatry Unit/Ground East (GE) at one time	3
Maximum #visitors at Residential Rehab Center (RRC) at one time	10
Maximum # visitors in Medica & Surgical (1S & 1W) patient rooms at one time	4

For all areas:

No sharps (razor, clippers, glass etc.)

Nothing that could be used as a weapon

No mouthwash with alcohol

**No photo/video** anywhere on campus w/cell phones

Refrain from discussions of politics, religion or any potential "hot button" topic

1S & 1W:

No food/candy/beverage of any kind

GE: Ground East

VA staff must inspect any potential gifts to patients before given

Patients can have store bought food (nothing homemade)

RCC:

Patients can have store bought food (nothing homemade)

## **REHABILITATION**

Good day, ALA members. We had a successful gift giving program at White River Junction VA. We served about 240 veterans and extended family members. These gift giving events are a loving culmination of funds and donated gifts from the ALA units throughout Vermont. Thank you to members providing the hours to setup, time to escort & visit veterans in finding the right gifts, hours to inventory and take items back to storage. Santa, Commander Ron LaRose and his helpers, President Corrinna Colson and AL Sgt. At Arms Fred Stebbins were on hand to visit and thank veterans for their service.

Thank you to SAL NEC John Waite, SAL Southern Area Commander Bill Brothers and AL 2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander Mark Cloutier who generously handled the transfers of gift bins to and from storage. This chairperson and committee are grateful to the Mark Cloutier and Darrell Degreenia for moving bins from storage in Morrisville to White River back in the summer.

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 taking time to ensure the many priority packages at Vermont Veterans Home would reach veteran family members before Christmas. Surely may have 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.

Judy Cenate, Rehab Chair 802-289-9025 or [valview@comcast.net](mailto:valview@comcast.net)

## **SERVICE TO VETERANS**

Thank You, I am in awe of the wonderful participation in our Stocking for Christmas Project.

My count is not complete but as of now I received 46 Stockings and will have the grand total for my next bulletin.

I will be delivering them on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> accompanied with President Corinna, Vice President Sharon, Rehab Chairwoman Judy, Fourth District President Dee. Included in our locations will be The Open-Door Mission in Rutland, The Dodge House in Rutland, The Phoenix House in Bellowsfalls, The Veterans Place in Northfield. I hope we have enough for all our Homeless Veterans for Christmas.

Once more I want to thank all the units and individuals who made amazing stockings. This just affirm what we can do when we work together.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

p.s. Don't forget to send your mid-year report.

Suzanne Auger  
Service to Veterans Department of Vermont  
Sauger58 @comcast.net  
802-342-7489

## **TROPHY & AWARDS**

Happy New Year!

The Ethel Dugan Rotating Trophy Award rules are for the most outstanding Children & Youth report by the due date. Award is given to the Unit with membership goal set at 100 members or less. Must include a short narrative (250 - 500) best year round children & youth activities (past 12 month only). It can be typed or hand written.

Units who split the trophy must bring that trophy with them at Mid Winter Conference to give to me so I can pass them to the 2nd half winner.

Jean Lamarre, Chair  
P.O. Box 251  
Brandon, VT 05733  
(802)247-8179(h) (802)353-7881(c) (802)770-5409(w)

## **WAYS & MEANS**

Hi Ladies,

The days are flying by so fast, there's only a little over a month until Mid-Winter Conference; hope to see many of you there. You were so generous at Fall Conference with your donations of gift baskets and other items, "thank you" so much. Here we are again looking for more gift baskets for Mid-Winter, you ladies are always so creative and generous with your donations, we appreciate your support.

We wish everyone a "Merry Christmas" and a Healthy and Happy New Year and safe travels!

Thanks again,

Ways & Means Chairpersons

Lynn Brown, 56 Joseph Street Apt 3, Derby, Vt 05829>

561-329-1662

And

Linda Saulters, 71 Douglas Road, North Troy, VT 05859>

802-988-2248 [saulters.linda@yahoo.com](mailto:saulters.linda@yahoo.com)



## **MID-Winter Conference Agenda**

**January 24 - 25 2020**

DoubleTree by Hilton

**Auxiliary Registration Fee: \$7.00**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 24<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 am	Finance Meeting
1:00 – 3:00 pm	Registration
1:00 pm	Department Executive Committee Meeting
2:30 pm	Past Department Presidents Meeting
3:30 pm	ALA Green Mountain Girls State Meeting
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Social Hour
7:00 pm	Banquet

## **SATURDAY, JANUARY 25<sup>th</sup>**

7:50 am – 8:50 am	Registration
9:00 am	Joint opening Session with the American Legion Family Opening of American Legion Auxiliary Conference
9:45 am	Call to order – Dept. President Corrinna Colson Invocation – Dept. Chaplain Anne MacEachern Pledge of Allegiance – Nancy Buckley-Howard National Anthem - Meg Harris Preamble to the American Legion Auxiliary – Candy Huseman Welcome – First District President – Deb Graziano Response for our Units – Jeanne McDermott Response for Department – Karen Degreenia Greetings – Deb Tiernan for NEC
	Introduction of our distinguished guests – Dept. President
	Membership Roll Call – Patricia St. John Correspondence / Announcements – Patricia St. John

### **BREAK**

#### **District Presidents – Mid-Year Address**

First District – Deborah Graziano - Navy
Second District – Gail Bonnell - Marines
Third District – Fran Cech - Army
Fourth District – Denise (Dee) Colety – Coast Guard
Fifth District – Sandra Brown – Air Force

Finance – Marilyn Davis
100th Year Celebration - Terri Christie
Eastern Division Junior Vice President – Paige Ainsworth
ALAGMGS Governor – Carly Counter

12:00 pm                      Break for Lunch

12:45 pm                      Mid-Winter Conference reconvened  
 Eastern Division National Vice President – Carolyn Baranowski  
 Membership – Debra Tiernan  
 Education– Sharon Corey  
 Vermont Adaptive Veterans Venture  
 Unfinished Business  
 New Business  
 Mid-Winter Address – Dept. President Corrinna Colson  
 Announcements  
 Ways & Means  
 Benediction – Dept. Chaplain Anne MacEachern  
 Adjourned

**PLEASE BRING THE INFORMATION YOU RECEIVED AT THIS CONFERENCE  
 BACK TO YOUR UNITS AND SHARE IT WITH YOUR MEMBERS**

**HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME**



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>PLACE / TIME</u>
Dec. 24, 2019		Christmas Eve
		Closing Noonish

Dec. 25, 2019	Christmas	Office Closed
Jan. 1, 2019	New Year's Day	Office Closed
Jan. 20, 2020	Martin Luther King Jr Day	Office Closed
Jan. 20, 2020	Thank Yous to Soldiers	NVU-Johnson 11:30
<i>Join in thanking our troops who are in active combat overseas. All are welcome!</i>		Stearns Dining Hall
Jan. 24-25, 2020	Mid-Winter Conference	Burlington, VT
Feb. 14, 2020	75 % Membership Target Date	(Happy Valentine's Day!!!)
Mar. 7, 2020	8th Annual Veterans Summit NVU	Davis Center, UVM
		Burlington, VT
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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